



Second Congregational Meeting House Society
Unitarian Universalist
11 Orange St. ~ P.O. Box 1023
Nantucket, MA 02554
(508) 228-5466

Nantucket Unitarian Universalist Newsletter ~ November 2012

WHERE LAND AND SEA MEET

Reflections on the life and lives of a religious community

by Rev. David M. Horst

I find late autumn a wistful time of year. Memories of summer are still fresh as I anticipate the cold, grey winter months ahead. The ocean sparkles as before with the slanting fall sun casting a melancholy hue. A long walk on the beach is still a long walk on the beach, but the chill air adds to my feeling of introspection.

In town the streets empty at night. The shops and restaurants close early now and some for good. I can appreciate the beauty of this way-too-charging town without the distraction of cars and trucks and gangs of tourists. I imagine I'm hearing the wind in the trees, the sounding of the boat horn, and the hourly chime of the bell as islanders may have heard them 100 years ago. Everything is catching its breath, and all of us too.

Most of us are as busy as always -- busy but no longer frantic. While the mainlanders are back in their workaday routines, we follow a looser schedule here. Our work still gets done, yet we have time for a conversation on the street, to visit with one another at home, to enjoy some leisurely shopping at one of the island farms, or to have a second cup of coffee.

In our homes even the most stubborn among us have set the thermostats up, put the storm windows down, and brought in the water hoses and lawn furniture for the winter. Just as the old hymn says, "fruit and crops are gathered in, safe before the storms begin," reminding us that it's time to be accepting and thankful.

The changing season creates an island-wide attitude adjustment. We're ready for a change in our mood, ready for something different. The changing season reflects our changing selves. Isn't that a good thing? Don't we want to change?

We do and we don't. With change comes challenge. With change each of us realizes that we are not yet the person we wish to become: Each of us is still learning, still growing, still becoming fully human. Our potential is not yet fulfilled.

In this late autumn season we are at once nostalgic and hopeful. Without regret we accept our past, without fear we embrace the future. How else are we to live at peace with ourselves and others?

How lucky we are to grow old. Luckier still to grow old together. Luckiest of all if wisdom gained equals years lived. Memories are sweet, but the days to come are even sweeter.

May you love this season of the year and this season of your life. May you and I be thankful that we are all in this together.

We have a lot more living and loving to do.

"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.

INVITING YOU TO LEND B & G A HAND

by Bob Lehman, Building & Grounds Committee Chair



It's autumn and the Building and Grounds Committee is taking on all the colors of season. Red faced and sweating from working to keep the place ship shape. Yellow with fear that our small band may not be up to the task without some additional help, and brown with potential dirt and dust from the coming tower cleaning.

On Sunday, October 28 after church we scant few are planning to attack the tower in a top to bottom vacuum and mopping event. This is in anticipation of the Verizon folk going up to work their magic in the coming weeks. The rationale is that when we give them a clean tower they will be encouraged/forced to return it in like, or better condition.

We'll have the machines, mops, and music. Many hands will make light work. A couple of hours should do it, and a comprehensive tour of the tower is quite fascinating. Bring some work clothes to change into after church and do some Good Will Hunting for dust bunnies. Please call Bob Lehman at 508-325-8522 to add your name to the list.

In other news, the B & G attended a meeting about coming street closures and sewer work to be done in and around town in the coming year. A rather extensive amount. It was all laid out in specific detail as to what will be done, and the suggested dates of closings. No specific scheduling as to when each location will be started could be given at this time. Suffice it to say that once a contractor is chosen, said contractor will be giving the orders. The town hopes they will work on Broad St. and Academy Hill next spring, stopping for the summer and resuming next October for the Fair St. part of the job. Lots of mud, and paving, but no one should be out of water or sewer for more than a day at a time. In short, it will be a year before the church and parsonage are affected.

BE A PART OF "A CHRISTMAS CAROL" ON DECEMBER 2

By Alyson Gaylord-Loy

The Christmas Stroll is just around the corner and that means our second annual appearance of the Meeting House Players presenting "A Christmas Carol" on Sunday morning, December 2, at 10:45 in Hendrix Hall. Now we need to establish this year's Meeting House Players!

