

# UU & you

newsletter of the universalist unitarian church of halifax

Vol. 51, No 10  
June 2017

Universalist Unitarian  
Church of Halifax  
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Halifax NS  
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Rev. Norm Horofker  
Minister  
Office Hours  
Tues, Wed, Fri 10-3  
Cell 902-229-9239

Sandra Jamieson  
Office Administrator  
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Mon, Wed, Fri 10-3

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

## *Theme for June – Growth!*

### **June 4**

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

#### ***My First Five Years in Ministry***

Our Rev. Norm spent 5 years preparing for ministry, and has now completed 5 years serving the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax. This sermon will be his personal reflection on what he sees as a growth experience.

### **June 11**

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Mia Huh

***“The UU Gospel - Five Things I Never Expected to Hear from a Minister!”*** *Unitarian Universalism is a unique religion. For those not familiar with it, it can be quite surprising, and for those who call themselves UU it continues to challenge in unexpected ways.*

### **June 18**

Presenters: Deborah Wiggins and Tanya Bilsbury; Service Leader: Margaret Galbraith

#### ***Our Annual Flower Communion Service followed by our Annual Summer Picnic.***

This is the last Sunday for Religious Exploration classes for our children before summer break, which we again (traditionally) celebrate as a multi-generational service. It's also Father's Day and our Flower Communion service. Please plan on bringing a flower to share in our 'community bouquet.'

### **June 25**

Presenter: Martha Wilson; Service Leader: Marilyn Shinyei

#### ***This Wonderful Congregation***

Whether you're new in the congregation or a longtime member, this service will help you connect meaningfully with others at UUCH.



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.

## June 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots Noon Tai Chi	<b>2</b> Faith Commuter Challenge starts.	<b>3</b> 10–noon UU Brunch
<b>4</b> 9:30 am Choir 12 pm Worship Comm.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	<b>8</b> 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots Noon Tai Chi	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10 am-2 pm H-U-G-E ESTATE & YARD SALE 
<b>11</b> 9:30 am Choir Noon Soc. Responsibility	<b>12</b> Faith Commuter Challenge ends.	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	<b>15</b> 9:30-11:30 am Parents & Tots Noon Tai Chi 6:30 Board Meeting	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10–noon UU Brunch
<b>18</b> No Choir  Flower Communion Annual Picnic	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	<b>22</b> Noon Tai Chi	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10–noon UU Brunch Prospect Hike 5-9 pm Potluck followed by Dances of Universal Peace
<b>25</b> No Choir	<b>26</b> 10 am Newsletter deadline	<b>27</b> 1:30-3:30 pm Time to Talk	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	

### Annual UUCH Picnic — Sunday, June 18 — 11:30 am to 2 pm

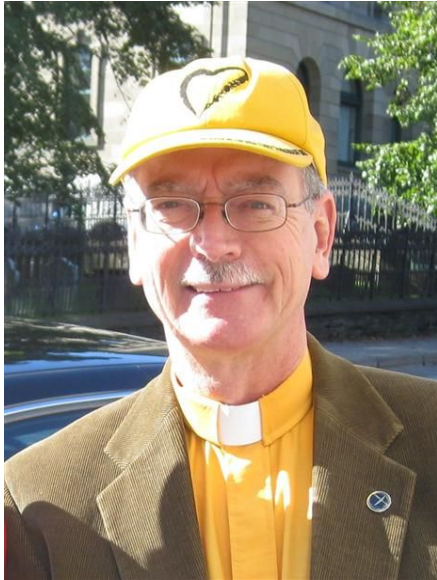
***Attention all UUCH organizers of fun & games,  
cooks, bakers, barbecuers & volunteers of all kinds!***

It will soon be time to get our act together to plan the Annual UUCH Picnic, one of the most welcome events of the church year (because we'll have shed our winter jackets and lined pants for shirtsleeves and shorts—and our mukluks for Nike's and sandals).

Stay on the alert for follow-up notices on exactly what is needed to make this one of the best picnics ever. You can be sure we'll be looking for all manner of food, beverages, games for kids, the thrilling Bouncy Castle, the super-talented Afterchoir, and (dare we say it out loud?) warm sunshine.

