



January 2010 Newsletter

North Shore Unitarian Church

Belong with heart. Thrive in spirit. Act in service.

Sunday Morning Services Services start at 10:30 am

UPCOMING SERVICES

Jan 3rd – *How My Mind Has Changed*

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Phillip Hewett

Co-ordinator: Vandy Savage

That wise old man Benjamin Whichcote, born exactly 400 years ago, wrote, "He that never changed any of his opinions never corrected any of his mistakes, and he who was never wise enough to find out any mistakes in himself will not be charitable enough to excuse what he reckons mistakes in others." I hope to take this to heart.

Jan 10th – *Dealing With Winter*

Speaker: Rev. Stephen Atkinson

Co-ordinator: Andrea Berman

Love it or hate it, Winter is happening. This season is a joy, an endurance test, a reason to get away, or a time to cozy up depending on whom you ask. What happens to us in Winter? Can we find something that nourishes us when the world is cold, dark and sleeping?

Jan 17th – *Why is Action Spiritual?*

Speaker: Rev. Stephen Atkinson

Co-ordinator: Vandy Savage

One of our church members once asked me this challenging question, wondering why simply living with spirit isn't enough. I want to address her question today, and I

suspect there is more than one answer.

Jan 24th – *Our Sources III: Humanism, Reason and Science*

Speaker: Rev. Stephen Atkinson

Co-ordinator: Vandy Savage

Picking up again on this series of services focusing on our Unitarian Universalist Sources, we'll look at what the Humanist movement has brought into our tradition, and why we so value the use of reason and the knowledge of science in questions of belief and spirit.

Jan 31st – *Laughing It Up*

Speaker: Rev. Stephen Atkinson

Co-ordinator: Andrea Berman

Laughter cleanses the body, warms the heart and fills the spirit. Let's look at the lighter side and lift our spirits.

Contents

Sunday Services.....	1
Minister's Message.....	2
President's Message.....	3
Mission Into Action 2.....	4
Educational Programs.....	5
Social Responsibility.....	6
Getting To Know You.....	7
Children's Programs.....	8
Youth Programs	9
Bulletin Board.....	10
Staff & Board Directory.....	11
Calendar of Church Events..	12

Mission Statement

The mission of North Shore Unitarian Church is to empower people to live with greater depth, meaning and purpose. We welcome all to our caring community, foster spiritual growth free of dogma, and inspire actions



North Shore Unitarian Church

370 Mathers Avenue,
W. Vancouver, BC V7S1H3
Ph: 604-926-1621 Fax: 1-866-450-9852 Email: nsuc@telus.net,
website: www.nsuc.ca

From the Minister



Reverend
Stephen
Atkinson

Only recently I realized that we are approaching the end of a decade. There's no debate, these days, similar to whether 2000 was the first year or the last – just acceptance that the first Millennial decade is over. Perhaps I wasn't more aware because we've never decided what to call 2000-2009; there's no appropriate title. Now as they did in the first year, some are talking about whether these were the 'Oughts' or the 'Noughts.'

Considering there was so much that some people ought to have done but didn't – reducing carbon emissions for example - and a lot that ought not to have happened that did – the invasion of Iraq for instance – perhaps we should retrospectively call it the Oughts. Then again, considering that the progress we made on, to name just one thing, reducing child poverty in BC was nought, we could argue it either way. Yet, both names indicate zero and surely that's too bleak a label to put on a whole decade. I hope we don't call the coming decade the 'Teens', as the world is far more experienced and needs far more wisdom than an adolescent; perhaps it will be the 'Tweens', coming as it must between the warnings and the solutions, between the innocence of both naïve hope and unreflective cynicism and the experience of maturing to face realities.

Ten years ago, I left medicine and the city of Toronto, taking a direction that might have appeared

backward – moving home at 47? – but was actually a Great Leap Forward. I was soon to be back at school also, and I wasn't even Unitarian Universalist yet. These ten years have been filled with movement, back/forward, up/down, high/low, it makes me realize that whatever state I – or you – may be in at the moment, things will change. They'll change both for the better and the worse and do so repeatedly.

