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# NUUSLETTER

NORTHWOODS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

*A Beacon of Light in the Northwoods*

P.O. Box 253, Minocqua, WI 54548 <http://www.newnorth.net/~beckratz/nuuf/>

Tim Kratz, President, 356-3731, Jerry Woolpy, Editor, 356-6276, [jerryw@earlham.edu](mailto:jerryw@earlham.edu)

Volume 3, Number 8

November 20,

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## 2000 Coming Sundays

### Taking the Pulpit

**Sunday**, December 3, Sydney Morris, "The Gospel According to Harry Potter."

**Sunday**, December 17, Evening Program, Holiday Program and Potluck.

**Sunday**, December 31, Paul Braunstein, "THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO paul"

**Sunday**, January 14, Patty Buehler and Jerry Woolpy, "U and U History."

**Sunday**, January 28, Susan Urban,

### Adult Religious Education

**Sunday**, November 26, 10:30 AM, viewing and discussion of the videotape, "Hate.com."

**Sunday**, December 10, viewing and discussion of the videotape series on ethics.

**Sunday**, December 24, viewing and discussion of the videotape series on ethics.

**Sunday**, January 7, viewing and discussion of the videotape series on ethics.

**Sunday**, January 21, viewing and discussion of the videotape series on ethics.

## Notes from the President

Tim Kratz

For me, two of the most memorable services held at our Fellowship were the celebrations of discovery led by the youth in the spring Coming of Age presentations. These presentations were the culmination of a year of challenges. Students in the class were challenged, at a time when conforming to peers is a powerful force, to think for themselves, to search for their own individual truths.

This year, our third and largest Coming of Age group, at least nine strong and including some who have not participated in RE with us before, have accepted the

NORTHWOODS UU FELLOWSHIP  
1ST QTR REPORT ENDING 9/30/00

	BUDGET	AMT TO DATE	
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Pledging Units	24800	3685	
Midyear Pledges	1200	320	
Sunday Donations	1500	859	
Hymnal		31	
Note Paper	0	10	
Newsletter	0	20	
Interest		15	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27500</b>	<b>4940</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Program	4000	725	
Childrens R.E.	4660	2242	
Adult R.E.	350	0	
Music	250	100	
<b>SPIRITUAL GRWTH &amp; LRNING</b>	<b>9260</b>	<b>3067</b>	
Dues	2900	0	
Publicity	760	118	
Social Justice	500	0	
UU Service Comm	300	0	
Meeting Fund	<u>500</u>	<u>0</u>	
<b>COMM PRES &amp; DENOM SUPP</b>	<b>4960</b>	<b>118</b>	
Newsletter	1080	197	
Membership	200	149	
Hospitality	200	14	
Library	50	0	
Social Activities	100	0	
Finance	100	0	
Office Supplies	<u>300</u>	<u>28</u>	
<b>MEMBERSHIP GROWTH &amp; SUPP</b>	<b>2030</b>	<b>388</b>	
Mortgage	5450	1361	
Addl Debt Reduction	1200	300	
Natural Gas	475	51	
Electricity	325	121	
Snow Plowing	375	0	
Telephone	400	117	
Insurance	400	403	
Maintenance	125	30	
Building & Grounds	500	0	
Building Planning	750	0	
Memorial Garden	<u>250</u>	<u>0</u>	
<b>ORGANIZ GROWTH &amp; DEVLMT</b>	<b>10250</b>	<b>2383</b>	
CONTIGENCY	500	0	0
<b>BUILDING RESERVE</b>	<b><u>500</u></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>27500</b>	<b>5956</b>	

challenge. As they move through this year-long exercise to formulate their own ideas about their spirituality, I find myself thinking about how I came to believe what I do. The search these kids have started is not designed to have an end. Yet, am I still on this journey? I wonder if, sometimes, I am too comfortable in my beliefs. Have I accepted the task we have asked of these youths? Have you? I look forward to this spring's program, not only to celebrate what they have found, but to renew, once again, my own journey.  
Peace.

## Treasurer's Report

Ruth Erbs

## Children's RE News

Dawn Holt

There are now 10 members in the **Coming of Age Class**. This is a great size group for our fellowship. These youth are exploring their spirituality throughout the year as well as participating in social action and fellowship activities. They have helped with road side cleanup, made snack, played offertory music, and rang the bell for the Salvation Army (and it's only November!). There is talk of a late winter trip to a homeless shelter as well as a final trip to Boston. It's wonderful to have so many of these older youth active in our fellowship.

