

Annual Report – 2015



Second Congregational Meeting House Society
Unitarian Universalist
Nantucket, MA

January 24, 2016

Board of Trustees - 2015

Name	Term Ends
Susan Richards, President	January 2016
Jan Ellsworth, Vice President	January 2017
Stephen Estabrooks, Clerk	January 2017
Paul Stewart, Treasurer	Elected Annually
Jim Sulzer	January 2016
Cynthia Csabay	January 2018
Joanna Greenfield	January 2018
Joy Margolis	January 2018
Lora Stewart	January 2018

Board terms are three years, except for the Treasurer whose term is one year. Board members, including the Treasurer, are elected by the congregation at the Annual Meeting. The Board elects its other officers annually from among its members.

Staff - 2015

Rev. Linda Simmons, Minister

Rev. Ted Anderson, Minister Emeritus

Diane Lehman, Director of Music

Lucretia Voigt, Office Manager

Chuck Gieg, Bookkeeper

Ed Sullivan, Custodial Sexton

Minister's Report – 2015

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Minister since August 2013. I have now completed 2.5 years of service with great joy.

This year I led worship services and preached on 36 Sundays. The topics included *Sex, Faith & the Other; Nantucket, Identity & Grace; Ordinary Ethics; Patriotism and Radical Faith; Reproductive Rights; The Pope, Creativity and Faith; A Theology of Immortality; Tragedy and Redemption and the Miraculous*. We enjoyed some alternative worship services including an Interfaith Service on May 31st on the topic of Suffering with Rabbi Gary Bretton Granatoor, Rev. Robin Junker, and Lama Yeshe Palmo; a Year of the Bell service with Libby Oldham and David Barham to celebrate 200 years of our Portuguese bell ringing, the Blessing of the Animals on October 4th, a Solstice Service on December 20th with music, meditation and poetry, and Walking through the Doorway on January 3rd to celebrate the New Year which included writing cards to ourselves about what we no longer wanted to carry into the New Year. Sunday morning attendance averaged 52 people.

We began a 7th Principle Project/Green Sanctuary Initiative this year and kicked it off with a service in the upstairs sanctuary on June 21st led by Grassroots Nantucket. That service highlighted what the 7th Principle Project/Green Sanctuary Initiative would mean for us to take on. In short, it is a sea change, a paradigm shift, a new way of being and seeing ourselves in relation to each other and the world. It is putting our 7th Principle: *Respect for the Interdependent Web of All Existence of Which Are a Part* into action; it is learning how to see ourselves as made up of each other and acting from that place first. The congregation voted on 3 Long Term Launch and 3 Short Term Launch Projects and we have been working away at giving them shape with great success.

Sunday morning music is still rich and varied. Diane Lehman, Director of Music, continues the tradition of musical excellence at the Meeting House. Under Ms. Lehman's direction, the Meeting House Choir presented quality vocal music on Sunday mornings for which we are thankful. The Summer Concert Series, directed and led by Ms. Lehman, was also a great success.

In addition to my Sunday morning responsibilities, I officiated seven weddings and two memorial services.

The RE Committee continues to provide quality religious exploration and is hosting RE dinners once a month throughout the year as a way to honor RE parents, children and volunteers. The curriculum this year focused on kindness, world religions and service to others. For Hanukkah, the children each came up with eight acts of kindness for each of the eight days of Hanukkah. With Jen Dunbar's excellent leadership as lead RE teacher, the children have also begun earning money with small chores and bringing their change in on Sundays to collect for island families in need. They have so far collected over \$44!

We welcomed 7 new members in 2015: Emily Gannett, Nick Fasanella, Mary Mayo, Erik Lokensgard, Crocker Snow, Joe Olson, and Laura Wilson.

I devote a large part of my ministry to pastoral care. I have made numerous house and hospital calls as well as been in touch with folks on phone and email. Many parishioners come to the parsonage for tea and conversation. I welcome this wholeheartedly and feel that one of the strong centers of my ministry is pastoral attentiveness.

I facilitated 2 Nonviolent Communication classes this past year. Both were well attended by congregants and community members alike. We learned a great deal about ourselves and each other in these classes and honed communication skills that I know will continue to serve us in our lives. I also host a Spanish language class at the parsonage 2 times a month.

I continue to be very active in the island community as a hospice chaplain and chaplain on the Palliative and Supportive Care Team. I am the Secretary of the Interfaith Council and of the Addiction Recovery Committee, and the Grievance Officer for Nantucket Housing Authority.