This year we are going to add a few more rehearsals. I would like to meet all of the Monday nights and Saturday mornings in November; exact dates and times to be announced. That would give us eight rehearsals. I am aware that not everyone may be able to attend every rehearsal, but it would be nice if everyone could make it to five or six. This will still be done as readers theater with minimal blocking. We will also be working with Diane Lehman and the choir to add music. I need people to let me know ASAP if you would like a part in the production and if you have dreamed of playing a particular character. Of course not everyone can be Tiny Tim, so I'll have to hand out the parts judiciously.

We will not only be doing this play to celebrate the season, but also in memory of Bradford Garrison who directed the play for us last year. Please email me your interest at alysongaylordloy@hotmail.com or call 508-228-7597.

MEMBERS FUND UPDATE

by Jack Weinhold, Treasurer

The 2013 Members Fund was launched with a kickoff luncheon following Sunday service on October 14. By the end of that week, 30% of our members had responded to the call for participation by buying \$38,000 of shares.

The Fund, which will support the budget for 2013, was established by the Finance Committee at 1,000 shares or \$100,000. That is the amount needed to finance the coming year's three major programs of the congregation: Ministry, Music and Religious Education.

If you have not yet returned your Fund Shares Card please make it a high priority so that the Finance Committee may begin work on the 2013 budget. If you did not receive a Fund packet, or you have some question about the fund please contact Fund Co-Chair Peter Richards. cobbleland@aol.com.



Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, Nov. 4. Remember to set your clocks back one hour!



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Bob Hall, Board of Trustees President

We have had a busy month! First, I would like to thank all of those who contributed to the success of our Members Fund Drive Luncheon. I am sure all who attended had a great time and most certainly had a good meal.

Thanks to Jack Weinhold and Peter Richards for running the Members Fund campaign. It is a lot of work with many thankless tasks which they do willingly and with skill. Thanks for the food! Christine Sanford organized the luncheon with food provided by her, Yve Shevalier, Susan Richards, Craig and Linda Sperry, and Val Hall. The tables were set up early Sunday morning by Peter and Susan Richards, Christine and myself. Thanks to Jack and Chris Lohmann for inspiring messages. I was pleased to repeat my story about the Hendrix Brothers, expressing gratitude for their years of service and commitment. Jack handled the publicity with his usual flair for graphics. Special thanks go to the barbershop quartet, still without a name but not without talent: Chris Lohmann, Bob Lehman, Al Fuller and Craig Sperry. They brought some musical joy to that special day.



Just prior to the luncheon we held a special congregational meeting to elect a search committee. It was heartwarming for me to see so many people interested and willing to serve. The committee consists of Barbara Elder, Sissy Girard, Nancy Rappaport, Peter Richards, Craig Sperry, Yve Shevalier, Casey Boukus and Abby Slosek. At a later meeting they elected Craig Sperry chairperson. They have a huge task ahead of them. Regardless of the outcome we will have a minister serving us on August 1, 2013.

The Sunday service of October 21 was a special one--a Blessing of the Animals. It was well attended bringing in new faces. About 65 people came with about 10 children and many animals. It was a moving experience filled with joy. There is no question that our pets play an important part of our spiritual life. Thanks to Rev. David Horst for starting this tradition.

We will move down into Hendrix Hall beginning October 28. Summer services in our sanctuary are wonderful, but moving downstairs is always a welcome event, for me at least. It signals the time when we get to know each other better and when services are more intimate. For me, it feels like a large family coming back from an extended absence. We hope you will join us this winter season.

I postponed reports on the Hungarian Dinner and Harvest Fair last month to highlight the Members Fund Drive. The Hungarian Dinner was once again a success with well over 40 people attending. We raised \$1,140 of badly needed funds for our partner church in Transylvania. Thanks go to all those who contributed in many ways. Those who supplied main meals were Chris Lohmann, Jack Weinhold, Bob Hall, Christine Sanford, John Merson, Craig Sperry, Jack Reindel, and Suse Robinson. Karen Gockel made a fabulous desert. Ilse Sangree supplied the bread, wine, and other materials. Debby Merritt and Karen Gockel made the flower arrangements. David Hall helped with setting up. Special thanks go to Debby Merritt who organized the Harvest Fair which brought in \$1,126. It was successful, but a lot of work.

