



newsletter of the universalist unitarian church of halifax

Vol. 51, No 1
September 2016

Universalist Unitarian
Church of Halifax
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Deborah Wiggins
Music Director

Christy-Lee Bojarski
RE Director

Kim Turner
President

Newsletter
Etta Hamm
Sylvia Mattinson
Sandra Jamieson

Sunday service
10:30 am

All are welcome
Children & Youth Education
Child care available

Theme for September: Invitation

September 4

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Martha Wilson

The Subtle Art of the Invitation

When is it a joy to receive an invitation and when is it an annoyance or a burden?

September 11

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Wynne Jordan

Blending of the Waters – Our Annual Ingathering Service

Come and enjoy the first service as we begin an exciting new church year. Bring a small sample of water representing some place important to you, and share in a service that will highlight our sense of connection and spirituality, through water. You will be delighted by a special musical welcome from our very own Afterchoir!

September 18

Presenter: Dr. Philip Welch; Service Leader: Dean White

Dying: What You Need, and Ought to Know

The only certainty of life is that it will end inevitably in death for each and every one of us. Since it is unavoidable, and inevitable, and we do not know how, when, or where it will occur, it frequently only appears as the final item on our “to-do” list—and from which it frequently disappears. Do these considerations really matter? And should we care? Would our caring make any difference?

September 25

Presenter: Wendy Fraser; Service Leader: TBA

Hospice Halifax – Supporting People Affected by a Life-limiting Illness, Death and Bereavement

The Chief Executive Officer of Hospice Halifax will speak to us about the mission of Hospice and her personal involvement.

Our mission is to provide a community that nurtures personal and spiritual growth, practices inclusiveness, celebrates diversity and affirms individual and collective commitment to community service and social justice.



September 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 9:45 am Music 12 pm Worship Committee	5 Labour Day	6	7 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	8 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots	9	10
11 9:45 am Music (upstairs) 10:30 Ingathering, Blending of the Waters 12 pm Soc Resp. meeting	12	13	14 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	15 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots 6:30 Board Meeting	16	17 Hike to Purcell's Cove Backlands
18 9:30 am Music RE classes start Return Pride flags 12 pm Humanist Group	19	20	21 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	22 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots	23	24
25 9:45 am Music (upstairs) Return Pride flags 12 pm Intro to Uuism with Rev Norm 12pm Photo Show hanging	26 10 am Newsletter deadline	27	28 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	29 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots	30	31

Ingathering and Blending of the Waters, September 11



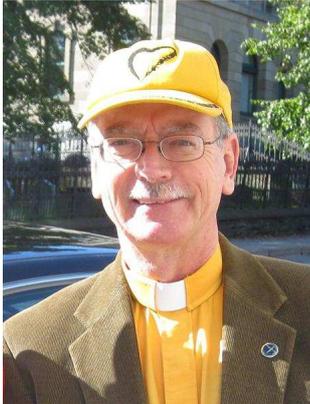
On Sunday September 11th we will have our Ingathering Service, marking the start of a new church year.

In the long-standing UU tradition of “The Blending of Waters” when we return in the fall, we invite every member and friend to add a small amount of water to a communal vessel to symbolize the beginning of the church year, and our uniting of many talents, gifts and experiences.

You may bring water from your backyard, your bird bath, or from any place of meaning for you. The water may actually come from the source you wish to invoke, or it may be from your tap, but symbolic of the source.

Rev. Norm Horofker

Minister's Notes



Welcome everyone to the beginning of a new church year. I want to express my thanks to all of our many volunteers who have presented our services over the summer months, thus giving me the luxury of time to relax and reflect and prepare for

a new year of Themed Church.

The theme for the month of September is "Invitation" and I want to do my best to make each of you feel invited to full participation in the life of our congregation. I hope that the summer has been a joyous time for you, but I know that for some reading this, the summer may have brought sorrows and challenges. I invite you, in the words of our covenant... to support one another in our dance with life.

