



newsletter of the universalist unitarian church of halifax

Vol. 52, No 1
September 2017

Theme for September: Covenant

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Rev. Norm Horofker
Minister
Office Hours
Tues, Wed, Fri 10-3
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Sandra Jamieson
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Deborah Wiggins
Music Director

RE Director
Tanya Bilsbury

Kim Turner
President

Newsletter
Etta Hamm
Sylvia Mattinson
Sandra Jamieson

Sunday service
10:30 am

All are welcome

Children & Youth Education
Child care available

September 3

Presenter: Deborah Wiggins and friends; Service Leader: Martha Wilson

Living Our UU Principles

A few of your fellow congregants talk about how they live one or more of the UU Principles in their individual lives.

September 10

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Dean White

Ingathering and Blending of the Waters

This is our annual "welcome back service" starting a new year. As is our tradition, you are invited to bring a small sample of water representing some significant place for you, from the bird bath in your backyard to water from a melting Greenland glacier. Come prepared to celebrate and be happy!

September 17

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Leader: Anne Knight-Gorman

Covenant, Treaties and Statues

It can be argued that the country of Canada came into existence as a legitimate state when the Indigenous peoples made treaties with the settlers giving them the right to share this land. How might our UU understanding of covenant guide a decision related to the statue of Edward Cornwallis?

September 24

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Leader: Margaret Galbraith

Membership and Covenant

What does it mean to be a member of our congregation? The answer to that question is ultimately personal, decided by each individual. But there is a long history and tradition behind membership in our UU faith tradition. Today we explore that history and its logical consequences, providing a context for understanding membership and covenant.



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 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:30 am Choir 12 pm Worship Committee	4 Labour Day Holiday	5	6	7 Noon Tai Chi	8 Dollar Lake Camping (see inside)	9 10-noon UU Brunch
10 9:30 am Choir Ingathering, Blending of the Waters	1	2	13 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	14 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots Noon Tai Chi	15	16 10-noon UU Brunch
17 9:30 am Choir 12 pm Humanist Group 12 noon Intro to Uuism with Rev.Norm	18	19	20 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	21 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots Noon Tai Chi 6:30 Board meeting	22 7:30 pm Musical Fundraiser Salon chez Deborah	23 10-noon UU Brunch Brophy Run Hike
24 9:30 am Choir Mi'kmaq Cultural Circle following the service	25 10 am Newsletter deadline	26 1:30-3:30 pm Time to Talk	27 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	28 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots Noon Tai Chi	29	30 10-noon UU Brunch 5:30-9pm DUP

CALL FOR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, September 10th — 12 noon

The Kitchen Task Force has been hard at work designing, pricing and obtaining estimates for a brand new kitchen ...

Whenever the Board wants to spend an unbudgeted amount over \$2000, the congregation needs to approve it. So this is your two-week advance notice of a congregational meeting.

Please attend this meeting to see and hear the plans for the new kitchen and to vote on the proposed expenditure that will be involved.



To sweeten the pot your Kitchen Task Force will serve a lunch of bread and soup that day. Our hope is that the kitchen reno will happen sometime in the next couple of months, to be followed by a celebratory Kitchen Party in the full sense of a Maritime Kitchen Party!



Minister's Notes

As a new church year begins...

Appropriate to a new church year, I am using this space to share with you some of the many things on my mind. I hope you connect with some of them and will share your thoughts if any of these items resonate with you.

On a personal note, the summer has been busy for me as I helped my sister Dawna Baker move from Thunder Bay, Ontario to Halifax. Dawna has an inoperable brain tumour, and Janet and I are grateful to be able to help her. She is my only sibling. We are very fortunate in that Dawna has been accepted into a supportive living apartment at Northwood Manor and will move in on September 1.