Please fill out the weekly congregational surveys in the Sunday Service program. We take your comments seriously. We hope to see you at the next service!

MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH THE HARVEST FAIR

by Debby Merritt, Harvest Fair Committee Chair

I want to thank all who helped in large or small ways to make the Fair a success. Many helping hands, from those who donated items, moved, priced, set up our tables at Bennett Hall on Friday, worked on Saturday selling, cleanup following the Fair, and those who bought items both at the Fair and at our own "Take It or Leave It" following church the next day. We took in over \$1,000 that weekend with an added amount over the next few days. Jack Weinhold was a very large part of that effort. We had some nice donations from people who are not members of the church.



NOVEMBER WORSHIP, MUSIC & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Sunday, Nov. 4 • 10:45 a.m. “King David’s Rules”

David -- warrior, musician, poet, lover, and king -- is important to Jewish, Christian, and Islamic doctrines and culture. Bible legend tells us God chose David to rule over Judah and, later, the entire kingdom of Israel. Today David lives in our religious imagination because as a person who is both righteous and a deeply flawed. What insights does David’s life give us in today’s divisive and confrontational religious and political climate? Rev. David Horst explores this and other questions in his sermon “King David’s Rules.” Music by Diane Lehman, Acting Director of Music, and the Meeting House Choir. *Infant and toddler care provided beginning at 10:30. Children begin the morning with the adult congregation then depart for circle time, a story or activity, and a snack as part of the cooperative religious education program. Enjoy coffee and conversation following the programs. Bring brunch food to share. Start the day with Morning Meditation at 9 in Hendrix Hall.*

Sunday, Nov. 11 • 10:45 a.m. “The Next Four Years”

The presidential and senatorial elections have concluded following rancorous and costly campaigns. Now we, the citizens of this beloved country, look forward to the next four years. What are the issues that will confront us? Where can we find reconciliation and healing? How can religious liberal values help move our nation in positive directions? Rev. Horst reflects on the aftermath of the election in a sermon entitled “The Next Four Years.” Music by Diane Lehman and the Meeting House Choir. *Infant and toddler care provided beginning at 10:30. Children begin the morning with the adult congregation then depart for circle time, a story or activity, and a snack as part of the cooperative religious education program. Start the day with Morning Meditation at 9 in Hendrix Hall.*

Sunday, Nov. 18 • 10:45 a.m. “All Is Safely Gathered In”

We gather to give thanks for another year -- a year of gains and losses, joys and sorrows, hopes and struggles in our family and community lives. Come and be thankful! Share what you’re thankful for. Rev. Horst presents a sermon entitled “All is Safely Gathered In.” Music by Diane Lehman and the Meeting House Choir. *Infant and toddler care provided beginning at 10:30. Enjoy coffee and conversation following the programs. Bring brunch food to share. Start the day with Morning Meditation at 9 in Hendrix Hall. Bring nonperishable food items for our annual food collection to support the Nantucket Food Pantry.*

Sunday, Nov. 25 • 10:45 a.m. “Fourth Sunday Lay-Led Service”

The Fourth Sunday Lay-Led Service Committee leads today’s service. *Infant and toddler care provided beginning at 10:30. Children begin the morning with the adult congregation then depart for circle time, a story or activity, and a snack as part of the cooperative religious education program. Enjoy coffee and conversation following the programs. Bring brunch food to share. Start the day with Morning Meditation at 9 in Hendrix Hall.*

Relax and Re-Center Yourself

Join David Horst and members and friends of the congregation for 30 - 40 minutes of silent meditation, chanting, and prayer every Sunday morning at 9 in Hendrix Hall. Come relax and re-center yourself as you begin your day and week.

by Lora Stewart, Seasonal Supper Organizer

A festive Thanksgiving table setting. In the center is a woven placemat with a stack of plates. On top of the plates is a small pumpkin, a wrapped gift, and an orange napkin. To the left are two white ceramic owls and a bowl of autumn leaves. To the right is a glass of orange juice and a bowl of popcorn. The background is a warm, textured surface.

