



The Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton

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If now the clink of coins into bowls is but an echo, also it is a promise for next year. The bowls have dispersed across this great land, connecting congregations in a way that helps to build our U*U community into a Canadian presence. Thank you to the enthusiastic participation of Canadian U*U congregations, and to the solid support of CUC headquarters.

Thank you all!



Barn and Flowers at Shamper's Bluff



Women's Potluck

The next women's pot luck dinner will be held July 28th., 6pm at Allison Calvern's home, 259 Lynhaven Street. The 'show and tell' topic for June created a lot of discussion and we will continue where we left off. The topic centres on the idea of liberation, women's liberation, "the personal is political". What do these words mean in your life and in the greater social realm? Join us for an evening of food, discussion, revelation, and laughter. For information please contact Joan Brewer at 455-5169 or jrjeb@nb.sympatico.ca



Empty Bowls vs Empty Bellies

U*Us gathered. Congregations gathered. And a bevy of hand crafted beauties got together. Our youth sang, leading us into an evening wherein our hearts and wallets responded to both local and global hunger. Once again, Empty Bowls won! Eight thousand dollars was raised to feed the hungry who come to Romero House in Saint John, and the ill who fall into the nurturing hands of Alpha Foundation in Sierra Leone.

UFF Scarf Update: Think Fall!

Saint Thomas University has asked up to provide each international student with a handmade scarf in September. Please start knitting! We have a lot of yarn (some yarn was donated by knitters from our local Singer store on York Street).

Geneviève has offered to give knitting lessons to those who would like to learn to knit. Last year almost half of our members knit a scarf! Let's keep up the good work. Even people who didn't know us knit scarves for us. My friend's aunt, Lalia McVey who died in May at the age of 96 knit six scarves for us last year - she didn't ever come to our fellowship, but her passion about our scarf project was amazing. Lalia knit the lovely large scarves with perfect

small stitches made with pastel ‘baby yarn’.

We have 35 scarves in our ‘scarf inventory’. In August, which is fast approaching, a display of our scarves will be set in the fellowship. I believe we will need a few more for September and the January 2007 students will arrive before we know it.

The plan is to attach one of our new business cards (with our magnolia chalice and address/web site on the front and our seven principles on the back) to each scarf. Many students who come to Fredericton to study lack connection to our culture, our language and religions commonly found in this region. Perhaps, a warm scarf with the card attached will interest them in getting to know us. I will send out an notice to you all about the scarf presentation at STU - please plan to attend.

In fellowship
Patricia des Champs



One of many quiet spots to contemplate



Diary Entries

Wednesday, January 25, Bobby Burns Day

Mum was always particularly proud of her Scottish ancestry, and therefore are we all. We had Scottish foods. I don’t know if pudding meat is a Scottish dish, but we all enjoyed it in this area, also scones. Hingey (pronounced hing-ee) was cottage cheese but Mum added mustard, salt, and pepper, and it was very special. There was never enough but she always had a little dish for Uncle Jim as he was also very fond of it. Mum had many Scottish words in her vocabulary and her resource was endless it seemed.

As kids, we celebrated Hogmanay on New Year’s Eve. We went in a group to every house in the neighbourhood and outside the door, we hollered, “*Get up gid wife and shake*

your feathers. And do not think that we are beggars. For we are children come to play. So please give us our Hogmanay.” We collected sandwiches, cookies, cake, and apples, and then we went to our house or Lorne’s or Elmer’s, and had a lunch. I really can’t remember games or a party, but we all had fun and probably just acted silly. I don’t know when this custom died out—fifty years or so ago. Then we started seeing the old year out in a more romantic fashion, dancing usually, at a New Year’s Eve Ball.

