



NSUC Celebrates Staff Milestones: Alison Nixon's 20th and Janni Kretlow's 10th Anniversary with Our Church



Brian Welwood (left), Alison Nixon (center) & Liz Moffitt (right)



Leslie Whyte-Gibbons (left) & Janni Kretlow (right)

During the **“Stronger Together” service** on Sunday, September 10th (our first service back following the summer break), NSUC recognized two staff milestones as Alison celebrated her 20th anniversary with our church, and Janni, her 10th.

Brian Welwood and Liz Moffitt (both long-time choir members, as well as current Board Members) read a beautiful tribute to Alison. (Read it [HERE](#)). They expressed appreciation for Alison’s patience with the choir and congregation, her beautiful viola playing skills, endless hours of planning and preparation for choir practices and services, and her willingness to pivot when needed. They gave heartfelt appreciation for “Your insight and care for this congregation; not just the choir, but all of us.

You watch how we’re doing. You care about how we’re doing, and you help heal us when we need it.” Above and beyond her extensive musical skills, they accurately described her as having an *enthusiastic, soulful spirit* that we all appreciate and love.

Leslie Gibbons (a Board Member, cheque signer, and office volunteer) read a tribute written by her, and another by Marcia Stephenson. (Read both [HERE](#)). They made note of Janni’s “creativity, organizational wizardry, consummate professionalism, and unfailing dedication to NSUC” and called her a “treasure”.

Both Alison and Janni received standing ovations from the congregation, and were deeply ap-

preciative of the love and recognition they received. They both look forward to more years of fulfilling work with the North Shore Unitarian Church, sharing their talents and lives with us.

Did You Know?

You can watch all of our Sunday services (including the September 10th **“Stronger Together”** service) on [our YouTube Channel](#)? The most recent service is shown first, but you can scroll down to see recordings of older services.



From Our Board President



Barrie Forbes

president@northshoreunitarians.ca

It's hard to believe the Board has been working on our behalf for a half year. So much has changed and been accomplished, and the time has flown by. It is a great honour to work alongside many wonderful people who have the common goal of reinvigorating NSUC in productive ways.

The motto for our stewardship campaign (see article on page 8) was **Looking Ahead** and we hope this column will give you some sense of where we see us going. (On the next page, we describe what we have accomplished in the past three months.)

When we started our fall season our primary goals were to create great services, restore a sense of trust, stability and harmony within our congregation, and have some fun together. We have made progress on these goals, and we know we have further to go. In the interim we are all savouring our accomplishments and improvements week-to-week. Many of us are pouring our hearts and souls into this place, and we are proud of the work we're doing.

Looking ahead over the next 3 months and beyond, we will continue to take one step at a time on some important issues. These in-

“ABOVE ALL, THE BOARD WILL CONTINUE TO COMMUNICATE WIDELY AND SEEK INPUT FROM EVERYONE AS WE MOVE FORWARD AND MAKE DECISIONS.”

1. Continue to provide interesting and spiritual services that involve a good mix of speakers from within and beyond our congregation.
2. Build a practical budget based on the results of our recent stewardship campaign.
3. Muster a team to hold a FundFest event in the spring. Traditionally FundFest has been a great way to make social connections in small groups and raise funds at the same time. Let's all put our thinking caps on about events we'd like to host.
4. Start a conversation about our vision for the future. We are in a different place now than the last time we did a visioning process, so we'll need to rethink who we want to be when we “grow up.” What can we aspire to, considering the new circumstances within our community and in the broader culture?

Above all, the Board will continue to communicate widely and seek input from everyone as we move forward and make decisions. We are pleased to see people attend the Board meetings – both in person and by Zoom. And we are very pleased that the atmosphere

in the church is extremely positive, spiritual and respectful.

Indeed, we see new people coming to church every week, and many of them have been with us several times. New people are joining the choir, and new conversations are being had about social justice, environmental and educational opportunities outside of Sunday mornings. Several long-time congregants have begun inviting their friends to church on Sunday mornings because they're proud of the work our community is doing here to help us all live with greater depth, meaning and purpose. Let's keep up the good work – one step at a time.

As we approach the Christmas season, we wish you and your family a wonderful Holiday Season and a very happy New Year.

~ Barrie Forbes, President



General Meeting
12:15pm on January 28th

Accomplishments

10

Ten Things We've Accomplished in Our First Three Months of the New Church Year

Our congregation has been very busy this past quarter. In case you've missed anything, here's just a partial list of some of the happenings over the past three months. (My apologies for anything I've missed...)

