

NORTH UNIVERSALIST CHAPEL SOCIETY

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

**Annual Meeting
January 27, 2013**



**7 Church Street
Woodstock, Vermont 05091
(802) 457-2557
wdstkuu@sover.net
www.nucs.org**

Affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association

NUCS Board of Trustees Annual Report 2012

Dear Ones,

On the 3rd Tuesday of each month, some of your friends, known formally as the Board of Trustees, come together to talk about the spirit and work of the church. As 2013 dawns, it is hard to know what has become of the past year. Like everything else in life, our monthly meetings fly by, and we often feel like we have not done nearly enough; thank goodness, therefore, for all of you, who are the heart and soul of our North Chapel. All good, all work, all accomplishments happen because of the gifts of your talents, time, and generosity. I thank you, from my heart, as does all the Board.

During the past year, the Board gave Daniel much time at our meetings to talk about what was on his mind. This gave us all deeper insight into the work and blessing he is, not just to the North Chapel, but to the community. We had engaging and deep discussions, and one of the positive things that came out of such time, was the recognition that Daniel wants and needs to work closer with Lynn and I as we figure out the way to build the kind of leadership that the North Chapel needs to take root, blossom, and grow. With this in mind, I ask you to consider these questions:

What does leadership for a church community as diverse and beautifully unique as ours look like?

How are the needs of a church in regards to leadership different/the same from other organizations?

How do we encourage people to trust their leadership qualities and the benefits thereof?

How does strong leadership at the North Chapel benefit the local community?

What is the trickle-down benefit of good, vibrant leadership?

How does leadership respect the traditions that exist, along with the long standing members and friends of the North Chapel and still do what is needed to attract new people, as well as honor different spiritual paths?

As you think about these questions, consider chatting about them with any member of the Board. We will soon be gathering for a weekend retreat to formulate goals for the coming year and to talk about being proactive leaders who are responsive to the needs of the church; this is something we will strive to learn how to do well together, and we would love your input. The Nominating Committee has suggested that we work with a leaner Board in the coming year, and agreeing with their wisdom, this is the plan for the New Year.

Do take a moment to read the committee reports you will find in these pages, as here is where the real work happens in the North Chapel. Sometimes, we do not take enough time to recognize all the continuing hard work it takes to balance the budget, develop and keep a good maintenance plan in operation, build and define a social justice program, and reach out to help where we are needed in the community - but all this and more happens all year long because of the people in this church.

When I come to the North Chapel on Sundays, or when I am lucky enough to attend Evensong on Fridays, my heart and my spirit are home. It is a feeling of comfort, love, support, and joy and it is what I wish for your life and for all who walk through the front doors of this church. This circle, of which I am so proud to be a part, exists because you are part of it; exists because we have a wonderful

Minister and staff; exists because so many volunteer their riches in many forms; and exists because at its' core is pure love.

Thank you for your part in the circle.

May 2013 bless you, and yours, and our beloved North Chapel.

With love,
Mary Jeanne Taylor
Co-Chair, Board of Trustees

North Universalist Chapel Society -- Woodstock, Vermont Annual Meeting Minutes -- January 29, 2012

The 2012 Annual Meeting began at 11:26 a.m. in the North Chapel sanctuary. About 55 members and friends of the congregation were in attendance.

WELCOME: Mary Jeanne Taylor, President of the Board of Trustees, welcomed everyone and read her letter of gratitude for the North Chapel community that was published in the Annual Report. Sherry Belisle, chairperson of the Membership Committee, read the names of the 13 new members who joined the North Chapel in the past year, to applause from the attendees.

ELECTION OF MODERATOR: Representing the Nominating Committee, Joby Thompson MOVED to elect Kevin Geiger as Moderator for the year 2012. Seconded by Margaret (Peggy) Kannenstine. Passed unanimously.

ELECTION OF CLERK: Representing the Nominating Committee, Polly Forcier MOVED to elect Donna Van Fleet as Clerk for the year 2012. Moderator Kevin Geiger called for any other nominations from the floor. There were none. Election of Donna Van Fleet as Clerk passed unanimously.

ELECTION OF TREASURER: Representing the Nominating Committee, Joan Haley MOVED to elect Ann Wynia as Treasurer for 2011. Moderator Kevin Geiger called for any other nominations from the floor. There were none. Election of Ann Wynia as Treasurer passed unanimously.

ACCEPTANCE OF ANNUAL REPORT: Kevin Geiger invited any questions about the Annual Report. Joby Thompson MOVED to accept the Annual Report. Seconded by Neil Marinello. Passed unanimously.

ELECTIONS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Representing the Nominating Committee, Joby Thompson presented the following individuals for election to the Board of Trustees:

- 1 Mary Jeanne Taylor for a second, 3-year term. Passed unanimously.
- 2 Peter Rousmaniere for a second, 3-year term. Passed unanimously.
- 3 Hope Yeager for a 3-year term. (Hope had previously filled the unexpired term that was left by Margaret Kannenstine's resignation.) Passed unanimously.

Mary Jeanne Taylor introduced the members of the Board of Trustees.

ELECTION OF MEMBER OF TRUSTEES OF FUNDS: Representing the Nominating Committee, Polly Forcier nominated Pieter Bohlen for election to the position of Trustee of Funds. Passed unanimously.

