



# Spectacles

## September 2011

Coming up this month:



September 3<sup>rd</sup>-**Vespers Bonfire**. Should be a wonderful time to celebrate the beginning of our new year.

September 10<sup>th</sup>-The Parish Committee has scheduled a **major work day**. Bring work clothes and a "DIY" frame of mind. We'll be dusting, washing, straightening, moving things, and making the Meetinghouse look wonderful. Will be looking for someone to do some basic wiring and we need some basic plumbing done. Maybe some touch up painting and a little furniture moving. Something for everyone. Can anyone sew; have great fabric laying around?

September 11<sup>th</sup>- 10am-**1st Sunday service**. Colleen Jacques is doing coffee hour. Anyone want to help?

September 18<sup>th</sup>, 4PM ~ **Ingathering and Water Communion Service** ~ As we gather to begin another church year, we will offer thanks for the gift of water and for the web of life which we all share. Please bring a small sample of water from near or far to be used in a traditional UU Water Communion and Community Blessing. Kent McKusick will lead this first service as the UUCF minister on the day of his ordination to Unitarian Universalist ministry. Potluck supper to follow.

Guests that have RSVP'd number in excess of 150 and growing. We'll need lots of help to share this honor with the Laconia congregation.

### Ways you can help:

- We have a congregation full of excellent, innovative cooks! If you would like to help in the kitchen and/or plan to bring a particular food, please contact Adrienne Tuch at [Andtuch@google.com](mailto:Andtuch@google.com), who is organizing the reception goodies.
- Volunteers to help with parking, set up, clean up, and ushers. Again, Gail Morrison ([agree1@metrocast.net](mailto:agree1@metrocast.net)) is wonderfully working with the Laconia congregation to coordinate this wonderful event.

The Yard Sale is coming up on October 1st. Start cleaning out again and ask friends and family if they'd like to clean out, too. Also, think about how you can help for set up, sales, and cleanup after.

## **A Minister's Musing ~ Kent McKusick ~ September 2011**

As we gather for our first church year together in ministry, I am filled with anticipation and excitement. The summer months were filled with times of reflection, renewal, reading and thinking ahead for year of ministry in Franklin and Laconia.

In the early parts of July, I spent a significant amount of time unpacking boxes and organizing our home across the street from the church in Laconia. Opening boxes that have been in storage for up to six years in four locations was like going on an archeological dig in my own home. I recall holding some things in my hands, pausing, and wondering why I had saved a particular memory that had left the building of my mind. At other times, I found myself shedding sweet and tender tears at the discovery of a sentimental or spiritual treasure from another time in my life. For example, a few of these items include: my personal alter pieces, a rainbow ribbon from Ferry Beach (the UU conference center where I worked for 5 summers), a leather headband from long hair hippie days that became one of my mother's favorite necklaces, an interfaith pendant from my father, a dog collar that when shaken brings alive the sound of a golden retriever running through the woods, my great grandfather's shaving mug, an iris pendant that belonged to my sister, notes, cards, a very long lock of curly brown hair in a ring box, and too many photographs to imagine. I think part of me had avoided unpacking for a year, because I knew that it would require a deeper and emotional reflection on where I have been and when this spiritual path may have actually begun. Re-discovering traces and physical reminders of my 59 years triggered deep memories of self discovery, discernment, spiritual growth, gains, losses, birth, sickness, laughter, death, and most importantly, love. Love is the umbrella that holds our lives together. For many, this eternally loving and connecting spirit is called God.

In the latter part of July, I was able to spend a week in the woods of Maine where I previously lived in a small cabin for 10 years with the aforementioned golden retriever, Dune. I can still see her running ahead and stopping to wait patiently for me to catch up. I enjoyed time devoted to more reflective days and recreational reading. I read *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* in 4 days and hope to complete the series this year! In Laconia, I enjoyed attending two productions at the Winnepesaukee Playhouse and felt artistically inspired.

There were lovely day trips to Ferry Beach. One trip included a frigid, brief swim in the ocean! Within a month, the ocean waters warmed. There were joyful reunions with dear co-workers and friends. There were several restful and rejuvenating trips for James and me to Ogunquit where a friend of over 35 years is working as an innkeeper. I walked in the woods and went swimming frequently (and comfortably!) in Davis Pond at the family summer home, where my sister's grandchildren honored her life with a water ritual at dusk. They paddled a boat in silence to the middle of the pond. Along the way, they floated on the water a trail of leaves embedded with her ashes. The loons called as colors and light shifted and changed. Evening birds flew over, and dragon flies landed on the leaves which drifted away in a light

breeze. The misty eyed older generation stood at water's edge to witness the next generation moving away from the shore to embrace the cycle of life. The next generation of our family continues to bless us.

