



Summer Renovations are Complete!



All orange carpeting was removed



Our new Sanctuary floor and chairs are beautiful!

New Carpeting, New Maple Hardwood Floor, New Chairs
(See President's Message below and on page 3, with additional photos on page 9)

President's Message

This Fall, we welcome visitors and old friends to a renovated building: new carpeting upstairs, upgrades to office and storage space, a fresh look in the Fireside Area, and new hardwood flooring and upholstered chairs in the sanctuary. Through a combination of volunteer and contract labour, we completed the project "almost in time" for the first Sunday service with our new minister, Rev. Ron Phares. We also teamed up with our daycare tenant Kuddles on improvements to outdoor spaces.

Our process was guided by four goals of improving safety, aesthetics, acoustics, and accessibility.

When the District of North Vancouver Council turned down the proposal to redevelop the Winter Club Keith Road lands (including our new church site), it became clear that our stay on the Mathers property would be extended. While we had hesitated to spend money on a building slated to be torn down, we began to explore ways to express our faith in our mid-term future and welcome a newly called minister. Interest in renovation crystallized after a March sermon by Rev. Barbara ten Hove.

(Continued on page 3 with additional pictures on page 9)



2020 Stewardship Campaign: October 20th - November 17th

Our annual Stewardship Campaign (formerly called "Canvass") will run from October 20th to November 17th. During this time, volunteer Stewards will contact members and friends through one-on-one conversations to explore how people feel about our church and to acknowledge all who contribute time, talent and treasure to our faith community.



Rev. Ron Phares

rev.phares@northshoreunitarians.ca

North Shore Unitarians!
North! Shore! Unitarians!
How are you? The beginning is nigh! Is now! Is here!

I don't think I've used that many exclamation points since a note I passed when Dr. Sargent wasn't looking in High School. So be it. For here is the same sense of possibility, anxiety, wonder, and awkwardness that I had way back then.

We are beginning our ministry together. Beginnings are tender things. But they're also explosive. Baby birds and big bangs. Both. And that is where we are. Giddy-up.

Here's the skinny too. I don't know what to do. Well, that is to say that I don't know what to do except to listen. After all, I am keenly aware that I don't really know you. I don't know your needs, your yearnings, your heartbreaks, your impulses, your reactions, your memories, histories, families, dreams, secrets, taboos, tenderness, failings, foibles or favorite

foods. As such, I do not have a design to implement upon all of that willy nilly (which is sometimes a really good approach).

But already, in the short time I have been here, as I have listened to the limited number of folks with whom I've interacted, what I have found is that your spoken (and unspoken) needs, yearnings, heartbreaks yada yada have indeed lured out the creative in me. Already dreams are emerging, rekindled by my slowly growing understanding of your individual and corporate situations. That feels really good. Now we're dreaming together. Encouraging depth, meaning, purpose...

Yes.

Yes.

Earlier I said that I don't know what to do. Turns out that was sort of a lie. Occupational archetype there. Ministry is always about *sort of lying*. *It's the trickster part of the role. A little lie to draw closer to the truth. In this case, I do know what to do in at least one respect (aside from listening). What I know is how I want to invite us to dance through the fall and winter liturgically.*

One of the fundamental tasks (assurances? obligations? promises?) of any religion is to mark time and tie its passage to the community and the individual. That is done in varied ways and mostly ceremonially (not that this is the only effect of ceremony). I like ceremony. Low on pomp. High on ritual.

As such, I'd like to introduce you to a few autumnal and winter traditions. In September, we will create a water communion. This is a ceremony widespread throughout Unitarian Universalism that celebrates our individual natures flowing into a communal spirit. In October we will welcome back our dearly departed when some say the veil is thinnest. All Souls Day will tap into European and Latin American traditions of connecting with the ever-presence of our forebears. In November, I would like to introduce you to Soil Communion, a silent celebration of interiority, the creativity churning within each of us, and the expectation of intentions planted. Finally, December will welcome North Shore's traditional pageant, a ritualized warming up to the Winter Solstice, and, of course, Christmas.

So that's what lies ahead. In and around all that will be what I hope are engaging, compelling, mind-blowing, heartbreaking, head scratching Sunday Services.

