



newsletter of the universalist unitarian church of halifax

Vol. 51, No 2
October 2016

Universalist Unitarian
Church of Halifax
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Rev. Norm Horofker
Minister
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Cell 902-229-9239

Sandra Jamieson
Office Administrator
Office hours
Mon 11-3, Wed, Fri 9:30-3

Deborah Wiggins
Music Director

RE Director-vacant

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 October – Blessings

October 2

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Louise Malloch

A Blessing of the Animals

October 4 is a day set aside in the Christian Church to celebrate Saint Francis of Assisi, famous for his connection to animals. Today we will honour that tradition as members and friends of the congregation are invited to bring their well-behaved pets into the sanctuary. As an alternative, members and friends may wish to bring a photograph to share.

October 9

Presenter: Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Wynne Jordan

Thanksgiving Sunday Service

Thornton Wilder wrote: "We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures." Come out today prepared to be enlivened by an awareness of our most basic and important treasures.

October 16

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker and Jane Woolaver; Service Assistant: Mia Huh

Celebrating the Blessing of World Community

October 24 is United Nation's Day. The UN is an agency with many connections to Unitarian Universalism. Jane Woolaver, one of our younger members and Rev. Norm Horofker (let's just say, a senior) will explore the idea of the UN as a blessing we dare not take for granted.

October 23

Presenters: Kathy Spencer, Louise Malloch, Peter Bateman, Deborah Wiggins, Margaret Matthews, Brian MacDonald; Service Leader: Dean White

Personal Reflections on Spirituality and Religion

Spirituality without religion can be just as rich and varied as spirituality with it. There are many reasons why people become disenchanted with organized religion, but most continue to yearn for something more than a life of materialism, for something that gives deeper happiness and meaning, something they call "spiritual." Several members will share their view on what spirituality means to them.

October 30

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

A World Without Death

The end of October is associated with death: in the Christian tradition, the triduum of Halloween, All Saint's Day, All Souls Day; in pagan traditions, Samhain; and in Mexico, The Day of the Dead. This Sunday we will use this special time on the calendar to consider what life without death would be like. Is death the ultimate blessing?



October 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:30 am Music 12 pm Worship Com.	3	4	5 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	6 9:30-11:30 Parents & Tots 	7	8
9 No music 12 pm Soc Responsibility	10 3 pm Thanksgiving Dinner 	11	4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	13 9:30-11:30 Parents & Tots	14	15
16 No music 12 pm Humanist Group 12 pm Intro to UUism with Rev. Norm	17	18	19 Committee Reports are due 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	20 9:30-11:30 Parents & tots 6:30 Board Meeting	21	22 3 pm Celebration of Life for Bunny Turner, Halifax Grammar School
23 9:45 am Music	24 10 am Newsletter deadline	25	26 4:45-6:15 pm Afterchoir	27 9:30-11:30 Parents & Tots	28	29 Hike: Suzie Lake
30 9:45 am Music (upstairs) 12pm Semi-annual General Meeting	31  Halloween					

Annual Thanksgiving Dinner at UUCH – Monday, October 10th, 3 pm



This spirited potluck event (with 30+ people already signed up!) is for anyone who wants to celebrate Thanksgiving with friends old and new.

Already promised, we have: two cooked turkeys & gravy—and two pumpkin pies, two salads, and three veggie dishes including the essential brussels sprouts!

All the rest is potluck but with a little coordination! Please contact Marilyn at marilyn.shinyei@eastlink.ca or **902-827-4707** to let us know:

***How many people are in your party** (family and

friends are most welcome).

***What food and drink items you'll contribute.** Don't cook or bake? Consider bringing milk, cream, butter, dinner rolls, pickles, cranberry sauce or pies.

***How your party can help**—decorating, setting up, taking down and/or, importantly, cleaning up.

We could use mashed potatoes, stuffing, more veggies, more salads, cranberry sauce and more dessert items. **Please bring your items already cooked.** We can warm them or keep them warm in the oven but actually cooking them at the church would cause congestion.

You are welcome to bring your own wine.

Minister's Notes



I am writing this report from the cottage that my father built about the time I was born. The cottage is on the shores of Lake Superior, outside of Thunder Bay Ontario. For me, there is no better place in the world for quiet reflection.

I come to this spot having just officiated at the wedding of my oldest daughter, Marta and after learning of the death of long time member of our congregation, Bunny Turner. Among the things I planned to do in Thunder Bay was to visit an old friend Bob Cameron. In the middle of writing this report I got a call from his son telling me that Bob had just died and asking me to attend at the grave side tomorrow. At this moment, I feel very much a finite part of the circle of life.

