

The Quest



February 2011

The North Universalist Chapel Society
Woodstock • Vermont

Affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association

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February greetings. The blessing of blue, blue sky to you. The blessing of morning frosty rind crystallizing light to you. The blessings of warm coats and pelts and coverings to you. And the blessing of a few minutes of extra daylight at both ends - sunrise and sunset. Winter offers its delights if only we choose to go slowly and notice.

There is lots in store for February and I would love to tell you about just two of those things. On Saturday mornings for whoever can make it, breakfast is served at the North Chapel. And breakfast on these Saturday mornings comes with a slow, thoughtful, imagination-filled conversation about what we feel and believe the North Chapel is being called to be. Should you be privy to some piece of that calling, please come and share with all us what you are feeling or hearing. Yours is likely to be a vital completing of the vision.

Secondly starting on the last Sunday in February and going through the Sunday services of March, our church services will engage the topic of life's stages. Arthur Miller so interestingly names something in his autobiography when he writes:

"I would be twenty before I learned how to be fifteen, thirty before I knew what it meant to be twenty, and now at seventy two I have to stop myself from thinking like a man of fifty who has plenty of time ahead."

(Continued on page 2)

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Donna Atwood,
Office Manager
Tue, Wed & Fri
10:00 AM-4:00 PM
Church Office e-mail:
wdstkuu@sover.net

If you have any thoughts or responses to such musings, please let me know and we will create together a set of reflections that allows us the great luxury of speaking to each other across the generations and benefitting from each other wisdom.

There is something in the air that already or perhaps always speaks of promise. In that spirit I wish you a fulfilling month.

Daniel

From the Chair

As you all know, the Board has been meeting with representatives of the Growth Committee and studying their three Task Force's proposals for our congregation. At the Annual Meeting we were pleased to announce various actions that Board is taking now, and those that will be coming over the next weeks and months.

First, we'd like to remind everyone of the Visioning Saturday breakfasts. Two of these gatherings will be held this month, from 8:00-10:00 in the Social Hall on Feb 5 and Feb 12. Even if you missed the first one last month, please set aside time for these. The breakfasts offer time for each member-or friend-to speak to the dreams and thoughts of where our church might be in the next five years. What are your highest aspirations for your spiritual home? Please come and share them.

The full Board realized the need for someone to manage all the projects that will come our way from the Growth Committee recommendations. We have asked Trustee Deb Hawthorn to use her skills in this area, and she has graciously accepted this charge. You'll be hearing from Deb often about such things as involvement of new members, creation of a Council of Chairs, and the other charges we are considering from the Growth Committee Task Forces.

We also expect to continue our retreat work with consultant Anne Peyton to develop what is know as "best practices" in the context of church work. The Board will also continue to use the excellent resources available through the UUA in addressing these issues. (If you have not looked at the UUA website, be sure to avail yourself of the chance to read all the good things written there for us to use)

(Continued on page 3)

In his reflection the Sunday before our Annual Meeting, Daniel Jantos spoke about relationships. He mentioned those “wow” moments in happy relationships. And I think we all felt that in the Annual Meeting we were experiencing a communal “wow” time. We had one of our always amazing lunches and the good fellowship of sharing a meal and talk together. We heard such good news about our congregation, and its generosity. We elected fine new people into service to the church community. We honored those retiring from the Board. And we ended it all with a beautiful time of shared silence. *Wow!*

In peace and gratitude,
Peggy Kannenstine
For the Board of Trustees

Invitation to Saturday Visioning Breakfasts

There will be open gatherings for breakfast and visioning in the social hall from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. on Feb 5, and Feb 12. All are welcome, even if you can attend only one of the three sessions.

As we enjoy a breakfast lovingly prepared by Daniel Jantos and other volunteers, we'll settle in for a slow, free-flowing, and heartfelt conversation about what we most long to create together in the NUCS community. This will be a leisurely conversation with no agenda—a time to invite inspiration from our hearts, our individual creative resources (curiosity, imagination, love, hope), and our felt connection to one another. The process will focus not on “thinking about” so much as on “feeling into” what matters most to us, both individually and collectively; giving voice to that in words or images; and then imagining together how we might bring that into being as a spiritual community in today's world.

It's our hope that all three sessions will seed an ongoing conversation among members of the congregation, leading into more concrete discussion starting at the February board meeting.

Although everyone is welcome, even at the last minute, it would be helpful to us in our planning if you'd RSVP. Sign up sheets are in the social hall, or RSVP to the church office (457-2557 or wdstkuu@sover.net). Since our time is limited, we also ask everyone to arrive no later than 8:00 a.m. so we can start promptly.

