

H O L I D A Y I S S U E 2 0 1 3

the

HEED

Newsletter of the Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Upcoming Services in December and January (at 10 am unless otherwise noted)

December 1st: UU Minister Dick Dutton will be speaking on "Jeremy Quist's Humongous List"

Please note: We will also be having a POTLUCK this Sunday after the service.

December 8th: UU Minister Ed Lynn will be speaking on "Kindness as a Daily Value"

December 15th: UNH student Alex Fried will be speaking on the Zero-Waste Movement on campus

December 22nd: Celebration of Kwanzaa

December 24th: 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service

January 5th: Tom Schram will be speaking on the topic of "Hospitality Beyond the Comfort Zone"

January 12th: Musicians Ryan and Brennish Thomson will lead an *intergenerational service* on "Making Music as a Family"

January 19th: A service in celebration and remembrance of Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 26th: Karen Barker will be speaking on the topic of sustainable agriculture

KWANZAA CELEBRATION – DECEMBER 22, 2013

WE ARE ALL AFRICANS, so you may wear authentic African garb if you have it. If you don't have attire but have something else authentically African, bring it to set before the KWANZAA table. **If you don't have anything authentically African, please bring a saying or proverb that celebrates Ujima, Collective Work and Responsibility, the theme of the service.** It does not have to be African or Black American, although that would be nice. But it should reflect the theme of the service. **If you have children, please see if you or they can find a saying or proverb for them to recite, as this will be an intergenerational service, and all RE students will receive a book about Black Americans.**

For the KARAMU (feast) after the service, please bring either African or soul food. Soul food includes black-eyed peas, grits, beans and rice, greens (collards, kale, mustard, turnip, and/or dandelion), fried chicken, barbecue, macaroni and cheese, fried okra (native to Africa), couscous, fried plantains, sweet potato pie, Hoppin' John, sweet potato-squash soup, Benne cakes, peach cobbler, cabbage, biscuits, scalloped corn, fruit cobbler, cornbread, watermelon, etc. This meal is a Ujima meal, because it takes collective work and responsibility to produce it.



Children's choir sings during the Thanksgiving Service

MEMBERSHIP

Progress Report:

1. The updated members and friends list is completed and awaits the next board meeting for approval (I'll post the finalized list in Heed in the new year);
2. The "Who Are We" book is well underway guided by John Macri; please do get your responses to the questions portion back to him;
3. The Rainbow Flag is up and waving proudly on Sunday mornings;
4. I'll be working on the name badge board shortly to update and revitalize it;
5. We are looking into new name badges and Mike Fleming is heading that up (we welcome input from everyone as to preference for badges with pins, crocodile clips, string to hang around your neck or some other attachment system);
6. Chris Rodgers, who has been continuing her activities on pastoral care on behalf of the Fellowship, attended a Pastoral Care Workshop this past month and her report on that follows below.



The Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship proudly flies its Rainbow Flag.

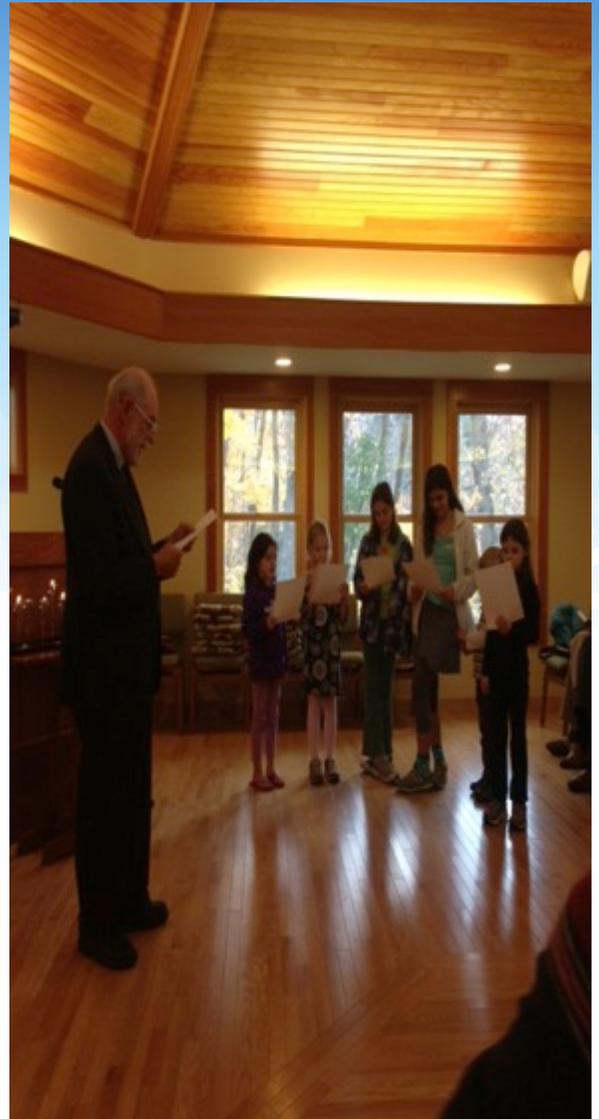
Because of the possibility of vandalism this is only put out on Sunday mornings. However, check out the new, permanently displayed, decals in the corners of the Fellowship wayside pulpit (these were added since the photograph above was taken).