Over the years I have maintained connections with my home town including the ownership of a "camp" on a beautiful sandy beach outside of Thunder Bay, called Silver Beach. It was built by my father over 70 years ago and is known affectionately as "Uncle Willy's Camp" by most in my extended family. As I move my sister, I have also, reluctantly, started the process of selling the camp. While in Thunder Bay we had one last family gathering at the beach, which both of my daughters and their spouses were able to attend.

The recent Leadership Retreat was a delightful day and left me full of anticipation for a great year ahead for our congregation. One item that thrilled me is a proposal for a special musical event that will capitalize on the lively Halifax music scene and explore the ways in which popular music can feed our spiritual needs. Watch for developments.

The retreat also reinforced in my mind the importance of providing a spiritual sanctuary during our Sunday services. I recognize that our services need to meet the needs of heart and mind and I have been inspired to make a greater effort to deepen the

spiritual content of our services, while maintaining an engagement with the world.

After years of investigation and discussion we are now moving ahead on making our congregational home at 5500 Inglis Street even more attractive and functional. Our membership meeting on September 10 will hopefully give us the go-ahead for a complete kitchen renovation, which I hope will be the first of a series of projects that demonstrate our stewardship of this beautiful and historic space and location.

I have heard it said that we can change the world if we will change the narrative that we tell ourselves. I believe shared narrative of Canadian history is profoundly changing. The UUCH Truth and Reconciliation Task Group is doing great work preparing for a series of contemplative workshops. I believe this experience has the potential to change us in profound ways.

After five years of service as your minister, I am eligible for sabbatical leave. I have received approval from the Board for a month's leave as early as March of next year. I am working on some ideas on how best to use a sabbatical so that I will come back even more energized and inspired.

I am aware that I am extremely fortunate to be able to serve you as minister and that many of the issues we grapple with are issues of abundance... how best to use the resources we have been given.

I am looking forward to our new church year, and hope you are as well.

Norm

Board Buzz

***Welcome fall,
and welcome to a new year
for our congregation!***

Every August, the Board and others of the congregation participate in a day-long retreat to plan for the upcoming year.

This gives us a chance to join in community to reflect on our past successes, and to identify our goals for the upcoming year and beyond.

This church year we were very pleased to be assisted by Rev. Linda Thomson, lead for Congregational Development for the Eastern Region of the Canadian Unitarian Council.

The theme of the day was growth and outreach. The morning was open to all, and it was good to see many in attendance. Linda encouraged us first to think about what we had accomplished (and perhaps what hadn't gone so well) since our last planning session with her in 2014—and then to think about what we wanted to do more of, or less of, in the coming year. What would enrich us as a congregation?

What was clear at the end of the morning was that for a small congregation (almost 100 members) we have done a lot in the last couple of years! Our volunteers have worked tirelessly at a long list of social justice and community based activities including refugee work, pride activities, and truth and reconciliation, to name just a few. At the same time, our members haven't been slackers when it comes to things internal to the congregation, including an endowment campaign, building deliberations, fundraising, caring collective work and a myriad of ad hoc fellowship activities.

Although sometimes it feels like there is so much more we could or should be doing, we should be proud of all we have done. In fact Linda

encouraged us to pause every once in a while to celebrate ourselves and our successes.

At the same time, those participating indicated not only a desire to keep what we have been doing, but also expressed a yearning to go deeper within our community, to focus more on fellowship and on enhancing the connections between members. Others urged us to go outside our comfortable box when thinking about the content and format of Sunday worship.

In the afternoon the Board met to consider the morning's reflections and to set priorities for what to work on over the coming year.

So what can you expect at UUCH this year?

More celebrating ourselves. More fellowship and opportunities for meaningful times together. A continuation of our important social justice work. More discussions about how we do church, and a focus on looking at what opportunities we could embrace to make our important UU message accessible to the broader community.

There is much to be proud of, much fun and important work ahead, and much to celebrate here at UUCH. So welcome to all! Lets get going!



