

# The Quest

January 2011

The North Universalist Chapel Society  
Woodstock • Vermont

Affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association

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*This, then, is my true religion, my simple faith. In this sense, there is... no need for complicated philosophy, doctrine, or dogma. Our own heart, our own mind, is the temple. The doctrine is compassion. Love for others and respect for their rights and dignity, no matter who or what they are; ultimately these are all we need. So long as we practice these in our daily lives, then no matter if we are learned or unlearned, whether we believe in Buddha or God, or follow some other religion or none at all, as long as we have compassion for others and conduct ourselves with restraint out of a sense of responsibility, there is no doubt we will be happy.*

Tenzin Gyatso  
The 14th Dalai Lama

Peace,

Daniel

## From the Chair

The Board continues its work considering all the information brought to us from the Growth Committee. The survey they conducted, and that so many of you participated in has been very useful in their proposals, and in our deliberations. Once again, we thank you for participating, and for all the solid analysis and creative work of the Growth Committee members.

We have been having lively, and, I hope, fruitful discussion on the suggestions they have brought. And, we expect to have some specifics for you at the upcoming Annual Meeting. There are exciting ideas in the air.

As we begin the preparations for that meeting, we develop the budget for the coming year. Our Treasurer, Ann Wynia, needs input from each of the committee Chairs in order to create a realistic budget. So, if you haven't sent her your budget request, please do so right away.

**Do mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting on January 23!**

Happy New Year, and peace,

Peggy Kannenstine

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## Notes from the Church Office -

**Volunteers needed to help with Quest mailing:** The newsletter mailing is done once a month and takes about 1.5 hours, often right after church on the last Sunday of the month. Even if you can only come occasionally, we would love your help! Call the office at 457-2557 or email [wdstkuu@sover.net](mailto:wdstkuu@sover.net)

**Annual Reports available soon:** Look for the notice with a web link in your Friday e-news on January 14th so you can download your copy of the 2010 annual report. We are planning to have a few printed copies of the annual report available by Sunday January 16th for those without internet access.

**Sign up for the Friday e-news:** If you would like to receive the church e-newsletter each Friday, please contact the church office by sending an email to [wdstkuu@sover.net](mailto:wdstkuu@sover.net) and request to be included in our mailing list.



## Paying Back? Or Paying Forward?

The start of a new year offers that annual pause to reflect on the past and commit for the future. And as you commit your 2011 pledge to NUCS, might you consider that it is not only a pledge that looks back and pays back for all that you have received but also a pledge that pays it forward?

The concept of paying it forward is doing something good for someone in response to good that you have received. However, when you pay it forward, you don't repay the person who did something nice for you. Instead, you do something nice for someone else.

In the 2000 movie *Pay It Forward*, a boy is given a school assignment that requires him to find some way to change the world, and he develops the pay it forward concept, setting forth a chain reaction of good deeds. Benjamin Franklin described it in a letter he wrote in 1784, in which he directed a friend to not repay a loan but rather hoped he would meet an honest man in need of financial help and pass the money along to him.

If fulfilling a New Year's resolution is to pay back/forward with your pledge to NUCS today, thank you! And if the spirit of the season and the spirit of the reason inspires you to increase your pledge, wonderful!

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## Welcome to 2011

This is the beginning of a new pledge year. Please remember I will need a check or envelope with your name to properly credit your account. Thank you. And if you have not fulfilled your 2010 pledge it is never too late. Even the 5, 10, 15, 20 dollar balances would be most welcome. Please call or email or see me at church if you are unsure if your pledge has been paid in full. And again, Thank you. Ann 457-2217 or [ALWynia@aol.com](mailto:ALWynia@aol.com) or 7 Church Street, Woodstock, VT 05091.

# 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

## January Birthdays

- 1/2 Alan Perkins
- 1/2 Sam Griffin
- 1/2 Riley Griffin
- 1/4 Bradford Jones
- 1/7 Chris Lloyd
- 1/7 Lynn Peterson
- 1/8 Tim Traver
- 1/10 Annette Compton
- 1/10 Oliver Wilson
- 1/10 Helene Herrick
- 1/20 Akankha Perkins
- 1/20 Ian Coates
- 1/28 Lily Butler
- 1/30 Forrest Yeager