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Pastoral Care:

The first thing I learned at the workshop I attended in Weston in Western Massachusetts was that pastoral care is not actually what we are doing, but rather, parish care. However, as it remains a goal and as the term 'pastoral' has more meaning in our Fellowship (we are not a 'parish'), we're keeping it as it is for the time being at least. Secondly, there is potentially so much more to it than I had realized! In view of this I hope to set up a small sub-committee to help me in our whole endeavor to provide better care for our members and long-standing friends if and when they need it.

Basically, parish care includes the sending of cards and providing of meals and rides where needed, whereas pastoral care involves visiting, presence, counseling and support. While we are not in a position without a minister to provide full pastoral care, I feel we can at least go some way towards it, and probably have already in some cases in an informal manner. I do not plan to formalize things too much either, but feel that we could at least provide information about resources, whether from our own congregation or from outside, that could be made available to those in need. As a first step I intend to look into obtaining some information leaflets, and setting up a little display in the foyer. I shall also be asking members for information, both about knowledge they may have and facilities they may have access to, as well as about ways in which they have experienced either support or lack of support from our Fellowship. I feel we have a long road to travel in order to get this right and be in a position to



Rev. Ed Lynn with the children

offer support effectively, or helpfully direct people to the care they may need; however, any steps we take towards these ends could help someone.

I will endeavor to report on progress in HEED on a regular basis.

Chris Rodgers

Membership Trivia Question for December:

Many of you may know the name of the most recent member to join the Fellowship, but can you name the 5 most recent "new" members. The quotation marks are a hint because the newest member has actually attended and been a friend of the Fellowship for many, many years. Also 3 of these 5 all joined on the same day.
Answer on next page.

Frank Rodgers



Where were you when JFK was shot?

What were you doing when JFK was shot is an oft-asked question especially now on the 50th anniversary. However, the answer from me carries a lot of coincidence. In 1963 we had returned to Belfast in Ireland after living for 5 years in Australia. We lived in Andersonstown at the top of the Falls Road, a staunch Irish Republican area.

On the fateful day, a school friend and I decided to go see a movie and there was a war film on at the Broadway, a local picture house on the Falls Road (back then it would have been a stretch to call it a cinema despite the fact that it is still there to this day). The film showing was PT-109 about John F. Kennedy during WWII. During the film, a rumor started whispering its way around the audience that Kennedy had been shot. At the time, I remember so well saying to myself “what’s the matter with people, just because we’re watching a movie about Kennedy, some clown starts a stupid rumor going about him being shot”. Nothing was said officially, and we watched the movie to the end then headed out. Outside a newspaper boy was selling a special edition of the Irish News with the headline that JFK had been shot. I still didn’t believe it, thinking that this was a gimmick played out merely because of the film that was showing. However, it soon became clear that it was indeed so. I remember we all stood around outside the picture house for over an hour in shock not knowing quite what to do but not wanting to leave, despite the trolley buses, that would otherwise take people home, plowing their way up and down the Falls Road.

As everyone knows, Kennedy was a hero among Irish republicans; from 1961 I had a picture of him on my bedroom wall draped with small Irish and American flags. Some days after the assassination, I made my way to the American Consulate building in Belfast and signed the condolence/mourning book. So, where precisely was I when JFK was shot? – I was watching the movie of his wartime exploits.

Frank Rodgers

ANSWER TO THIS MONTH’S MEMBERSHIP TRIVIA QUESTION:

Joan DeVries (11/3/2013); Gary Hochgraf (10/27/2013); Virginia Towler, Cindy Schram and Thomas Schram (all on 4/15/2012).



Interim Financial Report of the Operating Fund as of November 25th for Fiscal Year 2013-2014:

- There is an operating surplus of \$1,807.25 for the approximate four-and-half-month period through November 25th.
- Donations are only 37% of the annual Budget and are running slightly behind last year for the same time period.
- Operating Fund Balance is \$10,729.26 due to surpluses in prior years.
- Operating Fund Cash Balance is \$32,324.64 as \$21,595.38 from other DUUF Funds are deposited in the same bank account.

Fund Balances as of November 25th:

- Operating Fund Balance is \$10,729.26.
- The remaining four (4) other active Fund Balances total \$31,595.38, bringing the total of all Fund Balances including the Operating Fund to \$42,324.64.
- \$10,000 from the Nest Egg Fund is on loan to the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund.
- The remaining cash for all five (5) Fellowship Funds totaling \$32,324.64 is being held in the Operating Fund's Advantage Checking Account, earning interest at the rate of ~.10% per annum.

