

Neshoba Church- JANUARY 2012 Newsletter

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The purpose of Neshoba Church is to provide a caring community that fosters spiritual growth through free thought and respect for personal beliefs. This church seeks the wisdom of many religious traditions and encourages the expression of our ideals in service to all people.

Neshoba Church: A Unitarian Universalist Congregation

January 2012 Worship Calendar

Sunday Morning Worship begins at 11 a.m.

Jan 1 Sermon Topic: An Imperfect Circle

Our pulpit guest will be Lynne Shultz and this service is about New Year about resolutions, perfectionism, tolerance, and loving what is, both in ourselves and in each other. This New Year's Sunday is a multigenerational worship service. There will be no RE classes. The nursery will be closed. DRE Sarah Osborne will be out of the office.

Jan 8 Sermon Topic: A Young UU in Ghana: The Role of Service in Justice

Emily Woodbury, a Georgetown University senior who grew up in our Neshoba UU congregation, paints a picture of the five months she spent living and interning with a midwife in rural Ghana, West Africa while thoughtfully reflecting on the influence that immediate contact with incredible poverty and international public service had on the spirituality she gained from fifteen years of UU religious education."

Jan 15 Sermon Topic: Prophecy, Power, and a Vision to Change Hearts
(MLK Sunday) by Rev. Cynthia

Jan 22 Sermon Topic: Belonging, Be Longing

By Rev. Cynthia

Jan 29 Sermon Topic: Plugged In: Toward a Theology of Technology

By Rev. Cynthia

IN THE INTERIM:

*Bring a Friend Sunday,
February 5, 2012*

By Rev. Cynthia Prescott



You don't have to believe in God to serve God!

Her parents are devoutly, traditionally religious. They also are devoutly active in a number of social, political and community causes. Committed to their faith, yet devoid of zealotry, they do not believe God demands that we turn our backs on the world. Their God wants to draw us into fuller, deeper engagement with one another, with our neighbors, and with the earth.

She is like her parents in nearly every way but one. She is a self-described *mystic, social activist, atheist*. She is not in rebellion against her parents' faith. Nor does she think people who believe in God or gods are fools. (That's popular misinformation about people like her.) She isn't opposed to church. She's just never found a church where her views are affirmed and welcomed.

He was raised Catholic by strictly observant parents. Although he likes some of the ritual aspects of Catholicism, for example the "bells and smells" of Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, he definitely did not like the rigid grip that religion had on his family, and hence on him, when he was growing up. These days he's not sure what he believes beyond "not that".

He'd like to explore religion and spirituality in greater depth, especially among seekers like himself, but he's never gotten around to carving out the time. He might be interested in going back to

church, if only he could find one where freedom of belief is respected and encouraged. Does a church like that even exist?

People who do not presently attend church, either because they never have, or because they've outgrown the religion in which they were raised are the fastest-growing segment of new Unitarian

Universalists. "She" and "he" are composites of actual people, one of whom is my formerly Catholic former husband, whose discovery of Unitarian Universalism was a turning point in his life.

February 5 is "Bring a Friend Sunday" at Neshoba. The title of the service, *You Don't Have to Believe to Serve*, speaks to the many ways Unitarian Universalists go about practicing our religion of justice and compassion in a spirit of gratitude, adventure, and free religious inquiry. Yes, *she* and *he*, a church like that really does exist.

An old gospel hymn declares, *Someone's in the valley, trying to get home*. Alas, not everyone wants to be a "churched" Unitarian Universalist. But for those who might find a home at Neshoba, you could turn out to be a light in the valley for the friend you invite to join you on February 5.

