

U.U.&you

newsletter of the universalist unitarian church of halifax

Vol. 48, No. 9
May 2014

Universalist Unitarian
Church of Halifax
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Deborah Wiggins
Music Director

Christy-Lee Bojarski
RE Director

Allyn Clarke
President

Newsletter
Etta Hamm
Sandra Jamieson

Sunday service
10:30 am
All welcome
Children & Youth Education
& Childcare available

May 4

Presenters: Rev. Norm Horofker and Lauren Larsen; Service Assistant: Sass Minard

The Pleasures and Sorrow of Work

This is the closest Sunday to International Worker's Day, celebrated in over 80 countries on May. Today Norm and Lauren will take a look at the role of work in our lives, and specifically the connection between our attitude toward our work and our happiness.

May 11

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Mary Spurr

Mothering Day

The inspiration for this service comes from writings by Reverend Kathleen Rolenz and her reflections on all those "tough, gentle, truth-telling, loving, wise, whimsical women who have served as our teachers, our mentors, our guides, and our friends."

May 18

Presenter: Dean White; Service Leader: Marilyn Shinyei

A Congregation of One

Within the tradition of Christianity, there are two distinct and diametrically opposed religions. They have almost nothing to do with each other, and both began in the first century, about thirty to forty years apart. What are some fundamental differences?

May 25

Presenters: Radha Tereska Buko with music by Alima Jeanne Whiting;
Service Leader: Wynne Jordan

The Healing Power of Sound and Music

It is said that music makes the world go round, and all existence is based on vibration and movement. The healing effects of singing are compounded when done together in unison and accompanied by movement – clapping, swaying, and stepping together. This is the basis of the Sufi-inspired Songs and Dances of Universal Peace, and today two senior teachers from Vermont will lead us in experiencing and exploring this tradition. Radha and Alima have been bringing the Dances to people of all ages around the world for the past two decades.



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.

May 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9am Chalice Singers 9:45 Family Singers Noon—Worship	5	6 11:30-3:30 Library	7 4:45-6:15pm Afterchoir	8 6pm YA Meeting	9 6pm Dean's Dining4\$	10 UU Hike, see p.6.
11 9am Chalice Singers 9:45 qUUartet Noon—Soc. Resp.	12 Reports for AGM are due, 10am 7pm Meditation Group Meeting	13	14 4:45-6:15pm Afterchoir	15 7-9pm Discovery Club	16	17 No DUP see p.9. 6pm YA Karaoke/Potluck
18 Noon—The Humanists Noon-Taking down show	19 10am Newsletter Deadline	20 6:30pm Vestry Meeting	21 4:45-6:15pm Afterchoir	22 9:30-9:30 DUP	23 9:30-9:30 DUP	24 10:30-2:30 DUP
25 9am Chalice Singer 11:50, AGM	26 10am Hanging new show 7-9pm Ukulele Night	27	28 4:45-6:15pm Afterchoir	29	30	31

June 1st: Bette Pepperdene's Art Show Opening Reception, 12-2pm



The Annual General Meeting of the UUCH will be held in the Worship Room at 11:50 am, Sunday May 25th, following the service.

The meeting will receive reports of church activities during the 2013/2014 church year and the final financial report from 2013.

In addition, the meeting will be asked to consider an amendment to our church by-laws that will end the use of the term *Vestry* to describe the church's Board of Management. If this by-law amendment is passed, then our Board of Management will be known as the **Board**. Its members will consist of the Officers of the church plus the Members at Large.

Committee chairs should note that their reports are due in Sandra's Inbox no later than 10 am, Monday, **May 12th**. Early submissions are hoped for.

Please try to attend to discuss the important matters of your church. Non-members including new people are most welcome.

Allyn Clarke



From your Minister

Most of you will know by now that we had our second “spiritual service” at Bearly’s House of Blues on the evening of April 20, Easter Sunday, and many of you were there among the 55 or so people in attendance. The evening consisted of music, poetry and prose built around the themes of renewal and rebirth. The centrepiece of the service, just as it was for our first service at Bearly’s, was a candle lighting, where anyone present could acknowledge the life or another, living or dead, who had helped them on their spiritual journey.

