



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

Sunday Service 11 a.m.

Web Site: <http://www.uff.ca>Email: office@uff.ca

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For more information contact Joan Brewer at 455-5169 or jebrewer@rogers.com



Grandmothers Helping Grandmothers

The Grandmothers Helping Grandmothers of Fredericton will be selling Christmas Wreaths again this year in support of The Stephen Lewis Foundation and Help Lesotho (organizations which raise funds for Grandmothers in Africa who are raising children whose parents have died from AIDS) The wreaths are 12-inch, double-sided balsam fir and sell for \$12 undecorated and \$14 decorated with a red bow and white pine cones. Orders can be placed before November 25 by emailing Linda Sprague (spraguella@yahoo.com). Pick-up day at my home Saturday Dec. 1, or Sunday Dec. 2 at the Fellowship after the service. I will deliver any remaining later Sunday afternoon. Payment can be made at pick-up time. Checks made out to "Grandmothers Helping Grandmothers"

Thank you,
Linda Sprague



Sunday Services

Nov 4 The Unitarian Chamber Readers *I learned it all in Kindergarten*

Nov 11 Luke Randall *Endeavours* about a small business downtown.

Nov 18 TBA

Nov 25 Susan Machum *Local Food Movement* Susan has been working with the New Brunswick Food Security Action Network for the past two years and has a pretty good sense of some exciting local initiatives Fredericton Unitarians could participate in.

Dec 2 TBA

Dec 9 Intergenerational *Tree Trimming Service*



Women's Pot Luck

The women's pot luck group will meet next on Friday, November 23 at the home of Allison Calvern, 259 Lynhaven Street. We gather at 6 pm and eat at 6:30 pm. Discussion topic: The value of correspondence - - Bring a letter, card, or email to share, one that has touched you, or taught you or thrilled you. Or bring a story about a piece of correspondence that has helped you understand the world.

From Your President

I am writing this while waiting for little ghosts and goblins, ninjas and werewolves. We even had a giant strawberry (a visitor from Australia who'd never 'Trick or Treat'ed before). We've had more children at the door than previous years - it's a safe neighbourhood so perhaps that's why. This has been helping me to reflect - on sharing and in the excitement. Watching people decorate lawns and houses in anticipation of some fun has also been reflective. How often do we just not bother once our young people have left home? Now that the nights are drawing in, I would like to retain (regain?) the spirit of fun, the excitement of preparation for something anticipated, the delight.

I was sorry to miss the service on Sunday, the 28th of October, but I was fortunate to have the opportunity to visit the Unitarian Universalist Community Church in Au-

gusta, Maine. Besides being made to feel very welcome, I was given a tour of the facilities there. They've been growing steadily and have over 220 members, and almost 100 children to cater for, in three buildings! (Imagine, allison, having to look after three buildings.) But I came back renewed and rejuvenated. Now, to the task at hand, my report.

Board activities - overview

As usual we open our Board meetings with lighting the chalice. At one point it went out, and I felt that something important was missing- I had to get it lit again before we could continue. The spirit of the flame in the chalice and all it stands for is an important part of our connection, even in Board meetings.

The new members, Rhonda Connell as Vice President of Finance and Facilities, and Betty Ponder as Associate Vice President of Communications and Outreach, are becoming more familiar with their roles and what's expected of them.

Our finances are in good shape for this time of year. The primary expenses relate to the Children's Program, Sunday services and Building and Grounds. Of course we have other expenses, but the Board agrees that these three should be the main focus for our resources.

Social Responsibility

The Board has given Tom Hanley, as Chair of the Social Responsibility Committee, the responsibility of connecting with the Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice (CUSJ). The CUSJ actively focuses on three or four issues at any one time, issues that many of our congregation are concerned about or interested in. Tom has been participating in discussions for action on the chaplaincy issue for prisons, on behalf of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton. Tom will keep us informed about upcoming action, and opportunities to contribute to the wider issues, through announcements on Sunday morning.

Bird Friendly Garden

Have you seen the progress on our bird friendly garden? If you haven't seen it yet, go out the front door and take a peek off to the right of the lower lawn, out through the gap in the hedge. Good work, team!

Annual Pledge Campaign

It's almost that time of year again, when we make our annual pledges to support the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton. Tom Hanley has kindly offered to spearhead the annual drive, working with Rhonda, as part of the responsibility of Finance and Facilities.

West Bequest Fund

John van Abbema and Janet Crawford have attended their first meeting of the West Bequest Fund Trustees. Apparently there were more requests for funding this year than money available. Although we have not spent all the

money from the generous West Bequest grant last year, it will have been well and truly spent by next spring. The money is being used to pay for visiting ministers. To assist in finding additional ministerial voices to contribute to our Sunday services, I will be working with others to spread the word through the CUC.

Committee help!

