

NEWS FROM THE HILL

NEWSLETTER OF THE U.U.

MEETING HOUSE OF CHATHAM

PO BOX 18 CHATHAM MA 02633

508-945-2075

MARCH 2013

VOLUME XVI NUMBER 3



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Stewardship	1
Month of Sundays	2
Sightings	3
Stewardship	4
Pastoral Care	5
Easter Breakfast	5
Sympathy	5
Learning for Life	6
Art	6
Social Justice	6
Nominating Committee	7
Board of Trustees News	7
How to Become a Member	8
Snow Policy	8
Bits and Pieces / Member News	9
Classified Ads	9

“NEWS FROM THE HILL”

is published monthly year round by the UU Meeting House of Chatham.

Editor: Susan Bauer

Layout Editor: Ralph Bauer

Publisher: Melissa Clayton

SUNDAY SERVICES are held at 10:30 AM each week.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

next month is **THURSDAY** March 21. Send items to Sue Bauer: Ralphb1234@cs.com



Stewardship and You



THE KICKOFF FOR THIS YEAR'S STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN WILL BE

SUNDAY, MARCH 17



ENJOY VERY SPECIAL REFRESHMENTS DURING COFFEE HOUR THAT MORNING

AND

MEET WITH YOUR TEAM



[READ MORE ABOUT THIS IMPORTANT EVENT ON PAGE 4](#)

STAFF MEMBERS**MINISTER:**

Rev. Edmund Robinson
edmund@gmail.com

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

Frank Toppa
ftoppa440@hotmail.com

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR:

Melissa Clayton
melissaclayton@uumh.net

SEXTON:

Ralph Bauer
ralphb1234@cs.com

Board of Trustees

Dick Eccles, President
Elsa Bastone, Vice President
Dwight Wilson, Treasurer
Jean Mangiafico, Secretary

At large members:

Walter Diggs
Ruth Treen
Dave Hubbard

Program Council

Sally Davol, Chair

VISION STATEMENT

We, the members and friends of the UUMH, strive:

To apply UU principles in our daily living, social actions, and community service;

To nurture a safe community that encourages intellectual, spiritual, and religious freedom and celebrates all the passages of life;

To welcome diversity and pluralism as essential for our connection with all humanity;

To provide fellowship, friendship, and fun, and to support a creative artistic and musical environment;

To sustain and promote a vital religious and spiritual lifespan education program.

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

March 3 Is Evil Natural? Rev. Edmund Robinson

Calvinism holds that humans are inherently depraved. What does modern science teach about the inherence of evil?

March 10 At the heart of hope Rev. Dara Olandt

What does it mean to expand our capacity for life? How can we hold the rich mix of challenges and opportunities we face together in the 21st century? We explore how to support UU communities of hope and courage.

March 17 Is religion (or politics) a crutch? Rev. Richard Fewkes

(Revived from February!)

This sermon will kick off our pledge campaign.

March 24 Is there a Problem of Evil? Rev. Edmund Robinson

Much ink has been devoted to wrestling with the so-called Problem of Evil in the wake of Twentieth Century horrors such as World War I, the Holocaust, the nuclear arms race, and terrorism. But does it help us to avert such harms to call them the Problem of Evil?

March 31 Alleluia! Rev. Edmund Robinson

Whether you celebrate the resurrection of Christ, bunnies, eggs, the victory of love over death, or the vernal renewal of the earth, you are invited to celebrate Easter in the Meeting House.

Who's Preaching This Month??

Rev. Dara Olandt is Consulting Minister at the UU Fellowship of Visalia, CA . A lifelong UU, she earned her Masters of Divinity from Starr King in Berkeley, CA. Prior to ministry, Dara's background was in radio journalism and teaching. She currently lives in San Francisco.

Rev. Richard M. Fewkes has been a member of UUMH in Chatham since 2003. He is Minister Emeritus of the First Parish in Norwell, Mass. where he served from 1969 to 2000. He was Interim Minister at the First Parish UU Church, Bridgewater from 2000 – 2002. He resides in West Dennis and is a grandfather to 8 grandchildren.

