

Newsletter of the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax

Vol. 56, No 3 November 2020

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Rev. Norm Horofker Minister Cell 902-229-9239

> Jessica Friesen Music Director

Marie-Claude Leroux Director, Religious Ed for Children & Youth

> Troy Saulnier President

Etta Hamm Newsletter Editor

Sunday services 10:30 am Online this month

All are welcome

Children & Youth Education

This Month's Sunday Services

Services are currently presented online. Services start at 10:30 am except for Nov 15th. Please join us via Zoom between 10:20 and 10:30 am. Use this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6660044 31?pwd=RiQvVEtjUjM1MEdnMDgxU0VSRzVLQT09

Meeting ID: 666 004 431 Password: 010670. You can also watch live or later on our UUCH YouTube Channel. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3Lw1hW1n7z3mNapa6yY7Jw

We can accommodate up to 15 people in the sanctuary and another 15 people in the ballroom where we have a TV monitor. To attend in person, please contact Margaret Galbraith or Norm Horofker in advance.

Our Theme for November: Healing

November 1 "Supporting the Team" – Annual Pledge Sunday — It is time to celebrate the fact that not only have we survived, but have found new creative ways to be together during a pandemic. This service promises to lift your spirits and make you feel good about supporting our team of professionals and volunteers as we prepare for 2021.

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

November 8 Healing in Older Age: a case for intentional habitats of spiritual sanctuary — Rev. Helen will share insights into their current doctoral research on "co-caring" between elders living in co-housing community. Themes include society's failure to provide life-sustaining housing options and home support to aging Canadians—and the correlation between co-caring, spirituality and emotional well-being. Service Leader: Rev. Helen McFadyen; Service Assistant: Marilyn Shinyei

November 15 *Cross-Canada Service: 'Sustaining the Light"* — This national service will be filled with music and reflections, and with participation from Unitarian Universalists across Canada. The service explores why we need each other and offers opportunities for us to connect and create community together. The service starts at 2 pm Atlantic Time. There will be no other service on this Sunday. Join by Zoom: http://bit.ly/UUService or watch live on CUC's YouTube channel at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJ25IMWQwrxSnry11bdBS-g

Service Leaders: Rev. Debra Thorne, Rev. Debra Faulk, Rev. Wayne Walder, Rev. Diane Rollert

November 22 *The Wounded Healer* — For the psychiatrist Carl Jung, "a good half of every treatment that probes at all deeply consists in the doctor examining himself... it is his own hurt that gives a measure of his power to heal. This, and nothing else, is the meaning of the Greek myth of the wounded physician." Can our own injuries be a source of healing for others?

Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Marie Welton

November 29 *Moral Injuries – A Secular Matter?* — The Department of National Defence has allocated \$3.7 million dollars for outside research on the topic of Moral Injuries. This sounds like a secular attempt to solve a spiritual problem. Is there a shortcut to treating moral injuries? **Service Leader: Rev. Norm Horofker, Service Assistant: Pam Griffin-Hody**

The Theme for December: Stillness

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



November 2020

TO VOLLIDO LOLO						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Daylight Savings Time ended at 2 am 10:30 am Annual Pledge Sunday Rev.Norm RE celebrates Sabbat of Samhain	2	3	4	5 7–8 pm Online Chat	6	7 10-11:30 Neighbourhood Brunch Take-out
8 10:30 am Service: Healing, Housing in Older Age Rev.Helen McF. 4 pm Connect & Deepen, online	9 pm Young Adults Gathered Here online	10 12 Midnight: Registration Deadline for Regional Gathering	Remembrance Day 6:30 Board meeting	7–8 pm Online Chat	7-8:30 Online Regional Gathering	14 10-11:30 Neighbourhood Brunch Take-out 1 pm Opening Gathering 2 pm Session A Workshops 4 pm Session B Workshops 6 pm CUC Board 8 pm Coffeehouse
2 pm Cross Canada UU Servoce	HAPPY BIRTHDAY	17	18	19 World Philosophy Day (UNESCO) 7-8 pm Online Chat	November 20 NATIONAL 1 CHILD DAY	10-11-30 Neighbourhood Brunch Take-out
10:30 am Servi ce: The Wounded Healer Rev. Norm	23	24	12 noon Newsletter Deadline	7–8 pm Online Chat	27	28 10-11:30 Neighbourhood Brunch Take-out 7 pm COFFEEHOUSE! Lotta Hitschmanova's Birthday Nov 1909-Aug 1990
10:30 am Servi ce: Moral Injuries Rev. Norm.	30		GOLERAPHI			