I believe that our congregation is in a good place as we begin our 180th year in Halifax. I am not sure of the exact path ahead, but I feel that some of the things we are doing now, are important pieces of the puzzle. The first four of these puzzle pieces were targeted at our recent Leadership Retreat.

The work we are doing together to define the future of our building and our relationship to any building, is one puzzle piece. The simple act of opening the church on Saturday's to serve coffee to our neighbours has become a major ministry. With the help of church members and friends we have expanded to serve a beautiful Saturday morning brunch as a gift to ourselves and our neighbours. At brunch we serve a wide variety to people. Some are struggling to get by on social assistance while dealing with mental health issues. I am learning more about what can be done to help and what changes are needed. We can be, and should be a blessing to our neighbours.

The ideas of growth and mission can become a discussion of chicken and egg, and like that old metaphor, it really doesn't matter... you need both the chicken and the egg, to create new vital life. At our recent retreat we explored the idea of offering the Our Whole Lives program on human sexuality to the Halifax community. I believe this can be a critical piece of the puzzle over the next year or two. Our community needs this program, and the open discussion it could generate around issues of sexuality. How do we give meaning to human sexuality in an ever increasing exploitive world?

Another piece of the puzzle is the question of using the word Church in our name. Is the world church exclusive and is it a barrier to many who would otherwise be interested in our community and its message?

There are two other pieces that I am paying attention to. I continue to struggle to find my prophetic voice in a world that is awash in opinions. I believe that our outreach to the Mi'kmaq Friendship Centre will be another piece of the puzzle and will help us all to identify issues and strategies that can help us to find meaning in all the competing visions and agendas. Canadian Unitarian Universalists made a commitment to the Truth and Reconciliation Process and we will honour that.

Finally, one Sunday before long you will come into the sanctuary and share an interactive service live with the UU congregation in Fredericton! I think the process will generate new energy and give us new insights into what it means to build a church (or other named spiritual community) in these times.

I look forward to working with all of these puzzle pieces and more...

Rev. Norm Horofker



**The Semi-annual General Meeting of the UUCH
will be held on Sunday, October 30, 2016, at noon.**

The meeting will conduct the following business:

1. Business arising from the minutes of the May 2016 Annual General Meeting.
2. Receive and approve reports from the Minister, the various officers and committees.
3. Adoption of a budget for the 2017 calendar year.
4. Adoption of the Annual Financial Campaign.
5. Appointment/confirmation of the Nominating Committee to identify candidates for the 2017/2018 officers and members of the Board of Management.
6. Other business as may be raised before or at the meeting.

Members-only vote on motions, but non-members are most welcome to attend.

*Kim Turner, President
UUCH Board of Directors*

Reports please!

**Committee reports are due in my Inbox by 10 am, Wednesday, Oct 19th.
Early submissions would be most helpful.**

Your cooperation will enable me to:

1. Compile your reports in the right order.
2. Include your reports on the agenda.
3. Email a complete agenda and package of reports out via UUinfo on Friday, October 21st.

On the 21st I also print a number of hard copies of the agenda and all reports and staple them together in sets. Don't miss the opportunity of having your report(s) included.

A number of SAGM packages will be available by request on Sunday the 23rd, one week prior to the meeting. This timeline is normal and expected business practise.

To minimize the over-use and expense of paper, anyone taking a set on the 18th might try to resist the temptation of taking a second set at the meeting.

Thank you for your cooperation.

*Sandra Jamieson
uuchurch@eastlink.ca*

**From the Annual UUCH Leadership Retreat
held at the Atlantic School of Theology
August 27**



During the afternoon session there was a guided discussion following-up on our “Commitment to Growth” workshop in 2014.

The session, led by facilitator Ron Pizzo, used a matrix to explain “away” moves and “toward” moves, as well as the observable world and the mental or inner world. The graph can help you decide what you should do, depending on the question. You look at your possible responses and see if they take you closer or further away from your goal.

A ‘group’ matrix uses the same graph but the questions change depending on the context. For example: What is our shared purpose? Given our interest in growth, a new building, and outreach, what should our focus be, given our limited resources? What should our “toward” moves be?

For our discussion we re-visited the 2014 Growth Workshop and the priorities that came out of it: Growth context: Shared purpose, joyous, inspirational, inclusive, community, social justice, supportive space, personal spiritual growth. Growth is described as creating community.

What showed up for our “inner” world: Fear of change, preference for the status quo, uncertainty in direction, time and energy, too many things, not enough people.