Blessings,

Rev. Cynthia

Guest at Your Table

On Sunday, Nov. 20th, Rev. Cynthia, DRE Sarah Osborne, and the children of Neshoba handed out "Guest at Your Table" boxes. These boxes represent the UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) project to bring awareness to such issues as safe & affordable water; protecting people affected by disasters; promoting workers' rights; and advancing civil liberties and democratic processes. (For more info, please visit : <http://www.uusc.org/guest>)

Neshobans are asked to set these boxes at their table and use these them to collect spare change. Please convert your change to "checks" made payable to UUSC and return to Neshoba on **Sunday, Jan 8th 2012.**

If you have any questions, please e-mail office@neshobauu.org or call 266-2626

*Director of Religious
Education (DRE)*

Sarah Osborne, DRE



When I went away to college, I lived with my grandmother. It was quite an experience. Being the oldest of 4 kids from New Jersey, I was used to a lot of chaos and noise in everyday life. Moving to Memphis, and living with my grandmother was a major change. At first, it was way too quiet for me. With just her and me in the house, there was a lot of silence. I wasn't really comfortable with that silence. I would turn on the TV, turn on the radio, put on a fan. I needed a little bit of crazy to make me feel comfortable. Eventually Grandmother and I settled into a routine. I would often come home from school for lunch. She and I watched Jerry Springer and reveled at the wacky lives on display. I worked at the library and would pick up old movies for us to watch on the weekends. Our favorites were old Charlie Chan mysteries and Marilyn Monroe flicks (*Some Like It Hot* was the best).

Another thing Grandmother and I liked to do together was look at catalogs. She must have been on some mailing list, because she got so many different ones. My favorite was the *Smithsonian* catalog. It was full of art reproductions, toys, book ends, umbrellas that looked like Monet's water lilies. Cool stuff. One day, I was looking at the *Smithsonian* catalog and I saw a print by artist Melissa Harris that left a permanent impression on my soul. The print, in a blurry watercolor style, shows a woman in a forest of pine trees that is reaching towards a star in the night sky. The woman, with long flowing light brown hair and wearing a pink dress, is just inches away from wrapping her hands around that star. The "piece de resistance" is the title of the art piece: *The Woman Who Wanted It All*.

I knew that I needed this art print someday. In my mind, this piece of art became my guiding star for the rest of my college career (and then some). All resolutions and promises I made myself were put into that image. If I had a goal, I visualized it being that star the woman was reaching for. Upon graduating from college, my parents and grandmother bought a signed copy of the art print. It

serves as a reminder of my accomplishments and all the things I have yet to do.

My time spent living with my grandmother is a cherished memory. I learned so much about her strength and determination. We bonded through simple moments. I learned to enjoy the silence. And like her, I grew into a woman who wanted it all. I'm still reaching towards my star, resolute in being the best person I can be. But I still have much to learn. As the New Year begins, I hope you find strength, comfort and support among those who love you, like I did with my grandmother. And as the image portrays in *The Woman Who Wanted It All*, may the stars be within your reach.

Blessed be,

Sarah

Director of Religious Education

Adult Religious Education:

Carrying the Flame-The Joys and Concerns of Life as a Unitarian Universalist

Join Director of Religious Education, Sarah Osborne, for this month's adult RE program with discussions on the joys and concerns of living life as Unitarian Universalists.

With guidance from the book *Tending the Flame: The Art of Unitarian Universalist Parenting* by UU religious educator, Michelle Richards, we will cover such topics as ethics, faith, friendships, teachable moments, rituals, holidays, spiritual practices, social justice, death, and love.

Although Richards' book is geared towards Unitarian Universalist parenting, our classes will take a broader scope to include a variety of lifespan experiences.

If you want to explore our Unitarian Universalist faith, ask questions, and engage in lively conversation, then you've found the right place.

Classes will be held on Sundays, 9:45-10:45am in the Susan B. Anthony room, from January 8th through January 29th. For more information, please contact Sarah dre@neshobauu.org

December Board Meeting

The Neshoba Board of Directors met on Tuesday, December 13. Topics of discussion and actions taken included the following:

- Finance-related matters:
- Southwest District finance/stewardship consultant Gaye Webb has drafted a Preliminary Report containing a list of financial recommendations that might improve the financial health of Neshoba Church
- A Congregational Meeting will be held on January 22, 2012 to discuss Neshoba's financial situation and present possible solutions to the congregation.
- Prior to the Congregational Meeting, members of the congregation will receive a letter explaining the church's financial situation and proposing various solutions.
- The "Interim Ministry Third Appraisal" must be submitted by January 15, 2012, and Board members will be heavily involved in this final appraisal.
- The Board approved a revised version of the "Recognition of Church Groups Policy."
- The interviewing process for ministerial candidates will begin in January 2012.