This part of the service was particularly meaningful for me because of my memories of my all too brief association with a former member of our congregation, Katherine Clough. When we planned our first service at Bearly’s it was Katherine who volunteered to arrange for the materials and logistics of the candle lighting. When the service was over, she tucked away all the materials in the church basement, ready for our next opportunity to use them. To our shock and sadness, Katherine died suddenly and unexpectedly before that next opportunity came. It was entirely appropriate that the first candle was lit in memory of Katherine at our Easter Service.

That story is a reminder of how brief our lives are, and how important the connections are between people. For me, the idea of connection and the idea of spirituality are synonymous. On the evening of Easter Sunday 2014, we got to feel those connections and feed our spirit in a non-traditional way.

I suspect that many more people are getting their spiritual needs met through music in the many varied venues around Halifax, than are doing so in church. That is what is happening, whether or not the participants realize it, or acknowledge it. This provides us, UUCH, with an opportunity to reach out into our community with our inclusive message.



Afterchoir on stage at Bearly's.
Peter Onno is offstage left.

Thank you to all those who came out to Bearly’s House of the Blues on Easter Sunday April 20, to attend, to participate or otherwise to assist. Watch for our next “Church in the Pub” event. I hope it will be soon.

Rev. Norm Horofker

Sunday Service Volunteers

May 4

Greeting	Kathy Anthony Anne Knight-Gorman
Ushering	Andy Blair (e), Janet Horofker (l)
Kitchen	Norm Sabowitz (set-up) Anne Knight-Gorman (clean-up)
Audio	Devin Murphy
Library	Valerie Chapman

May 11

Greeting	Alison Chipman, Sass Minard
Ushering	Valerie Chapman (e) Avard Woolaver, Martha Wilson (l)
Kitchen	Norm Sabowitz (set-up) Sass Minard (clean-up)
Audio	Avard Woolaver
Library	Stephen Butler

May 18

Greeting	Michael Seary, Paul Galbraith
Ushering	Michael Smith (e) Margaret and Paul Galbraith (l)
Kitchen	Norm Sabowitz (set-up) Buddy Gale (clean-up)
Audio	Todd MacMillan
Library	Norma McPhee

May 25

Greeting	Sandra Clarke, Sylvia Mattinson
Ushering	Kay Smith, Kathy Anthony (e) Sylvia Mattinson (l)
Kitchen	Norm Sabowitz (set-up) Sandra Clarke (clean-up)
Audio	Jo-Anne Brown-Shimeld
Library	Jo-Anne Brown-Shimeld

Please contact Wietske Gradstein at 835-9272 to join the Sunday Service Support Team.



The deadline for submissions for the June newsletter is Monday, May 19th.



UUCH Pride Needs Your Help!

Do you have access to a pickup truck, a flat-deck trailer or a hay wagon? UUCH Pride needs your help to secure a truck and trailer for our float in the 2014 Halifax Pride Parade! A short-term loan of a truck or trailer for the last weekend in July will make or break our Parade float. The trailer may be decorated, but will be returned to the owner in the same condition as received. Please contact **Andy** if you might be able to help or provide a lead. Reach him at **717-2639** or ahblair@yahoo.com

Also—volunteers are needed to help the Pride Committee organize, decorate the float, and make UUCH the most visible congregation in the Halifax Pride Parade!

Christy Lee Bojarski, Chair
Pride Committee



Capital Maintenance Campaign

If the special congregational meeting approves a two-year maintenance program, we will be asking members and friends of the congregation for your donations to cover the cost of the work.

The proposed program involves the following:

Repairing and repainting the exterior of the building	\$15,150	+ 2,372.50 HST
Replacing our 50 year-old furnace with a gas furnace	12,500	+ 1,875 HST
Replacing the kitchen floor and the stove	5,000	+ 750 HST
Replacing several exterior doors and windows	5,000	+ 750 HST

We have received a Heritage Property Maintenance grant from the province for half of our costs to repair and repaint the exterior (up to \$8,740), plus we can recover half of all HST paid (\$2,820) leaving us with \$31,737.50 to raise from your donations.

We will approach members and friends through email and postal mail for your pledges of donations to the campaign over the next two years. We hope to complete the work by fall of 2015 so we hope that the bulk of the donations will arrive by that time.

A renewed exterior will make our building more inviting for visitors to enter before becoming friends and members.

A modern gas furnace should reduce our heating costs, and reduce our carbon footprint by about 12 tons per year.

