
News & Views



The Auckland Unitarian Church

FEBRUARY 2012

SUNDAY SERVICES.

- Sunday Services begin at 10 a.m.
- "Tapestry of Faith" the Unitarian Universalist youth program is provided for school-age children during the service
- We have a toddler play space where parents can listen to the service

5 February: An informal service led by Lini Nyenkamp. Paying off your Cosmic Credit Card. A look at resolving conflict based on the book "Choosing Peace", by Pema Chodron.

12 February: Welcome back service, led by Marilyn MacLachlan. This service will include a Water Communion, everyone is invited to participate. Please bring to the service a small amount of water from a place that is special to you. During the appointed time in the service, we will ask those who would like to participate to one by one pour their water into a large bowl. As the water is added, please share with the congregation why this water is special. The combined water is symbolic of our shared faith coming from many different sources.

WELCOME BACK PICNIC LUNCH. Bring a picnic lunch and your blanket or chairs to the Auckland domain after the service or meet us there at around noon. We will set up around the rotunda and have lunch prior to Music in the park which kicks off at 2PM.

19 February: Service Leader Christine Whelan. "Resistance is futile - isn't it?"

26 February: Service Leader Michael Jones. "In the Absence of Anything, Maybe There's Nothing". A perspective of a journey into atheism. The "Delusion of God" and "God is Not Great" as discussed respectively by Richard Dawkins, Prof. Evolutionary Biology; Oxford and Christopher Hitchens, writer/philosopher; New York. Michael will lead a discussion to be included in the time allotment.

This service will include music from many members of our congregation.

4 March: Sunday Service will be held at the camp at 11 AM. NO SERVICE at the Church. Choir Practice is cancelled.

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Management Committee News

Greetings for the New Year!

Following on from our message in December, we would like to update you on matters relating to the part-time consulting minister position,

In that message we outlined developments to date, including the appointment of the:

- Applicant Screening Committee (to design the recruitment process, develop a job description, advertise the position and identify suitable candidates)
- Candidate Selection Committee (to identify from the suitable applicants candidates to be interviewed).

Last week the Applicant Screening Committee met with the Management Committee chair to develop terms of reference, which include providing monthly progress reports to all members in “News and Views” and through announcements at church. They have already planned their second meeting.

During the past month, some urgent issues have arisen in relation to our building insurance, with our total premium having

increased from around \$8,000 last year to at least \$19,000 this year. This matter raises some fundamental issues that will need to be addressed by the Finance Committee, the Management Committee, the Church Trustees and ultimately by all members of the Church.

Clearly this massive increase in insurance has a significant impact on our ability to meet our already ambitious financial requirements for hiring a consulting minister within the next 3-6 months. For this reason we have asked the Applicant Screening Committee to defer advertising the position until these issues can be addressed.

To help clarify our insurance options, the Management Committee has appointed a small working group to gather as much information as possible from John Barley (our insurance agent) and others. Membership will comprise representation from the Finance Committee (Jonathan Mason), Church Trustees (David Fougere), Building Committee (Gary Bendall/Alan Lynch) and Management Committee (Terry Childs). The options identified will then need to be considered by the Finance Committee, the Management Committee, the Church Trustees, and ultimately by all Church members at an SGM (tentatively scheduled for April).

Needless to say, these developments are disappointing, especially as the Applicant Screening Committee has already begun to plan a very effective recruitment process. We hope, however, to find some way of resolving our financial situation so that we can get back on track with plans for hiring a consulting minister within the coming year. In the meantime, we will ensure that you are kept informed of progress in “News and Views”.

We also ask that all members think about ways to contribute to Sunday services

within the coming months, for example by presenting sermons available from the UUA and GA or suggesting speakers. Karn Cleary and Sally Mabelle look forward to hearing from you.

Betsy Marshall, Stowe Alrutz, Christine Barlow, Brenda Bendall, Shirin Caldwell, Terry Childs, John Graves and Caroline Kelly
2 February 2012

From the Sunday Services/ Worship Committee

We would like to thank everyone who made the Christmas Eve service so successful, it was lovely to see the church looking beautiful and full of happy people, and to have so many members contributing to the service.

We also thank Willem Laman-Trip, Lini Nyenkamp and Sally Mabelle for opening the church throughout January for our less formal Sunday services. We are continuing these through to the first Sunday in February, as it falls in the middle of Waitangi week-end and many people will be making the most of the last long week-end until Easter. Ander will be available for children's RE for each Sunday including 5th February. The Sunday Services Committee will be very sad to see her leave for Victoria University at the end of this month.