Away moves: never-ending debate, avoidance and/or withdrawal from issues, burnout.

Other ideas or themes:

There was an extended discussion over using the term “church”.

The lack of a plan to welcome and involve new members was described as an “away” move.

“What gets in the way?” When does trying to get consensus become an impediment?

How can we express who we are in new ways? What about letting old things die to open the way to new ones?

What are we going to do and when? How will we know?

The group broke into three groups to further discuss the options.

From the group discussions:

We should host a salon this fall on the use of “church” in our name, so there can be a discussion at the SAGM. Then perhaps a vote could be taken at the next AGM. The Board should select someone to host the salon.

Get behind the idea of offering the ***OWL program as a way to promote the Religious Exploration program.*** We should submit an application to the West Bequest by the end of September.

Try to fill key vacancies including a Communications chair or perhaps an Outreach coordinator. Look into hiring a PR student who could do some social media. We also need a dynamic Membership & Outreach Committee.

The Board should conduct an audit by talking to committee chairs to identify gaps.

Dealing with building/property options is using time and resources. We should have a report with recommendations by the end of January 2017.

***Pam Berman
Secretary
UUCH Board of Directors***



The Caring Column

Bunny (Florence Irene) Turner, a long time Unitarian and member of our church, passed away on September 17th.

Bunny and Patrick moved to Nova Scotia in 1995 to be close to their daughter Kim and her family, and

their son Chris and his family in New Brunswick. Bunny had a special gift for making everyone she met feel special, welcome and loved. She was our church archivist for many years; she donated china cups, saucers and silverware to the church which we use at most memorial services we host. A Celebration of Life Tea will be held on Oct 22 at 3 pm at the Halifax Grammar School, Tower Road, Halifax. Sincere condolences to Bunny's family and her many friends.

Deborah Wiggins' brother Derek Currie died on September 10th in Toronto after a lengthy illness. Deborah's words; "He was a musician and a poet, and as well as being gentle and kind, he had a wickedly clever sense of humour! His loss is mourned by a large family and many friends." Heartfelt condolences to Deborah and Devin for the loss of a brother and uncle.

Alice "June" Matthews died on August 29th at the age of 83. She was Pam Berman's mother-in-law, David Matthews' mother, and Ben and Jessy's grandmother. Jessy sang Amazing Grace beautifully and Ben did a reading at her service. We send our condolences to the family.

Georges Merinfeld is in the QEII Hospital with a medical condition. He is improving and hopes to return home soon. We send Georges healing thoughts and wishes for a speedy recovery.

Peter Davison, whom many of you may remember as a friend of this church, recently published *The Gift of the Hit*, a collection of essays from twenty contributors, about the gift that comes from facing a personal challenge. Peter writes of his own "hit" which was Parkinson's disease. Our friend **Sheila Morrison** contributed a story about supporting a family member living with severe mental illness. Sheila has copies of the book for sale (\$20) and will donate all proceeds to the Canadian Mental Health Association, Halifax Branch, an organization that has provided her with much support over the years. This uplifting book would make a great Christmas gift. Contact Sheila at shelovah@hotmail.com or 902-429-8094.

Norm and Janet Horofker were in Toronto for the wedding of their oldest daughter Marta to Rob Engel on Saturday, September 17th. The event took place at the Gladstone Hotel with a gathering of about 60 of Rob and Marta's family and friends. Rob and Marta left the following Monday for a honeymoon in Japan. Rob is the son of Tom and Amber-Lee Engel of Edmonton. Norm and Janet's other daughter Kayla was married April 30th to Andy Preston. Norm officiated at both weddings and avoided breaking down in tears... for the most part.

Elizabeth Greenhavens would like to thank the many church members who help her and visit with her. She really appreciates it.

Mary Ellen Onno

Religious Exploration



The RE committee is sad to inform the congregation that Christy-Lee Bojarski has resigned from the position of Director of Religious Exploration. We will miss her.

We will be looking to replace her as DRE, but in the meantime, the volunteers will run the classes, using the theme of Blessing during the month of October. We will be offering two classes when we have the volunteers to manage it, and ask for the patience of the older students during this disrupted period.

We could certainly use some assistance; if you've ever considered volunteering for the RE program, this would be a very helpful time for you to step up!

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact me.

Louise Malloch
Religious Exploration Chair

Suzie Lake Hike, October 29

The October hike will take place on Saturday, October 29th and will explore the shoreline of Susie Lake, the largest lake within the proposed Blue Mountain-Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Park.