All church members are invited to attend the monthly Board meetings, which are held at the church at 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. The next Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 10th.

State of the Union Address: What All Neshobans Need to Know

January 22nd, after the service

Please mark your calendars and join us for a Congregational meeting on January 22nd after church lead by Cathy Chapman, Neshoba Board President, with contributions from Will Batts and Jack Seubert. For more info, please email office@neshobauu.org

Ministerial Search Committee

The Ministerial search Committee would like to again thank our Neshoba congregation for its interest in the Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop and your show of support to the Search Committee. We believe that we all came away from BCT weekend with a deeper understanding of who we are and what our goals are moving forward in the search for our settled minister.

We are now in the process of receiving Ministerial Records from candidates interested in Neshoba and are exchanging packets with the candidates who we would like more information about and who we possibly see as our future minister. We will carefully study the information we receive from them, as we are sure they are thoroughly scrutinizing the materials they receive from us.

Our next step will be to discuss whether we want to continue dialog and interview any of the candidates. Please feel free to contact any member of the Search Committee with questions or concerns. While we cannot divulge any specific information about candidates, we have a continuing desire to keep the lines of communication open.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact one of the members of the committee at search@neshobauu.org

Thank You

The following people made to Neshoba in December in the name of Ann Garrison: Ann Florindo, Tom Crutcher, and Dan & Carrol Mayfield, Bernita & Jim Brown, Jack & Tricia Seubert.

Dear Friends,

We have made a donation to the church in gratitude for your many acts of kindness and generosity during the past year. Each email, each card, phone call, and donation of blood donation has been deeply appreciated. Your caring lifted our spirits and helped sustain us. Neshoba is a truly special community. Our best wishes to everyone for a healthy new year. -Burt and Connie Sharp

Items Needed:

When you are out shopping think about picking up items that may be used at Neshoba. These items are always used and we never have enough!

Roll paper towels
Toilet paper
Pinesol cleaner
Dishwashing detergent
Hand sanitizer
Liquid hand soap
Copy paper (white and colors)
Pens and pencils
Paper towels for bathroom dispensers (C-fold - available at Costco and Sams)

Wednesday Night Live

Join us every Wednesday night for social time, inspiration, and learning opportunities from 6-9pm. Childcare is available. Dinner is served from 6-7pm with a \$5 per person or \$15 maximum donation. Programs, games and a movie are available each week, beginning at 7pm. Please call the office at 266-2626 or e-mail office@neshobauu.org for more info.

January Programs:

Jan. 4th - Dark. No WNL Activities.

Jan. 11th Neshoba Sacred Circle CUUPS – Full Moon Ritual. Join us as we gather to celebrate the full month this month. January is also known as the Wolf Moon.

Jan. 18th – Evening Vespers Service - Readings and Reflections. A Vespers service or Readings and Reflections will offered this evening at 7:00PM, led by Rev. Cynthia.

Jan. 25th Neshoba Sacred Circle CUUPS Wandmaking Workshop. Join us for our wandmaking workshop. This will be our first workshop on crafting your own magical tools. Learn some history and lore about wands and the power and correspondences they represent. We will be making our own wands for you to take home and consecrate for your own use. April Fowler and Lisa McGeorge will leading us this evening.

Coming in February to WNL

Starting in February, Wednesday Night Live will host a coffee house music night on the 1st Wednesday of each month.

Neshoba Church is full of talented people. If you would like to share your talent, please e-mail Lorena at lorena.rostig@neshobauu.org or Stephen Guenther at membership@neshobauu.org.

