



874 York Street, Fredericton, N.B., E3B 3R8 (506) 451-0919

Sunday Service 11 a.m.

Web Site: <http://www.uff.ca>

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Nova Scotia.

October 21 "*October 21*" David Dickson will speak about his efforts to establish a memorial monument with his German counterparts from WWII, the lead-up to it and the emotions he has had to deal with in pursuing his ideals. John Van Abbema will be the service leader.

October 28 "*Home Children*" Mike Staples will speak about the Home Children, young people displaced from the United Kingdom, often to miserable conditions, in Canada. Patricia desChamps is service leader.

November 4 "*War Brides*" Melinda Jarrett to speak, Patricia desChamps is service leader.



Women's Pot Luck

The next monthly women's pot luck dinner will be held October 19th. at 6pm. Sharon Van Abbema will host the gathering at her home, 130 Cortland Street, New Maryland. The show and tell topic is Ancestors. Tell us what you know about your ancestors. Which of your ancestors would you most like to meet and why. For more information contact Joan Brewer at jrjeb@nb.sympatico.ca or 455-5169.



News Flash from Building and Grounds

About Carpets and Slippers!

Carpets upstairs and on the main floor have been cleaned using an allergen cleaner and steam extraction method! Please bring inside shoes or use the knitted slippers in the basket in the library.

A fall news flash from your Building and Grounds Committee

Sunday Services

October 7 "*Stone Soup and Things for Which We Are Thankful*" Ed Leslie will be service leader and Geneviève Laloux, Betty Ponder, Sheila Moore will talk about things for which they are thankful.

October 14 "*We are a Justice-Seeking People*" Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes: One of our hymns describes us this way, and justice is mentioned in two of our principles and one of our sources. A commitment to social justice is one of the primary elements of U*U identity. We will be exploring how committed U*Us have made a difference by standing for justice, standing up against homophobia and sexism, and standing beside Indigenous people. The Social Responsibility Committee will mark National Coming-Out Day (October 11) at this service. Please consider wearing pink, in honour of the anti-bullying campaign in



Comfort the Children



A Two-Act Play Written and Directed By Sue Steen

“... powerful and honest and riveting and imaginative and prayerful and wise. and transformative.” – Sheree Fitch

A play about Solace from the Suffering caused by Child Abuse

Ted Daigle Theatre
St. Thomas University, Fredericton
Saturday October 27th at 8pm

ADMISSION: Freewill Offering
A portion of the proceeds will be donated to:
Family Enrichment and Counseling Services of
Fredericton Inc.

WARNING: Graphic Language and Sensitive Subject
Matter



For more information please contact Patricia desChamps
at 454-6019 or by email himmys@nbnet.nb.ca



tUFF Scarves

Dear Knitters & Unitarian Fellowship Members,
Over 35 new International Students have arrived at St. Thomas Univeristy to begin studies coming from at coun-

tries as varied as USA, India, Ethiopia, Mexico, Ecuador. What a wonderful group of young people ! They are courageous, adventursome, desirous of a global education, opportunity to improve their English and a cross cultural experience. Our STU and Fredericton Community are enriched by their presence.

For many, one of the harsh realities will be adapting to our climate! The scarves knit with care & love by Unitarian Fellowship members were an appropriate & wonderful gift. STU volunteers gave the student a welcome bag with a scarf when they were met at the airport. I have even seen some scarves being worn already around campus!

On behalf of St. Thomas Univeristy and Student Affairs, thank you for continuing this project and donating the scarves to our International Students. As the International Student Advisor I value and look forward to a continuing relationship with UFF.. Keep on knitting!

Sincerely,
Judy Coates

Judy Coates. JUDY@stu.ca
International Student Advisor
Student Affairs, St. Thomas University
Fredericton, NB, Canada E3B 5G3
Telephone (506) 460-0382
Facsimile (506) 460-0319
Website <http://www.stu.ca>



Spirit on the Rock

Canadian Unitarian Council
Eastern Regional Fall Gathering
November 2-4, 2007



Registration/Conference Details Available

This year's fall regional gathering will be hosted by the Avalon Unitarian congregation in St. John's, NL. Links to details and registration may be found from the CUC's calendar: <http://cuc.ca/calendar.htm>

Editor's note: I can provide the complete brochure to anyone interested



Restoration of our Oak front doors is complete!

