



Along the Way...

On the Sundays of January 21 in Sanford and January 28 in Saco, I invited those in church that day to jot down questions for my consideration: “Questions of the Spirit” I called them. Two or three I addressed extempore that morning in place of the usual sermon. I promised that I would share with you all of the questions I received and so here they are.

This is an exercise many ministers like to do once a year or so, some by having a “Question Box” to which members can submit for a week or so in advance, while others, such as I, relish the opportunity to respond “on my feet” to some questions while saving others for later sermon or discussion topics.

I find this “respond in the moment” approach refreshing as a change of pace from the very prepared sermon, supported with readings and hymns, that is our usual practice. Moreover, as you will see, the questions I receive are always thoughtful, stimulating and show the range of thought typical of a UU church. Some will certainly find their way into future sermons and discussions.

I thank all who responded on those days, and I invite other such questions at any time (no need to wait for “Questions of the Spirit” Sunday.) However, rather than a quick conversation at coffee hour, which I might not retain in all of the busyness of the morning, the best way to do that is by e-mail. I look forward to it.

Rev. Steve

QUESTIONS OF THE SPIRIT

SACO

- *Is there a Sunday service where we bring and celebrate our animal companions at church? Is there a Sunday we honor non-human beings?
- *How to find a spiritual path when you have been so adverse to the notion of a god/heaven or hell? What is the divine?
- *“Me Too” issues and the experiences of people in our congregation. Social justice issues that we had hoped were resolved in the 60s social justice experiences of

- people in our congregation - probably a sermon topic.
- *Few UUs believe in an interventionist God. Why, then, do we use the word “prayer” in our services?
- *How do we know that our prayers and meditation are heard and answered?
- *How do we ensure that we treat each other kindly when conflicts among us come up?
- *End of life issue - regrets for not finishing everything.
- *Continuing life/legacy after death.
- *Consciousness - Eckhardt Tolle.
- *What is the gift to a shared minister of serving two churches? What is hardest? (Maybe it’s the same thing!)
- *Can just talking to God be as effective as praying?
- *What is Unitarian Universalist prayer and what can be its place in services and in our lives?
- *How do we build faith or find a creed as well as be open to other aspects of God, other aspects of our unconscious or subconscious we may have denied but need to be whole and to align ourselves as people and with God?

SANFORD

- *UU intentional communities with ecological concerns?
- *How do you maintain a very close relationship with someone very important to you when you have very different views on spiritual/religious (and political) issues?
- *Climate change.
- *How can one best remain optimistic in the face of the desecration of our democracy?
- *How can UU better address class divisions here and elsewhere?
- *What will UUism be in twenty years?
- *Ego and pride seem to feed fear and keep humans from having epiphanies and thereby evolving. What is a spiritual response to overcome ego/pride and be compassionate to others who are greedy, selfish, close-minded?
- *What is your (Rev. Cook) working definition of spirituality?
- *One of our principles is respect for the web of life. This is easy to understand in a physical and material sense, but what does it mean in a spiritual sense? How do we relate spiritually to nature?
- *Is there life after death? What is the UU take on an afterlife?
- *As UUs what are positive ways we can respond to the hate/racism/white supremacy we see in our world?

Pie Fest and Corner Cafe

Sunday, March 18th, after church at the
Sanford UU Church, 5 Lebanon Street

11:30 - 1:30

An extensive assortment of delicious, homemade pies will be available for purchase. Snacks, coffee, juice and other beverages will be available free of charge.

*Join us for a special and extra tasty
fundraising coffee hour!*

FMI Please contact Helen Kane 324-4806



♥ **Pie Fest and Corner Cafe, March 18, 2018** - Death by Chocolate last March; Pie Fest this March, Part Two of our great BAKING TRILOGY! Take out your recipe books, dust off Grandma's venerable handwritten pie instructions, don your best apron, gather the kids in the kitchen and let's bake up a pie storm! Anything goes, from SWEET to SAVORY, and we'll also need smaller confections for the cafe, where free coffee, tea, juices and snacks will be available as always. There will be RAFFLES -- Ruth Leipold's ever-popular chocolate pizza, and Deb Walsh's unforgettable Mexican chocolate cake; also, an assortment of AUCTION items. And we'll be joined again by members of the TriQuire to swell our ranks. Sign-up sheets will appear in the parlor this Sunday for you to indicate what you will bring and how you will help to make this happy FUNDRAISER even more successful than last year. I will be in Goodall Hall from 9:30am on Sunday, March 18, to receive your delectable offerings and help with displaying them to best advantage. Please see Helen Kane with questions/concerns, or call me at 324-4806. Thank you in advance for your always enthusiastic participation.