Please join us!

Church Notices

The Pastoral Care Committee

Do you know of anyone who might want or need support of some kind?

Perhaps, a ride, a meal, some company, a card, or assistance in some other way would be helpful. If so, please contact the Pastoral Care Committee.

The co-chairs are:

Nancy Peterson [672-3697] and

Judy Williamson [457-3620].



Book Corner

The small bookshelf near the social hall is hungry for new books. Please contribute and take out.

- Elizabeth Bond

February Birthdays

2/4 Barbara Bartlett

2/4 Art Norton

2/7 John Dulmage

2/9 Fran Lancaster

2/9 John Cassell

2/10 Sharon Miller Blake

2/16 Clara Gray

2/17 Heather Yountz

2/19 Jim Christy

2/20 Bob Coates

2/20 Toben Traver

2/24 Will Coates

2/28 Amy Dressler

Anniversaries

2/11 Bob & Jane Richards

Treasurer's Report

YTD (12/31/10) Budgeted

TOTAL RECEIPTS

\$218,470 \$197,270

Expenses

Church Building
\$26910 \$33050

Parsonage
\$2323 \$1000

Administration
\$30366 \$31370

Benefits
\$34903 \$29900

Minister's Package
\$66836 \$66836

Worship
\$714 \$500

Music
\$15293 \$16156

Coffee
\$468 \$300

Resource Dev.
\$88 \$500

Membership
\$2756 \$2600

RE
\$9561 \$15050

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$190,218 \$197,262

Balance \$28,251.19

Treasurer:

Ann Wynia 457-2217



Unsung Heroes

Each year the Board of Trustees awards the "Unsung Hero" commendation to an individual or group who makes a significant contribution to the work of the church in a quiet way. This year, in recognition of the extraordinary generosity of financial support provided by members and friends of NUCS, especially notable in this challenging economic environment, the entire congregation is being collectively honored as "Unsung Heroes" for your remarkable financial stewardship of the work of NUCS both in the local community and worldwide.

After you pledgers made your 2010 pledges, you kept on paying and exceeded your pledge commitments by more than \$10,000! And pledges for 2011 continue to roll in, currently at \$125,000, giving us optimism that we will meet our 2011 pledge goal of \$130,000. In addition to your pledge support in 2010, you gave \$399 to the community food shelf and enabled \$1,932 to be given to local need through the minister's discretionary fund.

Your generous caring through special collections extended beyond our community to Cambodia's Life and Hope Project (\$10,776), Haiti recovery (\$3,012), Grandmother-to-Grandmother Tanzania Project (\$640), Change-the-World-Kid's Rwanda Project (\$640) and Tusome Congo Project (\$640).

Additionally, you invested to ensure that our chapel will remain a place of sanctuary, giving \$2250 for the renovation and furnishing of the choir loft plus \$6357 towards new hymnals, hearing devices, flute, architectural building code audit and new stone wall.

"True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others, at whatever cost." ~ ~ Arthur Ashe

Nametags

Nametags are a helpful way for us to connect, a helpful way to find each other during the week and sometimes a helpful way to remember who we are! Let's renew the effort to pin on the tag on a Sunday morning. Perhaps you have never had one or maybe yours is lost. Maybe you just need a new cover. Ann Wynia would be happy to stitch a tag or provide a cover for you. ALWynia@aol.com

Spirituality Connections

Divinity Group

A Divinity Group for spiritual exploration, led by Jennifer Donaldson, Titia Ellis, and Charity Gray, will meet monthly on the first Thursday of each month, at 7 pm. **Please note there is no meeting in February, but we will meet again on March 3.** We will use a series of CDs of channeled guidance from the Ascended Masters Jeshua, Mary Magdalen, and Quan Yin as a basis for discussion and growth.

Location: church parlors, open to all, no charge.

Meditation and Oneness Blessings

every Tuesday at 5:15 in the church parlors

The Oneness Blessing offers a simple effortless method of giving profound rest to the body and peace to the mind, promoting wellness in all areas of life. Oneness Experience creates a neurobiological shift in the brain silencing the ceaseless chatter of the mind, enabling us to simply experience reality as it is, in the present moment where there is peace and a deep sense of well being. *Come and experience for yourself!*

Additional Opportunity: A Meditation and Oneness Blessing will be offered from 5:15 to 6:15 on the first and third Thursday each month at the **Barnard Library**. Please contact Mary 234-5541 or Anne 457-3889 for directions or information.

