

Social Activities Committee Annual Report 2012-2013

The primary goal of the Social Activities Committee is to inject fun into our church community while providing events for UU Nashua members & friends to get to know each other personally.

Social Activities Committee representative Jenn Morton attended an Ending Hunger and Homelessness Project meeting last spring (April 2012). In that meeting the idea to host a monthly Free Community Dinner here at UU Nashua was born. Those dinners began in June 2012, and have continued on the 3rd Sunday of each month ever since. The response from the congregation to the need for volunteers, supplies, and funds to run this dinner has been wonderful. Many congregants have enjoyed cooking the meal, baking a dessert, setting up the dining room, serving the meal, or helping with clean up. THANK YOU! Reviews from the Community Dinner patrons are positive. We see many of the same faces from month to month, as well as some new ones as word gets out that we are a safe place to come for a free meal. Recently, a Community Dinner Committee has formed. This Committee (Karen Leonard, Marie Sias, Jamie Reifsnyder, Frona Avery, Barbara Pugh, Keith Fletcher, John Sanders, Eileen Herring) will do the hard work necessary to coordinate these monthly dinners throughout the next year. Please contact any of those people or Jenn Morton if you would like to help, or sign up online at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E044DABAF2DA75-ending>

Over the summer of 2012 we arranged a beach day (meeting at Wallis Sands State Park in Rye, NH), a baseball game night (to see the Silver Knights play at Holman Stadium in Nashua), and 2 highly attended Cookouts at Greeley Park (the latter of in August, served as an introduction to our new Interim Minister, Rev. Olivia Holmes).

In October 2012, we dusted off our thinking caps to host a Trivia Night, all proceeds from which went to the Community Dinner fund.

Thanksgiving brought the 4th annual UU Nashua Thanksgiving, with over 40 people attending our Thanksgiving day meal. It has been a pleasure and a true labor of love for Michelle & I to host these dinners over the past 4 years. Our children have enjoyed spending the day with their UU Nashua friends. We have all felt the love and support of our church family, for which

we are incredibly grateful on this special holiday and every day. We feel it is time for us to do something different though, so we are looking for a new volunteer who is willing to coordinate the 2013 Thanksgiving Dinner.

In December, the Social Activities Committee coordinated a cookie swap. For a couple of hours on a chilly December afternoon we gathered to visit, drink tea, and trade cookies. Once all the cookie swap participants had accumulated a plate of cookies to take home, the remaining cookies were packaged up to take to UU Nashuans who are sometimes unable to make it to church or events. Recipients seemed surprised and touched by the gift of homemade treats.

March 2013 brought an encore of Trivia and the Annual Spring Egg Hunt. Both events were well attended. White Wing's Board was instrumental in organizing and publicizing the Trivia event which benefitted the Donna Purkhiser Memorial Scholarship Fund. THANK YOU!

On April 19 the Social Activities Committee and Lifespan Religious Education's Popcorn Theology (led by Jerry Ross) combined efforts to offer a Pot Luck Dinner followed by a screening of the movie, *Invictus*. This event was well-received and we will plan to do it again.

The Social Activities Committee is the "least-commitment, most-fun" Committee of which you will ever be a part. We are always looking for new members! All it takes is your idea and effort to get an event organized. What would you like to see happening in our church... a pot luck dinner, a book club, a bus trip, a bowling night, a scavenger hunt, a Contra dance?? Please find me, Jenn Morton, at jenn_shell@yahoo.com and I will help you get started.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenn Morton