



# The First Universalist Society of Hartland Unitarian Universalist

FEBRUARY 2014

First Universalist Society  
Hartland Four Corners  
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Hartland, VT 05049

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## Sunday Services & Religious Education Classes 10 am in the Church

### Sunday Services

#### February 2 Pray Without Ceasing Paul Sawyer

An introductory reflection on February's worship theme of "Prayer" in all its forms.

*The collection will benefit the Cornish, NH Rescue Squad.*

#### February 9 Children's Winterim Production Paul Sawyer

The 4th annual Winterim program will be presented by the children during this intergenerational service. *Donations for the Hartland Food Shelf will be collected during the service.*

*The collection will benefit the Lucy Mackenzie Animal Shelter.*

#### February 16 Let this Action Be the Prayer Paul Sawyer

In our unison Affirmation, we regularly proclaim that "Service is our Prayer." Many of you have said that you lift up your heart to the divine through your work, or through your community leadership, or through planting gardens in the rich earth. In this service we'll reflect on the actions that take the spirit of prayer into the world

*The collection will benefit Partners for Rural Health in the Dominican Republic..*

#### February 23 Reflections Helen Dicke, Bineke Oort

Come hear members of our congregation reflect about their lives and faith.

*The collection will benefit Vermont Interfaith Power and Light.*

## OFFERING RECIPIENTS FEBRUARY

Our regular collections during Sunday morning worship are dedicated each week to an organization doing good work in our local communities or in society as a whole. Checks for the collection can be made out to "FUSH" and we will consolidate donations to pass on to the organization.

For those wishing to make a pledge payment, or a donation specifically to support our congregation's budget, there is a box on the welcoming table at the back of the sanctuary or simply mark "for FUSH" in the memo line of your check.

Please contact Paul if you have nominations for organizations you feel would be good choices for our support.

### *February 2— The Cornish Rescue Squad*

Providing primary emergency medical support for both Cornish and Plainfield, NH, the volunteers of the Cornish Rescue Squad serve many members and friends of our congregation, as well as thousands of others in these neighbor communities. This is the first in a series of offerings to our local rescue squads, in an effort to connect with and support those doing effective and important work in our member communities. This idea was suggested by our own governing board member, Dan Poor, who served for several years on the Cornish Rescue Squad. You can speak with Dan or with Paul (who is also a former volunteer rescue squad member) for more information.

*continued on pg. 3*

## *Engaging the Spirit*

### February 2014 --"Prayer"

"Sometime in our lives, most of us are driven to our knees," a mentor of mine once told me. "It may be by grief, or by pain, or by great overwhelming awe, but whatever the reason, that's when most of us truly learn to pray, whether we believe in a traditional sense of God or not."

Do you pray? Some of you do—I know, you've told me. You pray in gratitude before every meal, or silently when you go to bed at night. You pray for each other, and for loved ones you've lost. You pray to God, or to the Universe, or to Gaia, or the Goddess, or just to all that is, unknowable and unnamed.

Others of you will tell me that you do not pray—and it's possible, but I wonder.... What is it that you say when the universe just reaches out and slaps you in the face? When you're, in the words of my mentor, "driven to your knees" by grief, or pain, or by beauty, or by love?

For so many of us three small words leap to our lips—"Oh my God..." (Or if you were trained against blasphemy, like I was at a very young age, maybe you just say "Oh my..." and leave it at that.) That little phrase, that little catch in our voice, the quick drawing in of our breath—that's a prayer lifted up in truth from the depths of our souls.

I had the occasion to spend some time recently with a man who'd had a stroke that affected his speech. He struggled to talk coherently much of the time, but when someone came into the room whom he hadn't seen in a while, he'd shout out, clear as day, "Jee-sus Christ! Hi!"

His wife told me that some of his more religious friends were a little put off by the greeting, but I told her that to me it sounded like a true prayer. Even when the rest of our words are gone, or hard to find, we still find ways to call out to something beyond our own selves. The Jesus who told his friends on his last day on earth, "Love one another as I have loved you" would surely understand this man's calling his name in recognition and joy.

Many of you, I know, prefer "meditation" to "prayer," and that's fine, if that works better for you. At the deepest of levels, I've never found a definition of either of those words that differs meaningfully from the other. Oh, there are specific disciplines of both meditation and prayer that have distinct meanings, but if you look hard enough, you will find that someone else is doing a similar discipline and calling it by the other name. Perhaps you know the story—when the Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh met the Roman Catholic monk Thomas Merton in 1966, the two men instantly saw in each other a kindred spirit. At the deepest level, the forms, the words, the distinctions, they said, fell away, and there was only soul meeting soul. I think that's right.