Our kitchen is the heart of the building and is in need of new flooring.

New doors will reduce cold air drafts, and new windows will improve ventilation during those warm summer services.



Please respond with your usual generosity when you receive your email or letter.

Allyn Clarke



Reports please!

The UUCH Annual General Meeting will be held on May 25th as per the notice on page 2.

Submissions for the package of committee reports are due in my Inbox by 10 am, Monday, May 12th. You may submit them early.

Your cooperation will enable me to include ALL reports as I prepare the agenda and the entire AGM package to send out via UUinfo on Friday, May 16th.

On the 16th I will also print hard copies (including the agenda) and staple them in sets, a number of which will be available by request on Sunday the 18th, one week prior to the meeting (normal business practice). To minimize the use and expense of paper, anyone taking a set on the 18th should not expect to have access to a second set on the 25th.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sandra Jamieson
uuchurch@eastlink.ca

Snacks for AGM Sunday May 25th

As you are able, please bring simple finger foods to church on AGM Sunday, to be made available by donation before the meeting. Suggestions: sandwiches, crackers, cheese, sweets, veggies or fruit. Also feel free to bring your own lunch. For any questions regarding snacks-by-donation, please contact Deborah Wiggins, vocation62@yahoo.ca. Thank you!



UU Hike to Duncan's Cove, May 10

Approaching Halifax Harbour from the sea, your eyes are drawn to the high white granite cliffs guarding the harbour entrance. The hike along these outcrops from Duncan's Cove to Ketch Harbour is one of the greatest shoreline walks anywhere.



A UU group at Duncan's Cove, May 2008

This hike usually includes watching seals basking on the offshore rocks, hearing the sound of waves crashing into narrow sea caves 10 metres below our feet, and views of ships entering and leaving the harbour. The trail is generally dry, and involves steep slopes, but we can pause at various levels to admire the view.

Meet at the church at 12:30 or at the corner of Withrod Dr. & Herring Cove Rd. at 12:40—or at the trailhead in the village of Duncan's Cove at 1:10 pm.

Follow Herring Cove Rd. past Herring Cove (where the road changes into Ketch Harbour Rd.) and Portuguese Cove. Take a left on Chebucto Head Rd., then a right on the gravel road to Duncan's Cove. Park at the entrance to the village. Call if you are lost or running late: 483-4731.

Allyn Clarke



Caring

Jessy Matthews is graduating from Memorial University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre. Her convocation is May 9th. Congratulations, Jessy!

Carl Johnston passed away on April 18th following a lengthy illness. He was an active member for 10 years until about 4 years ago, and served as UUCH president in 2002-2003. Carl had an engaging personality and loved a good conversation. Messages of condolence to his family may be posted at www.walkerfh.com

Mary Ellen Onno

Hope Cottage Meals

Wednesday, May 7th is our next Hope Cottage dinner date, for which the UUCH has been asked to supply sufficient hot food to nourish 80 or more hungry residents of our local community.



Lining up for supper at Hope Cottage

Please add your name to the sign-up list posted on the entranceway bulletin board, or contact me if you'd like to support this worthwhile Community Outreach service.

Kathy Spencer

"Naming the baby"

May 8, 6 pm



Young Adults of UUCH! You are welcomed to attend a meeting on May 8th at 6 pm when we will focus on picking a name for our group, deciding the way we will meet and proceed, and ways to participate.

We are an emerging hub of events and ideas, and we need a proper name. We may also consider designing a type of worship or meeting for the younger set of the congregation. You are encouraged to bring a dish as it will be around dinner time for many of us. Please contact me if you would like to be added to our email list.

It's happening again!

May 17, 6 pm

Our trial run karaoke night was a huge success! We danced, we laughed, we shared good conversation, and sang a ton of songs! The only thing that would

have made it better was more people and more food! So we cordially invite the young adults and the young at heart to the next event on May 17th here at the church. Bring a friend to increase the fun—and a dish—to the next act of Karaoke & Potluck. We'll eat at 6, and start 'belting 'em out' at 7.

There are 6,000-plus songs in Nick Baros-Johnson's songbook, so all we're missing is YOU! Karaoke night is hosted by the young adults, but ALL are welcome! Contact me at lasphodelius@gmail.com

Lauren Larsen

Dining for Dollars

May 9, 10



The merry month is upon us, and what better way to make it merry than by taking in these D4\$ events for which spaces are still open? You'll have a good time while supporting your beloved church. Here's what's available for May.