## Anniversaries

- 1/20 Ann & Peter Wynia
- 1/20 Ginny & Jim Christy

## Treasurer's Report

<u>YTD (11/30/10)</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	
\$197,694	\$197,270
<b>Expenses</b>	
Church Building	\$33050
\$24684	
Parsonage	\$1000
\$2323	
Administration	\$31370
\$28936	
Benefits	\$29900
\$31521	
Minister's Package	\$66836
\$61270	
Worship	\$500
\$288	
Music	\$16156
\$14004	
Coffee	\$300
\$468	
Resource Dev.	\$500
\$88	
Membership	\$2600
\$2476	
RE	\$15050
\$8785	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	
\$174,843	\$197,262
<b>Balance \$22,850.65</b>	
Treasurer:	
Ann Wynia 457-2217	



*Venerable Somnieng gives a ride to Visal (in his arms) and Tong Tong (on his back), two of the children who live in NUCS House at CDV.*

## Offering Thanks for the Thanksgiving Offering

Thanksgiving at NUCS was marked by an outpouring of thanks for our many blessings that was matched a generous giving to those less fortunate. The congregation responded to the invitation to provide ongoing support for one of the houses at LHA's Children's Development Village with a bighearted gift of \$7076. This was in addition to the \$3140 that was offered spontaneously when Venerable Somnieng visited us in June to say farewell before returning to Cambodia. (We have also transferred an additional \$3000 from outside donors who channeled their donations to LHA through NUCS.)



These funds will not only fully support the children living in the building that has now been renamed NUCS House, but will also provide extra funds for repairs and maintenance, additional shelving, cabinets and storage in the house, the replacement of old cookware and utensils in the kitchen, and several other much-needed CDV projects.

When he heard about our gift, Venerable Somnieng sent the following message:

*Dear NUCS friends,*

*I continue to be overwhelmed by the generosity of this wonderful church community in a small town in Vermont. I particularly value the \$76 that the children collected in small change. Thank you all so much for your good hearts and generous spirit.*

*CDV's House #3 has now been renamed NUCS House, and we have explained to the children that many loving people who live far away in America are supporting them.*

*I hope that in the future some of you will be able to visit CDV not only to see NUCS House but also to meet the children whose lives you have changed. On behalf of them and all of us at LHA, I offer my most grateful thanks.*

*Peace and love to you all,  
Somnieng*

# 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. 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.

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## 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 live. 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.

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## Gathering for Friendship and Support

We wish to extend our offer of an alternative to sitting at home or feeling alone. Some of us will be gathering in the library at the North Universalist Chapel on Wednesdays from 10 AM - noon on January 5th and 12th. There will be coffee, tea and delicious sweets from the Woodstock Farmer's Market along with quiet conversation and maybe even a game or two. Please stop by for friendship and support.

**Call for a ride or more information: Jack Nelson 295-8081.**

# Winter Happenings



## Winter Farmer's Market Begins January 22nd

The first Woodstock Winter Farmer's Market will be right here in our own Church. Starting the fourth Saturday in January there will be food and crafts offered in the social hall between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM. It will continue on each fourth Saturday of the month through April.

If you are interested in being a vendor, please call Anne Dean at 457-3889.



## Winter Ballroom Dance Classes at NUCS

Here's an idea for a great holiday present for your sweetheart and yourself: plan to spend Friday nights through the darkest part of winter dancing in each other's arms.

**8 Friday nights beginning January 21st, 2011—Social Hall**  
6:30 pm - Introduction to Ballroom, Swing and Latin Dance  
7:30 pm - Class for experienced dancers

Costs \$80 per person per series, \$15 drop in.  
Partners encouraged, singles welcome.

### ADVANCED REGISTRATION REQUIRED

For more information & to register, contact Jenny:  
call 802-356-1156 or email [maybeyes2@gmail.com](mailto:maybeyes2@gmail.com)

Learn to dance comfortably and confidently with your partner. Jenny is also available for private lessons and special group classes.

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**A Grief Education and Support Group** is being offered for those who have experienced the death of a loved one. This six-session group is free, open to residents of Woodstock and the surrounding communities, and will begin on Sunday, January 16th, from 4-6 p.m. The group will meet in our church parlors, on January 16, 23, 30, and February 6, 13, and 20. This program will provide small group support as well as education about the nature of grief and its effect on our lives. Facilitators are Susan Jantos, MSW, and Ann La-Rocque, LCMHC. To register please call 802-457-1786.

## Children's Chapel



### January Schedule

January 2 - Yoga with Geraldine

January 9 - Lessons with Callie

January 16 - Being creative with artists Marion & Norman

January 23 - Lessons with Ann and Charity

January 30 - 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.**

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## Registration Continues for Adult Religious Education Courses

Some 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 from the church office).