As to what those will feature... I'm all ears.

~Rev. Ron Phares

From Our Board President



Jim Stephenson, Board President
president@northshoreunitarians.ca



Al Gore & Jim Stephenson, 2006

(Continuation from page 1)

The Building Enhancement Advisory Task Force (B.E.A.T.) was formed to research options, create a plan, and make it happen. The team included Brian McConnell, Jonathan Fountain, Mark Mayall, Brian Welwood, Freda Cook, Alison Nixon, Shirley MacDonald, Janni Kretlow, Marcia Stephenson, and your Board President. In collaboration with our consulting minister, Board, and staff, we decided that the priority was to replace the orange carpet, install hardwood flooring in the sanctuary, and replace the pews with chairs. Upgrades to furniture in the offices and Fire-side Area were synchronized with work parties focused on cleaning and simplifying. On Saturday July 13th, over 25 volunteers reported for duty and many others showed up with willing hands week in and week out over the summer.

We assembled a funding package from several sources. Acting on advice from our Finance and Endowment Committee, the Board approved expenditures of reserve funds donated for specific purposes. We sold the pews and plowed the proceeds back into the project. Another component was an invitation for members to purchase a chair with a nameplate dedicated to the person of their choice. At press time, we have raised over \$8,000 from these gifts. Thanks to all who made it possible.



Brian Welwood, Brian McConnell & Jim Stephenson
unloading new chairs

~Jim Stephenson, Board President

Climate Update 7:30pm on November 20th In our Sanctuary

Back in December 2006 (when the CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere was 382 ppm versus 407 ppm today) I trained with Al Gore to give his *Inconvenient Truth* slide show. During the next year, I gave over 20 presentations, including one at the NSUC, to a combined audience exceeding 3,000.

While my presentation energy waned, the problem was never actually solved. In recognition of the ever increasing emergency status of this issue, Al is asking all of his trainees to do another presentation November 20-21.

I will be giving a presentation at the church at 7:30pm on Wednesday, November 20th. It will include an update, as well as an appeal that every human works to ensure that our descendants have a healthy planet as they grow up.

~Jim Stephenson



Lynn Sabourin
Director of Family Ministries

As I have since 1989, I attended our church camp, Eliot Institute at Seabeck, and this time I was particularly challenged and inspired by our theme speaker, Rev. Meg Riley, who developed her material with Aisha Hauser, a religious educator of colour in Washington. The topic was “Shaping Unitarian Universalism into a Multicultural Faith” giving us much to think about concerning white privilege, cultural competency and being allies with

people of colour. Some of the programming happening here this fall will start to address this topic in our Canadian context. Catherine Strickland and Pat Meyer will be facilitating a Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Reflection Guide for adults with input from our local First Nations neighbours and two of our children's classes will do the same program at their age level. This will take us into brave space and have us face some of our own vulnerabilities. This quote from David Whyte speaks to this: *“The only choice we have as we mature is how we inhabit our vulnerability, how we become large and more courageous and more compassionate through our intimacy with disappearance, our choice is to inhabit vulnerability as generous citizens of loss, robustly and fully, or conversely, as misers and complainers, reluctant and fearful, always at the gates of existence, but never bravely and completely attempting to enter, never wanting to risk ourselves, never walking fully through the door.”*

Let's walk through the door together. Here is what is happening for our youngest NSUCers this fall.



Spirit Play (3-6 years)

Spirit Play is an innovative program which responds to children's wonderings about the big questions in life, such as: Who am I? Where did I come from? What are my gifts? How do I choose to live my life? What happens when I die? Why am I lonely and sad sometimes?

Each week a story is presented using manipulative materials. Wondering questions are posed for the children to consider. Following this, the children are free to choose their “work” — either an art activity to respond to the story or to re-tell a story themselves. The weekly story and its related materials are stored in baskets and will be available to the children. The teacher becomes a guide rather than a leader, creating a safe and sacred space for children to make meaning of their lives. This program takes into account the importance of the creative aspect of play. Deep play is how children learn everything that is important to them. The possibilities are exciting!



