

UNIVERSALIST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HAVERHILL

Volume 8, Issue 9

May 1, 2012

THE COMMUNICATOR

From the Minister

On

Rev. Frank Clarkson is generally in the church office on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays. Friday is his sermon writing day and Monday is his day off. You can reach him by phone at 978-372-5173 or by e-mail at frank@uuhaverhill.org.

Sunday, May 20, we will mark an ending. It will be student minister Dawn Fortune's last day with us. We'll wish her well and say goodbye as her time with us comes to an end. I'm so pleased that Dawn chose to do field education at UUCH. She has learned a lot, and she has helped us grow as individuals and as a congregation. It's been great to have her here, and to be a teaching congregation again. I'm going to miss Dawn, and I know you will too. We will rightly take pride in her progress as she moves toward ordination as a UU minister.

On May 20 we will also mark a beginning. At the start of our service we will welcome new members to the church. If you have thought about becoming a member, or want to learn more about it, please speak with me.

You may wonder what it takes to become a member. If you have been attending here for a while, and participating in the life of the church, you might consider yourself a member already. You may feel that you already belong to this church, and I hope you do. But in our tradition, becoming a member is a more intentional process. But it's not a complicated one. First, you tell me that you want to have a conversation about joining. After that conversation, if you decide to join, you participate in a simple ritual at the start of a Sunday service. With the gathered congregation as your witness, you sign our membership book. In this book are inscribed the names of people and when they joined the church. The earliest record I can find is from 1817, 195 years ago! After you have added your name to theirs, we say aloud some words of welcome and commitment. That's how you become a member here.

To be a member means you intend to live by our UU principles and in accordance with our church covenant. To be a voting member you also make a financial contribution of record to the church. There are some people who participate and contribute faithfully here, but have never decided to "make it official" by signing the membership book. This may be because they don't want to feel they are rejecting a previous religious tradition, or because they are happy with the relationship as it is. Whatever the reason, we are grateful for these friends, who certainly belong to our church community.

But I know the power and grace that comes from making an intentional commitment. I trust that committing yourself to this church will prove to be a gift and a blessing. If you're ready to think about this, please let me know. It would be my joy to welcome you as a new member here on May 20. I hope everyone will make an effort to be in church that day, so we can welcome our new members and give Dawn a fitting send-off.

I feel so fortunate to be your minister. Thank you for being part of this community, and for all that you bring to it.

Yours in faith,
Frank

Notes from the Music Director

“I never dreamt that
With my own two hands
I could touch the sky.”
—Sappho

In playing our instruments and singing, musicians are indeed touching the sky, as we are taking others to a holy place. I have never met anyone who doesn't love music. Indeed, most people feel very strongly about their musical likes and dislikes.

One of my goals as your Music Director (now completing my third year!) has been to offer an eclectic selection of music during Sunday morning worship services. With our new, less time-consuming choir rehearsal schedule, we have had more opportunities for individual and small group musical offerings. Thanks to the UUCH choir, Jen Barter, Rick Baillargeon, Tad Hitchcock, Suzanne Spaihts-Mohns, Dan Wilson, Jessica Woodard and the members of the Spirit Band for their musical contributions these past few weeks.

On June 10, we will offer our last Impromptu Choir day of the year. Anyone in grades 6 or older is welcome to come and join the choir for the day. We will all learn a piece together at 9 am, which we will sing during the worship service on that date. June 10 is also RE Sunday, and promises to be a special day in the life of UUCH.

So, keep playing your instruments and singing your songs.

See you in church!
Claudia Keyian
Music Director

Office Outreach (office@uuhaverhill.org)

Just a little housekeeping from the office this month:

Please check the back hall coat rack, and rescue the two orphaned wool coats that are hanging forlornly there. One is a woman's black pea coat, size M. The other is a man's 3/4 length black wool dress coat. They will be donated to Ruth's House or the Drop-in Center if they are not claimed.

As most of you know, the church directory has had its first update in several months. A draft was e-mailed recently to everyone who is listed in the directory for whom we have an e-mail address. We are asking you to look over your entry (and others, too!) and send corrections to the office. Phone numbers and e-mail addresses seem to change frequently, making it hard for us to keep in touch with you! If you did not receive this e-mail, either you are not in the directory, or we do not have an up-to-date e-mail address for you. If you wish to be included in the directory, please notify the office. Mid-May, a corrected version will be e-mailed, which you can print out and use for reference. If you need a paper copy, feel free to notify the office.

Thank you to Merry Newhall for heeding our Wish List's call for a stainless steel tea kettle!

Annual Reports from Committees are due in the office— copy ready, and preferable electronically, by MAY 15!