**Youth Movie Nights:** On October 29 the high school youth group held there first movie night of the year at the fellowship. 15

youth and 4 adults ate pizza, drank soda, and watched the movie Girl Interrupted. Our next movie night is planned for Sunday, Dec.3 at 6:30. All high school fellowship youth are

invited to attend. This is not just for the Coming of Age participants. We hope to see many of our youth there.

There will be NO children's R.E. classes on Sunday, Dec. 17 and no morning service that day. The fellowship will have their annual holiday evening service and pot-luck.

## **Joys & Concerns**

It's winter again. Quiet reflection is the order of the day. Enjoy the crisp, sparkling beauty. Heal and rest.

## **NUUF Committee Roster**

As Of November, 2000

Committees select their own chairman. Their meetings are open to all members and members may join committees as they see fit.

### **Program Committee**

Mary Ann Fields, Joe Strauss, Paul Braunstein, Terry Hoyt, Joan Hauer.

### **Children's Religious Education**

Toni Polfus, Dawn Holt,  
Andrea Billings, Annamarie Beckel.

### **Membership Committee**

Mary Ann Fields, Pat Buehler, Doris Eberlein, Paul Braunstein,.  
Joan Hauer

### **Social Justice Committee**

Dan Rondello, Beverly Strauss  
, Joe Strauss, Joan Hauer, Diane Reupert.

### **Social Activity Committee**

Mary Ann Fields, Terry Hoyt,  
Joan Hauer.

### **Hospitality Committee**

Beverly Strauss.

### **Music Committee**

Joyce Barnes.

### **Publicity Committee**

Ruth Erbs.

### **Finance Committee**

Pat Buehler, Joe Strauss,  
Doris Eberlein, Dick Fields.

### **Building and Grounds Committee**

Katie Egan-Bruhy, Pat Buehler, Dick Fields, Bob Dallpiazza,

Charles Reed.

**Memorial Park Committee**

Mark Bruhy, Doris Eberlein,

Dick Fields.

**Nominating Committee**

Joe Strauss, Nancy Junkerman, Annamarie Beckel.

**Adult Religious Education Committee**

Terry Hoyt, Joan Hauer.

**Endowment Committee**

Jerry Woolpy, Terry Hoyt,

Paul Braunstein.

**Newsletter**

Jerry Woolpy, Irma Braunstein.

**Building Planning Committee**

Toni Polfus, Don Barnes,

Pat Buehler, Bob Dallapiazza.

## **Announcements:**

WomanSpirit 2001 Winter Conference will be held in South Bend, Indiana at the Continuing Education Center of Notre Dame University, Friday 6:30 PM through Sunday noon, January 26-28, refer [www.buuf.org/river.htm](http://www.buuf.org/river.htm). Susan Wittig-Albert is the keynote speaker. Activities for girls up to age 16 and boys up to age 5 will be run at the same time in the ChildrenSpirit 2001 Conference. Sponsors include the Women and Religion Committee of the UUA Central Midwest District and the Women of the First Unitarian Church of South Bend. (Ask Jerry Woolpy for a copy of the conference programs.)

Meadville Lombard Winter Institute will be held at The Lowell Center on the University of Wisconsin Campus, February 15-17. The theme: "Continuing education for ministers, religious educators, lay leaders, and all others interested in topics that inform and enrich contemporary liberal religion."

Unsung UU - Now is the time for your congregation to take a look at nominating someone whom you would like to see recognized by the district-at-large. The District Board will vote on the nominations at their January board meeting. Please submit your nominations to your Area Council President by December 31.

Call for Submissions for Wings of the Chalice. They are looking for music, poetry, short prose and artwork reflecting the Seven Principles of the UUA created by Young Adults (ages 18-35). Submission form is included. Contact the Central Midwest District Office.

## **NUU Views**

**Question:** From your perspective as a Unitarian Universalist, why would or should an

Atheist attend and belong to a church or fellowship?

**Answer** from Dick Fields: I believe most Unitarian Universalists attend church or fellowship in search of a religious path that is meaningful to them, to obtain a sense of spirituality that they may not find elsewhere and to be with people who have similar views. They want be in a social atmosphere in which they are comfortable and know they can express their religious beliefs without being criticized. It is important to many that their children have a chance to learn about the Unitarian Universalist tradition as well as other religions so they can build their own theology. As atheists do not believe in a God they are not attending church or fellowship in search of a religious path but attend for many of the other reasons given above.

The belief in a Supreme Being, in my view, does not determine if one is a religious person. I believe ethical living is the ultimate expression of religion. It is not what people say and think about their religious beliefs but how they live their lives that determines their religious nature. Some of the most religious people I know are atheists.