I hope to have a September Theme magazine on Invitation ready for you soon and I invite you to explore this theme more deeply using the material you will find there.

As we do every year, we will start the year with an ingathering service, this year on September 11th. You are encouraged to bring a small sample of water symbolizing a connection that you have with a place, be that the tap in a new apartment, a birdbath in your back yard, or water from a lake you visited this summer.

I share with you my joy in that I will be officiating at the wedding of my daughter Marta in Toronto on September 17th. After that I am continuing on to visit family and friends in my home town of Thunder Bay. This means I will be absent from services September 18th and 25th.

As always I invite you to contact me if there is any way that I can assist you and I invite your suggestions and participation to help us achieve our potential as beloved community.

Rev. Norm Horofker

Religious Exploration

Well, nearly two years and one baby later, I return to my position as UUCH's Director of Religious Exploration!



Thank you everyone for your enthusiastic welcome. It's been wonderful to see so many familiar, smiling faces, and I am very thankful for the opportunity to rejoin the staff here at the UUCH.

Religious Exploration classes will commence on **SEPTEMBER 18TH** and we're looking to kick off the year with a post-service brunch where we'll be offering a presentation to get you all excited about what's in store for RE!

As a teaser, we're going to be working alongside Reverend Norm in themed ministry, with self-contained classes that will be accessible and welcoming to new attendants, or those who can only attend sporadically.

We'll be once again offering two classes each Sunday in order to offer as much age-appropriate content as possible.

Our primary focuses this year are drawing in new students, enriching the experience for the ones we have, wonderful multigenerational services and establishing a Youth Group!

Please don't hesitate to let me know if you are interested in volunteering with the program, or if you have some special talent or interest you would like you share with our congregation's youth.

Looking forward to our new adventures!

Christy-Lee Bojarski
Director of Religious Exploration
dre@uuch.ca



Board Buzz

From our UUCH Board President

Welcome to a new church year!

While some people make resolutions in January, for me, September has always been a month of renewal, new opportunities and fresh starts. A new school year, the beginning of university, a new church year— after relaxed and contemplative summers we can re-focus and re-commit to being our best selves starting right after Labour Day!

What will this new church year look like for our congregation? What are our resolutions for the new year? What are our goals and aspirations for this church year, and beyond? How will we get it done? What values do we hold high which will guide us in our planning? By the time you read this, the Board and congregational leaders will have participated in our annual end-of-summer retreat to discuss just this.

Unitarianism Universalism, and our congregation have so much to offer to the world, and yet we struggle to have our message heard, and although vibrant and energetic, our numbers remain small and often over-committed. While nurturing those already within the congregation, we also want to focus on outreach, new ways of thinking about and doing church and being available to more people who are looking for a religious or spiritual community but who aren't comfortable with the more traditional offerings of mainstream churches.

At the same time, and with much the same purpose, we also have to continue to think about our building, and how it, or other space, may better serve our purposes.

There is so much to think about, and so much to plan. Key to all of this are the wonderful volunteers who keep us going. This includes the board, committee chairs and members; those who volunteer to greet, make coffee, collect money, plan events, worry about the building and make numerous other invaluable contributions. You all together create this wonderful community!

These are exciting times for the church, with many opportunities before us. I look forward to being on this journey with all of you! See you after Labour Day!

Kim Turner

Hike Purcell's Cove Backlands, September 17

The September 17 hike will be to the Purcell's Cove Backlands. This hike will first take us through the rock quarries that supplied the rock for many of the historic buildings and military constructions in Halifax.



The hike will then visit Purcell's Pond, a favourite swimming area and nature reserve. There will be an opportunity to swim before returning to the village of Purcell's Cove.