I extend my thanks to members of the Board especially President Susan Richards, Vice President Jan Ellsworth, Clerk Steve Estabrooks; and to Finance Committee Chair Craig Spery and Treasurer Paul Stewart and the Finance Committee members for their extraordinary talents and commitment to the congregation. Committee chairs and members deserve equal thanks as well— Susan Richards, Religious Exploration Chair; Kat Robinson Grieder, Lay Led Service Committee Chair; Bob Lehman, Building and Grounds Chair; Gary Langley, 7th Principle Project/Green Sanctuary Chair; Lora Stewart Caring and Membership Committees Chair; Val Hall, Hospitality Committee Chair; Barbara Elder, Committee on Ministry Chair; Craig Spery, South Church Preservation Fund Chair; Peter Richards, Nominating Committee Chair, and Joanne Polster, Manager of Church Archives. And last but not least much gratitude to our staff: Diane Lehman, Director of Music, Lucretia Voigt, Office Manager; Jen Dunbar, Lead RE Teacher and Ed Sullivan, Sexton -- for their continued service and devotion. I also thank my colleague, Ted Anderson, *Minister Emeritus*, for his friendship and counsel.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you for your goodness, commitment and whole-heartedness. What a great honor and privilege it is to serve as your minister.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Simmons, Minister

President's Report - Board of Trustees - 2015

2015 was a year of continued stability for our congregation supported by the hard work of not only the Board of Trustees but the many committees that support our institution in a wide variety of ways. Because of these hard working groups, the state of our congregation is very good.

I couldn't say it better than last year's Board President Jim Sulzer when he wrote in the 2014 Annual Report: "We have a wonderful settled minister, the Reverend Linda Simmons... Her range of talents is remarkable -- she gives deeply inspiring sermons, she is active in forging community bonds, she speaks with sincerity and integrity on issues of social justice facing our island and the larger world, and she has a soothing, healing touch in matters of pastoral care. She is incredibly dedicated to her work as minister. She has been all we hoped and dreamed for, and more." "Rev Linda", as many of us affectionately call her now, has been with us for 2+ years and we consider ourselves extremely fortunate to have her as the leader of our congregation.

You will see the names of many of our hardworking committee members in the reports that follow but I would like to mention here the names of my fellow Board members. We are truly a team in every sense of the word, and each of us brings our unique talents and skill sets to our dedicated group. Thank you to: Vice-president Jan Ellsworth, Clerk Steve Estabrooks, Treasurer Paul Stewart, Lora Stewart, Joy Margolis, Joanna Greenfield, and Cynthia Csabay. Special thanks to 2014 board president Jim Sulzer who will be stepping off the board this month as his three year term is up. Jim has been an exemplary board member, an excellent leader, and a wonderful team player - always willing to step forward to help as well as lend his excellent thoughts and comments to any situation. I join Jim in stepping off the board this month as my term is up as well. I consider myself very fortunate to have worked with Jim and all of the terrific board members with whom I have served in my time on the board.

To prepare for the writing of this report I have read through the minutes from all of our 2015 board meetings along with our 2014 Annual Meeting and the Spring and Fall board retreats.... One thing is for sure, we are a busy congregation!

Below I have listed a range of some of the topics discussed and worked on by the Board of Trustees over the course of 2015:

- At last year's Annual Meeting money for repair of the Parsonage roof was voted on and approved (still working on this project!)
- Continued discussion of and work (ongoing) on the Activities Room "beautification" project. An Ad Hoc committee was formed and painting has started with more (lighting and eventually flooring) to follow!
- "Share the Plate" program was started with the goal of sharing up to four of our weekly plates with local and UU affiliated non-profits - Two plates were shared in 2015.
- With the goal of growing our work on the "big picture" of our UU beliefs the board started to include a time for each of us to report on how any of the Seven UU Principles may have impacted our daily lives in our monthly board meetings
- A lighting project to renovate the sanctuary lighting to reflect the original lighting was approved unanimously by the Board. This project will be funded in part by SCPF and Shirat Ha Yam. Major work on the plan was done by David Barham. Paul Stewart spearheaded the grant proposal to the town.
- Mandatory fire alarm upgrade was dealt with

- A February service was cancelled because of brutal winter storm.... it takes a village to get the word out to all!
- Committee Chairs gave in-person reports to the Board throughout the year - this included Religious Exploration, Building and Grounds, Lay Led Worship, Archives, and Membership.
- Minister's Evaluation - a three-pronged process by the Board, Committee on Ministry, and the Minister, was completed
- Congregation members Paul and Lora Stewart, and Susan and Peter Richards participated in an off-island UU leadership day-long workshop on the future of small and mid-sized congregations
- Reverend Simmons and Board Vice President Jan Ellsworth attended the National UU General Assembly in Portland, Oregon
- A Seventh Principle Project/Green Sanctuary service led by the Grassroots Committee plus others devoted to the goal of starting the process of becoming a "Green Sanctuary"
- A successful Summer music series coordinated by our very talented Music Director Diane Lehman
- At our July Congregational Meeting the congregation voted to add its approval to the proposal that the change of the wording in the First Principle from "Inherent worth and dignity of each **person**" to "Inherent worth and dignity of each **being**" be brought forth to be voted on and discussed at the UUA General Assembly
- Hungarian Dinner was held in the AR, with the proceeds split between our sister church in Transylvania and a fund to benefit Syrian refugees entering Hungary
- Scaffolding went up for re-roofing of the Meeting House (an SCPF project)
- Our Annual Goods and Services Auction was a huge success! Many thanks to Barbara Elder and Jim Sulzer, Linda and Craig Sperry, and Paul and Lora Stewart!
- Another pledge campaign.... so essential to keeping our congregation going! Thanks to all who helped with the campaign along with all of you who have pledged!
- The Bell Play celebrating the 200th anniversary of the ringing of the Portuguese bell in our tower on December 18th, 1815 was directed by Cynthia Csabay and performed as a dramatic reading by many talented members of the Congregation
- Thanks to the hard work of Libby Oldham and Paul Stewart a book celebrating the Portuguese bell was published.
- A Year of the Bell tree was created for the NHA Festival of the Trees... more hard work by our hardy UUs!