***Stay tuned ...***





## *Minister's Notes*

### *Reflections on five years in ministry*

I am writing these notes from the Ignatius Jesuit Centre in Guelph Ontario where I am attending the annual Canadian Ministry Days, a retreat attended this year by forty UU ministers from across the country. It is an event that feeds my soul, and this year more so than ever.

June 2017 is going to be a special month for me. I was ordained as a UU minister by the UU Fellowship of Columbus, in the city of Columbus Georgia on June 10, 2012. And in June this year I will receive my "Full and Final Fellowship" as a UU Minister at the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association, marking 10 years since my decision to enter the ministry. (Although the Canadian and American Associations of Congregations are separate entities, there is one Ministerial Association for both countries. The recognition of Final Fellowship takes place at the largest gathering of UUs in the world, the UUA General Assembly, this year in New Orleans.)

I have accepted an invitation to preach the sermon at the Unitarian Fellowship of Columbus Georgia on June 18th on my way to New Orleans.

*Norm*

# It's going to be huge !

## Estate and Yard Sale

**When:** Jun 10<sup>th</sup>, 10 am to 2 pm

**Where:** 5500 Inglis Street

**Indoors if raining**



furniture



CDs & DVDs



new &  
unopened tools

### Entertainment



Bouncy Castle,  
Music and  
Lemonade

... and many more household items.



jewelry



electronics



plants

**Stuff from 3 different estates to be featured.**

**Silent Auction for some items.**

**At least 1/3 of the congregation will be there working. You might as well come on down and join in the fun and maybe find a treasure you really, really need!**



Emma Norton from the Ecology Action Centre provided an after-worship-service presentation on April 23rd about the **June 2-12, 2017 Faith Communities Commuter Challenge**. This is the first year faith communities have been encouraged to participate in this event that coincides with the National Environment & Commuter Challenge weeks. **Faith & the Common Good** is sponsoring this event, which is also supported by Auto Recyclers of Canada.

As of May 17th, 26 faith communities and 30 individuals have registered nationally, with the UUCH being the only Nova Scotian faith community to register so far (and only one UUCH participant signed up at the time of writing).

The purpose of this friendly competition is to encourage church goers to use low or lower carbon modes of transport for getting around town, carrying out church activities, etc. It said, “transport” comprises 40% of an average faith community’s carbon footprint; as such, steps taken to reduce these emissions is a direct personal way to help sustain our planet and the interconnected web of life. Ideas for congregational engagement shared during the recent meeting included:

- telecommuting if/when that’s convenient
- walking or biking as feasible
- taking public transit as often as possible
- maximizing your carpooling potential

With this commuter challenge taking place during the week of the UUCH’s yard sale, lots of congregants will likely be coming and going from the church during the competition period. This presents an opportunity to consider ways to accomplish what needs to be done while using as little fuel as possible. It would be great if people coming to the yard sale or to church on June 4th or 11th considered ride-sharing, or using public transit (to the extent possible). Tracking our transportation-related carbon savings is a key part of the challenge. That’s done by registering as a participant, and logging details into the on-line tracker at [faith.commuterchallenge.ca](http://faith.commuterchallenge.ca)

Contact me for more details.

**Kathy Spencer**

## The Caring Column



**Rev. Norm** has received notice that he has been granted Full and Final Fellowship as a UU minister. This milestone was recognized at the CUC Annual Meeting in May, and there will be a graduation ceremony at the UUA Annual General Assembly in New Orleans in June.

He thanks us all for our support over the past four years. His quote: “It has been and continues to be a joy working with you all.” It has been a joy for all of us as well, to work with this caring man.

Our Music Director, **Deborah Wiggins**, along with her daughter Devin Murphy, was thrilled to attend the wedding of her son Curtis Murphy to Carly Gaylor in Montreal on April 29th.

Ten days later, she proudly attended Curtis’ graduation with a Masters of Theology degree from the United Theological College at McGill University. Curtis is now one step closer to becoming a Unitarian minister.

**Louise Malloch** has finished her chemotherapy treatments and is looking forward to feeling better soon. Her mobility is still very limited, so she welcomes visitors! Just contact her to arrange a visit. She hopes to see you soon at church.

**Lindsay Logie**, a new friend of our congregation, will be called to the bar on June 9th after articling for a year with Kennedy Schofield in Tantallon. She is very excited that she will then be joining the firm as an associate. Congratulations, Lindsay!