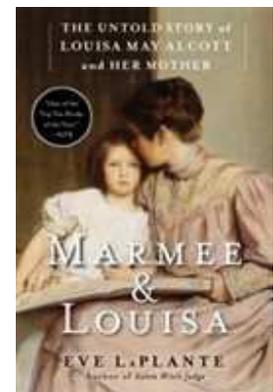
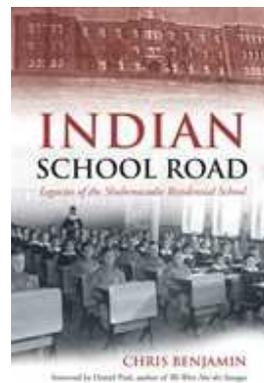
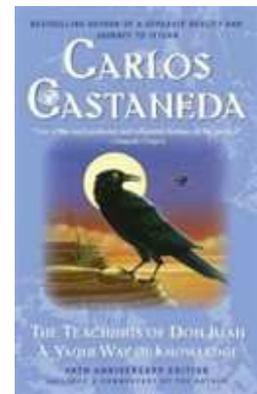


Meet at the church at 12:30 or at the parking lot of the playground in Purcell's Cove at 1 pm. When coming from the rotary on Purcell's Cove Road, turn right at the Purcell's Cove Social Club sign, then right again into the parking lot. Call me at 902-483-4731 if you are running late or are lost.

Allyn Clarke

Library Book Display, September 18

Yes, at long last, your favourite enhancement to coffee hour is back—the beloved **Library Book Display!** The theme this month is **Recent Acquisitions.** A selection of books acquired over the past year will be presented for your perusal. They range in subject matter from environmental concerns: Naomi Klein, *This Changes Everything*; to spiritual writings: Carlos Castaneda, *The Teachings of Don Juan*; to social issues: Chris Benjamin, *Indian School Road*; to UU historical figures: Eve LaPlante, *Marmee and Louisa*. These are but a few of the books we've chosen for display.



Eager readers may check out any display book when the display closes at 12:05 pm. If you wish to reserve a display book, just ask the library committee member on duty to hold it for you until the display closes.

Alison Chipman

Not the Sistine Chapel...

But we painted the ceiling anyway—and the walls and the woodwork and the cupboards. The church office has never looked so good. It had not been painted in over 20 years according to Sandra. Do stop in and take a peek. We will offer orientation tours Sundays in September for all volunteers who need to access stuff as everything has been shifted.



Huge thanks to John and Faith Piccolo for creating a new wall over the old fireplace (who even knew there was a fireplace in there?) – to Deborah Wiggins, Shripad Pendse and Kathy Spencer for painting and cleaning assistance, to Rev. Norm, Allyn Clarke and Stephen Butler for wielding screwdrivers and doing the heavy lifting. To cap it all off in fine style, we were delighted to have Laszlo Szantor doing a professional job on the painting and giving the rest of us pointers. He even painted one bathroom (the other will get done soon), and while he was at it, covered the water stain on Rev. Norm's ceiling as well. What a day!

Marilyn Shinyei

Huge thanks to you, Marilyn!

... from all of us, for actually following up on Rev. Norm's idea of having a paint party in the first place. You spent countless hours decluttering, reorganizing, making many small and large 'corporate decisions', recruiting helpers, and the list goes on. *That's* what was behind the paint party having gone off so well, and all in one productive day. We thank you!



The Caring Column

We wish **Devin Murphy** a speedy recovery from her second surgery in two months. She is looking forward to getting back to school soon, and all her friends are cheering her on.

Mary Ellen Onno

Birthday Party

Mary Ellen (that most caring of ladies), surrounded by family and many UU friends, celebrated her 80th birthday on Sunday, August 21st.



We serenaded her with The Birthday Song, gave her extra hugs, a card filled with good wishes, and ate birthday cake! Here's to many healthy and happy years ahead, Mary Ellen!

Etta Hamm



Flag return Sundays

All you wonderful UUs and friends who were loaned rainbow flags for the Pride Parade, please return them in September. (Hope you've had fun with them in the meantime, but we need to ensure we have them for next year.) We're missing one large flag out of a total of five, and 16 small ones out of 25. Please bring them in on **September 18th or 25th** and give them to me. Thanks!