ELECTION OF MEMBER OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Representing the Board of Trustees, Lynn Peterson MOVED that Don Ransom be elected to membership on the Nominating Committee. Passed unanimously.

RECESS TO GO TO THE SOCIAL HALL FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE MEETING: At 11:43 a.m., Daniel Jantos offered a prayer of gratitude for the forthcoming potluck lunch, and the assemblage relocated to the Social Hall.

RECONVENING: After the potluck lunch, the meeting reconvened at 12:20 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES AND NEW MEMBERS: The trustees introduced newcomers at their respective tables and shared interesting and fun facts about why people come to the North Chapel that were learned during the lunch conversations. During lunch three people signed the Membership Book to become members.

BUDGET FOR 2012: The 2012 Budget was ACCEPTED unanimously after the following discussion.

Treasurer Ann Wynia gave an overview of the proposed 2012 budget. Ann turned over the floor to Lynn Peterson, chairperson of the Resources Committee, to explain **income increases**:

- 1 Pledge increase** -- Lynn Peterson reported that the pledge goal of \$145,000 was almost met and thanked those who had pledged along with Ann Wynia, Donna Atwood and the Resources Committee for their work on the Pledge Drive; Lynn also recognized Donna Van Fleet for her leadership of the prior 3 years' Pledge Drives.
- 2 Fundraising increase** -- Lynn Peterson brought attention to the \$3000 increase in the fundraising budget line item and solicited volunteers and ideas for additional fundraising.

Treasurer Ann Wynia turned over the floor to others to explain **expense increases and impacts**:

- 1 Web site support increase** -- Norwood Long explained the need for paid skill to enhance the web site in a manner that could facilitate increased income to the North Chapel.
- 2 Maintenance and renovation requirements** -- Norwood Long, chairperson of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, explained that a list of projected maintenance and renovation was being assembled and alerted the membership that it might require using funds from savings. Margaret (Peggy) Kannenstine asked whether a vote could be taken to approve up to a \$10,000 expenditure from the Reserve Fund for maintenance. Treasurer Ann Wynia replied that it was better to leave the budget stand as presented and approve later additions as required.
- 3 UUA and NNED dues underpayment** -- Donna Van Fleet, secretary of the membership, explained that the North Chapel could pay only 70% of the dues owed to the national Unitarian Universalist Association and to the Northern New England District. Donna explained that there would be no adverse impact on the support received from the two organizations and read the letters proposed to be sent to them.
- 4 Salary increase** -- Lynn Peterson, on behalf of the Compensation Committee, explained that the well-deserved increase in minister Daniel Jantos' salary could not be made in one year and was committed to Daniel to be met over two years. Lynn explained that the Music Director's salary included a 3% increase.

TRUSTEES OF FUNDS REPORT: Trustee of Funds Kurt Spann explained the role of the Trustees of Funds and thanked Chris Lloyd for his years of service. Kurt reported that the North Chapel's investment portfolio decreased by 3% in 2011 but had increased in January to make up the loss. Kurt reported that the fund had moved without cost from Morgan Stanley to Wells Fargo along with the fund officer's move.

CONTEMPLATIVE SPACE STATUS: Donna Van Fleet, Board liaison to the River Room Task Force, explained that the proposal for constructing a quiet space had given rise to questions of rationale and usage. Minister Daniel Jantos observed that the North Chapel community was in a state of uncertainty and reported that he would be working to move the conversation forward. Trustees Norwood Long and Carol Egbert invited members to speak up with their questions, concerns, support

or lack thereof. Richard Schramm suggested engaging others outside the North Chapel membership. Jack Nelson referred to Daniel's reflection about moving forward.

UNSUNG HERO RECOGNITION: The board annually awards the "Unsung Hero" commendation to an individual or group who makes a significant contribution to the work of the church in a quiet way. Representing the Board of Trustees, Anne Marinello recognized Joanne Boyle for her extraordinary effort to find housing for those displaced by Tropical Irene, to standing ovation from the attendees.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Schultz Van Fleet, Clerk/Secretary
Respectfully submitted,
Donna Schultz Van Fleet, Clerk/Secretary

North Universalist Chapel Society, Woodstock, VT Minutes of Special Meeting, August 26, 2012

A warned meeting of the North Universalist Chapel Society was convened for the purpose of approving expenditures above the budget due to being awarded a grant. Thirty-one members and friends of the North Chapel were in attendance.

WELCOME: Moderator Kevin Geiger called the meeting to order at 11:43 a.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT: Margaret (Peggy) Kannenstine MOVED to accept the Vermont Arts Council grant in the amount of \$17,936 and to authorize expenditure of the necessary matching money from church funds. Seconded by Joby Thompson. Passed by a vote of 30 with one abstention after the following discussion.

Lynn Peterson, chairperson of the Resources Committee, described the list of projected maintenance and renovation requirements, which was provocation for applying for grants. Lynn described which maintenance/renovation items would be covered by the VT Arts Council grant. Lynn explained the conditions for fulfilling the grant, including the requirement to match the granted amount, and identified the potential sources of matching funds. Lynn stated that the Board of Trustees recommended acceptance of the grant.

