

**North Universalist Chapel Society**  
**Board of Trustees Agenda**

**21 October 2014**

1. Opening Words/Check In      15 minutes

2. Board Work - Visitor: Joe Sullivan, NNED      60 minutes

3. Daniel's Time      15 minutes

4. Updates      15 minutes

Planning Committee

November Committee Café

November Board Meeting(MJ will not be here)

5. Consent Agenda, including Committee Reports      10 minutes

6. Closing

## ***North Chapel Board Minutes***

***September 16, 2014***

Present: Anne Marinello, Anne Macksoud, Mary Jeanne Taylor, Susan Inui, Ann Wynia, Daniel Jantos, Deb Rice, Hope Yeager.

Absent: Denise Lyons, Elizabeth Reaves

The meeting began at 6:15 p.m. Deb opened with Julia Cameron's words from her book Blessings. Board members checked in.

### ***Daniel's time***

Daniel spoke about the addition of Ben Fox to the RE program. Daniel mentioned that Ben is a very creative, thoughtful person who is moving more into expressive arts from a background in mental health. Susan noted that the young families from RE should be included in the planning process and interviews done by the planning committee. Anne Mack said that she has been assigned the task of speaking to the young families. Susan also mentioned that the voice of the younger families get included in the search process of finding a settled minister.

Daniel spoke about being aware of people who start to attend North Chapel but who don't have a background in attending church. He spoke about holding a new member class about what is coming to church about, what is it like, what do you do in church, etc. Anne Mack asked Daniel to explain how many people Daniel is thinking of, and said she thought such a class feels like too much (***better verbage here would be great: too much what?***). Mary Jeanne suggested talking to the parents of the kids in RE about what would make the church experience easier to access for them. Deb suggested asking the RE parents to bring to a discussion what their needs are like holding a focus group. Anne Mack suggested that we reach out with phone calls and personal invitations to a class or an RE meeting for those young families.

### ***Committee Visit***

Lynn Peterson joined the meeting at 7:07 p.m. As a representative of the Resource Committee. Lynn reported that the committee consulted with a UU fundraiser. The advice given was to speak especially to the donors who have a history of very generous giving. He reported that Richard Fox will be helping them. The committee is looking for two new members because they have just lost two members. Resource Committee will be approaching generous donors within the church membership as well as approaching community members who are friends to our church.

Lynn mentioned the committee is working on a letter to go out with the pledge drive. Lynn talked about expanding the ministry of the church through positions within the church such as a volunteer coordinator or a pastoral care coordinator. Lynn asked Daniel if that might be a way to expand the ministry. Daniel responded that his focus lately has been more on the young families and putting more resources into the RE program to meet the needs of the young families. Expanding those resources as well as pastoral care work would help the membership to feel well cared for. MJ mentioned that the Planning Committee is doing the work of finding and articulating the priorities of the church community.

Lynn talked about finding the things within our church that inspire and are exciting and highlighting those within the pledge drive. He spoke about working with Denise and the Planning Committee but that the Resource Committee will need to move more quickly than the Planning Committee. Daniel urged Lynn to include the idea of strengthening the RE program as a part of what the Resource Committee mentions in the pledge drive.

Lynn left the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

### ***Return to Daniel's time***

The board returned to the conversation with Daniel about how to reach the young families and strengthening the RE program. Ann w. said she thought that if the families are happy they will bring their friends and will keep coming. MJ mentioned needing to simplify and take care of those who are here.

Ann w. mentioned asking Geraldine to send a special email to RE families to sign up to get their pictures taken for the directory.

### **Next steps and updates**

The board reviewed Denise's notes on the Planning Committee process.

Anne Mari reported that some are feeling that given all the transitions we are going through that this is not the time to push for welcoming signage. Anne Mack agreed that it makes sense to make the welcoming signage a part of the whole Planning Committee process.

Daniel clarified the job of data gathering held by the Planning Committee. Dec. 6 will be the date for everyone to be there for the open meeting. Then the board will have work to do creating a mission and vision for the church over the next few years.

