



# The Communicator

the monthly newsletter of the

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HAVERHILL

**UUCH: a faith community transforming lives and the world**

## What's Happening This Month, June, 2015

**Annual Meeting** is on Sunday, June 7, at 12 Noon. Please make every effort to attend, as we will elect leaders, vote on the new Fiscal Year's budget, and vote on roof repairs.

**Mind\*Body\*Spiritual Wellness Support Group's** last meeting of the season is Friday, June 5 at 7 pm.

**Choir Schedule:** The choir will be singing with director Lisa Zaleski on May 31 and June 7. All who would like to sing are welcome. Rehearsal begins at 9:15 am in the Sanctuary.

**The Ladies Circle June meeting** will be a pot luck/cookout at Trudy Blyth's home on Saturday, June 13 at Noon. (Please bring a folding chair!) RSVP to Trudy by June 10. In case of rain, we will meet at the church. We will elect officers for the next church year. All women of the church are invited to attend.

**The next *Communicator* Deadline is June 15 by 9 am.** This issue will cover both July and August. Submissions from committees, groups or individuals are welcome (350 word limit—less if you include a graphic). Articles should be of some spiritual or intellectual depth, and should be sent as Word attachments, with no formatting, please.

**The New Moon Coffeehouse has rescheduled the concert that was cancelled due to snow.** It will be on Saturday, June 6 at 8 pm, and will feature the Parkington Sisters. Tickets available at the door (adults \$20, children \$10).



Earth Day Service 2015



Earth Day Communion 2015



## Things Seen and Unseen

by Rev. Frank Clarkson

June is a month of endings and beginnings. For students, the school year ends (late this year because of the snow) and summer vacation finally comes. High school and college seniors graduate and are launched, ready or not, into “the real world.” People get married and begin new lives together. I know ministers who are leaving a congregation and starting up in a new place. These transitions are cause for celebration, hope, and some anxiety too!

Here at UUCH, we begin the month with our annual meeting, when we look back at the year that’s ending and make plans for the one about to begin. Though worship continues here every Sunday at 10:30 am, the coming of summer brings a shift to a more relaxed style for July and August.

Graduation ceremonies are often called “commencement,” which means “a beginning.” What looks like the end is almost always a beginning too. Sometimes we miss this, because it’s easier to see what has been, what is ending, than what lies ahead.

This month we bid farewell to two staff members, Sexton Charlie Jardine and Ministerial Intern Julie Lombard. Charlie is often unseen, because he works early on weekday mornings. He’s faithfully served our church for 28 years. Charlie was clear he didn’t want any kind of public acknowledgement of this retirement, but we did convince him to let our staff serve him a celebratory breakfast! Julie’s last Sunday with us is June 21. We’ll have a special coffee hour following the service, and I hope you’ll be here to hear Julie preach and to wish her well as she completes this important step in her path toward ministry. It’s been great having Julie here for these two years, and I’m grateful for her for all her hard work, her openness to learning and the love and care she’s brought to this congregation.

These endings are poignant, aren’t they? They call us to be present, to pay attention, to look each other in the eye and say what we want and need to say. And it is good.

## Intern Insights

by Julie Lombard

It’s hard to ignore that we are fast approaching the end of this church year. In my two years with UUCH, I have been strengthened and revitalized by the energizing spirit in this loving congregation. I cannot thank this community enough for sponsoring my journey into ministry. You have been the most amazing teachers!

There are so many unique gifts and lessons that I will take with me after I leave here which I learned from Advent and Lenten Vespers to the compassionate way you do silent candles after Joys and Concerns. There are a handful of folks I need to personally thank: Frank for his gentle guidance, Sally’s sweetness, Lisa’s determination to run a well-oiled machine, BoT Chair Abbe’s endless positive optimism and Vice Chair Cori’s commitment to music and all our blessed musicians who have courageously worked with me, a pseudo-musician. There is no way for me to thank each and every one of you here, but I’d like to thank all those committees that have allowed me to observe them: the Board of Trustees, Finance, Building & Grounds, Stewardship, Parish Council, Caring Committee, Worship, and Ladies Circle.