Lisa Compton
Office Administrator

Rose Tea Report

The fifth annual Rose Tea, sponsored by the Ladies' Circle, took place on Saturday, April 14. It was a gloriously sunny, warm day and the Murray Room looked beautiful. The tables were dressed in pastels and had pansy centerpieces donated by Maggie Reeve. The buffet table had every inch covered with delicious sandwiches, devilled eggs, and the biggest variety of baked goods we've ever served. In the center of the buffet were lovely pots of roses donated by Cindy Armstrong. The entertainment portion of the Tea was provided by Jessica Woodard, one of our choir members. Jessica wowed the crowd with a medley of show tunes – no one wanted her to stop!

It takes a very large number of volunteers to put this event together and I'd like to recognize them and ask that the congregation applaud their enthusiasm and creativity; there would be no Tea without them.

Rose Tea Committee

Cindy Armstrong	Trudy Blyth
Barbara Gove	Pat Spencer
Malinda McPhee	Valerie Osborne
Sarina Ryan	Maggie Reeve

The committee made sandwiches, created gift baskets, baked cookies, dressed the tables, worked all through the Tea to assure our guests had the best experience possible, and then took charge of the clean up.

Wait Staff

Bob McPhee	Rev. Frank Clarkson
Frank Gauvin	Jack McLean

Extra special thanks to Bob who helped set-up the tables and chairs Friday night and helped with the clean-up on Saturday.

Bakers

Jan Bowering	Nancy Rusk
Irma Pasquale	Diane Morris (Pat Feller's daughter)
Kevin Backman	Sandra DeVellis
Pat Bowe	Cil Dullea
Di Kinsman	Janet Wilson
Carolyn Hart	Stacey Sherman
Terry Koukias	Pat Feller

Honorary mention goes to Stacey Sherman and Doris Myers for pitching in at clean-up time and also for contributing to the raffle prizes.

Thank you to everyone for your support.
Pat Feller, event chair

Thank You to the Ladies Circle!!!

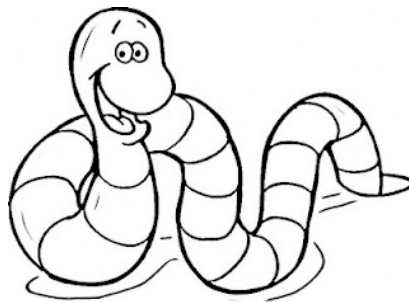
The Ladies Circle recently made a generous donation to our new Meditation Chapel. Their kind support will make it possible to purchase comfortable chairs for use during meditation sessions, as well as for all who use the chapel. This gift is gratefully accepted with the acknowledgement that the Ladies Circle continues to offer support for the growth and maintenance of our beloved church. Thank you!

Rapidly Approaching Events

May 3: UU 101: This three session introduction to this church and our tradition will meet on Thursdays, May 3, 10 and 17 in the minister's study from 7 to 8:30 pm. Led by Rev. Frank, we learn about UU history and theology and speak about our own spiritual journeys. If you are new to the church, looking to make connections, or trying to decide if this is the right church for you, this class can help--and it's fun! To sign up, or for more information, contact Frank, frank@uuhaverhill.org.

May 5: RE Parent/Teacher Workshop: Last summer Kristie Colton took a week-long workshop on Responsive Classroom. After twenty years in the classroom it affirmed many of her ideas about teaching children, and challenged her to think about her philosophy of how children learn best. On May 5, she will offer a two-hour workshop based on the principles of Responsive Classroom, and how they may be applied to our RE classrooms. "The Responsive Classroom approach is a widely used, research-backed approach to elementary education that increases academic achievement, decreases problem behaviors, improves social skills, and leads to high-quality instruction." Please contact Sally Liebermann if you plan to attend.

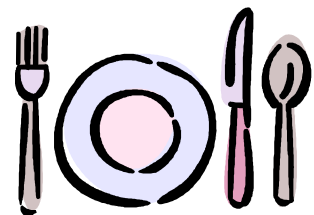
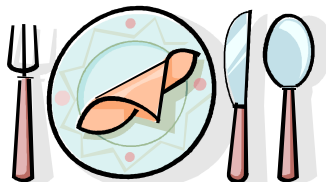
May 12: Mother's Day Weekend Plant Sale: Spread the worms...Or rather, spread the word! Our annual Mother's day weekend plant sale is Saturday, May 12 from 8:00 am — 12:00 pm. Tell your friends, co-workers and family! There will be all sorts of plants available — shade and sun, herbs, shrubs, perennials, annuals, houseplants, cacti — use your imagination! We're also seeking volunteers to help with setup on Friday and helping out the day of the event. Please contact Abbe Wertz (abbewertz@yahoo.com) or Pat Bowe (patrick.bowe@me.com) if you can help out with the sale. And remember, you can divide and pot up plants for the sale right up to a week before. Plant drop off times are Friday, May 11th, 9:00-11:00 am and 5:30 to 7:00 pm.



