



Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax

Monthly Newsletter
Vol. 49, No. 12

August 2015

SUNDAY SERVICES

August 2

Presenter: Tony Turner; Service Assistant: Deborah Wiggins

Musical Treats with Tony Turner

Tony, a singer/songwriter, UU, and composer of the Circle of Song piece, will be the special guest presenter. Enjoy Tony's rich bass voice and skilled guitar playing, sing along with the chorus of Circle of Song, and get to know Tony's wonderful music on the theme of birth and rebirth in honour of Natal Day Weekend.

August 9

Presenter: Irene Baros-Johnson; Service Assistant: Dean White

Reviving "Little Women"

The Canadian, Sarah Polley, has been chosen to direct the new movie version of Louisa May Alcott's 1868 classic *Little Women*. The author was an innovative Unitarian, whose words and characters may still resonate.

August 16

Presenter: Robin Humphrey; Service Assistant: Marilyn Shinyei

Philosophy in Transit: Don't let Zeno (the philosopher) drive the bus

A talk about how Robin leverages commute time to explore the history of ideas and some interesting philosophical eureka moments or epiphanies while taking the bus to and from work.

August 23

Presenter: Philip Welch; Service leader: Allyn Clarke

A Prescription Drug Plan for Canadians?

At some time, you may be advised to take a specific drug, to maintain or restore your good health. Only half of those employed have access to a drug plan, and 23% of Canadians cannot afford the prescribed drug. Result: over 6% of hospital admissions occur from patient non-compliance. A national "free" drug plan would correct all this, **and** would save Canada 8.4 **Billion** dollars. Come along and hear the details!

August 30

Presenter: Scott Wood; Service Leader: Allyn Clarke

Some Things Canada Might Learn From Norway

This will be Scott's personal reflection drawing on 60 years of experience with Norway and 50 years of living in Canada. While born in the USA, Norway and Canada have especially informed and inspired his life and work. There is in fact much to be learned from each other.

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



August Dates to Note

Sunday	Aug 2	10:30 am	Musical Service with Tony Turner
Sunday	Aug 2	12 noon	Worship Committee
Sunday	Aug 16	12 noon	Humanist Group
Saturday	Aug 22	All day	Leadership Retreat Details on page 4
Monday	Aug 24	10 am	Newsletter deadline

Summer Schedule for UUCH Staff

Rev Norm Horofker will be on vacation in August. He can be reached by cell phone for urgent matters.

Sandra Jamieson, Office Administrator, is on summer hours until the end of August. She is in most Fridays, 11 am to 3 pm, to perform necessary tasks including the production of the Sunday order of service. Reach her by email for urgent matters.

Deborah Wiggins, Music Director, is keeping our Sunday services musical through the summer months although the choir is taking a break. See page 6 for more from Deborah.

Christy Lee Bojarski, Religious Exploration Director, will return from maternity leave on November 1st. There is no organized program over the summer months. Childcare during services, comprising indoor or outdoor play (depending on weather) is available as required. Volunteers are welcome!





Minister's Notes

Thank you all ...

The final “formal” stage of training for a UU minister is called “Preliminary Fellowship.” After completing all the training requirements and finding a position as minister, the new minister is required to complete three years in “Preliminary Fellowship.” As of July 1st I have completed my second year of this process. (I did not register for the process during my first year in Halifax.) Now, I have one more year to go and then I hope to be granted “Full and Final Fellowship” at the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly in New Orleans in 2017! **You are all invited!** Of course, you are all invited—you have all been the most important component of my final training.

The process requires written evaluations each year from the Board of the church, from the Committee on Shared Ministry and from my mentoring minister, the Reverend Carole Martignacco in North Hatley Quebec. In addition, I must submit a personal evaluation and a plan for the coming year. I am enjoying the experience in Halifax more than I can express in words. I will be forever grateful to the congregation.

I mentioned the Committee on Shared Ministry. This small committee reports directly to the congregation and is responsible for advising the Board on how well we are living our mission, which 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.**

The Committee on Shared Ministry is presently made up of Kathy Spencer, Martha Wilson, Paul Galbraith and me. This group is my trusted sounding board and I am very grateful for their wise and frank counsel and their concern for the welfare of the congregation. How we go about living into our mission statement is the responsibility of the Board and the various

leaders in the congregation. This takes me to the last point that I want to make in this mid-summer newsletter. The Board has planned a full-day retreat at the Atlantic School of Theology on Saturday August 22nd. You will read about it elsewhere within these pages. The retreat will be open in the afternoon and evening session for every member of the church who has an interest in leadership in any of its forms within the congregation. It is open to members of the congregation only, but we can facilitate membership before the retreat, for anyone who has been considering that step. I am looking forward to a stimulating and inspiring retreat with our leaders.