Dean White's Splendid Evening: Friday, May 9th, 6 pm, at the UUCH. Price: \$35. The meal: Green pea soup, dinner rolls; Bombay chicken casserole salad; garden stir-fry, vegetarian; rhubarb crisp and ice cream; rice pudding; tea, coffee, juice. BYOB.

Followed by splendid games... **Crokinole**, a blend of English, French, German and East Indian games, devised in rural Canada in the 1860s. **Bowling**, on a table-top board, played like ten-pin bowling at the alley. **Upwords**, you build words in three directions: across, down, and even upwards.

Amazing Graces: Saturday, May 10th, 5 pm, at Alison's. Price \$40. Remember those concise few words of gratitude many of us still recite at the dinner table before tucking in? Let's continue or revive the tradition and honour *The Grace*. Look up some classic graces or compose your own and bring them to share. Or make it a collaborative literary effort. Who knows, we just might compose the quint-essential UU Grace!

Also (by the way), there will be a hearty meal of sweet potato chicken with rice, a tossed-and-turned salad by salad Wiccan Sass Minard, homemade bread, and a modest wine. Then pie—a vote among the guests will determine what kind from Alison's limited repertoire--democratic process. Three spaces left. Please note: three cats in residence.

I am totally standing by, waiting for your calls and emails to reserve your spots.

Alison Chipman

alison_chipman@yahoo.ca -- 461-2626

Music Montage



*'Lo, the earth awakes again. Alleluia!
From the winter's bond and pain. Alleluia!
Bring new leaf and flower and spray. Alleluia!
To adorn this happy day. Alleluia!*

*Change, then, mourning into praise. Alleluia!
And, for dirges, anthems raise. Alleluia!
How our spirits soar and sing. Alleluia!
How our hearts leap with the spring. Alleluia!*

~ Samuel Longfellow



Rehearsals for Choirs...

Chalice Singers: 9 am all Sundays except May 18th

qUUartet: May 11th at 9:45 am

Family Singers: May 4 at 9:45 am

May's 'Singing As We Gather'...

The *Gathering Hymn* for this month is #63 *Spring Has Now Unwrapped the Flowers*. I think we could all use a song like this now, as “gone the iron touch of cold, winter time and frost time, seedlings working through the mold now make up for lost time.”

The Chalice Singers...

This group rehearses before Sunday services, from 9 to 10 am. If you would like to do more singing, but getting to an evening rehearsal is not ideal, then this could be your opportunity. We are a welcoming group and singers do not need to be able to read music!

The Family Singers...

The *Family Singers* are for everyone who likes to sing—all ages and all stages! The music is easy to learn and sing. This group will rehearse and sing on Sunday May 4th.

The Afterchoir...

The *Afterchoir* (our folk/rock group) meets on *Wednesdays* from approximately 4:45 to 6:15 pm. Contact James Morris to confirm dates and times.

Thank you...

Thank you to all the extra voices who participated in singing *We Rise Again* on April 20th, to help celebrate both Easter and our annual Earth Day service in true Maritime style.

*Note that I will be away the weekend of May 18.

Please use **uuchmusic@yahoo.ca** as my email address for things related to my position as Music Director. All *other* emails go to my personal address, listed in the directory. Thanks!

Alleluia for spring!

Deborah Wiggins, Music Director

463-0988

uuchmusic@yahoo.ca



**Meditation
Group
Meeting
May 12, 7 pm**

If anyone is interested in participating in a regular meditation group this summer, please come to the meditation circle meeting on May 12th at 7 pm to discuss the idea. Open to everyone, from beginners to those who have been meditating for a long time.

We will not focus on any particular tradition or school but share techniques and experiences, and of course, meditate. If you are interested, but unable to make it to this meeting, please contact me.

Lauren Larsen
lasphodelius@gmail.com.



**UUCH Discovery Club
May 15, 7 pm**

Don't forget... the Discovery Club, a 'new' adult program that delves into all manner of UU history, is always on the 3rd Thursday of the month. We watch interesting videos,

we learn, we marvel, we talk, we love it. Co-ordinators are Marilyn Shinyei, Janet Horofker and Wynne Jordan.