Thank You to Maine Community Foundation - The Sanford UU Church would like to publicly thank Maine Community Foundation for their generous restoration grant of \$23,942.43, from the Maine Steeples Fund for restoration of our steeple. This is a grant from a component fund of the Maine Community Foundation. We are proud of our beautifully restored steeple and have already received many compliments on its restoration. Our sincere thanks to ME Community!

Corner Cupboard's New Hours Begin April - Our non-food pantry, the Corner Cupboard, is open the third Saturday of every month from 10:00am - 2:00pm. Beginning April 2018, the new operating hours will be 10:00am - 1:30pm.



“Girls Who Grant” donated \$1,500.00 to SUUC’s Corner Cupboard



Danielle, Jamie, and Colleen “Girls Who Grant”

Many who attended the “Girls Who Grant” fundraising event want to acknowledge the extremely generous participation of the Springvale Publick House by going to the Publick House for dinner as a group. The restaurant does not accept reservations. The owner said that Saturday and Sunday would be a difficult time to accommodate our group. However, she suggested a Friday at 4:00pm. We want to invite EVERYONE to join us in saying “Thank you for your support.” Two options: Friday, March 9th or Friday, March 23rd at 4:00pm. Please email your interest in joining our group on either or both dates to Marcel at marcelgagnon@metrocast.net by **MARCH 5TH**.

Thoughts From the President

How busy and productive our church family is! Our MSC is interviewing candidates for a settled minister; Sergeant Champlin is helping us develop a Safety Plan for SUUC; our Handbook of Operations is being revised and bids are being gathered to repair the Vestry floor and paint outdoor trim; David discovered super savings from the Capital Campaign's solar panel installation (read his report!) while Helen leads our Annual Budget Drive; and a dozen or so adventurous congregants enjoyed the January 26th Beer Tour fundraiser which raised \$1500 for the Corner Cupboard. Remarkable!

From June 20 through 24, 2018, in Kansas City, Missouri, our denomination will hold its annual business meeting, called General Assembly. Overall policies for carrying out the UUA's purpose are decided at GA. Because of the size of our congregation, SUUC can send two delegates, and if you're interested, please let me or Reverend Cook know; registration and financial aid applications begin March 1st. More information is on the Parlor bulletin board or you may go to <https://www.uua.org/ga> and register online.

I continue to be amazed by the passionate volunteers in our SUUC family, from inspirational sermons to uplifting music to congregants' fresh ideas for improving our church. Thank you, everyone! ~Diane



Ministerial Search Committee

The MSC is very excited with the 4 pre-candidates that are currently being considered. The dedication, spirituality and passion that the MSC has seen in these four individuals during interviews has been amazing and inspiring.

There is so much information I would like to provide, but this work needs to remain confidential. This is because some ministers in this process have not notified their congregations, and for our own Search Committee – so we don't get input from people who might know one of the pre-candidates.

What I can say is that I want to yell from the rooftops, jump on the biggest trampoline and dance the night away with my excitement of our options. I never imagined ministers would be so excited and committed to take this spiritual journey with us, to be willing to work though whatever comes up with a shared ministry, and understand that we are two churches with a shared dream - but we have found four!!!

We are now in the "neutral pulpit" stage where we get to hear them deliver a complete service – and I can tell you that my enthusiasm has not diminished!!! So, if you can all be patient for a little longer we will hopefully have a candidate to bring forth in April... please remember they are checking us out too! I can't imagine anyone wouldn't want to come here and be the minister for our two wonderful congregations, but it needs to be a fit both ways.

On behalf of the MSC I thank you all for your faith in this process and our ability to fulfill the needs of both congregations. I am very hopeful. Maybe I should say I am extremely, enormously, exceedingly, tremendously hopeful.

Lisa Huestis
Chairperson
Ministerial Search Committee

Energy, the Church and the Planet

We have begun to see the positive results of our church's commitment to a cleaner planet and to saving money. Sanford UU Church members, friends, and foundations generously supported the 2nd Century Capital Fund during the 2011-16 campaign.