Finally, Janet and I will be traveling to Ontario from August 5th to August 17th to visit my daughters and to return to my hometown in Thunder Bay. I hope that you too are enjoying the summer and anticipating activities with your friends and loved ones.

Rev. Norm Horofker

Blending of the Waters September 13



A reminder: As you go about your summer activities, watch for an opportunity to gather a small amount of water that you can bring to our fall Ingathering Service on September 13th.

In the long-standing UU tradition of “The Blending of Waters” when we return in the fall, we invite every member of the congregation 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 birdbath or from any place of meaning for you.

Rev. Norm Horofker

Leadership Retreat – August 22

On Saturday, August 22nd, the Board will be holding a one-day retreat to prepare for the new church year and to discuss some of the issues that are coming up.

The retreat will be held in the President's Lodge **at the Atlantic School of Theology**, and will start with breakfast in the morning, continuing into the evening.

The afternoon session, starting at 1 pm will be open to members of the UUCH who are in or who would like to be in a leadership role. We will be looking at visions for our future, including plans for the building, membership and the role of the church in the community.

At the end of the session we'll talk about some possibilities for action. A potluck dinner will be eaten, and informal discussion will continue into the evening.

If you are interested in attending the afternoon session, please email or call me. If you cannot attend, but would like to let us know your thoughts on any of the above issues, please do contact me.

We are hoping for a good turnout, and even though it's hard to think about meetings in the summer, we are hoping the beautiful location will make it enjoyable as well as useful.



Molly Hurd
UUCH Board President

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D4\$ August Opportunities!

Please contact the hosts directly for these . . .

Hike and Lunch with Allyn & Sandra,
Saturday August 15, 11 am - 3 pm.

Hike through the mature forests of the Birch Cove Lakes Nature Reserve to the shores of Charlie's Lake, nestled in a cleft in the topography. The woodland trail to the lake has plank pathways over wet sections. There are two steep sections, one of which has wooden stairs.

Drinking in the expansive view, you will enjoy a picnic lunch atop a cliff overlooking Charlie's Lake.



A former lakeview picnic with Allyn

After lunch, it's down to the lake for a refreshing swim. Six spaces are left, just waiting for the lucky ducks who will fill them. \$20.

Summer at the Shore with Laura Hody & Eileen Ross,
Saturday August 22, 12 - 4 pm

Now who wouldn't want to spend an idyllic afternoon in Martin's River with these two hospitable ladies?



They'll ply you with picnic fare such as burgers (including veggie), salads, sweets, beer and wine. A sunny day is sometimes possible, but in case of a sprinkle it's always dry and cozy inside. Still open to three people who love to eat and chat with friends! \$20.

D4\$ — late-September to mid-November

Thinking ahead, what event would YOU like to host? Consider pairing up with someone to add to the fun of planning and the pleasure of hosting. I'll be looking for all the intriguing details in ***early September***, so put your thinking caps on! Many thanks again, to our very gracious hosts—and our willing and eager participants.

Kay Smith

The Caring Column



Louise Malloch has a very special event coming up. She will be singing in a fundraising concert for St. Matthew's, a historic Black church in Weymouth Falls, Digby County, which is in need of serious repairs. The concert will be on August 29th at 2:30 pm at Trinity

Church, 109 Queen St., Digby.

Louise and several other singers will each be singing four songs. She would love to have a group from UUCH come to support St. Matthew's and see her in her first concert. A good bunch of UUs carpooling down to Digby could be fun! Contact Etta Hamm if you are interested.

See Friends of St. Matthew's, Weymouth Falls, NS on Facebook for more information on this fascinating historic church.

Susan White, a long time UUCH member has moved to BC to be close to Nora and Kira, and her grandsons, Simon and Ezra. We wish Susan much happiness in her western adventure. Her email address will remain unchanged.



Raymond Thompson passed away at Northwood on June 22nd.

Ray and his wife Ilse (who died in 2013) were members of our church for several years and often shared their considerable musical talents with us.

The Thompson family are planning an informal memorial gathering on August 9th from 2 to 4 at Northwood in the Stadacona Room next to the chapel. We are invited to join them.

Mary Ellen Onno

Minister's Discretionary Fund

As you might imagine, your minister has the frequent opportunity to assist members and friends of the congregation as well as strangers in need, in a number of ways.



There are occasions when a small amount of assistance with food, bus tickets or clothing etc. can make a great difference to someone who is desperate for help.

At other times money may be needed to avoid eviction or other more major crisis. In almost all cases, you will never hear of these requests directly, and that is as it should be.

