



Summer service schedule, May 1 through September 11: ONE service only, at 10:00 a.m.

www.uucgt.org

**Unitarian Universalist
Congregation
of Grand Traverse**

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(During office hours, call 947-3117 first,
then FAX.)

Office Hours:
9 am – 3 pm
Tuesday – Friday

Interim Minister*

Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster
Home: 231-929-2370
vaufoe@aol.com

**Director of Religious
Education***

Mary Van Valin, 946-2178
DRE Committee contact:
Kathy Prentice, Chair, 941-8758

Minister of Music*

Rev. Kevin Tarsa, 922-8146
ktarsa@aol.com

Office Administrator*

Kathleen Zatorski

*Ex officio members of the Board

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the BEACON

**BEACON Deadlines: Last Sunday
of the month, following the last service.**

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Folding, labeling & mailing
by Peg Kauffman and volunteers

Sunday, August 7 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 AM

“The Crisis in UU Leadership”

Rev. Suzanne Paul, Community Unitarian Universalists in Brighton

With a new evangelical church opening every two days in the United States, UUs struggle to find their niche. Why are we not effectively reaching out to the 16% of the population who are still unaffiliated with any religious community? Perhaps we need to look at our leadership style. What could we learn about growing congregations from other denominations? Rev. Paul will explore what she believes is a crisis in leadership.

Sunday, August 14 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 AM

“The Teacher - Learner Cycle”

Rev. Nancy Doughty

Each of us has encountered a memorable teacher(s) in our life...an individual who extends our vision of awe, justice, and love. As mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, friends, etc., we strive to continue the cycle of teacher-learner to the next generation. The religious community is one gathering where we expect to have teaching-learning opportunities across the generations. How we plan for its occurrence and support families as transmitters of religious values will be explored.

Attendees are invited to bring a photo of a significant teacher for a communal worship setting.

Sunday, August 21 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 AM

“Living on the Cutting Edge”

Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster

Samuel Butler wrote, “Life is the art of drawing sufficient conclusions from insufficient premises.” That makes life a bit tenuous at best—an adventure in walking the fine line between what seems to be and what really is. What this requires of us is the subject of this sermon.

Sunday, August 28 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 AM

“The Magic Rabbit”

Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster

Some of the most meaningful moments and most fulfilling experiences spring up on us like a magician pulling a rabbit out of a hat. What are we to make of this and what it can make of us is the topic.

Sunday, September 4 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 AM

“Letting Our Light Shine”

Members of the Congregation Who Attended GA

UUs exhibit a high degree of theological and philosophical diversity. Despite our differences, we have developed congregational communities and have been covenanted to be institutionally associated. Our institution's General Assembly this year will be the focus of this Sunday's inspiration.

Sunday, September 11 — ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 AM

“The Seduction of War”

Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster

Two considerations for this year's Resumption Sunday: First, it falls on “9/11”, a sobering anniversary; second, it begins a theme of “Seeking Truths to Live By,” which our Sunday program for both youth and adults will pursue through the middle of October. 9/11 was a day burned into our national consciousness and has been used to justify involving our country in war presumably intended to guarantee our national safety. Today we will honor the theme of “truth” by looking beyond the politics of the day and look for the truths of why people are so easily led into war of any kind.

Pastoral Care Advisory Group

“Love is the center of our church and service is the prayer.” This, I feel, is what defines pastoral care in our Congregation. We will continue to serve the needs of our congregants as we learn what the needs are. Should you have, or know of someone else who has a pastoral care need, I encourage you to contact

and inform any one of the Pastoral Care Advisory Committee Members: Eleanor Beal, 313-8843; Jody Marquis, 941-5158; John Schneider, 223-9299; Liz Bruning, 929-9808; Bonnie Mathias, 935-3715; Arline Howe, 947-9124; Mercedes Kimling, 223-7537; Joan Sheard, 922-1834; Kevin Tarsa, 922-8146.

—Arline Howe, Chair

From your Minister of Music

I am finding it incredibly frustrating to both find time and space for personal renewal this summer, and to prepare for a new church year that can begin with the fire and energy that I desire. It is a perennial frustration, a frustration that several of you have mentioned that you share.

I have learned in my years with the congregation, that renewing and moving forward are not mutually exclusive goals, but succeeding at both simultaneously requires an extraordinary balance, and the balancing requires full attentiveness in each moment.

The message I receive, everywhere I turn these days, is an invitation to bring my attention to what is going on in this moment—not the moments I expected to be happening, not the moments I wish were happening, not the moments I feared might be

happening or the moments that I think probably should be happening, but the moment that actually surrounds me now.

Making plans for the coming year can indeed renew my spirit, and relaxing on the beach can indeed help me to plan for what's ahead, but only when I stop thinking that the moment ought to be something other than it is.

As your homes and hours fill with summer guests, and activities call you in all directions, I invite you to let go of the moments you may have been expecting, and to bring your full attention and full living to the amazing details of the chaotic/peaceful/exhilarating/tender moment that you are in.

Yours,

- Rev. Kevin Tarsa

ALL ABOUT US

We hold in our hearts those who have suffered the loss of a family member:

Karen Culp's mother
David Halperin's mother
Mary Kinder's brother

Our thoughts for continued recovery and healing go to:

Joe Cook who had triple by-pass surgery July 13th and is in his 3rd week of recovery at home. I know he would like to hear from you.

Jim Gamble who had a brain tumor removed in May followed by 10 consecutive radiation treatments. While recovering he had another hospitalization for deep leg vein thrombosis. He is home again but says he feels weak and shaky. If you can visit him now and then I am sure he would like that. Also, should you find time to take Ruth out for a ride or for lunch or to get her hair done it would be great. She loves to get out now and then. Call Arline for the times that would be best for Ruth.

Ben Halsted who is David and Judy's 3-year-old grandson who had surgery for a brain tumor. The family stayed with him at the hospital round the clock. He is home and recovering. We are so hopeful for his good progress.

We continue to be mindful of:

Tom Borgeld
Beecy Fraser
Marty Gallup
Larry Good
Charley Hansen
Joan and Ralph Laird
Richard Myer
Elizabeth Norris
Carol Still

Thanks to all of you who have stepped forward and provided transportation, visits, shopping, food and rides to the doctor's appointments. There are too many names to list but I applaud all of you! We could not do what we do without your willingness to help.

—Arline Howe, Pastoral Care

After eleven years in Port of Old Mission, Pat Vancouver has recently relocated to Ohio. She is making her home in a brand new apartment addition to her son and daughter-in-law's (Jeff and Laurie) house. Her new address is 7934 Floyd Drive, The Plains, OH 45780. Telephone 740.797.0941

—Holly Knibbs

Pastoral Care Advisory Team Workshop On August 19th, the Pastoral Care Advisory Team will be in a four-hour training workshop on patient advocacy in pain management. John Schneider, PhD will conduct the workshop.

MUSICAL NOTES

Music Thank You's...

- ♪ to Richard Curtis and Chris Williams for their wonderful July 3 flute/cello music from the early days of our nation's history, and to Solveig and Mark Gustafson and Karen McCarthy for bringing William Billing's Revolutionary War hymn to such energized life.
- ♪ Helen and Bill Wells, Mary Van Valin, Jeremy Treadwell, Karen McCarthy, Nan Worthington and Gary Deavel for offering their music (so gamely) in the "Ambiguity" stew that was the Prelude to Rev. Kayle Rice's service on "Living the In-Betweens" on July 10
- ♪ to Jamie, Mitch and Jeremy Treadwell, Bob Hicks and Chris Williams for engaging us with music from Star Wars and more on July 17. Special thanks to Chris for arranging music!
- ♪ to Shelley Burnes for her always amazing singing of our UUCGT version of "Operator" on July 24 in Marilyn Madison's service about beliefs.

UUCGT ORCHESTRA

"Wake Now My Senses," our annual musical in-gathering, will take place in our September 11 service. Musicians, please plan to join us for a 9:00 rehearsal and a 10:00 service. Contact Kevin for music.

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ACTION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Exciting Times and Things to do!

The summer has been filled with political turmoil and actions on all sides. I have faith that my fellow UUers have been involved where they are comfortable and to the best that they can. Summer is a time for renewal for many of us, with warmth from sun and families. So... to think of the fall and upcoming events!

Socially Relevant Videos will begin in Sept. Please watch for the exact dates in the Orders of Service and the *Beacon*. We will be showing videos about the voting in Ohio, oil dependency, etc. We are getting many UUers as well as others attending now. That makes for good and stimulating discussions afterwards.

Crop Walk—a national and local organization that raises money for the needy in our community, has a “walk” every fall. In the past many local churches have participated in this and walk together with friends and family. Anyone interested in doing this or leading others of our congregation to participate, please contact me for more information.

Muslim Exchange Students – there are several coming to TC this year. Remember that several visited our church and talked to our students when we had the Muslim Learning Events. If anyone is interested in hosting a student for part of the year and having a wonderful experience for themselves and their family, please contact me for more information. Thank you!

—Emmy Lou Cholak 943-7999

Global Network Against Weapons in Space and Nuclear Power

Congratulations to all UUs for Social Action who contributed \$90 for us to be sponsors of the remarkable weeklong speaking tour with Bruce Gagnon, Global Network Against Weapons in Space and Nuclear Power. Bruce was welcomed in Manistee County, Traverse City, Suttons Bay, Charlevoix and Alden. View this remarkable presentation on Ch 2 on Aug. 8 at 7 pm, Aug 10 at 10 pm and Aug 17 at 9 pm.

—Carol Still

Mary Van Valin to direct R.E. Department

We have found the perfect person for Director of Religious Education. Mary Van Valin has many years experience in education and in our congregation. Mary's unanimous recommendation by the DRE Search committee led to an immediate and enthusiastic hiring of Mary by your board. When you see Mary, please welcome her as Director of Religious Education, and thank her for her service.

Christie McGue to serve Ministerial Search

Her heart compelled Christie to participate in our search for a Settled Minister. Christie asked to serve on the Ministerial Search Committee (MSC). The board voted to recommend her selection by the MSC and the committee welcomed her warmly. We all expect Christie to be a terrific asset to the MSC where she is already contributing. Please thank Christie when you see her for her service to the board as treasurer and willingness to serve on this important committee.

Resignations from the Board (but it is a good thing)

Two resignations of board members were submitted to the board and we are delighted that these great assets are applying their skills to other needs we have.

Christie McGue has resigned from her position next year as Treasurer due to her new responsibilities on the MSC. Her service on the Finance Committee and on the Board was enthusiastic, competent, and informative to us all. We, the Board, wish to thank Christie for her service.

Mary Van Valin has resigned from her position next year of

President Elect. We had looked forward to Mary's service as President Elect one year followed by President the following year but her service as DRE will conflict with an elected board position. We had greatly benefited from Mary's service this year on the board in the position of VP of Program Council. Mary will continue to sit on the board as a non-voting Ex Officio member in her new position of Director of Religious Education.

Joe Fraser appointed to Treasurer

Joe Fraser, long time member of our congregation, and asset to the finance committee has accepted appointment to the Board. Your Board of governance voted to appoint Joe to serve out Christie McGue's term of Treasurer. Joe's skills and understanding in financial matters and experience in our congregation are warmly welcomed by us on the board. Thank you Joe!

Pam Godbout appointed to President Elect.

Many years of service on numerous committees both in this and in her previous Unitarian Universalist Congregations have prepared Pam to step up to board level leadership. Your Board of governance has appointed Pam to serve out Mary Van Valin's term next year as President Elect. While serving as President Elect next year Pam will sit on the finance committee. On the Finance Committee she will learn how the church is run and take part in important financial decisions. Thank you, Pam, for stepping up to fill this vacancy.

- Bob Walton

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

GA 05 in Fort Worth was spectacular, spectacular. Our delegates included Pam Godbout, Karen McCarthy, Emily Mitchell, John and Penny Ort, and Misty Sheehan. Don and Peggy Vaughn-Foerster also attended. Misty Sheehan was named co-convenor for the UUA Women and Religion Team for the coming year.

A Heartland District Fall Training Institute will be held Oct 14-16th in Grand Rapids with workshops on RE, administration, and lay leadership. See Misty Sheehan for details (326 4014).

The Church of the Younger Fellowship

At the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly in Fort Worth, Texas an exciting and vibrant new program was introduced that addresses the needs of all young adults who feel the need for connection with liberal religious practices. Young adults and their parents are encouraged to visit this innovative program at <http://uucyf.org>.

In the fall of 2004, the Church of the Larger Fellowship received a proposal from a group of savvy UU young adults, young adult veterans of many congregations' RE programs, Coming-of-Age classes and youth groups asking the Church of the Larger Fellowship to support them as they organized a web-based Church of the Younger Fellowship. They asked for trust, commitment and understanding and a willingness to risk. They asked for money to realize their dream.

The Church of the Younger Fellowship is a reality. The CYF mission is to foster, build and support an inclusive International faith community through Unitarian Universalist Principles, which strives to meet the spiritual and social needs of the larger young adult (ages 18 to 35) movement and to ensure accountability and representation of its members.

Do you know UU young adults who are: Away at college? Moved for job or family? Working weekends? Missing in action on Sunday mornings? Need a

spiritual community of UU young adults, accessible wherever they are, on their schedule? We would welcome your sponsorship of membership for UU young adults who could benefit from CYF! Brochures are available at UUCGT. Any interested person may join or sponsor a member by visiting <http://uucyf.org>.

For further information contact John Ort at Sunday service or at 932-8766

MINDING THE STORE

Paying Pledges With Stocks

If you are planning to complete or fund your UUCGT pledge with the donation of securities, you need to know the following:

The UUCGT Trust Account with Fifth Third Bank can process **only** transfers of common and preferred stock and U.S. Treasury Securities. **Regrettably, we cannot accept any mutual fund shares.**

As always, we're grateful for your support of our congregation.

—Christie McGue, Treasurer

Art in the Hall

The Basket Weavers are here! In the middle of August our "Hall Walls" will display the baskets of **Janet Reed** and **Nancy Doughty**. Their artist statements follow:

Janet: I started manipulating my shoelaces at a very early age and have been playing with all kinds of fiber techniques ever since. I made my first basket at 4-H Camp and began again much, much later when asked to teach basketry. Much of the forms today incorporate the spiral, one of the most beautiful forms in nature. The structures are respectful of traditional techniques but have become form without function.

Nancy: My basketmaking began 6 years ago when we moved here and I discovered there was a Basketry Guild in the area. Over these brief years my

basketmaking has developed into use of natural materials in the area.

Discovering sources and uses of these varied and beautiful materials is as fascinating as the weaving itself. Although conventionally baskets are thought to be vessels for holding materials, they can be wall decorations and most any shape the artist envisions. Each natural material has its beauty and limitations for weaving that are endless in discovering. Because weaving is a tactile endeavor I find it relaxing and stimulating.

Attention: Artists

UU history and ideas are excellent sources of subjects for painting, banner making, needlework, all media. Our wall in sanctuary needs adornment, that is, the wall to the left of the entry into the room where Sally has been hanging work relevant to UU.

How about some works based on quotes from Emerson, Thoreau, Whitman, Mary Oliver, or any number of other writers? How about works based on the seven principles? ...or based on scenes from UU history as related in numerous books in our library.

Contact any board member, Sally, a Sunday services committee member, etc.

Sally will be hanging a work based on quotes from Emerson during August. Anyone care to join her?

—Sally Mitchell

Need Help To Plant New Center Road Garden

Thanks to a couple of generous donors, we'll be able to re-create a garden around UUCGT's Center Road Sign. The Landscape and Garden Committee has scheduled two planting dates and needs volunteers to help prepare and plant the garden on either Thursday August 25th or September 1st from 8:30 to 11:00. The August 25th work focus will be on site preparation. We will need a couple of folks who can wield a shovel or spading fork! On September 1st, the work focus will be on moving potted plants to the site and getting them

into the ground. If you can help, please call or email me (Jody Marquis) at 941-5158, Mamabear4422@aol.com.

UUA Trauma Response Team

The UUA Trauma Response Team will not be visiting this year. Due to a high concentration of UUATR team members in the Northeast, they have decided to meet in New England this year. They wish to express their gratitude for our generosity over the past two years and hope to return again.

—John Schneider

ADULT PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Calling all quilters and wanna be quilters:

Come and quilt with us on Wednesday, August 24 from 1-4 in the social hall. We're working on two quilts that will be used for UU fundraising. No experience necessary. Supplies and instruction provided. Check with Bonnie Mathias or Kathy Prentice.

Old Mission labyrinth

The Old Mission labyrinth is open year round to everyone. It is located in the field behind the Schneider/Olson residence at 3469 Old Mission Road. Call 223-9299 for information.

—John Schneider

Men's Group

The Men's Group will meet for dinner at 6 PM Monday August 8 at South City Limits. Copies of a reading handout for this session can be obtained from the Men's Group file folder in the office. Join us! For further information, call Bob Hicks, 946-8862.

Wednesday Night Group

The Wednesday Night Group will go to Travino's for dinner Wednesday August 17th. We will meet at Connie Armstrong's home at 5 PM. Call John and Pinkie Hoffman for more information—275-3602.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Notes from the Director of Religious Education

My name is Mary Van Valin, and I'm one happy camper to be reporting for duty!

The opportunity to guide the religious education of our children and youth comes at a perfect time for me and I am full of energy and enthusiasm as I look forward to serving in this capacity. I am grateful for the talents and dedication of the religious education committee for providing continuity though this transition and for the support and great kindness they have offered me. Together, we are creatively designing ways to give our children and youth opportunities to grow in love and reach out in service.

Some changes you will notice this fall:

1. Five week integrated themes

Many of you have already offered to teach and learn with us, and during the year we will have many short-term and highly satisfying opportunities for others who might be intrigued. Our plan is to have four to five week themes that will be integrated throughout the congregation. All of us will explore elements of the same theme at appropriate developmental levels. Our first focus theme will be "Seeking truths to live by."

2. The fifth Sunday will be an intergenerational Sunday service.

With the help of Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerester and Rev. Kevin Tarsa, we will have several intergenerational services during the year. These services will be the culmination of the theme and an opportunity for children and adults to learn and reflect together.

3. The teaching and learning will be highly interactive

The themes are being designed to stretch us all. We are planning volunteer coaching sessions that will be interactive in nature. After all, how might we explore these ideas with children if we don't explore them ourselves? The design is: "While we teach we learn, while we learn we teach."

The fall RE Prospectus will be sent out in late August, describing the first two themes and the opportunities they offer for September through December. Please watch for it.

I'd like to invite you all in. Our children's religious education is a whole community project. Your suggestions are welcome, your talents are welcome, your questions are welcome. "It takes a village..."

—Mary

Other notes:

- Could whoever borrowed the large, multi-color game parachute(s) please return them to the office? Thanks!
- The braided rug in the preschool classroom is coming apart at the seams, and while we will work on repairs it is our experience that once they start unraveling, there is not much wear left. We're looking for a donation of a used rug, room size, in good condition. Let anyone on the RE committee or Mary Van Valin know if you have one to donate.

—RE Committee

We Welcome Your Membership

Not a member? We'd love to have you join our spiritual community. New members, who must be at least 16 years old, signify their commitment by signing the Membership Book during a meeting with our minister. It is understood that members actively support their Congregation through attendance, service and financial commitment. To start your process of becoming an official member of our lively, compassionate and challenging congregation, call the congregation office at 947-3117.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Grand Traverse
6726 Center Road
Traverse City MI 49686-1802

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the BEACON

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the BEACON Calendar

Celebrating the Harvest?
Make a gift to UUCGT's
Endowment!

All events take place at the Congregation building unless otherwise noted

AUGUST

- 1 Mon SOS, Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster (929-3753), Jeff (946-8680), office 7 – 8:30 p.m.
- 7 Sun **"The Crisis in UU Leadership," Rev. Suzanne Paul, ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.**
- 8 Mon Men's Group, Bob Hicks – South City Limits, 6 – 8 p.m.
- 8 Mon SOS, Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster (929-3753), Jeff (946-8680), office 7 – 8:30 p.m.
- 8 Mon Finance Committee, Phyllis Jessup, 7:30 – 9 PM
- 9 Tues RE Committee, Kathy Prentice, Social Hall, 5:15 – 8 p.m.
- 9 Tues Board Meeting—RESCHEDULED to Thursday August 18
- 10 Wed Conversations with the Minister Search Committee: "Narrowing the Search", Social Hall, 6 – 7 p.m.
- 10 Wed Admin Council, Fred Schaafsma, 7 – 9 p.m.
- 11 Thurs Crones and Scones, Solveig Gustafson, Flap Jack Shack (contact Solveig for times)
- 14 Sun **"The Teacher – Learner Cycle," Rev. Nancy Doughty, ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.**
- 14 Sun Conversations with the Ministerial Search Committee: "Narrowing the Search", 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- 15 Mon SOS, Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster (929-3753), Jeff (946-8680), office 7 – 8:30 p.m.
- 16 Tues Program Council, Mary Van Valin, potluck at 6:00 PM, meeting 7 – 9 p.m.
- 17 Wed Membership Committee, John Hoffman, 1 – 3 p.m.
- 17 Wed Wednesday Night Group, Travino's. Meet at Connie Armstrong's home at 5 p.m.
- 18 Thurs Board (old board/new board), Bob Walton, Penny Ort, Christie McGue's home, 6 – 10 PM
- 19 Fri Pastoral Care Advisory Team Workshop, John Schneider (contact John for times)
- 20 Sat Board retreat, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

- 21 Sun **"Living on the Cutting Edge," Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster, ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.**
- 22 Mon SOS, Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster (929-3753), Jeff (946-8680), office 7 – 8:30 p.m.
- 23 Tues RE Committee, Kathy Prentice, 5 – 7:30 p.m.
- 27 Sat Crones and Scones, Shari Cope's home (contact Shari for times)
- 28 Sun **"The Magic Rabbit," Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster, ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.**
- 29 Mon SOS, Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster (929-3753), Jeff (946-8680), office 7 – 8:30 p.m.
- 30 Tues RE Committee, Kathy Prentice (941-8758), 5 – 7:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

- 4 Sun **"Letting Our Light Shine," Members of the Congregation Who Attended GA, ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.**
- 5 Mon LABOR DAY—Office closed.
- 5 Mon SOS, Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster (929-3753), Jeff (946-8680), office 7 – 8:30 p.m.
- 8 Thurs Crones and Scones, Solveig Gustafson, Flap Jack Shack (contact Solveig for times)
- 11 Sun **"The Seduction of War," Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster, ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.**
- 11 Sun Congregational conversation on Second Interim Year, 11:30 a.m.
- 12 Mon SOS, Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster (929-3753), Jeff (946-8680), office 7 – 8:30 p.m.
- 12 Mon Finance Committee, Phyllis Jessup, 7:30 – 9 PM
- 13 Tues Board Meeting, Penny Ort, 7 – 9 p.m.
- 18 Sun **To be announced**
- 19 Mon SOS, Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster (929-3753), Jeff (946-8680), office 7 – 8:30 p.m.
- 24 Sat Crones and Scones, Pinkie Hoffman's home (contact Pinkie for times)