Generally the host provides the main course and will ask other diners to choose an appetizer, side dish, dessert, or beverage to add to the meal. For this first Seasonal Supper, hosts have already volunteered for ‘adult only’ gatherings. In the future, at sign-ups you will have a chance to decide if you wish to be a host or a guest. If you have a ‘child-friendly’ home and you wish to be a host then we can include the younger set. *Bon Appétit!*

by Craig Sperry, Committee Chair

A woman with long brown hair and sunglasses, wearing a denim jacket, is crouching on a sidewalk. She is looking down at a young child with blonde hair who is wearing a red and white plaid shirt and dark pants. The child is reaching into a cardboard box that contains a small brown rabbit. The box is labeled 'TOMATOES' and 'NET WT. 25 LBS.' in red letters. In the background, a white pickup truck is parked on the street, and there are trees and a building. The scene is outdoors on a sunny day.

Among the animals at the Blessing of the Animals Service held outdoors on Sunday, October 21 was a hen from Moors End Farm brought by Jack and his mother Abby. Also present were dogs, cats, an iguana, a hedgehog, a guinea pig and three goats. Photos from the service can be viewed on the Inquirer & Mirror website at www.ack.net.

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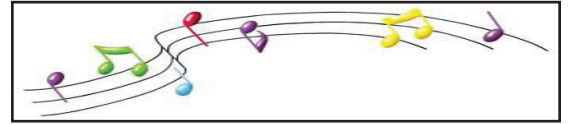
FOURTH SUNDAY LAY- LED COMMITTEE REPORT

by Sissy Girard

After a summer vacation, the Fourth Sunday Lay-Led Service Committee resumed its service on Sunday, October 28th. The theme, Teach Your Children Well, focused on education. Members and educators Val and Bob Hall made presentations. The committee is meeting regularly and planning interesting and challenging services. Please let us know if there are particular topics you would like us to research and present during the year. Your suggestions are valued and welcomed. The members of the committee are Sissy Girard, Margaret Ruttenberg, Christine Sanford, Yve Shevalier and Mary Beth Splaine.

NOTES FROM THE ACTING MUSIC DIRECTOR

by Diane Lehman



Lyrics~ Stories~Themes~Songs...Since I last wrote a note about the music program, so much has happened and so many songs have been sung...

“My it’s been quite a summer” from Jimmy Buffet’s Come Monday

The August noonday concert series featured Jim Sulzer, Nigel Goss, Jessica Hueser, Aidan Sherry, Mollie Glazer, Mary Keller, Carson Cooman, Sandy MacDonald, Laurel Devaney and a host of young singers from the S.T.A.R. choir.

Our August Sunday services were graced with the talents of Rene La Pierre, Carson Cooman (both playing Organ for the entire service), Juliana Burdick (soprano), Amanda Torchia (guitar/vocal), Jessie Lambrecht (Operatic Soloist), Cynthia Csabay and Bob Lehman sharing poignant interpretive solos, Chelsea Remick (“Annie “star), and The ShepCats (Erik Wendelken and Steve Shephard). The ever faithful, constant presence of the Meeting House Choir was heard to sing out the last days of the “Hazy Crazy Lazy Days of Summer.” Each Sunday, David brought his guitar and led the songs for children, and even joined the Shepcats for a Woody Guthrie tune. Every steamy Sunday we spent in that beautiful sanctuary was heralded with song, filling up the space with joy and laughter.

“I’ll see you in September” written by Sid Wayne and Sherman Edwards

The September Songs and Stories noonday concert series featured the talents of Cynthia Csabay and Jessie Lambrecht; each of whom presented a 40 minute concert of solo material to the delight of an appreciative crowd. Al Fuller, Craig Sperry, Chris Lohman and Bob Lehman gave us Barbershop music with a flourish of khaki and boaters, bow ties and choreography, to be followed up by Bob Lehman and Cynthia and Jessie in a Columbus Day potpourri of musical selections to end the series.

Our September Sunday services have always included our wonderful choir, but in September we had to say the Fall Farewell to Trish and Kathy and Cara who had all given us so much “Voice” in the summer. Bette Miller joined us and added the backups to Amanda’s “I hope you dance” with Jessie Lambrecht. Elliot Levine sang a moving piece and joined the choir for a round. Our Barbershop made an early entrance, did a noonday concert and now they are juggling appearance requests from all over!!