The oak door, frame, trim and sidelights have been sanded

to remove a serious black fungus problem. We used Min-wax oil base stain and marine grade spar varnish to finish the job. The sanding of the wood part of the restoration was a huge job. It's done!

A tidbit from Buildings and Grounds



Poetry Project

The editorial board of the CUC Poetry Chapbook 2008 project are seeking submissions of Unitarian poetry (5 poems maximum, no more than 45 lines including spaces) from Canadian Unitarians or Unitarian residents of Canada, who are either CUC congregation members, CUC members-at-large or self-identified Unitarians, on themes of THE WEB OF LIFE - IN OUR HANDS; LA TOILE DE LA VIE - ENTRE NOS MAINS to be considered for publication in our second professionally published chap book, to be made available by the next CUC ACM. Please submit unpublished material to Jo-Anne Elder at eldergomes@yahoo.com or 180 Liverpool Street, Fredericton (NB) E3B 4V5, att'n: CUC Chapbook, by November 30, 2007 . Please also include a 100 word bio. Include an S.A.S. E. if you are submitting via land mail and wish to receive a reply. All work will receive notification of acceptance or not by March 21, 2008.

Janet Vickers
Poetry Editor
Canadian Unitarian
poetry@cuc.ca



Dr. Helen Caldicott to Speak



Wednesday, October 17, 7:00 PM
McCain Hall Auditorium
St. Thomas University

"You're going to have to change the priorities of your life if you love this planet."

-Helen Caldicott, MD.

Tickets \$7 on sale at the Conservation Council and at the

door. More information from info@conservationcouncil.ca or 458-8747.

Dr. Caldicott is a passionate advocate for citizen action against nuclear power. She is the co-founder of Physicians for Social Responsibility and the subject of the Oscar-winning documentary, *If You Love this Planet*. She is the founder and President of the Nuclear Policy Research Institute in Washington, D.C. which educates the public about the dangers of nuclear power and nuclear weapons.



Letter to Editor

I recently began teaching a literacy program at the Neil Squire Society. I am currently accepting applications for the new academic year. The program is free to any adults that would like to improve their reading, writing, and/or math skills. I also help adults prepare to write the GED exams. If you would like more information, please call me at work 451-7877.

My daughters attend the Preschool Centre on Windsor Street. The preschool is in need of plastic grocery bags. If anyone has any that they would like to recycle, please call me at 455-0580 and I'll arrange to pick them up.

Thank you for making my family feel so welcome at the Fellowship. We look forward to getting to know all of you better.

Sincerely,
Heidi O'Donnell



Message from Mary Bennett

Hi, all, It's a lovely warm fall evening as I sit at the Vancouver airport waiting for my "red-eye" flight, after my 3:45pm one was cancelled. I'm looking forward to four days at Unicamp meeting with our board followed by two days of in-person staff meetings in Toronto. Then, up to Ottawa for ACM planning, back to Toronto, back to Vancouver, off to Frankfurt for the ICUU meeting... Well, you get the idea - A friend of mine who teaches in a university has turned September into a verb - as in "I've been Septembered!"

Message from Mary - Sept. 11, 2007

Special Dates

Most of us—and our congregations—have special ways we like to celebrate many of the cultural and religious events commonly known as Statutory Holidays. As well birthdays and anniversaries - especially those significant ones that end in 0—are carefully planned for and anticipated. (CUC is looking forward to its 50th in 2011 already.) Our

Social Responsibility groups have each chosen at least one special date in the calendar to encourage congregations to recognize in some way. A lot of the effort of our monitoring groups go into responding to current events when resolutions passed at Annual Meetings are relevant. Another facet of the role is to provide educational and awareness resources to congregations. Since the dates repeat each year, our intention is to provide plenty of notice, and also to send new information each year to support congregational interests. Recognizing one of these special dates might be as simple as posting a notice about it on a bulletin board or in your newsletter. It may be related to an issue your congregation is already involved with and could be used as a "hook" for a news release about an event your group is sponsoring. As the dates are often international ones from the UN, they may also spur interest in interfaith connections in your area.