There is definitely more work to be done, as there always will be, but it is obvious that we are an active and forward thinking congregation and have succeeded in many of our endeavors. I hope that in 2016 we can further expand our congregation and grow our leadership potential.... We still have work to do on some of the priorities that the Board has established this year at our board retreats. Priorities that still need our attention and work:

- Developing and executing a PR campaign
- Focus on leadership development
- Establish a fundraising committee
- Development of a youth group and youth group coordinator. Wwe all have something to offer each other as members of a thriving congregation

- Continued work on AR beautification
- Support of Grassroots and the 7th Principle/Green Sanctuary Project

I have no doubt that in 2016 we can address these priorities as a caring and involved congregation!

Thank you to the Congregation for allowing me to serve as Board president in 2015.... I have learned much from our caring minister, Rev. Linda, as well as from my fellow board and committee members. I love being a part of this inspiring community and plan on remaining active on committees as well as coming to our wonderful Sunday services for as long as I am able!

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Richards, Board President

Combined Finance Committee - Treasurer's Report – 2015

2015 was another good year for the church's finances. People pledged and gave generously and, along with other income, we were able to meet the budgeted expenses of operating this important church community without relying on spending down the principal of the endowment fund, which is a goal that we have been working on for the last few years.

In an effort to reduce 2015 expenses we decided to manage our endowment funds through the Finance Committee. We transitioned some of our funds into socially responsible investing, another goal of the congregation, and the rest into low-cost diversified mutual funds at Vanguard.

Accompanying this annual report (by the time of the Annual Meeting, and incorporated hereto at that time) are the year-end reports on the financial condition of the church.

During the year Gwen Richter transitioned off the committee. Thank you, Gwen! Nick Miller has joined us, bringing valuable investment experience and insight.

Thanks to all who serve on the committee this year, including Reverend Linda Simmons and President Susan Richards as ex-officio members. Everyone participated and contributed many hours from attending the monthly meetings to writing, compiling, and reviewing reports.

Respectfully submitted,

The Finance Committee: Craig Spery (Chair), Jack Weinhold, Peter Richards, Nick Miller, and Paul Stewart (Treasurer); with Reverend Linda Simmons and Susan Richards (President)

Clerk, Board of Trustees - 2015

The Clerk's Committee, comprised of Stephen Estabrooks, Clerk, Paul Stewart, Lora Stewart, Susan Richards and Joy Margolis will meet prior to the 2015 Annual Meeting to review the membership and determine the exact count of pledging, island resident, congregation members. This number will be presented at the Annual Meeting to be held January 24, 2016.

This number has financial implications. As a member of Ballou Channing District and the UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association), we are responsible for paying a certain fee for each of these members.

Meeting House attendance has been consistently accounted for by Peter Richards and David Hall. This includes the number of children as well as guests. The total attendance per service for the year averaged 52.1 and with the RE (children attending Religious Education) accounting for 5 per week. The total attendance for the Sanctuary was 1215 for a weekly average of 61, while the total attendance for Hendrix Hall was 1391 for a weekly average of 46. Total attendance increased by 9.3% over last year while the RE attendance increased by 1%.

The one service held outside the Meeting House, for the Blessing of the Animals, is not included in the totals above, but was estimated to be at 45.

I would like to thank everyone on the Board of Trustees who helped me keep the minutes of the monthly meetings as clear and accurate as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Estabrooks, Clerk

Building & Grounds – 2015

As any of you who own a house know, they are constantly deteriorating. At the ripe old age of 207 this old house is no exception. The church however is merely middle-aged when compared with the parsonage which I'm told is 232.

Over this last year there have been major repairs, minor cosmetics, and general upkeep. The committee consists of Craig Spery, David Hall, Bob Lehman, and occasionally Tobias Glidden, ably assisted by now-retired docent Denis Santangelo, and his replacement Ed Sullivan. These people not only show up for monthly meetings, but see to it that needed maintenance is performed. Either doing it themselves or finding those who can. Here is a short list of what's been done:

- On the legal and technical fronts, all required state inspections have been completed for this past year, and into the next.

- After sizing up 3 different candidates it was decided by the Board to have Wayne Alarms take over from the existing fire alarm system that was rendered obsolete by the Town Fire Department.
- Following overcrowding concerns at “The Moth” event this past August new rules were instituted by the Board.
- More regulations were instituted concerning candle wax and flower sap doing damage to carpets and paint during weddings.