**Saturday Brunch:** Volunteers are needed to shop on Fridays for food items for the Saturday brunch at the church. Rev. Norm has been doing this but would like to pass the responsibility on to others. If several people volunteered it could possibly be a just-once-a-month job. A list of needs would be supplied to the shopper.

**My sister and friend Barbara Ann Patterson** died in Milton, Ontario on May 16th. She was 85. Thank you to the many friends and members of this wonderful church community who have sent cards and notes and hugs and love my way. I am very grateful for your support.

**Mary Ellen Onno**

## Prospect Hike, Saturday, June 24



A UU group on a former Prospect hike

On Saturday June 24th, we will enjoy a coastal walk that begins in the charming village of Prospect. This hike has great views, and passes by interesting rock formations as well as small streams and ponds. It also contains a memorial to the company of the HMS Tribune which was wrecked on these shores as it returned to Halifax after participating in the burning of the White House. The trail is relatively flat with some muddy sections.

Meet at the church at 12:20 or at the commuters' parking lot at the intersection of the Bay Road and the Prospect Road at 12:30 or at the trail head at 1 pm.

From the Bay Road, take the Prospect Road in the direction of Exhibition Park and Peggy's Cove. Soon after the Terrance Bay/Lower Prospect turn-off, turn left on the Prospect Bay Road (direction Prospect). The road narrows as it descends a hill to enter the Village of Prospect. Just before the small bridge, turn right on Indian Point Road and find a parking spot. The trail begins where the road ends.

If you get lost or are running late, call me at 902-483-4731.

*Allyn Clarke*

## Time to Talk (about end of life issues)



**Tuesday, May 30**  
**At the church, 1:30-3:30 pm**

### Topics:

- Sharing beliefs (or disbeliefs) in an afterlife – with Rev. Norm
- Estate planning, wills, executors and powers of attorney – with James Morris

**Tuesday, June 27**  
**At the church, 1:30-3:30 pm**

### Dying with Dignity – with Sheila Sperry

- Medical Aid in Dying (MAID): Update on the legislation
- Personal Directives/Advanced Care Planning
- Having difficult conversations; making difficult decisions.

Everyone is welcome.

A red rectangular stamp with the word "DEADLINE" in bold, capital letters, slanted slightly to the right.

The deadline for submissions  
for the July newsletter is  
**10 am, Monday, June 26th.**

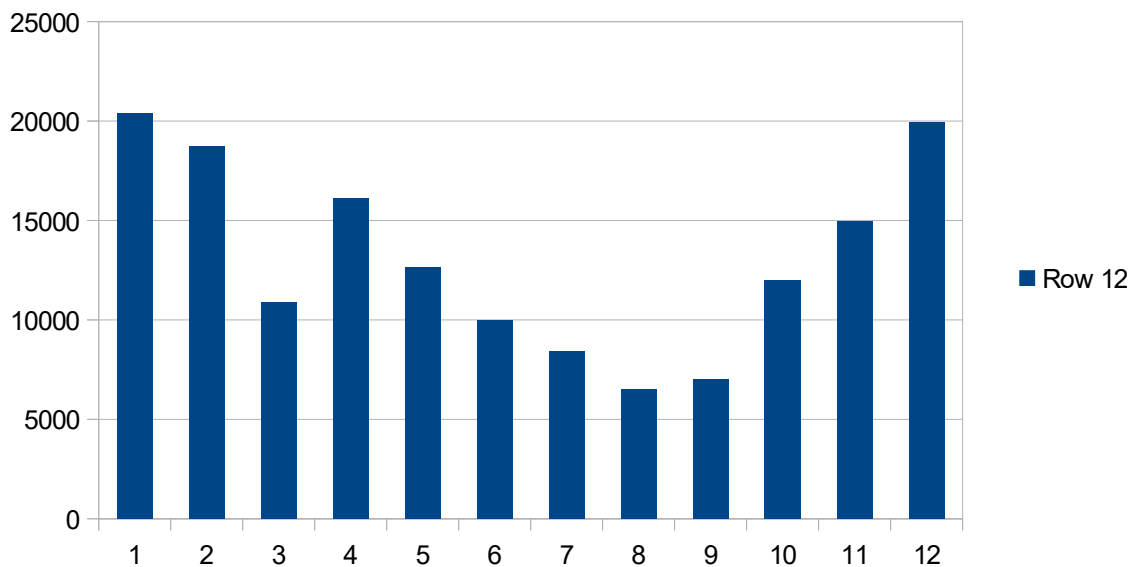
Please submit to both  
[braeside@eastlink.ca](mailto:braeside@eastlink.ca)  
and  
[uuchurch@eastlink.ca](mailto:uuchurch@eastlink.ca)