### ***Board work***

**Letter from the Board in the Quest assignments: Deb will October Quest. Elizabeth is doing November. Denise is doing December. Mary Jeanne will take January, 2015 Quest.**

Preparing for when Daniel is gone: Susan checked the UUA website for the timeline of transition to a new minister. First, a decision has to be made as to whether we are looking for an interim minister or a settled minister. The board discussed the pros and cons of searching for an interim minister.

Daniel mentioned that the district, and Joe Sullivan in particular, would love to be involved in having the conversation with the board about the search process and how the board decides to look for an interim versus settled minister. MJ will invite Joe Sullivan to the board meeting in October.

Ann Wynia mentioned that the extra day for the photo portraits is the day of our next board meeting. MJ asked if we could have a board portrait that night **to be scheduled at 6:00 p.m. On October 21.**

Anne Mari asked if the vision statement was updated for Planning Committee. Deb said that she had included Elizabeth's new wording. MJ asked for the new wording of the vision be sent to the board.

Susan asked Ann w. if it is realistic that the remaining funds be raised in the remainder of the year. Ann w. mentioned the Western Wind and the Hash Supper are coming up and will make up some of those funds but without the silent auction, the gap will not be made up entirely.

Anne Mari asked who is responsible for the memorial garden. Ann w. said it now falls within buildings and grounds responsibilities.

The board reviewed the requests of the Resource Committee. The board approved the use of the social hall for sorting books for Bookstock. The board approved the request for the board to make their pledges before the pledge dinner in October.

MJ said she would report to Lynn the board's responses to the resource committee's requests.

The board voted unanimously to accept the Consent agenda. Daniel offered closing words. The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hope Yeager

Secretary to the Board

North Universalist Chapel Society  
September 2014 Financial Report  
Ann Wynia, Treasurer

	JULY	AUG	SEPT	YTD	2014 Budget
<b>RECEIPTS</b>					
1 Loose	1,291.00	1,565.00	816.00	10,190.50	16000
2 Pledges	9,478.50	19,258.50	6,024.00	111,674.43	145000
3 Gifts/Donations	0.00	50.00	0.00	2,572.00	4000
4 Rentals	1,450.00	1,775.00	510.00	7,625.00	13000
5 Nursery School	0.00	625.00	625.00	5,000.00	6750
6 Fund Raising	4,055.50	0.00	272.00	6,559.00	16000
7 Reserve Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,000.00	9000
8 Balance forward	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,361.13	1350
9 <b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	16,275.00	23,273.50	8,247.00	153,982.06	211100
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
10 Electric	307.02	285.06	368.15	3,541.49	5400
11 Fuel/Furnace	54.89	0.00	0.00	8,269.25	9500
12 Grounds	19.01	0.00	0.00	3,924.01	5000
13 Insurance	0.00	1,088.00	0.00	4,827.00	4340
14 Janitorial	522.07	341.32	123.66	1,863.57	3000
15 Maintenance	356.75	584.53	150.00	3,586.70	5000
16 Water/Sewer	0.00	0.00	90.75	712.04	850
17 <b>TOTAL CHURCH</b>	1,259.74	2,298.91	732.56	26,724.06	33090
18 Electric	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
19 Furnace	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	225
20 Maintenance	53.86	708.40	175.00	937.26	1000
21 Water/Sewer	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
22 <b>TOTAL PARSONAGE</b>	53.86	708.40	175.00	937.26	1225
23 Administrative Ass't	1,372.75	1,394.00	1,470.50	13,345.00	16184
24 Office Supplies	11.02	237.29	0.00	1,071.24	1000
25 Postage/Printing	0.98	5.92	1.47	127.05	200
26 Telephone	90.04	91.35	93.02	815.24	1200
27 Website Host/Upkeep	0.00	0.00	0.00	383.76	600
28 Copier Lease	119.94	213.19	511.13	2,614.21	3500
29 UUA Fair Share	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	5,375.00	8375
30 NNED Dues	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,006.00	3006
31 Miscellaneous(Vanco)	31.68	31.68	28.78	418.29	360
32 <b>TOTAL ADMINISTRAT</b>	1,626.41	3,973.43	2,104.90	27,155.79	34425
33 FICA	742.94	732.05	735.47	6,646.05	8584
34 Medical Ins.	1,075.48	1,075.48	1,075.48	10,478.02	15000
35 Pension	912.00	912.00	912.00	8,208.00	10950
36 Auto Expenses	165.00	165.00	165.00	1,485.00	2000
37 Professional Exp & Dev	0.00	248.47	0.00	248.47	5475
38 Workers' Comp	0.00	475.00	0.00	1,416.00	1888
39 <b>TOTAL BENEFITS</b>	2,895.42	3,608.00	2,887.95	28,481.54	43897
40 Salary	3,916.00	3,916.00	3,923.00	35,251.00	47000
41 Housing Allowance	2,600.00	2,600.00	2,600.00	23,400.00	31200
42 <b>TOTAL MINISTER</b>	6,516.00	6,516.00	6,523.00	58,651.00	78200

