

A photograph of a red lighthouse on a sandy dune overlooking the ocean under a blue sky with light clouds. The lighthouse has a yellow light at the top.

# NORTHERN LIGHT

Newsletter of the North Unitarian Universalist Congregation

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## June 2012

### Rev.Elations!

Rev. Ritchie is taking a well-deserved study break for June and July, leaving Intern Minister Rachel Baker will have primary responsibility. Rev.Elations will return in August.

### InTurnings

Today, as I write this it is hot and muggy. It feels like summer! This time of year always feels like a time of transition. The time to put away the winter clothes and pull out the summer clothes. It is the time of graduations. It is the time when our NUUC children come together in the one room school house religious education program in Fellowship Hall. It is the time of cookouts and vacations. Often summer is a time to slow down and enjoy a cold glass of lemonade in the shade of a leafy tree. What does your summer look like?

I am also in a time of transition. I graduated from Starr King School for the Ministry last week. My internship officially concluded at the end of May, but I am honored and excited to have the opportunity to stay on with you all for two more months. While the Rev. Dr. Susan Ritchie takes a brief study leave I will have the opportunity to have primary ministerial responsibility in June and July. Quite a few ministerial internships conclude with intern ministers staying on with their teaching congregations to gain additional experience. I am deeply grateful that we get to have more time together.

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## Social Justice

The NUUC Social Action Committee typically meets the first Sunday of the month after service. The next meeting will be on **Sunday, June 3**, after service in the vestibule off the sanctuary. For more information, please feel free to attend a committee meeting or talk to any member of your Social Action Committee. Contact Chair Tracy Steinbrenner at [tracystein@att.net](mailto:tracystein@att.net) for questions or to reconfirm the next meeting date. Won't you join us?

### **Fair Trade Sale: June 10**

The Social Action Committee will hold its monthly Fair Trade Sale on Sunday, June 10 (held the second Sunday of most months). Several varieties of coffees and teas will be available, as well as delicious chocolates. Coffee and tea flavors vary each month, so be sure to check back at each sale to see what is new. See Brandy or Paul Montgomery for more information ([brandy.montgomery@gmail.com](mailto:brandy.montgomery@gmail.com))

### **Fair Trade Coffee Organizers**

**Needed:** The Social Action

During this time of transition NUUC is welcoming our new Director of Religious Education and Administrative Assistant, Lily Kunning. Lily has jumped right in and has begun scheduling lead and assistant teachers for the summer RE program and sorting through our shared office. I am looking forward to working with her to reorganize the Religious Education supplies and files in the Nielsen House and Fellowship Hall soon!

The Membership Committee is gearing up to sponsor a series of social gatherings over the summer to get to know your NUUC neighbors and to help build deeper connections within our religious community. It sounds like these gatherings will be great fun and I hope you will all have a chance to participate!

May these days of transition be smooth, warm, not too hot, and bring summer surprises!

Blessings,

Rachel

Intern Minister

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## REcognition

Greetings from your new Director of Religious Education! I am so very pleased and honored that you have given me the opportunity to work with your congregation.

For those that do not know me, allow me to introduce myself. I am a student at Starr King School for the Ministry, where I am finishing my Master's of Divinity. My calling is to work with children and youth, and as such,

I plan on getting my RE credential from the UUA. I have worked and volunteered in the RE programs of three UU churches before this one: The First Unitarian Church of Oakland (CA), the Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists (CA), and the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta (OH).

I have grand plans for the RE program here. I am currently writing a multi-religious and multicultural curriculum as part of my master's degree, and will be using some of those lesson plans here in our RE program. The curriculum focuses on the world's religions and peoples, with an emphasis on social justice and people's history- so it is

Committee is looking for two people to take over the Fair Trade Coffee sales this fall, after our summer sales hiatus. If interested in keeping the Coffee Sales going, please contact Tracy Steinbrenner at [tracystein@att.net](mailto:tracystein@att.net) or current coordinators Brandy and Paul Montgomery.