Lynn Peterson recognized Peggy Kannenstine for bringing forward the grant opportunity. Peggy Kannenstine remarked that the grants are very competitive and stated that it is exciting that the North Chapel was selected. Anne Marinello expressed appreciation, with applause from the attendees, to Lynn Peterson for writing the grant application.

INCREASE IN BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS BUDGET: Norwood Long MOVED to increase the buildings and grounds budget by \$3750 in order to paint the exterior of the parsonage and one exterior wall of the church. Seconded by Neil Marinello. Passed unanimously, after the following discussion.

Norwood Long, chairperson of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, explained that two unplanned expenses, a circulator pump failure and the degree of rot of the porch, caused the need to allocate additional funds above the original budget in order to complete planned maintenance. Norwood recognized the Resources Committee for identifying resources to minimize the financial impact, in particular, the use of prison skills to do painting for ~1/3 the estimated price.

MAINTENANCE AND RENOVATION REQUIREMENTS: Peggy Kannenstine asked that the membership be given the full list of ongoing maintenance and renovation requirements and suggested that the needs might require a capital campaign. Norwood Long explained that the original estimate of \$300,000 required over the next 10 years has been reduced to \$162,250, which will be decreased by the amount approved in this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Schultz Van Fleet, Clerk/Secretary

North Universalist Chapel Society
2012 Annual Report
Ann Wynia, Treasurer

RECEIPTS	12/31/2012 Year End	2012 Budget
1 Loose	14,650.00	13100
2 Pledges	136,814.90	140000
3 Gifts/Donations	8,631.12	3000
4 Rentals	9,660.00	12000
5 Nursery School	6,500.00	6750
6 Fund Raising	13,382.21	14000
7 Reserve Fund	7,807.40	7700
8 Balance forward	12,183.21	12000
9 TOTAL RECEIPTS	209,628.84	208550
EXPENSES		
10 Electric	5,065.55	5400
11 Fuel/Furnace	8,469.72	9000
12 Grounds	2,943.99	5000
13 Insurance	3,226.00	3500
14 Janitorial	2,486.91	3000
15 Maintenance	10,613.86	6000
16 Water/Sewer	827.12	800
17 TOTAL CHURCH	33,633.15	32700
18 Electric	0.00	0
19 Furnace	0.00	150
20 Maintenance	2,289.46	2800
21 Water/Sewer	0.00	0
22 TOTAL PARSONAGE	2,289.46	2950
23 Administrative Ass't	11,527.76	12850
24 Office Supplies	2,366.11	2100
25 Postage/Printing	174.40	150
26 Telephone	1,409.11	1500
27 Website Host/Upkeep	278.40	200
28 Copier Lease	3,403.93	3500
29 UUA Fair Share	6,750.20	6750
30 NNED Dues	2,000.00	2000
31 Miscellaneous	50.00	100
32 TOTAL ADMINISTRATIO	27,959.91	29150
33 FICA	7,931.30	7960
34 Medical Ins.	12,265.01	12300
35 Pension	10,300.00	10300
36 Auto Expenses	1,980.00	2000
37 Professional Exp & Devel	5,725.85	5150
38 Workers' Comp	1,495.00	1550
39 TOTAL BENEFITS	39,697.16	39260
40 Salary	43,500.00	43500
41 Housing Allowance	30,000.00	30000
42 TOTAL MINISTER	73,500.00	73500

North Universalist Chapel Society
2012 Annual Report
Ann Wynia, Treasurer

	YTD	Budget
43 Sabbatical Savings Account	2550.00	2550
44 Substitutes	500.00	500
45 Supplies	113.80	200
46 Advertising	58.00	100
47 TOTAL WORSHIP	3,221.80	3350
48 Organist/Choir Direct.	15,740.00	15740
49 Special Services	500.00	500
50 Supplies	508.92	500
51 TOTAL MUSIC	16,748.92	16740
52 Coffee	301.75	400
53 Resource Comm	134.58	200
Margaret Lampe Kannenstine		
54 Leadership Development F	0.00	500
55 Outreach	13.00	150
56 Quest	1992.51	2300
57 TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	2,005.51	2950
58 Staff	4,000.00	4400
59 Supplies	413.70	500
60 RE Training	0.00	300
61 Child Care	1,600.00	1670
62 Junior Youth	0.00	0
63 Senior Youth	0.00	0
64 Adult Education	0.00	200
65 Recognition	1,110.00	200
66 TOTAL R.E.	7,123.70	7270
67 TOTAL EXPENSES	206,615.94	208,470
Balance	3,012.99	

In addition to the on going support of an operating budget, members and friends of the North Chapel gave generously.

\$2365 to Northern New England District of UUA in support of Hurricane Sandy needs in November.

\$933.50 to the Community Food Shelf which allowed them to purchase 90 turkeys at Thanksgiving time.

\$12556 to the Life and Hope Association for support of the orphanage in December.

\$1056.40 to the Community Food Shelf. This was 1/2 of Christmas Eve Services

Minster's Annual Report 2012

One more year has passed and it has been an incredible privilege to be associated with the North Chapel where our paths cross and our mission together is relevant, vital and noble. We are given the incredible opportunity to become aware of each other and mindful about our life's journey and share some parts of that journey. We are also intentional about the possibility of making the world a little better for ourselves and for others.