Nursery (Under 3 Years)

Each Sunday, we have a qualified daycare person, Gidget Dutour, who will provide loving care to our littlest people while parents attend church services. She will sometimes be assisted by youth caregivers who have qualified in the Red Cross babysitting course. Free play, stories, music and snack-time will make the time away from parents enjoyable.

Primary Class (7-8 years) and Middle Class (9-10 years)

Depending on the number of children enrolled this fall, we may combine the classes so that we have a dynamic group. If we have critical mass in each, they will cover similar topics in separate classes. We will use a program called **Woven Together**. Partnering with elders of our local



First Nations, we will explore the history and impact of the Indian Residential School system, the richness of Indigenous spirituality and cultures and, working together, advance the struggle for justice for Indigenous people. The Canadian Unitarian Council's Truth, Healing and Reconciliation team, has created a Reflection Guide that will help our elementary classes develop relationships

based on dignity, respect and justice. Using age-appropriate activities and resources, we hope to go beyond what the children are learning in school about this topic and apply our seven Unitarian Universalist principles in our explorations. We will also be delving into how we relate to the land that we call home.



Intermediate Group (11 & 12 years)

This group has a program called *Inquiring Souls* that is uniquely theirs, one that is now in its fifth year. Leaders, Jessica Motherwell and Bill Richardson, will create the program with the participants as they explore answers to their burning questions.

Each week one of the kids' questions is brainstormed and, as they do, a number of them create a large graphic of their findings. A combination of drawings and words summarize the discussion and remains as a reminder of their exploration, decorating the walls of Room 305. It is an exciting and creative process!



Gift-Making Workshop Sunday, November 17th

On Sunday, November 17th we will have our annual Christmas Gift-Making Workshop downstairs at the church from 2-5 pm. Children over 5 years of age will have the opportunity to make gifts for their friends and family. There will be 10-12 craft tables each set up with 2 adults or youth who will show the children how to make each project. The cost of each craft ranges from 25 cents to \$3 and is designed to cover the expense of materials only. Admission is a toonie and includes hot apple cider and goodies.

To volunteer or learn more about this event, contact Lynn at 604-926-1621.



Halloween Potluck and Haunted House 5-7:30 pm Sunday, October 27th

Don your costume and join us for our annual Halloween evening here at the church. Bring a potluck dinner dish and beverage to

share and join your church family for some seasonal fun. Our Youth Group will set up a haunted house in the sanctuary and will have the scare-o-metre set low to start for those of us who are a little more timid and then they will ramp it up as they go along. Families can carve a jack-o-lantern and kids can bob for doughnuts. It will be spooktacular!



First Youth Group Meeting this Fall!

6-9pm on Sunday, September 8th
Pizza w/some arts based icebreakers, 6 - 9pm

Unless posted otherwise,
all youth group meetings for the fall
are from 7-9pm on Sunday evenings



Parent Meeting

Noon, Sunday, September 8th

Parents of youth, please join Youth Advisors [Kit To](#), [Bruce Grierson](#), [Rose Reynolds](#), and [Bill Richardson](#) for a parent meeting after church.



Youth Pastoral Care Training

September 20th-22nd
Olympia, Washington UU Congregation

Joint Sleep-Over with UCV Youth Group

Saturday, September 28th
(hosted at UCV)
Begins at 5pm with dinner

Questions about Youth Events?

Need more
information?
Three ways to
learn more:

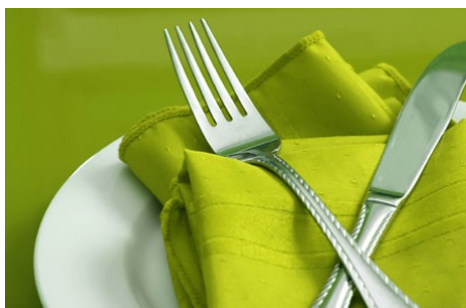
1. See the Youth Bulletin Board downstairs.
2. Contact our Youth Advisors: [Bruce Grierson](#), [Kit To](#), [Rose Reynolds](#), [Paul Symons](#), or [Sacha Was-sick](#).
3. Contact Janni in the Church Office at 604-926-1621 or info@northshoreunitarians.ca.





"Soul Matters" is a small group ministry program that uses carefully chosen UU resources, exercises, and questions to inspire soulful inquiry and reflection on universally common themes. Each month, we focus on a new topic.