Lines of Burns’ come to mind “*For a man’s a man for a’ that*”—how we misread that one in school and I wouldna’ dare to put it down lest I misquote, so I’ll do the toast Reverend Jackson did a few years back, “*Here’s to those whas like us, Damn few, And they’re a’ dead!*” I’m off to town, *up yer kilt!*

Thursday, January 26, Michael’s 18th birthday

Since visiting Gertie MacLean in Prince William on Monday, I have thought a lot about her, and Annie, and Mabel Godkin, and all the people who worked in the mill—and especially the things Gertie told me.

Gertie started work there when she was 13 (and her sisters 12 or 13). She mentioned that one sister wanted to be a school teacher, but her parents thought the opportunity to work too good to pass up, so she had no choice. Gertie spoke of one day when Dewill Lister visited Pup and Pup was showing ‘Dewy’ around. Gertie was standing not too far from Dewitt when he asked Pup how he knew that they worked when he wasn’t there. Pup said, “They work just the same or perhaps even better when I’m away.” They liked Pup as a boss, in fact they were quite sentimental about him. ON his 80th Birthday, or was it his 90th, Gertie, Jimmy, and Charlie came with a Birthday cake—pretty special people those Kingstons.

Gertie asked me if I remembered the day Marie, Pauline, and I started throwing bobbins at her and some of the other workers when they were taking a break outside the back door of the old mill and they didn’t dare come back in. I must ask my ‘confederates in crime’ if they remember. What a hell of a thing to do, and remember or not, I am sure we are guilty.

Many of our fun times were down in the mill, but what a nuisance we must have been. We were kicked out many times by ‘Big Slipper,’ as Pup was called. We would go up to the picker room on the third floor and jump through the hole into the soft, oily wool on the second floor. Then we’d trail a bunch of wool on our clothing back up for a second jump. It was fun and we entertained company this way. I think i liked just pretending I worked there while watching those who did—their fingers worked as if by magic. What a wonderful recreation area. But we only played there until Pup kicked us out!

Friday, January 27, Roy’s 64th Birthday

The calm after the storm. There were no ploughs in our

area back then and I suppose we had to wait for Mother Nature to take her course. Some winters they had little snow and it was called an ‘open winter,’ but my memory is of mountains of snow. the more the better! The houses were warmer and we were prepared. The stoves and furnaces burned wood, so we had no discomfort from power outages. We’d sort of ‘hole up’ for the winter. I can’t recall winters where the car was up on blocks, yet I do recall that only sleighs, long sled, and pungs were used to go to the store or to Harvey. I remember Pup taking me to see the doctor in Harvey regarding a pain I had in my abdomen! On the way to the doctor we were all very quiet and sat motionless in the sleigh lest I rupture something. Dr. Dougan diagnosed it as indigestion. En route home we were in and out of the sleigh, scaring the horse. Pup was so mad at us! He gave us hell many times. Perhaps that made it all the more fun.

I remember one day when Uncle Oscar, Aunt Eva and Roderick (a baby) were visiting. When they were ready to go home, and had ‘ild Lucy’ hitched up, Pup told them to just drive her around the barn and behind the house—no problem. they did, but there was a sheet on the clothesline which spooked the house. She balked, and didn’t they, wagon and all, go over the bank and into the dam. I wonder, was it frozen over? I guess I don’t remember so vividly. I will have to ask Aunt Eva who is 95. She will remember.

She did remember. It wasn’t winter. The dam was not frozen. She jumped out with Roderick, and the horse, wagon, and Uncle Oscar went into the dam. But no injuries!

Saturday, January 28, 10:30pm

I’m home from town. I have my feet soaking and a slight headache. Oh boy! Hockey game on TV. Maple Leafs vs New York Rangers. But many of us aren’t so interested as we were in the old days when there were only six teams in the National Hockey League and Foster Hewitt was Mr. Hockey. Back then, we all listened to Hockey Night in Canada on radio. Everyone had a favorite team. Now it is so large one can’t possibly know the players. The playoffs last for over month. However, we do have recreation centres and rinks in every small area, and this gives many more kids the chance to play and possibly become ‘Big Leaguers.’