We began the year with a clear awareness of the devastation that was still very much with us from hurricane Irene. This, added to several years of economic recession, translated into some personal and collective uncertainty on the part of many. It has been a year of severe political partisanship and polarity that translated throughout the culture in all kinds of ways. Such large influences can have an effect of tugging at the fabric of what holds communities together. Experiences like this also have the potential to strengthen the experience of community. I think we have known both.

It is the strength, generosity and goodwill of the membership, and the goodwill of the wider community towards the North Chapel, that have helped us to make it through a year such as this with a clear sense of service and a strong commitment to each other and to the purpose of the North Chapel.

With this kind of framework, we can look back over the year and observe efforts that have succeeded and some that have faltered. We started the year with the initiative of building a space devoted to contemplative practices – a beautiful and quiet space for small gatherings and individual meditative practice. The initiative did not inspire or engage enough of us and under the circumstances raised concerns about cost. After many discussions, the initiative faltered and has been set aside. It did however highlight what the strategic planning taskforce from a few years ago had recommended: the need for exploring alternative spiritual practices. Some of those involved in the river room discussions sensed the excitement that such exploration creates. The awareness of that excitement has been a highly informative experience and ought to serve as a guide for one of the North Chapel's primary functions. The Evensong service on Friday evening has grown out of this awareness, as has the spiritual practices taskforce. We are very grateful to Veronica Delay for her thoughtful facilitation of the Evensong service and to Donna Van Fleet for her leadership in the Spiritual Practices Taskforce that is on the verge of beginning its work.

The year also began with our involvement in Building Hope – a partnership with Habitat for Humanity to rebuild a home for one of this area's hardest hit family. This effort successfully concluded with the celebration of the family moving into their new home in Bridgewater at Thanksgiving. It also facilitated a readiness to do some more work in Staten Island to help with clean up and rebuilding after Hurricane Sandy.

It has been a year when our community realized a spate of drug related offenses involving young people from our community. This is an area that begs for understanding. The panel on drug use and the community forum that followed at the high school this past spring stressed the need for alternative approaches as the only hope for our community effectively dealing with this issue. But no such approaches are forthcoming or even being seriously considered. The North Chapel was instrumental in raising the funds for the legal defense that saved the life of one of those young people who continue to show great promise and who would have otherwise not had the legal representation she needed. We continue in an ongoing relationship with a couple of young people who grew up in Woodstock and who are serving sentences in New Hampshire jails.

One of this year's activities that continues to hold great promise (as well as being an expressed need for a long time here) is the work of the Social Justice taskforce. We are incredibly grateful to Deb Hawthorn for the visioning sessions that began in April and hoped to invite members and friends

to a deeper understanding of what motivates and informs our social justice vision. The work continues and promises to evolve into an organizational mechanism for clarity and transparency around our churches social, economic and ecological justice efforts and thinking.

Along with all these organization wide efforts and initiatives, the North Chapel continues in what is in many ways its primary role – as a place of spiritual support to individuals and meaningful services and observances at important milestones in our lives. We held funeral and/or burial services for 14 individuals this year among them those whom we would recognize as members of friends of the North Chapel: Nancy Fielder, Jim Christy, Annette Compton and Ryland Stout.

I also was involved in 6 weddings among them Annette Compton and Alden Fiertz, Don Ransom and Susan Inui, Ken Woodhead's daughter Abbie, and Arianna Alberghini.

Part of the reason for the smaller number of weddings this year is my own involvement in school. I have completed one year of the Masters of Arts in Liberal Studies at Dartmouth and am very grateful for the opportunity and support that the North Chapel has given me in this undertaking. It has been an enriching experience.

Some of the other highlights of the year involve exploring a relationship with the Vermont Workers Center who has been doing really good work on behalf of workers and migrants in the state of Vermont. It was also good to take a group to the Bread and Puppet Theater to help clean out the Museum and Barn for spring. I like to think of Peter Schumann as an unofficial consultant to our social justice vision.

Thank you again to everyone who makes up this beautiful community of kindness and joy. Thank you to the board, to all those who serve on committees that make things work around the chapel. Thank you to all those who give of their time and their resources so incredibly generously. I feel deeply optimistic that we have seen our way through some very challenging years and that this next year holds great promise. I look for the fulfillment of that promise and invite you to look with me. We will, as so often happens, find what we are looking for.

Daniel

Trustees of Funds Annual Report 2012

The annual review of the investment portfolio for the North Universalist Chapel Society managed by Wells Fargo Advisor Casey Dennis is positive. The ending balance of funds on 12/31/2012 is \$167,660. This sum represents an increase of 11.9% for the year.

The investment strategy of the Trustee of Funds committee has been to seek asset appreciation in the context of careful risk management and to make an effort to seek firms that screen investments based on socially responsible criteria.

A brief review of the asset allocation is as follows; 67% stock funds, 24% bond funds and 9% in cash or equivalent money market accounts. This ratio is rebalanced periodically to maintain the risk profile.

A portion of our investments in bonds has been structured to anticipate potential inflation in the rebounding US economy and will likely be increased in the coming year. Any thoughts, concerns or counsel from the membership are welcome.