I meditate often, though not always as often as I'd like. And I pray every day, though not always as authentically as I'd like. I'm working on it, as I hope you are too. I've been driven to my knees many times, and I know I will be again. When there's nothing at all to say, prayer remains. And for that I say "Thank you...amen."

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*Offering Recipients cont. from pg. 2*

*February 9— Lucy Mackenzie  
Humane Society*

Founded in 1915, the Lucy Mackenzie Humane Society in Brownsville, VT is one of the oldest Humane Societies in the United States. Following their motto of “improving the lives of people and pets” Lucy Mac offers shelter, adoption, and training programs for pets and the people who love them. As a no-kill shelter, Lucy Mac often cares for animals for months before they are available to be adopted. More information is available at [www.lucymac.org](http://www.lucymac.org).

*February 16— Partners for  
Rural Health in the Dominican  
Republic*

Partners for Rural Health in the Dominican Republic (PRHDR) was founded in 1995 by the School of Nursing at the University of Southern Maine. Currently PRHDR sponsors two visits per year of volunteer professional clinicians and students, serving more than 2000 people in 15 rural mountain communities in the Dominican Republic. Working with local community leaders, PRHDR offers primary health care, medical supplies, and basic support for nutrition, dental health, and disease prevention. Last month our own Nancy and Nora Foote joined PRHDR as volunteers on their most recent visit, and encourage our support of this important, life-giving work. For more information you can speak with Nancy or Nora, or visit [www.prhdr.org](http://www.prhdr.org).

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*Engaging the Spirit continued from pg. 2*

There are more words about prayer than any of us could possibly read in a lifetime. Here are some of my favorites:

**Prayer**

Frederick Buechner  
From *Wishful Thinking*

Everybody prays whether [they] think of it as praying or not. The odd silence you fall into when something very beautiful is happening or something very good or very bad. The ah-h-h-h! that sometimes floats up out of you as out of a Fourth of July crowd when the sky-rocket bursts over the water. The stammer of joy at somebody else's joy.

Whatever words or sounds you use for sighing with over your own life. These are all prayers in their way. These are all spoken not just to yourself but to something even more familiar than yourself and even more strange than the world.

Whatever else it may or may not be, prayer is at least talking to yourself, and that's in itself not always a bad idea. Talk to yourself about your own life, about what you've done and what you've failed to do and about who you are and who you wish you were and who the people you love are and the people you don't love too. Talk to yourself about what matters most to you, because if you don't, you may forget what matters most to you.

Even if you don't believe anybody's listening, at least you'll be listening. Believe Somebody is listening. Believe in miracles. That's what Jesus told the father who asked him to heal his epileptic son. Jesus said, "All things are possible to him who believes." And the father spoke for all of us when he answered, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" (Mark 9:14-29) What about when the boy is not healed? When listened to or not listened to, the prayer goes unanswered? Who knows? Just keep praying...

Even if the boy dies, keep on beating the path to [Spirit's] door, because the one thing you can be sure of is that down the path you beat with even your most half-cocked and halting prayer the [Spirit] you call upon will finally come, and even if [it] does not bring you the answer you want, [it] will bring you [itself].

And maybe at the secret heart of all our prayers that is what we are really praying for.

**Rev. Jack Mendelssohn**

Prayer is an effort to reach deep and to reach out and to become what we would like to be, and need to be, and ought to be. Proper prayer is not a petition to escape realities. It is an effort to face up to realities, to understand them, to deal with them. It is an expression of the desire to grow in spiritual stature, in courage, in strength, and in faith.

**Abraham Lincoln**

I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had no where else to go. My own wisdom and that of all about me seemed insufficient for that day.

**Ambrose Bierce**

from *The Devil's Dictionary*

PRAY, v. To ask that the laws of the universe be annulled in behalf of a single petitioner confessedly unworthy.

