



The First Universalist Society of Hartland Unitarian Universalist

JANUARY 2014

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Printing - Lydia Johnson, Phyllis Tucker

Copy Editors- Cynthia Thompson,

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Sunday Services & Religious Education Classes 10 am in the Church

Sunday Services

January 5

Grace

Guest Minister Rev. Ndagijimana Fulgence

Join us for this special service with a visit from The Rev. Ndagijimana Fulgence, founder and minister of the Unitarian Congregation of Burundi. Rev. Fulgence will speak about his work and the practice of our shared faith in his region of Africa in the context of our theme for January—Grace.

The collection will benefit The Burundi AIDS Project.

Rev. Ndagijimana Fulgence, minister of the Assembly of Unitarian Christians of Burundi, first discovered Unitarianism online while he was training to become a Dominican priest. He and four other people then started a Unitarian fellowship in his home, which has since grown into a thriving congregation. Rev. Fulgence is very active in the social justice and humanitarian needs of his region, and in spreading the good news of liberal religion in Francophone Africa.

January 12

Grace Revisited

Bineke Oort

What Grace is and how it works may forever be a mystery. However that does not mean we cannot contemplate on and talk about Grace. Giving our attention to the existence of Grace in our lives can change our perception and thereby be truly life-enhancing.

The collection will benefit the Mount Ascutney Prevention Partnership.

January 19

The Making of a Weather Vane

Jill Lloyd

An expose' of our First Universalist Church tradition.

The collection will benefit The Good Neighbor Health Clinic.

January 26

Grace in Our Midst

Paul S. Sawyer

A reflection on grace in our lives for rationalists and mystics alike.

The collection will benefit Hartford Dismas House.

OFFERING RECIPIENTS JANUARY

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.

January 5—Burundi AIDS Project

Among the 8 million inhabitants of Burundi, at least 180,000 people are currently living with HIV. In addition, more than 200,000 children in Burundi are orphans as a result of AIDS. The Unitarian congregation in Bujumbura, Burundi actively partners with Unitarian Universalists from the United States and around the world to reach out and serve the needs of those affected by HIV/AIDS in their region. In particular, the Burundi Unitarians seek to ensure the health, welfare, and nutritional needs of children affected by the disease. You can read more about this program in this article on the website of the Unitarian Universalist Global AIDS Coalition: <http://uuglobalaids.org/news/article01.pdf>

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Engaging the Spirit

January 2014 --"Grace"

Grace in the religious sense is a recognition of all the greatness we have, just as a given. We don't always notice grace—it's largely a collection of the amazing aspects of life that we take for granted, because it is, truly, simply granted. But when you do stop to notice, when you really think about it, grace is all around. And whether you see that grace as given from a divine entity, or whether you see it as a state of being resulting from the rational workings of biology and the universe, it's worth taking a moment, and giving thanks, for the gift that grace surely is.

Frederic Buechner's definition of Grace is a good one, so our words for January's theme of Grace start there, and then continue on. Enjoy!

Grace

Frederic Buechner
from *Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC*

After centuries of handling and mishandling, most religious words have become so shopworn nobody's much interested anymore. Not so with grace, for some reason. Mysteriously, even derivatives like gracious and graceful still have some of the bloom left.



Grace is something you can never get but can only be given. There's no way to earn it or deserve it or bring it about any more than you can deserve the taste of raspberries and cream or earn good looks or bring about your own birth.

A good sleep is grace and so are good dreams. Most tears are grace. The smell of rain is grace. Somebody loving you is grace. Loving somebody is grace. Have you ever tried to love somebody?

A crucial eccentricity of the Christian faith is the assertion that people are saved by grace. There's nothing you have to do. There's nothing you have to do. There's nothing you have to do.

The grace of God means something like: Here is your life. You might never have been, but you are, because the party wouldn't have been complete without you. Here is the world. Beautiful and terrible things will happen. Don't be afraid. I am with you. Nothing can ever separate us. It's for you I created the universe. I love you.

There's only one catch. Like any other gift, the gift of grace can only be yours if you'll reach out and take it.

Mary Oliver

You can have the other words—chance, luck, coincidence, serendipity. I'll take grace. I don't know what it is exactly, but I'll take it.

Martin Luther King Jr.

Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.

Anne Lamott

I do not understand the mystery of grace—only that it meets us where we are and does not leave us where it found us.