WOW

The Neshoba Women of Wisdom (WOW) January meeting will be held Wednesday, January 4 at Cheryl Cholavchuk house on the site of the old Main Library (@Peabody and Barksdale). The actual address will be forthcoming. Please contact Linda Woodbury at wow@neshobauu.org or Merilynn Rowan for address and more information.

Spirit Doll Workshop

Wouldn't it be nice to have someone supporting you, fighting for you, reminding you of what you need, showing you the way? A sort of Amazon, shaman, and guardian angel all rolled into one. Imagine you could create a guide to watch over you. What skills would you give your spirit guide? Wisdom? Strength? Determination? Would you create a mentor? A warrior? A caretaker? Would your guide fight your battles with you? Help you find inner peace? Or change your life's direction?

Join facilitator Sue Hand for an afternoon of reflection and crafts – we'll visualize and then create a personalized spirit doll designed to meet your life needs. We will meet in the Clara Barton/Florence Nightingale classroom on Saturday January 21st from 1-4pm. There is a class fee of \$3.00 per person to cover the cost of materials. If you have a glue gun, please bring it. You may bring your own bottle and decorative materials but if you don't, there will be a large assortment to choose from. Class size is limited to 15 people, ages fourteen and older, so RSVP today. Childcare will be available if you register by January 11th. For more information or to register, please contact DRE Sarah Osborne dre@neshobauu.org

Book Club

The Neshoba Book Club meets the second Thursday of each month in the Neshoba kitchen. Potluck dinner starts at 7:00, followed by fun book discussion. Please see the bulletin board for a list of upcoming Book Club selections.

Gaia's Garden at Neshoba!

Jan 8th after church (couch room)

Neshoba garden group is organizing now. Please join us after church on Sunday, January 8, 2012, for our first Gaia Garden Group Meeting. (Remember no one is too old or too young to garden.) We will have a short presentation on permaculture principles before we begin planning our gardens. We would love to have a big turnout! Everyone is welcome! For more information, please call the office at 266-2626.

Grocery Connection

Do you shop at Kroger? If your answer is yes, and you don't have a Neshoba card, please see Victor Lendermon after church or call the office at 266-2626.

Ink Jet Recycling

Neshoba can earn \$3 for each undamaged **HP, Dell or Lexmark ink or toner cartridge**. The cartridges can be dropped off in the green box on the shelf immediately to the left of the entrance by the office. For more info, please contact Markus at markus.rostig@neshobauu.org

Foyer Art Update

A huge thank you to Annelise Rostig & Dan Rickard for exhibiting their artwork during Nov & Dec. As the exhibit comes to a close, please note that all paintings and photographs can be purchased for immediate delivery. For more information, please see Markus or call the office at 266-2626.

iGive.com

The new deadline to sign up and get an additional \$10 for Neshoba without any purchase is Jan 9th. If you have not signed up, use this link to get your button <http://www.iGive.co/lj1ed4c> Any questions contact Gail Weesner at office@neshobauu.org

Parent's Time Out (PTO)

Parent's Time Out is a great opportunity to catch a movie, have a quiet bite to eat, or run errands while your kids pester someone else for a change! You deserve a break, and your kids deserve a chance to create lasting relationships with other mini-Neshobans.

Participants are expected to volunteer to watch the kids for an afternoon in the near future & might need to chip in for lunch/snacks (this might be up to \$5 per child & not more than \$10 per family).

The next event is December 10th 12-4pm. Please sign up at least one week in advance of each event. For more information, contact Melissa Mann at office@neshobauu.org

Family Friendly

Circle Suppers!

Interested in getting to know other families at Neshoba with young children? Starting in January Neshoba will begin a trial period of Circle Suppers geared towards people with elementary school aged kids and younger.

Gatherings will still be on 3rd Saturdays, however the start time will be earlier to allow parents to get their kids in bed at a reasonable hour. The first gathering will be on Saturday, January 21st from 4 - 7 at the Keane-Douglas home. Signup on the bulletin board across from the church office.

For more information or to sign up to host a Circle Supper please contact Trish MacCabe at circlesuppers@neshobauu.org. Thank you!

