



The Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton

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Sunday Service 11 a.m.

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Contents for December 2014

Sunday Services	1
Women's Pot Luck	1
Blue Christmas	1
Adult and Youth Programs	1
Message from Your President and Board	2
Caring Committee	3
Mind Body Spirit Shop (advertisement)	3
Financial Support Material	4



Sunday Services

Child care is available and all are welcome.

December 7 Sarah Richard *Spirit of Music* A tour through commercial a capella singing, e.g. the Ny-lons.

December 14 Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes *Winter Holidays*
For everything there is a season a time to die and a time to be born. With the arrival of winter's low dark sky, communities around the world look to the miracle of light as a sign of rebirth and a source of hope. We celebrate the promise of new life and recommit ourselves to the protection of everyone's right to his or her own radiant humanity. In preparation for the Winter Solstice, we will be talking about the expressions of peace and hope in the winter holidays that are celebrated around the world, and our commitment to our Sixth Principle: We Covenant to Affirm and Promote the Goal of World Community with Peace, Liberty and Justice for All.

December 21 Margaret Fitzgerald and Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes *Winter Songs* Come and share in the ministry of music that brings us to a place of joy and harmony. We will be singing Christmas carols, hymns about winter, and popular songs together.

December 28 Carlos Elder-Gomes *Talking Circle* Carlos will be leading us in a talking circle about our hopes for the coming year. Just before the circle is opened, Carlos will perform a smudge ceremony outside; all are welcome to participate.

January 4 Tony Fitzgerald *Experiences as a Lay Chaplain* Tony talks about experiences to date as Lay Chaplain, the special joys and spiritual moments sharing significant events in life.



Women's Pot Luck

The next Unitarian Fellowship women's pot luck will be held Friday, January 2, 2015. Judi Day will host the gathering at her home, 280 Dunns Crossing Road. We gather at 6 PM and eat at 6:30 PM. The topic for discussion will be moving into a new year. Share a memory about this time of the year. Do you do anything special to mark leaving one year and entering a new year? For further information contact Joan Brewer at jebrewer@rogers.com



Blue Christmas

Announcing what is becoming an annual Blue Christmas Service, Wednesday, December 10, 7pm, at Unitarian House, 874 York Street, Fredericton.

Come to The Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton for a Blue Christmas service, a place where you can bring all your stories, whether to share them, or simply to hold them, knowing they are valuable and valued by all who sit with you. Come to experience candlelight, music, refreshments, and a willingness to receive one another within the sometimes awkward comfort of community.

Please contact allison calvern (acalvern@gmail.com / 459-1436) if you have contributions to make to the service. Thanks for your attention.



Adult and Youth Programs

Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes

Over the last few weeks, I have been facilitating an Adult RE program based on a UUA program called What We Choose. The program began November 20, and we will

be finishing up on December 11. This program explores moral and ethical choices, big and small. Participants from inside and outside the Fellowship have been sharing their ideas on such matters as the amount of choice we really have over our conditions, the ethical frameworks in which we can consider our actions, and our consumer and food choices. The final session will be on Ethical Identities. We will review some of the theories we've touched on and identify the approach we strive to use when facing moral dilemmas. People are welcome to come to the session on December 11 even if they have not attended other sessions.

On December 21, we will be continuing our Popcorn Theology series with It's a Wonderful Life. Join us for pizza at 4:00 and stay to watch the movie and discuss its relevance to some UU ideas. Gabe Elder-Gomes leads this program; it is designed as an all-ages activity and we extend a special invitation to youth and young adults.

We are looking forward to discussing our plans for the new year at an upcoming Congregational Conversation, and are always open to your ideas. We hope to offer another adult program and to relaunch our evening discussion series on important issues and meaningful questions.

To suggest activities for youth or adults to our committee, please email me at eldergomes@yahoo.com.



Message from Your President and Board

Once again, all members of the Board warmly invite and encourage all members to come to the next monthly Conversation, December 7 from 12:30 to 1:30. Holding monthly conversations is a high priority for our Board this year, reflecting our sense that the centrally important gift that each of us brings to the Fellowship is our presence.

The immediate focus of the December 7 Conversation is sharing of Committee Reports, covering an overview of activities this Fall, and priorities for next semester. These reports are no longer designed to go upwards to-the-Board. They are intended to go horizontally to all our members. To all Committee Chairs, if you are unable to make this Conversation meeting yourself, please delegate someone else from your committee to give your report and address questions. The Board will also present the Treasurer's Report for December 2014, and the ongoing financial pledge campaign for 2015.