North Universalist Chapel Society  
September 2014 Financial Report  
Ann Wynia, Treasurer

	JULY	AUG	SEPT	YTD	Budget
43 Sabbatical Savings Accoi	0.00	0.00	637.50	1912.50	2550
44 Substitutes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500
45 Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	300
46 Advertising	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100
<b>47 TOTAL WORSHIP</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>637.50</b>	<b>1,912.50</b>	<b>3450</b>
48 Organist/Choir Direct.	1,362.00	1,362.00	1,362.00	12,258.00	16340
49 Special Services	50.00	100.00	0.00	450.00	800
50 Supplies	9.99	0.00	55.00	150.49	500
<b>51 TOTAL MUSIC</b>	<b>1,421.99</b>	<b>1,462.00</b>	<b>1,417.00</b>	<b>12,858.49</b>	<b>17640</b>
<b>52 Coffee</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>47.50</b>	<b>266.00</b>	<b>350</b>
<b>53 Resource Comm</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>300</b>
Margaret Lampe Kannenstine					
54 Leadership Developmer	0.00	154.03	0.00	169.03	500
55 Outreach	0.00	0.00	0.00	119.00	150
56 Quest	301.75	136.00	136.00	1870.66	2300
<b>57 TOTAL MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>301.75</b>	<b>290.03</b>	<b>136.00</b>	<b>2,158.69</b>	<b>2950</b>
58 Staff	0.00	0.00	450.00	3,325.00	4900
59 Supplies	0.00	23.69	15.89	212.76	500
60 Child Care	128.00	160.00	128.00	1,248.00	1670
63 Recognition	100.00	0.00	0.00	380.00	200
<b>65 TOTAL R.E.</b>	<b>228.00</b>	<b>183.69</b>	<b>593.89</b>	<b>5,165.76</b>	<b>7270</b>
<b>66 TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>14,303.17</b>	<b>19,040.46</b>	<b>15,255.30</b>	<b>164,311.09</b>	<b>222,797</b>

North Universalist Chapel Society  
September 2014 Financial Report

Ann Wynia, Treasurer

JULY AUG SEPT

**PEOPLES' UNITED ACCT # 640322721**

67 Beginning balance	-9,525.60	-7,553.77	-3,320.73
68 Receipts	16,275.00	23,273.50	8,247.00
69 Expenses	14,303.17	19,040.46	15,255.30
70 <b>Ending balance for</b> operating budget	-7,553.77	-3,320.73	-10,329.03