**Reinhold Niebuhr**

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

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*Offering Recipients cont. from pg. 3*

*February 23— Vermont Inter-faith Power and Light*

Vermont Interfaith Power and Light (VTIPL) is a collection of faith communities and individuals working for a “faith-based response to global warming.” They offer collaboration, education, and inspiration for practical actions and deepening spiritual connections with earth and with the possibility of a resilient future. VTIPL offers a membership program for churches, which requires a commitment to action and responsibility and which we will consider as a future possibility for our congregation. In the meantime, our offering will support their work and help us establish an initial connection with this important organization. More information is available at [www.vtipl.org](http://www.vtipl.org).

*Engaging the Spirit cont. from pg. 3*

**Jon Bon Jovi**

Whoa, we’re halfway there,  
Whoa, livin’ on a prayer  
Take my hand and we’ll make it I swear  
Whoa, livin’ on a prayer.

**Samuel Taylor Coleridge**

from *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*

He prayeth best who loveth best  
All things, both great and small.

He prayeth well who loveth well  
Both man and bird and beast.

**Claude Debussy**

To feel the supreme and moving  
beauty of the spectacle to which Nature  
invites her ephemeral guests!—  
that is what I call prayer.

**Luke 18:1**

He spake a parable unto them to  
this end, that men ought always to  
pray, and not to faint.

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*re: RE*

February will be a transition from our dramatic worship presentation, “Babble,” to our regular schedule RE programs.

The children are currently immersed in our 4th annual Winterim program which will be presented during the intergenerational service on February 9. Please bring in any donations for the Hartland Food Shelf and the children will collect them during this service. We have had two busy groups working in the yurt: the lead actors and the set designers. Thank you to Mariet Jaarsma, Heather Findlay, Courtney McCaig and Emma Sawyer for all the extra help working with the children last month during our Winterim program rehearsals and set design projects.

Sincerely,

*Sara*  
DRE



**February RE Calendar**

2	9:30am	Children’s Choir Practice: Winterim Hymns
	10:00	Winterim: “Babble” rehearsal
8	5:00pm	Pizza dinner and Dress Rehearsal
9	10:00am	Intergenerational Service: “Babble”
	11:30	Chocolate Auction
16	10:00am	Spirit Play: “God is Playing Hide and Seek”
23	9:30am	Children’s Choir Practice
	10:00	Children’s Chapel: The Fourth UU Principle

*Youth - Be the Change*

Our congregation offers activities for youth in grades 7-12 (or the home-school equivalent) through two youth groups—the Junior Youth Group, for those in grades 7 & 8, and the Senior Youth Group for high school students. Both groups are offered in conjunction with our friends and neighbors from the Hartland Congregational Church, and are led by the Reverends Lucia Jackson and Paul Sawyer along with the wonderful David Morin.

Both groups offer fun, fellowship, games, and a youth-centered exploration and development of faith. We gather to support one another, to have a good time, and to think about some of the big questions of life in a safe environment. We have regular meetings with activities, time to check in, reflection, and games. We also offer special events including service opportunities, fundraising brunches at both churches, trips to Dartmouth sporting events, game nights, and, for senior youth, our annual week-long mission trip to New Haven, CT in July.

For further information about our youth groups and youth events, please contact Paul or Lucia. To stay in touch with youth group happenings, make sure that Paul and Lucia have your e-mail address, follow the youth group Facebook page, keep an eye on the newsletters and weekly e-mail updates of both churches, or better yet, come to church and read the bulletin!

See the calendar on the next page for the currently scheduled dates, times, and places of our meetings.

*continued on pg. 5*



*Engaging the Spirit cont. from pg. 4*

### **Mahatma Gandhi**

In spite of despair staring me in the face on the political horizon, I have never lost my peace. In fact, I have found people who envy my peace. That peace, I tell you, comes from prayer; I am not a man of learning, but I humbly claim to be a man of prayer. I am indifferent as to the form. Every one is a law unto himself in that respect. But there are some well-marked roads, and it is safe to walk along the beaten tracks, trod by the ancient teachers. Well, I have given my personal testimony. Let every one try and find that as a result of daily prayer, he adds some thing new to his life, something which nothing can be compared.

### **Abraham Joshua Heschel**

Prayer invites the Eternal Presence to suffuse our spirits and let God's will prevail in our lives. Prayer cannot bring water to parched fields, or mend a broken bridge, or rebuild a ruined city; but prayer can water an arid soul, mend a broken heart, and rebuild a weakened will.

### **William James**

But petitional prayer is only one department of prayer; and if we take the word in the wider sense as meaning every kind of inward communion or conversation with the power recognized as divine, we can easily see that scientific criticism leaves it untouched. Prayer in this wide sense is the very soul and essence of religion.