The special dates chosen by CUC Social Responsibility groups can be found from a link on our home page cuc.ca.

Here is a message from Christine Michell, of Calgary and Lethbridge about some of the upcoming dates you may want to celebrate. If it's too late for this year, think about what you might do next year, or look further on for other upcoming dates. And let us know how what you do so we can share it with others.

A Call to Action from the Continental Youth Social Action Coordinator This fall presents us as Unitarian Universalists with several ways to live out our values of working for a world with peace, liberty and justice for all. Issues of Peace, Poverty, Hunger, and Consumerism are highlighted with several dates and events in the next few months. Please consider participating in any or all of the following events as individuals, families, groups and congregations: -September 21 - International Day of Peace (Peace Day) <http://www.peaceday.org/home.aspx> Work for peace in your community, and in the world on the UN's day for Peace. Hold a vigil, a forum, meditation, letter-writing campaign, or anything else to support peace in our troubled world. For more resources/ideas: <http://www.internationaldayofpeace.org/>

-October 8 - Interfaith Fast for Peace
<http://www.shalomctr.org/node/1269>

What better way to spend thanksgiving Monday than giving thanks for the peace we experience here in Canada, and calling for peace for the rest of the world? Join our cousins in other faiths and our American neighbours in a dawn-to-dusk fast in protest of war (particularly the War in Iraq), and in a call for peace. Gather in interfaith vigils and events, and break the fast with thanksgiving dinner held after dusk. (If you're on Facebook.com, let us know you're attending the event, hosted by Young UU Peacemakers)

-October 16 - World Food Day "The Right to Food"
<http://www.oxfam.ca/what-we-do/campaigns/world->

food-day Most of us in North America take food for granted, but many people - both in Canada, and in other countries - are not so lucky. Hold a forum about poverty and hunger, an empty bowls meal (<http://www.emptybowls.net/>) or a hunger banquet (<http://www.hungerbanquet.org/>).

-October 17th - Stand Up and Speak Out against poverty <http://www.standagainstopoverty.org/> "In 2000, world leaders from 189 countries signed up to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (www.millenniumcampaign.org), a global plan to halve extreme poverty by 2015. Last year, more than 23 million people in 87 countries stood up and took action to remind them of this promise. It was the largest single coordinated mobilization in the history of the Guinness World Records." -Millennium Campaign Let's make it bigger and better this year!

-November 24th and 25th - Buy Nothing Day <http://adbusters.org/metast/eco/bnd/> Refuse to participate in the rampant consumerism of our culture by abstaining from buying on the biggest shopping day of the year. Hold a protest, a stuff-swap, or simply refuse to purchase anything.

~Chris Michell continentalsac@gmail.com

Not sure what to do with CUC news releases and suggestions for involvement? Our media relations consultant, Penney Kome, will be doing more one-hour tele-seminars on engaging with the media, alternating a "basics" session with one specific to a CUC stance or initiative. To find out details, send a note to mary@cuc.ca and I'll put you on a list.

Take care of yourselves and each other,
Mary
Mary Bennett, Executive Director
Canadian Unitarian Council
mary@cuc.ca 1-888-568-5723/604-617-0142
(On Skype.com I'm UnitarianMary. It's free!).



CUC Correspondence

Hello, Pasted below and attached is a CUC news release that we encourage you to pass along.

If your congregation has a stance on this issue, we encourage you to adapt or forward this news release to your local media.

Attached is the news release - which you are free to amend and even "borrow" quotations for your own. (Just don't attribute quotes to CUC folk without checking.)

Also attached is the letter sent to the government earlier this week. We received the following response:

Dear Dr. Pfeleiderer:

On behalf of the Right Honourable Stephen Harper, I would like to thank you for your e-mail, in which you raised an issue which falls within the portfolio of the Honourable Maxime Bernier, Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Prime Minister always appreciates receiving mail on subjects of importance to Canadians.