Facility Improvements of November 25th:

- Three facility Improvements were completed through November 25th:
 - ü Rebuild the Rock Wall in the Rear of the New Sanctuary at an actual cost of \$1,750 as compared to a budget of \$500 for this project, and
 - ü Remove Large Spruce Tree in the front lawn at an actual cost of \$800. This project was not budgeted. PSNH removed the tree at no cost to the Fellowship. The \$800 expenditure for this line item was to repair the front lawn from the fallen tree and for stump grinding.
 - ü New Tenant Signage was installed at a cost to the Fellowship of \$590.00.

James H. Zembruski



Larry Brickner-Wood speaks to the children

Mentoring

The word has a rich history, tracing back to Homer's *Odyssey*. Mentor was a friend of Ulysses who tutored Ulysses' son Telemachus during his father's absence. It is from this context that today's view of a mentor as a close, trusted, and experienced counselor or guide arises.

In recent years the concept has become important in many settings. In university settings mentoring is an increasingly common component of graduate education and of new faculty development. In religious education new folks often seek out experienced colleagues. In the RE credentialing program having a mentor is a requirement.

Why have we experienced this renaissance of mentoring? The explanation is undoubtedly multifaceted. In higher education we began to realize that advising per se was often not sufficient for what graduate students and new faculty members needed. Indeed it has been reported that a good mentoring relationship plays a significant role in the success of women and other underrepresented groups in the STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering, mathematics). Here and elsewhere people also realized the value of having a mentoring relationship with someone who is not directly involved in your professional activities. Sometimes you need to talk with someone in a "safe" context.

In religious education mentoring relationships have often arisen informally. The regular cluster meeting of DREs from neighboring congregations is a good example. It was in this context that I began what has turned out to be a 20+ year mentoring relationship with Cindy Spring, a relationship that developed in a strong friendship as well. Recently I was invited by a colleague on the Northern New England District staff to reach out to a new DRE who has been experiencing some challenges. We have established a mentoring relationship and it has been a delight to get to know her and to help as she works to revitalize their RE program.

The Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) had played a prominent role in developing a formal mentoring program for folks entering the RE credentialing program. In that program I have mentored four colleagues during their time in the program. In turn, I now have a mentor, Rev. Helen Zidowecki, as I pursue Master level credentialing. Four years ago I was invited to serve on the LREDA Committee on Mentoring, a group that established mentor-mentee matches in the RE credentialing program. I currently chair this committee and am honored to be a part of this important process.

Mentoring, though, can occur in almost any context. At this time of the year, when so many things are vying for our precious time, I encourage you to take a few minutes to take about the gifts you have. Is there someone who could benefit from your wisdom, your experience? Conversely, could you use some help or benefit from a listening ear? What better gift can there be than that of giving yourself, your time? Try it. You both will be rewarded.

In faith,
Thomas Pistole

Committees Members

Officers:

Malcolm Smith, President
Jim Zemruski, Treasurer

Bob Pavlik, Vice President - 1yr. term
Karen Smith, Secretary

Committees:

Program:

Tom Schram - Chair
Carmen Buford-Paige
Betty Crepeau
Malcolm Smith
Larry Vogelman

Susan Bullivant
Raelene Shippee-Rice - liaison to Socials
Dale Rice - liaison to Socials
Dottie Oliver

Religious Education:

Stefanie Griffin – Co-Chair
Brad Kinsey

Jen Pavlik -- Co-Chair

House and Grounds:

Sarge Legard – Chair
Edna O'Sullivan – Rentals and Cleaning

Michael O'Sullivan – Grounds
Rachel Legard

Social Action:

Betty Crepeau -- Co-Chair
Bob Pavlik

Dawn Meredith -- Co-Chair

Socials:

Edna O'Sullivan -- Co-Chair
Joyce Sheffield
Dottie Oliver
Dale Rice

Deb Johnson -- Co-Chair
Cindy Schram
Raelene Shippee-Rice

Denominational Affairs:

Bob Pavlik – Chair

Membership:

Frank Rodgers – Chair
Mike Fleming
John Macri

Chris Rodgers – Pastoral Care

Nominations:

Jim Nute– Chair

Music Task Force:

Carmen Buford-Paige - Chair
Malcolm Smith, Thomas Pistole

HEED/Webmaster:

Brett Gibson

Our Mission Statement

The real test of our religion is the way we live our lives. The Durham Unitarian Universalist Fellowship affirms the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism:

We seek to be a place in which each person's unique worth and beliefs are acknowledged and respected and where each person's voice may be heard – a place in which each may freely explore his or her own spiritual path.

We join with others in reaching out to make the world more just, and commit ourselves to caring for the earth and all that makes up the web of life.

We strive to be a source of inspiration, a forum for intellectual exchange, a wellspring of comfort to those in need and a nurturing, supportive community for each other and our children.