### **William Shakespeare** from *Hamlet*

Bow, stubborn knees; and, heart,  
with strings of steel,  
Be soft as sinews of the new-born babe.

My words fly up, my thoughts  
remain below;  
Words without thoughts never to  
heaven go.

### **Voltaire**

I have never made but one prayer  
to God, a very short one: Oh Lord,  
make my enemies ridiculous. And  
God granted it.

*Youth Group continued from pg. 4*

### **Youth Group Schedule January 2014**

**January 31—Friday**—Trip to Dartmouth Men's Hockey vs. Quinnipiac--\$7/youth, \$10/adults  
Pay Lucia by January 12!

**February 9**—Youth Group Meetings at FCCH (The Brick Church)

**February 16**—Junior Youth Group Meeting at FCCH (The Brick Church); Senior High Game Night 6:30-9:30 at FCCH (The Brick Church)

**February 23**—Mission Trip Brunch at FCCH (The Brick Church)

Look for information soon about our upcoming Our Whole Lives human sexuality program for grades 7 & 8!

*Save the Dates: This year's Mission Trip will take place July 27–August 2, 2014 and we will lead worship for both churches in a joint service on August 3.*



## *The Board's Broadcast*

### **January meeting**

The Governing Board met on January 13; the meeting dates have been changed to the second Monday of the month. Present were: Mary Erdei, Tamara Ross, Doug Hart, John Osborne, Sara Morin, Dan Poor, Colleen Spence, and Becky Howe.

Minutes of the December meeting were reviewed, and some changes made, based on an email from Doug Hart.

The minister's written report was reviewed, in the absence of Paul Sawyer.

The canvass is not going as well as had been expected. It was felt that the Board needs to follow up with Paul about canvass activities and additional work that needs to be done. Paul suggests the possibility of an ongoing funding process throughout the year. In Paul's absence, further action is deferred to February.

John brought up that Paul's report includes a list of people which have done special service to the congregation recently, and reminded the Board that we have been sending thank-you notes in the past, but still are not doing this on a regular basis. John suggested that we include a page of special gratitude in the newsletter. The Board voted to do this for this month, and continue if it is well received. In addition, Mary Erdei volunteered to send thank-you notes to the people on Paul's list. We will make this a regular agenda item of the Board meetings, to prepare a gratitude page for the newsletter and send thank-you notes.

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## NEW MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



### **Don Foster**

I was born a Unitarian. This answer often surprises UU's who inevitably ask, "What religion were

you before you found Unitarian Universalism?" Often they just assume I had made an intellectual or spiritual quest to find the right religion for me. On the contrary, my mother's people were Proper Bostonians and by definition Unitarians for generations. Thus, I was a product of UU Sunday Schools, became a national officer in LRY (Liberal Religious Youth), spent summers on Star Island, served as a camp counselor at Rowe UU Camp, and as an adult served on the Religious Education Committee of All Souls in DC, taught Sunday School at All Souls in New York, and gave talks at the Unitarian Fellowship in Johannesburg, South Africa. Were it not for LRY, my sister and I would never have become involved in Civil Rights. When my sister married a NY Jew and I, a Mexican Catholic, as well brought up UU's, we knew more about their religions than they did. And when they learned about our religion, both promptly announced they wanted their children to be raised as UU's so they could continue to learn and respect their different religious heritages while embracing one they'd create themselves.

For nearly three decades, my children and I lived in Latin America, Southeast Asia, and Africa, while I served in the U.S. Foreign Service as an international education specialist. My last posting was in South Africa, where I had the privilege of helping with South Africa's post apartheid educational transformation, directing programs at primary and college levels, and introducing a South African version of Sesame Street to South African children. For an additional decade, I taught students and teachers at all levels from pre-K through post doc and was Head Master of two international schools. Most recently I worked at Teachers College, Columbia University, where I supervised Masters of English Education student teachers in their New York City public middle and high school placements.

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*The Boards Broadcast continued from pg. 5*

Mary needed a current directory to send out the notes. The database should have the most current address information, and a directory can be generated and printed quickly. John has generated a directory and emailed the file to members of the Board. The Board will also provide note cards and stamps for Mary.