***Kim Turner
UUCH Board President***

Hike to Brophy Run Watershed September 23

The Saturday, September 23 UU Hike will visit the Brophy Run watershed within the Terence Bay Wilderness area. The hike follows cart tracks over peat and granite barrens. We will visit Quarry and Lower Brophy lakes. If we get some rain over the next 4 weeks, the trail passes several waterfalls as Brophy Run flows from Lower Brophy Lake through Quarry Lake and hence to the sea in Terence Bay.



This trail is little known and is truly a gem. The trail measures 5.5 km on the map but it seems a little longer than that due to several hills. I expect to be back to the cars by 3:30 to 4:00 pm.

If we have had recent rain there will be occasional wet spots on the trail. We also need to cross Brophy Run twice. Both lakes have good diving rocks, so bring your bathing suit if you enjoy swimming in wilderness lakes.

Meet at the church at 11:50 am, or at the commuter parking lot at the intersection of St Margaret's Bay Road and Prospect Road at noon. Otherwise, meet at the intersection of River Road and Terence Bay Road at 12:30. As usual, call me at 902-483-4731 if you are lost or running late.

Allyn Clarke

Music Salon chez Deborah September 22, 7:30 pm



On Friday, September 22nd at 7:30 pm, I will be hosting an intimate fundraising evening of music in my living room. I will sing and play favourites from my 'dusty music shelf'. James Morris will be my special guest accompanist. Cocktails and nibbles included. The cost is \$20. Space is limited so please contact me early to secure your ticket.

Deborah Wiggins
vocation62@yahoo.ca
902-463-0988

Camping at Dollar Lake, September 8

Fancy some singalong and S'mores around a cozy crackling campfire? We are organizing a UU camping trip to Dollar Lake Provincial Park for Friday, the 8th. Join us for a potluck meal and lawn games around the campfire. Stay overnight if you can bring your own camping gear. The park is in the Musquodoboit Valley about a 40-minute drive from Halifax.

Please contact to let us know:

- If you are planning to come, and whether you plan to stay overnight.
- If you need a ride or can offer a ride.
- If you can bring something for the potluck.

We will arrive at 6 pm to start preparing for the meal, but you can check-in earlier to enjoy a swim or hike. We will check-out Saturday morning after breakfast.

Follow Hwy 102, then Rte. 212 to Wyse's Corner, and on to the park at 5265 Old Guysborough Rd. We'll be at campsite #25. Learn more about the park at: parks.novascotia.ca/content/dollar-lake.

We hope to hear from a bunch of fun-loving UUs!

Jesse Robson
(902) 877-6608 jesse_robson@hotmail.com

Tanya Bilsbury
(902) 414-4451 tanya.bilsbury@gmail.com



The Caring Column

Louise Malloch enjoyed the summer and singing with the Early Music Society's madrigal group. Her mother Susan White visited and together they went to the Berwick choir camp put on by the NS Choral Federation and had a wonderful time. She has a CT scan coming up when she and her doctor will decide whether it is time for a new treatment or to continue observation. Louise still needs help with groceries and laundry, and appreciates visits (email or call ahead to arrange).

Peter and I have just returned from a 3-week trip to the West Coast to see our daughter Alex and the Rocky Mountains from the ground. We also reunited with friends in Washington State; and in Victoria and Vernon, BC—then visited my brother and his family in Calgary.

Sadly, our 25-year-old granddaughter Anna died on August 24th following a fall. She was Kathy and Larry Baer's daughter. Many of you have met Kathy at our church.

Barbara Harsanyi's granddaughter **Erika Kulnys** is in Edinburgh Royal Hospital. If you know Erika and wish to contact her, her cell number is 01144-7561850533.

Thank you to **Jesse Robson**, a new UU friend whose delicious cookies were enjoyed by all who sampled them one recent Sunday. Jesse is enjoying R.E. participation.