Please be assured that the statements you made have been carefully reviewed. I have taken the liberty of forwarding your e-mail to Minister Bernier so that he too may be made aware of your comments. I am certain that the Minister will give your views every consideration. For more information on the Government's initiatives, you may wish to visit the Prime Minister's Web site, at www.pm.gc.ca.

L.A. Lavell
Executive Correspondence Officer
for the Prime Minister's Office
Agent de correspondance
de la haute direction
pour le Cabinet du Premier ministre

As an individual Unitarian/Universalist, you could send a letter to the editor in response to coverage of this issue saying, "I am proud that my national religious organization, the Canadian Unitarian Council, has taken a stand..."

For more information on this issue, see:
http://cuc.ca/social_responsibility/diversity.htm

Or send an email to diversity@cuc.ca or the chair, see contact information below.

Are you interested in this and related topics? We have a cuc-diversity-discussion email group. Just reply if you'd like to be added to the list.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CUC URGES CANADA TO VOTE FOR INDIGENOUS RIGHTS DECLARATION Canadian Unitarian Council says a negative vote will have more ramifications for Canada than for Indigenous Peoples globally.

The Canadian Unitarian Council has urged the federal government to support the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations on September 13. Canada is one of only a few countries planning to vote against the adoption of this long awaited and much needed Declaration.

"The Declaration is supported by a majority of countries around the world, as well as a majority of Canadians," said CUC President Jean Pfeleiderer. "It does not create any new human rights or violate any of the existing rights in which Canadians have consistently demonstrated their belief.

"We feel the Declaration would be a major step towards eliminating the human rights violations suffered by 370

million Indigenous people worldwide."

Among the Principles affirmed by Unitarians and Universalists, several are relevant to relations with Indigenous Peoples, including:

1. the inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
3. the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; and
4. a respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

The CUC believes that Canada has an opportunity to strengthen and enhance its international reputation on Aboriginal issues and its proud tradition of advancing human rights and social justice by signing the Declaration. Since the Declaration seems very likely to pass anyway, a negative vote would reflect more on Canada than on the agreement.

"The Declaration was more than twenty years in the making and the result of active consultation and democratic participation by Canadians as well as those of other nations," said Pfeleiderer. "We believe it is the strong international human rights instrument that Indigenous peoples need in order to address the widespread human rights violations affecting them globally."

The Canadian Unitarian Council/Conseil unitarien du Canada (CUC), is an association of forty-five congregations located across Canada with 5,400 individual members. Arising out of the work of outspoken reformers and dissenters within the Christian tradition five centuries ago, the Unitarian movement today includes Universalists and flows in a broad religious stream augmented by Humanist, earth-centred, Buddhist and other progressive beliefs.

For more information, contact:
Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes,
Chair, Racial, Religious and First Nations,
Metis and Inuit Equity and
Justice Monitoring Group



Rev Brian Kiely Nominated for ICUU President

Rev. Brian Kiely of Edmonton was recently nominated to become the next President of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists. The election will take place at the upcoming biennial meetings of the ICUU in Oberwessel, Germany, November 1 through 5, 2007. Brian, a former CUC president, pledges to continue our strong Canadian tradition of leadership in the 12 year old inter-

national body. Former Executive Director, Ellen Campbell, and past CUC President John Slattery helped found the ICUU and both have served on the Executive. John Slattery, of Beacon Unitarian Church, is the retiring Vice President of the ICUU. The International Council of Unitarians and Universalists works to promote collegial connection among existing national Unitarian and Universalist groups around the world and to help emerging groups develop the resources they need. In February, 2008, the ICUU will hold a Leadership School in Kenya to help emerging leaders from five African countries. Rev. Kiely will be a member of the international faculty. The ICUU is asking first world congregations to offer financial support for one student at a cost of approximately \$500. If you would be interested in supporting this project, contact Brian directly at brikie@aol.com.