This will be so for the church also. North Shore Unitarian Church will turn 43 this year, but I believe the North Shore Fellowship started just about 50 years ago, so in a way this will be a new decade for our community as well. What positive developments might it bring?

One way or another, staying or moving, it will bring certainty about our location. That in itself will help us focus on how we will mature as a community and how we will apply ourselves within our communities. It will clarify what concrete problems we will need to solve first, and what practical solutions we will need to begin with.

I believe the decade will also see us become clearer about who we are as a community and how we will deal with our diversity. It might be that we will come to know our theological position as both broadly inclusive and specifically focused, so that we will be both very open to all that do belong with us and more clearly understood by those visitors who are looking for something else. It may mean that we become comfortable defining clearly what commitment our community needs from members and friends, not necessarily more commitment, though we shouldn't be afraid of stating that if it's what the church needs to be effective. I simply mean that more and more people will know what being part of this church means.

Finally, I hope that we will learn that it is our mission, as it is updated from time to time, that will guide us over a whole decade – and well beyond.

OFFICE HOURS:

Wednesday 4:30 to 6 pm;
Thursday 5:30 to 7 pm;
Friday 1 to 3 pm;
Other times by appointment.



Did You Know...

... that memorial services are planned by the family in consultation with the minister or lay chaplain? What's included or not and what language is used or not is the family's decision.

... that the Pastoral Discretionary Fund can help people in our community through a time of financial difficulty? Give yourself a break and speak in utter confidence to our minister, Stephen, about what would help you.

Don't forget... Sunday announcements can often be included on the yellow insert in the Order of Service if you send them to the Office by Thursday afternoon.

President's Message

Wayne
Hanna



The New Year is upon us and the darkness surrounds us. In our discovery circles we discussed this important time of the year and Stephen shared with us this thought: "In darkness we sleep, and dream, and become refreshed; in darkness we can be freer to think about all that needs pondering; in darkness, love can sometime shine the most"

As the New Year begins I hope that you will cherish what you have and look forward to the opportunities that await you. The past never returns but the future will provide new challenges, new hopes and new dreams.

Robert Weston put it this way:

A year has gone

But today I start another year

It is what lies before me that concerns me now

There will be decisions and tasks

There will be drudgery, achievement and defeat

There will be joy and grief

And it will never become just what I planned

Someone might say 'It all depends on what the year may bring'

But what I make of it depends on me

2009 was an important year in the life of our church even though we

were not able to finalize the sale of our property nor identify a new location. This period of transition has been difficult for us all and the togetherness of our community becomes even more important. We have been fortunate to have five new families join our community and 12 new members.

During 2009 we did not receive our BC government grant due to the error of a civil servant reviewing our financial statements. We have worked hard to have this error corrected but the result has been the loss of our grant and this has had an impact on our financial health. It was not the best time for a civil servant to make a mistake and it has been compounded by the poor economy. Our canvass was essentially flat and the government appears to be rethinking how they will use the lottery money in our province, which was from where our grant came.

As our annual budget is largely salaries, your Board struggled with whether to recommend a deficit for 2010 or to reduce our staff. After considerable discussion the Board has decided to recommend a status quo budget (no increase in salaries) which could result in a deficit for 2010. This decision was based on the likelihood that the sale of our property will take place in the near future and now is not the time to create further dislocation and/or uncertainty in our programs. We look forward to your input at our Budget meeting on January 31, 2010 to discuss and finalize this important issue.

Our "Mission into Action" moves to its second step this month. Our first workshop in November helped us to better understand the concepts of 'support' and 'welcoming' as they relate to our community. Our January workshop will allow us to develop the critical actions that provide the foundations for an ongoing, caring community and in

March we will identify specific actions that we should take to maintain and develop a strong, healthy community. Whether you were able to attend the November workshop or not, you are invited to assist us in this important work of our community by attending the January 16 workshop starting at 9am.