The services for the rest of summer will all be at 10 a.m., which suits most people during daylight savings. The evening services on the last Sunday of the month during last winter and spring were very well attended, so Sally or Karn will be contacting members during February to do a quick survey to decide whether to do that again

this winter. The Winter Solstice service will definitely be an evening service.

As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, we are very unlikely to be able to appoint a minister this year, so we are asking for more people to come forward to help us maintain the standard of services we have presented over the last few years. Remember that you do not have to write a sermon yourself, we have access to a huge resource of Unitarian services, through the UUA, the Church of the Larger Fellowship, and through the UK General Assembly. We could arrange for one person to read a sermon and have someone else lead the service for them.

Neither Karn nor Sally are going to be able to present services in the foreseeable future, and we are depending very much on others to volunteer, so we are also very grateful to Lini, Christine Whelan and Marilyn McLachlan for offering already to do services in March and April as well as this month.

Please contact either Sally or Karn directly, if you have ideas for a service or would like to present one. If you don't have their contact details please email Auckland@unitarian.org.nz and your email will be forwarded.

Thanks and best wishes for 2012

Karn & Sally

From the Programme Leadership Council

Welcome to a new year! We look forward to working with all of you again this year. Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday the 21st** of February at Mary's house. If someone from your committee can't be at this meeting please make sure to fill out an update form so we can share your

information and three month agenda with the group.

We have a number of areas where we need volunteers so if you are interested in helping out please let us know. We are currently looking for people willing to:

- put together a new directory
- provide Sunday Sermons (original or reading ones which we can provide)
- put together grant applications
- manage web presence (twitter/meetup)
- assist with social planning and activities
- put together video shorts
- manage book loans

Please contact Auckland@unitarian.org.nz for more information about these projects.

Child Religious Education Programme Update

2011 was a great year for the church's Children's Religious Education program! Ander Alrutz-Stierna was a fantastic teacher with a strong Unitarian background, and the number of children attending each week was high. While 2012 opens with some challenges for our RE program, the foundation we built last year positions us for another great year.

By now you might have heard that Ander will be attending university in Wellington this year. As a result, she has resigned her RE position effective 20 February. I'm sure that, like me, you are saddened to see Ander go but congratulate her and wish her well in this next chapter of her life. Ander did an amazing job with our RE program. The students enjoyed the classes and learned a great deal about our Unitarian faith. Attendance by children and youth on Sunday mornings was spectacular. I hope that we can keep this momentum going during the transitional time that lies ahead.

A search process to find a new RE teacher/coordinator will commence soon. Management Committee's Christine Barlow will again be assisting me with this process. If you know anyone who might be interested in and qualified for the RE coordinator/teacher position, please pass my contact details along to them so that they can contact me about the job. This is a paid position, offering \$50 per Sunday.

In addition to hiring a new RE teacher, the Management Committee has asked me to explore forming a Unitarian Youth Group. The group would be for all intermediate and high school/college students.

Attention Parents: Please let me know the names and ages of your children so that I can determine the number of kids we will have in both our RE and Youth programs!!!

Looking forward to another great year with RE,
Mary Mason

Social Activities

By Willem Laman-Trip and Donna Miers

This month we have a cancellation (train ride) replaced by a walk in Piha. Also the after service welcome back lunch will now be held as a picnic on Feb 12th at the Auckland Domain. Bring your own lunch and blankets and we can spend some time together before the music in the park begins at 2PM with a Jazz concert that goes until 5PM for those who would like to stick around.

We are looking forward to our Summer Camp, if you would like to be involved in planning for that please inform Willem or Donna. We hope you enjoy the many social activities that are planned for this month.



(January Walk)

**FEBRUARY WALK- SUNDAY FEB 19
2PM Piha Beach (North most parking
area at the end of Marine Pde/North Piha
rd)**

Due to slips in the Waitakeres the train ride had to be cancelled. We hope to reschedule once they are back in operation. To replace that event we will once again take advantage of our beautiful summer and walk out at Piha Beach however, taking a different route North. Meet at the end of Marine Pde/North Piha rd. This walk requires reasonable fitness since it will have steady up hill sections. Please bring water and snacks. Friends are always welcome. For carpooling meet at Byzantium lunch no later than 12.30.



(December Lunch Bunch)

**LUNCH BUNCH- TUESDAY 21
FEBRUARY – noon**

Join us for Lunch Bunch at Point Chevalier Café located at the end of Point Chevalier Rd near Coyle Park.

508 Point Chevalier Rd

Point Chevalier (09-846 6565) Hope to see you there. Also remember if you have a restaurant you would like lunch bunch to try, please send suggestions to Dawn Elvidge or [auckland@unitarian.org.nz!](mailto:auckland@unitarian.org.nz)



(December Lunch Bunch)

**BYZANTIUM LUNCH after each Sunday
Morning Service**

Join us at The Byzantium (80 Ponsonby rd) after each Sunday morning services for lunch, to reflect on the service and to enjoy good company. Please check the church calendar for possible relocation due to special events or pot lucks. Feb 12 a picnic lunch scheduled for after service and March 4 the service and lunch will be held out at Camp. This lunch is also cancelled when the church has evening service. Hope to see you there.

SUMMER CAMP- HUIA-Waitakere

Summer Camp will be 2-4 March 2012.

Now is the time to sign up.

Adult \$65

Children \$40

Join us for a weekend of fun and activities for all. It begins on Friday evening with a pot luck dinner followed by a weekend of activities. The service on that Sunday will be out at camp at 11 AM (no service in

town). Stay for Sunday lunch after the service and maybe a quick swim or afternoon tramp with the official activities wrapping up around 3PM. We do have the camp until 10 AM on Monday so feel free to stay the extra night. Please contact Willem to reserve your spot.

SAVE THE DATE

Ski weekend will be the 14th-16th September 2012.

CIRCLE GROUPS

It has been a year since the circle groups began and we think they are a great success. Would you like to join a Circle Group? We are looking for a few new participants in our current group. Circle Groups are small groups, whose main objectives are to strengthen our congregation by drawing us into mutual ministry.

To join or to find out more please contact Shirin Caldwell



Music Committee

By Eric Stierna

Our choir's main purpose is to have fun while gathering together to experience the joy of singing and learning from each other about music. Everyone is welcome – including those that don't read music. People learn to sing a song by listening to a tune – join the choir, listen, hum the tune, sing with us, feel the energy that music unleashes inside your body and mind!

Choir practice starts **at 0900 hours each Sunday**. Please note that the New Year service will begin on Feb 12. There will not be choir practice on March 4 because the service will be held at camp (although we anticipate lots of singing over the weekend so don't forget to bring your voice).

Here are the hymns for February 2012. I've planned 3 hymns per service with an opening hymn, hymn of meditation and a closing hymn. We will sing Hymn 123 "Spirit of Life" after the covenant each Sunday in February after the Covenant in lieu of the Doxology. The hymn numbers are given each week under the date in the shaded region.

Date	5/2	12/2	19/2	26/2
Opening Hymn	347	149	121	126
Meditation Hymn	132	100	74	95
Closing Hymn	346	163	318	128

We are looking forward to special musical performances by Gahzi on 19 Feb and Michael Jones on 26 Feb. Thank you both!

Service Leaders: If there are songs or hymns you'd like included for services in March contact me by 11 Feb 12 and I will incorporate them into the planned music. If you don't have my details just send an email to Auckland@unitarian.org.nz

Below is a link to the list of hymns our musical team knows or is working to learn. Please email any additions and I will include them in the list.

Link: <http://db.tt/b0pEBkT>

Church Notices

FROM THE TREASURER GST Claims for Church Expenditure

Now that we are GST registered and are required to pay GST on all our income other than donations and bank interest; we can also claim GST on our Church Expenditure. To enable us to do this, we need to make sure our expenditure is recorded in the appropriate manner. The following information was obtained from the IRD:

- GST can be claimed on Tax Invoices for supplies or services provided to the Church, where that invoice is made out to the Auckland Unitarian Church, regardless of who has paid the invoice.
- If the Tax Invoice is made out to someone other than the Auckland Unitarian Church, or left blank; then we cannot make a GST refund claim.
- Till receipts for church related goods such as kitchen and administration consumables, that we have paid for, can have the GST portion claimed for, provided the Till Receipt is retained and can be produced.

It is therefore important that any member organising or paying for goods or services to the Church:

- Ensures that all Tax Invoices are made out to the Auckland Unitarian Church
- Keeps all Till Receipts, and attaches these to expense claim form

Bequests

Many people don't realise that bequests are the foundation of charities such as this Church, and indeed, we wouldn't be enjoying our lovely Meeting House without the hard work and generosity of earlier members.