The trail leads to a high granite outcrop with a spectacular view of the lake and the surrounding forests. An additional walk takes us to a sheltered cove fed by a forest stream—a favourite swimming spot during the summer months. Let's hope the fall colours will treat us to a good show this late in the month.



A UU group at Suzie Lake, September 2011

The trail is somewhat rough, with granite outcrops in some places, and muddy at times—but more frequently through mature forests. It is of moderate difficulty with respect to roots and rocks.

Meet at the church at 12:40 or at the northeast edge of the parking lot for Kent Building Supplies at Bayer's Lake Park. If you are lost or running late, contact me at 902-483-4731.

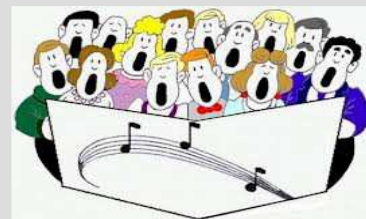
Allyn Clarke

Verses and Vittles Through the Years Saturday, November 12, 5 pm

To celebrate our 179th anniversary, an exciting evening of food and music awaits you — **Verses and Vittles Through the Years** because it covers a variety of foods and music going back to our first sermon preached in Halifax in 1837!



There will also be a strong sing-along component between courses, so you can join everyone with gusto if so inclined. Good for the digestion.



\$25 per person.
Discounts for families
of 3 or more.

**Tickets available from
Kathy Spencer
& Deborah Wiggins.**

Make sure this gets on your calendar!



Music Montage

“You don’t get harmony when everybody sings the same note.” ~ Doug Floyd



October's 'Singing as We Gather'

The Gathering Hymn for October is #355 *We Lift Our Hearts in Thanks*. October’s theme is *Blessing*, and it is also the month in which we celebrate Thanksgiving. We also recognize United Nations Day in October! This hymn covers all of these well. It starts by inviting us to ‘*lift our hearts in thanks today for all the gifts of life*’, and names many blessings as examples, including “*peace that turns away the enmities of strife*”. I especially like the final verse; “*And, most, the gifts of hope and love, of wisdom, truth, and right, the gifts that shine like stars above to chart the world by night.*”

Themed Music Projects

I am continuing with Themed Music Projects this church year and I invite you to come out and sing with us. Just commit to one month at a time. You do not need to know how to read music. This newsletter, each month, outline the next month’s Music Project.

October’s Music Project is on Sunday, October 2nd with rehearsal at 9:30 am.

The November Music Project will be on Sunday, November 6th.

Rehearsals for this music will be as follows:

- Sunday, October 23 at 9:45 am
- Sunday, October 30 at 9:45 am (upstairs)
- Sunday, November 6 at 9:30 am

****Please note:*** *I will be away on Sundays October 9th and 16th, while on holiday from October 5th to 18th inclusive. A special thank you to Allison Bolton for playing the piano on these Sundays, as well as during my unexpected absence in September due to a death in my family.*

Exciting November event

In another part of this newsletter is an invitation to ***Verses & Vittles***, a special dinner and musical evening on Saturday November 12th to celebrate UUCH’s 179th anniversary. Don’t miss it!

Deborah Wiggins



**Wilderness Enthusiasts
Photographic Art Exhibition
Ballroom Gallery, UU Church of Halifax
September 25 to November 27, 2016**

“The most creative gift, you have to offer the world is your life.” ~ From 1001 Ways to Creativity.

Inspiration: The Earth Day service and its stunning overhead slides



Hearty congratulations to: Paul Galbraith, Allyn Clarke, Kim Turner, Avard Woolaver and Faith Piccolo.

Personally, I am waiting on pins and needles in anticipation to see what intriguing photography you have brought us. Moreover, I am keen to know what you have shared, either in writing or revealed in the photography itself, about your unique lifestyles with nature. For example, imagine one of the above mentioned wilderness enthusiasts embarking on a midnight kayaking excursion to go star-gazing. Followed-up only five hours later, again by kayak, to explore the shoreline for wildlife, camera at the ready, only to discover it was a raccoon. Does this individual not require sleep like the rest of us? The words *passion* and *intoxication* for the grand outdoors come to mind.

Some folk are obviously made of stronger stuff than others, a quality referred to as a pioneering spirit, being a true Canadian, courageous and adventuresome!

Enjoy the show!

Ella Wilson

Stepping Down

“One of the most creative acts you can perform is to encourage and inspire others in their creative endeavours.” — “Creativity is not in competition with anyone else or anything else. It is happy to be just what it is.” ~ Also from 1001 Ways to Creativity.