Maintenance in and around The Meeting House:

- Toilets are flushing, light bulbs are burning, the heating system is working now and the cooling system worked in the summer.
- Thanks to Craig Sperry and Habitat for Humanity there is a new microwave oven in the kitchen and a new low flow toilet in the large bathroom.
- Ed is keeping the floors clean, etc., etc.
- The alley side, small bath window has been painted.
- A committee was formed to choose paint colors for the refurbishing of the A.R. room, bathrooms, and hallway. The baths have been completed by the able hands of our tenant congregation Faro de Luz.
- The hallway should be painted the first week of January 2016. Thanks to all who made decisions and wield brushes.
- T-Mobile would like to reinforce the tower with steel plates to shore up for their proposed additional weight. Our engineer and theirs are on the job picking the strongest least obtrusive method.
- Thanks to the SCPF there is a new roof on the church.

Maintenance in and around the Parsonage:

- Last January Marty McGowan volunteered to clean out the flower beds.
- The parsonage gutters got cleaned.
- The parsonage driveway side storm door has been shaved, and a new door knob was installed.
- The parsonage kitchen entry stairs were painted.
- Also in the parsonage, the second floor bath had needed plaster work and water stains attended as a quick fix before anticipated revamping in 2016.
- The parsonage roof which was to be replaced in mid-October is now scheduled for February of 2016.

No doubt I have neglected many other things that have been accomplished, and the names of those who accomplished them. My apologies for any omissions.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Lehman

Lay-Led Service Committee – 2014

The Lay-Led Service Committee has been meeting on a monthly basis to plan one Sunday's service each month. The committee consists of Val Hall (chair), Kat Robinson-Grieder, Linda Spery, Susan Richards and Peter Richards, who usually lead the services. Lay leadership was also provided by Jim Sulzer, Jack Weinhold, Emily Seawall-Butler, and Belinda Phillips. Craig Spery and Paul Stewart were always there to help with any technical needs, such as Power Point. In addition, Rev Linda Simmons and Music Director Diane Lehman were kept in close contact as we planned each service.

Here are the lay-led services we conducted in 2015:

Date	Leader	Speaker(s)	Topic	Music
11 Jan	Val	Michael Cozort	Cultural Diversity in our Schools	Choir, R. Dunbar
22 Feb	Kat	John Merson	Climate Change and Coastal Erosion	Jacob Butler
1 Mar	Belinda	Belinda and Congregation	Spiritual Journeys	Jacob Butler
22 Mar	Linda	Linda and Congregation	Standing on the Side of Love	Diane and Choir
19 Apr	Val	Peter Morrison	Stories of Nantucket Immigrants	Jacob Butler
10 May	Susan	Susan, Peter, and Congreg.	Re-thinking our First Principle	Diane and Choir
28 Jun	Val	Michael West	Accepting the Universe	Diane and Choir
26 Jul	Linda	Members of Congregation	Music Alone Shall Live	Diane and Choir
23 Aug	Kat	Members of Congregation	Summer Members' Reflections	Choir and Guest Soloists
27 Sep	Val	Emily Seawall-Butler	Let it Be	Diane and Choir
18 Oct	Kat	Rev. Jan Knost	Utrum sit Deus (IsThere a God)?	Diane
29 Nov	Val & Jack	Jack Weinhold	Sustainability to Resilience	Diane
27 Dec	Peter & Susan	Peter and Susan	The Secret O' Life	Jim Sulzer, Steve Estabrooks, Emily & Faisal Abid, Julia Hall, Roger Hicks

Our next lay-led service will be Jan 17. During February, we will be assisting at services that Rev Linda has planned in her absence, as well as conducting a lay-led service on Feb 28. We have lots of ideas for themes and speakers for 2016, but would love to hear from the congregation with your ideas. We would also love to have some of you join our committee, even if only for a short time.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Hall

Committee on Ministry – 2015

Serving this year on the Committee on Ministry were Barbara Elder, Peter Richards, Val Hall and Holly McGowan.

The Unitarian Universalist Association has a rigorous process for a new minister to become “official.” It includes having a Committee on Ministry that meets monthly to review specific items in relation to the ministry of the church and also to serve as a feedback committee for the minister. In June 2015, the committee completed an evaluation form for Rev. Linda Simmons and submitted it to the UUA (July 2014- June 2015). This June 2016 will be the last report that the COM will need to submit. The Committee on Ministry tries to meet once a month (the first Wednesday) at 8:30 a.m. in the parsonage. The committee meets around the table in the parsonage and Linda supplies us with tea. We meet for 60 – 90 minutes and discuss issues that pertain specifically to her ministry and any congregational issues that have come up over the month that need discussion. The goal of the committee is both to support and give current feedback so communication is free and open. Our committee is smaller than last year and we skipped a month meeting in the summer and in December to accommodate busy schedules.

Rev. Simmons began her service on late July 2013. She is now two and a half years into her ministry with our church. She is organized and presents our committee with a detailed report of everything she has done from month to month. This is in keeping with the UUA format and helps give us a clear picture about where her focus has been. Our committee is also a place where we discuss our church’s potential and our limitations. We do not officially plan or recommend. We serve in an advisory capacity offering support and suggestions.