Mental Health Art

The Mental Health Art Group is for anyone with a mental illness who likes to draw or paint. Members provide their own art supplies. This is an opportunity for mental health consumers to socialize and expand their art skills. It is not a class, just a group of artists who like to share. We meet at Neshoba Church on Mondays from 2pm to 4pm **ONLY WHEN IT IS NOT RAINING**. Space is limited, so please contact Ellen at 758-3130 if you plan to come.

Bond Homes Update

By Linda Holmes

Many thanks to the Neshobans who have, once again, generously given their time and their money to bring some joy to our friends at the Bond Homes. (30 residents and about 10 housekeepers).

The request this year for comforters and sheets was a larger request than usual – in bulk and cost. Your efforts to go above and beyond are commendable and appreciated. Next year, I will ensure that the wish lists are more consistent and more manageable.

Thanks to those that purchased gifts, party snacks, and donated to the Plate Collection. A special thanks to those that traveled to the Bond Homes, many of whom have become “regulars.”

Doris Davis and her friend, Ruth, Ray and Laura Coleman, Carolyn and Victor Lendermon, Trish McCabe, Merilynn Rowan, Miska Shaw, and Mary Pfisterer. Pre-party coordination has become an impressive display of teamwork!

Sparkle Saturday January 7

Join us from 9:00 - 11:30 AM Saturday morning January 7. We need to take down the greens and holiday decorations and store them away. We also have just one more room to paint and we are done with the classroom and restrooms painting project. Please come help us and enjoy the fun and fellowship of working together to make our church beautiful. We will have a light breakfast, coffee, juice and mimosa's for our volunteers.

Young Adult Meetup

Come join the Young Adults Group for food and fun on Sunday afternoon January 15th from 12pm-2pm. We'll meet up at the piano and discuss what to do. Ages 19-30 welcome. Contact Sasha Lanham at ya@neshobauu.org for more information.

Communication Committee

Social Media Workshop: Jan 29 at 12:15pm

All Committee chairs, Staff, & Board Members are encouraged to attend, but everyone is welcome!
Email communication@neshobauu.org for more info



Writers Group

The Writer's Group meets on the 3rd Sunday of each month in the couch room from 12:15-2:00pm.

Writers of all levels of ability and all genres are welcome to attend. You need not plan to present on original work to attend the meeting. For more information contact Sue Hand at writers@neshobauu.org

Sparkling Snow

Surely the snow was sparklier then,
or so it seemed to my child self.
Cocooned in winter wrappings
Laboriously applied
From hair roots to toe nails,
And after one last dash
To the bathroom ...
Rocketing through the kitchen door
Bursting onto the sun-dazzled snow
I was hushed and blinded,
A million twinkling flakes
Clamoring to be noticed at once.

Was it sparklier then, truly?
Cleaner? Purer? Newer?
Or was I simply
Closer to the source of dazzlement,
Catching the morning sun
At its maximum angle?

Perhaps I should greet the next snowfall
On my knees?

Written by Sue Hand
Member of the Neshoba Writers' Group
12/2011

February Newsletter Deadline:

Friday, January 20th at 4pm

If you would like your article included in next month's newsletter, you must submit "cut-and-paste-ready copy" of 100 words or less to office@neshobauu.org by 4pm on the 3rd Friday of each month. If you have any questions, please call 266-2626.

NEWSLETTER/JAN 2012

Neshoba Church

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**Neshoba
Church**

A UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION

Do you receive the 10-Day Forecast and Monthly Newsletter by email? If not, please visit our website to sign up. The 10-Day Forecast is our most comprehensive reminder of events coming up at Neshoba. A hard copy is posted each Friday on the Communications Committee Bulletin Board in the hallway (near the nametags.) For more info, please call the office (266-2626) or e-mail Lorena at communication@neshobauu.org

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To keep our newsletter mailing list updated, please call the church office, 901-266-2626, to let us know if you wish to have your name deleted, added, or your address changed.