As I step down from the role of Ballroom Coordinator, I wish to say that there are so many people who deserve a huge round of applause. Please pat yourself on the back, those who have shaped our Inglis Street Gallery for what it is. All artists whose precious art work graced our walls and made our UU Church so welcoming and inviting. Lastly, all you art lovers appreciators, the curious, and art patrons.

Personally, I am very thankful to Faith Piccolo, Scott Donovan and Michael Seary, Etta Hamm, Avard Woolaver, Allyn Clarke and Devin Murphy.

I have spent eight delightful, rewarding years using my art teaching experience, inspiring and encouraging others to play and experiment with art media and ideas. It won't come as a surprise to hear of my own daily search for inspiration.

Speaking of things inspirational, yet another newly discovered artist is walking among us. Avard will no doubt reveal all, in good time. Art is fascinating and complex, and thus we are learning new things together.

Note: A binder containing all pertinent information regarding the operation of the Ballroom Gallery will be ready soon.

Ella Wilson



Thanks for your support

A big **THANK YOU** to all who donated generously for their coffee after church on Sunday, September 25th. The **Alzheimer Society of Nova Scotia** will make good use of our total of \$110.00.

To learn more about Alzheimer's disease and various forms of dementia, go to www.alzheimer.ca. Read up on the brain, the 10 warning signs, getting a diagnosis, and much more. Dementia affects families and friends as well as the person with the disease. Learn how to help, support and reassure someone you may know who is living with dementia

If anyone else wants to hold a coffee party of their own to support the Alzheimer Society, we have leftover publicity materials available. Just contact or see me.

Margaret Galbraith

Rainbow Flags still missing



Still searching for nine small flags missing and three larger ones from the Pride Parade. Please return them to me; it is important that we get them back for next year. You can find me in the office after the service recycling unused envelopes. Thanks.

Kay Smith

Note for your Church Directory

Scott Wood has moved; his new coordinates are as follows:

WOOD, K. Scott & Susan Rolston 903-823-2191
287 Boutilier's Cove Rd. C: 902-495-8290

Hackett's Cove, NS B3Z 3J6
kswood@gmail.com

To have new or changed contact information published in the newsletter and/or the 2017 church directory, see me after church—or contact me at 902-443-8779 or braeside@eastlink.ca.

Etta Hamm

Wanted, Nominating Chair

I have been your Nominating chair for the past 3 years and feel I am one year past my best-before date, so I am casting the net for my replacement.

Nominating (a committee of three) recruits, primarily, members to serve on the board of directors.

It is normal practise for the chair and two other members to be announced at the Semi-annual Meeting (coming up October 30th). The committee then has the task of identifying replacements for board members whose terms expire at the AGM in May (e.g., 2017). Let me know (a.s.a.p!) if you are interested in being Nominating chair and your name will be considered by the board.

Etta Hamm



Did you know that www.cuc.ca gives you direct access to the websites and newsletters of 46 UU congregations across Canada? Have a look and see what other UU churches are doing. You could get ideas ... 😊



The deadline for submissions for the November newsletter is **10 am, Monday, October 24th.**

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



Eastern Regional Fall Gathering 2016, October 22

Hosted by Lakeshore UU Congregation

“Heart, Heads, and Hands”

A one-day event with optional activities Saturday evening and Sunday morning worship, hosted by Lakeshore UU Congregation. Saturday’s program takes place at Beaconsfield United Church, 202 Woodside Rd, Beaconsfield QC.



Lakeshore UU Church, Lachine, QC



Beaconsfield United Church, Beaconsfield, QC

Program Streams

Being UU

What does it mean to be a UU? Different people come to UU congregations for different reasons and with different understandings of what the community is and how they will engage with it. What are the key elements of your UU identity? How does being UU make a difference in your life? Who would you be if you weren’t a UU? Participants will share their perspectives and hear how others respond to these questions. Be prepared to open your mind and your heart!

Money and Meaning, facilitated by Rev. Linda Thomson

Money is a tricky business in our culture. Many believe it is unseemly to talk about it, but the reality is that without money our congregations can’t function. How we do talk about it says a lot about who we are. How can we get beyond our uneasy relationship with the topic of money?

UUs in the World, facilitated by April Hope

Participants will consider some of the ways our UU communities live their values in the larger community. There will be time set aside to experience some of the activities from the Truth and Reconciliation reflection guide. We’ll also spend time considering how our social action efforts can strengthen congregational cohesion.

There will also be lots of social time on Friday and Saturday evenings and a shared worship service on Sunday morning, with opportunity to join the choir.

Registration \$60 – 70.

For more information and registration:

