

## Social Activities Year In Review 2010-2011

The Social Activities Committee offered a variety of events throughout the year to give members and friends of UU Nashua ways to connect with each other.

During the summer months of 2010 we held 2 **Pot Luck Cookouts at Greeley Park**. We brought the grill, hot dogs, and veggie burgers. Attendees each brought a side dish or dessert to share. These events were well-attended, and will be repeated again during the summer of 2011. Also offered during the summer was a **Game Night with Ice Cream Social** in the UU Nashua dining room, and a couple of "**Beach Days**" at Wallis Sands in Rye, NH. These activities will also be repeated this summer.

The first social activity offered last fall was an **apple picking excursion at Elwood Orchards** in Londonderry, NH. Although attendance at this event was sparse, those few families who made it out there seemed to have a good time.

**Trivia Nights** were highly successful social and fundraising events. In October, our fall trivia night had the highest attendance of the three that were offered this year, and it raised almost \$300 to be donated to UU Nashua. In January we held another Trivia Night, this time raising over \$275 to benefit the Norma Rowley Scholarship Fund. Again in March while having fun, we were able to raise close to \$300 for the Donna Purkhiser Memorial Scholarship Fund. We are excited and appreciative that these Trivia Nights were so well-received and successful. During the 2011-2012 church year we plan to run another couple of Trivia Nights.

October saw the first Social Activities trip, with the rental of a charter bus to travel to the **Rally to Restore Sanity in Washington DC**. We had an inter-generational group of more than 40 people who participated. Generous anonymous donors gifted scholarships to make participation in the trip possible for several people who would not otherwise have been able to attend. (THANK YOU, donors!) The bus departed from Margaritas parking lot just after 10pm on Friday, October 29. We arrived on the National Mall in Washington around 6:30am on Saturday, October 30. The Rally to Restore Sanity with Jon Stewart and Stephan Colbert started at noon. Our UU Nashua delegation was part of this rally attended by an estimated 200,000 people. At 7pm we were back on the bus and headed back to Nashua. It was a whirlwind trip, and a wonderful experience.

The Social Activities Committee's second annual **Thanksgiving Dinner** went off without a hitch. More than 60 UU family members gathered in the dining room on Thanksgiving Day to share this special meal. Four turkeys had roasted in the ovens since early morning. The pot-luck side dishes were served buffet style, and there was dessert a-plenty! Many hands helped with cooking and cleaning. It was a delightful way to spend the holiday.

**Youth Bowling Night** was offered during school's holiday break week. A few Youth and an Youth Adult attended this outing to Leda Lanes-Glo Bowl in Nashua. We plan to offer more social outing opportunities for Youth next year.

At the end of December, we rang in 2011 with a **New Year's Eve Party** in the Parish House. A DJ provided music for dancing in the auditorium. In the dining room there was food, drink, games and conversation. The Youth Room was a video game haven for those interested. Approximately 50 people filled the auditorium at midnight to countdown the last moments of 2010 and celebrate the arrival of the new year together.

Our annual **Spring Egg Hunt** was held directly after church services on Easter Sunday this year. This was extremely successful, and is how we plan to offer the Egg Hunt each year going forward. Many more families were able to attend since they were already at church (as opposed to driving to church on a Saturday just for this event). Also, the Social Activities Committee was able to wrangle adult volunteer egg-hiders and prize distributors by asking people who were sitting in the pews that morning. (THANK YOU, volunteers!)

On May 1, John Burkitt organized a Tweed-style **Family Bike Ride** around the neighborhoods surrounding UU Nashua. This was a great event for all ages, that we hope will continue.

Also in May, the Property Committee and Social Activities Committee joined forces to offer a **Spring Beautification Project**. 13 adults, 5 children, and 1 dog (hi, Xena!) spent the morning on the UU Nashua property weeding flower beds, taking out dead bushes & trees, moving pea stone, pruning, raking, planting a tree, and spreading 10 yards of bark mulch! Whew. It was a lot of work, but we managed to have some fun along the way. We can't say "THANK YOU!" enough to all who came out to help. It really made a difference.

The Social Activities Committee considers itself to be the Most Fun Committee at UU Nashua (although, we bet that this title will be debated... after all, we are UUs). We are also the easiest to get involved with. Just think of an event you would like to see happen, and plan it. If you need help getting started, contact Jenn Morton or Sherri Woolsey. As a Committee, we have no meetings, no discussion nor debate as to how to proceed. We just need enthusiastic people who are willing to plan events. Please join us in bringing fun to UU Nashua!

Our Social Activities Summer Events start in just a couple of weeks. Hope to see you then!

"If it's not fun, why do it?" ~Ben & Jerry (of the ice cream)

submitted by: Jenn Morton