Respectfully submitted on behalf the Trustees,

Laird Bradley

Nominating Committee Annual Report 2012

In 2012 the Nominating Committee (NC) met infrequently on an as-needed basis. Our responsibilities include making nominations for Board of Trustees; to the Society for Treasurer, Clerk, Moderator, and Trustee of Funds; recruiting participants for General Assembly (GA) and district workshops; and when requested for additional membership for one or more of the North Chapel's standing committees.

For the 2013 Annual Meeting, the NC proposes Kevin Geiger as moderator and Donna Van Fleet as clerk.

There were no new Board Members proposed or added to the Board in 2012. Board Member Peter Rousmaniere (2015) resigned in the fall. There are no new members proposed for Board Membership at this time. Current members Mary Jeanne Taylor (2015), Lynn Peterson (2014), Hope Yeager (2015), Carol Egbert (2014), and Anne Marinello (2014) will continue to serve their terms. For Treasurer we nominate Ann Wynia.

There is no need to nominate another Trustee of Funds at this time, Laird Bradley (2014) and Peter Bohlen (2015) will continue their terms and Kurt Spann (2013) has completed his full term as a Trustee of Funds.

Joby Thompson (2013) will step down from the Nominating Committee as of the Annual Meeting having served her full four-year term and Polly Forcier (2014) has resigned. Don Ransom (2015) and Joan Halley (2014) will continue to serve out their terms and the board will be seeking an additional two members for this committee during 2013.

Throughout 2013 the committee will continue to work toward increasing our participation in GA and in district workshops and to support committees and task forces to develop leadership transition plans as requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Joby Thompson (2013) Chair
Joan Haley (2015)
Don Ransom (2016)
Lynn Peterson (2014) Board Liaison

Resource Committee Annual Report 2012

Members: John Dulmage, Rick Fiske, Jack Nelson, Lynn Peterson, Deb Rice, Peter Rousmaniere, Neil Stannard, Karen Wolk.

Pledge Drive - Based on our success last year of raising \$142,000 we decided to set a goal of \$150,000. This goal was also based on an estimate of our church's increased needs to pay our staff appropriately and maintain our buildings. As of this writing (1/8/2013) we have reached approximately 87% of our goal with almost 100 pledges having been submitted. We repeated our team-organization this year with Lynn working with Ann Wynia and Donna Atwood to put together the pledge forms, Rick organizing the Annual Dinner and Silent Auction and Karen organizing the ongoing follow-up. Everyone participated in thank you follow-up calls.

Silent Auction – Rick and Kathy did an excellent job in organizing a silent auction as part of our Annual Dinner. This was very successful as a joyful, fun evening as well as raising approximately \$4,300.

Western Wind – Deb Rice organized this event again this year. The church received approximately \$4,000 for both rental and lodging,

Bookstock – For the second year the North Chapel partnered with the Library to put on the used book sale part of Bookstock. Each organization earned a little over \$2,000.

Classical Music Series – The North Chapel provides an excellent venue for the five concert series hosted by David Green and Margaret Edwards. The Church received approximately \$1400.

Red Flannel Hash Dinner – Under direction of Ann Wynia with help from many members of the congregation, we received \$1485.

Grants – The Resource Committee continues to be responsible for applying for a grant from the VT-Quebec Universalist Association; this year we received approximately \$840 which was used to help paint the outside of the parsonage. We also were responsible for obtaining a grant from the Vermont Arts Council for approximately \$18,000.

Thus the church raised approximately \$14,000 from the church events and \$19,000 in grants for a total of \$33,000. As a Committee we are extremely grateful for all the help we have received from so many North Chapel members and staff.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Peterson

NUCS Music and Worship Committee Annual Report 2012

The Music and Worship Committee continues to focus on the core principle of its mission statement: to ensure that the preparation and delivery of the Sunday morning services are of the highest available quality, that they connect both the head and the heart, that they contribute to the spiritual wellbeing of all the people present and that they reflect our church's values as outlined in the seven principles".

We continue to look for ways to involve members of our congregation in our church services, both through personal reflections and expanded Joys and Concerns. This ensures a broader perspective, a greater sense of ownership and a deeper connection between members of our church. This year we have invited members of our church community to be an Offertory reader whenever Daniel delivers the reflection. These readers are asked to share their feelings about the importance of NUCS in their lives and why they support our church. We are planning to ask a different question in 2013, but continue having a space for another voice in our services.

Diane Mellinger has once again done an outstanding job as music director. Her choice of music and her expert choir directing greatly enhance our Sunday services.

We are continuing to encourage church members to attend our committee meetings, with the hope that they will share their new ideas and perspectives with us and then perhaps join our committee. Mary Blanton will be leaving her role as chair in April and will be replaced by Brenda Johnson. Brenda began to co-chair with Mary in October. We will be looking for several new members in 2013.

The committee as of December 2012 is: Daniel Jantos and Diane Mellinger, plus the following members: Mary Blanton, chair, Brenda Johnson co-chair, Brenda Johnson, recording secretary, Carol Egbert, board liaison, Anne Macksoud, Hugh Belton and John Steinle. Jennifer Donaldson rotated off the committee in October.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Blanton, Chair
December 8, 2012

Membership Committee Annual Report 2012

Fourteen people have joined our membership since a year ago: Townsend and Shoshana Belisle, Alina Bloomgarden, Nicole and Shoshana Boar, Joanne Findley, Peter Fournier, Robin LaRoche, Bob and Ginny Magnus, Lisa Reeves, Richard Schramm, Shoshana Shelley and Bob Williamson.