While leaving a gift sounds easy, if you are planning to leave a bequest in your Will, there are a few things your solicitor will need to know before getting started.

Name: "The Unitarian Church of Auckland Trust Board", also known as the "Auckland Unitarian Church"

Address: 1A Ponsonby Road
Grey Lynn
Auckland 1011

P O Box 68967
Newton
Auckland 1145

Charities Commission Number: THE23802

You may choose to leave your bequest to a long-term endowment type fund, such as the Ministerial Stipend Fund, where rules are in place around use of such funds. Or, you may wish to leave it freely - with "no-strings" attached, so that the church can apply the money to the area of most need.

Please feel free to get in touch with the Treasurer or a member of the Finance Committee if you would like to discuss this further, in confidence. As always, your financial assistance now and in the future, is very much appreciated, and helps to spread the message of Unitarianism to the wider community.

SERMON CATCH UP

Unable to make it to Church?

If you would like to listen to podcasts from previous services you can see them on our webpage under archives or visit our drop box for our most recent podcasts:

<http://dl.dropbox.com/u/32648680/start.htm>

TECHNOLOGY



This is how you get up to date information about what our Unitarian Community is doing. You can also RSVP to events:

<http://www.meetup.com/Auckland-Unitarians/>



We are on Twitter! UnitarianNZ.



Are you on Facebook? So are we. Friend us and get updates in your newsfeed.

<http://www.facebook.com/unitariansNZ>

OTHER NEWS OF NOTE

Hymnal Dedications

Would you like to dedicate a hymnal to a loved one or to honour someone? We are taking requests for hymnal dedications and will place an order soon. We are suggesting a dedication donation of \$40 per book. Please contact Stowe or send an email to Auckland@unitarian.org.nz

Thank You

Dear Friends,
As Dorothy's family, we want to express our gratitude to everyone who loved and supported Dorothy through her later years as a church member, and especially to everyone who spent time with after services, and visited her at Shalom Court, Edenvale Home, and Caughey Preston Hospital.

Mum retained her amazing memory for people, especially family, until the end. She may have called someone by the wrong name, but we always knew who she meant because she could still put them in context. Visits from friends from church meant a lot to her, and always cheered her up.

Dorothy had a very strong attachment to the Auckland Unitarian Church, which continued after she had moved to Whangarei in 1996, attending services whenever she visited Auckland. She was very happy to be able to attend regularly after her return in 2007, and to go to social events including the Lunch Bunch. She was heart-broken when she decided in August that her increasing physical disabilities made it too difficult to attend services any longer.

Thank you also for all the messages of sympathy, cards, phone calls and emails after she died on December 28th; and especially to those who supported us and celebrated her long life by coming to her funeral. We know for many people it was impossible to be in Auckland that day, and our thanks also to those who sent condolences, memories and regrets at being unable to attend. Many thanks also to Christine Whelan for conducting the service with such caring and thoughtfulness, and to Gerard for playing the organ.

With love and appreciation

Karn and Paul Cleary, and John Muller

Men's Group

Join us every second Wednesday starting at 7:00 PM to touch base and share what is going on in your life. We meet at the church. See the calendar or meetup for the next meeting.

Library Clean Up- Help Needed

Volunteers are needed to help prepare and pack books from the library for storage into boxes. This needs to be done before the library clean up can begin. It is envisaged that this will be done spending an hour after church over a few Sundays. If you are willing to help please contact Wayne Facer or Betsy Marshall. Or you can send an email to the church

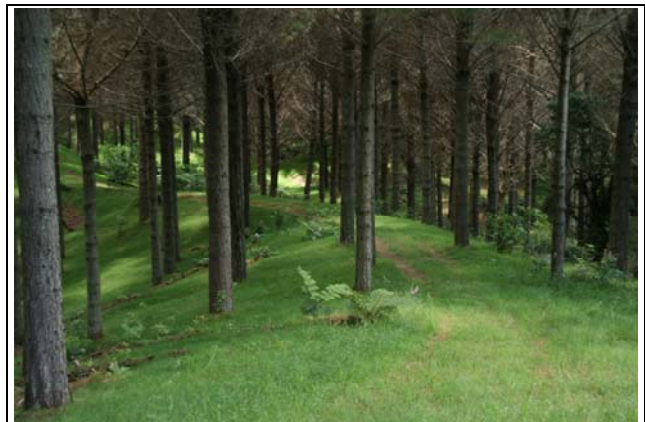
Auckland@unitarian.org.nz. We could use your help so we can begin to use this room again for meetings.