Mary Ellen Onno

'Time to Talk' resumes Tuesday, September 26



1:30-3:30 pm at the church

Two topics:

- **Proactive Planning for Age-related Decline**
(cont'd)
- **Housing Options**, with guest speaker Pat Kipping

Marilyn Shinyei

Church Directory Updates

COX, Iretia (new address)
3-128 Boland Road
Dartmouth, NS B3A 1R1
902-452-8157 (correction)

HANRAHAN, Cassandra (new friend)
28 Stella Court,
Hammonds Plains, NS B4B 1M3
cassandra_hanrahan@yahoo.ca
902-292-8037

LOGIE, LINDSAY (new friend)
lindsay_logie@dal.ca
902-292-9820

MARSHALL, Cynthia (new friend)
115 Ridge Valley Road
Halifax, NS B3P 2K1
902-407-2456
cynthiamarshall115@gmail.com

MUNSON, Bob (new address)
15 – 3343 Westerwald St.
Halifax, NS B3N 2R7

PICCOLO, Faith (email change)
fapic6@gmail.com

ROBSON, Jesse (new friend)
jesse_robson@hotmail.com

Tai Chi resumes, September 7 Thursdays at noon

Tai Chi resumes on the first Thursday of the month. It's free! The main aim is to not fall down—and no one remembers anything from one week to the next, so don't worry about that. Beginners are most welcome.

Michael Smith
quiditazi@hotmail.com
902-404-7561



Update from the UUCH Refugee Sponsorship Committee



Good news and not so good news: Abdul Jalab, the Syrian trapped in South Korea who is being sponsored by friends in Bedford with our assistance, has had his interview! This is the critical step by our government's staff in the nearest embassy for the refugee. Now, assuming that there are no further security or medical issues for Abdul, transportation will be arranged for him to come to Canada. More waiting, but he is definitely much closer to getting here than a couple of months ago.

Unfortunately, we cannot say the same for Nabil and Kais (of our Althyab family). We had heard that Nabil would be having his interview in July, but it has not happened yet. More waiting.

You will recall that several months ago, we got Board approval to apply to become a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) ourselves (we have been working through the CUC as our SAH up to this point.) We have finally, thanks to Andy's diligence, completed our application and now are waiting to find out the results of that process. Sponsorship Agreement Holders (known as SAHs) are "pre-approved" with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, and as such are allotted a specific number of spaces each year for privately sponsored refugees. Again there will be more waiting.

Hopefully we will be able to report more exciting news soon!

Margaret Galbraith
Co-chair (with Andy Blair)
UUCH Refugee Sponsorship Committee

Exciting volunteer opportunities

*The Worship Committee
is seeking volunteer Service
Leaders and Service Assistants as
follows ...*



SERVICE LEADER: Plan and lead Sunday services when Rev. Norm is not in the pulpit.

Tasks:

- Choose service content: readings, meditations, songs, content for children of all ages, etc.
- Greet the presenter (selected by the Worship Committee) on day of service and help them get settled
- Act as Service Leader during the service, helping the service to flow smoothly

Time commitment:

- Attend a training session to learn how to plan and lead a service
- Volunteer to lead services as needed, and as your schedule permits



SERVICE ASSISTANT:
Assist Rev Norm in the smooth flow of Sunday services.

Tasks:

- Perform readings during services (for the children and/or adults)
- Lead the congregation in readings, meditations, etc.
- Act as assistant during a service, helping the service to flow smoothly

Time commitment:

- Commit to assisting at as many or as few services as you like

Please see or contact:

Avard Woolaver
avard@ns.sympatico.ca

Music Montage

"The ears are two music rooms."

~ Thomas Dekker



September's 'Singing as We Gather'

The Gathering Hymn for September is #194 *Faith Is a Forest*. September's theme is *Promise (Covenant)*. Our church's covenant talks about compassion, justice, and the quest for truth, as does this hymn. This beautiful hymn will serve as a singing covenant or promise to ourselves, at the beginning of each new Sunday in September.