**RESTRICTED FUNDS**

71 Withholdings	121.00	242.00	0.00
72 Minister's Fund	1113.01	1013.01	1013.01
Cold Relief	812.50	812.50	812.50
73 Organ Preservation	596.93	596.93	596.93
74 NYE/Cranna	2700.09	2700.09	2700.09
75 Sabbatical Savings	68.33	68.33	705.83
76 Memorial Gardens	1223.05	1223.05	1223.05
77 Legal Funds LP	762.88	762.88	762.88
77a Pizza Oven	209.52	202.90	538.90
77b VT/Quebec grant	941.27	941.27	941.27
(78) RE Donation			1500.00
(78a) Classical concert donation			3000.00
79 Spiritual Practice Explor	2940.51	2940.51	2940.51

**TOTAL CHECKING ACCOUNT** 3,935.32 8,182.74 6,405.94

**INVESTMENT - Vermont Community Loan Fund - \$3760.25 at 2.5% Matures September 2016**

Wells Fargo Acc't #3605-39446 Balance 9/30/14 - \$79809.62

The only restricted funds now are \$1000 for Memorial Gardens

**EXPLANATIONS**

- (4) 9/13 mem wed-100,Doolittle-150,AA-260
- (6) 9/21 concert-437 less piano tune-125, less Hash on the Green sign-40
- (15) WNS lead inspection
- (20) BR floor repair-25, Lead inspection-150
- (28) Lease-213.19, Service contract-146.35, Color copy overage-51.59

Ann L. Wynia, Treasurer

## Membership Committee Meeting – Oct 7 2014

No action from the board needed at this time.

Present: Pru, Fran, Sherry, Joanna

After 6 - 7 years of service, Rose Mroszczyk is retiring from our committee. We appreciate her work.

Pru visited the Concord New Hampshire UU church and brought back their church brochure and Quest. We liked everything we perused and will look into restoring the rack in the back of the sanctuary.

Greeters for the next few weeks are:

Oct 12 Fran

19 Ann

26 Pru

Nov 2 Joanna

Altar minders are

Oct 12 Joanie Rothstein

19 Peter Rousmaniere

26 Gina

Fran asked for assistance with setting up (October 31st) for the Red Flannel Hash dinner taking place on November 1st.



Sherry will add 2 questionnaires for "in touch" and  
Sundays' programs:

Possible women's group, activities

Possible mixed social activities

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry

**Music and Worship Committee Minutes**  
**October 7<sup>th</sup> 2014**

*The Committee does not need anything from the Board of Trustees except to wait until November to receive the edited guidelines for the Music and Worship Committee*

The Music and Worship Committee met from 5:30 -6:30 on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**Present:** Daniel Jantos, Diane Mellinger, Hugh Belton, Carol Egbert, Jenny Gelfan, Anne Macksoud, John Steinle, Jessica Stout, Judith Taylor, Hope Yeager

**Absent:** Kathy Astemborski, Brenda Johnson

**Anne** opened the meeting with verse 64 of the Tao Te Ching

The members briefly discussed guidelines for the Worship Committee sent to us by the board for our review. Since several of our practices in the committee are different from the guidelines, we decided to review the guidelines next month and make some edits that describe our actual situation more accurately. We will send a revised paragraph to the Board after Nov.4<sup>th</sup>.

We reviewed the Sunday services for October, November and December. Although Daniel will be here for most of them, we need a service coordinator for October 19<sup>th</sup> when **Len and MaryAnn Cadwallader** will be doing the reflection. **Anne will ask Richard Schramm or Norwood Long to be Service Coordinator for the Cadwalladers., and also remind Peggy Kannenstine about introducing them.**

**Keri Cole** will be the guest Reflector for November 9th. Daniel suggested that we ask her husband, Ben, to introduce her. **Anne will invite Ben to do that and invite Elizabeth Reaves or Michael Zsoldos to be service coordinator.**

On November 16<sup>th</sup>, the day before Charles Egbert's birthday, **Carol will select the three readings that are reminiscent of Charles.** Daniel will do the reflection.

