

## WHERE LAND AND SEA MEET

Reflections on the life and lives of a religious community

by Rev. David M. Horst

*The Listening Place:* This is a good way to describe our Meeting House when we gather for worship and learning on Sunday morning. We come to listen to words that enlighten, music that inspires, ideas that challenge, and prayers that comfort. True, we add our voices to the words, hymns, and prayers; but listening is the heart of worship.

When we listen in worship with our full attention, we put aside – at least for a little while! – the distractions of everyday life. When we listen, we let the words, music, ideas, and prayers penetrate our veneer of confident knowing into the deeper place of wonder and desire. When we truly listen, the heart *hears* truly.

“Deep calls to deep” the Psalmist cries, longing for divine help and assurance in a time of want. Today, for us, the deeper place of calling is what impels us to journey to the Meeting House every Sunday morning to gather for worship. No less than our ancient forebears, we too cry out to the divine – often finding it right here, among us, in each other.

The deeper calling is not the way of the world. We are a pragmatic bunch. We want to fix what’s broken, right the wrongs, set people straight, do our work, and get on with the business at hand. Listening seems passive and unproductive; but *engaged* listening is one of the most active and productive experiences we can ever know. When we listen we honor the words, the music, the ideas, and the prayers that are offered to us as gifts. When we listen to others – person-to-person, face-to-face – we open ourselves to a new way of understanding the world through another’s experience and their expression of that experience in their story.

I’ve been doing a lot of listening since I washed ashore two months ago. I’ve heard stories of personal successes and tragedies; stories of your accomplishments as a congregation as well as your losses; stories of this remarkable island, past and present, fact and myth. Every story is honest and true in and

*(continued on page 3)*



JOIN US AT 10:45 A.M.  
FOR SERVICES EACH  
SUNDAY “UNDER THE  
GOLD DOME.”

Sunday, October 2  
“Learning for Life”  
Rev. David M. Horst

Sunday, October 9  
“Covenant Sunday”  
Rev. David M. Horst

Sunday, October 16  
“Blessing of the Animals”  
Rev. David M. Horst

Sunday, October 23  
“Food for Thought”  
Lay-Led Fourth Sunday

Sunday, October 30  
“United Nations Sunday”  
Rev. David M. Horst

Families Welcome!  
Sunday School  
for Children Each Week

You Are Cordially Invited to Attend the  
**“2012 Congregational Pledge Lunch Launch”**  
Sunday, October 9 ~ Noon ~ Activities Room



A Great Social Time ~ Scrumptious Food ~ Scintillating Entertainment ~ Stirring Talks

*Come one, come all and bring your appetites!  
Fall means reclaiming our island and seeing more of our friends. What better place to do it than  
at the annual Lunch Launch for next year's pledge campaign. Childcare provided.*

## Finance Committee Update

by Jack Weinhold, Treasurer and Brian Girard, Finance Committee Chair

The Finance Committee is in the early stage of preparation for the 2012 budget submission. Key concerns focus on redefining roles of program committees and what is meant by a budget: authority to spend? Authority to reallocate?

Of even greater concern for 2012 budgeting is the attrition in membership, some members have deceased and some moved away. The effect of that will be \$25,000 less in pledges for next year. 2012 will also be the second year of reducing the use of reserve funds for the operating budget, which means another \$12,500 less income. And finally, 2011 income, which will be a starting point for an income estimate for the 2012 budget, is projected to be down by \$10,000. Our budget challenge this fall is to accommodate this \$47,500 decrease in income.

Thankfully we are a financially resourceful congregation, and we are not sounding an alarm, just a call to begin a thoughtful process among the board and congregation.

We do see some encouraging signs: The possibility of having some of the new and returning members become new and/or larger pledges for 2012. The exciting ground work and marketing plans that are forming for the pledge campaign. And the long hours put in by the fundraising committee that will begin to have greater effect next year. We are already seeing signs of growth for the congregation, and growth in members is what will ultimately allow us to fund the activities and infrastructure of the congregation as we now enjoy it.