Paul's report also brought up an event taking place on March 15 at the UU church in Woodstock—a "Shared Ministry Day" of connection and training hosted by the Northern New England District. Paul invites up to three members of the Board to attend. We will review this with Paul at the next Board meeting. The Board voted to accept Paul's report as written.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed.

The transition from Doug Hart to Tamara Ross as Treasurer is ongoing, with the support of the Finance Circle. Doug, John, and Tamara met on Tuesday, January 14 to work out some of the usage of Quicken and go over the financial process with Tamara.

Doug reports that the average pledge has been about \$1385. We've received a number of large pledges, and a significant number have paid pledge amounts already.

The Treasurer's report was accepted as written.

The Board briefly discussed creating a Nominating Committee. This will become an urgent issue this year, as John and Becky are planning to leave, and Mary Erdei is also a 3-year member of the Board. It was decided to postpone further discussion until the February meeting.

Upcoming events were briefly discussed; Sara Morin prepared a listing of events and reported on their progress. The Chocolate Auction is coming up in February and the "Adult Prom" in March. There seems to be significant interest in the "Adult Prom," and we will be working to get people outside the church membership to attend. The Board also discussed the possibility of a "Share Your Passion" auction.

Sara Morin also reported the activities of the Welcoming Circle. The first workshop went well. There will be 8 workshops over the course of a year. The Welcoming Circle is talking to Paul about using welcoming as a monthly theme. Information about the Welcoming initiative will be in the newsletter, on the website, and on a bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. The Welcoming Circle is also rethinking the use of bulletin boards in the Fellowship Hall.

Jill Lloyd informed John via email that we are ready to do a survey to determine interest in going to the UUA General Assembly in Providence RI in June. John will be setting up an online survey, which Jill will be announcing via email, newsletter, and/or our website. The Board will invite Jill to our February meeting to discuss fundraising in conjunction with this effort.

The next meeting will be February 10 at 7:00 pm. Members are invited to attend, as always.

### Connections Circle

#### Coffee Hour

We thank Sally Bemont and John Hickory; Jandra Oliver and Dianne Rochford; Bineke and Bram Oort; and the Youth Group who provided delicious snacks for us in January. We also appreciate the hard work of the clean-up elves Patti Eckels, Mary Erdei, Joan Fariel, and Michael Theroux.

The following people are in charge of Coffee hour for February: Feb. 2 - Becky Howe and John Osborne; Feb. 9 - Nancy and Glenn Walker; Feb. 16 - Patti Eckels and Mary Erdei. We still need two people to be in charge of Coffee Hour for Feb. 23. We will send directions to each team the week before and the directions are on the coffee pots and on the wall by the coffee pots. The hospitality and hard work are appreciated by the congregation.

#### Pictures of Our Members and Friends

We want to have a bulletin board of all the members and friends who are connected to FUSH! After January 1 please bring a 3x5 picture of yourself or a 4x6 picture of your family with names written on the back of the picture. Place the pictures in the marked box in front of the bulletin board. Nancy Walker and Paul Sawyer have graciously offered to make labels for the pictures.

#### Circle Dinners for February

##### Saturday, February 15

Hosted by Sue & David Taylor at 6:00 pm in Plainfield, NH. They can accommodate 8 people.

##### Sunday, February 23

Hosted by Connie Tessier at 6:00 pm in Hartland, VT. She can accommodate 10 people.

Look for sign up sheets in the Fellowship Hall on the bulletin board. There will be a space for your name, phone # and dish you will bring.

If you are interested in hosting a Circle Dinner (we could use one more in March) or want more info, please contact Nancy Walker. This is a potluck event where you pick the date, time and how many you can accommodate. Nancy will make up the sign up sheet and post it on the bulletin board.

### January - December 2013

#### INCOME

Pledges. We came in \$1,347 over budget due some extra generous contributions and the steady support of the rest of us. There were 64 completed pledges. That we reached \$71,347 suggests that our 2014 goal of \$80,000 is doable.

Non-Pledge Contributions were disappointing but understandable since our switch to emphasizing pledging and donating the weekly offering to a worthy cause. We misjudged in preparing the budget.

Fundraising (Net). A very satisfactory outcome: \$13,975 or \$675 over budget. While Old Home Day was a loser (-\$718) and Turkey Suppers, while big money, did not reach objective, our array of smaller events came up with a \$1,393 bonus that put us over.

Memorial Funds and Miscellaneous were in positive territory due some luck in the former and unexpectedly strong rentals in the latter in which the Jewish Congregation's use made the difference.