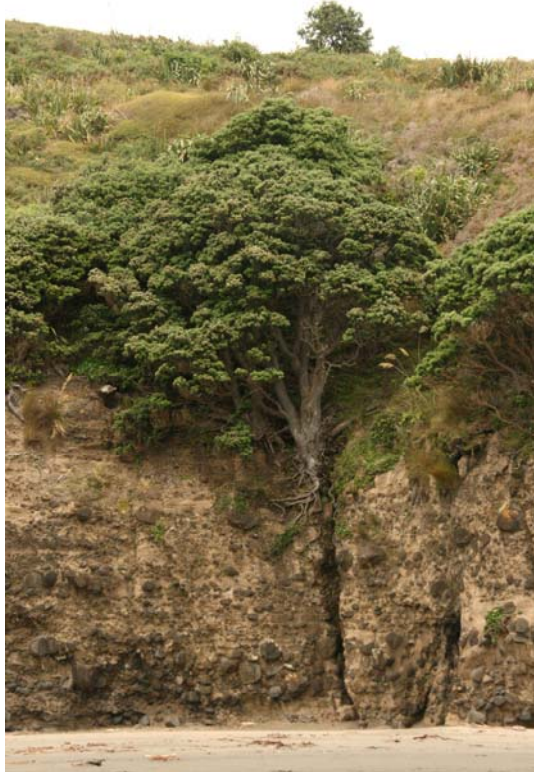


Suggestion Box

Do you have a great idea for the Meeting House? Do you have a suggestion for how to do something differently? We welcome your ideas! Paper and pen provided! Write it down & put it in the suggestion box. Not there on Sunday? You can always send us an email at Auckland.unitarian@gmail.com.

Pictures from some of the Service Auction events





MARCH NEWS DEADLINE IS 25 FEB. Send info to auckland@unitarian.org

Calendar Notes.

February:

5th – Informal Service. 10 AM with RE.

12th- Welcome back Water Service. Choir Practice 9AM, Service at 10. Bring your own Picnic to Auckland Domain after Tea and Coffee (Noon) then stay for Jazz in the park.

15th- Men's Group 7:00 PM

16th – Circle group 7PM

17th – Rafters Folk Club

17th to 19th - Men's Group Retreat

19th- "Resistance is Futile-isn't it?" – 10AM Service Leader Christine Whelan. Choir Practice 9AM.
2 PM Walk at Piha Beach.

21st – Lunch Bunch Noon
Programme Leadership Council Meeting 7PM

25th – March Newsletter Deadline

26th- "In the Absence of Anything, Maybe there's Nothing"- 10 AM Service Leader Michael Jones. Choir practice 9AM

March:

2nd to 5th – Camp at Huia Waitakere - Check in 4PM Friday, Camp officially ends at 3PM Sunday but we are paid through Monday 10AM. (Stay through Sunday night)

4th - No service at church, the service will be held at the camp. No Choir Practice.

7th- Management Committee Meeting 7:15 PM.

11th- Sunday Service 10AM. Choir Practice 9 AM

14th- Men's Group 7PM

15th – Circle Group

16th- Rafters Folk Club

18th- Sunday Service 10AM. Choir Practice 9 AM

20th- Lunch Bunch Noon
Programme Leadership Council Members update due.

25th – Sunday Service 10AM. Choir Practice 9 AM
April Newsletter Deadline

28th- Men's Group 7 PM

Newsletter Calendar

Feb 2012 (Auckland)

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
30	31	1 19:00 - Men's Group - In	2	3	4	5 10:00 - Informal Sunday
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 09:00 - Choir Practice 10:00 - Welcome Back
13	14	15 19:00 - Men's Group - In	16 19:00 - Circle group	17 Men's group retreat 19:00 - Rafter's Folk Club	18 Men's group retreat	19 Men's group retreat 09:00 - Choir Practice 10:00 - Sunday Service 14:00 - Walking group
20	21 12:00 - Lunch Bunch 19:00 - Programme	22	23	24	25 Newsletter Deadline	26 09:00 - Choir Practice 10:00 - Sunday Service
27	28	29 19:00 - Men's Group - In	1	2 Summer Camp	3 Summer Camp	4 Summer Camp 11:00 - Huia Camp Sunday