### Rummage Sale- It's Coming!

Have you heard? NUUC is going to have a Rummage Sale on Friday and Saturday, August 10 and 11! This will be a fabulous rummage sale and significant fund-raiser for NUUC in which we will create a regular "department store" in Fellowship Hall and fill it to the brim. So as you do your spring cleaning, please consider setting aside those clothes, books, knick-knacks, tools, dishes, glassware, furnishings, appliances, etc. that you no longer want and donate them to the Rummage Sale. We'll even have a truck to pick up your bigger items.

While you're thinking about this upcoming fund-raiser, please consider donating some time. This will be a big 2-day sale that will need 5 days to set up. We'll need the help of many volunteers to do setup, display, pricing, sales, and cleanup. Once we begin setting up for the sale, we'll need some folks to arrange the items every afternoon and evening that we can display. Items will need to be priced as well. Also, if you have any ideas about how to increase our advertising, let Bob or Marty Keith know. Finally (but importantly), can you work a shift on the Friday and/or Saturday of the sale? Look for a Rummage Sale sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

"very UU".

I will be working with Rev. Ritchie to coordinate and plan for more all ages worship services that include a healthy dose of child and youth participation. My plan is to prepare lessons a few weeks in advance for each level that prepare for the all ages service and full participation. The first of these will be in December, to commemorate [Chalica](#).

I will be teaching the OWL Sexuality Education program to our 7th grade and up youth this fall and will start by hosting a parent orientation in October for parents interested in their youth participating.

But I cannot do this work alone. I need your help! I am looking for RE teachers for this summer (we currently do not have enough to run the program). If you have a few Sundays this summer, I would love to work with you- even if you have no previous experience. I will provide a curriculum, too!

Blessings Bright and Dark,  
Lily

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### Music Notes

Another great choir season has come to a close. I would personally like to thank all the members of the NUUC Choir for their hard work and dedication this year. These talented souls, who get out of bed early every Sunday morning to come to choir rehearsal, deserve an extra round of applause. A special thanks goes to Wade Jones, our accomplished accompanist, for his flexibility and musical genius.

During the months of June, July and August, we invite all members of the congregation to perform special music during worship services. At least two performers are needed each week for the musical interlude and offertory (double offertories on the first Sunday of each month.) Pianists are especially needed during Wade Jones' vacation days this summer.

I am delighted to present the following musicians during the month of June:

## Pride Parade, NUUC Organizer Needed

The Social Action Committee is looking for an organizer for the Columbus Pride Parade for our congregation. The parade date is Saturday, June 16. If interested in organizing the event for the NUUC congregation, please contact Tracy Steinbrenner at [tracystein@att.net](mailto:tracystein@att.net).

## Foray into Fresh

I have a confession. I'm a bit enamored with food. You could even say that I'm obsessed. A year ago I adopted a nearly-vegan diet for health reasons, and since then I have been exploring the wide, wide world of plant foods. I still can't call myself a vegetarian, but I try to eat that way most of the time. I constantly think about finding new recipes and trying them all the time. I've enjoyed adding lentil tacos, Ethiopian cuisine, and sundry veggie burgers to my recipe repertoire. I've learned how to make almond, soy, rice, and pumpkin seed milks (and then decided to buy them from the store anyway). I've had a wide variety of successes and failures over the past year, and enjoyed not only the flavors, but the increased energy and healthfulness I feel as I eat more whole foods. In short, I love eating plants!

I've noticed that there are quite a few experienced vegetarians in our congregation, and also some others who are simply adding more plants to their diets.

I'm hoping that some of you might be interested in sharing recipes (and food). How and when would be up to participants: We could host our own "food network" style demonstrations, hold potlucks, email recipes, or just get together and make tamales or other

June 3: Sarabeth Mahusky-Petras sings "One of Us."