TOTAL INCOME was \$88,252 or \$1,152 more than we had planned.

#### EXPENSES

Salaries and Fringe Benefits (Minister's healthcare allowance, the other employees [associates?] Social Security and Medicare) are easily planned and, therefore, as budgeted. At a total of \$81,545, our "people costs" are 71.5% of our total \$114,065 expenses.

For the rest of our expenses, we were fortunate. There were no maintenance calamities and our utilities came in under budget; fortunate because these expenses are pretty much beyond our control. For the controllable expenses, Sara and Patty spent at or under their budgets.

TOTAL EXPENSES were \$114,065, \$2,256 under budget.

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## NEW MEMBER BIOGRAPHY

*Don Foster continued from pg. 6*

In January of 2012, I married Susan, my favorite companion and a Vermonter, and have returned home, where I've been elected Chairman of the Town of Hartford Democratic Committee. I also serve on the Board of Civil Authority and work with Foreign Students at Dartmouth College. Our oldest son, David, lives in Salt Lake City, Utah with his wife, Kelli. Our son, Joaquin, a poet and a capoeira guru, lives with us. Our daughter, Sarah, works in Singapore, where she was born, teaching local children who have special needs.



### **Debra Hart**

I grew up on a small farm in Hartland about a quarter of a mile away from the First Universalist Society. Our first sale of land was the original 1802 site of the

Church to our good neighbor and friend for life, Connie Tessier. I can still remember my Dad, Fred, saying at the breakfast table, "We're going to hay the Church lot today" or "We're moving the cow to the Church lot this week". I was baptized in The First Universalist Society of Four Corners as Debra Ann Spencer. I sang in the choir every Sunday for many years.

I still live on a piece of the original farm with my partner, Steve Smith. I have two grown daughters, a stepson, and five grandchildren with whom I share many special times. I love people and I look for "honesty" in all my human relationships. I also love hummingbirds and wind chimes. I have a special feeling for animals and have always had dogs and cats. I work at the Windsor Veterinarian Dental Clinic.

I'm really enjoying getting to know you all and appreciate all of you helping me to remember your names. It is exciting to see the Church so much busier than when I was a girl.



*Treasurer's Report continued from pg. 7*

## FROM ENDOWMENT

I am pleased that we were able to reduce what we needed to take from our investment portfolio to \$27,329 this year as opposed to \$35,000 in 2012. If we can continue to grow our pledge and fundraiser incomes ahead of the increases in expenses, we can balance our budget within five years.

## DEBT

A word about the "debt service" line item: we pay \$3,046 per year principle and interest on our Northern New England District White Loan. We currently owe \$14,358 on what originally was a \$25,000 loan. It will be paid off in early 2019. The interest rate is 4.5% which I regard as a bargain. I urge that we keep this loan as long as the money we have invested with UUCEF can generate more than 4.5%.

## CAPITAL RENOVATION FUND (STEEPLE FUND)

Income from pledge payments and outside contributions came to \$66,604 thru December 31, 2013. We spent \$58,504 to renovate the steeple, our new front steps and railings are done at a cost of \$6,468. Jarvis Excavating was able to repair our septic and pull stumps at a cost of \$2,497 before frost shut them down. Additionally, Sara spent \$16 in refreshments in total payment for Chris and a helper cutting down, chipping and hauling away that ugly old ash that stood between the church and the parsonage.

Total capital renovation expenditures to date: \$67,485. Cash-wise at year end, we are short \$881. Already in January we have a \$2,000 pledge payment and we will receive, shortly, the \$20,000 promised by the Vermont Division of Historic Preservation. This was confirmed in a letter I received from them after Dave and Sue Taylor personally delivered our documentation this past week. This means that by month end I'll be depositing at least \$21,119 in the Building Maintenance Fund invested at the UU Common Endowment Fund in Boston. This fund will be earning interest and dividends and will pay for a new floor in the Fellowship Hall, our grading, drainage and parking project, church repainting and any future, major repair or construction.

Of our \$65,537 in member pledges, we have received thru December, 2013 \$45,116.