*Web of life, may this thread I weave strengthen commitment to all I believe.
Vision be my guide as I seek my way, lead me into this tender day,
Speak through me in all I do and say.*

*Web of life, may this thread I weave help me bear witness to all I believe.
Justice be my guide as I seek my way, lead me into this tender day,
Speak through me in all I do and say.*

*Web of life, may this thread I weave mingle compassion with all I believe.
Mercy be my guide as I seek my way, lead me into this tender day,
Speak through me in all I do and say.*

Monthly Music Projects

It is time again for a new church year of Themed Music Projects. 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 an opportunity to rehearse at least a couple of weeks before each Music Project Sunday. 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 be on Sunday, September 15th.

The rehearsal opportunities for this are:

Sunday, September 3rd, at 9:30 am

Sunday, September 10th, at 9:30 am

Sunday, September 17th, at 9:30 am

October's Music Project will be on Sunday, October 15th.

Rehearsal opportunities for this are:

Sunday, September 24th, at 9:30 am (Rev. Norm's office)

Sunday, October 1st, at 9:30 am

Sunday, October 8th, at 9:30 am

Sunday, October 15th, at 9:30 am

I look forward to another exciting church year making music with you at UUCH!

Deborah Wiggins

Religious Exploration

I can't believe the summer went by so quickly, but here we are looking ahead to a new year of RE. I will be sending out curriculum plans to parents before the start of each month.

A big thank you to Lia Woolaver and Jane Wilson for having provided childcare over the summer.



As you see in this picture the raised garden beds, to which the congregation so generously donated time, materials and plants, have done exceedingly well; the plants have even filled in the space between the beds! The children loved picking the strawberries, helping out with weeding, and talking about how plants grow. Thanks to Jesse and JF for helping with the weeding.

I hope you will consider joining us for an RE camping outing on the 8th at Dollar Lake (see item). I do need to hear from you if you plan to stay the night, to ensure that enough campsites are booked, but feel free to join us for the evening (only) for fellowship and roasted delights.

Tanya Bilbury
R.E. Director

UUCH Pride Parade 2017

Once again UUCH had a very successful entry in the Halifax Pride Parade. Volunteers came out to assemble decorations early; then decorated the float Saturday morning at the Naval Yard.

Andy Blair donated his bubble machine, Chris Townsend played the music, Paul Galbraith drove the SOSL yellow jeep, Dean White drove the U-Haul truck and Lifestyle Trailers of Dartmouth donated a 7'x18' trailer (Norman Horofker, Doug Fevens and Steve Butler made up and assembled the sides and railing). Kim Turner and Avarad Woolaver took great pictures. Old and new members and friends joined us on a day of perfect weather and huge, friendly crowds. South End Florists (Halim and Hana Saba) donated dozens of carnations for us to hand out along the route.

After the parade, Faith and John Piccolo cooked and served hotdogs, along with donated salads and cookies, to members and neighbourhood friends while children played in the Bouncy Castle.

Thank you to everyone who donated to and/or participated in this year's event: ***Standing on the Side of Love ... "This is why"***. New SOSL T-shirts were ordered this year and there are some still available for sale. Here is a small sampling of Kim's many excellent photos; unfortunately we can't publish them all. --- ***Janet Horofker***