June 10: The NUUC Recorder Ensemble will play for the musical interlude.

June 17: Darlene Tschudy and Marty Keith will perform a flute and piano duet "To A Wild Rose."

June 24: Sopranos Barb Lubberger and Lauren Richards will sing "Laudamus Te."

Would you like to play for an offertory in June? This is the perfect opportunity for kids because we only need about 2-3 minutes of music. Contact me to sign up for a date.

Musically yours,  
Marlene Hartzler, Music Director  
[marlenemetz@yahoo.com](mailto:marlenemetz@yahoo.com)

## President's Column

Lately I've been playing with word clouds as a way to visually see complexity and what is important. According to Wikipedia these are known as a tag cloud as follows: A tag cloud (word cloud, or weighted list in visual design) is a visual representation for text data, typically used to depict keyword metadata (tags) on websites, or to visualize free form text. 'Tags' are usually single words, and the importance of each tag is shown with font size or color. This format is useful for quickly perceiving the most prominent terms and for locating a term alphabetically to determine its relative prominence.

Here's one version of a cloud based on our covenant, mission, proposed vision, and proposed core values. I like this because the biggest words seem true to me about our NUUC community. Let me know your thoughts.

vegetarian treats. I am hoping that we can get together 2 or 3 times this summer and share our favorite recipes and the best foods of the season.

If you are interested in sharing your vegetarian and vegan recipes with others in the congregation by demonstrating, or if you are simply interested in learning some new recipes, Please email me at [atbeccamorse@gmail.com](mailto:atbeccamorse@gmail.com) or approach me now at church. You don't need to be a vegetarian or vegan to want to participate, you just need to like to eat good food! As you reply, we will communicate to figure out when, where, and how to proceed.

Thank you!  
-Becca Morse

### NUUC Has Gone "Green"

Have you heard the saying: "When you throw something away, where is 'away'?"

By now you're probably aware of the recycling bins located in the kitchen off Fellowship Hall. Bins are available to sort and recycle glass, plastic (#1 & #2), aluminum, and paper/cardboard.

And now this month--Recycling at home? You can now bring your aluminum cans to church and they will be taken to be recycled for you! You may leave them in a bag on the back deck of the church. Bob Keith has graciously offered to take them with the rest of the cans we are recycling. The cash back we receive will go back to the church and we will all be reducing our impact on the earth! It's amazing how much "trash" a small group of people can recycle! If you have questions or suggestions please contact Cathy Rodeheffer at [rodeheffer\\_cathy@yahoo.com](mailto:rodeheffer_cathy@yahoo.com)

**Shop for NUUC**



I like that community is the most prominent word. I'm looking forward to this summer when there will be an opportunity for our community to meet and enjoy getting to know each other in a different setting.

Soon it will officially summer - with the longest day of sun light. In this season, we refresh our minds and bodies with vacations and reconnect with family and friends. It is special time.

Laura Howe

### Treasurer's Report

Outlined below is a summary of the financial report presented to members of your Finance Committee and Board of Trustees for the month of April, 2012:

Item	Actual	Budgeted
2011 Pledges	572	0
2012 Pledges	11,057	11,539
Non-Pledges	925	0
Rental Revenue	135	167
Transfer of Capital	0	476
Ways & Means	11	353
Total Income	12,700	12,535
Total Expenses	13,659	12,535
Year-to-Date		
2011 Pledges	3,282	0
2012 Pledges	42,109	46,157
Non-Pledges	2,858	0
Rental Revenue	493	667
Transfer of Capital	0	1,903
Ways & Means	447	1,412
Total Income	49,188	50,139
Total Expenses	49,355	50,139

## **Delaware County Community Market**

The Delaware County Community Market is a fascinating new venture in downtown Delaware. A year-round, non-profit market, you can shop there for groceries, handmade foods and other items, and household goods, and then direct 20% of the profits to your favorite non-profit. (Yes, NUUC is on the list of nonprofits to choose from!) The market is open 7 days a week (10-6 weekdays and 10-4 weekends). For more information, go to [www.dccmc.com](http://www.dccmc.com).