Because our congregation is small, we find individuals in overlapping committees. While we have managed it as best as we can, we know there is probably redundancy for Rev. Linda Simmons. We look forward to our final evaluation and any help we might be able to provide in the future.

Thank you to all our Committee on Ministry members. May we all continue to represent our congregational needs well and support our minister.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Elder, chair

Music Director – 2015

Thank you for having me as your Music Director again this year. Rev. Linda Simmons has been a wonderful leader and supporter, colleague and friend and she continues to mentor me as a church employee. Lucretia is awesome as are the members of the board! Thanks to choir for supporting my musical decisions and choices. It has been a wonderful year of music and song thanks to all the talented church musicians we have here.

As the Music Director, I continued my role as a musical support person for Rev. Linda, whose themed programs each Sunday provided the impetus to create a program of congruent musical offerings. .. the implementation of which was often contingent on the voices available, the space of performance and the available musical material in the church music library.

The choir continues to be a joy to work with. Loyal and regular singers, there always seems to be just enough voices to put together an anthem for at least 3 Sundays a month. We sang for most every service in 2015, adding some great new repertoire thanks to their abilities and talents. There are some that attend every rehearsal and every Sunday, for which I am grateful. We mourned the loss of our dear Chris Lohmann, who held on to the bass line like a true champ and rounded out our barbershop Quartet for 2 years. I-e is missed and remembered well in every song we sing. My special thanks to Grace who is so constant, and so true I can always count on her to keep me on my toes. I might use this space to thank each of them, Nancy, Linda, Grace, Kathy, Cynthia, Polly, Nancy T., Phaedra, Val, Karin, Bob, Al, Craig, and Haziell. They are the only group at our church that stands as one each Sunday and willingly delivers a proud performance that moves us and reminds us of the importance of music. To our soloists, Bob and Cynthia, Craig and Nancy T., Phaedra, Rob...I thank you for your additional music offerings.

The Thursdays@5 concert series was a success for the 3rd year...thanks to Karin Gockel who sat at the door each Thursday, and was the overseer for everything from windows to cash to seating and counting heads. Paul Stewarts help was paramount in the form of ticket books that he created for Thursdays@5. Without his constant diligence, we would not have had the ticket sales increase and therefore present a profit from the series. We were host to many gifted performers and our space was beautifully advertised by Jack Weinhold's posters and pictures. Many thanks for all who helped with the series.

The 4th Sunday lay led committee services are always enjoyable. The committee has been very positive, at times taking over completely, negating any help I may have offered. I was happy to step back and be a part of the congregation at these times...I look forward to their next service.

Throughout the summer, we engaged soloists, and instrumentalists which were all a true joy. Throughout the year, Jacob Butler served as a substitute for me and his performances have been well received. He will be returning in 2016. Barbara Elder, Jim Sulzer, Rob Dunbar, Steve Estabrooks and Amanda Torchia have been just a few of the musicians who have filled in and added tremendous variety to our services in 2015. It was particularly wonderful to be in the sanctuary this summer with the beautiful painting to look at, music all around and friends to enjoy it with. We heard Carson Cooman play the organ on

two separate Sundays, and Susie Jarrell gave us the Doxology and an occasional prelude from the loft on more than a few occasions.

The instruments at the church are being maintained, though we now have a different tuner. The organ is still lovingly taken care of by the Andover Organ co. with Bob to thank for all its care and keeping. A new protocol has been adopted regarding maintenance scheduling because, and as I see it, it works better for the Music Director to identify when the instrument needs maintenance. Contacting the Office Administrator in that instance is merely to make sure that she is aware of the tuners arrival and subsequent billing.

In regards to weddings and memorials, we continue to tweak the system in place, though it is my understanding that I be the first musician contacted in the event of a wedding or memorial service. This coming year, I have suggested that I deal with all things music in regards to these occasional ceremonies. I hope to be part of a meeting with the Office Administrator and the Rev. in regards to this.

The position of Music Director has required an advanced knowledge of musical repertoire, an ability to lead a choir without exclusion of people who may not have the same level of music knowledge as the person next to them, an advanced knowledge of hymns, a level of skill to play accompaniment and song leading, and a dedication to the church which is evidenced by weekly attendance to rehearsals and services. It required me to be able to communicate well with the choir; as its director and accompanist. It required me to be able to lead a committee to develop ideas for fund raising and rally a core of people to help implement the plan. It required a collaborative spirit to bring out the best in the participants of the music program, soloists, members of the congregation and guest soloists. It required a professional attitude that evidenced itself in presentation and the ability to deal well with my colleague Rev. Linda, seeking counsel when needed and offering suggestions if asked. This completes my report of the job as Musical Director this year 2015. In conclusion, I was able to work with the choir, play the organ, play music of a wide variety, collaborate with members and Rev. Linda and the soloists to create what I think was an eclectic mix of programming. My experience here has been a positive one, as I said. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve the church and the congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Towle Lehman

Religious Exploration Committee – 2015

2015 has been a year of “settling in” for our small but loyal RE group of children ranging in age from 3 to 10 years old. Our RE classroom has merged over the year into one multi-age group of enthusiastic children who are very comfortable and confident in their UU environment.