Those who have passed on include Annette Compton Fiertz, Nancy Fielder, Robin LaRoche, Jim Christy, Jean Dulmage and Terry Copley.

We have 213 members, 167 of which are active.

We appreciate all those who have contributed the flowers and artwork for our altar.

Thanks to Don Ransom and Susan Kelly for organizing the Christmas Eve ushers.

Susan Boston has left our committee; we appreciate her work as secretary and the work on the pictorial directory. We welcome Rhoda Moore as our new committee member.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Belisle, chair

Buildings and Grounds Annual Report 2012

It was a busy year for Buildings and Grounds, both in keeping up with the repairs of an aging facility and in making basic improvements to our buildings.

Early in the year our sexton Radek renovated the front porch, rebuilding the ramp, restoring the wrought iron railing, and applying an epoxy finish which should last for many years. In late fall Gina and Donna installed a weatherproof rug and runner which greatly improves footing in bad weather. When the front porch lights burned out Radek installed LED lights expected to last 50 years.

A leak where the water main enters the church required an all-day repair (and a \$2.00 part). Woodstock Aqueduct has now installed a water cutoff across Route 4.

Over the years the circulator pumps at the heart of our hot water heating system have been repaired and replaced numerous times, and have remained the source of irritating operating noises, so we replaced them with a new design that is both much quieter and—we hope—much more reliable. Our new plumbers, Green Mountain, have been very responsive to our needs.

We contracted with the VT Department of Corrections to scrape and paint the parsonage, finishing in late fall. The church itself is scheduled to be painted next Spring. Lynn Peterson was responsible for identifying and negotiating with the prison personnel, and Rick Fiske was instrumental in getting them trained in lead paint abatement.

Lynn Peterson also researched, negotiated, applied for, and was ultimately successful in obtaining a grant for \$18,000 to enhance North Chapel's performance space for concerts, and members voted to use church funds to match the grant. Three items were included in the grant: a new sound system, a fire alarm system, and new pew cushions. The sound system has been installed and is now being adjusted, installation of the fire alarm system has begun, and work will proceed on the pew cushions in 2013.

Maintenance items included repair of the kitchen refrigerator, replacement of convector air valves, repair of the sewage pumps, replacement of thermostat fuses and troubleshooting of control wiring, and repairing leaks in convectors and a major hot water heating system union. The sextons have continued to carry out the normal and endless cleaning, waxing, replacing, storm window installing, and repairing required by an old building. We are extremely blessed to have Agata and Radek as our sextons.

Thanks to all who turned out for the Spring and Fall cleanup days, and a gentle reminder to all who couldn't make it that every pair of hands is needed and appreciated. The gazebo, river path, and labyrinth are nearly back to normal, Katrin and friends have done their usual good job on the garden, and the kitchen storage area is much tidier. A special thank you to Chris Bartlett, who replaced our old wooden damage-inflicting social hall tables with sturdy and lighter-weight plastic tables.

Welcome to new B&G committee members Gina Auriema and Pierre Fournier.

We are proposing convening an ad hoc Rentals Committee in early 2013 to establish procedures and pricing for all uses of the church, to eliminate inconsistencies and uncertainties that have occurred in the past. The committee would include representatives from B&G, the Board, the office staff, and the

congregation, particularly those with experience with town regulations, legal matters, and other rental issues.

Finally a thank you to the Board and particularly Lynn Peterson, who is trying to put in place a system for quantifying and funding long overdue and newly identified maintenance items. This was a year that saw extensive costs in the maintenance budget, but also a year when long overdue repairs and improvements took place. Those of us who are concerned with the physical health of our historical and treasured building are grateful that its needs are being taken seriously.

Submitted by Norwood Long

North Chapel Social Action Committee Charter

Approved by Board of Trustees, 1/15/13

The Social Justice Task Force proposes that the NUCS Board establish a Social Action Committee with composition and number of members to be determined that will have the following tentative mission and scope of activities:

The Social Action Committee's mission is to encourage, support and coordinate the social justice activities of the North Chapel in ways that align themselves with our community building and spiritual purpose and that use our resources efficiently and fairly. Social Action includes economic, social and environmental development and justice activities.

The Social Action Committee will have the following responsibilities:

- Identify and celebrate current social action projects carried out by the North Chapel, and provide a narrative of our social action legacy.
- Identify the North Chapel congregation's social action concerns, interests, and resources (volunteers, skills, funding) including underlying issues deserving attention.
- Provide support for those within the North Chapel engaging in social action work through
 - a process of collective, trust building discussion and planning, involving those with social justice interests/activities,
 - organizing studies/workshops around specific social action topics of concern to the congregation and community,
 - developing priorities and guidelines for social action activities, and
 - coordinated planning for financial commitments and appeals, and
 - reflecting together on the effectiveness and efficiency of such actions, and sharing the lessons from these activities through periodic financial and activity reports.
- Communicate and collaborate on social action concerns and activities within the North Chapel and within the larger community.