Join Jill Davies for an Introduction to Avatar Monday, February 21, 5:30-8:00 pm

Avatar is a course that you can learn if you want to change a repeating experience in your life or if you just want to get more out of every moment and really live in the present. In this free introduction you'll learn a few of those tools and see if this is something that you'd like to experience more.

Please email jill@jillmdavies.com or call Jill 672-6152 to reserve a space.

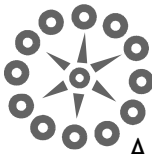
The meeting will take place in the small RE office adjacent to the church office.

Winter Happenings



Winter Farmer's Market March 5th and March 26th

The first Woodstock Winter Farmer's Market is being held right here in our own Church. Please note that the schedule for February has changed. There will **not** be a Market held in February, but instead we'll have a Farmer's Market on the first and fourth Saturday of March! There will be food and crafts offered in the social hall between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM. The final Winter Farmer's Market will be on the fourth Saturday of April. If you are interested in being a vendor, please call Anne Dean at 457-3889.



First Circle Dinner of 2011

**This is your invitation to a Circle Dinner on
Saturday, February 26th**

A Circle Dinner is a group of people enjoying a meal and fellowship in the home of a gracious host.

Sign up will be available at church February 13 and 20. Pru Schuler will be there to take your reservation and answer questions. You may see her at church or call her at 457-1137.

On February 20th, after all the names have been gathered, the people will be divided into groups of 6-10. These groups are formed with attention given to mixing longtime members with those newer to the church community, different ages and different interests. Our intention is that you will already know at least one other person and have the opportunity to come away having made other church connections.

During the week of February 20th a host will decide on a time and invite you to come and bring a part of the meal (sort of a managed pot luck). Don't worry if you don't cook, as a bottle of wine or bread and butter are usually needed and welcome. This all boils down to friends and soon to be friends enjoying food and fellowship in a cozy home - a good way to spend a winter evening

Hosts are vital in helping all this happen. Groups can be formed to fit your space. You can decide the time. Car pooling has often been a fun piece of the evening if you live out of town. Please consider hosting a Circle Dinner. Thank you.

Children's Chapel February Schedule



February 6th - Music with Kathleen

February 13th - Lessons with Cally

February 20th - Crafts with Marion and Norman

February 27th - Yoga with Geraldine

Each Sunday, Valerie will provide nursery care downstairs for babies and pre-school children during service. School-age children are welcome to participate in our Children's Chapel held in the church parlors.

Registration Continues for Adult Religious Education Courses

A limited number of open spaces are still available for the North Chapel's second series of Adult Religious Education courses, described in our pamphlet (available at church on Sunday, or contact the church office). You may also download the course brochure at www.nucs.org/re-programs/adult-religious-education/

- **Unitarian Universalism Becomes a Religion for Everyone.** Lynn Peterson, four Sundays beginning February 6, 2011, after church from 11:30 - 1:00 PM. (5 spaces still open)
- **Emerson's Impact on Our Spirituality of Today.** Peter Rousmaniere, four Sundays beginning March 6, 2011, after church from 11:30-1:00 pm. (4 spaces open)
- **Exploring the Fundamentals of Buddhism.** Rick Fiske, four Sundays beginning April 3, 2011, 5:30-7:00 pm. (only 1 space left)

Like last year, the class size will be limited to 12 in order to allow ample time for everyone to participate. We would like people to register by contacting Donna in the church office (457-2557 or wdstkuu@sover.net) as soon as possible so that course facilitators can plan and prepare materials.

Change the World Kids

Change the World Kids are accepting applications for candidacy in the community wide, multigenerational third Let It Grow Wild! facial hair growing contest! Serious and amateur candidates cultivate new looks from now until April 6, when the judging and celebration dinner will be held in the social hall. Three criteria will be equally weighted for winners of manly prizes: length/mass, style, and popular vote. A panel of esteemed judges scores the first two criteria, and the people of our community decide the popular vote. Grow for green! Let it all hang - or curl. Campaign for your favorite candidate! Applications are available at changetheworldkids.org or by calling 457-2622. Support biodiversity and a Change the World Kid's work trip to Costa Rica.



Our fabulous Anti-Cabin Fever dinners occur each Wednesday throughout the cold, dark months. These dinners are FUN, and are a great way to get out of the house, break up your week, and see friends on winter nights! Plus they subsidize costs for the Change the World Kids' work trip this June to re-forest *Bosque para Siempre*, the migratory rain forest habitat in Costa Rica that we're helping to conserve for our Vermont neo-tropical migrant birds, as well as native rainforest species. Dinner is at 6:00 in the North Universalist Chapel dining hall in Woodstock, and costs \$9.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children. Seating is limited, and reservations are suggested. Please call (457-2622) or email the Change the World Kids (changetheworldkids@yahoo.com). Come dine, laugh, and beat the winter blahs and blues!