Minister's Notes



Healing in Community

We are the ones we have been waiting for.*

Two weeks ago, I joined our Sunday service as a member of the congregation, not as a minister. I was watching the service from my daughter's home in Toronto. As I was absorbed in the service I was overcome with joy. I was struck by what an amazing thing our small community is doing. That we should gather every Sunday morning as a beloved, supportive, multi-generational community, bound together by nothing more and nothing less than love for one another and the desire to live into becoming the best people we can be.

A colleague has written: "We are all longing to go home to some place we have never been—a place half-remembered and half-envisioned that we can only catch glimpses of from time to time. Community. Dare to imagine a time of healing. We know what it would look like, but we don't know how to get there."

Well, our congregation may not be there yet, but we are on the way. Our community is not perfect, we are human after all, but we manifest something very special, something very precious. In our community we can speak frankly to one another, we can talk openly about love and about our limitations, about our hopes and our fears... and on a good day we will find support... maybe awkward, maybe self-conscious, but honest loving support, and we are ready to work.

Those willing to take the risk of being vulnerable will find companions along the way. Companions to share our joys and sorrows, companions to help us face the mysteries of life, companions to help us to actualize love and to change lives in the process.

Dori Midnight writes: "The healing of our present woundedness may lie in recognizing and reclaiming the capacity we all have to heal each other, the enormous power in the simplest of human relationships: the strength of a touch, the blessing of forgiveness, the grace of someone else taking you just as you are and finding in you an unsuspected goodness..."

People need self-determined, bone-deep, individual care and support in a community-healing framework because we are still healing from isolation from each other, we are still healing from racism and poverty and oppression and trauma—and we need healers who get that to offer us their time and skills to help us heal on an individual and collective level.

November is the start of our Every Member Campaign to raise the pledges of time and treasure to keep our community vibrant. Now is the time to show your appreciation for what we have together.

As I watched the Sunday service, I was overcome with a feeling of gratitude and appreciation—and a realization that you are the community I have been waiting for.

I close with this poem ...

Fitted for This Day

By Kimberly Quinn Johnson

We are the ones we have been waiting for.* We are not perfect,

but we are perfectly fitted for this day.

We are not without fault,

but we can be honest to face our past as we chart a new future.

We are the ones we have been waiting for.

May we be bold and courageous

to chart that new future.

May we have faith in a future that is not known. We are the ones we have been waiting for.*

*Words borrowed from June Jordan's "Poem for South African Women," which she presented at the U.N. on August 9, 1978.

With Love,

The Reverend Norm Horofker

Board Buzz

Dear members and friends,

As Past President let me first thank you on behalf of the Board for your generosity during these past eight months when our church life has been restricted almost entirely to the internet. Thanks to the extra donations from some of you, and the consistent automated monthly withdrawals we are actually approaching 2021 from a position of, if not actual financial strength, at least a relatively healthy position. The Minister's Discretionary Fund and the Saturday Brunch have been well funded and we are anticipating only a small deficit at the end of this year. Thank you again for your support during this difficult time.

Now if I may switch hats: As Campaign Chair let me tell you that the theme for our Annual Budget Drive this year is "Supporting our Team" and this is what many of you have been doing all along.

At the Semi-Annual General Meeting last week you heard of some of the exciting plans for the coming year: the UU Wellspring program to examine and deepen our personal faith, and the planned anti-racism workshop, to help us truly live out our first Principle. There are upcoming coffeehouses, Soulful Sundowns and imaginative RE programming for the children. The Saturday Brunch will carry on and hopefully there will be a new family of refugees for us to welcome.

We have wonderful volunteers who will be working with those projects, but without our talented and enthusiastic staff, many of them wouldn't even have started. This is the Team we support with our pledges: Rev. Norm, Jessica Friesen, Marie-Claude Leroux, and Stephen Butler.