The Children's Program Committee could use a willing soul to help out while Jeff Frooman is in Europe. If you're able to help, the committee could sure use the additional brain power. Contact Rhonda Connell through email: rconnell@nbnet.nb.ca

Tom Hanley is looking for a third person to assist him and Janet Crawford on the Social Responsibility Committee. For more information contact Tom (459-8559) thanley@nbnet.nb.ca or Janet (454-0441) janetcra@nbnet.nb.ca

I know that Glenna Hanley is looking for help on the Membership Committee (contact Glenna on 472-8431, ghanley@nb.sympatico.ca), and there are a number of other committees that may benefit from your input. Like many other organizations, the UFF relies on volunteers to contribute a range of talents and time, and we've been blessed with the generosity of our volunteers.

You may have noticed that a regular announcement is being included in the Order of Service reminding everyone about the opportunity to submit suggestions for Sunday services to the Sunday Services Committee. If you have any ideas or suggestions, don't hesitate to share them.

Circle conversations/small group ministry

This is a subject I've been interested in, but not had much information about, since I rejoined the Fredericton Fellowship. If you are seeking deeper connections with people and greater meaning and purpose in your life, then Small Group Ministry, or circle conversation as some call it, may be just what you are looking for. We know that Sunday morning services may not offer enough opportunity to develop meaningful and sustaining relationships. A small group of eight (or so) offers a wonderful opportunity for newcomers and members to become connected to the wider community. The idea is that the groups encourage people to explore their faith and share their spiritual journeys with each other. We have one such group at the moment, and are looking to establish another one, maybe two if there is enough demand. Gail Moore, Assistant Vice President of Programs and Ministry, has kindly agreed to collect names of people who may be interested. Gail's contact details are (455-3011) gailmo@nb.sympatico.ca

And last, though certainly not least, Janet Crawford is exploring holding a coffee get-together to be held perhaps once a month at Unitarian House. Watch for it!

If you have any questions, or would like to raise an issue,

please don't hesitate to contact me or any other member of your Board. The list is posted by the back door. Also, minutes of the Board meetings are available for anyone interested.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Thompson
President, Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton
Tel: 455-3665
sheilamarriet@hotmail.com



Lay Chaplaincy Basics

A Chaplaincy Basics training session will be held on Friday, November 30th 6:00pm – 9:00pm and Saturday, December 1st from 9:00am – 4:00pm at Neighbourhood Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Toronto. This training is mandatory for new UU Lay Chaplains. Registration closes on November 23. Please contact uuchaplain@nuuc.ca for further details or to register.

Kendrew Pape
NUUC Lay Chaplaincy Chair



CUC Letter to the PM

Editor's note: Reprinted at request of Social Responsibility Chair.

October 23, 2012

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

We understand that The Canada-China Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement is set to come into effect at the end of October 2012 without parliamentary debate. We recognize that foreign investors, like domestic investors, need to be assured that they will receive fair treatment in Canada, that their assets will not be confiscated without compensation and that they will not be subject to discriminatory treatment. However, all investors, foreign and domestic, should be on the same level playing field, subject to all current laws and regulations protecting the environment, as well as any future laws and regulations that may be needed to protect the environment.

In keeping with these principles of our religious faith: the use of the democratic process within our congregation and

in society at large; and respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part, we ask that you allow for a full debate of the proposed agreement in Parliament. Further, we ask that your government ensure that all foreign investors are subject to future environmental laws or regulations, without exception.

Sincerely,

Gary Groot, President
Canadian Unitarian Council

c.c. Thomas Mulcair, NDP Leader of the Opposition;
Bob Rae, Liberal Leader; Elizabeth May, Green Party Leader



CUC Letter to the PM

Editor's note: Reprinted at request of Social Responsibility Chair. Also note, that Vyda Ng the Executive Director of the CUC is putting together a group to be involved in a larger response to the issue. Please contact her (1-888-568-5723) if you are interested in participating.

October 10, 2012

The Right Hon. Stephen Joseph Harper, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

Your decision to cancel the contracts of non-Christian prison chaplains appears to be in violation of the Canadian Human Rights Act, which in Section 5 (a) clearly provides for individuals to have their needs accommodated without being hindered by discriminatory practices, including those based on religion. Freedom of religion is a central tenet of our Unitarian faith, as well as of our nation. Would you kindly explain how this decision does not discriminate against non-Christian inmates?

Mr. Toews said that he strongly supports the freedom of religion for all Canadians, including prisoners, and then goes on to say that the government is not in the business of picking and choosing which religions will be given preferential status through government funding. However, by employing only Christian chaplains, the government is tacitly giving preferential status to Christianity. It is true that all chaplains employed by Corrections Canada must provide services to inmates of all faiths, but the lack of chaplains of other faiths creates a precedent for, and an appearance of, religious discrimination.

Your government cites cost-cutting measures as the reason

for cancelling the contracts of non-Christian chaplains. If this is indeed about economics, Mr. Harper, please demonstrate how, within a reduced budget, you will provide spiritual care for those inmates who are not Christian. (We find it suspicious that the prison chaplain program was only reviewed after Mr. Toews had suspended a tender to hire a Wiccan chaplain.)