The Intern Committee is one committee above all that has held my hand over our two years together. In my first year, that committee was comprised of Chair Joanna Fortna, Barbara Gove, Diane Itasaka, Di Kinsman, and Tom Ellis. In my second year, after Tom stepped down, Doug Rosene filled his shoes. These folks have followed me very closely-- they’ve offered me support, hugs, allowed me to cry, and they celebrated my graduation from seminary with the most beautiful bouquet of flowers. It is I who must honor you all and your commitment to growing fledgling ministers.

Although the month ahead will bring many changes before my final day with you, I will follow the lead of your pastor as I try to do what I can to be attentive to you in the midst of change. I am ever grateful for the blessings you have shared with me in your ministry to the wider world and I bless your journey forward.

Peace, Julie



# Our Journey to Nicaragua

In April, ten of us from UUCH traveled to Nicaragua on a trip of learning, friendship and service. We flew to Managua, the capital, then drove about 45 minutes to the city of Ciudad Sandino, home of our hosts, the Center for Development in Central America. CDCA is a faith community committed to helping the poor by partnering with them in sustainable development efforts. UUCH member Jessica Woodard was our link to the CDCA; it was founded by her parents, and Jessica was a teenager when they moved there.

We lived in a dorm, sleeping in bunk beds and eating our meals with the members of the CDCA in an adjacent room. The food was delicious: lots of beans and rice, and beautiful fresh fruit—pineapple, mango, melon. We arrived at the end of the dry season; it hadn't rained since December, and it was hot, dry and very dusty. Jessica reminded us to keep drinking fluids to avoid dehydration.

During the days we sometimes had lectures or conversations with local experts, who taught us about the politics and history of Nicaragua. We learned about the ways the US government, beginning early in the 20th century, meddled in Nicaragua's affairs and used our military to support governments that oppressed the people. We visited places where the CDCA works to help the poor, including a health clinic and a coffee plantation owned by the farmers themselves (ask us about the tractor ride up the mountain to get there!)

We also worked—mostly we helped to build a third building for the health clinic. We poured concrete into forms, creating the pilings and walls. We twisted wire around reinforcing bars, which will allow the building to bend, and not break, in an earthquake. We dug out a trench where an underground pipe needed to be replaced. Unlike in the US, most of the work in a developing country like Nicaragua is done by hand. Power tools and heavy equipment are scarce. Though there is a growing number of cars there, on highways you regularly see pedestrians, bicycles, and carts drawn by horse or oxen.

We got hot and tired working in the heat, and this gave us an appreciation of how hard people have to work there every day to survive. We saw firsthand that the poverty in Nicaragua is not because people

are unintelligent or lazy. Limited resources, oppressive and corrupt governments, natural disasters and global capitalism, which has no concern for the disparities between rich and poor, all contribute to making Nicaraguans poor.

We feel privileged to have been able to make this journey, and are so grateful for all the support you gave us that helped make it possible. Thanks to the Caring Ministries Team, who sent along cards and a bag of treats, which we enjoyed every evening! Coming home, we're reminded of the privileges we enjoy, that are so easy to take for granted, and we wonder how we might help to address the problems of poverty in our world, which also has so much wealth. We are reminded that we are one human family, and are grateful that we now have friends in Nicaragua.

## Welcoming Congregation News

June is a special time for LGBTQ folks. On Saturday, June 13 at noon, the Boston Pride Parade, now in its 45<sup>th</sup> year, will be a celebration of LGBTQ culture and pride. Many attend as marchers and spectators to note the advances the LGBTQ community has made and to encourage full rights and equality in the future.

Closer to home, North Shore Pride has a shorter history but has planned an event-packed festival from June 15-20. The theme is Standing Proud Together. Activities include a panel discussion by community leaders on the topic Making Our Cities and Towns More Welcoming; a presentation of the play *The Normal Heart*; an interfaith service at the Tabernacle Congregational Church in Salem on Friday June 19; and a parade at noon on Saturday, June 20. See details at [www.northshorepride.org](http://www.northshorepride.org).