Social Action at the North Chapel: How We Jump In

The Social Justice Task Force prepared this introduction to the North Chapel's social undertakings for the benefit of new as well as for long standing members and friends. We hope these profiles inspire you to join in one of our ongoing commitments, or to start your own project.

Deb Hawthorn was the founding facilitator of the SCTF when it began in early 2012. She energetically launched the North Chapel's response to Sandy. As this document is being completed, North Chapel members are in Staten Island helping to reconstruct homes. Thanks, Deb.

This is a partial profile. We wish to highlight all social action undertakings by North Chapel member and friends, beyond those described below. These include Jean le Dieu's community investment in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Hand in Hand, the Empty Bowl Project, volunteer work on behalf of prisoners, restorative justice, gun safety, gay and lesbian relations, and many other activities.

--- January 15, 2013

North Universalist Chapel Society and Affordable Housing: The Woodstock Interfaith Housing Coalition

In 2005 a steering committee from our church and St. James reached out to Our Lady of the Snows, Shir Shalom, the Hanover Quaker Society, and the Bridgewater Mennonite church to create the Interfaith Housing Coalition. For years, Woodstock Community Trust, comprised of a handful of individuals had been trying to create affordable, workforce housing in Woodstock. They had just purchased an 8+/- acre property called "Grange Hill" in West Woodstock. With the formation of the Interfaith Housing Coalition, there was now a community-wide, spiritually-inspired group working hand-in-hand with Housing Vermont and Twin Pines Housing Trust to build workforce/affordable housing in Woodstock. Throughout the process of developing Grange Hill, whenever public participation has been needed, the Coalition has reached out to our church and to the other churches. Many members or friends of the North Chapel have turned out at public forums, have spoken or voted or written letters in support of this project as well as the fundamental need for workforce/affordable housing in Woodstock.

Even though it has only been 8 years since 2005 when the Coalition was formed, for individuals or families who have had to move away because they could not find affordable housing, or for individuals who haven't been able to accept local job offers because they couldn't find affordable housing, or for friends or colleagues who have paid a high multi-faceted price for extraordinarily long commutes so they could work or go to school in Woodstock, it has been 8 long years and we still don't have the much needed housing.

We hope 2013 will be the year we break ground for the first residential units at Grange Hill. There is one final appeal pending before the VT Supreme Court. Housing Vermont, our development partner, tells us that assuming the Court hands down a decision in favor of the Grange Hill project, building can begin this year. Given decisions already made by the state Environmental Court (twice) as well as by the Vermont Supreme Court, a favorable decision is likely.

Our effort to create housing for everyone who wishes to live as neighbors in this community is one way we put into action several of the seven principles that comprise the ethos of our church

community. It is one way we can treat our friends and colleagues justly, equitably, and compassionately. It demonstrates our belief that every person has “inherent worth and dignity.” It continues our work toward “peace, liberty, and justice for all” in our local as well as our global communities and demonstrates our “respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.”

-- prepared by Susan Inui

Towards A Sustainable Community

The origins of the Sustainable Woodstock organization can be traced to the Fall of 2007 when a modest initiative was launched at the North Chapel. Inspired by Reverend Daniel Jantos’ description of successful community-based sustainable living programs he observed during his sabbatical in Australia, members of the congregation led a Sustainability Sunday service in which they challenged themselves to reflect on how they might develop a similar way of living both within the church and beyond. After that September 30 service, 70 members of the church community signed up to participate in an initiative now known as Sustainable Woodstock.

Beneath the broad shared interest in sustainable living lay a wide diversity of particular priorities that individuals wanted to pursue. Five groups worked through the winter. In early 2008, the focus shifted towards Sustainable Woodstock Earth Day Celebration in the Town Hall Theater on April 27 – an event that would take the initiative beyond its NUCS origins and into the community.

The year 2009 was a decisive year for growth. A Green Villages two-day workshop in April drew 85 people. Later that year, the project turned into a formal non-profit organization, obtained grant funding, and hired a part time director, Sally Miller. The initial board co-chairs, Denise Lyons and Anne Macksoud, are North Chapel members, as are several other North Chapel members of the board.

This healthy, active group that is spearheading five community gardens, the Nonprofit Network, recycling at area events, energy projects such as the Town Hall audit, weatherization, the Vermont Business Environmental Partnership, the Property Assessed Clean Energy program (PACE), renovation of Woodstock’s “East End”, the Economic Development Commission, and fun projects like the Naked Table and Trek To Taste. Sustainable Woodstock (in collaboration with other nonprofit organizations and many outside volunteers, coordinated the Woodstock Area Relief Fund, set up immediately after Irene’s flooding in August, 2011.

Sustainable Woodstock continues to pursue its vision of “a vibrant, inclusive, thriving community where we live sustainably now and in the future.”

Sustainable Woodstock <http://www.sustainablewoodstock.com>.

--- Prepared by Anne Macksoud

North Chapel and Global Poverty: Supporting Venerable Somnieng and Life and Hope Association

At least in recent history, the North Chapel's involvement with the issue of global poverty began in 2006 when we participated in "Stand Up Against Poverty", a worldwide effort to convince politicians that they should honor their commitments to the UN Millennium Goals to eradicate global poverty by 2020. Subsequent discussions in the Worship Committee led us to conclude that we should follow our symbolic action with a more tangible commitment, leading to a decision that the 2006 Thanksgiving offering be dedicated to the global nonprofit organization, Heifer International.