We are very fortunate to continue to have Jen Dunbar as our Lead RE teacher.... Jen brings her 20+ years of teaching experience to her UU RE work with us. Also still with us throughout 2015 is volunteer Stefan Silverio who has been a reliable and popular presence with our RE children.

Our RE Committee is small but hardworking... we meet every month. We welcome new members or any type of participation from the Congregation!

Curriculum in 2015 has focused on Acts of Kindness and Holidays of World Religions. A favorite class was UNICEF day when we learned what UNICEF does for children all over the world. For the 3rd consecutive year the class created ornaments and decorated a tree downtown.... This year's theme was "Happy Holidays to UU". Several of our RE children put together packets of "Reindeer Food" to sell at our very successful UU Craft Fair held over Christmas Stroll weekend.

Another favorite activity was as a group coming up with eight acts of kindness for the eight nights of Hanukkah. For the last couple of months of the year the children have been collecting spare change and have made the decision as a group to use the money collected to purchase items of clothing, etc for island families in need.

In keeping with our commitment to professional education, RE lead teacher, Jen and RE committee chair, Susan Richards traveled to the mainland for a day long training in UU curriculum "SpiritPlay" which was led by its creator, Nita Penfield. Early in 2016, Jen and Susan will be attending another RE training on the mainland.

Over the tough winter months of 2015, RE continued to host Community Spaghetti Dinners and plan on keeping up this tradition in the winter of 2016 (with the hope that the weather won't be quite as challenging!)

RE was thrilled to receive a donation in change from longtime UU congregation member Libby Oldham, which the children helped to count up, a great math and financial exercise for our group! The donation will help with RE supplies and materials. Thank you Libby!

Plans for 2016 include:

Renewing our relationship with our sister church in Transylvania

Reaching out into the community possibly with field trips and visits from community organizations to our class

Bringing the SpiritPlay curriculum into the classroom

Being part of at least one regular service

We are thankful to the volunteers from the congregation who have stepped forward to help with Sunday classes - Joanna Greenfield, Linda Spery, Peter Richards, David Hall, Emily Seawall-Butler, Paul and Lora Stewart and Rob Dunbar.... Thanks also to Joanne Pollster and Nancy Mack who have made donations of supplies to RE. Thank you all!

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Richards, Religious Exploration Committee Chair

Grassroots Nantucket – 2015

We are excited about the direction that Grassroots Nantucket (GN) has taken this year. We launched an initiative to become a certified Green Sanctuary by introducing the concept to the congregation during a Sunday service in June. We invited the congregation to become involved by suggesting projects that the congregation would support and would also fulfill the requirements for candidacy in the UUA Green Sanctuary Program. The congregation then voted on which two projects we would take on to start the process. They are:

- * Food Rescue
- * Building Materials/Recycling.

GN then formed three teams: the Strategic Team, the Food Rescue Team and the Building Materials Team. Each Team will work independently in monthly meeting and meet every other month in a combined meeting to report in and get feedback. The projects, below, that GN is already working on, also fit nicely into the Green Sanctuary requirements and we will continue with these efforts.

- * Community Garden - Produce to the Food Pantry
- * 4 Clothing Drives and distribution to the Food Pantry participants. American Legion donating their building.
- * 2 voter Registration Drives targeting island minorities.....ballots in Portuguese, Spanish, English
- * 2 Pot luck dinners with Faro de Luce to try and connect with the El Salvadorian community.
- *Spanish Classes at the parsonage
- *Year Round Bus service
- *Safe Driving Bill

One of the goals of the Green Sanctuary Program is to become more active, as a congregation, in island life and through the Green Sanctuary Program we have increased the direct involvement of congregants as well as individuals not associated with our Unitarian Meeting House.

In 2016, we hope to successfully launch these projects and to continue to bring this ministry outside the Meeting House walls to our larger community. Please join us in this effort, it is engaging, fun and rewarding. For more information regarding the Green Sanctuary/7th PP please visit the web site: <http://www.uua.org/environment/sanctuary> or contact Gary Langley at <gary@blinddogphoto.com>

In Community,

Gary Langley

Members Fund/Pledge Campaign Committee - 2015

Each fall we have the opportunity to shape the character, breadth and depth of our congregation for the coming year. It happens when we sign a pledge card indicating the annual commitment we are prepared to make. Each member and friend's annual gift commitment of financial support is combined to provide our Finance Committee with a total amount of income to create next year's budget.

Just as we determine our own household budgets based on our projected income, we do the same with our church. Our total financial commitment as a congregation determines how extensive our music program can be, what our religious exploration program can be for both children and adults, and the extent of our community outreach, among other things. And, very importantly, our financial support funds our wonderful full-time minister, Rev. Linda Simmons.

Just as in prior years, we realize that some members are able to fund a larger percentage of our overall goal than others. However, this year as in prior years, every member is expected to support the church at some level of participation. This is an obligation that each of us agreed to honor when we signed the membership book.