Kay Smith

Music Montage

*“Music is the mediator between
the spiritual and the sensual.”*
~ Ludwig van Beethoven



September's 'Singing As We Gather'

The Gathering Hymn for September is #2 *Down the Ages We Have Trod*. September's theme is *Invitation*, and this hymn invites us to be inclusive in our acceptance of all the many paths our fellow congregants might choose to follow. It suggests a number of different paths. The last two verses sum up its message this way:

*“Though the truth we can't perceive
this at least we must believe,
what we take most earnestly
is our living Deity.*

*Our true God we there shall find
in what claims our heart and mind,
and our hidden thoughts enshrine
that which for us is Divine.”*

Monthly Music Projects

Again this church year, I will be continuing with Themed Music Projects. For those who are new to this concept, it simply means that each month there will be one Sunday when all are invited to join in making a joyful noise, celebrating that month's theme in song. There will be a few rehearsals leading up to each Music Project Sunday. Please attend rehearsal at least the Sunday we are singing. No need to commit to more than one month at a time and there is no need to read music. This newsletter, each month, will outline the next month's Music Project.

The September Music Project will take place on Sunday, September 18th. Rehearsals for this are:

- Sunday, September 4th, at 9:45 am
- Sunday, September 11th, at 9:45 am (upstairs)
- Sunday, September 18, at 9:30 am

October's Music Project will be on Sunday, October 2nd. Rehearsals are:

- Sunday, September 25th, at 9:45 am (upstairs)
- Sunday, October 2nd, at 9:30 am.

Note: I will be away on Sundays October 9th and 16th.

I look forward to my tenth exciting church year at UUCH!

Deborah Wiggins
Music Director

UUCH Participates in Pride for 21st year

Under the “Standing on the Side of Love” banner and theme, UUs and friends came out to march with UUCH’s float for the 21st time this year (note that last year it was erroneously reported that 2015 was our 19th year...but in fact it was pointed out by Susan White that UUCH has been participating since 1996).



UUCH Pride Parade participants, Saturday July 23
Photo by Kim Turner

Thirty people in UUCH’s float—a themed truck and trailer led by Norm’s ‘Standing on the Side of Love’ Jeep—tied last year for a record number of participants. This year we also welcomed Syrian refugees Nawras and Safa, sporting our bright yellow SSL t-shirts, to march in the parade with us. They had a blast!

Once again Stephen Butler and Faith Piccolo stole the show with fancy footwork, dancing along the parade route to our music which also pleased the estimated crowd of 100,000 spectators lining Barrington and Spring Garden (often breaking into song to sing along).

Many businesses and organizations made up the 140 parade entries this year, including four faith groups: UUs, Shambhala Centre, St Matthew’s United Church, and the Anglican Church fresh from a national vote to approve same-sex marriage for the first time this year. Once again Allyn Clarke helped organize our delicious After-Pride BBQ at the church immediately following the parade.

The Pride Parade Committee has already met to start planning an even better parade presence for next year. Contact us if you want to take part!

Andy Blair
Pride Parade Committee



Thank you Andy, Norm and others for all you do so enthusiastically for UUCH's participation in Pride!

**UUCH Board of Management
June 2016 - May 2017**



Officers

President	Kim Turner
Vice-President	Molly Hurd
Past President	Allyn Clarke
Secretary	Pam Berman
Treasurer	Marilyn Shinyei

Members at Large

Andy Blair	Mia Huh
Margaret Galbraith	Shripad Pendse



Did you know, that no matter how desperate the situation may seem, there's no need to panic when you've deleted your church newsletter from your computer

and you don't have a hard copy at hand? Just bring up www.uuch.ca, scroll to **Quick Links** at the bottom of the home page, click on Newsletter, and *voila!* you have all the newsletters you could possibly need.



The deadline for submissions for the October newsletter is **10 am, Monday, September 26th.**

Please submit to both
braeside@eastlink.ca
and
uuchurch@eastlink.ca



Photo by Etta Hamm