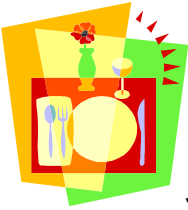
You may also download the course brochure at

[www.nucs.org/re-programs/adult-religious-education/](http://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.
- **Emerson's Impact on Our Spirituality of Today.** Peter Rousmaniere, four Sundays beginning March 6, 2011, after church from 11:30-1:00 pm.
- **Exploring the Fundamentals of Buddhism.** Rick Fiske, four Sundays beginning April 3, 2011, 5:30-7:00 pm.

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 filling out the Registration Form as soon as possible so that course facilitators can plan and prepare materials.

If you have any questions you can contact Lynn Peterson (672-3697, [lpeterson@vermontel.net](mailto:lpeterson@vermontel.net)) or the church office (457-2557, [wdstkuu@sover.net](mailto:wdstkuu@sover.net)).



## Change the World Kids

### Our fabulous annual "anti-cabin fever" Wednesday night dinners begin on January 5!

Joining us at these meals is a great way to get out of the house, break up the week, and see friends on long cold winter nights! Each Wednesday until the end of March, a local chef, many from the area's best restaurants, prepares a delicious meal. These dinners are FUN, plus they subsidize costs for our annual work trip to reforest Bosque para Siempre, the migratory rain forest habitat in Costa Rica that we are helping to conserve and reforest, and that supports our Vermont neo-tropical migrants, as well as native rain forest species, such as the fabulous three-wattled bellbird. Dinner is at 6:00 pm in the church social hall, and costs \$9.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children. Seating is limited, so reservations are suggested. Please call (457-2622) or email the Change the World Kids ([changetheworldkids@yahoo.com](mailto:changetheworldkids@yahoo.com)), or sign up on the sheet in the social hall. Come dine, laugh, and beat the winter blahs and blues!

We are honored to be featured in the current issue of *UU World*! Check out the center section. If you have a copy of the winter 2010 *UU World* and have finished reading it, please consider donating it to us so we have some extra copies for our files. Thank you for all of your encouragement and support.



Please let us know of anyone who can use our help!  
457-2622 or  
[changetheworldkids@yahoo.com](mailto:changetheworldkids@yahoo.com)

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## 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**  
1st Tuesday, 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

## Annual Meeting January 23rd

Plan to attend the annual meeting after service on Sunday, January 23. We'll have a potluck lunch followed immediately by our meeting. Child care will be provided so that everyone can take part in making important decisions for the coming year.

## 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](mailto:annesheart@aol.com)

**Wednesdays - Course in Miracles:** 5:30-7:00 PM in Library. Contact Robert Walker (802) 767-9262

**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. Contact Jennifer Donaldson 457-3690

## January Worship

Sunday services at 10:00 until 11:00 AM

Child care provided every Sunday.

### January 2

Reflection: Brother Sage

Music: Diane Mellinger

### January 23—Annual Meeting

Reflection: Daniel Jantos

Music: Diane Mellinger

### January 9

Reflection: M'ellen Kennedy

Music: Diane Mellinger

### January 30

Reflection: Daniel Jantos

Music: Diane Mellinger

### January 16

Reflection: Daniel Jantos

Music: Diane Mellinger

## January Worship Notes

**January 2: Brother Sage** lives at the Green Mountain Monastery, located in South Woodstock, which was established by Thich Nhat Hanh. The monastery has now become a hermitage. Thich Nhat Hahn is a Vietnamese Buddhist monk, scholar, poet, and peace activist.

**January 9: Rev. M'ellen Kennedy** is a UU minister and also a Sufi minister. She is a member of the First UU Society. She serves the Universalist Society of Strafford, Vermont and the Washington (Vermont) UU Church. M'ellen is also co-founder of the Small Group Ministry Network and serves as a small group ministry consultant.

Her reflection will be “What I Love about Islam.” The tension and misunderstandings between the Islamic World and the West are costly and severe. In the past few months, we have witnessed a rash of anti-Muslim events throughout this nation. Although the stir around these events has subsided, the underlying anti-Muslim sentiment remains. Let's open our hearts and minds to what valuable life lessons we can gain from this powerful and inspiring religious tradition.

North Universalist Chapel Society  
7 Church Street  
Woodstock, VT 05091



*January*  
*Quest*

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