Our greatest new challenge this year will be to start on the path to paying them a living wage. Another aspect of that first UU Principle, that we covenant to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of all, is to ensure that all workers are paid sufficiently to meet their basic needs. Our minister's salary is adequate, but we do not pay our music director, our RE director or our custodian nearly enough. We propose to work towards satisfying this goal by increments: back pay this year from August; 50% in 2021, and the remainder over the next year or two, depending on our finances. This is truly a goal worthy of our UU ideals and real **Support for our Team!**

Our campaign goal this year is \$124,400. It is ambitious—more than 10% greater than last year's goal. Times are uncertain and so are many people's finances, but others are saving because they are not spending on vacations or children's summer camps. If you feel you can raise your pledge this year it would be great, but however much you give, even if it is only \$5 a month, you will be supporting our wonderful team. To that end, we would like to see every member give what they can, given their situation. Every small amount helps, and it also represents your commitment to this community and our team.

See the next page for how it all works.



Margaret Galbraith Campaign Chair



Annual Budget Drive 101 a.k.a. the Pledge Campaign – the Canvass!

Margaret Galbraith, Campaign Chair

New members may be wondering what this is all about, and even longstanding members may not be completely sure of these details. So here is what you need to know ahead of time:

- Creating a Budget The Board asks our staff and committee chairs to tell us their needs/wants in the coming year; we then use that information to build a responsible budget.
- Approving the Budget Because as UUs we are dedicated to the democratic system (our Fifth Principle), we make the Budget available to you at our Semi-annual General Meeting before it is ratified, in case you have questions or concerns about it. Then you get to vote at the SAGM to approve the Budget.
- Fuelling our Mission Your pledge is the amount that you plan to give to the congregation in the coming year—2021 in this case. That is our largest and most reliable source of funds for our Budget—financial fuel for the congregation's mission.
- Asking you to Pledge We ask you to make a pledge (a financial commitment) once a year in November. We traditionally kick off the Annual Budget Drive with a free and abundant soup luncheon on the first Sunday of November—but not this year! Our Budget Drive will still be launched on November 1st, but via Zoom. Canvassers will be contacting you by phone or email over the next few weeks to discuss your pledge.
- Giving Your Fair Share If you need some guidance to find the right amount to contribute, here is a guide to help you. (You may have to copy and paste this in your browser). http://stewardshipforus.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/NEW-Fair-Share-Contribution-Guide-S4Us.pdf
- Fulfilling your Pledge You pay toward that commitment starting January 1, 2021 and we ask that you fulfil your comitment before the end of 2021. We will send you a report/reminder on your donations in October, and a summary statement at the beginning of the next year along with a tax receipt for your abundant gifts.
- **Doing it the Easy Way** About half of our pledgers are now flow for the church and makes life simpler all around.

giving through Automated Monthly Withdrawals and we would really encourage you to do the same. It provides a reliable cash

How we pledged last year

20% - no pledge

35% - \$1 - \$1000

30% - \$1001 - \$3000

15% - over \$3000

It would be great to see the 20% lessened and the 35% augmented!

• Supporting our Team – Your financial pledge, no matter how large or small, will support our team and our community, but we recognize that you also support in many other ways with your time and talents. Your contributions to the life of our church are much appreciated.

From the Canadian Unitarion Council, "the CUC"

CUC National Fall Gathering 2020.

Friday, Nov 13 Regional Gathering

Saturday, Nov 14 Virtual Sessions, Coffeehouse

Sunday, Nov 15 National Service "Sustaining Our Light"



Join UUs from across the country in national sessions for this three-day weekend packed full of interesting workshops and gathering times!

All virtual! Easier for lots of people to attend—no travel involved—and it all happens **in just over two weeks!** We're creating a wonderful selection of spiritual, educational and community events for your participation.

Register for as much or as little as you want ...

Friday, Nov 3 — Take part in the **Regional Gathering,** an inspirational experience.

Saturday, Nov 14 – Join us for a full slate of **engaging workshops** on everything from Pastoral Care and Resilient Leadership, to conversations with Indigenous Elders and Education on Anti-Racism.

Also Saturday, the Kids Program for ages 9-12. Be sure to use the separate registration form for this.