In our day, if we got the type of winter where the dam provided us with ice, we had lots of skating and built bonfires for warmth, for light, and for romance! If there was no ice, we had snow for sliding. It was lots of fun. We skied too, though our skis were often home-made with a leather strap over the toe. Very few of the kids had ski poles, and many of us used barrel staves for skis. Now how we attached them, (if we did) I don’t know. We tried jumping, too. If you didn’t know how to jump it could be disastrous. We were lucky!

We had great times. We were all such good friends, and our parents were all friends, and our parents were so special. When some of those neighbour kids told my Dad, years later, the ‘we’ always had nice things, and that because of him and Mum, their childhood’s were more pleasant, Pup was surprised and pleased. He said that his own kids didn’t seem to appreciate it, so he was happy someone did. But, despite our apparent thankless attitude, I’m sure Mum and Pup knew how great they were. I sure hope so anyway.

Sunday, January 29, 10:15am

When we were kids we were privileged to have one of the first radios—at that time, only a few people had then in York Mills. Ours was an Atwater-Kent, a rectangular metal box which had knobs, tubes, and all the things necessary to bring in the music and drama we enjoyed. The speaker sat on the piano, and the radio on the library table. We did get a lot of static, but on a clear night, when the reception was good, we’d call a neighbour to come and listen. And, as so often happened, the reception would deteriorate. The people must have gone home thinking “I wouldn’t want one of them at all.”

We have a record of Pup going to Saint John for a new tube for the radio in 1929 (just 60 years ago). He went to Prince William Station with the horse and sleigh, put the horse in Jamieson’s barn, and took the train to Saint John. And, Oh Boy, when they had that new tube in place, and the radio worked again, it was like when the power had been off for hours and the hydro men had come to fix it.

We listened to Jack Armstrong, the All American Boy, Lux Radio Theatre, and the Major Bows Talent Night, and that awful gong for those who didn’t make it. Oh yea, Amos and Andy. Of course fiddlin’ music was special on Saturday nights. I’ll have room for more as I remember. We had soap operas, too—Ma Perkins, Pepper Young’s Family, Big Sister—often at noon.

R.E.C.



Buildings and Grounds News

Gone is the old mail box in the driveway! Canada Post has come and measured and given a new mail slot their blessing! So, we have a new secure mail slot at the Unitarian Fellowship. When the letter carrier delivers our mail through the mail slot, it will go into the new cloakroom (that will remain locked except when in it is being used). This means our mail will be safe and dry!

Our new cloakroom is a major upgrade for our treasured fellowship. It will be warmer in the winter and brighter than our old area in the garage that we have used for coats and shoes in the past. There is a chair to sit on for changing footwear. There are new coat hooks for the children -

at their height so they can help themselves!

The light will come on automatically when you open the cloakroom door - great when your arms are full or you are entering the fellowship with children.

The key in the lock box will also unlock the cloakroom door. Please remember to lock the cloakroom when you leave the building. The garage will no longer be used and should remain locked at all times.

In fellowship

Patricia desChamps and Barb Fairweather
Buildings and Grounds



The Million Faces Campaign Report

Thank you to all those who participated in the Million Faces Campaign calling for tighter control on small arms. Your photos will be traveling the UN Review Conference on Small Arms happening June 26-July 5. This is a follow up conference to the 2001 Programme of Action. Progress on getting a reign on small arms has been slow. At present, there are 639, 000, 000 small arms world wide including pistols, machine guns, grenades, portable anti-tank systems and mortars which take the lives of 500, 000 people per year.

So the 2001 UN meeting has not been as effective as it should have been. Your photos show you care about this issues and show the UN conference delegates that the decision which are made will not go unnoticed. "Project ploughshares has been working for over a decade with various partners on initiatives which seek to strengthen control on supply and demand of small arms." The Project Ploughshares campaign which is working in conjunction with the Million Faces Campaign, is calling for governments to

1. "Restrict the availability and spread of small arms"
2. "Adopt policies and practices to address the adverse social, economic, and political conditions that generate the demand for small arms"
3. "provide resources and build capacities to ensure more compliance with international laws and measures to control small arms"

<http://www.ploughshares.ca/control/SmallArmsCamp/event%20flyer.pdf>

The Project Ploughshares campaign is called Take Action to Control Small Arms. "The campaign focuses on the international trade in small arms and seeks civil society and governmental support for an Arms Trade treaty. The long-term aim of this campaign is to make people safer by stopping the flow of all conventional arms to those who would use them for atrocities and serious abuses."