We are also preparing for the special duly-constituted Membership Meeting in January 2015. This meeting happens every year. It requires a quorum of members to pass the budget for 2015. This meeting will cover three important issues:

- approve the budget

- elect members to the Nominating Committee for 2015
- Approve, proposals from the Board to commit to the principles of direct democracy within the Fellowship.

Being in regular conversation with each other is the guiding principle of direct democracy. In brief, direct democracy involves commitment to the following practices:

- fully inclusive ways to elect nominating committee and encourage applicants for positions;
- fully open Board meetings;
- open communication;
- presentations by members to the Board being open to all members, while removing personal names and directly identifying information;
- open disclosure of personal interests and commitments relevant for issues under consideration;
- regular congregational conversations in which to share "committee reports" that formerly went only to the Board, and a forum to discuss issues under consideration by the Board and to confirm policy decisions.

These practices involve delegation of some powers from the Board to the membership at large, but at the same time they increase the responsibility of the Board to frame and shape informed discussion in congregational conversations. Direct democracy ultimately requires trust that the majority of members are well-meaning, that they care enough about the Fellowship and each other to soften hard-line positions and find good ways forward. Open communication and informed discussion call for different kinds of leadership and different kinds of active membership. It will not always be easy, but I am hopeful that most of you will embrace and enjoy the process. The Board is already putting these principles into practice, with open meetings, circulation of full summaries of all Board and Conversation meetings by email to all members - summaries that cover discussions, concerns and arguments raised around issues, and not just concluding motions. My sincere hope is that as members you appreciate receiving these regular conversations and communications, and that they help to generate and sustain a sense of being in community together. Above all, your presence matters. To draw from the Sunni proverb - notwithstanding the fact that you, and we as community, have messed up a thousand times, we are still working towards upholding our 7 core principles: Come Yet Again Come.

Sincerely, Sylvia Hale



Caring Committee

The caring committee would like to know who might be available to help out when someone needs “caring.”

Can you provide

A drive?

A supper?

Some Flowers?

A visit to someone who needs company?

Please let us know,

Janet Crawford. 454-0441 janetcra@nbnet.nb.ca

Lorna Drew. 457-2150 lornadrew@rogers.com

We are your caring committee.



Namaste

Mind Body Spirit Shop



Wellness Products

Crystals Jewellery Candles

CDs DVDs Incense Oils

Unique Giftware

25 Winter St. Sussex NB

Owner Karen Kirk

506-433-4747

karenk@nbnet.nb.ca

Note regarding photo: Karen Kirk and her sister Brenda Mason in front of the new Namaste Shop in Sussex. Karen's first shop was destroyed in a fire two years ago that wiped out an historical part of downtown Sussex.



The Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton

874 York St, Fredericton, NB E3B 3R8

Dear Members and Friends of The Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton

November is our traditional month to canvass our members for support in our operational campaign. We ask you to give generously so that this vibrant, open and free religious community can continue to thrive. Your donations will help us do mundane things such as plowing the driveway, mowing the lawns and heating the building. They also allow us to put on programs such as the popular visits by ministers such as Kitsy Winthrop.

It takes about \$34,000 per year to operate the Fellowship and our major source of revenue is this campaign. We depend on the generosity of people who are able to donate and make a commitment to monetarily support our Fellowship. We know that some people do not have much money or spare time but we welcome their presence. Some members have solid sources of income and can afford to give more. Please look deep into yourself and decide what you can honestly afford to give. Most of our operational costs are covered by people who donate a thousand dollars or more while six hundred dollars is also a popular amount. We value all contributions of our members and friends who give so willingly of their time, treasures and talents to help us build the community we all desire.

Remember for charitable donations after you exceed the minimum \$200 level, you will receive about forty-six cents back on the dollar so your thousand dollars will cost only about \$540.

It is important for planning purposes to know how much money we can depend on. When we are sure of funding, we can bring in professional ministers more often to complement the lay led services, we can do more social actions projects and look after the building in a timely fashion. We ask that you fill in the accompanying form indicating your planned level of giving to us.

To launch this campaign, we are planning a special lunch after the service on November 30. Please join us.

Please give careful consideration to this request for funds,

Sincerely

TUFF board 2014 - 2015?



The Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton

874 York St. Fredericton, NB E3B 3R8

Estimated Financial Support for the Year 2015

I/We (Name) _____

Estimate the following level of financial support for the work of The Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton for the 2015 calendar year.

TOTAL CONTRIBUTION OF: _____ To be paid in (weekly, monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, annual) instalments _____

Because I/we understand the importance of regular contributions for the financial operations of the Fellowship I/we will use post-dated cheques for the amount indicated above _____

Date _____

Signed _____

Please return form by Dec. 15 if possible. Put on the collection plate, or mail to The Treasurer at the above address. Thank you.