The Coffeehouse — plus a conversation with the Board—and social time.

Sunday, Nov 15 — **Our National Service, "Sustaining our Light".** For this, which is free, we are issuing an open invitation to all. The direct Zoom link: http://bit.ly/UUService

ALL the details are on the CUC website

https://cuc.ca/events/national-fall-gathering-2020/1605294000/1605466800/

Events are free or on a sliding scale.

Join in and be among friends and community. cuc.ca

The Caring Column



Marie Davis turns 93

After much advocating by Marie's daughter, Glenda, in Montreal, Northwood granted permission for Kathy Spencer to bring Marie to UUCH for a small, socially distanced birthday party on Monday, October 12th.

Those in attendance were so pleased to see the ever-smiling and gracious Marie at long last – and by all reports Marie was delighted with her party.

The Caring Committee has often alluded to the fact that it is really a caring *collective* — and one of the people not on the committee but doing the work, is Kathy Spencer. She has always been a steadfast friend to Marie, but especially during the pandemic, communicating regularly with Glenda, driving Marie to appointments, visiting as much as allowed and keeping up Marie's spirits.

Marie shared a funny story with us that gave us all a chuckle ... as a young girl she had visited evangelical Christian relatives on their farm near Moncton, but was afraid to use their outhouse because of a sign they had on their kitchen wall. The sign read: "Do not go anywhere you would not want to be found when Jesus comes."

The Storage Locker Event. October 3rd was quite a day! At least 18 UUCH members and friends met at the storage locker of Georges Merinfeld, a long time member who died on September 23rd. From 10 am to 4 pm, volunteers ferreted though many boxes of Georges' acquisitions: academic papers including his Masters thesis on starfish arm regeneration, photo albums from his childhood

onwards, papers he'd saved from UUCH meetings and events, many books on many subjects and other collections.

It was the first time for many of us to be together in person for months—with our masks and social distancing. Thanks to all of you who helped with this mammoth task! Photos have been sent of the materials that his sister Edith, in Brussels, might like to have; from those photos she will choose what she would like sent to her. The family very much appreciates the help Georges received from UUCH over the years, and even now when he is no longer with us. A Celebration of Life will be held for Georges in the near future.

Best wishes to all as we all move into colder weather and the ongoing restrictions of COVID-19!

Sylvia Mattinson

Former Minister, Rev. Bruce Kennedy dies

Reverend Bruce Kennedy, a New Englander, and UUCH minister from 1982 to 1989, died Oct 24th in Santa Rosa, California, at age 72.

Allyn Clarke: Many of Bruce's major life changes occured in Halifax: his first church, new country, his marriage to



Susan, the birth of their son Byron, the purchase of a home, and overcoming a serious illness.

Heather Watts: Bruce made a good place for himself in the congregation. His being with us was an eventful, and I think, successful time. He was a good man.

Mary Lu MacDonald: I remember Bruce saying, with surprise, that, in discussion with colleagues, the closest professional situation between ministering in Halifax and any other place was with ministering in California.

This photo of Bruce, age 34-41 (his time with us) hangs on our 'gallery of ministers' wall in the hallway opposite the church office.

Reverend Helen McFadyen: a Short Bio



For our more recent members and friends, here is some background on 'our own' Rev. Helen, our guest speaker on Sunday, Nov 8th.

Helen McFadyen is a

long-time member of UUCH. Called to ministry in later life, UUCH became Helen's sponsoring congregation through early ministerial formation, and in 2016 UUCH ordained Helen to UU ministry.

In their career as a community minister, Helen has been a hospital chaplain in acute care, trauma, and palliative care, and has worked providing spiritual care to elder residents of an assisted living facility in Edmonton. Helen has also served as parish minister with two small UU congregations in British Columbia.

A life-long social activist, they are a strong advocate for disabled rights. Since 2017, Helen has worked for the Unitarian Universalist Association and Equual Access in the role of Administrative Director of the Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry (AIM) certification program for UU congregations. The AIM program guides congregations in becoming more accessible to, and inclusive of people with disabilities.