Upcoming themes are: **Expectation** (September), **Belonging** (October), and **Attention** (November). Group discussions are immensely heart-warming and rich for participants. Some people use the monthly theme packets for self-study, while others use them for group discussions. Printed copies of current packets are available on the foyer table, or you can access the packets online using the link provided in each eBulletin. New groups are forming — and all are welcome! To facilitate or participate in a group, contact the [Church Office](#) or Anne Mayall, the Soul Matters Coordinator at 778-686-3643 or annemayall51@gmail.com.



Circle Dinners: What Goes Around Comes Around

The Circle Dinner Tradition nurtures our community by combining familiar and new acquaintances in small, informal groups over a delectable potluck meal and

fellowship in individual's homes. (Special dietary needs are accommodated). Would you consider participating in one of these potluck dinners once a month? We create an evening of friendship, discussion and delicious eating.

Dinners are usually held on the last Saturday of each month. Fall dates include Saturdays: September 28th, October 26th, and November 30th. Joy Silver and Jan MacQuarrie are our Circle Dinner Co-Coordination and will arrange the details. You can participate as a volunteer host or as a guest. Please contact Joy at odetojoy@telus.com or 604-941-2606 or look for her and her sign-up clipboard after church on Sundays.



Theologians Café

This Fall, John Slattery will continue to offer a series of monthly Theologians' Café discussions at 1pm at the West Vancouver Seniors' Centre. Upcoming dates are: September 12th, October 10th, and November 14th.



Cronies

During the summer, the Cronies enjoyed off-site meetings hosted by Betty Macmillan, Nora Coates, Jan Pezarro, and Kay Welwood. This fall, we will meet in our usual Lunch Bunch spot at the church in the Fire-side Room. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. Upcoming dates: September 12th and 26th, October 10th and 24th, and November 14th and 28th. We begin at 12:30pm and usually finish around 2pm. All genders are welcome as we catch up on our future with our new minister and life in our newly renovated Sanctuary space. Pack a bagged lunch and join us for conversation and tea. Call Joanna at 604-904-9535 if you need a ride or have questions.

Answering the Call of Love: Building Community through Song with Rev. Jason Shelton September 27-29th at UCV

Join carpools of NSUC folks to attend this workshop led by an inspiring composer/UU minister/conductor at The Unitarian Church of Vancouver (UCV) on Oak & 49th. More info at <https://vancouverunitarians.ca/events/jason-shelton/>.



From the Library

Have you noticed the new look in the library corner? Thanks to Jim Stephenson (who installed new shelves) and Lynn Sabourin (who re-organized the children's collection), illustrated books are now much easier to find. The withdrawn books (showing wear & tear; no longer current; easily found in public libraries) will be on sale in the library area from September 15th to September 29th.

Juvenile fiction is now classified alphabetically by the author's name, and non-fiction under the Dewey Decimal System. When you browse, please put the books back where you found them or leave them in the space marked with a "re-shelving" sign.

With guidance from Marcia Stephenson, DJ MacKinnon, and Jenny O'Grady Giddy, members of the library team (Joan Cox, Vivian Himbeault, Peggy Sloan and Nicole Hostinsky) lightened the adult collection to make room (and raise funds) for new acquisitions. Until September 8th, you can purchase these withdrawn books, some showing signs of age, but still interesting and valuable, at the bargain price of 50-cents each. Please sign up on the bulletin board to help box up left-over books and transport them to the recycling depot on September 8th & 29th.

From now on, new books will be displayed on the shelves near their Dewey category. When you have a look at them, explore the corresponding section to discover hidden treasures. Check out the bookshelf reviews posted on index cards by avid readers in the congregation.



Outreach

Each Sunday, 100% of our offering basket collections, unless otherwise marked, are given to the charity featured for that month.