Directory Updates

Barker, Felicity	felicityabarker@msn.com
Hatton, Michael	mc874124@dal.ca 719-2100
Horofker, Janet	jdhorofker@gmail.com

Dances of Universal Peace, May 24, 7 pm

All are welcome to participate in a very special Dances of Universal Peace (DUP) circle to be held at the United Memorial Church, 5375 Kaye Street, Halifax, on Saturday, May 24th, 7 to 9:30 pm.



For this circle we will be joined by two world renowned DUP dance leaders, Radha Tereska Buko and Alima Jeanne Whiting, who will also be speaking to the UUCH congregation about the Healing Power of Sound and Music during the May 25th worship service. No prior experience is required to enjoy the bliss of chanting along with gentle meditative movement in a DUP circle of friends.

"The importance of bringing peace to the world through the arts [while honouring] the universality of the mystical experience behind all religious traditions" are core concepts that prompted Sufi, Murshid Samuel Lewis to originate many early peace dances in San Francisco in the late 1960s. Lewis was a lifelong student of many religious traditions including Judaism, Christianity, Buddhism, Islam and Hinduism. Lewis studied with spiritual teachers throughout the world and drew inspiration for the dances from luminaries such as Hazrat Inayat Khan, the master who introduced Sufism to the West, and Ruth St. Denis, a pioneer in modern dance.

In the years since their inception, the Dances of Universal Peace have spread throughout the world. There are periodic DUP circles and occasional retreat gathering across North and South America, Eastern and Western Europe, New Zealand and Australia.

The local DUP circle typically meets from 7 to 9 pm in the UUCH Ballroom Gallery on the third Saturday of each month (with occasional exceptions and a brief summer hiatus). Please feel free to contact me for more information.

Kathy Spencer

**Ballroom Gallery Exhibition
Bette Pepperdene: Little Green Apples
Showing June 1 - July 13**



Bette Pepperdene, a UUCH member, began oil painting in 1962 following instruction at the Municipal Art Centre in Ottawa. Her expressionist style developed over the next twenty years. She has exhibited in various community-based shows including the Unitarian Church in Ottawa, and was active in the Art Sales and Rental shop that was organized there.

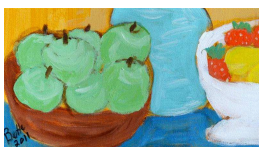
Bette came to Halifax in 1984, soon joined the Contemporary Art Society, and participated in a number of the group's shows. She has formerly shown her delightful paintings here at UUCH as well.

It is her love of colour that influences Bette's approach to painting. Most of her work is abstracted still life, choosing her subjects from treasured personal objects, as well as flowers, plants (and sometimes little green apples). Her light and bright paintings bring smiles to many faces.

Bette hopes you will enjoy her exhibition of recent acrylic paintings done between 2011 and 2014.

All are invited to attend the opening reception of "Little Green Apples" on Sunday, June 1st from 12 noon to 2 pm. Refreshments will be served. See you there!

The Ballroom Gallery Committee



What UUs Believe

The words below are from the red wallet card you'll find on the pamphlet rack by the front door. Please take a few, and pass them on to people who ask, "What do UUs believe?"



We believe in the freedom of religious expression. All individuals should be encouraged to develop their own personal theologies, and to present openly their religious opinions without fear of censure or reprisal.

We believe in the toleration of religious ideas. All religions in every age and culture possess not only intrinsic merit, but also potential value for those who have learned the art of listening.

We believe in the authority of reason and conscience. The ultimate arbiter in religion is not a church, nor a document, nor an official, but the personal choice and decision of the individual.

We believe in the never-ending search for Truth. If the mind and heart are truly free and open, the revelations that appear to the human spirit are infinitely numerous and wondrously exciting.

We believe in the worth and dignity of each human being. All people on earth have an equal claim to life, liberty, and justice—and no idea, ideal or philosophy is superior to a single human life.

We believe in the ethical application of religion. Good works are the natural product of a good faith, the evidence of an inner race that finds completion in social and community involvement.

We believe in the motive force of love. The governing principle in human relationships is the principle of love, which always seeks the welfare of others and never seeks to hurt or destroy.