For more information about the Oberwessel conference, please visit the ICUU webpage, www.icuu.net. The Canadian Unitarian Council/Conseil unitarien du Canada (CUC), is an association of forty-five congregations located across Canada with 5,200 individual members. Arising out of the work of outspoken reformers and dissenters within the Christian tradition five centuries ago, the Unitarian movement today includes Universalists and flows in a broad religious stream augmented by Humanist, earth-centred, Buddhist and other progressive beliefs.

For more information, contact:

Rev Brian Kiely, brikie@aol.com, 780-455-9797
Mary Bennett, Executive Director, mary@cuc.ca,
1-604-617-0142



PFLAG Canada National Cookbook

Let's put PFLAG Canada in every kitchen!

PFLAG Canada (Saint John NB Chapter) wants your favourite recipes to help raise money for PFLAG Canada national!

Our chapter is setting up a team to organize a fundraising project to produce a PFLAG Canada national cookbook. 100% of the profits will go to PFLAG Canada national.

We would like everyone connected with PFLAG Canada to send (as an attachment in an e-mail) as many favourite recipes as possible to me at saintjohnnb@pflagcanada.ca or to my home address: Wayne Harrison, 55 Clinton Drive, Willow Grove, NB E2S 3G8.

I personally have experience in producing cookbooks. A local Saint John cookbook that we put together made \$28,000 in the 1980's, so I believe we have an opportunity at the national level to make a great deal of money to help support the great work we do in PFLAG Canada.

We all have fond memories of favourite foods. Being part

of the vast GLBT community, which is known for great cooks, makes this a natural fundraising project. We are hoping to compile all of the fabulous family recipes into the first PFLAG Canada Family Cookbook.

Not only will this be a great fundraiser, it will also be one great marketing vehicle that will let all of Canada know about us. Let's make this a family project that all of Canada will want. Let's put PFLAG Canada in every kitchen!

Please send this message out to everyone on all of your email lists - we want to hear from everyone connected to the GLBT community, their parents, families and friends!!

We are ready to receive your recipes!!!

-Wayne Harrison

Co-facilitator of PFLAG Canada
Saint John

saintjohnnb@pflagcanada.ca

This message is an extract from the October issue of The Fundy Wave, the newsletter of the UU congregation in Saint John, New Brunswick.



Clergy Appreciation Month

In Celebration and with Appreciation

October is the month that is set aside in many Christian traditions as Clergy Appreciation month.

Many of our congregations are without the Services of an ordained Minister. Some congregations, based on their size, their finances or their inclination, work without Ministers. Others have long established patterns of Ministry and others hope to move to establish professional Ministry.

Whatever the status of ordained Ministers in our congregations, it seems appropriate to stop and mindfully think of the many contributions the role has made to our Regional and National identity, to the strength of our movement, to the vitality of many of our congregations and to the expression of our values in the larger communities in which we live.

I am grateful for the witness of our ordained leaders, who without exception, declared their support for Equal Marriage. Their support helped define us, and gave our values expression in the public forum. I am convinced that the questions they've posed and the reflections they've offered have helped us, whether we are near Signal Hill, Mount Royal or Bay Street, reflect meaningfully on what it means to mean to be a religious liberal. Some of our congregations have struggled, finding it difficult to determine how best to engage in Shared Ministry with their ordained leaders: yet that struggle has, in many cases resulted in a more mature, aware and robust congregation. Many of us have experiences of finding our Ministers personally supportive,

challenging us to deepen and grow. Our ordained ministers have helped shape our congregations and the CUC. They have represented us, often through their interfaith work, to the larger community. Our story is, at least in part, the story of our Ministry.

Professional Ministry in our tradition of polity and free thought a challenging one. The authority to ordain comes from the congregation. No ecclesiastical authority makes one of us a Minister. Only a congregation can do that. Yet, our congregations are full of free thinking individuals who don't, as a matter of course grant authority to others based on role and position. We ordain ministers and are often at the same time suspicious of any authority they claim.

Our professional Ministers work long hours; they often adjust their personal lives and agendas so that they can support individuals and congregations. They listen, they coach, they challenge and they serve. They worry about us, they sit beside sick beds and they strategize with leaders how to help a struggling committee.