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Offering Recipients cont. from pg. 2

*January 12—Mount Ascutney
Prevention Partnership*

Mount Ascutney Prevention Partnership (MAPP) is a community-based public health coalition that offers resources for prevention activities for individuals, organizations and communities in Windsor, West Windsor, Weathersfield and Hartland, Vermont. Specifically, MAPP works to promote healthy lifestyles, to support sound mental, physical, and emotional health, and to counter addiction. Currently MAPP supports several programs in our area, including direct support for individuals in recovery, healthy activities for all ages, WRAP support groups for adults and teens, and smoking cessation programs. More information is available at www.mappvt.org

*January 19—The Good Neighbor
Health Clinic*

The Good Neighbor Health Clinic is a non-profit free health care facility established in 1992 to offer free primary medical and dental care to the people of the Upper Connecticut River Valley who are in need and lack the resources to obtain adequate care. Their main facility is in White River Junction, Vermont, and they also operate satellite clinics in Lebanon and Enfield, NH. The Good Neighbor Clinic never charges for its services, and is staffed by medical professionals who volunteer their time and skill. Several members of our congregation have benefited from the services of the Good Neighbor Clinic, and we also have members who serve as volunteers at the clinic. More information is available at www.goodneighborhealthclinic.org

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Engaging the Spirit continued from pg. 2

Grace

Paul S. Sawyer, January 2014

As you are reading this, now, it is January 2014—Happy New Year! But as I write these words it is just a few days before Christmas, and I have just come from the Hartland Elementary School where I picked up my children after school.

Waiting outside the door, I found myself for the first time ever noticing in detail the brickwork that makes up the outside of the school. It caught my attention in a way that it never has before because today I have been preparing for a memorial service for the lead mason who laid these bricks—so carefully, so well, I can see now, so evenly, so solidly—so many years ago.

I don't imagine many of you knew Norman "Hunka" Hadlock. I certainly didn't. I came to do his service because I do know his brother Ed, and Ed's wife Dolly, who are our neighbors in Four Corners—they live just across the Skunk Hollow



Road from the church. When I first came to town, I met Mr. Driscoll, Dolly's father, who lived there at the time, and who died a couple of years ago now. Dolly grew up in the house—she grew up with a number of you, in fact, and when her dad died she moved home from Florida to fix up the place and to enjoy retirement with Ed.

So this is how I come to be thinking about Hunka Hadlock on this chilly midwinter. And this is how I come to understand that I will never look at those bricks the same way ever again. It's not just a nondescript blank wall. It's Hunka's wall, built by his hands, standing now because of his care and skill given many years ago. He built it so well, it's outlived him. He built it so well it will probably outlive all of us. I look carefully, and it's so clear. It's a masterpiece of a wall. And I'm so glad I had the chance to see.

I've been looking at walls of all kinds for all my life, and only with a very few, have I noticed this kind of meaning. But I understand now—every wall, every brick, every human effort carries its own richness of deep meaning whether I notice it or not.

This is the great grace of living in community. This is the great grace of building connections. In community, we are fortunate enough to be able to learn each other's stories. And the more stories we know, the more the walls come alive.

I could have gone my whole life blind to Hunka's wall. I am thankful for the grace that has given me eyes to see it so well.

Simone Weil

All the natural movements of the soul are controlled by laws analogous to those of physical gravity. Grace is the only exception.

Denis Waitley

Happiness cannot be traveled to, owned, earned, worn or consumed. Happiness is the spiritual experience of living every minute with love, grace, and gratitude.

Patricia Briggs

When life doesn't meet your expectations, it is important to take it with grace.

Ramakrishna

The winds of grace are always blowing; it is for us to raise our sails.

Kathleen Norris

If grace is so wonderful, why do we have such difficulty recognizing and accepting it? Maybe it's because grace is not gentle or made-to-order. It often comes disguised as loss, or failure, or unwelcome change.

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Offering Recipients cont. from pg. 3

January 26—Hartford Dismas House

Dismas of Vermont is a non-profit agency committed to “reconciling prisoners with society and society with prisoners.” They operate residential centers and support programs that help individuals transition from incarceration back into the community. They have successful programs currently operating in Rutland and Burlington, and their newest center recently opened in Hartford Village, Vermont. The founders of Dismas of Vermont shared their inspiration and dedication in a service with our congregation in January 2012. More information is available at www.dismasofvermont.org

Engaging the Spirit cont. from pg. 3

Anne Lamott

Grace is the light or electricity or juice or breeze that takes you from that isolated place and puts you with others who are as startled and embarrassed and eventually grateful as you are to be there.

