

## Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashua, NH

### **Music Program 2012-2013**

Jared (Jed) Holland led two choirs this year. The adult choir has continued to thrive, and involves a large number of church friends and members, totaling an average of 40 singers through the year, including 2 of whom are new to the church this year, 3 others who are new to the choir, and Olivia, our interim minister. The youth choir, which involves very young children up through about 8<sup>th</sup> grade, fluctuates in the number of children attending. The youth choir sang 11 songs this year, including once with a youth pianist, and twice with the adult choir. For many of the songs, Frona Avery helped direct the youth choir and Greg Deneen accompanied them on guitar. The adult choir sang for 30 services, and will be singing at the annual meeting. Non-choir members of the congregation joined us for the early Christmas Eve service.

Our music committee has been assisting Jed with the music program. This committee (members Geri Davidson, Kathy Grossman, John Burkitt, Ruth Cannava, Kathleen Griffis) has been doing a great job. Kathy has stepped down as chair in order to be on the ministerial search committee, so the committee has been spreading the work, with Geri running the meetings.

To help with our goal of engaging children musically, we have included youth pianists, brass players, and other instrumentalists. We also have one youth who has joined the adult choir.

We had great participation by over 60 guest musicians to provide special music other than the normal choirs, for a total of 22 services. John Burkitt has continued coordinating with the large number of special musicians.

A wonderful accomplishment was the fourth coming of “The Biggest Crazy UU Band That Ever Was (in Nashua at least)”. This group brought together the talents of many church members of all ages, and they all pulled together to do a fabulous job playing and singing a rousing version of “Enter, Rejoice and Come In “ and “This Little Light of Mine”.

Another accomplishment was having song leader Nick Page lead a service.

We have been also working toward the church goal of providing community dinners. Jed and John Burkitt have been providing live music at the community dinners, and after the April community dinner, we ran a “hootenany” (a folk song sing-a-long) and invited the community dinner guests. Frona Avery initiated and ran the hootenaney. Jed Holland, John Burkitt, Kathy Grossman, and Dan Murphy played the music, and Rebecca Holland provided technical assistance.

Members of the choir sang at a special evening service of Reflection and Sharing on April 17<sup>th</sup>, which was held in response to events at the Boston Marathon.

We continue to utilize electronic methods of communication. We have live-streaming of our Sunday service, and rebroadcasting later the same day at 3 pm and 7 pm. We are using Facebook, the UU network, the church website, the choir google group, and YouTube. We continue to post audio recordings of our services and some video content on the website.

### **Printed Music/Folders**

We continue to have good participation in our choirs! We are ordering music and folders for 40 adult choir members. We reduced the number of pieces of music ordered for the youth choir, because many of the children are not yet music readers, so they are sharing and learning by ear.

### **Guest Musicians**

This year's guest musicians include many congregation members and friends:

Vocalists Harry Purkhiser, Kathy Grossman, Jed Holland, Sue Chadwick, Steve Hedges, Paula Super, Wes Chadwick, Linda Blais, Kim Steele, Geri Davidson, Tina Marshman, Suellen Davidson, Ben Morton, Kathleen Griffis, Kathy Fletcher, John Sanders, Gil Dubray, Geri Davidson, Pam Jordan, Linda Lewis, Jamie Reifsnnyder, Grace Morton, and Gillian Hinkle; Percussionists Billy Parker, Ben Morton, and Andrew Holland; upright bass John Burkitt; pianists Caleb Wagner, Nicole Straussberg, and Jed Holland; Guitarists Greg Deneen, Jonah Wagner, and Geoff Goodell; ukelele player John Brobst; Trombonists Jon Lasselle and Kathy Grossman; trumpeters Bruce Cleaveland, Bruce Dye and Jonathon Orr; French horn players Erica Agnew, Bridget Foner, and Lori Lerude; baritone player Ben Bate; vocals & keyboard & guitar Dan Murphy; and many talented members who participated in the Biggest Crazy UU Band That Ever Was (in Nashua at least), the multi-generational Christmas Eve Choir, and the Easter Brass Band.

### **Instrument Repairs/Maintenance**

The organ had 2 tunings/repairs, the sanctuary piano had 2 tunings, the choir room electronic piano has been working well, and the sanctuary humidifier system is being maintained.

### **Review of Music Budget 2012-2013**

We continue to have a large expense of printed sheet music for the choir, due mostly to the large choir membership. We have paid for choir director substitutes for 3 rehearsals, and one outside guest musician (Nick Page). We ordered very few new pieces of youth choir music, and we repeated many of our favorite songs throughout the year, so we have kept our expenses down in these ways. We also kept expenses down by writing and arranging some of our own music. Jed arranged three songs for the adult choir, and Olivia and Kathy each wrote one song for use as a children's recessional. We have 2 teens providing childcare during Sunday morning rehearsals, and this is well-used by the choir members. This increased our expenses, but we feel it is worth it to choir parents.

### **Goals for 2013-2014**

To continue to keep our expenses down.

To keep personally connected to the individuals in the music program so they feel this church is their family, especially during troubled times.

To find even more ways for church members and friends to contribute musically to the life of the church.

To find more ways to make services musically engaging for the children.

To encourage teenagers who are interested in running the sound system.

To raise funds to buy the teal Singing the Journey hymnals for the sanctuary.