



Second Congregational Meeting House Society

Unitarian Universalist

11 Orange St. ~ P.O. Box 1023

Nantucket, MA 02554

(508) 228-5466

Nantucket Unitarian Universalist Newsletter ~ October 2012

WHERE LAND AND SEA MEET

Reflections on the life and lives of a religious community

by Rev. David M. Horst

What matters to you? A full-time, year-round minister? Good sermons? Musical excellence? Education programs for children and youth? Pastoral support? Outreach to the community? Advocacy for peace and justice? Social gatherings with congregational friends? Concert and lecture presentations? Living the Unitarian Universalist principles? Involvement in the larger Unitarian Universalist religious movement?

This month you are asked to buy a share of the congregation with your support of the annual Members Fund. Yes, it's about the money; but it's also about the things you *value*.

Please give some thought to this. Think about your involvement in the congregation *now* and the ways you might *increase* your involvement in the months and year ahead. If you've been a loyal financial supporter, *thank you*. Now consider increasing your annual support by ten-percent or more. If you've never made an annual pledge of support, now is the time. *The congregation needs 100-percent participation by members and friends to reach the \$100,000 goal.*

You have made remarkable progress during this transitional period: Spirits are high, a new vision is emerging, volunteer support is growing, leadership is strong, and Sunday mornings are lively. Now a deeper and wider base of financial support is needed to sustain and grow the programs and ministry -- and all of the aspects of congregational life you and everyone values.

This is *not* the time to "wait and see." This is *not* the time for wishful thinking. This is *not* the time to let someone else carry the load. This *is* the time for you to act and contribute your fair share.

My message is a little tough because so much is at stake. The future growth and sustainability of this congregation is in your hands -- and your wallets. You have the opportunity to take the Nantucket Unitarian Universalist community to the next level of ministry, music, education, and community engagement. *Now is the time to make your future happen.*

Nearly every Sunday members and visitors approach me and say how *important* this congregation is to them. They tell me that the liberal religious voice is desperately needed on the island. They thank me for promoting the Unitarian Universalist faith within and beyond the Meeting House walls.

We need to remember that our liberal religion offers a hope-filled, justice-centered, open-hearted way of living. How fortunate we are to be together on this journey. The doors of the Meeting House are always open, and we welcome all who wish to join us.

Let's keep on singing, worshipping, learning, and loving together. What you do and what we do together truly *matters*. All of us can make it happen. Do your part. Buy your share. Make your dollars speak for the things that matter to you.

"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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Bob Hall, President of the Board of Trustees

This year's pledge drive (Members Fund Drive) marks a critical juncture in the history of our congregation, for if it is successful it will show that we can afford a full-time minister.

We have changed our approach to the traditional pledge drive. We are calling it a Members Fund Drive. By changing the name we want to emphasize that when you contribute, you are buying a share of our program, you are making a commitment to our congregation.

We are fortunate to have income from wedding, rentals, and interest from our endowment. Along with the South Church Preservation Fund and this year's increased fundraising activities, we are able to support the basic costs of operating and maintaining the building, including utilities, insurance, office supplies, etc. The contributions from our congregation through the member's fund drive support the heart and soul of our church: the staff.

When the congregation approved this year's budget in January, it voted to reduce the budget which resulted in the reduction of staff hours. Sadly, that led to the resignations of our music and RE directors. We have successfully weathered that difficult transition due largely to the guidance of our interim minister, David Horst. Our RE program is run by dedicated and resourceful volunteers. Diane Lehman accepted the position of acting music director and has produced a marvelous, inspiring music program. She has worked hard in reaching out to the community at large. Our church administrator, Kim LaRue, brings skills and smiles to our office, our organizational heart. We are most grateful and fortunate to have such a wonderful staff.

For the past few years, the pledge drives have brought in about \$70,000, but we need at least \$100,000. We have been making up the differences with withdrawals from the principal of our endowment. We have made the responsible and sound decision to stop spending our principal on the operating budget. This year we successfully increased fundraising substantially, but we are still drawing principal. The only way we can meet our goals is through increased contributions from our members.

Next year's budget will be the culmination of our interim period. Reverend Horst has brought a new level of enthusiasm and needed skills to our congregation. Spirits are high, fellowship and friendships abound, enthusiasm is apparent, volunteers happily give of their time, and the church is as busy as it has ever been.

We understand that these are hard economic times, but we hope you will consider increasing your pledge. If we meet our goal, we can be reasonably certain we will continue to enjoy the benefits of a full-time minister. It is clear that we want and need a full-time minister. Your response will make the decision.