The days may be dark, the ice and snow may cover the ground but the fire of our community can hold us together and provide the warmth so that we can cherish each moment of the New Year. What happens in this New Year depends on each of us and I look forward to the realization of our dreams of a new location and the continuing growth of our community. In 2010, I hope that you will take the time to reach out to the members of our community, to welcome and support, to build and share as we move forward.



Notice of Congregational Meeting

Date: Sunday, January 31, 2010

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Location: In the Church Sanctuary

370 Mathers Avenue, West Vancouver, B.C.

Purpose: To consider and approve the annual budget for 2010. To consider extending the Property Purchase & Sale Agreement with Hynes Developments.

THE SECOND MISSION INTO ACTION WORKSHOP

Saturday, JANUARY 16th, 2010

On November 21st, the first of three *Mission into Action Workshops* was held at NSUC. Thirty-eight hard-working people attended and began the process of exploring how we welcome people to our congregation and how we help all of us already here to develop a sense of belonging - in other words, how we can Belong with Heart as our Mission states. It is now the time for the second Workshop in the series.

This time, we will generate ideas about how to create an environment that fosters belonging and is inclusive of people with many and varied needs. We will then select those ideas that will have the greatest chance of being implemented successfully.

We especially welcome all who were not able to attend the first workshop, as well as all those who participated in November. It's not too late to join many others in thinking about this first part of our Mission. We look forward to seeing you. We will start at 9 AM and end at 1:30 PM.

All who are coming will need to register with Brian McConnell at 604-984-8339 or mcbrian@shaw.ca.

Questions?

1. Who can come? You can.
2. How many people do we need? Our goal is to inspire 50 people (or more!) to join us at these exciting workshops.
3. Will this work be done over all three workshops? Yes. We started in November and will continue on January 16th, until we have an action plan at the end of the third workshop on March 13th, 2010.

4. What if I can't commit to participate in both remaining workshops? Please come to at least one to add your ideas into our planning process.

5. What do I need to do to attend? Register by calling Brian McConnell at 604-984-8339 or e-mail at mcbrian@shaw.ca by January 10th, 2010.

6. Will it be fun? You bet. The process you will learn to take ideas into action was developed by Disney to inspire creativity and collaboration with their animators. It's fast, unleashes imagination and helps us work as one voice where all contributions are valued.

7. What should I bring? Be prepared by thinking about this topic. Bring your curiosity, your enthusiasm and your ideas. Refreshments and food will be provided at our mid-morning break.

8. Who is leading this event? Lorraine McGregor, Pat Meyer and Karen Gram of the Healthy Growth committee with help from our Project Champion Wayne Hanna, Minister Stephen Atkinson and the board. The project champion is responsible for seeing this initiative through the implementation phase and on into the future as we explore the next aspects of the mission.

9. How do I know this whole process won't just result in a lot of time wasted with no new results

or

changes that would bring the Mission into Action? The workshops have been designed so action plans are created.

The board and the Healthy Growth Committee are committed to seeing this process through beyond the scope of these workshops. The only reason it might not work is lack of interest from the congregation.

"The Gift" – an original chancel drama by Alison Nixon



Graham, Andrea, Eric, Maddy



Andrea



Eric, Graham, Kerry



Programs for Mind, Heart, Spirit (formerly Adult Religious Education)

As the rain melts the snow outside, the days are close to getting longer instead of shorter. By the time the newsletter is printed, winter solstice will be history. However, here at NSUC, our fall programs for Heart, Mind, Spirit have brought plenty of enlightenment, along with fellowship and fun, to those who have participated. Our committee thanks the excellent facilitators who have given of their time and knowledge: Rev. Stephen Atkinson, Rev. Arthur Berman, and Wanda Morris.

Wanda's SoulCollage® workshop on November 28th was a stimulating, thought-provoking chance to take cutting and pasting to new heights of creativity and new depths of insight.