1-SERVICES. Starting with our welcoming service in September (with a corn & burger chaser), our Sunday mornings have been varied, spiritual and engaging. Thanks to Rebecca Lindley and her team for their herculean efforts preparing services that spark such interesting conversations during coffee! At the welcoming service we also recognised Alison's 20 years and Janni's 10 years of outstanding service to the church.

2-Q&A SESSION. On November 6th Rev Anne Barker, the CUC Congregational Life Lead, met with the Board and later with the congregation (at the church and via Zoom). We were so grateful to have her wise, articulate and honest perspective on where the CUC and NSUC are at. She has committed to a return engagement in the spring.

3-OUR ONGOING ART DISPLAY arranged by Inga Puhlmann is a varied collection of art (available for sale) that beautifies the church upstairs and down.

4-SOCIAL JUSTICE WORKSHOP on November 26th led by Alison to help focus our social justice efforts.

5-STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN led by Elain Duval. This was an excellent opportunity for Board members to speak one on one with as many congregants as we could. A final tally is still to come, but the results to date have been positive, and we thank all who have committed their resources.

6-ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION TEAM sponsored an after-church meeting in September for goal-setting with Jean Prescott and Barb Kroon — AND — Marcia Stephenson hosted info sessions on the work of Outreach recipients in October and November.

7-TOWN HALL. On September 24th we met to review where we are and what the board feels are the key issues moving forward. This was a great opportunity to hear from the many people who attended.

8-ALL ROUND VOLUNTEER EFFORTS. Let's recognize all the efforts of the service coordinators, greeters and ushers, sound technicians, the choir and a myriad of people who make it possible for us to come together in community every Sunday. Being lay led is a huge task! I want to especially thank Malcolm Mallory and his crew for recording the services each and every week, and Dianne Hicks for the bi-weekly after-service soup or sandwich lunches.

9-TALENT SHOW. Organized by Alison on October 26th, this was a fun opportunity for many congregants, some very new to the church, to share their gifts.

10-CEILIDH DANCE EVENT on November 25th. Led by Alison and Bob Rentz, this was a fun opportunity for kids and adults to share music, movement, and food.

Thank You!

Generally, thanks to EVERYONE who participates in this community of good people who aspire to make the world a better place – one step at a time. May all who come *belong with heart, act in service and thrive in spirit.*
~ Barrie Forbes, President

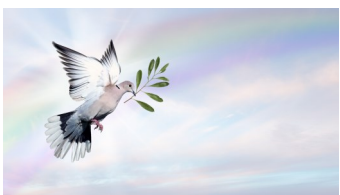
Sunday Services



10:30am December 3rd “Angels with Feet”

with Alison Nixon

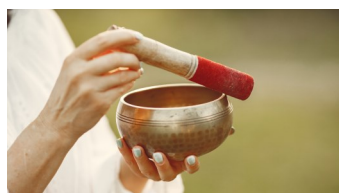
This Christmas Carol Service, titled “Angels with Feet” will include beautiful Christmas music and stories that tell of hope in the midst of challenge, and peace in the midst of strife. We will sing carols and enjoy uplifting words relevant to the holiday season. Start the busy month of December with reverence and joy!



10:30am December 10th “War and Peace and...?”

with Leslie Gibbons

Stop the world, I want to get off! So, what’s it all about? We humans have been on the hamster wheel of war, peace and – whatever follows all of that, for ever, it seems. Is there any hope? Of course there is. Join Leslie and friends as they figure it all out. Help is on the way...



10:30am December 17th “EnCHANTing”

with Dennis Cooper

Chanting is a form of rhythmic, repetitive vocalization practiced in a wide range of cultures. It is used in spiritual practice to strengthen community, heal illness, and overcome psychological and emotional difficulties. In this service, we will explore the history of chanting together, and then practice through song to reach a collective vibrational state.



Christmas Eve

6pm December 24th An EVENING Christmas Eve Service

There will be no **morning** service on Christmas Eve (Dec 24th). The whole family is invited to an EVENING service at 6pm that will feature traditional stories, carols, and candles — followed by apple cider and treats.



10:30am December 31st New Year’s Eve Potluck

December 31st is New Year’s Eve. We will end the year with a community POTLUCK brunch at 10:30am. Bring some food to share and enjoy a relaxed meal with friends.



The fall services have been diverse and inspiring! The Sunday Services Team is enjoying leading services. It has been a steep learning curve; the team appreciates congregational feedback and support.