And Service is Our Prayer

[Editor's note: Please see Kevin Backman's testimonial on page 5.]

And Service is Our Prayer... Community Meals needs your help. We cannot do this valuable community service without you. We are in need of cooks, assistant cooks and helpers for May 5th and then starting in July and throughout the summer. If you would like to help with Community Meals at any time, please contact Kristie Colton (kenozagals@mac.com) or Abbe Wertz (abbewertz@yahoo.com). Or sign up in the book in the Murray Room.



What Happens Here... at Community Meals

—by Kevin Backman, Contributing Columnist

One of The Universalist Unitarian Church of Haverhill's greatest ministries is our Community Meals Project. Each month we open our doors to feed those who hunger. We serve over 900 individuals year round and cook anywhere from 35 to 55 meals twice a month, prepared by volunteers who give of their time and resources to feed the lonely, the homeless and hungry of our community, including myself. This is also a great way to connect with and meet others involved with the congregation, as cooking and sharing a meal can be a spiritual experience that builds bonds that go far beyond our walls. It costs about \$210.00 per month in food supplies to prepare these meals; most of the time this cost is absorbed by the cooks. It takes close to 500 volunteer hours annually to complete this work, and then there is the additional cost of the staples utilized by this ministry— plates, utensils, coffee, lemonade and napkins. Each year we budget \$1200.00 to cover all of these costs. This outreach continues to be a vital part of our church and our greater community, but it doesn't happen without the commitment of many. This year the program is led by Abbe Wertz and Kristie Colton, but most of all you, our church community. My thanks go to each of you who give of your time and talent to offer this service. Thank you. If you have never volunteered to help with Community Meals I ask that you think about it. You can volunteer as a family, outreach as a committee from our congregation or recruit your friends to make a day of it. We have Scout troops and youth groups who volunteer, too. The feeling you get from helping those in need has very real healing powers. You can sign up in the Community Meals book located on the information table in The Murray Room.

Important Message from the Green Sanctuary Committee

The Green Sanctuary Committee has drafted an environmental stewardship policy that it would like the Board and congregation to consider at our upcoming Annual Meeting. It is available on the website as a link at http://www.uuhaverhill.org/social_justice/green or in print in the Murray Room on the information table. Please take some time to look it over before coming to the meeting and forward any questions, comments, or concerns to Richard Smyth at rsmyth64@yahoo.com and/or Renay Allen at renaynh@comcast.net.

News from the Stewardship Team

The Stewardship campaign had a wonderful start with 45 members and friends attending "house happenings" in late March and early April. Each "happening" group had the chance to talk at length about the love we have for this church and how our personal and financial support will nurture this faith based community. As of April 30, 2012 we have 65 pledges with a total of \$99,780. We know there are 30 members and friends who pledged last year that have not returned their pledge cards yet. We also expect there are new members and friends who might want to join in our efforts to financially support our UU Church of Haverhill. Please remember to return your pledge card to the church office. We have placed pledge cards in the hymnal racks for those we have missed along the way. Know that we ask for your financial support because we care about this church community and the great things big and small that we do for one another and the larger community. Thank you for your generous support!

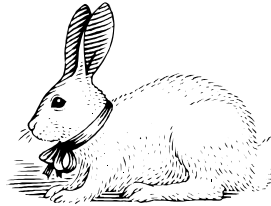
The 2012 Stewardship Team

Megan Shea, Hal Fortna, Mike Johnson, Pam Katz and Roy Wright



A Message from Our Junior Youth

Thank you so much to those who contributed to our annual animal drive. It helped with our Easter hunt. The supplies provided will go to needy animals in the community. [Editor's note: All donations were delivered to Nevins Farm (MSPCA) in Methuen.]



Thank You From Religious Education

Thank you to Doris Myers who lovingly donated an Artist's Basket to RE. Doris won this basket at the Rose Tea — a basket filled with art supplies and inspiration and offered it to our children and youth. Our youth have already opened the basket and are using its contents as they artistically express their images of God/Creation. The basket will "pass through the ages" upstairs. Thank you Doris!

Thank you to Valerie Walton for sharing her talent and musical inspiration at Children's Vespers in April. A lovely, moving experience was enjoyed by children, parents and grandparents! You inspired us to take our flight — thank you Valerie!