In last month's newsletter, I accidentally reversed the order in the title of our new program name. This month sets it straight. As with our church's mission, we're putting heart first, and at the heart of our programs are Jasha Ramsay-Latter's welcome and welcoming refreshments. Even though she is no longer on our committee, Jasha has continued to take on this task. Your donation in the basket while you enjoy a cup of tea helps reimburse her for the supplies she purchases.

We haven't set dates for H.M.S. winter events, but we do hope to have the postponed screening of *Milk* sometime in January, and the last meetings of Building Your Own Theology I, along with the once-a-month Living by Heart poetry group and the Friday Compassionate Communication group, will get 2010 under way.

Also, interested people might want to carpool to the Vancouver Unitarian Church at 949 W. 49th for

a series of weekly classes on multi-faith mystics by Harold Rosen (interfaitheducation.org) for nine Tuesdays from 7-9 pm starting January 12, 2010. Contact Tara at the Vancouver church at 604-261-7204 or by e-mail (tara@vancouverunitarians.ca).

ElJean Wilson for Marcia Stephenson, Regeena Baumann, Pat Brand and our advisors, Rev. Stephen Atkinson and Lynn Sabourin, Director of Religious Education.

eljean@shaw.ca



INVITATION TO OUR *NEW UU* PROGRAM

New UU is an opportunity for people new to NSUC to gather to learn more about this community: meeting others who are relatively new helps people become connected; it can make the community feel more like your own, while having fun.

Attending is an excellent way to consider what place you want this congregation to take in your life and how you'd like to be a part of it, especially if you're considering becoming a Unitarian Universalist and/or a member here. Attending *New UU* is a requirement for membership if you have not been a member of another Unitarian church in the past, and acts as a refresher course for those returning.

Lynn Sabourin, our Membership Director and our Director of Religious Education, and I talk about the history of Unitarian Universalism of this church in particular. We'll talk about our principles and sources, and ways in which people of various backgrounds and beliefs create our diverse and open church. There will be lots of time for your questions and to share your responses to your new experience here.

Even members or long-time friends are welcome: to be reminded about basics, perhaps to learn something new, and also to get to know those who are currently interested in our congregation.

Lynn and I look forward to welcoming you that morning. To register, please contact Lynn (604-926-1621; lsabourin@nsuc.ca) or sign up on the sheet downstairs. Child care will be provided- please request it when you register. Date: January 23, 2010 Time: 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Location: Room TBA Beverages and snacks provided.

Social Responsibility Committee

Sunday Social Outreach

Each Sunday, the collection plate serves as our opportunity to support specific, worthwhile causes. Our November contributions raised \$1662 for the Unitarian Service Committee.

For January:

Contributions will go to Lookout Emergency Aid Society's North Shore Shelter.

The Shelter provides the North shore adult homeless men and women with 45 beds. In addition, as part of the local Extreme Weather Response, we also offer up to 20 'overflow' mats – with further capacity as needed through a satellite site at North Shore Neighborhood House. ... In addition to the basic Lookout services of food, showers, clothing and laundry services, North Shore provides 24 hour, 7 day-a-week support, with staff assessing needs, and linking people with the services each requires to gain long term housing after they leave the emergency shelter ... During the past year the Shelter provided 15,052 bednights of service ... housed 1168 men and women (15%) ... Frustratingly, despite our beds being more available, we still turned away 662 individuals, including 133 women (20%) because of lack of beds or our inability to meet their specific needs." For more info: lookoutsociety.bc.ca

Special Outreach, 31 January: *Empty Bowls.*

At the CUC Annual General Meeting, each church contributes to an "Empty Bowls" fund, which is then given to a local food bank. On Sunday, January 31, we will be raising our contribution to the May AGM, which is in Victoria.