### **Kroger Plus Cards**

If you haven't already registered (or renewed) your Kroger Plus card with the Community Rewards program, please consider designating NUUC as your recipient. Our Kroger rewards continue to add up...we continue to receive rewards checks, and the money does add up! The Kroger Rewards program runs from May to May. So, April is our renewal month. All current participants SHOULD HAVE RE-ENROLLED IN APRIL to continue earning rewards for the 2012-2013 enrollment period. New enrollees can enroll at any time but, once enrolled, will need to renew each April thereafter.

If you haven't registered or need to update your participation, it's easy: go to [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com), click on "OHIO" and click on "Enroll." All participants must have a valid online account at Kroger.com and must sign up online to participate.

Please don't delay, the sooner you enroll (or renew), the sooner your purchases start counting toward another donation for NUUC! (Should you need it, our NUUC Nonprofit Organization Number is 84869).

Respectfully Submitted,  
Koraleen Stavish, Treasurer

## **Loose Change Collections**

Your Social Action Committee will continue its "Loose Change" project into 2012 by collecting your loose coins during the worship service on Sunday, June 10, as it has on the second Sunday of each month throughout the past several years.

Upcoming collections are earmarked for the benefit of Equality Ohio (June) and our annual School Supply Drive for the youth served by the Delaware Co. Juvenile Probation Department (July and August).

Deserving recipients of our monthly Loose Change collections are always under discussion. For questions regarding the "Loose Change" project or to suggest a recipient, contact Chair Tracy Steinbrenner at [tracystein@att.net](mailto:tracystein@att.net) or any member of your Social Action Committee.

### **2012 Loose Change Collection Recap Month Collected \$ Amount Donated to: Total**

Jan \$ 96.00 Out of the Darkness \$96.00  
Feb \$128.53  
March \$75.83 Solar Sisters (Himalayan Light Foundation) Total: \$204.36  
April \$70.88 No More Deaths \$70.88  
May (total to be reported next month)

## **Spring Spruce-up Day Saturday June 2**

Mark your calendars...on Saturday June 2nd, we will be holding Spring Spruce-up Day to get both the church and Nielsen House ready for summer. We'll be working in the morning and early afternoon and doing a variety of tasks both indoors and outdoors. Please consider helping out on this day. You could work for a few hours, half a day, or more... whatever works best for you. Any help will be appreciated. If June 2nd doesn't fit your schedule, you can select a task and do it when you can. Look for the sign up sheet and list of tasks posted in Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions about this event, please contact a member of the Building & Grounds Committee (Bob Keith, Brad Dana, Barry Fagan, Roger Orwick, John Rodeheffer, or

## Thanks for Your Faithful Giving!

Your faithful and consistent giving is so appreciated and necessary to staying on budget.

Remember: you can always mail in an offering or pledge check, even if your schedule keeps you away from services. Just mail it to: NUUC, Attn: Lily, P. O. Box 541, Lewis Center, OH 43035 (please note the postal service will NOT deliver to our physical address, so be sure to use the post office box address).

Statements for the first half of 2012 (for giving from January 1 through June 30, 2012) will be sent out in mid-July. In the meantime, whenever you have questions about your 2012 planned giving or other pledging matters, feel free to call the church office at 740-657-8081 and talk to Rev. Ritchie ([RevRitchie@aol.com](mailto:RevRitchie@aol.com)) or Lily Shahar Kunning ([nuuc.dre.aa@gmail.com](mailto:nuuc.dre.aa@gmail.com)).

## Air Conditioner Wanted!

Wanted: an air conditioner for the Nielsen House. This summer is beginning to feel like a hot one! Even though Rachel Baker spent some very hot time in Guinea, West Africa she would love to borrow an air conditioner for June and July. Please contact Rachel at [InternMinisterNUUC@gmail.com](mailto:InternMinisterNUUC@gmail.com) or (781)975-6662.