Important aspects of the capital work were done to reduce our energy use and to use clean energy. These were:

- *extensive insulation of both the church building and Goodall Hall (2014-2016)
- *installation of solar panels on the Goodall Hall roof (2015)
- *conversion of solar power for electric heat and cooling in Goodall Hall (2015)

The solar panels were purchased as an investment by Art and Celina Dumas. The panels, conversion system, and heat pumps were installed by ReVision Energy. The insulation was done by William B. Winkel Builder Inc.

We've reduced our use of #2 heating oil and our fossil fuel expenses in these ways:

Average gallons of oil used per year in Fiscal Years 2007-2015: **3343 gallons**

Gallons used in FY 2015-16 (solar/electric, insulation work being completed): **2236 gallons**

Gallons used in FY 2016-17: **1967 gallons**

Average annual expenditures for oil in Fiscal Years 2007-2015: **\$9706**

Oil expenditure in FY 2015-16 (solar/electric, insulation work being completed): **\$4481**

Oil expenditure in FY 2016-17: **\$4256**

Oil usage varies with variable temperatures each year. Oil expenditures also vary with the price of oil.

We've Increased electricity use and decreased electricity expenditures:

We're using electricity for heating and cooling Goodall Hall now. Most of it is clean solar electricity generated right here. This solar electric energy is donated to the church by the Dumas family who own the panels.

We pay CMP for the electricity we need beyond the solar energy that is generated. Solar energy generated is weather dependent.

Average annual electric expenditures FY 2012-15: **\$1696**

Electric expenditure FY 2015-16: **\$1422**

Electric expenditure FY 2016-17: **\$390**

In just over 2 years (Dec 2015-Feb 10, 2018), the panels have generated 23.83 Megawatt hours (MWh) of electricity. This is the equivalent of reducing Carbon Dioxide emissions by 18.39 tons if electricity had been generated from conventional sources.

Follow the panels' energy production at: <http://solarlog-web.net/sanforduublic/>

Submitted by David Agan



SUUC PRE-CENTENNIAL UPDATE #3

Piano Notes

When we moved to this area in 1961, we rented a home next door to Dr. "Pete" and Pat Peterlein. Pat invited me to attend the Unitarian church with her - and I've been coming here ever since. At that time, Mrs. Ernestine Morgan was the organist and choir director. In the late 1960s, she and I played several piano-organ duets. In the 1970s, Dr. Morton Gold was our organist-choir director. During his time with us, he and I played over twenty piano-organ duets. Also during that period, we had a second small piano in the parlor, and on at least three occasions, Joyce Willard and I had the small piano moved into the sanctuary, and we played pieces written for two pianos.



After Fred Muir became our minister in 1976, we began to have informal summer services, and I played the piano for several of those. Phyllis Leeke was our organist-pianist later in the 70s. She was a very accomplished musician, and in addition, she took excellent care of our piano. Thanks to her, the piano is on a wheel base, it has a cover and lock, and a pad on the bench. (Incidentally, we have a wonderful Steinway grand piano, which was given to the church in November 1939 by Mr. and Mrs. Clyde L. Reed in memory of their uncle Edward E. Hussey.)

In the 1980s I often played the piano for some of our singers in the congregation: Linda Tracy, Lauren Kannenberg, Paula Keefe, Bill Lotz, and Russ Goodall, among others. At some point in the 1980s, after Phyllis Leeke left us, Joyce Willard, Deb (Lander) Folsom, and I took turns on the piano, playing for the services. I'm not sure we had any sort of schedule, and I have no idea how we decided who'd provide the music. Joyce died in 1983, and eventually I seemed to end up playing for every service, which I still do with the help of a talented Helen Kane, who fills in when I'm not available.

At some point I belatedly came to the realization that no one ever asked me to be the pianist for the church - somehow it just seemed to happen! I've been playing for the past thirty-five years or so and have been involved in over 1,000 services. Members of the congregation have been very accepting of some of the "less than sacred" music I've played on occasion. Maybe it's time (or past time!) for folks to say whether or not they're ready for a change! I've loved playing, and I thank all of the folks who've been listening all these years!



March for Our Lives

On March 24th many "March for Our Lives" will be held across the country to address the issue of gun violence and mass shootings in our schools. The closest one at this point is in Portsmouth, NH at 1:00pm. For more information go to marchforourlives.com.