We believe in the necessity of the democratic process. Records are open to scrutiny, elections are open to members, and ideas are open to criticism—so that people might govern themselves.

We believe in the importance of a religious community. This validation of experience requires the confirmation of peers, who provide a critical platform along with a network of mutual support.

Help to dispel the myth that UUs don't believe in anything!



The Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC), a Brief Review

The CUC is the governing body for Unitarian Universalism in Canada. Its members are all the Unitarian Universalist congregations in Canada which number approximately fifty. Each member congregation is represented by voting delegate(s) at the annual general meetings.

While original UU roots stem from Romania, all Canadian congregations were once members of the UU Association in the United States (UUA). The UU Church of Halifax was part of the Northeast District. The CUC was founded in 1961 in an attempt to bring an intentional Canadian perspective to the UUA. However it evolved that to reach full maturity as an organization the CUC decided to gain autonomy from the UUA in 2002. CUC president (UUCH's very own) Kim Turner led the difficult process. Congregational development in religious exploration, spiritual growth and social responsibility is now more effectively served in a Canadian context.

The Canadian Unitarian Council is governed by the CUC Board of Trustees. It is an elected Board of eight representing four regions: BC, Western, Central and Eastern. The Executive Director is hired by and reports to the Board. As administrator the ED assigns and supervises staff to implement goals and priorities set by the Board.

The future ... There have been many changes to the CUC since 2002, and lessons learned. In 2014 the CUC is in a position to look to the future and envision how, as a UU movement, we can find ways to "be" in the time and space going forward. The Youth and Young Adults are a critical resource in the planning and creativity of the new venture.



UU Young Adults at a former CUC ACM, Toronto. Can you spot Devin Murphy?



Members of the Canadian UU Religious Educators (CUURE) at the CUC ACM 2013. Can you pick out Christy Lee Bojarski in this fuzzy photo?

The foregoing nicely segues to the upcoming ACM in Montreal: "Building Beloved CommUUnities: Sacred Spaces beyond Walls", Friday May 16th to Sunday May 18th. There, you will connect, reconnect and be restored and renewed. See www.cuc.ca

- Pre-conference events for lay chaplaincy training and religious exploration days
- CanUudle XIV Youth Conference (now fully booked, wait list is possible)
- Young Adult (18-35) events
- Children's program, including a visit to an eco-museum
- Keynote by Meg Riley, Senior Minister, Church of the Larger Fellowship: A UU Community without Walls, and founding Director of Standing on the Side of Love, a UU Advocacy Campaign
- Scott Tayler, UUA, on doing more with less
- Choir open to all (for service on Sunday) led by Sandra Hunt and Kerry-Anne Kutz
- Optional streams and workshops
- Many flavours of Montreal

With help from the UUCH leadership funding and donated travel points, two years ago UUCH had 14 attend the ACM. An ACM expands one's UU commitment like no other event.

In UU commitment,

Glenda Butt, Vice-president
CUC Board of Trustees

The Greatest Show on Earth!

Photos from the multigenerational service held on April 6th — Produced and directed by Christy Lee Bojarski
 MC'd by P.T. (Rev. Norm) Barnum — Musical direction by Deborah Wiggins — Storyteller, Sass Minard

The advance publicity had it right; we *were* amazed, enchanted, mystified and amused! We *were* re-acquainted with our inner clown. Importantly, we were reminded of the inhumane treatment of performing animals. The RE kids, both the young and the not-so-young, showcased their impressive talents—and collected \$150 for the Performing Animal Welfare Society. Just how any future service at UUCH can ever 'top' *The Greatest Show on Earth* cannot be imagined.



Last minute instructions



P.T. (Norm) Barnum himself



Circus performers and lions like stories too



Jane, the Daring Stilt Walker



Nick, the Astounding Hula Hoopist



Paul, the Gravity Defying Juggler



Lions performing in the center ring



The Troupe ... *the humour, the pathos*



Lia Woolaver, spokesperson for PAWS

Photography by Avard Woolaver
 Words by Etta Hamm, UU&U

Our Covenant

Compassion is the doctrine of our church, the quest for truth its Sacrament, and Justice its prayer. To grow in understanding through dialogue and freedom, to support each other's dance with life, to engage the Earth in peace, to the end that we speak ourselves into community and hear each other into being. Thus do we covenant with each other and with the Universe.