The Finance Committee is a planning and reporting function that advises the Board on financial issues. As we enter this critical planning phase for 2012 we invite input, ideas and imagination for ways to balance budgets, increase participation, enhance programs, and attract generosity.

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of itself; yet the range of perspectives and insights is astonishing. I realize there is no way I'll be able to create an all-encompassing narrative, but rather a story of many strands that make a whole cloth of personal, congregational, and community life on this island.

I want to invite you to develop your engaged listening skills with me in an eight-week program for adults, *Evensong*, beginning on Monday evening, October 10 from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Combining music, spiritual practice, and dialogue, this classic Unitarian Universalist spirituality program helps you explore your life journey through the sharing of your thoughts, experiences, beliefs, and doubts about religion and faith. Please sign up soon; space is limited to 15 participants.

If you cannot participate in the *Evensong* program, consider all of the opportunities you have for engaged listening every day: During worship, at a concert, in coffee hour conversations, at work, around the dinner table, and in quiet moments when your thoughts and feelings can finally be heard. Listen with your whole heart – the heart of compassion, generosity, and openness.

*Listen!* You'll be surprised at what you hear. You'll be even more surprised at the ways your life can change.

*"Where land and sea meet" is my Nantucket analogy for congregational life. A church lives in a tidal zone where our private and public lives meet and converge like the meeting place of the land and sea.*

## Building & Grounds Update

by Bob Lehman, Building & Grounds Chair

Summer's over and the church still stands. The new minister and his family are installed at the parsonage and the dim blue bulb above the Hendrix Hall pulpit is now shining bright. There are new light timers, and door stops installed. The handicap ramp is power washed.

Next, the gang will be working on buttoning up the church and grounds for the winter. In preparing to move down in to Hendrix Hall for winter services we are hoping to clean and dry out the carpets. There has even been talk of painting the hall.

All of this will take time, manpower and money. If you can supply any or all of the above we welcome your input at our monthly meetings, which take place the first Wednesday of every month at 5:15 p.m. in the Activities Room.

Thank you for your consideration and thanks to those members of the committee who have shown a steadfast participation.



## Religious Education Roundup

by Sally Ure and Lizie Hagenstein, RE Directors

Sunday, October 2, is our Annual Pancake Brunch and Registration for Sunday School, which takes place in the activities room immediately follow the worship service and religious education. The congregation is cordially invited to join the Lifespan Religious Education (LRE) Committee, the Directors of Religious Education, Lizie Hagenstein and Sally Ure, and friends of LRE for a pancakes, fruit, and bacon brunch. While we eat, parents can learn about the Religious Education program and sign up their children and teens. See you there!

## Music Notes

by Marcia Hempel, Music Director



There are a number of special music events during the month of October.

On Sunday, October 2, I'll present a Ragtime Organ Concert at 4 p.m. featuring "swing style" ragtime pieces by Scott Joplin, Joseph Lamb, Thomas Broady, E.J. Stark, James Chapman, Eubie Blake and George Cobb.

On Monday, October 3, Bob and Diane Lehman will perform the last Noonday Concert of their series. It is entitled "Broadway Favorites and Sing-Along." The suggested donation is \$10 for the church.

On Saturday, October 8, the 19th Annual Pipe Organ Crawl concerts will take place from 9:15 a.m. to 2 p.m. featuring the six historic pipe organs on the island played by local and visiting master organists. Marcia Hempel will play the Goodrich organ at 1:30 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Nantucket Community Music Center and participating churches.

On Saturday, October 15, the Saturday Choir (Children's Choir for children 7 years of age and up) begins at 2 p.m. and meets until 2:45. Some titles that we will be singing are *One Small Voice*, *With Hearts Open Wide*, *Here Comes The Sun*, *From the Seed In The Ground*, *Say What You Want* and *My Heart is Ready*. We will also be preparing Christmas music.