Thank you to Pam Katz and Tom Ellis for a "fully functional," new stapler donated to RE! We shall use it in confidence!

Thank you to our amazing youth who raised over \$2,400 for 30Hour Famine 2012!! Great admiration and appreciation go to Sami, Abby, Charlotte, Luke, Liah, Noah, Connor, Aidan, Jess, Jason and Phoebe for their graceful participation in our fast. Together they fasted, learned, played, worshipped, worked and stretched their hearts and awareness to the experience of those living in great need. Thank you all!

Heartfelt thanks to our adult Famine Team that included Erika Lowrey, Chris Shramko, Betsy Robertson, Stacey Sherman and Ed Zaleski. Your presence and participation made this transcendent event possible for our young people — thank you for stretching your hearts and for sharing your time and spirit with 30Hour Famine 2012!

On behalf of all youth and adults on the Famine Team, huge thanks go to Abbe Wertz and her dinner crew Richard Smyth, Charlie Liebermann, Mike Burke, Sandra, Pam and Ari Katz who prepared, served and cleared the very best tacos, rice and fruit salad ever!! Your efforts were greatly appreciated and the dinner you provided was legendary!

And to our church family, our friends, family and supporters in the community: THANK YOU for your generosity and support of the 30Hour Famine. WorldVision is able to support a child in need with one dollar a day. You provided over \$2400 dollars and greatly improved the life or lives of unknown friends for many days. As Famine reminds us: "Do not be overcome with hunger, overcome hunger with love." Thank you for making this happen!

Sally Liebermann
Director of Religious Education

May 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7-Mindful Meditation Practice	2 11-Mindful Meditation Practice 6:30-Men's Spirituality Grp 7-GSCmte	3 5:45-MVSO Rehearsal 7-Membership Cmte 7-UU 101	4	5 10-RE Teacher / Parent Workshop 2:30-Community Meals
6 9-Choir 10:30-Sunday Worship 1-Claudia's Recital 5-Meditation Group 6:30-Sr. Youth	7 7-Artist Way	8 12-Staff Meeting 7-Mindful Meditation Practice 7-Cmte on Ministry	9 11-Mindful Meditation Practice 7-Board of Trustees	10 5:45-MVSO Rehearsal 7-UU 101	11 9-11, 5:30-7:30-Plant Sale Drop Off	12 8-Plant Sale 9:30-Spirit Band Rehearsal 1-Ladies Circle
13 9-Book Grp 9-Choir 10:30-Sunday Worship 11:45-Sunday Reflection Grp 5-Meditation Grp 6-Moonpool Coven	14 7-Artist Way	15 <u>Annual Reports Due</u> 12-Lunch with the Minister 7-Mindful Meditation Practice	16 11-Mindful Meditation Practice	17 12-INC 5:45-MVSO Rehearsal 7-Worship Cmte 7-UU 101	18 6-MVSO Recital Rehearsal	19 2:30-Community Meals 8-New Moon Coffeehouse
20 9-Choir 10:30-Sunday Worship 12-Choir Luncheon 12:30-Choir 1-MVSO Recital 5-Meditation Grp 6:30-Sr. Youth	21 7-Artist Way	22 9:30-12-Staff Retreat 12-Lunch with the Minister 7-Mindful Meditation Practice	23 11-Mindful Meditation Practice 7-B&GCmte	24 5:45-MVSO Rehearsal 7-Welcoming Congregation Cmte	25 <u>9-Communicator Deadline</u>	26 9:30-Spirit Band Rehearsal
27 10:30-Sunday Worship 11:45-Sunday Reflection Grp 5-Meditation Grp 6-Moonpool Coven	28 7-Artist Way	29 12-Lunch with the Minister 7-Mindful Meditation Practice	30 11-Mindful Meditation Practice	31 5:45-MVSO Rehearsal		

**Universalist Unitarian
Church of Haverhill**

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Web Site: www.uuhaverhill.org



If you no longer wish to receive the Communicator please check this box and return to 16 Ashland Street, Haverhill, MA 01830. Or email us at office@uuhaverhill.org. Thank you!



Danielle Miraglia

New Moon Coffeehouse Presents

Danielle Miraglia

Liz Frame and the Kickers

Saturday, May 19th at 8 PM



Liz Frame

Revere native Danielle Miraglia combines a blues edge with great songwriting and an occasional harmonica thrown in. Liz Frame and the Kickers provide a wonderful mix of country and rockabilly. Join us for this double treat!

\$20 admission at the door, 18 and under half price.

UUCH members receive a \$2 discount.

More info: newmooncoffeehouse.org