How then do we thank the professional leaders who do so much for the congregations we love and for our movement in Canada? It doesn't take a lot really.

- Why not drop a personal note thanking your professional minister for what they've done for you.
- The children in the congregation could make a card.
- The Service Leader could note, during some Sunday in October, that your congregation is proud to share the ministry of the Congregation with your Minister and that you especially want to note that pride during Clergy Appreciation Month.
- The Board of Trustees could move a motion of appreciation.

And the list could go on... whatever you do; October is a good month to recognize one of our ordained leaders.

Linda Thomson
Director of Regional Services - East



A Note from Linda

Oct '07

Information & News for the Eastern Region of the Canadian Unitarian Council

Sharing and Working together...

Congregations, no matter the size, and no matter the staff (or lack of) structure, can be confusing places. Frequently newcomers in our congregations tell us, "I didn't know

how to get involved". Those who've been around for a while find this perceived lack of clarity and transparency more than a bit mind-boggling and often say to themselves, "There are a million places where new energy and fresher backs are welcome, why didn't you just jump in?" It's easy for those of us familiar with congregations to see where and how we might get involved, but the truth is, it isn't easy for newer members. If we are to build the inclusive and welcoming congregations we say we want, there are some strategies and directions that will help us to ensure it is possible.

People new to our congregations look around and are aware that there are, as there are in any organization, unspoken rules and understandings about how 'things' get done. They listen and they hear terms and expressions that are new to them: Polity, Canuudle, OWL, CUC, RE and more. The conclusion it is easy to draw, when confronted with the 'mysteries' of a new community, is that 'it takes long-time membership and special knowledge in order to participate in the life of the congregation'. The result? Many people drift when they don't feel engaged and we lose the potential of their involvement and we fail in our mission to minister to those who might be served by our congregation. Our task, and it isn't easy, is to ensure that newcomers are helped to understand the way that things work in the congregation. Careful, new/potential member orientation sessions are useful in overcoming this challenge as is the resistance to use a lot of acronyms and lingo during Sunday announcements and in the newsletter. More difficult, but equally important is a commitment to provide adequate background on decisions and processes used in the congregation. Our newsletters need to, if they are to be understood, provide information on decision making processes, and help the reader understand where authority and accountability rest. Our goal of "Shared Ministry" needs to be articulated, so that all are able to understand that the relationships and responsibilities within our congregations are reciprocal. I believe we need to talk honestly about both the responsibilities and privileges of membership and we need to ensure that the stories of our leaders and members are heard. It is powerful when a new member hears a strong leader talk about their faith journey and their decision to make Unitarian Universalism part of their spiritual life. It is in moments like these when people are able to make the shift from 'church consumer' to 'partner in mission and ministry'. And it is at this point in member integration that people really

BECOME PART OF THE CONGREGATION.

Shared Ministry means that each person, both lay and ordained, finds in their membership, the opportunity to be served and to serve. It means that we share a sense of commitment to the congregation that supersedes our individual ideas and preferences. It means we talk, and plan and work together, so that in the end each of us can consider the congregation 'ours'.

Linda Thomson
Director of Regional Services - East
linda@cuc.ca
905-332-3851



Church of the Larger Fellowship

Between Sundays

What is Between Sundays?

Between Sundays is a website designed to help parents and other adults answer religious questions raised by children and youth. What does it mean to be a Unitarian Universalist and how do our/your religious beliefs make a difference in the world? These are the two basic questions underlying the thematic presentation of questions and “answers” on this site. Lessons and activities to address specific questions at different ages are adapted from curricula published by the UUA, by independent authors, and by the Church of the Larger Fellowship. Some lessons and activities are suggested for a single age level; others are recommended for all ages.

You can browse the site by age level or subject category or search by key words. The categories are those used in curriculum development by the UUA’s Lifespan Faith Development Department. In addition, a Resources section provides informative material just for adults using the site. Don’t be concerned about your own level of knowledge or depth of personal understanding. Learn along with the children, explore religious concepts together – model the “search for truth and meaning” in an open and loving environment.