(Taken from Project Ploughshares Campaign to Control Small Arms 2005-06).

In fellowship

Najat Abdou-McFarland



Impatiens on mossy bricks



Social Responsibility

Hello!

I am excited to be working as Chair for the Social Responsibility Committee this year. This is my favourite committee as I feel that as UU's we are well positioned to "walk our talk". I would imagine that many of us at one time or other "walk the walk" of our UU faith-whatever you may choose that to be- by speaking up and offering an alternative vision? No doubt many reading this do just that as a matter of course. Others perhaps would if there was an opportunity that fit with their beliefs and principles. Well, this church year, you will be offered the opportunity to share what you would like to do with our UU congregation for social responsibility. There is a CUC social responsibility manual that I have worked on that I will use to help navigate the world of UU social responsibility. You can find it at cuc.ca/social_responsibility/resources.htm. It suggests that the social responsibility committee survey the congregation as a first step. So, I will be asking that all members and friends fill out the survey in September. I hope that you will be happy to participate.

As well, we are planning to continue the excellent work that this congregation is already doing. Several members who have already got regular church based projects on the go are planning on continuing with the help of the social responsibility committee.

The Welcoming Congregation group which is part of social responsibility is planning some workshops from the "Liv-

ing the Welcoming Congregation” handbook. We will be sharing the schedule of these as soon as we’ve shored up our plans.

Please feel free to contact me any time if you want to help on our committee. I am looking forward to serving this congregation as social responsibility chair.

Thanks for being a UU!!!

Sharon



Volunteers Are Needed

Our yard work didn’t get finished this spring. We need volunteers for several specific tasks. If you will take responsibility for one or several tasks please call Barb Fairweather or Patricia desChamps or surprise us! We have plastic bags and some tools at UFF - perhaps you would prefer to bring your own tools. If you can, please take your bags home for disposal. If you can’t, please leave the filled bags outside the garage door.

- Weeding, thinning out and edging in the flower bed ten feet NE of our magnolia (iris was blooming there in June)
- Removing plant debris from under the magnolia
- Trimming the two Potentilla shrubs on the south lawn (S of the driveway 15 feet from the kitchen windows)
- Trimming a number of branches from the lilacs etc. that are rubbing up against the house outside the kitchen window. Please trim them up so the greenery starts 36 inches from the ground and branches don’t touch the house siding.
- Weeding and edging the flower bed on York Street where our large fellowship sign is located
- Pulling weeds from under the hedges - they have been trimmed already
- Removing evergreen debris under the sanctuary front window and around shrubbery on the north side
- Removing weeds from between concrete and slate around the property



Children’s Religious Education

Holy hot! I’ve been in Saint John a lot this summer-escaping the heat wave! Hope you’ve found a cool place

to rest as well! Don and I are planning a great Kids RE program next church year that will include several new facilitators and even a new schedule! We will still be doing the Kids Worship every week but will be adding a 10AM class 1-2 Sundays every month. We are encouraging all the RE kids to write poems and readings for opening words, mid-worship reading and closing words. It should be fun to read each others work! If any of our UU kids do write anything over the summer, you can always send it to me or drop it off on the top of the piano in the RE room. I’ll be in periodically over the summer however the RE group does not provide a program during the summer. Looking forward to seeing you all when we gather again at the end of the summer.

Thanks for all your support!