The following year, Venerable Somnieng visited Woodstock for the first time, and conducted a meditation in the church social hall. Several people were impressed by this young monk and his efforts to provide loving care and education to poor, disadvantaged, and vulnerable children and young women in Cambodia. In the fall of 2007, we dedicated the Thanksgiving offering to the work of his Life and Hope Association (LHA).

In the five years since his first visit, Venerable Somnieng has been a frequent visitor to North Chapel, keeping us informed of his continually expanding LHA programs. In addition, several members of the congregation had visited his projects in Cambodia, and have come away extremely impressed by the work he and his fellow monks are doing. Because there is such a strong personal connection with this committed young monk and such a direct and visible connection with the work of LHA, our congregation's support has grown significantly over that time.

Following the 2008 global financial crisis, LHA lost the funding of a major German donor who had been supporting the Children's Development Village (CDV) orphanage. In 2010, the North Chapel stepped up to support the children in one of the seven CDV houses, amounting to an annual commitment of \$7500. (This was approximately the amount we had raised for LHA the previous year.) To support this obligation, the Thanksgiving offering was supplemented by fund-raising dinners.

The church's pledge to support seven poor and disadvantaged children, three of them HIV positive, represents our very tangible response to the issue of global poverty. And through this commitment, many feel that our connection with Venerable Somnieng has enriched our spiritual lives.

Life and Hope Association, Siem Reap, Cambodia. <http://www.lifeandhopeangkor.org/> and on Facebook.

--- Prepared by Chris Bartlett

Community commitment through disaster response

Hurricane Sandy Relief Effort:

In early November 2012, the Social Justice Task Force endorsed a three-part response to the disaster caused by Hurricane Sandy.

1. A monetary donation: Roughly \$2,400 was collected via the Sunday offering on November 18. Those funds were sent to the UUA's Northern New England District for allocation by UUA offices and member congregations in New York and New Jersey.
2. A goods collection: Space heaters, furniture, large and small appliances, children's equipment, miscellaneous household items, and unwrapped Christmas gifts for children were collected in a 53-foot tractor trailer for delivery to a neighborhood in the Hamden Avenue/Midland Beach section of Staten Island (NY) on Tuesday, December 18.
3. Reconstruction assistance: Volunteer work teams traveled from Woodstock to Staten Island on three separate weekends (December 14-17, December 28-31, and January 10-13) to help with demolition and reconstruction in the same Hamden Avenue/Midland Beach neighborhood.

The Green Mountain Sandy Relief Team (Gina Auriema, Joanne Boyle, Madelaine Daniel, Deb Hawthorn, Akankha Perkins, and Rick and Laurel Tobiason—with initial help from Daniel Jantos) came together to work with the Yellow Team on Staten Island and Hannah Scott of the NYC mayor's office. Over the course of three weeks, the Tobiasons coordinated the work teams while the other five organizers managed the goods collection. Volunteers from Woodstock and the surrounding region came forward to help with both efforts, and a second goods collection was launched by Craig Hervey of Housewright Construction in Newbury for delivery to Staten Island sometime in January.

--- Prepared by Deb Hawthorn

Responsible Anarchy: one member's jump

The social justice work that I am involved in might be described as the work of a responsible anarchist. Rather than organizing a committee, meeting to determine a plan of action, assigning tasks to individuals and then beginning the work, I jump into the fray. I assess what needs to be done, what I might be able to do successfully and then start doing it.

My work recently, on issues of gun safety, began with a conversation with Bob Williamson. I decided that I would work to gather names and email addresses of people interested in the issue of gun safety, create letters and send them with as many signatures as possible to the appropriate representative. I have also decided that keeping people updated on action and informed of successes was important to sustain interest. I've done a couple of things in that regard. A bulletin board in the social hall has become the gun safety bulletin board - it's there that copies of most recent letters are posted, recently published letters to the editor of newspapers are posted, information about related upcoming events is available, and it is also a place where people can make note of their efforts.

The only involvement in terms of the North Chapel is my access to the North Chapel community, to identify individuals who would consider becoming involved in issues of gun safety, the possible use the order of service or the Quest to inform members and my use of the church directory to gather email addresses. To date, this has been a small effort. A few people have come to me with suggestions of what else I might do and my response has been to suggest that that person implement their idea.

Although this effort is not a top-down, or community driven effort I believe it is sustainable and potentially successful, as long as I continue to operate as a responsible anarchists.

Bringing a farmers market to the North Chapel on Sunday mornings after services, (an effort which has morphed to become the Winter Woodstock Farmers Market), encouraging the use of fluorescent light bulbs rather incandescent ones (this effort created awareness of a specific issue of global warming and was a precursor to the forming of Sustainable Woodstock), and tending to the decoration of the altar at the North Chapel (which ultimately resulted in the creation of the Altar Minders) all began with the same anarchy.

Being a responsible anarchist may not fit neatly into a top-down, church community with committees, but it is another way of beginning new efforts that may gather traction in the wider community and result in the successful establishment of long-term action.

--- Prepared by Carol Egbert