Members and friends of UUCH have attended both celebrations in the past and the organization we support, Welcoming Communities of Faith, will also participate. All are welcome to attend.

As our contribution to Pride Weeks, our committee will be distributing a reprint of a short *Boston Globe* article on the issue of Transgender Rights at a June service. We are proud to be part of this church with its history of support to the LGBTQ community.

## Second Sunday Collection

The Second Sunday collection in June will go to John Ashford Link House, Inc. which provides residential programs in the Merrimack Valley area for individuals struggling with drug and alcohol addictions. UUCH is acutely aware of the epidemic of substance abuse in this area and choosing Link House for this month's donation is a small gesture towards those working in support of people in recovery and also towards those who are working on their own recovery every day. For more information on Link House and their programs, you can find them at [www.linkhouseinc.org](http://www.linkhouseinc.org).

## Rose Tea Thank You

by Pat Feller, Event Chair

The Ladies Circle Ninth Annual Rose Tea took place Saturday, May 2. The Tea was a triumph with a sold out crowd enjoying delicious savories and sweets and a wonderful presentation by actress Rita Parisi as a cultured Boston lady of 1908. Moreover, we broke our previous record for raffle prize ticket sales! Many members of the Ladies Circle and the congregation contributed to this success and so kudos to:

Rose Tea Committee: Trudy Blyth, Valerie Osborne, Sarina Ryan, Doris Myers, Barbara Gove Malinda McPhee, Maggie Reeve and Pat Feller

Setup Crew: The Committee, assisted by Bob McPhee, Frank Gauvin, Abbe Wertz, Doris Myers, Rev. Frank and Maureen Schofield.

Wait Staff: Bob McPhee, Frank Gauvin, Paul Floyd and Randy Allen

Bakers: Sandra DeVellis, Abbe Wertz, Barbara Gove, Pat Feller, Pam Katz, Carolyn Hart, Doris Myers, Judy Allen, Valerie Osborne, Marsha McGowan, Barbara Cleary and Sherida Daley

Clean Up Crew: The Committee, assisted by Cil Dullea, Sandra DeVellis and many members of the Ladies Circle.

Thank you to everyone for your support.

## From the Intern Committee

by Di Kinsman

It is hard to believe that our intern, Julie Lombard, is approaching the end of her time here with us. The two years have flown by, chock full of good memories! So many of us have been rewarded by experiencing the impact Julie has made here at UUCH. The intention of internship is to assist in the growth of the student; we have also learned much from her. We will sorely miss Julie's inspiration, energy and enthusiasm for the work of UUCH.

With mixed feelings, the Committee invites you join us after service in the Murray Room on June 21 to celebrate Julie as she enters a new chapter in her life.

## Summer is Coming!

In the warmer months of July and August, our active church community slows down for a while. There are fewer meetings, and our staff works more limited hours. The life of our church goes on, just at a blessedly slower pace for a while.

Worship will continue every Sunday at 10:30 am; we hope you'll come as you're able. In previous years, the service moved an hour earlier in the summer, but we heard that some found this inconvenient, so we're keeping worship at 10:30 am all year 'round. Rev. Frank Clarkson will lead worship every third Sunday, and other summer services will be led by our Worship Associates and members of the congregation. We'll publish a schedule in the July *Communicator*.

The work of our church is important and ongoing, and we hope you'll take advantage of ways to keep connected and serve those in need. We need helpers with Community Meals on first and third Saturdays. This is the second year of the Community Garden at St. John the Baptist Church. We grow vegetables to share with local food pantries, and we need people to work the garden and take the produce to the pantries.

Here in New England, summer is a time we wait for; a time to be cherished and enjoyed. We think church is a part of that, and hope you will want to keep your connections here by coming to worship, and spending time with friends, and making time to serve.



## What Happens Every Month

(There are some changes in July and August; check the church calendar, [uuhaverhill.org/events/calendar](http://uuhaverhill.org/events/calendar), for the most recent information.)

This is a list of recurring gatherings in our community. To make changes or add an event, or if you have a question, contact Lisa Compton at [office@uuhaverhill.org](mailto:office@uuhaverhill.org).