Sharon and Don



Editorial

Scattered through this issue are several pictures which I took during our gathering at Shamber’s Bluff. I would like to thank Freeman Patterson for his hospitality in making the property available for us to experience. Also, a deep and grateful thanks to Allison for organizing everything and for a fantastic line up of services this past year and looking forward to more to come.

Elsewhere in this issue, I have included a letter from the CUC to selected members of Parliament regarding the plight of homosexuals in the Middle East. It serves to highlight the importance of the “Welcoming Congregation” programme and why it is necessary to single out the GLBTQ community for special welcome. As we move into the Fall, the Welcoming Congregation sub-committee of the Social Responsibility committee will be organizing the “Living the Welcoming Congregation” follow on programme. It is expected that welcoming congregations will do this.

I would strongly urge anyone who still has questions about the welcoming congregation programme and why it is so important to many of us make every effort to attend the workshops that will be part of the Living the Welcoming Congregation programme. It became apparent at our June AGM that some people still do have questions, however, all the questions asked and points raised were answered and addressed during the workshops which we undertook as part of becoming a Welcoming Congregation. Each workshop was typically two hours in duration and I can not do justice to the material presented in a simple editorial.

In fellowship

Tony Fitzgerald



YAG Announcement

An announcement from the Youth Advisory Group, a national UU youth body:

The Youth Advisory Group (YAG) is facilitating a process for re-evaluating the structures and systems that impact ministry to and with UU youth in Canada, with the goal of increasing youth empowerment. Surveys were distributed to and collected from youth in the fall, and a discussion board has now been set up to allow all youth the opportunity to contribute their ideas, thoughts and concerns about the way youth ministry in Canada is now done, and how it can be improved in the future.

All youth, as well as youth advisors, ministers, DREs, parents and other youth allies are invited to join in the discussion.

A conference called Terre Commune - Winds of Change will be held Sept 1st to 4th 2006 in Winnipeg, where selected youth and adult representatives from all regions will use the results of the discussion board to prepare proposals which will then be brought to the CUC board for approval in February 2007. Interested youth and adults are invited to apply to represent their region at this conference, application forms will be made available shortly on the cuc.ca/youth website, and from your regional Youth Adult Committee.

We intend to cover all representatives' travel to this conference, but to do so additional donations are required. If you would like to support this important conference financially, please contact Chris Michell at christine.michell@uleth.ca

More information can be found at www.cuc.ca/youth The discussion board is located at:

<http://canyruureview.proboards99.com>



CLF Poster

Principles and Purposes Poetry Poster Want a fun and attractive reminder of our UU Principles for your wall?

The Church of the Larger Fellowship now offers a poster featuring the *Seven Principles* in limerick form!

Bright, colorful, and clever 11" x 18" poster.

All plants, beasts and people belong
To a web that is silent but strong.
Every choice that you make
Leaves a trail in its wake,
So remember you're part of the throng

\$10.00 includes postage, shipping and handling

To purchase a poster or learn more about the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF), contact us: www.clfuu.org or call 617-948-6150.



Flowering stumps



Mary Bennett's July Message

July 12, 2006

TIPPING POINT

I rather like finding out that the "angle of repose" is another term that means the same (according to some) as "tipping point". It's appropriate that it's deck-chair season to consider the connection. Wikipedia tells me to, "consider a person who leans back in a chair. If the person tips back beyond a certain angle, then the chair will tip over and the person will fall onto his or her back."

Although originally a sociological term, it was recently popularized and applied to daily life by Malcolm Gladwell's 2000 bestselling book *The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference*.

<http://www.gladwell.com/tippingpoint/index.html>

Here are some examples from Gladwell's website:

It's a book about change. In particular, it's a book that presents a new way of understanding why change so often happens as quickly and as unexpectedly as it does. For example, why did crime drop so dramatically in New York City in the mid-1990's? How does a novel written by an unknown author end up as national bestseller? Why do teens smoke in greater and greater numbers, when every single person in the country knows that cigarettes kill? Why is word-of-mouth so powerful? What makes TV shows like *Sesame Street* so good at teaching kids how to read?