“When October Goes” written by Barry Manilow and Johnny Mercer

Our October Sunday services have included the Choir led service of October 7th. Cynthia shared a lovely rendition of “Island Paradise,” the choir sang “By the Waters of Babylon” and “Music Alone Shall Live,” Leah Hull sang “Second Hand White Baby Grand,” Bob Lehman shared “Marzydotes and Dozeydotes” with the children, and “O Mio Babbino Caro” was sung beautifully by Jessie Lambrecht. The blessing of the animals on Sunday October 21st was accompanied by David on his guitar. Our hopes for continued good weather and harmonious song will accompany us in Hendrix Hall as we say goodbye to October on the 28th. Nothing scary...I promise. Maybe a ghost story...or two.

To all who help make music come alive at the Meeting House, I would like to say thank you. Without your voices, and your songs, your stories and your laughter, the space would be void of music. Laughter is music to my ears! Singing should always bring the joy that makes laughter easy, smiling effortless, and hugs abundant. I look forward to the joyful singing that comes with the holidays...please join us!

IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT THE WEATHERVANE

by Linda Sperry

Beginning with the January 2013 issue on New Year's Day, the Weathervane newsletter will be distributed via e-mail rather than snail mail. On or a few days before the first of each month, members and friends of the congregation will receive an e-mail from the church office that will say "The new issue of the Weathervane is now available for you to read at www.unitarianchurchnantucket.org." You will be provided with a link that will connect you directly to the new issue of the newsletter in full color PDF. You can then choose to read the newsletter online at your convenience at home, work or at the Athenaeum or print it out in color or black and white.

The board voted unanimously at the October 23 meeting to move forward with this plan for electronic newsletter distribution for a number of reasons, including cost savings for the budget (toner, paper and postage). Additionally, problems with timely delivery by the postal service have resulted in the Weathervane being received several weeks after it is mailed despite our best efforts to get it out by the first of each month. Finally, this form of distribution is environmentally sound and has been adopted by many UU churches and other nonprofits nationwide.

Copies of the printed Weathervane in black and white will be available for visitors in Hendrix Hall, the Activities Room and the sanctuary. Of course, if you do not have access to a computer, we will be happy to provide you with a printed Weathervane each month. Please call Kim in the church office before January 1 to let her know. Thank you for your patience and cooperation! We welcome your feedback.

YOUTH GROUP MEETS EVERY THURSDAY AT 6 P.M.

The Youth Group meets every Thursday evening at 6 in the Activities Room. Participating youth enjoy a potluck supper, check in and sharing time, games, and the study of Neighboring Faiths, a world-religions curriculum for high school program published by the Unitarian Universalist Association. See youth advisors Christine Sanford, David Horst, or Yve Shevalier to get involved.

SOUTH CHURCH PRESERVATION FUND UPDATE

by Mary Beth Splaine, Board President

Getting ready for winter: Michael Burrey Restoration will be repairing the metal roofing of the lantern and tower dome between Oct. 22 and Nov. 30. Recently completed: The remaining interior wood work conservation and painting of remaining pew doors.

NHA: We are grateful to Libby Oldham who arranged housing for conservators at 99 Main St through the generosity of the Nantucket Historical Association for the recent work period.

Exterior paint: Brian Pfeiffer is researching remedy for the exterior paint mold problem and will report back soon. Milestone: The November meeting of the SCPF will mark the last meeting for two very important board members. Les Ottinger, who stepped down from the presidency in July but has remained a valuable board member, will be moving to Boston this month. Jim Sutherland, who has served many years as Treasurer and Grant Writer, will be passing the books on to Libby Oldham this month. I encourage members of the congregation to join the SCPF board in expressing thanks to both of them. Their contributions have been monumental.



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Church Staff

David M. Horst, *Interim Minister* ~ **Edward B. Anderson**, *Minister Emeritus*
Diane T. Lehman, *Acting Music Director* ~ **Kim N. LaRue**, *Office Administrator*
Mimi Jones and Dennis Santangelo, *Sextons*

Board of Trustees

Bob Hall (President), Christine Sanford (Vice President), Susan Richards (Clerk),
Jack Weinhold (Treasurer), Brian Girard, David Hall, John Rivera, Linda Sperry, Marina Sutro

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday ~ 8:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Minister's Office Hours

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