## Welcome, Kim LaRue!

We welcome Kim N. LaRue as our new Office Administrator and Receptionist. An island native, Kim returns to Nantucket after serving as Office Manager and Assistant to the Director at the Pine Hill Child Care Center in Peterborough, New Hampshire since 2008.

From 2004 to 2008 Kim worked at the Nantucket Community Music Center as Operations Coordinator and Assistant to the Executive Director. She has also served as a volunteer on the Board of the Alliance for Substance and Abuse Prevention on Nantucket. Kim brings 20 years of administrative and bookkeeping experience to fill this important staff position.

With the hiring of Kim, the Office Administrator and Receptionist position has been upgraded to a 20-hour-a-week position. She is responsible for welcoming church visitors and callers, maintaining the church calendar, overseeing building rentals, assisting with payroll and bookkeeping, coordinating office volunteers, and a variety of administrative tasks.

Upon the recommendation of the Personnel Committee, the Board of Trustees approved Kim's hiring at its Sept. 13 meeting.

Kim N. LaRue  
Office Administrator and Receptionist  
Office Hours  
Mon. - Fri.  
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
508-228-5466

Members of the Youth Group enjoyed an ice cream social and favorite games (including Hello, Harry!) recently in the Activities Room. Shown here are Abby, Bianca, Lizie, Leah, Sally, Anna, and (front row) Sam, and Chloe. Also taking part but not shown are Molly and Ally. (Photo by Catherine Hull)

## Religious Education and Music for All Ages Starts October 2

We begin our fall schedule of religious education and music programs for all ages beginning on Sunday morning, October 2. Come to the 10:45 a.m. worship service to learn more about the educational and music programs. Rev. Horst introduces lifespan religious education in his sermon, "Learning for Life." A pancake brunch, organized by the Lifespan Religious Education Committee, follows the morning program.

Worship and learning go hand in hand on Sunday mornings. During religious education with Sally and Lizie, children and youth learn about and discuss the same topics as the adults in worship. Respect for animals, the meaning of "covenant," the importance of the United Nations, the principles of the Unitarian Universalist faith, the purpose of "giving thanks," holiday traditions from around the world, and the wonder and joy of Christmas are the learning opportunities offered this fall.

Music Director Marcia Hempel welcomes singers of all ages and abilities to join the adult or children's choirs. The adult choir rehearses on Thursday evenings at 5:15 p.m. and Sunday mornings at 10 and performs regularly at Sunday morning services. The children's choir – open to children ages seven and up – begins Saturday afternoon rehearsals on October 15 at 2 p.m. with additional rehearsals scheduled on Sundays following the morning worship and religious education programs.

Rev. Horst offers two adult learning opportunities this fall: The New UU (Unitarian Universalist) introduces the history, beliefs, and practices of the Unitarian Universalist liberal faith tradition. The program is scheduled on Saturday, October 15, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the church. A light lunch is provided and childcare is available upon request.

*Evensong*, an eight-week series of gatherings that combines music, spiritual practice, and dialogue begins on Monday



evening, October 10, from 6 – 7:30 p.m. This classic Unitarian Universalist spirituality program helps individuals explore their life journeys through the sharing of thoughts, experiences, beliefs, and doubts about religion and faith. Advance registration requested. Individuals and families may register for all of these programs on October 2.

## South Church Preservation Fund Report

by Dr. Leslie W. Ottinger, SCPF Board President

Work to establish and fund a Permanent Maintenance Fund for the Meeting House is now actively underway. We plan to complete fundraising for it over the next six months. Assistance with this is, of course, very welcome.

A new committee has been set up for the purpose. Its members are Gayle Blumenberg, Jenny Garneau, Mark Goldweitz, Joan S. Ottinger (Chairperson), Leslie W. Ottinger, M.D., James W. Sutherland, Marina J. Sutro, Rev. David M. Horst (Interim Minister), The Rev. Ted Anderson (Minister Emeritus), Kevin F. Dale (Legal Advisor), and William P. Hourihan Jr. (Financial Advisor).



