



News & Views

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

WAYSIDE PULPIT

As we face the New Year and all its possibilities and potential, I send a prayer for understanding and compassion. In light of increasing awareness of racist policing, mass incarceration and the school to prison pipeline, many are beginning to wake up. People are disrupting traffic and social events to bring attention to the egregious practices being done in our name. It is an attempt to say business as usual should not continue as long as people are being brutalized. And that call is being heard in the cry *Black Lives Matter*.

The call *Black Lives Matter* is not to say that all lives don't matter- but rather to highlight the fact that black men are about 30 times more likely to be shot by police than whites. This is why I choose not to use the phrase "All Lives Matter" in the context of this struggle. As long as an assumption is made that black men and boys are inherently dangerous, and deserve to be approached with lethal force no matter what the circumstances, I will continue to use the phrase "*Black Lives Matter*".

I know that all lives matter, this has been a core belief for me as long as I can remember. And I continue to witness a world that values some people, white people, more than others. It frustrates me that about 50 years ago Ella Baker said: "*Until the killing of black men, black mothers' sons, becomes as important to the rest of the country as the killing of a white mother's son...*" We who believe in freedom cannot rest. So we begin to awaken from our slumber, from our rest, as we recognize that this calling, this plea, remains unfulfilled.

And, it is vital to remember that **not all police officers** behave in racist and violent ways. The institutional racism that persists has tendrils in economic inequality, educational inequality, the assumption that the poor are more likely to commit violent crimes and the false assumption that people of color use drugs at a rate higher than whites. To address the problem of mass incarceration, the school to prison pipeline and the unnecessary deaths of young black men, we must address the underlying causes, not just the obvious results of institutional racism.

Institutions are made of people and we, we are the ones who can change things by engaging in our lives, practicing kindness and compassion, and learning more about how those of us with privilege and be good allies. We can engage in the civic life of our community, our city. We can model kindness and compassion and seek it in others- we can change the way our institutions work by changing ourselves.

The new President of our west coast seminary, Starr King School for the Ministry, Rev. Rosemary Bray-McNatt offers these words as we embrace the struggle for justice in our hearts and in the streets:

Gracious spirit of all our lives, God of many names and many voices

And one abundant love:

At this time of holy unrest, give us the peace that comes

When we know why we struggle and what we struggle for.

Spirit of life in all its fullness, renew us and remind us that we who have answered your call

Were never promised ease, or wealth, or appreciation.

Help us to remember that honor and praise are yours, not ours.

Remind us that we serve the great cause of justice, not ourselves.

Give us, we pray, a true joy in the community we form each time we gather

To pray, to march, to interrupt ordinary time to create sacred time, a time to help others awaken to what is so very wrong in our world.

Help us to be kind, even to those with whom we struggle. Help us to be, in the raising of our voices and the marching of our feet, agents of a radical love that holds us all.

Finally, help us to be grateful, grateful to live in these times when great works of justice await our hands and hearts and minds and spirit. Prepare us so that we might do all that is in our power to change this world, so that the whole creation might see Beloved Community, not tomorrow, but today. We ask these things in the name of all that is holy. Amen

Shanti, Paul

*Should auld
acquaintance be
forgot
And never brought to
mind?
Should auld
acquaintance be
forgot
And auld lang syne*

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MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS

Mondays 10-3pm
Wed 10-2pm

As always, I am happy to meet by appointment at a time convenient for you.

I can be reached by text or phone at 508-717-2438 or by email at minister@uunewbedford.org.

RE NEWS-WAY COOL SUNDAY SCHOOL



- January 4** Way Cool Sunday School
Amazing Grace
RE Team Meeting 12:15pm {Green Room}
- January 9** UUnited Youth Group {Taunton 7-9pm}
- January 11** Way Cool Sunday School
Cooking Kindness
- January 18** Way Cool Sunday School
Parent Workshop 8:30am-11:00 {Childcare Provided}
Registration Required
- January 23** UUnited Youth Group {Taunton 7-9pm}
- January 25** Way Cool Sunday School

Let your light shine. Be a source of strength and courage. Share your wisdom. Radiate love.
{Wilfred Peterson}

Words of wisdom I gleaned from a professional development workshop on Faith Formation from author Neil Gaiman. I also find it amusing that the sign above my desk states: We NEVER make Misteaks! Happy New Year!

Make Glorious Mistakes...

"I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're Doing Something. So that's my wish for you, and all of us, and my wish for myself. Make New Mistakes. Make glorious, amazing mistakes. Make mistakes nobody's ever made before. Don't freeze, don't stop, don't worry that it isn't good enough, or it isn't perfect, whatever it is: art, or love, or work or family or life. Whatever it is you're scared of doing. Do it. Make mistakes, next year and forever."

JANUARY 18 **Parent Workshop** 8:30-11am {Childcare}
Registration Required

Often as parents we can feel acted upon by behaviors, schedules, circumstances, etc. and can feel overwhelmed. Practice connecting to many feelings and take steps to parent from internal power and inherent worth, with less judgment. "Follow your instincts!"