November 30<sup>th</sup> is an open Sunday. We will invite a guest reflector. **John Steinle and Anne will create a short list of suggested people and send it around to the rest of the committee for approval or further suggestions. Based on that feedback, we will invite someone to fill in for the 30<sup>th</sup> when Daniel will not be here.**

**For the Winter Solstice service on December 21<sup>st</sup>, Hope Yeager will invite Rob Hansen (teacher from Pomfret School and astronomer) to do the reflection. Peg Brightman will present three dances (with three dancers). Daniel will be present at the service as well.**

**John Steinle** led a conversation about the characteristics of a good/successful reflection. All of the committee members said that they liked "stories", for example, the reflection is personal, has one or two anecdotes from the reflectors life.

- Everyone agreed that we do not like reflections that are impersonal, i.e.. too theoretical - like an academic lecture.
- Most agreed that shorter is better than longer
- Some didn't like the idea of Robes.

The committee likes the use of “**props**”, like the valentine sayings that Carol did last February. The sayings also **invited participation** from the congregants who enjoyed reading aloud the saying/poem that they were given. Another good way to invite the congregation to participate was **Steve Swayne’s** photograph of a crowd in the Louvre taking cell-phone photos of the Mona Lisa. This photo sparked a lively discussion among small groups in the congregation, and allowed them to participate in a less threatening way than small groups talking about personal feelings. The dialogue reflections that Daniel did with Michael Zsoldos and Delia Clark were appreciated. Hope suggested that they could be better if each person had a microphone rather than the cumbersome passing back and forth of one mic.

Two more suggestions for guest speakers, included UU Minister **Nancy Crumbine** from Dartmouth and **Jesse Taylor** (about his walk on the Appalachian trail from GA to ME.)

**Daniel** spoke about the possibility of inviting **Rev Telos Whitfield** (UU Minister from South Strafford) to fill in for two Sundays a month (during January and February) while Daniel is in Australia. Telos has indicated an interest and has also said she would be “on call” in much the same way that Joy and Lawrence were available to the community while Daniel was on sabbatical. The committee, after hearing about Telos and how highly she is regarded in the UUA, asked Daniel to invite her for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays in January and February 2015.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30. Worship Committee members went downstairs and returned with an amazing dessert provided by **Mary Jeanne Taylor**. From 6:45 until 8:00, the committee joined a conversation led by Denise Lyons (planning Committee) about our vision of the North Chapel in the next 5 years.

Building & Grounds - 10/13/14

Present:

Cheryl, Jack, Gina, Katrin, Vassie, Agata and Radec

Sexton:

Programming thermostats and changing batteries for winter. Next week will be installing storm windows in the Sanctuary.

Jack's wheelbarrow was sitting next to the pile of loam behind the Sanctuary. It is a gray/blue wheelbarrow and it seems to be missing. Let Jack know if it was borrowed, please.

Buildings and Grounds leased the Sanctuary to Western Wind. Unbeknownst to Building and Grounds or the office, someone signed up the Change the World Kids to have a sale in front of the Church at the same time. B&G feels this was most inappropriate. Gina will discuss this with Deb Rice, since she was responsible for the Western Wind contract, and ask her to speak with Phyllis. Gina will also ask for a copy of the contract with Western Wind since there wasn't a check for clean up.

The Parsonage bathroom is complete except for the baseboards, which Radec will reconnect.

Robin Kempson

Fixed railings and door closer. He has yet to complete the gutter and the faucet plate.

Sewer Line

October 20th will be the day or two to finish the new line. The plumbers did not want to disrupt foliage season folks, since it will block Route 4.

Lead paint

Ann Wynia will send in the proper paperwork to the State.

Planning Committee

As we are seeking a new minister, Buildings and Grounds would like the planning committee to remember that there will need to be a housing allowance to go with the proposal package. We feel strongly that it is in NUCS' best interest to keep the Sextons in the Parsonage.

Nursery School

Gina is the new liaison while Donna is on a leave of absence. Gina will check with Ann regarding our name on their insurance binder.

The Big Pine!