Please continue to watch the eBulletin and [website](#) for Sunday service info for upcoming weeks.

Deepest thanks to Malcolm Mal-lory, Darius, and Kaan for their time and energy videotaping the weekly services. Malcolm then spends *more* time later on Sunday editing and uploading the recording to [our YouTube site](#). Most services receive about 100 viewings within a week of the upload, which is evidence that NSUC is reaching *more* than just those who join in the Sanctuary each Sunday.

It takes a whole *team* to produce a service and further thanks are extended to Janni, Alison, the choir, the Board, and *all* the other folks who step up to help tidy and decorate the Sanctuary, volunteer as sound crew, Ushers, Greeters, and more. It truly takes a community... and *that* we are...

In gratitude,
The Sunday Services Team:
Dennis Cooper, Kerry Burke,
Leslie Whyte-Gibbons,
Sue Forbes, Bruce Grierson,
Alison Nixon and Rebecca Lindley

Environmental Action Team



Environmental Action Update

As I write, politicians, scientists, lobbyists, activists, and journalists are gathering in Dubai for COP28: the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference. History is being made at a distance, but we feel the effects in our neighbourhoods, with 2023 on track to become the hottest year in history.

Our EA Team came together in late 2020 to learn more about the climate emergency and support each other in taking action on environmental issues. Everyone is welcome to join our ongoing activities.

At a brainstorming session led by Barb Kroon and Jean Prescott on September 17th, a group identified the following team priorities this year:

- Focusing on the issue of plastic pollution
- Taking action to improve sustainability in our church buildings and grounds
- And continuing to send email

updates listing ways we can support climate-friendly policies up for debate at the municipal, provincial and national levels.

We've also begun sponsoring info sessions after church to spotlight the mission of the Outreach Partner of the month. Some of us may begin volunteering at the local charities we support financially—watch the eBulletin for details.

Contact [Janni in the office](#) if you'd like to receive our monthly email message. Or to receive a call back from anyone on our team about the initiatives described here.

~Marcia Stephenson,
Environmental Action Team Chair

Environmental Reading Circle

Our bimonthly Zoom discussion group working through the 8 chapters of All We Can Save finished up in November.

A new reading circle will start in January to discuss the 2023 anthology *Not Too Late*, edited by Rebecca Solnit and Thelma Young

-Lutunatabua. Register your interest and availability for either an in-person or online group [HERE](#). See the study guide and related articles at <https://www.nottoolateclimate.com/>.



Butterfly Garden Updates

Our Butterfly Garden Team chose a nice sunny day (November 7th) to add more mulch to the Butterfly Garden at NSUC. The trees surrounding the garden are hazelnut, cottonwood and red alder, which produce sturdy and somewhat leathery leaves that are harder to break down. So we brought from home some smaller and softer maple leaves (pre-chopped using the lawn mower). Our hope is that this initial layer of leaves will compost over for easy incorporation into the garden in the Spring of 2024. Feeding the soil for new planting in spring will give all our flowers lots of nutrients for a good start. The surrounding trees will gradually drop a coat of thicker leaves over this layer, wrapping our garden until spring awakens the soil.

If you are watching leaves fall in your garden space, try using them to mulch your own perennials.

~ Jean Prescott, NSUC's Butterfly Ranger

Not Too Late

Changing the Climate Story from Despair to Possibility

Edited by REBECCA SOLNIT & THELMA YOUNG LUTUNATABUA

WELCOME Team

News from the Welcome & Hospitality Teams

Are you interested in Joining Us in 2024? Our Welcome Team has been very busy this fall.

Many thanks to all our Ushers/Greeters for providing friendly, welcome faces as people arrive on Sunday mornings, and to Dianne Hicks (our Hospitality Chair) and her Team, who have been arranging for the weekly coffee and for providing soup and sandwiches once each month.

Our "NEW-ISH Here?" table with the white table cloth downstairs during the coffee time has been a success in bringing together new visitors, congregants, and Board Members for good conversation over coffee.

If you would like to join the Welcome Teams in the new year, please contact [Liz Moffitt](#). We need you!

~Liz Moffitt,
Board Liaison for Welcome & Hospitality Teams



New-ish to Our Church? Welcome!

Several Sundays each month, we invite people who are new-ish to our church to stop by our new "Welcome Table" for coffee or tea. Board members will be there to informally chat, share, and answer questions you may have about us. Look for us at a table with a white tablecloth.