## NOTES FROM THE COUNTING HOUSE

We are such a lucky congregation. Our pledges for 2017 actually overshot our goal. Furthermore, 41 of our 78 pledgers honour their pledge through a monthly automatic bank withdrawal system. This is exceedingly good for our cash flow.

Of the other 37 pledgers, about two-thirds pay with a weekly or monthly envelope on the collection plate, while the remaining one-third pay in a lump sum or in a few installments throughout the year.

Typically, most of that money arrives in November, December, January and February, giving us a wonky cash flow that tends to look like this. This was our total income January thru December for 2016.



As you can see, May thru October averaged around \$9,000/month – and yet our expenses were a consistent \$14,000/month.

The point of this long-winded item is to ask those of you who do pay in a lump sum to consider if you might be able to do so in one of those middle months rather than at the two bookends of the year.

And better yet, consider signing up for the Automatic Monthly Withdrawal plan the next time you pledge.

*Your treasurer,  
Marilyn Shinyei*

# Music Montage

*“Music gives a soul to the universe,  
wings to the mind, flight to the  
imagination, and life to everything.”  
~ Plato*



## **June's 'Singing as We Gather'**

The Gathering Hymn for June is #317 *We Are Not Our Own*. This hymn musically raises some important considerations on June's theme of growth; how we can move forward well, by first recognizing who and where we are, and then, with care and respect, be the best we can be. In verse one, we remind ourselves that we are “human leaves on nature's growing vine, fruit of many generations, seeds of life divine”; so, we sing in verse three, “therefore, let us make thanksgiving, and with justice, give to earth and all things living, liturgies of care.” And finally, in verse four, “Let us be a house of welcome, living stone upholding living stone, gladly showing all our neighbours we are not our own!” Both words and music are written by UUs.

## **Themed Music Projects**

This month's Music Project is on Sunday, June 11th.

Rehearsals for this will be as follows:

Sunday, June 4th at 9:30 am

Sunday, June 11th at 9:30 am

This will be the last Music Project for the church year. We will resume in September with a whole new list of themes and more wonderful opportunities to make music together.

## **Summer Singing**

I will be choosing a couple of Sundays in the summer, when there will be an opportunity to come out and sing, as we did with the *Family Singers* on May 14th. All who like to sing, including children, will be invited to arrive before the service and run through one or two easy-to-learn pieces to be sung in that same service. If this appeals to you, watch out for information in summer newsletters, and/or through UU Info emails. You can also contact me directly if you are interested and want to make sure you hear about it.

Meanwhile, I wish you and yours a glorious summer!

***Deborah Wiggins***

***Music Director***

uuchmusic@yahoo.ca



# Religious Exploration

The RE theme for May was compassion, the root of respect and friendship. We started at the basic social and emotional skill of showing respect. Danielle, an experienced children's educator, has been teaching the children to listen to each other empathetically. We now have a 'talking stick' process for circle time, where we share 'glads and sads', and the children are working on setting ground rules for RE.

"Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning."  
—Mr. Rogers



On April 30th, the children talked about how we all have certain advantages that others may not have. They decorated paper 'backpacks' representing Peggy McIntosh's 'invisible backpacks' of privilege. Inside the backpacks, the children drew pictures of resources they have that other children in the world do not (e.g., going to school, access to technology, and having good families to take care of them).

On May 7th, Lindsay and Paula helped the children plant seeds for the church garden in egg cartons the congregation thoughtfully donated to RE. We look forward to filling the raised beds in the garden with vegetables and flowers once we have conquered the gout weed, of course.

On May 14th, Megan ('Pan') Graham, who works with children as a camp counsellor, talked to the children about gender and pronouns while helping out with a Mother's Day activity. The children were very interested to learn that a person may not identify as either a 'boy' or a 'girl'.