Olmstead can't take it down. He feels it needs to be a professional. Cheryl has someone who is looking for pine right now and will check with them.

### Melanson Roofing

They checked all the roofs. In the Sanctuary – nothing is leaking, the copper top is in good shape, the roof over the portico is in fair shape ( maybe another 5 or 6 years). The Parsonage needs 2 men for 2 days and it will be fine for another 5 to 6 years. Melanson will do the work.

### Leave of Absence

Donna has asked for a leave of absence and we regretfully agreed.

### Area over the Narthex

According to the Fire Marshall, all “stuff” HAS to be removed. As of spring cleaning anything up there will be put in a dumpster. Please remove whatever is yours as soon as possible.

### New/Other Business

Gina feels that we really need to have some new folks on the the committee – Jack needs a pal !

The Resource committee is being very ambitious this year and adding \$35,000 to the budget for a capital fund. Thank you - Thank you from B&G.

Planning Committee – Katrin went to the first meeting and they asked 6 questions of each committee, which we, as a committee, have answered. We have sent our answers back to the committee by Jack.

### CLEAN UP DAY!

Reminder November 8th from 9 to 1. Please bring rakes, clippers, shovels, tarps etc and friends to help!

Next meeting will be at 5:30 on November 4th in the Social Hall.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Brush

Social Justice Action Committee 10/7/14

Attending: Wendy Smith, Jackie Fischer, Peter Rousmaniere, Akankha Perkins, Anne Marinello (late arrival).

Meeting began 5/30 PM

**Continuing business:**

**Food Shelf:** Wendy to manage the North Chapel awareness about the Food Shelf. On Thanksgiving we will have what we did before, to help with Thanksgiving dinner. Wendy to ask the Food Shelf what is needed to provide one meal, with and without meat. We then ask the congregation to provide cash on November 9. Wendy will also promote through InTouch and the program.

Anne was going to talk with Daniel. She is not here to report.

**Short Term housing:** Joanie was not reporting. We should not rely on Joanie and put this on back burner.

**Distribution hub.** Discussion. Peter's research found viable programs of sub-state entities in Florida, Texas, and California. Lack of response by Lauren leads Peter to recommend that we drop the idea, which was agreed to.

**Climate Change:** Jackie reported. She was in NYC. Since 9/21. 25 people on the Green, about 15 Woodstockers in NYC we have been meeting on Wednesdays at North Chapel, with the pizza oven and continuing the momentum....one march is not going to solve. Very open-ended discussions, which Linda Galvao has reported in writing. Jill Davies, Anne Macksoud could say something in Joys and Concerns. Example of an idea: Woodstock being carbon neutral by 2020. Jackie interested in the community working together, across all groups. The group is trying to define a goal.

October 16 meeting: meeting to talk about solarizing housing, at ArtisTree.

Jackie: if there is social pressure to solarize, to may be easier to influence building owners. Solarizing is not separate from clean electricity. Sustainable Woodstock is a partner – it has some staff resources.

Wendy: "Solarize the Upper Valley Campaign."

Jackie: Climate change, what does this have to do with social justice? This should not just be for people with means. How can we serve the entire community? The interesting part is there is energy involved in this. We have to overcome classism.

**Affordable housing:** there is a new name, Westview Meadow. Peter: what can we do to make known our involvement? Akankha: write an article in the Quest.

Jackie: Social Justice emerges arises out of our consciousness, an explicit value system around equality. More of a lens than a project. We can go through all of our programs by shedding the layers of things we cannot talk about, by supporting and bringing into the light. More of a lens through which to look at the world and the community. The whole thing about climate change, a lot of people can't participate because they live in an apartment or can't afford a Prius. It is not going to do a project but [an opportunity to] to see.

Anne Marinello: We are running out of hardwood trees.

Jackie: we feel so scattered and ineffective, because the issues are so huge. We are using our lens. We are looking at our individual lenses. Anne: maybe a vision statement of the committee using the lens. Like looking at our community and the world, to address inequality recognizing and then addressing. We raise our consciousness of inequality, unequal access, in our community, from the local to the universal.