~ Liz Moffitt



Donation Cut-Off for 2023: 10am Wed. December 20th

Our last bank deposit of the year will be done at 10am on Wednesday, December 20th. Cash & cheque donations received **after** that deadline will not be deposited until the new year (and will therefore not show up on 2023 tax receipts, but will appear on next year's receipt).



Heart Mind Spirit Team

The Heart Mind Spirit (HMS) Team is re-forming. The purpose of the HMS Team is to provide spiritual growth opportunities for adults with programs that deepen our heart connections and inspire actions in the service of life. If you're interested in being on the Team (or even Chairing it), please contact [Marga Hanna](#) or another member of the Board.



Christmas Hampers

Now through December 10th, we're collecting donations for the Christmas Bureau to help families in need in our area. Details are posted on the bulletin board in the stairwell, and on our [blog](#).

B&G

Building & Grounds
News



- **New dishwasher.** The old dishwasher/sanitizer gave up in the late spring. Much research and pricing ensued. We now have a new Moyer Diebel N900 to last us many more years.
- **Storm drain cleaning.** Again this year we had Perimeter Drainage Ltd. scope our outside drain lines and auger them right out to the south corner of our property behind the Rod Stewart Building. They also checked on the new pumps that were installed last summer.
- **Kuddles tree.** A small tree came down in the Kuddles playground in the summer. It was cut up and taken away within a few hours.
- **Hole in neighbour's fence.** This was a concern for the Kuddles manager but not a risk for the children. After some back-and-forth with the neighbours, Tom repaired the fence.
- **Quote on rebuild of chancel fire escape corner.** The B&G team is concerned that rot is showing on the landing outside the door by the pulpit and in the supporting structure for the door and the art glass windows in that

corner. We had a few contractors look at it and have received quote of \$23,000 plus GST from the only one that responded. We asked the contractor to proceed, and hope the work can be done in the new year.

- **Quote on fascia refurbishing.** The same contractor quoted \$4,400 + GST to repair and then cover the fascias with metal flashing to prevent further deterioration and improve the appearance. We gave the go-ahead on this work and hope to have it completed before year end.
- **Survey of outside fire hazards and fuel removal.** The Environmental Action Team and B&G members surveyed the property to identify external fire hazards in light of the climate changes. Quotes are being obtained to remove trees and fuel sources that could affect our structures in case of fire.

- **Survey of other needed repairs and replacements.** A task force has been formed to survey, document and cost out the repairs and replacements that we can see on the horizon in the near and medium term. These include: replacing RSB furnaces and church boiler; roof/siding repairs; and replacing windows with sealed units; removing dangerous trees and many other items.
- **Tom Fullerton has also taken on many B&G tasks** such as grounds maintenance, replacing light fixtures in the church basement, sanctuary light bulb replacement, repair and painting of windowsills, patching of leaking upper window frames, and many, many other tasks suggested by B&G or others and assigned by Janni.

Much has been put on hold in anticipation of a move to a new church, but now we must take care of the most urgent of these items. ~ Brian Welwood for the B&G Team



Stewardship Campaign

The 2024 stewardship campaign is drawing to a close. A big thank you to all members and friends who have already pledged. Our total reached \$142,746 (as of November 20th). Your generosity will allow the Board to begin planning for budget 2024 with confidence for the future.

Thank you, also, for the many conversations the Board had with congregants. We received with gratitude your many ideas on how to build on our recent successes and how to live up to our mission of living with depth, meaning and purpose. While we will not be able to act on all suggestions, be assured they have been noted and will be carefully considered.

~Elain Duvall,
Stewardship Coordinator

SNOW!

Snow Closures

On rare occasions, church services and other events may be cancelled (and staff will likely work from home) due to snow, loss of electricity, etc. See our [website](#) for more info about this.

Youth Group Updates

On the Remembrance Day weekend, more than fifty youth from across the Pacific Northwest met at the Unitarian Church of Vancouver (UCV) for a regional conference here in Vancouver, and it was a spectacularly successful rekindling of old friendships and introduction of new blood to the uniquely soulful experience that is a UU youth "Con." There were run-on-sentences like that one. There were laughs, there were tears, there was covenanting, there was worship; there were enlightening workshops and surprisingly tasty chili. Mairi and her father Richard invented a game that everybody lapped up. Mairi and Adriana and Lila added their theatrics to the talent show on the final night.