# October Calendar of Services

**October 2 @ 10:45 a.m.**

**Learning for Life – Rev. David M. Horst (Sanctuary)**

Lifespan religious education is integral to the vitality of a Unitarian Universalist congregation. We are responsible for teaching our children and youth good moral and religious values, giving them the tools and vocabulary to make good choices in their lives. Given the conservative turn in our country's religious and cultural life, the need to teach our children tolerance, openness, respect, and compassion is more urgent than ever. Come be a part of the conversation. Following their participation at the beginning of the service, our children and youth gather and discuss how Unitarian Universalist principles and purposes can help guide their thinking and actions. The Adult Choir will sing *Come to the Music*.

**October 9 @ 10:45 a.m.**

**Covenant Sunday – Rev. David M. Horst (Upstairs Sanctuary)**

Today we begin the annual pledge campaign when members and friends of the congregation ask each other they what value most in their religious community and how they can support the ongoing vision and mission of the congregation. In his sermon, Rev. Horst continues the conversation he began in September with his sermon "The Covenants We Keep." During religious education, children and youth also discuss the idea of "covenant" and what it means to be a part of a religious community and ways they can contribute. The Adult Choir will sing *For the Beauty of the Earth*.

**Monday, October 10 @ 6 – 7:30 p.m.**

**Evensong (Hendrix Hall)**

Rev. Horst begins an eight-week series of gatherings for adults combining music, spiritual practice, and dialogue. Advance registration requested.

**October 16 @ 10:45 a.m.**

**Blessing of the Animals – Rev. David M. Horst (Front steps and sidewalk, weather permitting and Hendrix Hall)**

Bring your furry, feathery, fishy, and slithery pets to church today for a blessing by Rev. Horst. This first-time, all-ages event is held outside on the church steps and sidewalk. We ask that all animals be leashed, kenneled, or caged for their safety. In the event of heavy rain, the blessing will be cancelled and a worship service honoring the animals in our lives will be held in Hendrix Hall. Call the church office at 508-228-5466 on the morning of October 16 to confirm if the event is taking place as planned. The Adult Choir will sing *The Owl and the Pussycat*.

**October 23 @ 10:45 a.m.**

**Food for Thought – Fourth Sunday Lay-Led Service (Hendrix Hall)**

Aware of our interdependence, we acknowledge that eating ethically requires us to be mindful of the miracle of life we share with all beings. With gratitude for the food we receive, we strive to choose foods that minimize harm and are protective of the environment, consumers, farmers, and all those involved in the food production and distribution. Come learn more about the possibilities of ethical eating. The Adult Choir will sing *Banquet Fugue*.

**October 30 @ 10:45 a.m.**

**United Nations Sunday – Rev. David M. Horst (Hendrix Hall)**

In celebration of United Nations' Day, held annually on October 24, we join Unitarian Universalist congregations and individuals around the world in devoting a service to reaffirm the connections between Unitarian Universalist principles and the work of the UN. We also take this opportunity to learn more about the Unitarian Universalist Office at the UN, which promotes a peaceful, just, sustainable, and pluralistic world community and engages and inspires Unitarian Universalists to support and participate in meaningful ways. Our children and youth will also learn more about the work of the Unitarian Universalist UN Office during religious education. The Adult Choir will sing *N'kosi Sikeleli Afrika*.



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

by Craig Spery, Board President

The Board of Trustees of the church meets twice a month, the second and fourth Tuesdays at 5:15 pm in the Activities Room. The meetings are open to all members and usually last about one and a half hours. Recent actions taken by the board are as follows:

~Received an outline from Reverend Horst that he and congregational leadership hope to accomplish in the next few months. As part of his contract, this congregation recently sent him to Minnesota to attend a UUA sponsored conference specifically for interim ministers. He brings excellent ideas and procedures from the conference that the board looks forward to implementing. Further information about the plans will be forthcoming.