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- House and Grounds
Richard Pline
- Religious Services
Karen Andersen
- Endowment
Carlton Dasent
- Soup Kitchen Coordinator
Dave Thoen
- Food Pantry
Maggi Kerr Peirce
- Thrift Shop
Bill Bennett
- Social Justice
Wendy Wiggins
- Women's Alliance
Pam Sherman

The Garden Committee

is looking for donations of small rhododendrons for the corner of Union & County Streets where the sign will be placed. The shrubs are approximately \$40-50 each. For more details about the Garden plan, please speak with Mary Rapoza.

CHURCH NEWS & EVENTS

WHAT'S YOUR PLAN? CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

We will continue the successful program led by Carol, Mary Beth and Marsha entitled: *What's Your Plan?; A Discussion About End of Life Choices* following the service on January 4th at 12:30 in the Sanctuary. Please join us.

QUILT GROUP

The Quilting Group will resume their weekly meetings beginning at

9:30am on January 7th. Everyone is welcome to join the group whether or not you have quilting experience. Come to quilt, chat or even just to have tea!

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS

Donations are always needed...no matter the season. Please continue to give as generously as you can. Each week, the Shepherd's Pantry serves roughly 150 fami-

lies...and that's just ONE of the many area food pantries. Most needed items include: cereal/oatmeal, canned tuna/meat, canned fruit, peanut butter, pasta & pasta sauce (no glass jars, please).

BOOK CLUB

The Book Club meets on the first Tuesday of each month. Please join us in the History Room at 6:30pm on Tuesday, January 6th.

FOCUS ON MEMBERS

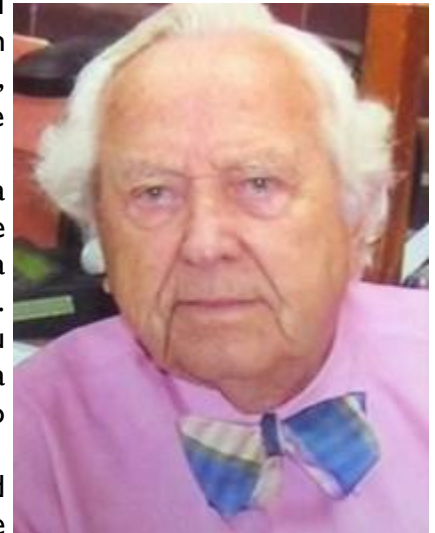
Ed Bushell was a member of this church for many years. He passed away this past year. He was born and raised into a fundamentalist Christian sect. His wife Barbara was a devout Catholic and Ed became a non-believer, atheist, humanist who traveled up to attend Humanist meetings in Cambridge while participating in the First Unitarian Church.

Ed owned Crowell's Frame Store and Art Gallery. More than just a store and gallery it was a salon. One always knew when you entered the store that there would be a new person Ed would introduce you to and a very provocative discussion which would always include all who were there. The discussion was always sparked by Ed's quick sense of humor that you could see coming in his sparkling blue mischievous eyes. Crowell's was a special place and a gathering place. You could go in and spend no money to be convivial.

He left home at an early age, traveling to Florida looking for work and adventure. He joined the Navy to see the world and get a tattoo that he later covered up with long sleeve pink shirts and bow ties. Along the way he got married twice, lived in SF with his first wife and two kids and got involved with two additional life-long passions, art/design and, through the Longshornmen's Union and other radical, a dedication to social justice and advocacy for the under-dog.

When he moved back East to his home state of Rhode Island, he went from designing store front windows to Bo Bernstein's ad agency. And not too many years later moving to Dartmouth and purchasing Crowell's Art Gallery and Frame Shop with Barbara, he began to decorate the homes of the elite, to mentor folks struggling with alcoholism and fight for the disempowered both locally and internationally with his participation on the brigade to Nicaragua. Ed and Barbara were active members of the yacht club, the Chamber of Commerce and the Historical Society. In his youth, Ed played soccer and to his last days he loved to watch national and international soccer matches on television. Ed and his daughter Stephanie were avid cribbage players.

He will be missed.





JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Happy Birthday to:

Candace Garcia 1/5 ~ Torsten Fayan 1/8 ~ Gregory Sampson 1/12 ~ Juliette Fynn 1/12 ~ Aislynn Flynn 1/12
Cameron Garcia 1/25 ~ Cecelia Weeks 1/28

A Different Take on Interfaith for World Religions Day

In January, the kids in my class will be taking a look at the Ba’hai religion, which celebrates World Religions Day that month. I will be filling in for Paul on Jan. 11 and thought I might try to coordinate an interfaith service. Of course, it’s tough to get other clergy out on a Sunday morning, so I thought I would come at this idea from a different direction. Many, if not most of us were raised in, or have been part of, another faith tradition and have come to Unitarianism of our own accord for numerous reasons. I’d like to get just a few people to speak briefly on 1/11/15, not about why they left the religion they came from, but one good thing they brought with them, some belief they maintain, or something about their former religion that they miss, that we don’t do as UU’s. If anyone has an idea for a “good old hymn” we might use, that might be nice, too. Please talk to me during coffee hour or drop me an email at witchgwen@yahoo.com if you’re interested or have any other ideas. A Blessed Yuletide to All!