Sightings**Rev. Edmund Robinson**

Big storms expose the liminal nature of life on the Cape. The word limen in Latin means threshold. We live at the doorway to the sea. We live at the threshold where the sea meets the sand and the sand meets the wind and all of them came near to the thresholds of many of us this month. Like many of you, I had screen doors that were opened by the wind, and it was as if an unseen being was walking onto my screen porch. The snow blows through the screen and forms a fine powder over the summer life jackets and water socks stored there.

We live at the threshold of life and death, and storms remind us that a twist in fate could end it for any one of us at any time. But they also make us more determined to hang on and wring as much out of life as we can. While we bemoan the cold and the inconvenience, many of us are actually energized by severe weather.

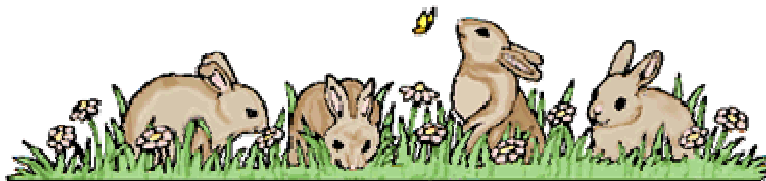
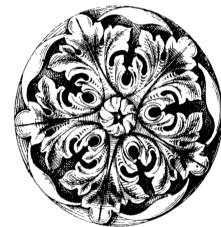
I once heard a sermon by the great Carl Scovel to a bunch of ministers, reminding us that we operate in the liminal space between the sacred and the profane. We are called to serve the holy and the unholy, to negotiate between the worlds, to bring the insights of religion and its caring heart into the world of want and suffering.

Of course, I escaped the first of the blizzards in February; fate dealing me a kind hand in that my winter vacation had to be extended, at virtually no cost to us, an extra four days. I bring greetings from the tiny UU Fellowship of St. Croix, US Virgin Islands, where I preached on February 3, and whose services I also attended on February 10 as an involuntary holdover. I am pleased to see that a permanent minister has adopted that group, and they have a potential for growth even though the population is even more seasonal than that of Cape Cod.

St. Croix is also a threshold state, and even more vulnerable to the forces of wind and water than we are here. Hurricane Hugo devastated the island in 1989, just before it devastated Charleston SC, where I lived at the time. From the air, you can still see roofs covered with blue tarps in St. Croix, almost a quarter century after the storm.

There is great beauty in the places of our vulnerability; to be worth living, life must entail some risk. In times when nature brings terrible forces to our doorways, let us remember why we live here.

Blessings,
Edmund

**SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**

I would like for 2-3 people to work with me to plan the summer concert series. Any volunteers? See Edmund.

TO ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

“**Help us continue our Journey**” is the theme of this year's Stewardship Campaign (a.k.a. Pledge Drive). Our Stewardship Campaign is the time for members and friends of the Meeting House to renew their financial commitment to UUMH for the 2014 year's operating expenses. This year's campaign will begin on Sunday, March 17 and end on April 21.

The focus for this year's campaign is to continue and build on the success of the last two years. A new Youth Education Program has been established and will be included in the operating budget for this year. Building & Grounds will be upgrading our facilities by installing a Lift to UUMH for easy access between the Meeting House Sanctuary and the lower level Fleck Room/Parking area. Please see the Board report for the Lift status.

“**Help us continue our Journey**” is, first of all, a request for participation - with contributions of both time and money. It is a request that we each give of our time as we are able. Without generous volunteers, there would be no activities to attract new members and keep present members coming. Your contributions of time are valuable. Whether we feel satisfied that we have been able to help, have enjoyed spending time with others on a group project, or have learned new skills that increase our self-confidence, your gifts of time come back to us collectively as a congregation. There are many other ways to contribute. Supporting other members during times of crisis or loss is a contribution. Attending services and social events are contributions. Sharing our own knowledge with others is a contribution. Working with a church committee is a contribution.

In the same way, answering the church's annual request for a pledge is a contribution. It is our hope that a contribution of money to UUMH, usually in the form of a pledge for the coming year, will assure the continued operation of UUMH. At this time you will be asked to make a financial contribution as you are able. A pledge helps us feel the satisfaction that we are contributing our share toward maintaining an institution that is so important to us, that we are helping make this place that we enjoy available to others, both now and in the future, and that we are increasing our sense of investment and ownership in all activities. Without money to pay salaries and maintain our beautiful place of worship, there would not be a UUMH.