Joanna Macy

Grace happens when we act with others on behalf of our world.

Barbara Shipka

Grace is remembering, in the moment, that you are alive.

John Newton

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind, but now I see.

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re: RE

Happy New Year!

The Gingerbread Church was sweetly glowing in front of the congregation during December. The children had a blast decorating this beautiful structure that Jill created. Thank you to Jill Lloyd, Chris Husmann, Sue Buckholz and Bram Oort for working with the children last month.

I always say it takes a village, and looking back since September we have had twenty members of our church help out with our Religious Education program! Thank you to all for making this a well-rounded and fruitful experience.

Our 4th annual Winterim program continues until the middle of February. We will practice and produce a creative Worship Service that has a play interwoven throughout the service. “Babble” was created by UU Minister Erika Hewitt and illustrates how relationships and common purpose are more meaningful than ambition and seeking results. “Babble” is based on the story of the Tower of Babel. While some children will be rehearsing lines, others will be busy creating the set and props. The service is on February 9.

Peace,

Sara

DRE



January RE Calendar

5	9:30 am	Children’s Choir Practice and Sing
	10:00	Winterim: “Babble” read through
12	10:00 am	Winterim: assign parts/design set
19	10:00 am	Winterim: practice/workshop
26	10:00 am	Winterim: practice/workshop

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.

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!

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Engaging the Spirit cont. from pg. 4

Matthew Fox

Community is another source of grace. In community we are meant to grace one another; to be sources of grace; healers by way of grace.

Wendell Berry

I come into the peace of wild things who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief... For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

Reinhold Niebuhr

God, give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things which should be changed and the wisdom to distinguish one from the other.

May Sarton

Everything that slows us down and forces patience, everything that sets us back into the slow circles of nature, is a help. Gardening is an instrument of grace.

**From "Lines Composed a Few Miles Above Tintern Abbey"
William Wordsworth**

And I have felt
A presence that disturbs me with the joy
Of elevated thoughts; a sense sublime
Of something far more deeply interfused,
Whose dwelling is the light of setting suns,
And the round ocean and the living air,
And the blue sky, and in the mind of man;
A motion and a spirit, that impels
All thinking things, all objects of all thought,
And rolls through all things.

Youth Group continued from pg. 4

Youth Group Schedule January 2014

January 12— (Hockey Game \$ due)
5:00-6:15 pm, Jr. Youth Group at FUSH
6:30-8:00 pm, Sr. Youth Group at FUSH

January 17—Friday—7:00-9:00 pm—Moonlight Sledding and bonfire at the Cones' house, off Webster Road in Hartland—Bring your own sleds!

January 19— 5:00-6:15 pm, Jr. Youth Group at FUSH
6:30-8:00 pm, Sr. Youth Group at FUSH

January 26—Mission Trip Brunch at FUSH

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

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

December meeting

The Governing Board met on December 2. Attending were: Sara Morin, Doug Hart, John Osborne, Colleen Spence, Becky Howe, Mary Erdei, Dan Poor.

Paul gave the Minister's report. Fundraising activities have increased in number and variety. The Board heard about the first ever coffee house, the projected adult prom, and the catering/support service offered through the name "Red Aprons". The creativity and energy put into fundraising activities, spearheaded by Sara Morin, is very gratifying as well as financially beneficial to the church.

There will be two Christmas Eve services, at 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm. The earlier service will be the traditional one, and the later one perhaps more meditative.

Doug gave the Treasurer's report, including the projected 2014 budget. The budget has been discussed in the Finance Circle, and the Board approved the budget that was written, to go to the congregational meeting. Notable is that pledges are projected to reach \$70,000. The maintenance budget for the parsonage is increased, due to perceived need for more work on the building, and \$1,000 has been added to the administrative budget, to pay for a financial audit.

The capital fund, after steeple repairs and replacing the steps and railings, will have a larger reserve than originally projected.

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NEW MEMBER BIOGRAPHY



Patti Eckels

I was born and grew up in upstate New York where my parents were active in St. Paul's Universalist

Church. (Strange name for a Universalist church but we then heard a lot more about God and Jesus than we do in UU churches today.)

I married David Eckels six weeks after graduating from Wellesley College in 1948 and we left our wedding reception and headed west to seek our fortune. We headed for the Northwest with no interstate highways, a hot summer and no air conditioning in the car and some pretty awful motels along the way.