## Upcoming Save the Dates!

Sunday, June 3: RE Appreciation Day!

Come celebrate the RE program and honor the gifts of the lead and assistant teachers for the past year. As a congregation we will learn a new song together!

Sunday, August 5: This will be Intern Minister Rachel Baker's last Sunday with us. Bring your favorite

Gary Rusk).

## Adopt-a-Flowerbed

Again this year we will be doing an activity called Adopt-a-Flowerbed. For this activity, we will divide all the flowerbeds around the church and Nielsen House up into 4-foot wide plots, and people can select one or more plots. Then you can plant flowers in your plot(s) and care and tend them during the growing season.

Participants are encouraged to make "catchy" signs for their plot(s). Some of the names already being discussed include "Jan's Jungle," "Grimshaw's Gardens," "Keith's Korner," etc. We think this activity will be popular for old and young alike. It will be a particularly fun project to do with your children.

A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Just sign up and select your specific plot(s) from a drawing showing all the available flowerbed plots. You can sign up for as many plots as you want, with plots being available on a first-come basis. Plots are outlined by pink-colored strings and marked with a number tag.

Participants in the Adopt-a-Flowerbed activity are asked to abide by the following:

- 1) Only flowers should be planted, which can be either annuals or perennials. But no bushes or trees (flowering or otherwise) should be planted.
- 2) No rocks or timbers should be placed on a plot.
- 3) Participants will be responsible to water, weed, and tend their flowerbed plot.
- 4) Please leave the plot boundary strings between you and your neighbor so that you and your neighbor will know exactly whose plantings are whose. But if you have multiple, adjacent plots, you can remove the strings within your plots.

We'll have a sign-making activity at the Spring Spruce-up Day on Saturday June 2th for which all the materials will be provided to make signs for the flowerbed plots. We'll have bare wood sign cutouts, a wood burner to do lettering, paints, and sealer.

The Building and Grounds Committee is organizing and administering the project. If you have questions, please contact Bob Keith at 740-369-1919 or [bobkeith@frontier.com](mailto:bobkeith@frontier.com).

salad and/or dessert to share and thank Rachel for her service to our congregation as we send her off to pursue her career in ministry.

### The Doctrine of Christian Discovery: a Rev. Ritchie Talk at First UU Columbus

The Doctrine of Discovery with the Rev. Dr. Susan Ritchie will be on June 7 at 7 pm at the FUUC in Columbus. As Columbus observes the 200th anniversary and our General Assembly prepares to take a stand on the doctrine crafted 500 years ago to give spiritual and legal support for explorers like Columbus, social historian, UU minister and UUA trustee Susan Ritchie takes it on.

Why should we care? Those papal bulls that declared some humans inferior still form the basis of our foreign policy and have been the basis of U.S. laws and policy. Why should you attend? Rev. Ritchie's history-with-humor is unparalleled.

### SHARE Projects

Thanks so much to all of you who have been bringing in items for the SHARE Projects recently! Spring has "sprung," but evenings are still chilly... so please continue to remember the "Share" health kit and sleeping bag projects which benefit the homeless in the vicinity of Delaware Co. and into Franklin Co.

The SHARE Health Kit items are so greatly needed. There are virtually no public facilities for a homeless person to take a shower in the areas where the Health Kits

## Refreshment Volunteers Needed

One NUUC tradition that carries on week to week is coffee, cookies, and conversation after services. A very special thank you to all of you who have taken a turn at setting up and clean-up after our weekly refreshment tasks this year.

Could you spare a bit of time some Sunday to help? The process is easy--all you have to do is follow instructions that are already posted in the kitchen on where everything is and how to make coffee (if you don't know how). And then clean up after and put things back. Everything is provided for you. (But, feel free to try out a new cookie recipe or bring a dessert left from a meeting or family function!)