This Con was something Richard and I proposed back in June, with a view to maintaining connections between youth who are now part of different congregations. We couldn't have done it at NSUC; it was too big. The Vancouver church stepped up big-time to host. It was super-gratifying, for me personally, to see youth (like Laura, Harper, Max, Bree and Ashley) experiencing their first Con. At the youth level, UU is one big tent, still.

There's a sharp appetite for more of this kind of inter-congregation youth fellowship. So we (NSUC) will be hosting a youth event soon.

~Bruce Grierson,
Youth Advisor



Art Appreciation Team

Do not miss our "art a la carte" fundraiser. See the inspiring art for sale on the upstairs walls — all by local artists and for affordable prices. In the Fireside Room, view the new display "Vibrant Landscapes by award-winning artist and NSUC member Marguerite Mahy. 25% of the proceeds support NSUC.

Interested in joining the NSUC Art Appreciation Team? Please attend our planning session in early January (watch the eBulletin and website for date & time). Thank you!

~ [Inga Puhmann](#),
Art Appreciation Team Coordinator





Hire-A-Member Directory

Have you seen the new Hire-A-Member Directory on our website? (www.northshoreunitarians.ca/hire-a-member).

Here, we list businesses and services offered by staff and congregants. Pet sitting, piano lessons, piano tuning, real estate, and a variety of other services are already listed there — but there's plenty of room to add additional contacts!

If you want to offer your service to the congregation on this page, please contact [Janni in the Church Office](#). There is no charge for adding your listing to this Directory.



Cronies

The Cronies will no longer be meeting twice each month, as attendance has been too low. However, the Cronies will meet at the church on Thursday, December 7th for a Christmas gathering — and all are invited.
~Joanna Vaughan, Coordinator



Outreach Collections

Each Sunday, 100% of our offering plate collections, unless otherwise marked, are given to the monthly Outreach Recipient.

RECENT OUTREACH RECIPIENTS:

- September:** \$735.60 for [The Edible Garden Project](#)
- October 1st:** \$842.10 for [Indian Residential School Survivors' Society](#)
- Rest of October:** \$966.56 for [Seed Change Canada](#)
- November:** Amount TBD for [Food Stash Foundation](#)

UPCOMING OUTREACH RECIPIENTS:

- December:** Congregational Support Fund (formerly called the Pastoral Discretionary Fund).
- January:** [Lookout Housing and Health Services](#)
- February:** [North Shore Crisis Services Society](#)

Grocery Receipt Program

Please continue to save grocery receipts from **City Market at Park Royal** and **IGA Dundarave**, and leave them in the folder on the bulletin Board in the stairwell. When receipts total \$5,000, Tom Fullerton exchanges them for a gift card, and convert it into cash for the church.

~ [Janni Kretlow](#)

Church Office Closures

Our Church Office will be closed for the Christmas and New Year's Day holidays. Janni is taking her remaining vacation days December 26th—29th. So the office will be closed the last week of December.





Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote these eight Principles:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
• Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
• Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
• A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
• The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
• The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
• Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part;
• Individual and communal action that accountably dismantles racism and systemic barriers to full inclusion in ourselves and our institutions.



Watch past services on our YouTube channel:

1. Go to our YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/@NorthShoreUnitarian/videos
2. Click on the video you want to watch. (If you don't see it listed, click on the "Live" Tab or check with the Church Office.)
3. Enjoy!



North Shore Unitarians
370 Mathers Avenue,
West Vancouver, BC V7S 1H3
Phone: 604-926-1621
Website: northshoreunitarians.ca
Email: info@northshoreunitarians.ca
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/NorthShoreUUCanada/

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



Most Mondays-Thursdays
7am to 2pm
(Janni works from home on Fridays but is still available by phone and email those days).

STAFF AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Affiliated Community Minister: Rev. Arthur Berman
Lay Chaplain: Barb Moore
Sunday Facilities Coordinator: Annabelle Coward
Music Director: Alison Nixon
Accompanist: Catherine Tseng
Church Administrator: Janni Kretlow
Facility Rental Coordinator: Dianne Hicks
Financial Administrator: Anna Biesiada-Panas
Custodian: Tom Fullerton
Board of Trustees:

- Barrie Forbes, President
Rebecca Lindley, Vice President
Brian Funt, Treasurer
Leslie Gibbons, Secretary
Elain Duvall, Member at Large
Marga Hanna, Member at Large
Barb Kroon, Member at Large
Liz Moffitt, Member at Large
Brian Welwood, Member at Large



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