Please let us know of anyone who can use our help! 457-2622 or changetheworldkids@yahoo.com

Food Shelf Collection

There is a continuous and growing need to help those in our community who are struggling. Please help throughout the year by donating any non-perishable food items, paper towels, diapers, toilet paper and personal care products and drop them off in the basket in our church narthex.

Church Committee & Group Meetings

- **Resource Development Committee**
2nd Sunday after church in Library
Contact Lynn Peterson 672-3697
or Peter Rousmaniere 457-9149
- **Men's Discussion Group**
1st and 3rd Mondays, 7:00 pm
in Library
Contact Lynn Peterson 672-3697
- **Membership Committee**
4th Monday, 7:00 pm in Library
Contact Ann Wynia 457-2217
- **Worship Committee**
1st Tuesday, 5:30 pm in Library
Contact Don Ransom 295-5135
- **Buildings and Grounds Committee**
Feb. 15, 6:30 pm in social hall
Contact David Doolittle 763-8773
- **Board of Trustees**
3rd Tuesday at 6:15 PM in Library
Contact Peggy Kannenstine
457-3313
- **Pastoral Care Committee**
4th Tuesday, 6:30 PM in Library
Contact Judy Williamson 457-3620
- **Choir Rehearsals**
Wednesdays, 7:00 pm, sanctuary
Contact Diane Mellinger 234-6619
- **Growth Committee**
2nd Thursday 6-7:30 pm in Library
Contact Chris Bartlett 457-1880 or
Susan Inui-Kelley 295-5135

Activities at the Church

Mondays - AA Meeting 7:00 PM, Social Hall. Open meeting, all are welcome.

Tuesdays: Oneness Blessings held in the parlors, 5:15-6:15 PM. All are welcome. Contact Anne Dean 457-3889 or annesheart@aol.com

Wednesdays - Course in Miracles: 5:30-7:00 PM in Library. Contact Robert Walker (802) 359-4047

Thursdays - Yoga Class: 9:00-10:30 AM in Social Hall. Contact Instructor: Phoebe Standish 672-3800

Thursdays: Hand in Hand dinners held in the Social Hall, 5:00-7:00 PM, free. Volunteers welcome. Contact Lauren Jane Wilder 802-299-1777

Divinity Group: 7:00-9:00 pm, library room, 1st Thursday each month.

Note: No meeting in February.
Contact Jennifer Donaldson 457-3690

WrenSong Concert February 13, 4:00 PM, Sanctuary

WrenSong will perform a cappella renaissance choral music from the 15th and 16th centuries in our sanctuary on Sunday Feb. 13. Members of the group include Frank Fields, Oliver Goodenough, Elizabeth Harley, Emily Jones, Tyler Harwell, Miriam Langner, Sue Neighbor, John Severinghaus, Dave Clark and Helen Clark.

February Worship

Sunday services at 10:00 until 11:00 AM

Child care provided every Sunday.

February 6

Reflection: Daniel Jantos

Music: Diane Mellinger

February 13

Valentine's Day Service

Music: Diane Mellinger

February 20

Spiritual Practice Service

Music: Diane Mellinger

February 27

Reflection: Daniel Jantos

Music: Diane Mellinger

Please Note: Daniel will be out of the office February 13- 21.

February Worship Notes

February 13: *Do you have a love story you would like to share with the community?* This does not have to be romantic love - any story that you believe would touch hearts and that you are willing to tell is welcome! Mary Jeanne Taylor is coordinating the Valentine's Day Service for Sunday, February 13th & if you would like to take part in this service with your story, please contact her at 234.6953 or by email at mjtaylor@vtc.edu. The first three people to be in touch with her will get the spots!

February 20: The worship committee is planning a service which will explore our individual and personal experiences with a spiritual practice. A spiritual practice, as we are defining it, is any practice, which sustains, grounds, or centers you. It may increase your present moment awareness, help you feel connected to divinity or give you a sense of oneness with all that is.

What helps you bring your awareness into the present moment? Is there something you do that sustains or grounds you? What helps you remember that you are part of something greater than yourself? Each of us approaches these questions in our own individual way and we're hoping that a number of you will be interested in sharing your experiences with us as part of the February 20th service. Please be in touch with Mary Blanton at 234-5542 or Don Ransom at 295-5135.

North Universalist Chapel Society
7 Church Street
Woodstock, VT 05091



February
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Return Service Requested