In Mt Vernon, WA, there was a frozen food company Dave hoped to work for. He had written and been told they had nothing for him but his former Tuck Business School professor suggested he should go there and sell himself. So I sat in the car on a rainy day while he did just that. He began in the sales department but soon became advertising manager.

Our two boys and our first daughter were born there. We loved it in Mt. Vernon so we built a house and thought we'd never leave. However, seven years later the company was bought by a larger one and the headquarters were to be moved east to Indianapolis. Neither of us wanted to go there so Dave found a job in Los Angeles, where our second daughter was born.

We bought a house in the north end of the San Fernando Valley--no smog, many citrus groves and horse farms and a Unitarian church! I wanted to become a librarian and when our youngest child began kindergarten I began graduate school as a part time student so that I could be at home when the children's school day was over. Then more freeways were built in our area and the smog became a problem, obviously affecting our children's health. We knew we had to leave.

In 1966 Dave had a chance to come to Dartmouth, working in the Development Office, raising money from Corporations. I had just earned my Master's in Library Science and arrived in Hanover to find that Howe Library was looking for a new Head Librarian.

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The Boards Broadcast continued from pg. 5

There was discussion of the debt service line item on the budget. This represents paying down the "White Loan," but it is not clear what part of the "debt service" is interest expense, and what part is reduction in outstanding balance. The Finance Circle will discuss and clarify this. Additionally, the Finance Circle will be reworking the use of Quicken in managing the church treasury. This will be completed as Tamara Ross takes over the Treasurer position.

The Finance Circle is working on completing a detailed set of procedures for the financial processes of the church. Work is ongoing, hopefully to be completed by the end of the year. Once the procedures are complete, they will be independently audited. The board asked Doug, who is retiring as Treasurer at the end of the year, to continue to advise through the tax season.

The Board discussed the agenda and moderating of the semi-annual congregation meeting. John volunteered to moderate and present the proposed budget for 2014.

There was a brief discussion of the Welcoming Congregation initiative that is being spearheaded by Todd Lloyd. Board members Sara Morin and Colleen Spence are participating in the initiative, and will keep the Board informed.

John notified the board he will be retiring in June, having completed three years of service. The Board will need to elect a new President and Clerk, as Becky Howe will also be leaving at the same time.

The Board voted on Dan Poor's idea to move the meeting dates to the second Monday of the month, which will give the Minister and Treasurer more time to prepare written reports. It will also avoid holidays that fall on the first Monday of the month. This was accepted, so the next meeting of the Board will be January 13. at 7:00 pm. As always, members of the congregation are invited to attend.

Semi-Annual Meeting of the Congregation

The Semi-Annual Meeting of the Congregation took place on the second Sunday of December, as usual. John Osborne called the meeting to order at 11:35 am. The budget was "warned" in the newsletter and Paul's emails.

Paul presented the results from "giving away" the weekly collection to various charities in the area, both financial and good will. Fifty organizations have received donations from us, totaling over \$11,000. This is more than double the previous "plate" collections for a year. We have increased pledging, and have given over \$10,000 to local organizations, and some outside our usual attendance range. The impact on our operating budget has been positive as a result, and we have greater connection and recognition in the area.

Later in the meeting, the congregation voted by acclaim, nearly unanimously, to continue giving the plate collection to the community organizations.

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Calling All Circles

Connections Circle

Coffee Hour

We thank Sara Doolan and the RE girls and boys, Clyde Jenne and Bruce Locke, and Dan and Rickey Poor who provided delicious snacks in December. We also appreciate all those who pitched in on December 1.

The following people are in charge of Coffee hour for January: January 5 - Sally Bemont and John Hickory; January 12 - Jandra Oliver (We need another volunteer for Jan. 12!); January 19 - Bineke and Bram Oort; January 26 - The Youth Group Brunch! We will send directions to each team the week before and the directions are on the coffee pots and on the kitchen wall. There is also always someone to help when you are doing coffee hour for the first time! The hospitality and hard work are appreciated by the congregation. We hope that everyone will sign up to host two coffee hours a year so that we can all enjoy a cup of coffee after the services. If everyone signs up then we could have one person in charge of set up and one in charge of clean up so it is not overwhelming for anyone.

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

The Circle Dinners for January are already full, but there will be more to come in February and March. Look for them in the next newsletter.

If you are interested in hosting a Circle Dinner, 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 which includes participant's name, phone number and what they will bring to share.