I think the answer to all those questions is the same. It's

that ideas and behavior and messages and products sometimes behave just like outbreaks of infectious disease. They are social epidemics. The Tipping Point is an examination of the social epidemics that surround us.

I'd like to hear from you!

How have you seen the Tipping Point effect in your congregation? Did an event "suddenly" become an annual tradition? Did your music program start to attract those from beyond the church community? How about the youth group? Perhaps one week there were only a couple, and then there were 20 or 30?

Send me a note to mary@cuc.ca or add a comment to my blog at:

http://www.cuc.ca/whos_who/ed/messages.htm

(Click "Conversations with Mary")

Take care of yourselves and each other

Mary

Mary Bennett, Executive Director

Canadian Unitarian Council

SHORT SNIPPETS

I include these short snippets for your information and as "fillers" for congregational newsletters or announcement sheets. Please use as you will.

MAY LONG WEEKEND

The Canadian Unitarian Council Annual Conference and Meeting is always on the May long weekend. We've now confirmed locations for the next three years. 2007 is hosted by the Unitarian Church of Vancouver and UBC will be the main conference venue. Ottawa First is hosting 2008, and Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship (Thunder Bay) will host 2009. To receive monthly updates on the 2007 conference, send a blank email to cuc-acm-2007-news-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Tres CUUL!

Canadian Unitarian Universalist Leadership School was sold out this year in Ottawa at 35 participants (Even then we had to add an additional facilitator). And we have now finalized the requirements for the CUUL Program to be designated as a CUUL Leader. You'll find information and a good Reading List whether you're enrolled or not at: <http://www.cuc.ca/programs/leadership.htm>

LAY CHAPLAINCY TURNOVER

Many of our congregations are recruiting lay chaplains as the six-year maximum term takes effect this May, 2007, and a number of long-time lay chaplains will be retiring then. CUC has always recommended at least two lay chaplains even if the number of services are few, in order to provide backup and support. To assist with this transition, CUC now has two Lay Chaplaincy committees - one in the

west; and one in the east. Each committee member has a group of congregations that they will be in contact with- and available to answer questions-to provide clarification on resolutions; policies and procedures. Lots of information at: http://www.cuc.ca/lay_chaplaincy/index.htm or contact Janice Lincoln at the CUC office (Janice@cuc.ca) if you have questions. If she doesn't know, she can forward your question to the appropriate committee member.

Take care,

Mary Bennett, Executive Director
CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL
www.cuc.ca 1-888-568-5723

Mary's in Vancouver till end of August - 604-617-0142

CUC Annual Conference and meeting 2007 will be the largest ever. Over the summer we are finalizing various details and will post on the web regularly. Reservations for accommodation at UBC - the conference site-will open July 15/06.



Letter from CUC to MP/PM

The Honourable Peter G. McKay
Minister of Foreign Affairs Canada
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, ON K1A 0C2
June 23, 2006

Dear Minister,

Canadian Unitarians are concerned about reported systematic killings and imprisonment of gay men and teens in Iraq and Iran. A report from the United Nations Office issued on April 10, 2006 confirmed that gay Iraqis have been targeted for kidnapping and murder because of their sexual orientation.

Our First Principle states our commitment to the inherent worth and dignity of every human being. In 1978, the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) at its Annual Meeting adopted a resolution calling for all "codes of human rights to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation." This position was reaffirmed and expanded by the CUC's Annual Conference and Meeting resolutions in 1984 and 2006. In June 2005, Canadian Unitarian youth carried a Pride Rainbow Banner to Parliament Hill to affirm and support the right to same-sex marriage.

In recent reports, more than forty five Iranian gays are known to have died. This includes the hanging of two teenage boys, aged 16 and 17 years, and the shooting of a fourteen year old boy. In one case, a young Iranian gay man with a good academic record had gained admittance to Canadian institutions of higher education. However, he was unable to obtain a visitor's visa and study permit from his home government, even with an offer of free housing

and tuition.