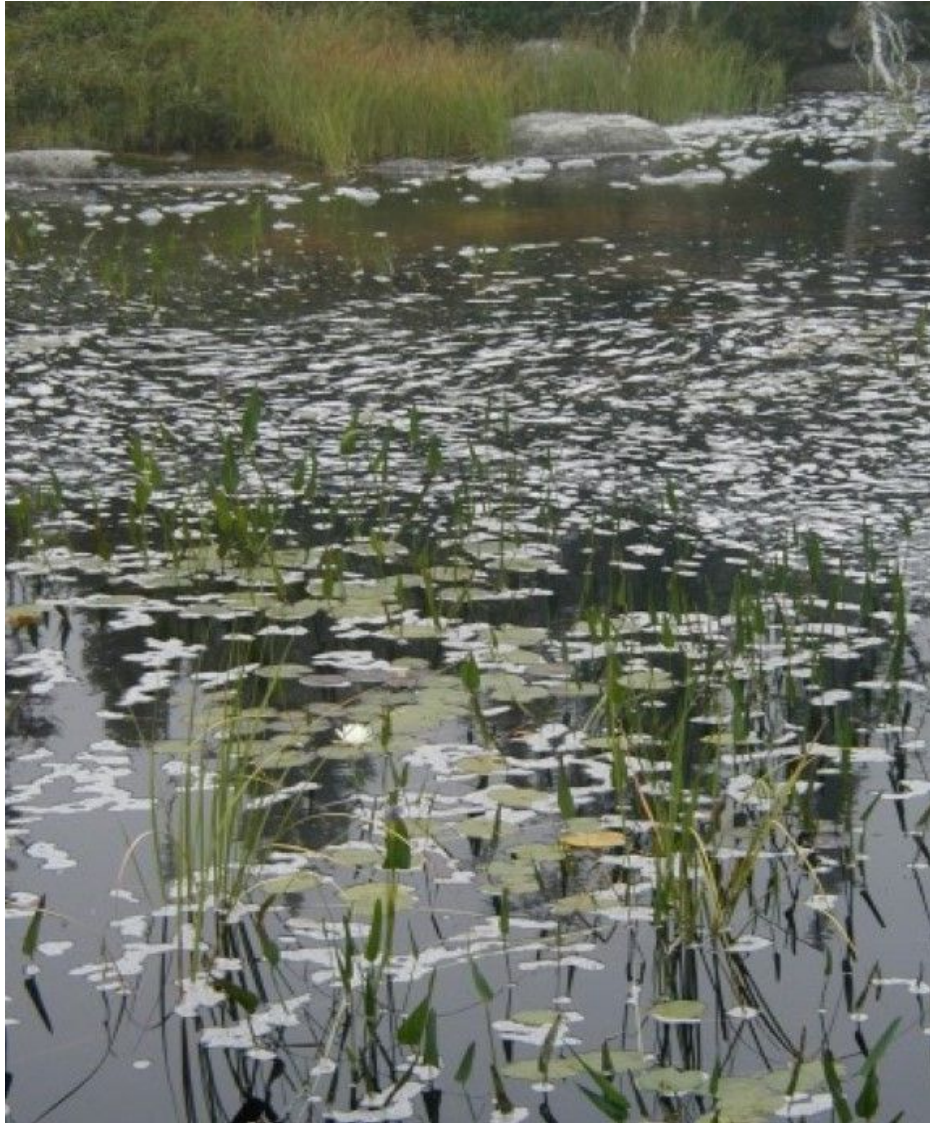
**Cornwallis statue and Mi'kmaq Declaration:
UUCH Truth & Reconciliation Task Group
offers its reflections**

The UUCH Social Responsibility Committee's sub-group, the “T&R” Task Group made up of UUCH members and friends Anne Kuersten, Heather Ritchie, Wietske Gradstein, Bonnie Coulombe, and Rev. Norm Horofker, ex-officio, have been studying and discussing the various aspects of First Nations Peoples' issues. This has led to a great interest in the current controversy surrounding the Edward Cornwallis statue situated in Halifax's Cornwallis Park.

As a (separate) supplement to this newsletter issue, we are publishing the task group's reflections and some resource material on the polarizing issue of the ultimate future or disposition of the Cornwallis statue.

The group is not making recommendations for action at this time, but wishes to bring us all up-to-date in this matter that is so important to our Indigenous friends.. We hope you will take the time to read their contribution.

Etta Hamm
Editor



In homage to our September custom of The Blending of the Waters, a lily pond in the Terence Bay Wilderness area photographed by Allyn Clarke.