Collection Bins:

Please note that the collection bins have been moved to the rightmost hallway entering the sanctuary, under the mail boxes. Donations are delivered to the North Shore Shelter. During these cold winter months, they could use backpacks or canvas tote bags, combs, toiletries (especially hotel giveaways), winter scarves, gently used underwear, gloves (not mittens), jackets, boots, etc. Their clients are primarily (85%) male. Please be targeted in your donations.

UU-UNO Envoy

Did you know that UU's have an ngo presence at the UN through the UU-UNO. Would you like to learn more, and perhaps support that effort and the work of the UN in general within our congregation? Please see the information posted on the Social Responsibility bulletin board and/or at uu-uno.org, and consider becoming our envoy.



Notable January Dates

6th, 1568: The Diet of Torda, called by Prince John Sigismund, opens in the Kingdom of Transylvania. Francis Dávid presents the Unitarian theological position; the result is that on Jan. 13, 1568, the Prince, and later King, becomes Unitarian and commands that there be religious freedom in his kingdom, the first time a European ruler does not force all his subjects to follow his own religion.

8th, 1697: The last execution for heresy in Britain takes the life of Thomas Aikenhead an 18 year old medical student who is a follower of the anti-Trinitarian ideas of the Socinians, a Polish form of early Unitarianism that influenced reform theology across Europe.

13th, 1819: A group of English Unitarians unites to fight the civil persecution of Unitarian dissenters. English law at that time discriminated against non-members of the Church of England; Unitarians were likewise persecuted by other Protestant dissenters as well.

14th, 1875: Albert Schweitzer is born in Alsace, Germany; he achieves doctorates in theology, philosophy, music and medicine! He becomes a member of the Unitarian Church of Cape Town and an honorary member of the Church of the Larger Fellowship.

14th, 1878: John Hassler Dietrich is born in Pennsylvania. He becomes a Unitarian minister, serving for a time in Spokane, and is one of the founders of the religious humanist movement and a signer of the first Humanist Manifesto in 1933.



Children's Program

COORDINATOR: Lynn Sabourin



As I write, we have had our last Sunday rehearsal for the Christmas pageant, *The Ghost of Grumps*, which is part of the December 20 service. It has been a pleasure to have Kathryn Nicholson as the director this year. Thanks also to Jasha Ramsay-Latter for her inspired help with props and costumes and to Sharon Bowen for her stage management again this year. I appreciate the efforts of all our actors, young and old, too many to name here. But I will say that Gord Latter took to his role as the Ghost of Grumps with a natural enthusiasm.

Our Gift Making Workshop on November 22, was a wonderful event thanks to the 28 adults who helped with crafts, did refreshments, sold tickets, set up, and cleaned up. The happy faces of all the kids who created gifts for family and friends, made it all worthwhile.

If you have a meeting in Room 305 of the Rod Stewart building, you may get a sense that you have entered a jungle. That's because the 11 and 12 year olds envisioned that as their special place and Anne Travers, their teacher for the fall semester, and Jasha Ramsay-Latter helped to make it happen. There has been a lot of team-building, cooperation, creativity, discussion, compromise, and fun in creating this space, which really has been

transformed. Even if you don't have a meeting- take a peek.

The kids in the Middle Group with Sharon Bowen have added to their Windows and Mirrors art panels each week. Concepts covered this month:

- learning about the Children's Crusade during the Civil Rights movement in the States, illustrating that all ages share particular gifts.
- the curse of Babel offered many ways of looking at how we communicate and the importance of listening.
- the story of Henry Hampton, creator of the famous TV series, *Eyes on the Prize*, helped the children look at how we can be social justice allies with people in our own community.

The 7 & 8 year olds in the Holidays and Holydays program explored the Hindu festival of lights, Divali, which happens most often in October or November. At this time Hindus hope that the goddess, Lakshmi, will follow the light of their clay lamps, or *depas*, to visit their homes and bring good luck and wealth. They also heard about the Hindu festival of Dussehra, which is celebrated all over India to mark the homecoming of Lord Rama. It is celebrated for nine consecutive days, as a triumph of good over evil. Children hear the beloved epic story of the Ramayana, in which the Lord Rama killed the demon Ravanna, the abductor of his beloved Sita.