Semi-Annual Meeting continued from pg. 6

John presented the proposed budget for 2014. The spending increase this year is approximately 5.2%. Salaries are increased 2%, in line with the Social Security COLA, and a very modest performance increase. Pledges are projected to rise from \$61,000 to \$70,000, a 14% increase. Fundraising is projected to increase to \$12,000. Our draw from our endowment is expected to decrease by about \$5,000 this year. Our plan is to decrease this withdrawal by \$5,000 or more each year.

Doug Hart gave an ad-hoc presentation of the capital fund. Approximately \$58,000 was spent on the steeple and weathervane repair. About \$9,000 has been spent on repair and replacement of the steps and railing. Doug estimates \$7,500 for the septic and grading, and \$5,000 to \$6,000 for the flooring in the Fellowship Hall. With these expenses, we will have \$35,000 to \$40,000 remaining in the capital fund, which exceeds our original projections.

There was a discussion of our contribution to the UUA District and National organizations. We pay our District dues in full, about \$3,000 of the \$5,600 budget line item. The remainder is paid to the UUA national, and people can voluntarily pay their own dues. Sue Buckholz stated that 75% of the District salaries are paid by the UUA nationally, and that paying as much as possible to the UUA needs to be a priority for us.

After this discussion, the congregation voted to accept the budget.

John briefly described the Finance Circle and its mission of supporting the Treasurer, particularly in the transition from Doug Hart to Tamara Ross.

The congregation commended Doug Hart for his 11 years of service as Treasurer.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm.



NEW MEMBER BIOGRAPHY

Patti Eckels continued from pg. 6

We bought a house big enough for all of us, where I still live. Dave died in 1999. By then he'd been a paraplegic for thirty years following spinal surgery. He never lost his zest for life or his sense of humor and he pushed hard, and successfully, for a more accessible campus and town.

I retired from Howe Library and later wrote a history of the library's first one hundred years. I keep busy auditing Dartmouth Classes, volunteering in the community, and taking advantage of the cultural opportunities a college town provides. Our four children live in NH, PA, FL and UT and I often travel to visit them and to visit my ten grandchildren, three of whom are now married and raising their own families. It's a good life and I'm grateful to have found good friends at FUSH!



Jandra Oliver

Hi, I'm Jandra! I moved to Hartland about a year ago, drawn by the great location, beauty and lively community. Although it's taking a while

to get to know people here, I do feel at home, and especially appreciate the warm welcome extended to me by you folks at FUSH!

A bit about me- I have two daughters in college, one in Chicago and one in North Carolina. I work as a visiting nurse for VNAVNH, and have the great good fortune to spend my work days driving through the Upper Valley, which is one of the most beautiful places I have ever been. I have a therapy dog, a cairn terrier cross named "Roscoe" who often comes with me to visit patients.

In my free time, I am an avid hiker, cyclist, kayaker and gardener. I also enjoy choral singing, particularly shape note harmonies. I look forward to becoming more involved in the many events that happen in Hartland.

More biographies to come in the February newsletter.

Calling All Circles

Fundraising

Have an event coming up that you need kitchen, serving, or clean-up help with?

Call on
The Red Aprons.

Members of our church community have put together this service that lets you "be a guest at your own party."



We take the work out of your party:

- Serving
- Bartending
- Kitchen management
- Clean up
- Child care

"Be a guest at your own party"

Call us before your next event

(802) 738-0255

All proceeds benefit Hartland Universalist Society

See Chuck Fenton or Joan Fariel for more information.

Donations for their services go towards FUSH fundraising efforts. Their first event, a wedding at Damon Hall, was a great success.

SoUUpper Second Sunday - January 12

Thank you to all who made or bought food. Based on past sell-outs, we'll have more inventory for sale this month. In December our sale made \$120.

Look for us during coffee hour downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Delicious homemade soups, mac 'n cheese, chili and similar foods are available for purchase. Take them home and have a hearty meal ready to heat up during the week.

If you are interested in making items for this monthly fundraiser, please contact Sara Morin at saradmorin@gmail.com and she will get you information and containers.

Chocolate Auction is coming on February 9. All things chocolate will be welcomed and up for auction, including special, just-for-kids items. This fundraising event is always delightful AND delicious!

Save the Date: the Hartland Community Prom - March 8 fundraiser. A prom? Yes, a prom for everyone! Come alone, come with a date, come with your family. Wear what you wore to prom, what you wish you wore to prom, or anything else that makes you happy! There will be refreshments and prizes for best outfits, etc, music by Jaxon Morgan. More information to come soon, but start thinking about your outfit.