### **Brown Bag Lunch every Thursday at Noon.**

Come join us in the Ladies Parlor for an hour of conversation and fellowship. No reservations needed!

**Ladies Circle** meets second Saturdays at 1 pm (except in May). All women of the church are invited to join this group that serves the church and knows how to have fun!

**MoonPool Coven** gathers on first and third Sundays at 6 pm. Led by Rick Baillargeon and Marylou Johnson, teaching about and experience of pagan spirituality is offered.

**Social Justice Committee** meets third Sundays following coffee hour.

**Finance Committee** meets first Wednesdays at 7 pm.

**INC (Interfaith Network of Compassion)** meets at UUCH on third Thursdays at 12 pm to network about issues surrounding hunger ministries in Haverhill. Representatives from many area food pantries and other agencies attend.

**Hunger Roundtable** meets second Tuesdays at 10 am.

**Mindful Meditation Practice** is Mondays (except Monday holidays) at 7 pm, led by Betsy Robertson.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** meets in our downstairs hall at 7 pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.

**Communicator (monthly newsletter) deadline** is always the 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month. There is no issue in August.

**Board of Trustees** meets second Wednesdays at 7 pm. Meetings are always open to visitors; if there is an item that needs discussion, it must be placed on the agenda in advance.

**Merrimack Valley String Orchestra** meets every Thursday at 5:45 pm while school is in session for rehearsal in the Murray Room. Two public concerts take place here every year. The orchestra is open to all string players. Contact Joy Schuetze at [Joy.Strings@verizon.net](mailto:Joy.Strings@verizon.net)

### **Community Meals**

First and third Saturdays, volunteers shop for, cook, serve and clean up after this free meal for the entire community. This rewarding outreach program serves 50-75 folks each week. We encourage family groups or other committees to work together to produce a meal! Contact: Kristie Colton ([kenozagals@mac.com](mailto:kenozagals@mac.com)) or Abbe Wertz ([abbewertz@yahoo.com](mailto:abbewertz@yahoo.com))

**Green Sanctuary Committee** meets second Sundays at Noon.

**New Moon Coffeehouse** is on third Saturdays at 8 pm (except December).

**Caring Ministry** meets fourth Sundays at 11:30 am.

**Buildings & Grounds** meets fourth Wednesdays at 7 pm.

**Various other committees meet** periodically throughout the year. Watch e-News, Sunday announcements and the website calendar for meeting times for: Ministry, Music, Parish Council, Parish Nurses, Permanent Funds, Religious Education, Stewardship, Welcoming Congregation and Worship Committees.



The Nicaraguan Delegation

## Church Leaders and Staff Contact Information

Board of Trustees Chair: Abbe Wertz: [abbewertz@yahoo.com](mailto:abbewertz@yahoo.com)

Board of Trustees Vice Chair: Cori Thurlow: [cori.thurlow@gmail.com](mailto:cori.thurlow@gmail.com)

Rev. Frank Clarkson: [frank@uuhaverhill.org](mailto:frank@uuhaverhill.org)

Ministerial Intern: Julie Lombard: [lombardpottery@comcast.net](mailto:lombardpottery@comcast.net)

Director of Religious Education: Sally Liebermann: [dre@uuhaverhill.org](mailto:dre@uuhaverhill.org)

Office Administrator: Lisa Compton: [office@uuhaverhill.org](mailto:office@uuhaverhill.org)

Or call us on the telephone: 978-372-5173

Website: [www.uuhaverhill.org](http://www.uuhaverhill.org)

**To view the church calendar, please visit**

**[www.uuhaverhill.org/events/calendar](http://www.uuhaverhill.org/events/calendar)**

Facebook folks: please visit our new church Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/uuhaverhill](https://www.facebook.com/uuhaverhill), and “like” us so church news and pictures show up in your news feed!

And if you’re on Instagram, follow us there so you see photos of our congregational life:

<http://instagram.com/uuhaverhill>

Universalist Unitarian Church of Haverhill  
16 Ashland St.  
Haverhill, MA 01830