The results of the year-end Members Fund/Pledge Campaign can be found in the financial reports accompanying this Annual Report. Thank you to everyone who made pledges this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Stewart, Treasurer

South Church Preservation Fund Year in Review – 2015

Many thanks to this year's Board members; Mary Beth Splaine, Gary Langley, Susan Hochwald, Michael May, Libby Oldham, Paul Stewart, Debbie Kahn, Pen Austin, Gwen Richter, David Barham, and Craig Spery. We've worked diligently to achieve the goal of restoring, preserving and maintaining the Meeting House.

Some of the highlights:

- All the roof surfaces on the historic Meeting House were replaced with red cedar shingles. Funding was provided by Community Preservation Committee (CPC) grants. Work performed by local roofer, James Lydon, comes with a 40 year warranty.
- CPC funding was also awarded for the fabrication of new lighting fixtures inside the Meeting House. Installation expected by September 2016. Thanks to David Barham and Paul Stewart for their work in obtaining the funding.
- 2015 was the Year of the Bell, marking the 200th anniversary of the installation of the Portuguese Bell in the tower. A proclamation was issued by the Board of Selectmen, a commemorative book on the history of the bell was published, and a play about the bell written by Rev. Ted Andersen and directed by Cynthia Csabay was performed on the December 18th anniversary when the bell was first rung two hundred years ago. Thanks to Libby Oldham and Paul Stewart for collaborating on publishing the informative book.
- The SCPF development committee (Debbie Kahn, Susan Hochwald, Mary Beth Splaine) started a successful social media campaign including a new FaceBook and Twitter page, "Nantucket Town Clock and Meeting House"
- We welcomed three new talented Board members starting terms in 2016; Joe Olson, Anne Troutman, and Michael Freedman (to be approved by this Annual Meeting).

We extend our ongoing appreciation to Marina Sutro and the M.S. Worthington Foundation for their unfailing support of the work of SCPF.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Spery, President 2015

Nominating Committee – 2015

Nancy Mack, Haziel Jackson, and Peter Richards were given the task to select candidates for the two Board of Trustees seats vacated this year with the expired terms of Jim Sulzer and Susan Richards.

The nominees presented are Val Hall and Clay Twombly and we ask that you please consider these candidates for your vote.

We also have selected members to take over our seats on the Nominating Committee. Christine Sanford, Susan Richards, and David Hall have been selected and we ask that you please consider them for the position.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter H. Richards, Coordinator

Membership Committee – 2015

Reactivated in 2013, the mission of the Membership Committee is to build and support community.

We work to:

1. Support and recognize current members.
2. Welcome and encourage new members.
3. Recognize summer members and facilitate their participation in congregational social activities, and
4. Encourage **all** members to participate in church activities and governance.

In 2015, the focus for the Membership Committee has continued to be community building social activities. In early spring, we held several small dinner parties simultaneously in members' homes. In June, the summer Seasonal Supper was an All-Member-Pot-Luck-Cookout at the home of Lora and Paul Stewart. In July, the committee worked with the Board of Trustees to host the third annual Summer Members' Gathering. Barbara Elder and Jim Sulzer were kind enough to host this event for the second time at their home..

There are several other annual fundraising/social activities on the church calendar which individual members hosted during 2015. Sadly, the usual "Souper Bowl" gathering at Christine Sanford's home

had to be cancelled due to inclement weather. However, the St. Patrick's Day boiled dinner at the home of Paul and Lora Stewart was a success as was the annual Hungarian Dinner in September. This year, the dinner was facilitated by Jim Sulzer and Karen Gockel which they hosted in the Activities Room.

In 2016:

1. We continue to look for and recruit new members of the committee including at least one young adult and at least one long time member with a historical view of the congregation.
2. In 2015, during Christmas Stroll, a Craft and Gift Sale was introduced to the Meeting House Calendar. This first year, we had hoped to raise \$500 for the operating budget. The sale exceeded our expectations by raising over \$2000 dollars was a great success as a community-builder with more than 20 members participating as donors, artists/crafts persons and helping with set-up, sales and clean-up. Plans are already in the works for next year's sale.
3. In the spring, we will be hosting a brunch in honor of our elders and the wisdom they bring to our Meeting House Family.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Stewart

The Caring Team - 2015

The Caring Committee was reactivated as The Caring Team in 2014. The mission of the Caring Team is to augment the pastoral care provided by Reverend Simmons and to facilitate a culture of caring within the Meeting House community.

In coordination with Reverend Simmons, The Caring Team:

1. Facilitates providing meals, transportation and errands for those in need.
2. Helps identify needs and determine resources among friends and families.
3. Reaches out to parishioners with phone calls, visits and cards when appropriate.
4. Facilitates or provides help with small household chores as needed.
5. Encourages others to participate in fulfilling our mission.

This community has a well-practiced history of caring for one another. Many times, when someone in the congregation has faces a time of challenge, the necessary meals, visits and transportation to appointments, church services and other church activities have already been arranged by members of the community without facilitation from the Team. Home visits to community members who are unable to get to the Meeting House is an ongoing priority. In 2015, a "Blue Moon" volunteer list was created to help with concrete needs within the congregation such as meals and transportation. Additionally, in coordination with Reverend Simmons, The Caring Team facilitated a Time of Remembrance for loved ones during a late fall service.