Parents Night Out was a fun December fundraiser that let parents spend a few hours child-free while the kids came to the Fellowship Hall for pizza, games and holiday videos. We raised \$150. If you have ideas or are interested in helping with future PNO's, be in touch with Sara Morin.

Coffee House/Open Mic held on December 7 hosted by Leah Gartner and Dave Morin was a fun event that saw the Fellowship Hall transformed into a folky, coffee-house setting with great participation from both new and familiar faces. A donation basket set among the delicious donated treats brought in \$100.

Adult Choir - rehearsal at 9:00 am on Sunday, January 12 and 19, to sing in the service on the 19th.

Children's Choir - rehearsal at 9:30 am on Sunday, January 5 to sing in the service.

Hartland UU Dialogue Group - will begin on Thursday, January 9 from 7:00-9:00 pm in the parsonage. These sessions will be on-going and open to all. The central subjects will follow the monthly worship service themes. This month's - "Grace." Registration is not necessary and for more information contact Bineke or Bram Oort at 802-436-1136 or bineke@vermontel.net.



Come to General Assembly

June 25-29, 2014

Providence, RI

(Contact Jill Lloyd if interested)



OK. It's your good fortune that you've found a great little church in Hartland, VT! The minister speaks to you in his sermons every Sunday, and the message resonates. This is not the way you had expected church to be and sometimes you have to pinch yourself because you've found a spiritual home that makes sense and you are sure it's a dream! From time-to-time you hear the minister say "In our tradition," or "according to our tradition," and surely he must be talking about this one-off congregation in Vermont. The fact is, there are hundreds of congregations just like ours with hundreds of thousands of members. And, it's our good fortune that thousands of them will be assembling in Providence this coming June.

If you have never been to General Assembly (GA), then this is your chance to satisfy your curiosity. Just being in a room with 3000 people singing "Blue Boat Home" is worth the bus trip! While there are costs of time and money to attend, FUSH is looking for ways to help ease the burden (more about this in the coming months).

Registration:

(these fees were for 2013 and may be slightly higher for 2014):

Adult Full-time (Weds.-Sun.) - \$330

Adult One-day - \$130

Youth (Grades 9-12) Full-time (Weds.-Sun.) - \$190

Youth (Grades 9-12) One-day - \$80

By volunteering at GA, registration is waived, but you must apply. Follow this link to learn about volunteering at GA - <http://www.uua.org/ga/registration/financialaid/14930.shtml>.

Transportation:

We are thinking of leasing a bus and this might be the most economical for a large group. Days of travel are TBD. Otherwise, carpooling to Providence would also be a good option.

Housing:

There are numerous housing options and making arrangements early is advised. Most hotel chains are represented and their websites will list price and availability. Hotels within walking distance of the venue (Rhode Island Convention Center) will cost the most and be booked early. (However, the UUA will have a block of rooms at a negotiated price available in March.)

Other options:

- Bed and Breakfast
- Vacation Rental
- Providence Area UU Host
(<http://www.uua.org/ga/travel/index.shtml>)
- University Dormitory (TBA)

If attending GA next year is something you'd like to consider or if you have questions, please contact Jill Lloyd at jbl@vermontel.net or at 802.436.2385. This is a wonderful opportunity to bond with friends and neighbors and to witness the wider movement in action, close to home!

Calendar - January 2014

3	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
4	Sat.	6:00pm	Circle Dinner at Patti Eckels
5	Sun.	9:30am	Children's Choir rehearsal
		10	Worship Service
9	Thurs.	7-9pm	Dialogue Group
10	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
12	Sun.	9:00am	Adult Choir rehearsal
		10	Worship Service
		After service	SoUUpper Sunday
		5:00-6:15pm	Jr. Youth Group at FUSH
		6:30-8:00	Sr. Youth Group at FUSH
13	Mon.	7pm	Governing Board meeting
17	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
		7:00-9:00pm	Youth Grps., Moonlight Sledding
18	Sat.	.Noon	Newsletter deadline
19	Sun.	9:00am	Adult Choir rehearsal & sing
		10	Worship Service
		5:00-6:15pm	Jr. Youth Group at FUSH
		6:30-8:00	Sr. Youth Group at FUSH
24	Fri.	8-10am	Food Shelf
26	Sun.	10	Worship Service
			Mission Trip Brunch at FUSH
31	Fri.		Circle Dinner at the Harts'
			Youth Grp. Trip to Dartmouth Hockey



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

JANUARY