They learned about Wampanoag Indians and their version of Thanksgiving as compared to the early Puritan settlers in the eastern U.S. Like our First Nations people, they believe that every day is Thanksgiving. Each morning, before the sun comes up, many Wampanoags hold a tobacco burning ceremony to give thanks for life and the gifts that they have

been given, such as food, clothing and friendship. The Wampanoags believe that the force of life, the Great Spirit, lives in everything.



WANTED: Temporary Choir Director

The fifteen to twenty-member Beacon Unitarian Choir in the Tri-cities area of metro Vancouver is looking for a part-time contagiously enthusiastic Choir Director to fill a leave of absence, January through May 2010. We have weekly rehearsals on Tuesday evenings in Coquitlam and sing in church in New Westminster about twice a month plus occasional other times. Candidate must have ability to work with volunteer musicians with a wide range of skills. Experience as church choir director and conducting experience is strongly preferred. The Choir Director works in collaboration with the Worship Committee and the Minister.

We are looking for someone with the knowledge and skills to lead and build a choir, as well as lead the congregation in the singing of worship hymns and songs. The director must be willing to learn and respect the principles, history and traditions of Unitarianism, but need not be a Unitarian.

Salary to be negotiated.

For information about the congregation, see www.BeaconUnitarian.org

To apply please email resume and your salary expectations to Rev. Katie Stein Sather, ksather@shaw.ca by January 8.

Youth Program

COORDINATOR: Samaya Oakley



We stand at a threshold right now – the start of a new decade. For some reason, this brings a sense of new beginnings. There's a sense of taking time to look back to see where we came from and the road we journeyed. It's nice to stop and survey just where we are at the moment and to look forward to chart a new course. In looking forward, it is as if we are looking at a blank canvas and we are the ones that get to choose what goes on that canvass. We get to choose the colours and textures that will take us forward into the next year.

September through to December is a time of settling into the new church year with a new group of youth and the start up of the different programs that our congregation holds. This is of course coupled with the big finish to Christmas and the New Year. In the midst of writing my final papers and studying for exams, I hunger for that moment of stillness, where my sense of the world clock is suspended for a moment. I am looking forward to January, and settling into a different pace of being - days get longer, there is renewed energy and approach.

With respect to my ministry to and with youth, this month, we'll be collecting donations for the *Heifer Project* throughout the month of January. You can hand your

donation in through the collection on Sunday morning, by handing it into the church office, or by giving it to a youth who is doing coffee. We'll be spending time this month on articulating our faith by coming up with our 30-second bus stop spiel.

Looking forward, we are encouraging attendance at a *Leadership Development Conference* the BC Youth Adult Committee is hosting. Our congregation's building will be the host site for the conference which is being held the first weekend in March. The BC YAC is also hosting the youth spring conference with the Pacific North West District. That conference will be taking place somewhere in the Vancouver Lower Mainland. Another event we are planning to promote is the national Canadian Unitarian Council youth conference, *CanUUdle*, that happens with the Annual Conference and Meeting in Victoria during the long weekend.

The Senior High *Our Whole Lives* program wraps up in early February. The Grade 5/6 program starts up at the beginning of March, after the Olympics. Thanks to Lesley Gibbons and Blair Thompson for agreeing to co-facilitate this program. Alongside the Grade 5/6 program will be the meeting for parents of the children in the program. We'll cover some of the same activities the children will be doing in their program and have a facilitated discussion about how to promote the values of the program in the home.

But, I'm running away with myself and all the wonderful things that our congregation does! In closing, I want to share with you some words that have become a mantra for me as I walk through life. I hope you find them of use as you take stock of the year in whatever manner suits you best.

This is the beginning of a new day. You have been given this day to use as you will. You can waste it or use it for good. What you do today is important because you are exchanging a day in your life for it.