Doug Hart  
January 11, 2014



FIRST UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY			
INCOME & EXPENSES VS BUDGET, JANUARY-DECEMBER, 2013			
INCOME	YEAR TO DATE ACTUAL	YEAR TO DATE BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
Pledges	\$71,347	\$70,000	1,347
Non-Pledge Contributions	589	2,000	-1,411
Fund-raising (Net of Costs)	13,975	13,300	675
Funds, Mem. Etc	648	600	48
Misc	1,693	1,200	493
TOTAL	\$88,252	\$87,100	1,152
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Salaries</b>			
Minister	43,392	43,392	0
RE Director	9,000	9,000	0
Music Director	7,512	7,512	0
Administrator	3,396	3,396	0
Sexton	1,830	1,830	0
Total	65,130	65,130	0
Fringe Benefits	10,378	10,378	0
Minister's Prof. Exp.	6,037	6,000	37
<b>Property, Church</b>			
Utilities, Services	6,498	7,721	-1,223
Insurance	3,877	3,832	45
Maintenance	1,334	1,200	134
Total	11,709	12,753	-1,044
<b>Property, Parsonage</b>			
Utilities, Services	3,015	3,000	15
Maintenance	1,309	1,200	109
Total	4,324	4,200	124
Membership, Communications, Pu	2,334	2,500	-166
Administration, Supplies, Misc.	2,805	2,000	805
RE: Supplies, Training, Equip't	949	2,100	-1,151
RE: Professional Expenses	600	600	0
RE: Childcare	1,300	1,750	-450
Music: Supplies, Conferences	2,029	2,200	-171
Dues, UUA & Dist.	3,364	3,364	0
Debt Service	3,046	3,046	0
Training	60	300	-240
TOTAL	\$114,065	\$116,321	-\$2,256
NET OPER INCOME (LOSS)	(25,813)	(29,221)	3,408
From Endowment	\$27,329	\$7,333	\$19,996
D Hart, 01/11/2014			



# Calling All Circles

## Fundraising

### **Chocolate Auction**

*Sunday, February 9  
11:15 am  
in our Fellowship Hall*



*This is our 6th Annual Chocolate Auction  
Make sure to stay after the service  
to view the items, to taste the chocolate fondue  
and to bid on the delicious chocolate desserts.*



*In the spirit of Valentine's Day  
donations of chocolate desserts are needed.*

*If you are willing and able to make an item  
please drop it off before the church service on Feb. 9.  
Please include a card with the name of the item  
and the ingredients.*



*For questions or  
if you are able to help before and/or during the auction  
contact Nancy Walker, 603-863-0066 or [nancy.mr.walker@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.mr.walker@gmail.com)*

### **SoUper Second Sunday - February 23**

This month we are changing things up. The SoUper Sunday Soup Sale will take place on the FOURTH Sunday in February, the 23rd during coffee hour. Last month we made \$135 and buyers enjoyed some delicious flavors as well as homemade bread. This continues to be a popular event, and we are offering more soups each month.

### **Look For These Fundraising Events In The Months To Come**

#### **Hartland Community Prom**

Saturday, March 8, 7:00-11:00 pm, at Damon Hall. A prom! Yes, for everyone! Come alone, come with a date, come with your family. Wear what you did wear to prom, what you wish you wore to prom, or anything else that makes you happy! DJing by Jaxon Morgan.

This is a fundraiser for the First Universalist Society. \$10 per person, maximum of \$25 per family. There will be refreshments and prizes for best outfits, etc. Everyone is invited! Be in touch with Katy Sawyer or Sara Morin with questions.

#### **Soup Bowl Painting and Sunday Luncheon**

\* Fundraiser for the Hartland Food Shelf \* Join us to paint your own soup bowl and/or salad plate March 1 at Bruce Locke's Studio from 9:00 am to Noon and 1:00 to 4:00 pm or March 2 in the Fellowship Hall from Noon to 3:00 pm. The cost \$10 for adults, \$7 for children under 12. Large salad serving bowls available for \$25.

On March 16 from Noon to 3:00 pm, enjoy Soup Bowl Sunday Luncheon, with homemade soups, breads and salads. All donations will benefit the Hartland Food Shelf Project.

#### **New England Baked Bean and Ham Supper**

March 29, 4:00-6:00 pm. A traditional New England Bean Supper with cole slaw, rolls, steamed brown bread, gingerbread with whipped cream or homemade ice cream.

Details to come, but please save the date to either attend the supper or sign up to help with cooking, serving, clean up, etc. See Sara Morin with questions or for more information.