INTER-CHURCH HARVEST FAIR • SAT., OCT. 6 • 10 AM-2:30 PM



Time is running out to donate small items such as jewelry, holiday decorations, books, "white elephants", DVDs etc.--all in good condition--as well as baked goods and preserves for our church's sales table at the Inter-Church Harvest Fair on Sat., Oct. 6 at Bennett Hall at the First Congregational Church. All proceeds from the sales will go toward support for the church's operating budget and programs.

Box up your items and bring them to the church office, noted "Harvest Fair" or call Debby Merritt at 508-228-6540 if you need help with a pick up. Want to volunteer? Debby needs workers on Sat., Oct. 6 from 9-11 and 11-1 and 1-3 for sales, on Thurs., Oct. 4 and Fri., Oct. 5 to price items and get them ready to move and set up on Friday afternoon. Food can be brought on Sat., Oct. 6 after 9 a.m. directly to Bennett Hall.



You're Invited to...
**The 2013 Members Fund
Launch Lunch**
Sunday, October 14
following the service



Scrumptious Food, *Stirring* Talks & *Scintillating* Entertainment
Featuring Bob Lehman &
The Meeting House Barbershop Quartet

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By Jack Weinhold, Treasurer

The Pledge has become the Members Fund.

This new name more accurately symbolizes the two sides of our annual financial commitment to the congregation: 1. The revenue source (us, the members.) and 2. The use of our money (funding the programs of ministry, music, and religious education.)

We are very fortunate to own the Meeting House, and have its future condition maintained by the South Church Preservation Fund. The following fund sources pay for daily housekeeping, basic property needs, and required administration services: Revenue from leases and short term rentals of the building; Interest from the Sanford Fund and our Endowment (Reserve Funds); Monies from our fundraising events; and occasional small gifts. *We have what very few congregations have, a home for our church that requires no financial support from us, its members.*

The picture is clear. Participation in the Members Fund provides the only source of revenue used to fund: Ministry lead by a full-time, settled minister; An excellent Music program; And a comprehensive Religious Education Program.

October is Fund Month. Look for your Members Fund Envelope in your mailbox. Fill out your Funding Card as generously as you can. Bring it to the Members Fund Luncheon on the 14th. Or mail it right back to the office.

We need your generous financial support to make the Meeting House a church.

JOIN US FOR THE YOUTH GROUP ON THURSDAYS AT 6 P.M.

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

OCTOBER WORSHIP, MUSIC & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sunday, Oct. 7 • 10:45 a.m. “Service with the Meeting House Choir”

Today Chris Lohmann and members of the Meeting House Choir lead the worship 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.*



Sunday, Oct. 14 • 10:45 a.m. “Funding the Dream”

Spirits are high, hopes are renewed, and the future of Nantucket’s historic Unitarian Universalist congregation looks bright. Members and friends have recommitted themselves to the sustaining and growing the congregation with their support of a full-time minister, expanded music and education programs, and greater community engagement. Nantucket Unitarian Universalists have a dream, and now is the time to *fund the dream* through increased participation and financial support. David Horst leads the service with 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. Following the service everyone is urged to attend the Members Fund luncheon at noon in the Activities Room. (This is the final Sunday service in the sanctuary. Fall and winter services are held in Hendrix Hall.) Start the day with Morning Meditation at 9 in Hendrix Hall.*

Sunday, Oct. 21 • 10:45 a.m. “Blessing of the Animals”

Bring your furry, feathery, fishy, and slithery pets to church today for a blessing by Rev. Horst. This all-ages event is held outside on the church steps and sidewalk on Orange Street. We ask that all animals be leashed, kenneled, or caged for their safety. In the event of heavy wind or rain, the animal 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 21 to confirm if the outdoor program is taking place. *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.*

Sunday, Oct. 28 • 10:45 a.m. “Fourth Sunday Lay-Led Service”

Fourth Sunday Lay-Led services return! Service held in Hendrix Hall. Music with 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. Enjoy coffee and conversation following the programs. Bring brunch food to share. Start the day with Morning Meditation at 9 in Hendrix Hall.*

SEASONAL SUPPERS ARE COMING!

by Lora Stewart, Seasonal Supper Organizer

Seasonal Suppers are Coming! Mark your calendars for November 2, 2012. Something New at the Meeting House!

Gather with old friends and meet some new ones at a Seasonal Supper on Friday, November 2nd. Modeled after an old-fashioned "circle supper," these are small, purely social dinner parties at congregational members' or friends' homes. You may sign up for this first supper during coffee hour after church on Sundays starting on October 7th. You may also contact me at 978-325-4906 or lora@plpdd.com.

The Sunday before the Supper (October 28th), signups will close and people will be divided up (couples go together) to go to various hosts' homes for dinner. We will be intentionally mixing up long-time and newer members and friends to create congenial but varied groups. Then the host will contact their guests to tell them where they will be dining. 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!*

BUILDING & GROUNDS UPDATE

by Bob Lehman, Committee Chair

The Building and Grounds Committee meets the first Wednesday each month in the Activities Room at 5:15 pm. New members are encouraged to join this important and fun group.