This is the perfect opportunity to work as a couple, or grab a friend to help. If everyone took a turn, no one would have to do it every week. And it's fun! We are currently scheduling through June 2012--see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for available date. For questions, please contact Jan Bourke at [jdb135@wowway.com](mailto:jdb135@wowway.com) or Teri Cornell at [imuuteri@yahoo.com](mailto:imuuteri@yahoo.com).

## Next Blood Drive: Monday, June 4

The next NUUC Red Cross blood drive is scheduled for Monday, June 4, 2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. If you donated on or before April 9, enough time has passed that you could be eligible to donate on June 4 (barring illness or some other disqualifier).

Some past scheduling issues have now been streamlined. Some folks who donated at the UMC drive in February experienced a long wait time. A planned master schedule was yet been operational then--donors were being scheduled at NUUC, the UMC and the Red Cross central office, which resulted in multiple donors being scheduled at the same time. A system is now in place to alleviate that problem.

We will not have a sign up sheet for our upcoming blood drive on June 4. All scheduling will be done on the Red Cross master schedule.

**To schedule an appointment visit**  
[www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) sponsor code



are delivered. Imagine how nice it is to have your own items (towel, washcloth, soap, razor, toothbrush & paste, comb, deodorant, wet wipes, etc.). Many will simply have to use the small sink in a bathroom....some wash up in the local rivers.

You can view a list of the most-needed items on the "Share Card" found at the website at [www.shareyourbest.us](http://www.shareyourbest.us).

Share is always in need of supplies to make more sleeping bags - please donate your used but clean bedding and towels. For additional details, visit the website at [www.shareyourbest.us](http://www.shareyourbest.us).

For info about these projects or other ways you can help, please contact Donna Imel at Share at [donna@shareyourbest.us](mailto:donna@shareyourbest.us) (177 N. Union St., Delaware, OH 43015) or contact our NUUC coordinator Lynn [Foremansbgmacb@hotmail.com](mailto:Foremansbgmacb@hotmail.com) or 740-513-4876. The Doctrine of Christian Discovery

## Montana De Luz Orphanage

Are you looking for a way to connect to the global community in a way that makes a difference in the world and the life of a child? Are you up for a life changing and affirming experience? Montana de Luz is an orphanage in Honduras caring for children affected by HIV/AIDS. A service trip for Unitarian Universalists is being planned for August 8-15. The group will work at the orphanage on maintenance and other projects during the day while enjoying time with the children playing and interacting in the late afternoons. There is an excursion day included to travel and see nearby cultural sights. The all inclusive cost for this trip is \$1,800 and fundraising tools are provided.

**UnitUnivCh.** If this proves to difficult or confusing, you may simply email me ([jrodeheffer@insight.rr.com](mailto:jrodeheffer@insight.rr.com)) and I can schedule for you. I will have access to the master schedule and can immediately confirm your desired appointment time. Slots are available every fifteen minutes from 2:00 p.m.- 6:45 p.m.

Let's continue to show our willingness to contribute to this life-saving opportunity **"TO SERVE HUMANITY"** . Thank you!

John Rodeheffer NUUC Blood Drive Coordinator

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It's time to think about travel commitments and deposits for this trip. For more information, please visit [www.montanadeluz.org](http://www.montanadeluz.org). If you are interested in this trip, please contact NUUC member Erika Shell Castro soon at [aterika@montanadeluz.org](mailto:aterika@montanadeluz.org) or 614-403-8755 cell.

The Montana De Luz orphanage staff has put out a call for much-needed personal care items and school supplies. Collection will be ongoing; items will be delivered by folks making periodic trips to the orphanage (including our member Erika Shell Castro). See the bulletin board for "wish list" or visit [www.montanadeluz.org](http://www.montanadeluz.org). (The May 13 NUUC "Loose Change" collection will benefit "Montana de Luz." Please give generously - gracias!)



Try it FREE today.