Anne: it's how we take care of people, we need to be thinking about how to help.

Meeting ended 6:30 PM

Submitted to the planning committee on 10/9/14:

Statement on vision of North Chapel from SJA Committee Oct 2014

### **DRAFT**

The North Chapel's engagement with community, near and far, emerges primarily from our commitment to equality among all people. Collectively, we share a lens. Through this lens, we see the persistence of economic and social inequality. As individuals, we are sensitive to our personal lens, which can both blind us to and illuminate injustice. We undertake collective initiatives in the name of social justice. In some initiatives, we face challenges that threaten to scatter and deplete our energies. When this happens, we regain our strength by sharing the way we look at the world.

## RE Notes: Fall 2014

September 14, 2014

Teaching: Geraldine and Athea

Number of Children: 11

We came together in our circle and took a few deep breaths before our Opening Words and Chalice Lighting. We shared “Joys & Concerns” and a moment of meditation – listening to the bell.

We then discussed science as a way of learning about the world around us. We then conducted color-mixing experiments with colored baking soda and colored vinegar. Participants used the ingredients to conduct their own color combinations and practiced the combinations that make green, orange and purple.

September 21, 2014

Teaching: Anthea

Number of Children: 8

Today we read the story “Gecko’s Complaint” from Connected Wisdom and discussed the ways that we are connected to one another and nature. We discussed the climate change march and how climate and weather affect our lives and the ways that wind, rain, snow and temperature impact people, animals and places.

We then made rain sticks out of re-used cardboard movie poster tubes from Town Hall Theatre, chicken wire and dried rice and beans. We explored the early American cultures that used rain sticks to conjure rain.

We were all impressed when one student stated that “We are all connected by an invisible thread”.

September 29, 2014

Teaching: Geraldine

Number of Children: 10

Today we did our usual breathing, chalice lighting, joys and concerns and then to get a little energy out we played the “Yes” game. This is where each person gets to make a suggestion of something to do (such as jump up and down or spin around) and everything shouts back “YES! Lets...” and the say whatever the suggestion is. It’s a fun, confidence and feel good game to play. We then slowed things down a little and I read the book “Ten Mindful Movements” by Thich Nhat Hahn and did 5 of the 10 mindful movements he suggests in the book. We then did some “dancing” to old favorites such as “Beanie Bag Dance” and “Bop till you Drop”.



October 5, 2014

Teaching: Geraldine (filling in for ArtisTree)

Number of Children: 13

Today we did our usual breathing, chalice lighting, joys and concerns. Since Daniel had mentioned the song "move it... move it" from Madagascar the movie in the Sanctuary, the children really wanted to play Freeze Yoga Dance to the song (an activity we love to do often). We had a lot of fun making up yoga poses and practicing poses we already know. The children then requested "Going on a Bear Hunt" yoga style. This is where we follow the "Going on a bear hunt" song but act out the story using yoga poses along the way. Once we had gotten a lot of energy out, we come together in a circle and had a children's led open discussion about what climate change is and the Peoples Climate March that happened in September. Some pieces that came from the children included "they marched in NYC to get the Presidents attention to take down smoke pipes and put up windmills and trees", "because of climate change we are having more floods, hurricanes and earthquakes" and "we need more trees to help the earth and less smoke pikes".

October 12, 2014

Teaching: Ben & Geraldine

Number of Children: 13

Today Geraldine lead us through the usual breathing, chalice lighting, joys and concerns and then handed things over to Ben. Here is Ben's write up...

Drumming at the North Chapel officially began on this past Sunday at the beautiful new performance hall at Artistree in Pomfret. Thank you to all who assisted with transportation to the event, there was great attendance! The children started learning basic drumming listening and group play skills. There were some good playing and even the parents got involved for a multi-generation group drum at the end of the session. All children are welcome as we look forward to more fun playing in the months to come!