Initiated in 2013 under the umbrella of The Caring Team, the Shawl Ministry continues to attract members of the Meeting House who knit or crochet shawls to be given to parishioners and close affiliates in times of challenge. Before they are given away, every attempt is made to pass the shawls through the congregation for their good thoughts during a "shawl blessing". This year, some monies

allocated for the work of committees was given to The Caring Team to help defray the cost of yarn for the “shawl ministry”. Until now, the cost of yarn was absorbed by those making the shawls.

In the coming year The Caring Team hopes to:

1. Recruit at least one new member of the Team.
2. Continue to support and augment the pastoral care of the minister.

Many thanks to outgoing member of the Team, **Mary Beth Splaine** for her thoughtful counsel and valuable guidance over the past several years. The current Team is: **Lora Stewart, Chair and David Hall**.

The Team welcomes new members and encourages anyone interested to get in touch with Lora Stewart.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Stewart, Chair

**Second Congregational Meeting House Society
Unitarian Universalist, Nantucket, Massachusetts
Annual Meeting – Sunday - January 25, 2015**

1. **Call to Order at 12:15.** Quorum established by Stephen Estabrooks, Board of Trustees Clerk. According to the bylaws, 25 members are needed and 38 were counted.
2. **Opening Words** – Reverend Linda Simmons
3. **The Minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting** were presented by Stephen Estabrooks, Board of Trustees Clerk and unanimously approved.
4. **Discussion and Approval of the Operating Budget** for 2015. Craig Spery went over some highlights of the up-coming budget, and Paul Stewart went into the details. The Activities Room project is looking for funding and/or donated labor from Faro de Luz and Shirat Ya Ham. A contingency of \$5,000.00, needed for unforeseen emergencies or slack on other items, was approved unanimously. Regarding the parsonage roof, it was noted that while the front portion has an estimated 10 years of life remaining, the back portion needs immediate attention, with an estimated cost of \$15,000.00. \$4,800.00 is currently in the Parsonage Capital Maintenance account and \$3,000.00 is in the 2015 budget, and the balance needed, up to \$10,000.00, was unanimously approved to be taken from the checking account. The entire budget for 2015 was approved unanimously by the congregation. Paul Stewart noted that the return on investments was about 2.7%.

The Congregational Handbook, recently revised by the hard work of Susan Richards and Paul Stewart, was approved unanimously and will be posted on the church web site. Regarding membership dues in the national UUA, it was voted unanimously by the Board of Trustees to count members as those residing on Nantucket and who have pledged to the church.

Election of Board of Trustees Members: The Nominating Committee consisted of Nancy Rappaport, Kat Robinson-Grieder and Craig Spery. Nominated were Joanna Greenfield and Cynthia Csabay to fill the expired terms of Linda Spery and John Rivera. Lora Stewart and Jan Ellsworth accepted the nominations for a three year term after completing the terms of Brian Girard and Jack Weinhold.

Paul Stewart was nominated for a one year term as Treasurer. There were no nominations from the floor.

It was noted that the South Church Preservation Fund nominees for the upcoming term must be elected by the congregation. Debbie Kahn and Pen Austin were nominated and David Barham and Gary Langley agreed to stay on for another term. Craig Spery was elected president by the SCPF board to replace the departing President, Mary Beth Splaine.

The entire slate of nominees was approved unanimously by vote of the congregation.

Adjournment at 1:00 PM by President, Jim Sulzer.

Board of Trustees Meeting: Convened after the Annual Meeting at 1:10PM.

Present: Rev.Linda, Jim Sulzer, Susan Richards, Lora Stewart, Paul Stewart, Joy Margolis, Cynthia Csabay, and Stephen Estabrooks.

Absent: Jan Ellsworth.

Opening Words: Opening words were given by Jim Sulzer.

Also present: Finance Committee Chairman, Craig Spery.

Election of Officers:

Susan Richards: President

Jan Ellsworth: Vice-President

Stephen Estabrooks: Clerk

All nominations were approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. TIAA-CREF needs to be notified annually by way of the Clerk's Certificate as to the current status of officers who are approved to deal financially with the investments held by TIAA-CREF. President, Susan Richards, Treasurer, Paul Stewart and Clerk, Stephen Estabrooks signed the form which will be sent to TIAA-CREF when Vice-President Jan Ellsworth returns from off-island.
2. It was voted on and approved by all present to have TIAA-CREF close out Account 881598901 and deposit the proceeds into Nantucket Bank Account #5436 and to stop investing any dividends, distributions or other income in our account 881566703, into bonds. Further instructions will be forthcoming.
3. Jack Weinhold and Mary Beth Splaine have generously offered to donate 35 chairs to the church, a vast improvement over the folding metal chairs they will replace.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Estabrooks, Clerk

**We, the member congregations of the Unitarian
Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:**

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations.
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregation.
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregation and in society at large.
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.