At times like these, I am extremely grateful for the long-standing tradition in our congregation of maintaining a "Minister's Discretionary Fund." Having such a fund requires that I carefully assess the need presented and sometimes this means saying no. The fact that the congregation has maintained such a fund is a blessing to the community and to your minister, for it provides resources to support my pastoral ministry.

The fund is replenished by contributions made directly by members and friends of UUCH. It is not funded from our operating budget or from money received in regular pledges. I am writing at this time, because the fund is getting low.

If you would like to contribute to this fund, knowing that I will be a good steward of your gift and ensure that it is used to meet a real need for a member of the congregation, or a friend or neighbour of the church, you may mark a cheque "for Minister's Discretionary Fund", or put money in an envelope so marked, and leave it in the collection plate. Alternatively, you can give it to Sandra in the office or to me directly. All cheques should be made payable to UUCH. These contributions are tax-deductible charitable donations for which you will receive a receipt.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rev. Norm Horofker

Music Montage

“Wind over chimes, hammer on gong,
tiny clapper on bell, sounds of the spirit,
sounds that have echoed down through the ages,
sounds that have inspired monks and priests
and priestesses and gurus and oracles and prophets
and all who have aspired to hear the inner music of creation,
sounds that speak of ultimate things, music for healing the heart.”
~ Richard S. Gilbert



August's 'Singing as We Gather'

The Gathering Hymn for this month is #12 *O Life that Maketh All Things New*. May you experience, during August, many of the things extolled in this hymn: “*the blooming earth, our thoughts within, the freer step, the fuller breath, the wide horizon's grander view, the freedom of the truth, the joy of paths untrod, the soul's perennial youth...*”

Planned Music Projects for Fall 2015

I have been working this summer on a new approach to music participation for the upcoming church year, which will consist of music projects, rather than an ongoing choir, linked to the monthly themes that Rev Horofker and many other Canadian UU churches are using. I hope you will take these opportunities to participate in the music projects that fit with your schedule and interest. I welcome singers, instrumentalists, and percussionists to join in our joyful noise!

For September, on the theme of Promise, two pieces for the Ingathering Service, September 13th.

The first, called *Wherever You May Go*, has a beautiful melody and the chorus is a wonderful promise: “*Wherever you may go, I will follow, and your people shall be my people too. Wherever you may go, I will follow, for I would be faithful, loyal and true.*” The lyrics of the last verse are: “*From beginning to the end I will always be your friend, when you need me, I'll be there, you can trust my faithful care.*”

The second piece is called *Cycle Song of Life*, sub-titled *The River Song*. Its chorus lyrics are: “*And the river just keeps flowin' on and on. The sun keeps goin' round to bring the dawn. And life keeps going 'til it looks as though it's gone, but it really just keeps flowin' on and on.*” This fits well with the theme, and with the 'blending of the waters' on this Sunday.

For October, on the theme of Grace, two pieces for Sunday, October 4th.

The first is a short simple number, *How Deep the Peace*, with opportunities for harmony.

The second number, *Blessed*, is very singable, and also has opportunities for harmony, as well as instrumentation. Each verse and chorus ends with: “*Oh, blessed are we this day.*”

I look forward to wide participation from every age and stage of music lover in these ongoing music projects. There will be many opportunities to run over the music before and after services. I hope to make the music available on MP3s or YouTube, so they will be easy to go over at home.

Deborah Wiggins

Music Director
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**UUCH
'Speaks' to
this Visitor**

The following message was received via our website following a recent memorial service I officiated at UUCH:

“After attending a funeral at your church yesterday, I have to say I was quite surprised by what I heard, or rather, what I didn’t hear. A long-standing (lapsed) Catholic from a First Nation, I have only ever attended Catholic funerals. I dread them. All I feel is anger and frustration when it comes to religion. I simply cannot support such a close-minded institution, and so I have not, for most of my adult life.

“So here I go to this dreaded funeral, and instead of God, and Hell, Ridiculous Stories and Guilt, I hear about the person who died. I hear stories of his life from different people. I hear Community and I hear that Love is Love. I see a Pride flag hanging in your window. I hear and see the acceptance of my love of nature and spirit. And so, I will investigate further.

“I simply wanted to let you know that I was surprised and happy to see that loving, open minds who find joy in science and nature may actually be wanted somewhere.”

The visitor’s email speaks to how many people out there have not yet heard of us but need to. I have responded to the person who reached out, and hopefully they will join us in a service in the near future.

I hope everyone reading this will welcome every new visitor to our services.

Norm Horofker

People of Diverse Perspectives



We are people of diverse perspectives.

We come with different beliefs
different loves
different fears
different joys
and different pains.