Canadians should not repeat the mistake that was made when Jews were turned away while fleeing the Holocaust, because they were feared as Germans. Like those Jewish Germans, gay Muslims must also flee to survive.

We urge that you instruct Canadian missions in Iran, Iraq and Egypt, known areas in which gay men are at risk, to expedite the issuance of visas in order to facilitate their arrival in Canada, a safe haven for gay men and teens. Unitarians and other sympathizers have offered to seek housing for these endangered persons among our congregants, other accepting denominations, and Canada's gay population.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Vyda Ng

President

Canadian Unitarian Council / Conseil Unitarien du Canada



Cemetery



Stewardship: a UUA workshop

The UUA's Dr. Wayne Clark is a believer in something many Unitarian Universalists shy away from - asking for money. That was crystal clear in the workshop previewing his about-to-be-published book, *Forward Through the Ages: A New Stewardship Development Program* (due out from Beacon Press in March, 2007).

Clark, Director of Congregational Fundraising Services for the UUA, believes that language around money should change to get rid of some very old, very negative baggage. In Clark's preferred lexicon, the canvasser is the "budget drive," a pledge is a "financial commitment," a canvasser is a "visiting steward," and a home visit is a "stewardship

conversation." Above all, Clark says, fundraising is stewardship. His rationale is that "fundraising" emphasizes the need of the recipient, while "stewardship" is all about the spiritual need to give. And the way to a person's wallet, he insists, is always through the heart and soul.

The Forward Through the Ages stewardship plan emphasizes the connection between spiritual stewardship and congregational mission by linking resources with current programs and ministries, and by seeking to deepen a commitment to future programs and ministries. It's a multi-year, systemic stewardship development program designed to both promote growth and fulfill a congregation's mission. There are five phases, which could each take a year to complete, and five components in each phase.

The phases of the stewardship program are:

* Receiving and accepting * Growing and investing * Returning and restoring * Giving generously * Applying recent learnings

In each phase, the five components are:

* Stewardship education * Joyful giving * Ministry and good works * The annual budget drive * Planned giving

Clark gave several examples of possible activities in the first phase of the program (Receiving and accepting). Stewardship education could include offering a money management workshop or conducting a Sunday service around the theme of gracious receiving. Ministry and good works might include a series of Sunday order of service inserts highlighting successful programs and ministries. Planned giving might include a bequest recognition society.

Clark shared a long list of tips designed for successful stewardship campaigns. For example, he says for visiting stewards (what many now call canvassers) to be effective, they need an orientation workshop to discuss how to ask for money. Clark recommends that potential visiting stewards be assured that they don't have to decide whether to take the job until the end of the orientation. Those who then agree to make stewardship visits should be given no more than four households (to avoid burnout). And Clark says those who decide they cannot handle the job should be let off the hook.

As for how to ask for money, Clark insists the most successful approach is a direct, person-to-person conversation. Phone calls are a distant second. Mail is an even more distant third.

Responding to one of the final questions in a Q and A session, Clark said the most important part of any fundraising driving is making the case. "The better job you do of sharing your passion, the more money you're likely to get. You want people as stewards who are passionate about the congregation and are willing to speak to that. They must be able to answer the question 'What difference will my money make?'"

Clark is looking for four to eight congregations to participate in a demonstration project of the new stewardship development plan. Judging from the hands that shot up during this workshop, there'll be no shortage of volunteers.



Minutes of Board Meeting

May 31, 2006

Present: Tony Fitzgerald, Allison Calvern, George DeMille, Patricia desChamps, Don Flatt, Betty Ponder; regrets: Ed Leslie and Tracy Walls.

1. Opening: Allison lit the chalice as Tony read an opening selection, after which . . .

2. Call to order: . . . he called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm. It was agreed that, in the absence of the president, Tony chair the meeting.