Make your commitment to a strong vibrant and healthy Meeting House in both financial and volunteer efforts. UUMH is your place of worship, and you can make the difference between success and the status quo. **Each of us** must renew our commitment for this to happen. By **answering** this call, you will be a part of the future of UUMH and be proud of the level of financial and volunteer commitment.

Remember, without you, all of this cannot happen. In the past you have always answered the call. The results of last year showed that you have made a strong commitment by reestablishing a Youth Program and supporting the installation of a Lift to improve handicapped use of UUMH. This year we will need to continue this effort and this is your opportunity to become part of an even more closely knit family. The Stewardship Committee understands that the hard realities of the past years of economic uncertainty have raised our fears of our own economic future. We would like to ask you again to take as large a leap of faith as you can and make this year's Stewardship Drive as successful as the past two years. During this past year the economy appears to have stabilized more and financial markets have improved again. We hope that you will consider this when making your pledge.

In the past two years the Stewardship team has met with each of you as far as possible. We will continue this effort to reach out and meet with you and to personally inform you of the goals of this campaign and answer any questions you may have.

For the Stewardship Committee,
Ralph Bauer, Chair

PASTORAL CARE NEWS

Vivienne Chapman had surgery recently and is unable to drive for some time. A list is being compiled of members and friends of the UUMH community who would be willing to be called upon to occasionally drive her to appointments or events. If you are willing to be on such a list, please call Sue Bauer at 945-3264. And, of course, calls and visits to Vivienne would always be welcome!

The Pastoral Care Team has assembled information on various areas of senior living that might be of interest to those in the congregation. There is, for example, information on Health care proxies, Home health aides, Hospice, Alzheimer's, and more. Many of the brochures are yours for the taking – we have several copies. Feel free to look through this resource any time. It is in a plastic milk crate under the table by the air conditioner in the Fleck Room.

Several years ago the Pastoral Care Team asked you to fill out a yellow card listing your emergency contact information. We need to update existing records and get new information from those who did not fill out a card earlier. These cards are kept in the church office and are accessible only in case of emergency by church staff. For those who need to fill out a card, members of Pastoral Care will have them available at coffee hour on Sundays. Questions? Call Mary Chesnut at 432-5610 or Sue Bauer at 945-3264.

Do you have ICE on your cell phone? It may sound strange, but you really should have ICE on your cell phone. ICE stands for In Case of Emergency. Add a contact under I-C-E and have it correspond with the telephone number of a family member or friend who can be contacted in case of emergency. You can enter more than one ICE numbers.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

What's cooking for Easter?

An Easter Brunch will take place on Easter morning. Please be thinking about one of your favorite recipes for this occasion that you would like to share with the congregation. There will be a sign up sheet in the next few weeks. We hope you will all join us for this delicious breakfast.

For questions please call Mary Parsons at 432-7194 or Sue Bauer at 945-3264



The sympathy of the Meeting House is extended to Joan and Joe Caputo in the loss of Joe's brother, Frank, on December 24 at the age of 60. Frank was a professional musician who performed under the name Frank Christian.

Hold a true friend with both your hands. (Nigerian proverb)

LEARNING FOR LIFE SUNDAY MARCH 17 2:00PM FLECK ROOM

Betsey and Don Stevens with their daughter Lisa took an African Photo Safari in June of 2012. The 21 day trip included Safari Tent Camps in Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe and Botswana. They took numerous photos of wild life plus some to show what tenting is like, Safari style, in East Africa. Each segment of the trip was guided by a native local guide. One of the interesting sights was Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe - one of the largest and most spectacular falls in the world. They will be showing a PowerPoint presentation plus a DVD that indicates the location of the countries.

**UUMH ART EXHIBITS**

The current exhibit, "BEAST, BIRD OR FISH", is open for viewing during Coffee Hour in the Fleck Room. Come say, "Hello" to our wildlife neighbors (or pets) on the Cape and beyond.