Why might you join the CLF?

The web page for Between Sundays is one of many resources available at the Church of the Larger Fellowship. Your CLF membership offers you UU spirituality, education, and resources 24/7, while at the same time your membership brings Unitarian Universalism to isolated UUs all over the world.

For information about Between Sundays go to:
www.clfuu.org/betweensundays



From the Fundy Wave

WHAT A WONDERFUL SERVICE!

The Worship Committee is such an amazing, hard-working group of people, and the congregation is so fortunate to have had them planning our dedication service. Three cheers for their success!

I was profoundly moved by Eli’s words when he lit the candle of Joys and Sorrows, and so glad that a younger person was asked to do it. Monet’s rendition of “We Rise Again” touched us all. ‘In the voices of our children’ - indeed!

The musical selections were inspiring. “One More Step” - what could be more appropriate? Kitsy’s talk was brilliant, wasn’t it?

I won’t mention names, but the sound system was tweaked to perfection, the outside sign was installed, (permanent installation to come) trees and flowers were planted and decorative stones were installed in the past few days. Thanks to the efforts of the Housekeeping, Membership and Building Committees we were perfect hosts to our guests and visitors.

To the organizers, the builders and those who kept inspiring the rest of us, take a bow!

And now, as Kitsy reminds us, let’s take a deep, cleansing breath and relax. We’ve earned a respite from building labour and organizing dedication services, and deserve to just enjoy church for a while.

–Fred (The Prez)

IMAGININGS

- A monthly column by the Reverend Kitsy Winthrop

Here I am, sitting at George Legris’ computer the “morning after” one of the most meaningful and moving celebrations I have ever attended, made even more so by the fact that what was being celebrated was the wondrous accomplishment of an amazing community of human beings, united in a vision of what could be, committed to collaborative hard work, and deeply appreciative of the gifts each of you brought to the endeavour. (Please excuse the length of that sentence; I got carried away.) I LOVE WHAT YOU HAVE CREATED! (Your congregation as well as your new religious home.) (And so does my daughter!) I LOVE YOU! (and now my daughter knows exactly why)

I feel honoured, privileged, and just plain lucky that you have allowed me to be your spiritual companion and cheerleader for what is now the beginning of our seventh year together. I could use up the better part of a page, thanking every one of you who contributed in some way to the transformation of your dream into a simply elegant reality. Thank you all.

At the same time, I honestly believe that none of you (not even those of you who spent most of your days and evenings on Sandy Point Road these past few months) will feel offended if I single out Fred Webster for special recognition and thanks.

Because I also believe that without Fred shepherding us through the monumental tasks involved in procuring the building, we might well still be meeting at the Carleton Community Centre. Surely this man was a “clerk of the

works” of the highest - and dare I say “holiest?”- order.

I want to close with a wee story about a man who decided to attend a Quaker Meeting one Sunday morning. After a half-hour of sitting in total silence with those gathered, he could stand it no longer. “Tell me”, he whispered to the Friend sitting beside him, “when does the SERVICE begin?” “Our service begins when our Meeting is over” was the reply. So might it be with you - with us!

With love, Kitsy



Gay for a Day

The Unitarian Church of Vancouver (UCV) will be commemorating Gay “National Coming Out Day” by encouraging all its members and friends to be “Gay for a Day” at the worship service on Sunday October 14. The festive event will also feature a homily introducing UCV’s new “Coming Out Ceremony” which will be offered to individuals who wish to celebrate their different affectional and sexuality identity with supportive loved ones.

“Our goal is to provide optimism and cheer to the coming out process, ” said Unitarian Lay Chaplain Dan Enright, the host and organizer of the event. “With National Coming Out Day (October 11), we thought the solidarity of having anybody choose to be gay for a day would demonstrate our support for bent (opposite of straight) people, and the difficulties that they may have in their personal journeys, because of social stigma, family strife, religious persecution or internalized homophobia.”

National Coming Out Day is organized by a US human rights group, which encourages Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Queer (LGBTQ) people everywhere to wear identifying symbols to demonstrate their presence in all walks of life, all ages and all ethnic groups.