In the Family

Dr. Don Reusch is in Portsmouth Regional Hospital for abdominal issues. He would love to hear from you either by card or phone calls. (Room #368 - 333 Borthwick Ave, Portsmouth, NH 03801 or call 603-433-5130) We wish Don a quick and complete recovery and we send him our love!



One

York County's three Unitarian Universalist (UU) churches are combining choirs for three performances in March. The choirs will sing music with the theme of the oneness of everything and our interconnectedness during regular services at Kennebunk, Saco-Biddeford, and Sanford churches this month. Since 2015, this TriQuire has harmonized together each Spring.

All are invited to join us for a special musical event and service one of these Sundays:

March 4, 10:30am, **First Parish UU Church of Kennebunk**, 114 Main Street, Kennebunk www.uukennebunk.org

March 11, 10:00am, **UU Church of Saco & Biddeford**, 60 School Street, Saco www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com

March 18, 10:30am, **Sanford UU Church**, 5 Lebanon Street, Sanford www.sanforduuchurch.org

The choirs are led by music directors Ellie Rolnick (Saco-Biddeford), Molly Petrik (Kennebunk), and Rev. Charlie Grindle (Sanford).



2018-2019 Pledge Drive Update

Let me begin by sincerely thanking everyone who has already made a pledge for the coming fiscal year. It is very encouraging to know that in the first two weeks of our drive we have reached over half of our goal, with \$32,255.00 in returned pledges. With only two weeks to go until March 11, I'm trusting that this gentle reminder will encourage the remaining pledge cards to appear in the office Stewardship mailbox ahead of the deadline, so that we can be assured of our church's ability to function fully in its many aspects throughout the coming year.

Please enjoy the musical renditions at the beginning of each Sunday service, when a succession of musicians will perform "Simple Gifts" as a subtle reminder of the theme of this year's ongoing pledge drive. Thank you, Melody Wood, Jan Sacco, Tonia Chase and Ruth Leipold for sharing your inspirational musical gifts with us. And thank you all for your wholehearted participation to further the work of our awesome church.

Sincerely,
Helen Kane
2018-2019 Pledge Drive Chairperson



Book Group

The SUUC book group will meet on March 16, 2018 at 6:00pm to discuss Jack Kornfield's latest book: *There's No Time Like The Present*. It's timely - and timeless - message: we can be happy and free at any moment, no matter what our circumstances, even in periods of great change, whether chaotic or peaceful. In fact, when times are difficult, full of upheaval, it is the perfect moment to open your mind and heart and to draw upon the inner power of courage, mindfulness and compassion. And there is no time like the present. All are welcome.



March 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Newsletter Day VNM Vestry 5:00pm	2 AA in Vestry 6:00pm to 7:00pm	3
4 RE pancake breakfast, rescheduled for today 8:30am Worship 10:30am TriQuire sings in Kennebunk AA in Vestry 5:00pm to 6:15pm	5 Music Lessons 4:30pm-7:00pm	6 MTN Meeting in Parlor and GH 6:00pm	7 Music Lessons 9:00am-11:00am Project CommUnity 6:30pm -8:30pm in Goodall hall Narcotics Anon. in Vestry 7:30pm to 9:00pm	8 VNM Vestry 5:00pm	9 AA in Vestry 6:00pm to 7:00pm	10 Church Work Party 8:00ish-noon
11 Worship 10:30am TriQuire sings in Saco Daylight Saving Begins Deadline for Annual Pledge Drive MSC Meeting 2:00-5:00 AA in Vestry 5:00pm to 6:15pm	12 Music Lessons 4:30pm-7:00pm Choir rehearsal 6:30pm - 8:00pm	13 Board Meeting 6:00pm (potluck at 5:30pm)	14 Music Lessons 9:00am-11:00am Narcotics Anon. in Vestry 7:30pm to 9:00pm	15 VNM Vestry 5:00pm	16 CC sets up Book Group 6:00pm AA in Vestry 6:00pm to 7:00pm	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day Corner Cupboard is open 10:00-2:00
18 Worship 10:30am TriQuire sings in Sanford Pie Fest and Corner Café 11:30-1:30 MSC Meeting 2:00-5:00 AA in Vestry 5:00pm to 6:15pm	19 Music Lessons 4:30pm-7:00pm Choir rehearsal 6:30pm - 8:00pm	20 First day of Spring! MTN Meeting in Parlor 6:00pm	21 Music Lessons 9:00am-11:00am Project CommUnity 6:30pm -8:30pm in Goodall hall Narcotics Anon. in Vestry 7:30pm to 9:00pm	22 VNM Vestry 5:00pm	23 Book Group snow date 6:00pm AA in Vestry 6:00pm to 7:00pm	24
25 Worship 10:30am MSC Meeting 2:00-5:00 AA in Vestry 5:00pm to 6:15pm	26 Music Lessons 4:30pm-7:00pm Choir rehearsal 6:30pm - 8:00pm	27	28 Music Lessons 9:00am-11:00am Narcotics Anon. in Vestry 7:30pm to 9:00pm	29 VNM Vestry 5:00pm	30 AA in Vestry 6:00pm to 7:00pm	31