Barbara Child, minister, Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa stated “For me, religion is a way of being in the world rather than a collection of beliefs. This is why I am a Unitarian Universalist, and why I have no trouble viewing Unitarian Universalism as a religion. Our way of being in the world is a covenant to be together in a community of people in search for wisdom and meaning wherever we might find it.”

**Answer** from Terry Hoyt: Someone who is an atheist probably should not belong to a church or fellowship that requires of them to make a commitment to a set of creeds they do not believe in. Some atheists may be quite comfortable in being hypocrites in the practice of a religion and do it for many reasons.

To me (and I do not consider myself an atheist) an atheist should belong to a church or fellowship where they can feel comfortable both with the beliefs that are being discussed and with the people they associate with at the fellowship. Community is important and having a group of people you are comfortable with is very important.

Most atheists are as good as any devout believer in a god. Attending a church or fellowship that lets you associate with people who share your values is a terrific way to improve the quality of your life. It gives you a chance to work with others in the raising of children and improving your community. We should all be happy to go to a fellowship where we can be with a group of people who can serve as role models for kids and community and share with us love and support in our everyday lives.

## **Minutes from the 22 September 2000**

### **Board Meeting**

Present: Ruth Erbs, Tim Kratz, Dawn McCusker, Don Barnes, Pat Buehler, Terry

Hoyt, Jerry Woolpy

Minutes of the previous meeting (August 21, 2000) were reviewed and approved.

Financial Report: Ruth Erbs presented the August-September revenue and expense report. The checking account total as of September 15 was \$2973.09. The financial report was approved.

Pat Buehler presented a report from the Building and Grounds Committee about playground equipment. Stony Creek Gardens were willing to give a 10% discount on a playground set if it was purchased this fall. Pat presented a picture and description of the set. The Board authorized purchase of the set for \$2296.60. The plans are to install the set next spring.

Terry Hoyt discussed the proposed change in the By-laws regarding the rights of associate members. At the last Board meeting it was voted to accept the proposed changes that would give associate members all of the same rights and responsibilities as full membership. After some discussion it was decided that the proposed By-laws change was not necessary because associate membership is primarily being used to help ascertain church membership dues required by the national UU headquarters. The local fellowship can determine local membership requirements. Terry Hoyt will write a letter to the associate members explaining the opportunities associated with associate membership in our fellowship.

There was insufficient time to discuss other matters of business. Next meeting we plan to discuss the new NUUF Committee roster, progress of the committee researching the feasibility of a new building addition and the need to attend to spiritual needs of Uus during their stay at Howard Young Hospital.

Next meeting is scheduled for October 23.

***Noted From the Keweenaw Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Newsletter:***

You ar important: Whn you ar tmptd to tak Sunday off and you think that th absnc of on prson dosn't mak a diffrenc at church, you plac your congrogation in the sam position as a prson trying to typ with on ky missing. Th results ar nvr quit th sam as when all mmbrrs of th congrogation ar prsnt. Congrogation mtngs oftn rmind us that popl ar a prtty ncessary ingr dint in th lif of any church.

Sex & Age	Year		
	2000	2010	2020
Males 5-9	1015	798	784
Males 10-14	1164	848	806
Females 5-9	968	760	748
Females 10-14	1106	808	770
Total	6253	5224	5128
% Change with 2000		-16%	-18%
Males 55-59	1148	1580	1298
Males 60-64	1026	1442	1695
Males 65-69	964	1193	1618
Males 70-74	802	840	1186
Males 75-79	511	604	748
Females 55-59	1159	1540	1358
Females 60-64	1178	1420	1612
Females 65-69	993	1206	1579
Females 70-74	811	1012	1221
Females 75-79	733	751	914
Total	9325	11588	13229
% Change with 2000		24%	42%

**Attention NUUSLETTER readers:** Those readers who are not members may receive the NUUSLETTER by email or may opt to pay \$12 per year to have it mailed to them through the US Postal Service.

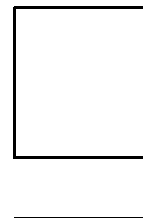
Next NUUSLETTER Deadline, Sunday, December 31, 2000.

### **Of Local Interest**

Jerry Woolpy

Research in connection with our recent dialog with Minocqua-Hazelhurst-Lake Tomahawk School Board and Administration led Patty Buehler and I to discovered local population projections that we thought would be relevant and important to our NUU planning process. As the table on the right shows, over the next ten years, we anticipate a 16% decrease in the number of children in our area and a 24% increase in the number of older adults. And this trend is expected to continue over the next twenty years.

Northwoods UU Fellowship Newsletter  
P.O. Box 253  
Minocqua WI 54548-0253



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