Currently, Helen is conducting research for a Doctor of Ministry degree program affiliated with St. Stephen's College (Edmonton). Helen and guide dog, Abba, are delighted to be "home" in Halifax, and have settled temporarily in residence at their alma mater, the Atlantic School of Theology for the winter months.

Meet a Fellow UU

Pam Berman, our Membership chair, invites members to submit brief personal statements about themselves for publication in this monthly newsletter, particularly in relation to their affinity for, or connection to UUCH. Kathy's responses to 'Pam's four questions' (below) are perfect examples for the column. Please submit your piece to Pam Berman at: bermanpi@gmail.com

From Kathy Anthony

When did you become a UU? I started attending UUCH in 1988. My partner, Kay Smith, and I were

church shopping. Kay was an Anglican, and I was raised a Catholic, but since I have been a lesbian for as long as I can remember, the Catholic church was never my spiritual home. Kay and I tried the Anglican, United and Metropolitan congregations, but we just didn't fit



in. We felt the UUs were more open-minded, and I officially became a member in the early 1990s.

What attracted you to this community? The wonderful people. They really care about others and important issues, and they go into action to help. It is a small but mighty group.

What has kept you here? All the projects and good works—from helping the Bear River Nation to the Saturday Brunch. Kay and I started volunteering from the very beginning. We liked to work in the background rather than up front. The work has kept me grounded. I miss making pancakes for the Saturday Brunch, but hopefully that will be back next year.

Something about yourself that some people may not be aware of: I have a Bachelor of Theology degree—and I was in the Army Reserves for 13 years. I joined in Grade 12 and became an officer after I got my university degree. Kay and I actually met during military exercises at Gagetown. I have since been medically discharged.



Would you like to join an online UU Wellspring Group to deepen your spiritual life?

If you missed our congregational launch this fall (now underway), you can still be in a UU Wellspring group with other UUs from around the country in an online program beginning in January 2021. The online sessions take place on Monday evenings.

The deadline for registration is December 15, 2020.

From the Wellspring Org. website:

" 'What will you do with this one wild and precious life?' asks the poet Mary Oliver ...

"UU Wellspring is a 10-month program of distinctly Unitarian Universalist spiritual development de-signed to help participants answer that provocative question. Begun in 2005, the program celebrates the depth and breadth of our rich religious tradition."

The Five Spokes of Wellspring are:

Small group connections
Daily spiritual practices
Spiritual direction
Deeper knowledge of UU history and theology
Putting UU faith into action

For more information and to register for UU Wellspring Online for Individuals, click here.

Other helpful links follow; if you get a pop-up asking for permission to proceed, click "allow".

A <u>five-minute video of UU Wellspring participants</u> talking about their transformative experiences in the program.

The website: www.uuwellspring.org

Rev. Norm Horofker

Religious Exploration

for Children & Youth



It has been such an enjoyable fall, spending time outdoors surrounded by nature and each other during our outdoor Religious Exploration program. Our goal is to grow a deeper connection with nature while exploring the Sixth Source of our living tradition.

Our outings this past month were spent surrounded by trees. We foraged fir needles for tea and discovered the strong minty fragrance of wintergreen. We learned the difference between pine, fir, and spruce trees. We climbed fallen trees, squatted

down to peer into tree hollows, and examined exposed root systems. We collected myriad leaves to press, do colorful rubbings, transform into lanterns, and of course, jump into.

While traipsing through trails and trees, there is a focus on recognizing that we are in Mi'kma'ki. That we are on ancestral lands that had been conserved for thousands of years, and that nature provides

us with gifts to be treated with respect and gratitude. These principles are combined with learning Mi'kmaq legends and the ancient skills of survival that depended on a connection with nature.

We also delved a little deeper into the Earth-centered tradition of Paganism and learned the year-round rituals aimed to connect ourselves with Mother Earth. These are described in the Wheel of the Year, comprised of eight Sabbats or festivals that occur on or around the same day each year. These festivals, either related to solar events or seasonal changes,



celebrate the sacred circle of life. We compared this wheel of seasonal rituals with a phenology wheel, used as a visual representation of seasonal changes we see and experience from month to month. Whether as a naturalist or spiritual pursuit, this exercise shows that the rhythms of nature are interconnected with each other and ourselves.