In August, I began study leave with an inspiring read about the spiritual history of this country from the days of colonial America to the present. Reading *Restless Souls* was like unpacking 160 years of treasures that had been stored away by American mystics, transcendentalists, and beyond. It was fascinating to read about the Greenacre Colony, a spiritual camp founded in Eliot, Maine in 1894 which was dedicated to eliminating religious intolerance and hatred. The district ministers gathered for retreat at Greenacre last fall.

The remainder of August was devoted to additional reading on congregational life, theology, and poetry, which guided my own summer spiritual practices and growth. I look forward to sharing from this rich time of study as we gather to worship, reflect, and expand our religious thinking and work in the community.

I am especially excited and honored to be ordained by the Laconia and Franklin congregations on September 18th. The summer was a busy time of planning, organization, and managing logistics for this once in a lifetime event. The gathering of people from many walks of my life will be yet another extraordinary and uplifting moment of reflection and renewal. I am filled with awe, wonder, and gratitude for the work that has been done and continues to be done on my behalf by the Ordination Committee (Karen Hurst and Gail Morrison), the combined choirs of Laconia and Franklin, the 18 ministers, religious leaders, and composers participating in the service, and the many volunteers from both congregations. It is a humbling and deeply spiritual moment as well as a time of celebration for everyone involved. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

In all the complexity of the process and time it has taken to reach ordination, a choral piece, which I chose for the ordination, offers a simple and beautiful reminder of where we live and why we live here. "Sunday" by Stephen Sondheim also reminds us that we frequently come face to face with possibilities of beauty and perfection in what we sometimes take for granted as ordinary. We simply need to pause and be aware. We are surrounded by the beauty of rivers, mountains and lakes, ever changing in color and light throughout the day and throughout the seasons of life. We live by the banks of a river where people are able to gather in a park to pause and take a break for a moment from busy lives. In a similar way, we gather at church and experience a comparable pause for reflection, renewal, and then return again into the community, refreshed and inspired to bless the world.

“Sunday” by Stephen Sondheim from the Broadway musical *Sunday in the Park with George*

“Sunday, by the blue purple yellow red water  
on the green purple yellow red grass  
Let us pass through our perfect park  
pausing on a Sunday”

“By the cool blue triangular water  
on the soft green elliptical grass  
as we pass through arrangements of shadow  
toward the verticals of trees  
Forever . . .”

“People strolling through the trees  
of a small suburban park  
on an island in the river  
on an ordinary Sunday”

In faith,

Kent

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 10am - Worship	29 4pm - Bread&Roses	30	31 7pm - Choir Practice	1 4pm - Bread&Roses	2 7pm - NA @ Parlor	3
4	5 4pm - Bread&Roses	6 7pm - Pool Night	7 7pm - Choir Practice	8 4pm - Bread&Roses	9 7pm - NA @ Parlor	10 Work Day
11 10am - Worship	12 4pm - Bread&Roses	13 7pm - Parish	14 7pm - Choir Practice	15 4pm - Bread&Roses 6:30pm - Worship	16 7pm - NA @ Parlor	17 8am - Post Card
18 10am - Worship 4pm - Kent 6pm - Potluck	19 4pm - Bread&Roses	20 7pm - Pool Night	21 7pm - Choir Practice	22 4pm - Bread&Roses	23 7pm - NA @ Parlor	24
25 10am - Worship	26 4pm - Bread&Roses	27	28 7pm - Choir Practice	29 4pm - Bread&Roses	30 7pm - NA @ Parlor	1 Yard Sale

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We've updated our  
website! Check us out  
at [www.uucfranklin.org](http://www.uucfranklin.org)

**Craft Fair and Cookie Walk;** our annual 1st Saturday of December is December 3rd. Let's plan a cookie making day to be held at the Meetinghouse. Many hands make light work and all that. It was great fun last year and we had a ton of cookies to sell.



It's not too early to think about the annual **Christmas Poinsettia Sale**. Start thinking about new and innovative ways to get these things sold. Sales have been lagging in the past couple years and this has historically been a major fundraiser for our congregation.