## Welcoming Congregation

### Workshops

**Sunday, February 23**, Jo Knowles and Laura Bergstresser will lead introductory workshops from the UUA Welcoming Congregation Handbook. If you would like to take part, please RSVP to Jo and bring a bag lunch. The meeting will take place in the Fellowship Hall after coffee hour.

Save the date for the **Sunday, March 23** workshops – leaders will be Sara Morin and Katy Sawyer, topics to be announced.



**Adult Choir** - rehearsal at 9:00 am on Sunday, February 9 and 16 to sing in the service on the 16th.

**Children's Choir** - rehearsal at 9:30 am on Sunday, February 2 and 9 to sing in the service on the 9th.

### IN GRATITUDE

*Our congregation runs on the energy of its members and participants – your gifts of time, of skills, of resources of every kind. Without these, without your commitment and contribution, the engine of our spirit falters.*

*We cannot always recognize and appreciate the many contributions large and small that together weave the sustenance of our congregation, but the Governance Board would like to thank, every month, some of these contributors, knowing there are many we may overlook.*

*As they did last year, the Doolan family obtained our congregational Christmas tree from Sara's uncle, Richard Sargent, and transported and set it up in the sanctuary. Given the size of the trees we get, this is a significant task, and a very meaningful commitment of resources.*

*Phyllis Tucker once again played the piano for our 9:00 pm Christmas Eve service, travelling all the way from Unity, NH to do so, and then returned her compensation for the task to the church as a donation.*

*Beth Rice continues to provide year-round dedicated leadership to the Hartland Christmas Project. In the last few years, she and Jeannie Fraser from the Brick Church have worked very hard to increase the effectiveness and sustainability of that program, even while the needs it works to serve have significantly increased.*

*The Coffeehouse that Dave Morin & Leah Gartner organized was a wonderful new event for our congregation and community, and it's one that seems likely to continue and to grow in the time to come. It was a lovely evening of connection.*

*With Todd Lloyd's energy and leadership, we are taking the long-overdue step of becoming a Welcoming Congregation, and it's clear we're on a sure path of making it happen.*

*The holiday "Gingerbread Church" took a season off last year, but it was back this year, complete with glowing stained-glass windows, all thanks to Jill Lloyd.*

*I'm deeply appreciative of the energy and time that Bineke and Bram Oort are dedicating to our new Dialogue Group. This is another effort that has been a bit overdue in our community, and they have the skill and the commitment to make it work.*

*Michael Denmeade and Jaxon Morgan hosted the International Hour of Peace on New Year's Eve morning. It's a good, important event, and without their energy and commitment, it definitely would not have happened at all.*

*Bruce Locke (with help from Clyde Jenne) generously decorated the church for the season. They began with poinsettias in early December, and even after the cold in the sanctuary killed most of them, he didn't give up and filled our windows with lovely candles, greens, and decorations for Christmas Eve. It's such a joy to come into the church and to see the beauty Bruce and Clyde created.*

*Finally, an anonymous donor provided some lovely wreaths for the front doors. It makes a big difference and it seems just right for them to be there in this season.*

## Calendar - February 2014

2	Sun.	9:30am	Children's Choir rehearsal
		10	Worship Service
6	Thurs.	7-8:30pm	Dialogue Group
7	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
9	Sun.	9am	Adult Choir rehearsal
		9:30	Children's Choir rehearsal to sing
		10	Worship Service
		11:15	6th Annual Chocolate Auction
		5-6:15pm	Jr. Youth Group at FCCH
		6:30-8	Sr. Youth Group at FCCH
10	Mon.	7pm	Governing Board meeting
13	Thurs.	7-8:30pm	Dialogue Group
14	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
15	Sat.	6pm	Circle Dinner at Taylors'
16	Sun.	9am	Adult Choir rehearsal to sing
		10	Worship Service
		5-6:15pm	Jr. Youth Group at FCCH
		6:30-9:30	Sr. Youth game night at FCCH
18	Tues.	Noon	Newsletter deadline
20	Thurs.	7-8:30pm	Dialogue Group
21	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
23	Sun.	10am	Worship Service
		After service	SoUUPER Sunday
		After service	Welcoming Cong. Workshop
		After service	Youth Mission Trip Brunch, FCCH
		6pm	Circle Dinner at Connie Tessier's
27	Thurs.	7-8:30pm	Dialogue Group
28	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf



THE FIRST UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY  
Unitarian Universalist  
P. O. Box 75  
Hartland Four Corners, VT 05049



FEBRUARY