When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever; in its place is something that you have left behind...let it be something good.

~Unknown

Community Dinners



HELP WANTED

For those who don't know about Community Dinners:

1. Someone offers to host a potluck dinner in their home on a stated date and says how many guests they can accommodate. The host then contacts Diana Cathcart who posts a notice on the Community dinners notice board downstairs in the hallway,
2. Members and friends of NSUC sign their names on the notice if they wish to attend a dinner.
3. The host contacts the guests and suggests dishes they can bring.
4. There is no obligation to host if you do attend a dinner.
5. This is a great way to get to know folks, especially if you are new to the church.

Please think about being a host and/or a guest. Host may book any date up to the end of June.



Bulletin Board

Attention all Women with Overloaded Closets!!

A group of NSUC women have come up with the most elegant solution - an NSUC clothing swap!! We plan to hold it from ten o'clock to two o'clock on Saturday January 23rd at the church with donations being accepted during the weeks of January 11th up to January 22nd. There will be a ten dollar entry charge, and you are welcome to take whatever strikes your fancy at no extra cost. We will be serving coffee and tea and light refreshments to revive your strength after "bagging some bargoons," so plan to come early and shop till you drop!!

We are asking for donations of any type of women's or children's clothing items. We welcome items that are clean and in good condition, no missing buttons or non-working zippers, please. Coats, scarves, hats, gloves, purses, shoes, sweaters, blouses, pants and of course jewelry of all kinds are most appreciated!! This fun money-maker is designed to get you thinking about spring cleaning after the holidays, refresh your wardrobe and make a little money for our church! All left-over clothes will be donated to various charities.

We are looking for a few volunteers to help sort donations the week before the swap and some willing folks to help set on Friday 22nd. If this sounds interesting, please contact Jasha Ramsay at (604) 988-9931 or Jasha@shaw.ca.

So ladies of all sizes and ages and interests!! Start looking through your closets with a critical eye...."Will I really wear this again, or is it time to pass it on??" Tuck all those previously loved items away for the swap, and we will start the fun early in the new year!!

Building and Grounds

Despite progress made with the sale of the property, our building and grounds still need to be cared for, and most of this is done by people like you, volunteers who take on a task and do it. You do not have to be part of the Vaughan clan to be a part of this important group.

One project we are working on is creating a forum where members can find out how to get jobs done around the church, who to contact, where various tools and supplies are located just in case you are tempted to do something instead of say, noticing that it needs doing. It will have FAQs on subjects such as setting up for soup, or using the audio-visual and hearing devices, or what to do about heating problems. When it is up and running, we'll be sure to let you know. As a member of the Committee, you'll also be able to read and post replies.

In recent months, the following handy folks have been taken care of our building for you. Brian McConnell, Dan Leahy, Bob Vaughan and Mark Mayall diagnosed and had the sump pump for the Rod Stewart Building repaired at lowest cost. The staff at Piglets Place are much happier now that the sump pump does not now sound every hour or so during heavy rains. The staff there are also happy to have the very heavy sliding room divider working at last after 4 years hiding behind a "Danger, do not move sign". Thank Brian McConnell and Bob Vaughan for that one. Thanks to Joanna Vaughan for painting the front door of the church and raking the leaves, and Bob, Dan, Merrick, Paul Symons and Brian for replacing various burnt out bulbs outside and in, including on signs.

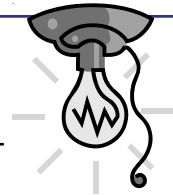
Brian Welwood painted the cement block dividers a bright yellow so that you don't trip over them.

In January, Roy Brand is our contact person. We are still looking for someone to step up for February. Feel free to contact me if you wish to take that on.

Brian McConnell

Board Liaison for Building and Grounds

CHURCH ATTENDANT REQUIRED



A responsible individual is sought to prepare the building for rites of passage ceremonies and other occasional special rentals of the premises and to meet the needs of visitors attending them.