Board 2017-2018

President: Diane Whiteside-Peck June 30, 2019
Vice President: Karen Nelson June 30, 2019
Clerk: Bruce Harrison June 30, 2018
Financial Secretary: Janet Wood June 30, 2018
Treasurer: Marcel Gagnon June 30, 2019
Co-DREs: Mesha and Ryan Quinn

Liaisons:

Gary Wood June 30, 2018
Patty Kidder June 30, 2019
Judi Reis June 30, 2020

Church Leadership 2017-2018

Building and Grounds Chair: Bob McCormick
Caring Circle: Gail Lemley Burnett
Choir: Charles Grindle
Church Historian: Helen Kane
Corner Cupboard: Peg Sawyer, Judi Reis, Dee Ames, Helen Kane
Earth Stewards Green Team: Judi Reis
Finance Committee:
Fundraising Coordinator: Jan Sacco
Grant Manager:
Homesteaders: Jan Sacco and Melody Wood
Members and Friends: Tonia Chase
Music Committee: Melody Wood
Nominating Committee : Ginny Howe 2018, Lisa Huestis 2019, Vicky Bugado 2020
Pianist: Ruth Leipold
Religious Education Committee:
SUUC Search Committee: Lee Burnett, Evelyn LaBree, Tom Huber, Lisa Huestis
Stewardship: Kristie Praschak
UUSC:
Women's Alliance: Nancy Farnham
Worship: Rev. Steve Cook
Worship Associates: Rev. Steve Cook, Bev Brent, Judi Reis, Jan Sacco, Janie Waterhouse, Patty Kidder, Mesha Quinn, Vicky Bugado, Evelyn LaBree

Caring Circle

Gail Lemley Burnett is in charge of our Caring Circle for providing help in case of illness, hospitalization, need for a ride to church, doctors' appointments, etc. Please call Gail at 324-1596 if you need assistance.

Minister's Hours

Rev. Steve Cook will be in his office on Wednesdays, as needed, in the morning. Please call for an appointment at 781-330-2521
stephenmichaelcook@ME.com

Administrative Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
7:00-12:00 - info@sanforduuchurch.org

Co-Directors of Religious Education

Mesha and Ryan Quinn - dre@sanforduuchurch.org

Church and Community Groups

AA Meetings: AA meetings are held every Sunday from 5:00pm-6:15pm and Fridays 6:00pm-7:00pm in Vestry

Board Meeting: Tuesday, March 13th at 6:00pm in the Parlor. Meeting begins with a potluck supper at 5:30pm

Book Group: Friday, March 16th at 6:00pm in GH, snow date March 25th

Choirs: Rehearsals on March 12th, 19th, 26th

Church Work Party: The next work day will be held on Saturday, March 10th from 8:00ish-noon

Corner Cupboard: Next date the CC is open is March 17th from 10:00am-2:00pm

Maine Transgender Network (MTN): Meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm in the Parlor and GH and the third Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm in the Parlor

Music Lessons: Mondays 4:30pm-7:00pm and Wednesdays 9:00am - 11:00am in the Sanctuary

Narcotics Anonymous: Meets every Wednesday in the Vestry from 7:00pm to 9:30pm

Project CommUnity: Meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month in Goodall Hall from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Please email us at the following: projectcommunity@gmail.com or join the group on Facebook!

Violence No More: Every Thursday at 5:00pm in the Vestry

Women's Alliance: Meets the second Wednesday of the month at 12:00 noon

Worship Associates: TBA