The ceremony the church is introducing is a customizable ritual patterned on familiar cultural ceremonies such as child blessings, weddings and memorials. The process of coming out as LGBTQ is often cited as the most significant event in a bent person’s life, and the Unitarian Church of Vancouver and the Canadian Unitarian Council thought it appropriate that there be an enriching, transformative ceremony available to help the gay person and their loved ones commemorate this important life realization.

“I also think there is value in having this event and ceremony offered by a church,” continued Dan. “We are a diverse spiritual community with varied beliefs, but one thing we can all agree on is homophobia is against our religion,”



Letter to PM re Myanmar

October 1, 2007

The Right Honourable Steven Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister,

The current crisis in Myanmar is the latest eruption of a long-continued situation where an oppressive dictatorship has consistently suppressed and denied the rights of its people to self-determination.

This is a clear-cut case of a tyrannous regime violating the rights of the people. The current uprising, led by courageous Buddhist monks and clearly supported by the people of Myanmar, has already resulted in the death of several of the monks and beating, oppression and probable death of many protesters.

The international community is fully apprised of this situation via the United Nations and international media, and the leaders of Great Britain and the US have spoken, indicating that sanctions will be applied against the dictatorship in Myanmar.

One of the principles of our Canadian Unitarian Council states that we affirm and promote justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. In addition, our peace resolution 1.3 calls us to promote human rights as set out by the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We therefore urge Canada to take action.

The current oppression must be condemned, and Canada, as an upholder of universal human rights, must speak out immediately and unequivocally in the UN and elsewhere in support of those who bravely oppose the dictatorial regime in that unhappy country. We strongly request that Canada issue a clear statement condemning the actions of the Myanmar leaders and apply pressure on the military government to uphold the basic human rights of the Myanmar people.

Yours sincerely,
Jean Pfeleiderer, Ph.D.
President, Board of Trustees
CUC



UUA Advertisement in Time

Friends,

I just got off of a conference call with UUA President, Rev.

Bill Sinkford, our moderator, Gini Courter, and UU's from all over the US.

Here's the deal. Very soon millions of people are going to get their Time magazine containing a full page ad about Unitarian Universalism. If this goes according to plan many of them are going to visit your congregation.

What are you going to do? Given this HUGE outreach opportunity I thought I'd share my group based strategy.

For the past three Sundays I partnered with three different congregations to get members and friends jazzed about connecting, ministering to one another and changing the world via small groups. Part of this included running small groups during coffee hour.

In previous years I've worked with congregations to hold "small group ministry" sample sessions after coffee/fellowship hour. This year I used a different approach in two out of the three congregations. Instead of SGM sample sessions we held one-shot open everyone's invited community building groups.

Here's how it worked. We announced it during the service, letting people know it was a congregation wide event that would be taking over coffee hour. About 10 minutes into coffee hour we started setting up chairs. 15 minutes in we invited people to find a seat. We then handed out a simple script for each group to use. All we did was ask for a volunteer. Easy! We then let the groups run while several of us floated around.

What did we get?

Stories. Laughter. New friendships. The intention to start a new parenting group. Several people deciding to go to lunch together. People enrolling in small groups. And HAPPY NEWCOMERS.

Imagine if every congregation in our association simple planned on holding what I've taken to calling Fellowship Hour Circles over the next month?

Maybe you're ready for an additional 5 - 20 newcomers to walk through the door every Sunday this month. Maybe you have a platinum level greeting ministry. For those of you in need of a plan, maybe this will help.

Here are links to the session in rich text and PDF form:

<http://www.smallgroupministry.net/cgnews/coffeeHrGroup.rtf>

<http://www.smallgroupministry.net/cgnews/coffeeHrGroup.pdf>

I invite you to forward this email to your minister, membership and/or welcome committee. They may be wondering how to handle this influx guests. Share a little small group wisdom with them! If you end up using this format, let me know. I'd love to hear how it went....

in faith,
Peter

Note, the advertisement will appear in US editions of Time, however, Canadian congregations near the border may receive some benefit from the publicity

This space wants your material!