Over the past few months, the Committee has accomplished the following tasks:

- The carpets in Hendrix Hall, the Activities Room and the church office were recently cleaned by committee members Craig Spery and Bob Lehman.
- A new refrigerator has been delivered and installed in the parsonage thanks to Craig Spery and Habitat for Humanity and strong backed volunteers.
- Wrought iron railings have been painted outside the entrance to Hendrix Hall.
- Hendrix Hall exterior door has been painted.
- Three alley side windows on the church building were prepared and painted.
- The alley has been closed for two days and a No Trespassing sign installed, and dated to maintain church's property rights. Kim in the office has been e-mailed photos for church records.
- Hearing loop has been installed in the sanctuary and was paid for courtesy of B.&G. member Jack Reindel.

We're planning to clean the tower starting at the belfry all the way to the ground floor. People that are willing to participate should contact Bob Lehman, chairperson of the B&G Committee at rm-lehman1@comcast.net.



Building & Grounds Chair Bob Lehman (shown here recently cleaning the Activities Room carpets) is one of many who give of their time and talents to make the Meeting House a special place for us all and to save on costs. Special thanks to everyone who lends a hand!

Our Summer Docent Program had 788 visitors to the Meeting House and received \$537 in donations. Thank you, John Rivera and your volunteers!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION : Exploring What it Means to Create Sacred Home

by Casey Sayre Boukus

Happy Equinox!

As we honor the balance of light and dark in these beautiful autumn days before turning toward the cold and dark of winter, those of us on the RE committee honor the balance of work and family, home-life and communal giving to our congregation's children.

The curriculum "Creating Home" has been successfully launched with discussions about what makes home special, what items and symbols represent our safe and personal spaces, as well as the importance of thresholds and names. We heard the story of "The Magic Vase" about how a simple object that might seem extravagant and unnecessary at first, can inspire a family to work together to spruce up their home with beauty, care and giving.

The children are decorating namestones to be a part of the Sunday ritual/routine and will be offered the space each week to share a special item from home. In the next few weeks we will create and decorate a threshold to represent what makes coming into this space in the meetinghouse sacred and a "home away from home"; work with walking and creating labyrinths as sacred symbols and places of beauty; learn songs from Linda and other members of the choir who will be joining us at the end of each morning gathering, and as always, share food, stories, games and more to create a morning of spiritual connection and creative learning.

Also, things are percolating for a family spaghetti dinner event to gather in harvest thanksgiving as well as to honor our ancestors and beloved dead sometime in late October.

We'll keep you posted!

"When our heart is in a holy place,
We are blessed with love and amazing grace."
- from Singing the Journey, Hymn #1008



FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE UPDATE

by Linda Spery

After a successful goods and services auction on Memorial Day weekend and a summer hiatus, the fundraising committee resumed its monthly meeting schedule on September 13. We will all be lending a hand to committee member Debby Merritt in her work on the Harvest Fair on Saturday, October 6. Because the Fair is much earlier this year than in the past and is occurring on a busy Columbus Day weekend with competing events around the island, our support and that of the congregation is very important. The budget calls for \$1,800 in income from the Fair so the fundraising committee encourages everyone to contribute their time and "treasures."

The September meeting also included a discussion of a Stroll Weekend children's event with the reading of holiday stories from different religious traditions, along with a holiday ornament or craft making. Many thanks to Kat Robinson Grieder for providing us with this creative idea. We will be focusing on this project in our October meeting. Volunteers and fundraising ideas are welcomed! Contact me at 508-228-7892 or linda@sonnpr.com.

Dharma Nantucket, Buddhist Meditation and Teaching

Lama Yeshe Palmo invites members of the Unitarian Congregation to attend three Thursday meditation sessions at 5:15 on Oct. 10, Nov. 8 and Dec. 6 to be held at the South Wharf Gallery Studio at 11 South Shore Road (Mary Beth and Jack's house).

In addition, three Sunday Teaching Sessions will be offered from 1 to 3 on Oct. 21, Nov. 18 and Dec. 16. Please call Lama Yeshe Palmo 508-524-0823 if interested. Meditation is open and free to all. There is a tuition cost for the Sunday Teachings.

Nantucket Interfaith Council Notice

Should you or someone you know require assistance there are three programs available through the Nantucket Interfaith Council. The Nantucket Food Pantry is in the Greenhound Building with an entrance on Candle St.

Director Andy Reis reports a 7.7% increase in clients this past year when they provided 60,000 meals. People in need of transitional rental support or fuel assistance should contact Director Janis Carreiro at 508-901-1320 or Nrapoffice@comcast.net.



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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 Spery, Marina Sutro

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.)