Recent Outreach Recipients and amounts raised (rounded to the nearest dollar) are:

June [David Suzuki Foundation](#) (\$1,304)

July (no services)

August [Dying with Dignity](#) (TBD)

Upcoming Outreach Recipients:

September [St. James Music Academy](#)

October [North Shore Multicultural Society](#)

November [Sheway](#)



Artarian Updates

The Artarian Team welcomes Beverly Grice as our new chairperson. We have an exciting line-up of artists for the coming year, and will display a diversity of subjects, styles and mediums. Our Team's aim is to compliment the wonderful new decor in the Sanctuary with our tableaus, which will include visual art, photography, and fabric arts. The church receives a 20% donation for works that are sold. We welcome referrals, suggestions and comments from the congregation (contact [Beverly Grice](#) or the [Church Office](#)).



Holiday Office Closures

The Church Office will be closed for these upcoming holidays:

- Labour Day (Sept. 2nd)
- Thanksgiving (Oct. 14th)
- Remembrance Day (Nov. 11th)

Update from the New Building Task Force



As most of you may know by now, on July 23rd the District of North Vancouver (DNV) Council rejected Darwin's preliminary application to rezone the North Shore Winter Club's property on Keith Road, on a portion of which we were hoping to build our new church building. The DNV Council's decision was consistent with a string of anti-development decisions made by the current Council, including a decision in May to postpone

further processing of Darwin's rezoning proposal for its North Shore Innovation District in the Maplewood area.

Given this anti-development attitude of the current DNV Council, Darwin and the New Building Task Force are now exploring potential sites on the North Shore for our new building that are not within the DNV.

~ John Biasucci

Pictures of our Sanctuary Renovations

On pages 1 and 3 of this newsletter, we shared the story of our Building Enhancement Advisory Task Force (B.E.A.T.) and their work in replacing flooring in our Sanctuary, foyer, and stairwell and purchasing new chairs for the Sanctuary. Here are some additional photos of this project:

Special thanks to the donors, volunteers and contractors who helped make this transition possible!



Dismantling pews, so they could be sold



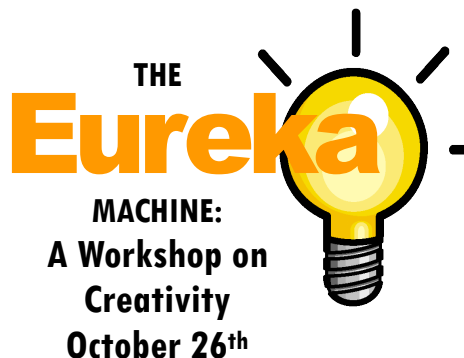
Installing maple hardwood in the Sanctuary

Upcoming FundFest Events That are Open to All

Each spring, we host an annual fundraising auction called “FundFest”. Many of the items auctioned off are events that can include an unlimited number of people — so it’s not too late to participate! You’re invited to these inspiring and fun events (proceeds go to the church):



As we move into the months of darkness join Kerry Burke and the Band for a Leonard Cohen concert with themes of spirituality, sexuality, politics and human relations. 7:30pm on Saturday, November 16th in the Sanctuary. Tickets at the door are \$20 each.

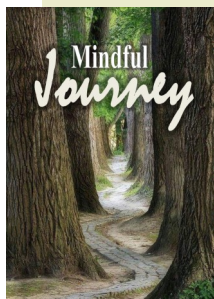


This FundFest event was adapted from a course Bruce developed for Harvard psychologist Ellen Langer but never got to use ... until now. This is a workshop for writers, would-be writers, or anyone looking to put a bit more jam in the holiday letter. We’ll explore aha moments, “thinking lucky,” sustaining flow, and more! 1-4pm on Saturday, October 26th in the Fireside Room. Tickets at the door are \$30 each.



Canada Reads: One Book to Move You October 5th & November 2nd

Join Marcia Stephenson for coffee and conversation about the two top finalists in the 2019 CBC Competition. Home-baked goodies will help keep you talking in the Fireside Room starting at 9:15 am on Saturday mornings. October 5th: **Homes** by Abu Bakr al Rabeeah with Winnie Yeung and **By Chance Alone** by Max Eisen on November 2nd. Tickets at the door are \$10 per session, but please reserve your continental breakfast with a phone call to Marcia or an email to president@northshoreunitarians.ca.