While I am at the UUA General Assembly in New Orleans (June 21-25) I will be gathering information about how we can move forward on implementing the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program in our church.

June is the last month for RE before summer break. We will wrap up with the Father's Day flower communion on June 18th—followed by our always marvelous annual summer picnic complete with bouncy castle! I just can't wait!

**Tanya Bilisbury**  
**Director, Religious Exploration**

**Editor's note:**

*If the Universalist Unitarian Church is new to you, or if you are 'just visiting' and picking up this newsletter, we feel our Board president's report to our recent annual meeting will tell you a lot about us. Read on, and consider taking in a Sunday service or any other UU event you may happen to know of, including those mentioned in the preceding pages. You will always find a warm welcome here—we are a community church.*

**President's Report to the Annual Meeting  
May 2017**

The work and success of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax is truly a collaborative endeavor.

Starting with the Board, we are very fortunate to be governed by a group of dedicated and thoughtful Board members, who bring to the table a blend of institutional history, new ideas, occasional radical thoughts, and cautious optimism, with the ability to balance it all out through respectful dialogue and forward thinking decision making.

Thanks to each of them, and especially to Andy Blair and Allyn Clarke, who will be coming off the Board this year. Their contributions have been immeasurable, and while they won't be on the Board, we know they will be staying involved through many of the other "hats" they wear in the congregation.

We can then consider the role of staff. The Minister, Director of Music, Director of Religious Exploration and our Office Administrator are critical to our congregational health in each of their very distinct yet important roles. Our Minister, Rev Norm Horofker continually challenges us to think big and move beyond the safety of our current circumstances. He works tirelessly to make Halifax a better place, whether it is through Saturday brunch, collaborating with community representatives, or looking for ways that the congregation can actively engage in good works. He leads by example, but still provides us appreciated opportunities for deeper connections and reflections on Sunday mornings.

Deborah Wiggins' contributions, both as the Director of Music (and in her volunteer capacity for other things) keeps the church singing and filled

with joyous noise. Tanya Bilbury is new to the staff, but ensures that the children's Religious Exploration program remains vibrant and relevant to our faith (and fun!). Sandra Jamieson, our long standing Administrator, is the person who keeps track of what we do, how we do it, when we are supposed to do it, and reminds us when we inevitably lose track. We would be lost and bewildered without her guidance. Thank you to each of these people for their very significant contributions.

Then the many volunteers: committee chairs, committee members, Sunday volunteers, Saturday volunteers, music makers, worship service planners, social and community activists, event planners and volunteers, hike leaders, gardeners, the newsletter collective, and many other people who share their time, energy, vision and love for our congregation in big ways and small, as they are able.

Finally of course, there are all the people who attend services and events. Everyone participates in the life of the congregation in the way they best can, and that is appreciated. We are all part of this interdependent web of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax, and all valuable contributors to its ongoing success.

When I think of all of these people and all that they do and give, the phrase that continually comes to mind is: "We couldn't do it without you!" Saying a simple "thank you" doesn't seem like quite enough – but for today, it will have to do. Thanks all!

Respectfully and gratefully submitted,



**Kim Turner**

## Notes for your Church Directory

### *New members:*

GIRARD, Don & Ginny           902-463-0987  
Don:           dgirard1@bellaliant.net  
Ginny:         ggirard@bellaliant.net  
306-28 Brookdale Crescent  
Dartmouth, NS B3A 2R5

### *New friends:*

HANRAHAN, Cassandra       902-292-8037  
cassandra\_hanrahan@yahoo.ca  
28 Stella Court  
Hammonds Plains, NS B4B 1M3

LOGIE, Lindsay               902-292-9820  
lindsay.logie@dal.ca

### *Corrections:*

CHIPMAN, Alison  
achipman60@yahoo.com

COX, Iretia  
902-452-8157

SAULNIER, Troy & Danielle  
154 Ingram Drive

### *Change of address:*

MUNSON, Bob  
15-3343 Westerwald St.  
Halifax, NS B3N 2R7

*BTW, there is lots of space for new information  
at the back of your directory.*



FLOWER COMMUNION SUNDAY



JUNE 18