~Karen Andersen

BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Lynn Whitney, President
Judy Lund, Vice Pres.
Niko Tarini
Carlton Dasent
Terry Goyer
Cora Peirce
Kerri Cummins

Clerk—Richard Pline

Treasurer—Ned Lund

First Unitarian Thrift

71 Eighth Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

hours:

Wednesdays 9:00am-1pm

Saturdays 10am-2pm

“Come and find what you didn’t know you needed!”

CONTINUING EVENTS

Mondays at 5:30pm: Tai Chi — Meets in the Green Room. Free. No meetings on Monday holidays.

First & Third Mondays of each month at 7:00pm: Pride Café—Meets in the Parish House.

Second Monday of month at 7:30pm: the Work That Reconnects—meets in Parish House.

First Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm: Book Club (starting in November)—meets in the History Room.

Second Tuesday of the month at 12:00pm: Women’s Alliance Meeting in the Parish House (unless otherwise stated). (No meeting in January, February, and March.)

Second Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm: Board of Trustees meeting. Meets in the Historic Room.

Wednesdays (September-December & January to May—weather permitting) at 9:30am: Quilting Group—Meets in the Parish House. Come and join the fun, even if you’re not a quilter.

Third Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. Social Justice Committee — Meets in the Sanctuary.

Third Saturday and/or Sunday of the month: Dinners for Eight.

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Paul Langston-Daley,
Minister

Yasmin Flefleh-Vincent, DRE

Randy Fayan,
Music Director

Linda Fredette,
Church Administrator

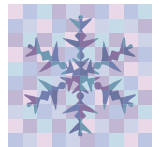
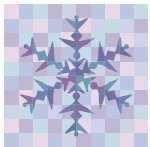
Tony Gonsalves, Sexton

Vikki McMaster,
Bookkeeper

Arthur Green,
Sunday Sexton

Karen Andersen,
Sunday School Teacher

January 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 11am Worship Service (S)	29 5:30 Tai Chi (D)	30	31 Thrift Shop Closed	Jan 1 	2	3 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
4 11am Worship Service (S) 12pm Social Hour 12:30pm What's Your Plan (S) 12:30pm New UU Class (Gr)	5 5:30 Tai Chi (D) 7pm Pride Café (P)	6 6:30pm Book Club (H) 	7 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 9:30am Quilting Group (P)	8 7pm CUUPS Elders (Gr)	9 3:30pm Restorative Justice Mtg (Gr)	10 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open 9am Move to Amend Luncheon (P)
11 11am Worship Service (S) 12pm Social Hour (P)	12 5:30 Tai Chi (D)	13 6:30pm Board of Trustees Mtg (H)	14 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 9:30am Quilting Group (P)	15 6:30pm Social Justice Meeting (H) 7pm CUUPS Ritual Workshop (Gr)	16 	17 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
18 11am Worship Service (S) 12pm Social Hour 3pm MLK Event (P)	19 MLK DAY OFFICE CLOSED 7pm Pride Café (P)	20 	21 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 9:30am Quilting Group (P)	22	23 February Newsletter Submission Deadline	24 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
25 11am Worship Service (S) 12pm Social Hour	26 5:30 Tai Chi (D)		28 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 9:30am Quilting Group (P)	29	30 	31 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open
Feb 1 11am Worship Service (S) 12pm Social Hour (P)	2 5:30 Tai Chi (D)	3	4 9am-1pm Thrift Shop Open 9:30am Quilting Group (P)	5 7pm CUUPS Imbolc Potluck (Gr)		7 10am-2pm Thrift Shop Open

Green Room(Gr), Dining Room(D), Kitchen (K), Sanctuary(S), Parish House(P), Tryworks Auditorium(T), History Room(H), Ladies Parlor (LP), Office (O)



STANDING ON THE SIDE OF

LOVE

NEWS AND VIEWS
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FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH
IN NEW BEDFORD
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Church Office
508-994-9686
Fax 508-994-9687

WORSHIP SERVICES

January theme: *Amazing Grace*

*"Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."
~Martin Luther King Jr.*

Grace is defined as elegance or beauty of form, manner, motion, or action. We can all be graceful at times, we all possess beauty within us and when we are able to project that beauty, that elegance, we are projecting grace. Grace comes when we offer gentle kindness to one another because, in so doing, we allow the beauty of another to come forward. Author and teacher Parker Palmer speaks of releasing the soul.

Sometimes grace comes when we least expect it, in odd moments or incidents when we allow our true self to shine through. Sometimes it is inspired and sometimes rehearsed but grace and the beauty of grace is within us all. As we serve one and other and the work for the greater good of all life, may grace be our intent, our prayer, and our action.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The "News & Views" goes to print on the third or fourth Tuesday of each month. **The deadline to submit articles into the newsletter is the Friday before it goes to print.** All submissions are reviewed by the editor for content and grammar. **Next "News and Views": January 23, 2015.**