Mindful Journey: a Workshop for Changing Habits

This past year, Janni, our Church Administrator, lost 69 pounds using MINDFULNESS instead of dieting. The video and guidebook from her live presentation at the church will inspire you to launch your own MINDFUL JOURNEY (whether that involves weight loss, or some other challenge). Cost is \$20 (mark your payment as “Mindful Journey”) for the video link and guidebook. Watch the video at your own convenience and pace.



What’s up Doc? October 5th, October 25th & November 15th

View three different award-winning documentaries on the NSUC giant screen. Join your film loving friends for munchies and a beverage before the screening and an optional discussion after. 7pm on Saturday October 5th, and Fridays October 25th & November 15th. Tickets at door are \$12.

Pysanky Christmas Egg Decorating November 23rd

Make an ornament for yourself or as a gift, 10am to noon on Saturday, November 23rd at the church. \$10 per person or \$15 per family. Joy Silver will guide you through the art of creating your own design with the beautiful Ukrainian style technique.



Third Circle Coalition Start-up Meetings October 1st or 6th in Our Sanctuary

In a presentation of the *Drawdown* project earlier this year, we heard about four spheres of influence in which people can take action to prevent climate change: as individuals, within our families, in our communities, and in our nations. Perhaps the most overlooked opportunity for making a difference is at the level of city government. Fifteen of the 100 climate solutions modelled by *Drawdown* analysts emerge from the urban environment: <https://www.drawdown.org/solutions/buildings-and-cities>

Our Third Circle Coalition proposed for NSUC invites you to partner with others in your neighbourhoods to learn more about municipal policies and the Councils that vote on their implementation.

We'll brainstorm ideas about different ways to get involved: studying regulations and proposals, attending meetings, tracking decisions online, choosing methods of advocacy. Some groups might choose to focus on another community issue such as social housing as well as environmental action.

At press time in mid-August, the Climate Caucus of municipal officials concerned about the environment had just wrapped up their Summit at Vancouver City Hall, a conference featuring virtual attendance. Topics discussed included Declarations of Climate Emergency, Transportation, Waste, and Renewable Energy.



Join us in the Sanctuary at 7pm on Tuesday, October 1st or at noon on Sunday, October 6th to find out more about how we might think globally and act locally TOGETHER.

~ Judith Gordon
& Marcia Stephenson



All-Ages Habitat Service Projects

Help plant native species in North Vancouver as part of the **Kirkstone Park restoration project**. Scheduled for Saturday, October 5th, from 10am to 1pm. Our NSUC volunteers will work in partnership with DNV Parks staff. Sign up on the bulletin board downstairs or call the office to get your name on the list. A Lynn Valley NSUC member will contact you with details.

OR, get involved with the **Bluebonnet Road Habitat Protection Project** near Edgemont Village. Watch for announcements in the eBulletin or check out <https://www.habitatprotectionproject.org/>.

~ Judith Gordon & Marcia Stephenson



Eliot
INSTITUTE

Since 1947...
inter-generational camps
for Unitarian Universalists,
their friends, and families.

Winter Eliot 2019

Give Light: Spiritual Nurture for Climate Activism with Rev. Fred Small

Saturday, December 28, 2019 to Wednesday, January 01, 2020

Registration and details [HERE: https://www.eliotinstitute.org/calendar/9080-winter-eliot-2019-give-light-spiritual-nurture-for-climate-activism-with-rev-fred-small](https://www.eliotinstitute.org/calendar/9080-winter-eliot-2019-give-light-spiritual-nurture-for-climate-activism-with-rev-fred-small)

As we come to understand the gravity of climate disruption, it's easy to become disheartened. How do we maintain equanimity and compassion for ourselves and others while sustaining effective

activism? In this interactive program, Rev. Fred Small will invite us into meditation, reflection, conversation, and song, fortifying our spirits and deepening our resolve in the struggle for climate justice.

A Unitarian Universalist parish minister for nearly two decades, Fred is also a singer-songwriter and environmental lawyer. In 2015, he left parish ministry to devote his energies to climate advocacy.



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... meeting in Squamish
and Tsleil-Waututh
traditional territory

Contacting our Minister:

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Affiliated Community Minister: Rev. Arthur Berman

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Director of Family Ministries: Lynn Sabourin

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We actively welcome
all genders
and sexual orientations
in our faith community.