~ The date of the 2012 Pledge Campaign Kick Off Luncheon has been set for Sunday, October 9 in the Activities Room, following the service. We hope everyone can attend this exciting event, with entertainment provided by Bob Lehman. After the one month pledge campaign, the board will work with the Finance Committee in developing the 2012 operating budget, which will be distributed to the congregation for review prior to the Annual Meeting in January 2012.

~ The board approved the hiring of Kim LaRue as the new Office Administrator. It appreciates the work of the hiring committee that brought forth the recommendation to hire Kim, after doing the necessary research.

~ An modest ongoing advertising campaign promoting the church has been started in the Inquirer & Mirror and will continue through the end of the year. Look for it in the Calendar listings section.

~ Plans are being made to repair the church model in Hendrix Hall that was damaged recently. Other discussion involved the possibility of donating the model for safekeeping to the Nantucket Historical Association for permanent display in the Whaling Museum. This potential change would require a vote of the congregation.

~ One of the two tenants in the clock tower, Verizon Wireless, is in the planning stages of upgrading their equipment. They will present their final plans to the board for approval before any work commences.

~ Funds raised by the series of concerts performed by Bob and Diane Lehman in September were graciously received by the board. A letter of appreciation will be sent to them for their efforts.

~ Reverend Horst, as part of his last report to the board, hopes to get additional members to join the Welcoming Committee and to generally improve our welcoming procedures. Members interested in participating on this important committee should contact Rev. Horst directly.

For more information about board or church activities, feel free to contact me by phone at 508-228-7892, or by email at craigspery@aol.com.

## LOOKING AHEAD:

### Fall Harvest Fair and Hungarian Dinner

by Debby Merritt

Saturday, November 5 will be a busy day as we participate in the annual Nantucket Community Harvest Fair and also host our annual Hungarian Dinner.

The Harvest Fair will take place in Bennett Hall at the Congregational Church. We welcome your donation of small items in good condition for us to sell at the Fair, with all proceeds going to support the church's operating budget and programs. Please begin setting aside your items and planning on volunteering your time. You can begin dropping off items now at 3 Mill St. where they'll be stored until the Fair. We also need baked goods and jellies. For more information about when, where and how to get involved, contact Debby Merritt at 508-228-6540.

That evening, the annual Hungarian Dinner will be held in the Activities Room, with David Gyero, our partner church minister from Transylvania in attendance. This is a great opportunity to enjoy authentic Hungarian food and an evening with Rev. Gyero to learn more about our partner church. To reserve your ticket at \$25, please contact Kat Grieder or Debby Merritt. Space is limited so sign up now.





Second Congregational Meeting House Society  
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Nantucket, MA 02554

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[www.unitarianchurchnantucket.org](http://www.unitarianchurchnantucket.org)  
[uuchurchnantucket@verizon.net](mailto:uuchurchnantucket@verizon.net)

### Church Staff

**David M. Horst**, *Interim Minister* ~ **Edward B. Anderson**, *Minister Emeritus* ~ **Kim N. LaRue**, *Office Administrator and Receptionist* ~ **Marcia Hempel**, *Director of Music and Organist* ~ **Lizie Hagenstein and Sally Ure**, *Co-Directors of Religious Education* ~ **Mimi Jones and Dennis Santangelo**, *Sextons* ~ **Meghan Blair-Valero**, *Fogged-In Bookkeeping, Business Services*

### Board of Trustees

Craig Spery (President), Sissy Girard (Vice-President), Bob Hall (Clerk), Jack Weinhold (Treasurer)  
Bertrand I. Briere III, Larry Miller, David Hall, Joan Ottinger, Christine Sanford

### Church Office Hours

*Monday - Friday ~ 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.*

### Minister's Office Hours

*Tuesday (10 a.m. - noon) and Friday (noon - 2 p.m.)*