We stand with other faith leaders in calling this unconstitutional and strongly urge you to reconsider the decision. We further encourage you to demonstrate your support for freedom of religion for all Canadians by ensuring that prisoners have access to appropriate spiritual care and access to chaplains who are trained in multi-faith competency... that is, who respect every individual's religious beliefs and who can provide appropriate spiritual resources for inmates.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gary Groot
President, Board of Trustees
CUC

Rev. Julie Stoneberg
President
U*U Ministers of Canada

Cc: Hon. Bob Rae, Leader of the Liberal Party of Canada,
MP, PC, OC, OOnt, QC

Hon. Thomas Mulcair, Leader of the Opposition, MP
Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party of Canada,
MP



Concert at UUCSJ

Heartbeat!, the Dalhousie Medical School NB Choir directed by Janet Kidd, will be presenting a concert on **Wednesday, November 28**, starting at **7:00pm** in the sanctuary of the UUCSJ. The programme will be an eclectic mix of contemporary choral pieces and music to celebrate the Christmas season. Also appearing on the programme will be the lively and energetic DMSNB *Ceilidh Band*, consisting of students and faculty, under the leadership of Dr. Wendy Stewart.

Proceeds from the concert will go to support "The Give" and the Humanities HEALS Program (Healing through the arts and life sciences). The money raised by "The Give" this year will go to support the NB Heart Centre.

This is the third concert HeartBeat! and the Ceilidh Band have performed at our church. Their music is energetic and uplifting and leaves their audiences smiling and humming to themselves.

Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at the door.

We hope to see a strong turnout from our congregation and friends for this opportunity to enjoy some great music while supporting a very worthy cause.



Messy Church

Editor's note: following article suggested by Sheila Moore.

"Messy Church - I don't like the sound of that," said a participant at one of the Conversations That Matter, started in January 2011, to provide opportunities for people to talk together in small groups at First United Church.

That observation and others helped us realize that we aren't communicating well enough about some of the things that are happening at our church.

What is Messy Church you might ask, writes Reverend Nancy Rowe of Georgetown United Church.

Messy Church is one of the Fresh Expressions of Worship. It is not a program but an innovative worship that is focussed on families and particularly the vast numbers of people who are third and fourth generation away from having any church experience (apart from the odd wedding). Church is just not something that comes up on the radar for many. Messy Church is Christ centred and offers an opportunity for families to explore their faith, coming together in a lively worship that does not presuppose any familiarity with churchiness, and finally interacting as a community to share a meal. Messy Church recognizes that carving out family time together within the busy schedules of work, school and activities is difficult and Sunday may be the only day that the family can be together. So Messy Church often happens on a weekday, where Mom or Dad can pick up the kids after work, meet at Messy Church and have family time together playing a game, doing a craft, exploring faith and enjoying a good meal (no one has to cook Messy Church night).

The third Saturday of the month is usually Messy Church night at First United, from 4 to 6:30. Since last spring a faithful group of volunteers from First has been meeting with our Minister of Families, Kellie McComb, to plan these monthly gatherings that started to happen regularly in October. The first few sessions saw about 20 people. The most recent gathering on Easter weekend welcomed 45 people including families from the neighbourhood around the church and some kids from 3 group homes.

We heard last fall that there is a serious decline in numbers in mainline churches and predictions are that in five years the United Church of Canada will cease to exist as we have known it. "As we have known it" is a key phrase. Messy Church appears to be one of the new ways that we can welcome new people into our church. On a Saturday evening at First United, one young mother who lives nearby said, "It's great that the church wants to invite the community in. We weren't sure when it was okay for us to come."

"Embracing the Mess: Life is messy and God is to be found working at the messy edges of life." (Rev.

Nancy Rowe)

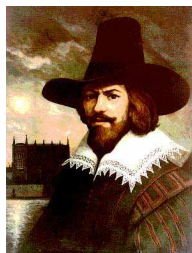
Lucy Moore started Messy Church in the UK in 2004. The first Canadian Messy Churches were begun in 2007. Nancy Rowe started MC at St. George's in April 2007 in Georgetown, ON and Sam Rose started MC in St. John's NL in September 2007. Since that time Messy Churches have sprung up in almost every province across Canada.

Our Messy Church planners at First could use your help preparing the meal or cleaning up or with publicity. You will be welcome, whatever your age, if you would like to come and see what is happening at Messy Church.



Bonfire Night

The fifth of November is celebrated in the United Kingdom to remember that an attempt (organized by Guy Fawkes in 1605) to blow up the parliament was thwarted. Festivities involve lots of fire-works and "The Guy" is burned in effigy. Chanting variations for the rhyme below are also part of the ceremony.



Guy Fawkes

Remember, remember the fifth of November
Gunpowder, treason and plot.
I see no reason, why gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot.

Guy Fawkes, guy, t'was his intent
To blow up king and parliament.
Three score barrels were laid below
To prove old England's overthrow.

By God's mercy he was catch'd
With a darkened lantern and burning match.
So, holler boys, holler boys, Let the bells ring.
Holler boys, holler boys, God save the king.

And what shall we do with him?
Burn him!

Please Post

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**The CLF is having a
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All jewelry sale proceeds support the many UU ministries of the
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This space wants your material!