The next show, "SAND IN OUR SHOES", will run April 5 - May 10. Artists who have not yet shown their work at UUMH are invited to join the fun. As the title suggests, this is an opportunity to express your view of living on Cape Cod, or trekking around the globe!

Contacts: Jane Eccles 255-7937, Barbara Melcher 255-5175, or Beth Avery 255-2777.

Please note that all work is for sale. Purchaser will send a check for the full amount directly to the artist. The artist will then donate 15% to UUMH.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

On February 3, members of the Meeting House served the first Congregate House dinner for the year. The volunteers were Jackie Hebert-Beale, Sue Bauer, and Janet Jansson. Everything went smoothly and a good time was had by everyone.

The next Sunday supper will be March 24. Barbara Waters is taking charge. Anyone who would like to help should get in touch with her at 945-3631. If anyone is willing to bake some cookies to be sent over to go with ice cream that evening it would be greatly appreciated. Again, please let Barbara know. There is one diabetic in the house, so if there is anyone in the congregation who is also diabetic and happens to have a sugar free dessert that you might like to make for just one person, I'm sure that would be appreciated also.

Thanks always to the volunteers that make this service work. Connie Pina (432-3414)

Those who give have all things. Those who withhold have nothing.

Nominating Committee Message

This year UUMH will have several elected positions to fill due to present elected members having reached the maximum allowed terms under our bylaws. The Nominating Committee members would like to advise the non leadership members that their support and volunteer efforts for these positions will be needed. The following is a general list of the areas where we will need to fill openings:

Board of Trustees
Nominating
Endowment

If you wish to offer your services please let us know and we will be happy to consider you for the open positions. Please contact any of the Nominating Committee members listed below.

Ralph Bauer, Chair; Mary Chesnut; Ellen Cowan; Harmon Diers; Gene Pickett

BOARD OF TRUSTEE ITEMS FOR MARCH 2013



MINISTER'S SABBATICAL LEAVE

Edmund is completing his fifth year with us this year, and has informed the Board of his plan to take Sabbatical Leave in early 2014. His contract provides for one month of such leave for each year of service. Provisionally his plan calls for his absence from January into June 2014. He hopes to spend his time in a program in Cambridge, England, and in any event he plans to work on his book on "Evil".

Your Trustees have been working on plans necessary at UUMH to accommodate his absence. We are in touch with interim ministers who might be available in retirement to assist us with most of our Sunday Services, and be available for pastoral care as needed. In addition we have a talented number of our own members who are retired ministers who can fill in, plus the Worship Services Committee can find our own lay-led programs plus outside speakers to fill the schedule. Our experienced staff will be in position to handle necessary duties with their usual aplomb and expertise. Any questions or comments, please contact Dick Eccles at 255-7937.

PROGRESS WITH THE LIFT PROJECT

Building and Grounds Chair Ralph Bauer has identified Garaventa as the preferred vendor for the interior lift approved by the Congregation last October. Garaventa is preferred because of their strong presence in this area, and their capability to install and guarantee their product.

Ralph is working with our former member and contractor, Peter Coneen, to draft preliminary drawings and assist in preparing Requests for Proposal to build the shaftway for the lift. Because of unanticipated added delivery time for the lift, completion of the project is expected to occur in the September-October 2013 time frame.

Ralph reports that some \$36,000 has been contributed or pledged so far for the project, and the Board will consider allocation of Reserve Funds to provide the balance of the \$45,000-\$48,000 as presently estimated for the total cost.

Members who wish to be involved in our work on this project are invited to attend monthly meetings of Buildings and Grounds (fourth Wednesday afternoons) or the Board of Trustees (third Thursday afternoons).

Any questions or comments, please contact Dick Eccles at 255-7937.

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER OF UUMH

Are you interested in becoming a Member of our congregation? Are you wondering how that happens? Well, here are some things to consider:

Attend the Pathways to Membership Class. This class is **highly recommended**, as you will learn about Unitarian Universalism and our congregations. You will meet our minister, staff, and lay leaders and learn what's involved in membership. The Pathways class is offered three times per year on a Sunday afternoon.