In November, we celebrate the Sabbat of Samhain, and continue to gain a wider perspective and deeper connection to the cycles of the natural world.

Marie-Claude Leroux Director Religious Exploration for Children & Youth

The Music Page



Welcome to a new month of music!

Music in our congregation is like a glue that keeps us together. It is a bond that connects us through celebration and times of joy! More importantly, music helps us mourn and heal together. So, let's join together and navigate this new world through song, dance, and laughter!

Our annual Coffeehouse will be held on November 28th at 7 pm. Performers from past Soulful Sundown services, George Woodhouse, and last year's Coffeehouse musician Jocelyn MacNeil (Tall Poppy) will entertain us again! Musicians from Tall Poppy's open mic event (Open Mac) also, will show us their musical talents.

The Coffeehouse is not only for outside musicians! Last year we heard from the Afterchoir and other members of our talented congregation! Please contact me if you are interested in participating (music, poetry, submitting art).

A limited number of musicians will be socially distanced in the sanctuary and ballroom, while the audience safely enjoy the music from their homes through Zoom and YouTube. For those of you who don't have a way to view or participate in this event, please let me know and we can arrange viewing parties.

Thank you to **James Morris and Jim Morrison** for representing the Afterchoir during October's Sunday services—and as always, a big thank you to **John Piccolo** who makes us sound even better for you at home.

Always remember, music accepts everyone, does not judge, and welcomes you into a safe, therapeutic space of creativity and community!



Jessica Friesen
Music Director

Directory Updates

New:

New address HUH, Mia 204–12 Spinnaker Drive Halifax, NS, B3N 3A8

New email address WOOLAVER, Avard

avardwoolaver@gmail.com

Repeats:

Correct email address
BUTLER, Stephen

butlerstephen205@gmail.com

New phone number McFADYEN, Helen

902-329-7942

Correct address PATERSON, John 222-2615 Northwood Terrace Halifax, NS B3K 3S5

New friend SIGNER-ROMERO, Kira krsigner@gmail.com

New address

WATTS, Heather & Derek 902-404-9110 Melville Heights heather.watts@eastlink.ca 105-24 Ramsgate Lane Halifax, NS, B3P 2R6



The deadline for submissions for the DECEMBER NEWSLETTER is 12 noon Wednesday, November 25th.

Please send your submissions to Etta Hamm, braeside@eastlink.ca



CUC Online Event Reminders

Connect and Deepen, Nov 8, 22, 5 pm AT

A regular small group ministry. We gather virtually for meaningful discussion, con-nection and reflection. If you are not connected to a local congregation, or just want the opportunity to explore spiritual topics within a guided small group we encourage you to join us.

Black Lives Matter, Dec 2, 8-10 pm AT

Part 2 of a Roundtable series. Undoing systemic racism takes new awareness, creativity and commitment. Sharing in an anti-racism exercise helps identify issues of systemic racism and opens paths towards right relations. Registration by **Nov 18** is required for this one.

Find more information – and more events at **cuc.ca**

American Citizens: Vote from Abroad



The UUCH community includes a number of people who are American citizens and are thus eligible to vote in the upcoming U.S. elections. Are you part of this group? Go to **VoteFromAbroad.org** (a nonpartisan, nonprofit org.) or **fpav.gov** (the Federal Voting Assistance Program) to request your ballot and vote electronically.

American citizens can vote even if they have not lived there for many years—and even if they have *never* lived in the U.S. Dual citizens of the U.S. and Canada can vote in both countries. Please remind your American friends and family to register, or confirm their registration, and return their ballots now!

P.S. This just in...

We are sorry to learn that our friends **Giulia Bonasio**, **Daniele Turchetti and baby Cosimo** are moving to England on October 31, as Giulia got a permanent job as assistant professor at Durham University.

Giulia and Daniele have enjoyed Halifax but they miss Europe and their parents in Italy. They feel it is important for Cosimo to grow up close to his extended family, especially his grandparents who were unable to visit them in Halifax because of COVID.



They thank the members of the UUCH for making them feel very welcome in our community, and would like to keep in touch from time to time. I'm sure we all send our best wishes to Giulia and Daniele in their new lives in Durham.

Sylvia Mattinson, Caring Committee Chair