And yet, with all of our differences,
we unite to form something altogether new.

A community nourished by hope,
held by our desire for a better world,
shaped by mutual respect,
warmed by love
and guided by reason.

Through this ritual we unite with members
of our Faith Community around the world,
adding the light of our small flame
to the great struggle,
increasing the amount of love and justice
in the world.

*Adapted from words
by the Reverend Andy Pakula
Unitarian Minister
North London*

UUCH Participates in Pride for 19th Year



Despite inclement weather, thirty UUs and friends showed their pride with UUCH this year at Halifax's 28th Annual Pride Parade.

This year's theme was a celebration of the UU church's performance of same-sex marriages in Canada since the days of disco (1974 to be exact) under the "Standing on the Side of Love" banner.

It was a year of firsts: Norm's dolled-up yellow Standing on the Side of Love Jeep debuted to lead the parade float. We added some special effects: an industrial soap bubble machine, and a more powerful sound system pleased the crowd, who we caught breaking into song as the catchy 70s era tunes of our float came by.

Helen McFadyen and Alison Chipman played our blushing 70's era brides, with Rev. John Baros-Johnson "officiating." Stephen Butler was the life of the party,

wowing the crowd with his spontaneous dancing and often sweeping Faith Piccolo up into some fancy footwork. An audience of 100,000 was expected to watch the 130 parade entries, but only about three-quarters that many turned out due the weather (which nevertheless cleared up for the parade itself).

For the first time, an After Pride BBQ was held at the church, with live music provided by the After Choir and grill master Allyn Clarke manning the barbecue. Next year promises to be better than ever; already lots of ideas are percolating. Anyone willing to choreograph a synchronized dance routine?

Andy Blair
Chair, Pride Parade Committee

UUCH PRIDE 2015



Norm, warming up the marchers



Here they come ...



Dean & Irene



Here come the brides (played by divas Helen & Alison)



Proud of that!



John & Sylvia on the wedding float



Carol Anne, Stephen, Faith, Laura, Norm & Eileen



Andy, our Pride Chief!!! with Claudia & the little ones

Many thanks to Andy Blair, UUCH Pride Committee chair; Rev. Norm Horofker, the greatest enthusiast in the world; and all the UUs and friends who came out and made this day a great success – including Avard Woolaver who took these great photos and posted them on FaceBook. Big thanks also to Allyn Clarke and the barbecue crew, and our talented After Choir for a great after-parade party!

More!



Gary and his best friend



Marching, marching, damply



Sara & Jane, expert bubble techs



Our Janet!



"and there was dancing in the street"



Norm's famous jeep



David, Karen & cousin Christine O.



The exuberant brides, waving royally

To see ALL the pics Avard posted, go to www.facebook.com/groups/UUchurchofhalifax

Sunday Service Volunteers

Aug 2

Greeting Kathy Anthony
Anne Knight-Gorman
Ushering Andy Blair (e) Janet Horofker (l)
Kitchen TBF (set-up)
Anne Knight-Gorman (clean-up)
Audio Devin Murphy
Library Michael Smith

Aug 9

Greeting Alison Chipman, Sass Minard
Ushering Wendy Ozon (e), Dean White (l)
Kitchen TBF(set-up)
Sass Minard (clean up)
Audio Avard Woolaver
Library Anne Knight-Gorman

Aug 16

Greeting Michael Seary, Mary Spurr
Ushering Eileen Ross (e)
Margaret and Paul Galbraith (l)
Kitchen TBF (set-up)
Stephen Butler (clean-up)
Audio Paul Galbraith
Library Alison Chipman

Aug 23

Greeting Sandra Clarke, Sylvia Mattinson
Ushering Andy Blair (e), Sylvia Mattinson (l)
Kitchen TBF (set-up)
Kathy Spencer (clean-up)
Audio Nick Baros-Johnson
Library Stephen Butler

Aug 30

Greeting Alison Chipman
Wietske Gradstein
Ushering Kay Smith, Kathy Anthony (e)
Dean White (l)
Kitchen TBF (set-up)
Dean White (clean-up)
Audio TBF
Library Alison Chipman

To join the Sunday Service Support Team,
please contact Wietske Gradstein, 835-9272.



Hunger does not take a vacation

Has it been a while since you contributed to the food box? If several people each donate just one or two items, the box fills up very quickly! Of course, it just as quickly empties out again, so let's keep up the good work—as you are able, of course.

The recipients are always thankful.

UUs go to church
because some questions
just can't be answered
by Google.



Huh?



The deadline for submissions
for the September newsletter is
10 am, Monday, August 24th.

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



Photo by Pam Berman, 2014