Duties will include ensuring lighting, heat, and sound systems are operational; directing guests to coat racks, lavatories and the kitchen; assisting with set-up of tables and chairs as required and the general clean up and security of the building following the event.

The role is that of an ambassador, one of our primary representatives in dealing with Church users, so the Attendant will act in a warm, personal and professional manner.

For more information or to indicate your interest, please call Dermot Foley, Chair, Personnel Comm: 604-340-1721 or e-mail: dermotfoley@hotmail.com

Notices

Artarians

The Artarians will continue to display their current endeavours in the Sanctuary over the following month of January. They are also sharing some creations from the younger members of our congregation.

The Artarians are a group of North Shore Unitarian artists. Biographies of the artists can be found at the back of the church. We are an active and fun committee who is always looking for new members. If you are interested please contact Jilly Watson at 604-947-9604 or jilly.watson@shaw.ca

Library News – Read On

Our big used book sale will be after the service on Sunday, February 7th, 2010. It is Dickens' birthday, so this will be our "Olympic Valentine to Dickens". Please bring in your donations as soon as possible to the room behind the library. To help our volunteers, please use *small* boxes (liquor box size) whenever possible. We take all saleable books, CDs, DVDs, videos, cassettes. No old text books, please. We look forward to seeing you at the sale, please mark your calendar "February 7th" Happy New Year!

The Book Club

Our next meeting will occur in the Fireside Room from 10 until noon on Thursday, Jan. 21st. Anyone who has read *The Other Side of the Bridge* by Mary Lawson and wishes to discuss it is welcome to attend. For further information phone Karen Funt at 604-925-3815 or Sharon Bowen at 604-985-9261.

Cronies, Wise Women, Golden Girls

Our bi-monthly gatherings are highlights of the month for a number of us, as we deal with whatever topics emerge. Care to drop in some time to see why? Just pack a sandwich and come at 12:30 on Jan. 14 or 28th. And you may have read that Kathryn Nicholson kindly offered to tell us about her trip to Tanzania at 12:30 on the 28th. Everybody's welcome. You don't even have to be a female. No charge either . . .

On Thursday January 28th. *Kathryn Nicholson* will give a power point presentation of her trip to Africa. If you are interested please join the "Cronies" in the Fireside Room at 12.30 and bring your lunch.

Save the Date:

Friday, February 5 at 6 p.m.
Light supper and line dancing.
Proceeds to Choir Partner Church Centennial Tour.

Cares and Concerns

Even as independent-minded Unitarians there are times in life when it's okay to need help. If you, or someone you know, is shut-in, ill, facing loss, crisis or other stress, Care and Concerns is available to help with a call or visit, a meal or drive, or other resources. (Please receive permission to call on behalf of someone else.)

Mary Segal 604-987-9676, Dianne Mylrea 604-980-6908, Candace Parker 604-984-2503, Leslie Whyte-Gibbons 604-913-9215, Romney Copping 604-929-3554, Jenny McHaffie 604-985-8429, Liz Moffitt 604-924-1449

Staff & Board Directory

Minister:

Rev. Stephen Atkinson

satkinson@nsuc.ca

Board of Trustees:

President: Wayne Hanna

Vice Presidents:

Congregational: John Biasucci

Denominational: Don Gayton

Treasurer: Brian Funt

Secretary: Brian McConnell

Members-at-Large:

Sonya Wachowski

Rachelle Lee

Greg Huynh

Paul Sungaila

Director of Religious

Education: Lynn Sabourin

Music Director:

Alison Nixon

Youth Program Coordinator:

Samaya Oakley

Bookkeeper: Kay Welwood

Lay Chaplains: Jasha

Ramsay-Latter, Elizabeth McLin

Office Administrator:

Debbie Leslie nsuc@telus.net

Office Hours: 9:30am-3 pm

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri.

Newsletter:

Editor: Norma Elrod

Layout/graphics: Janell Hilton

Production: Debbie Leslie

Web Master: Malcolm Mallory