Get Involved! One of the best ways to meet people and feel like you belong is to get involved. For example, Small Ministry Groups, Candlelight Dinners, Potlucks, and Learning for Life Classes provide excellent ways to meet other Members and have fun. You will find that most of our Members participate in one or more activities that support the life of our UU community or provide outreach to the world beyond. These opportunities to volunteer come as often as you wish, and those involving leadership roles provide especially unique chances to grow as an individual and in relationship to the larger community.

Sign the Membership Book. You can do this at any time. Speak to one of our Ushers or Greeters.

Attend New Member Sunday. Once each year we welcome our newest members and honor their decisions to join our congregation. We celebrate with a special ceremony during a Sunday Service and enjoy cake and conversation at Social Hour after the Service.

Fill Out a Pledge Card. The work of UUMH is supported entirely by our Members and Friends, and we expect that those who join will be generous in their support. Pledges are good-faith estimates of how much each of us expects to give during the coming year.

QUESTIONS?: Call Barbara Blanchard at 945-7721 or Marion Harcourt 432-9443.

WINTER STORM CLOSINGS

We are into winter and the possibility of more snow or ice which might make getting to the Meeting House difficult. The Program Council and the minister have developed a procedure for such times. Whatever the Meeting House does, please decide on your own whether or not to venture out!

Sunday Services: If a Sunday service needs to be canceled, the following will occur as soon after 8AM as possible:

An all-wide church email will go out to the congregation
The church phone message will announce the change (945-2075)
WQRC (99.9 FM) will be notified – we will be part of their closings list

Other church events on Sundays or during the week:

The email and phone message information will remain the same as for Sunday closings.
However, WQRC probably will not be called.

PLEASE!!! Make your own decisions based on your situation. Sunday services will not be canceled unless absolutely necessary, but consider your street, your neighborhood, your love – or not! – of driving in the snow. The most important thing is not the sermon, but your safety!!!

JOYS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Elsa Bastone recently gave a presentation on the basics of weight management to the TOPS organization. She introduced a new series of workshops in her popular Wings series which will target weight management. Call her or Barbara Waters if you are interested.

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Deb Rogers has a new email address: drogers120@gmail.com

ELECTRIC KITCHEN

The Electric Kitchen will be held on Sunday March 24. The theme will be "WAITING FOR SPRING". Please call Charlotte Edgecombe at 508-398-8516 and let her know what you'd like to bake.

THE GATHERING

The GATHERING will be meeting on Monday evening March 11 at 7 PM in the Fleck Room. We'll be having "Game Night". So bring your games and we'll select one to play that evening. Call Charlotte Edgecombe if you would like to come and need a ride.

THIRD MONDAY BOOK CLUB



The next meeting of the Third Monday Book Club will be March 18 at 10:30AM in the Fleck Room. We will be discussing *The botany of desire* by Michael Pollan. All are welcome to join us. Call Sue Bauer with questions at 945-3264.

PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE

March Birthdays

- 9 Ann Randall
- 10 Barbara Blanchard
- 12 Helen Smith
- 12 Ralph Bauer
- 13 Jane Moffett
- 16 Jane Eccles
- 16 Jeff Howell
- 18 Phyllis Koppel
- 19 Yoma Hall
- 22 Eric Riley
- 24 Clay Howell



March Anniversary

- 8 Joan and Joe Caputo

April Birthdays

- 1 Ann Wallace
- 2 Elizabeth Zimmermann
- 2 Jan LaBelle
- 3 Harriet Wilson



UUMH CLASSIFIEDS (Please email Sue Bauer with your "ad" at ralphb1234@cs.com)

Tax Preparer Seeking New Clients. It's that time again to think about gathering up all your tax information for 2012. I offer pick-up and delivery service to your home. I have been doing taxes for over 30 years. Please call Charlotte Edgecombe at 508-398-8516. I will provide references, and I will offer \$50 discount for new clients.

Wanted: Sunny, open field (1/2-2 acres, minimum 200 ft. x 200 ft.) for organic growing of vegetables, fruits and cut flowers; Long-Term Lease,. Call Dr. Joyce R. Young, N.D., M.S. Botany at 508- 48-1722.