3. Check-in: Those present were invited to check in.

4. Approval of agenda: It was agreed that the agenda as circulated be adopted.

5. Minutes of meeting of April 26: MOVED (George & Allison) that the minutes of the previous meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

6. Business arising: None

7. Correspondence: None

8. Section and Financial reports

(i) Financial report: George distributed a report (attached to minutes) showing a year-to-date surplus of \$3127.

(ii) Programs & Ministry: Letters (attached to the minutes) have been received from Nadine Ives and Eric Stevenson objecting to the service topic for June 4 on the Spirituality of Wine. It was felt that this was a matter that should be dealt with by the Adult Program Committee. This committee has already met and has decided that the service topic is an appropriate one and no move to interfere with the service is called for. Allison will write separately to Eric and Nadine explaining the Adult Program Committee's decision. George will write also on behalf of the Board.

Tony expressed his appreciation to Allison for the program of the past year.

(iii) Communications & Outreach: The business cards are now almost ready. The building use policy document is nearly final (copy attached to minutes). It was felt that we should have an information meeting for all external users, at which time they would be asked to sign the form accepting the conditions under which their use of our facility is governed. Responsibility for administering the policy

is to be transferred to the Finance & Facilities section.

Patricia reported that the Fredericton Music Festival would like to hold monthly meetings in our building and also to use it for the wood winds section of the festival next spring. She also reported that Mr. Klaus of the Baha'i group has offered to do repairs needed for the grand piano in gratitude for our letting them meet at our premises.

(iv) Finance & Facilities: Patricia reported that an air conditioner has been installed upstairs in order to control the humidity in the building. A humidex unit is also to be installed in the basement to the same end.

There was discussion of the renovations to make the building more accessible to those with physical disabilities. Two quotations (attached to minutes) for providing a wheelchair ramp to the kitchen entrance have been received. M & S Renovations will be asked to install this ramp. The possibility of obtaining a grant from the NB Government to convert the wash-room near this entrance to a wheelchair accessible one was discussed. There is no money in the budget for this but if a grant is forthcoming we might be able to proceed.

MOVED (George & Don) that we apply for a grant under the provincial Family and Youth Capital Assistance Program for the conversion of this wash-room. CARRIED

George and Patricia will prepare the grant application.

9. AGM planning and by-law revisions: Prior to the meeting Tony had circulated a suggestion (attached to minutes) on how a statement might be added to our by-laws indicating our status as a Welcoming Congregation. He felt that this might be done most appropriately by adding a new "whereas" clause to the preamble.

MOVED (George & Don) that the Annual General Meeting be asked to approve this amendment to the by-laws.

CARRIED

George and Tony will put this amendment on our website.

10. Nominating Committee: Patricia reported that the slate of officers is almost complete, with the notable exception of vice-president and associate VP (Communications & Outreach). It was agreed that the Nominating Committee would attempt to have a full slate nominated by June 8 so that due notice could be given in advance of the annual meeting.

11. Other business: Allison reported that the Welcoming Congregation Committee would like the board to establish a policy and procedures for dealing with complaints. It was felt that this matter should be left to the incoming board.

Betty felt that it was time to set up a panel of four to oversee the organization and decoration of interior building space. It was agreed that Margaret Boyle, Genevieve Laloux, Sheila Moore and Mary Scott be asked to consti-

tute this panel.

12. Closing words and adjournment: By general consensus the meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.

George DeMille

Secretary-Treasurer

Attachments:

1. Year-to-date Financial Statement for 2006;
2. Letters from Nadine Ives and Eric Stevenson concerning the proposed Spirituality of Wine service and report to the board from the Adult Program Committee;
3. Building use policy, application form and agreement;
4. Memo from Margaret Fitzgerald supporting use of the grand piano by the Fredericton Music Festival;
5. Quotations for installing wheelchair ramp;
6. E-mail from Tony Fitzgerald (dated May 18) with proposed by-law amendment respecting Welcoming Congregation status.

Printed June 28, 2006

George DeMille
Secretary Treasurer



Main cottage Shamper's Bluff

This space wants your material!