



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

Sunday Service 11 a.m.

Web Site: <http://www.uff.ca>Email: tuff@nbnet.nb.ca

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Sunday Services

December 10 Al Sharp, *Cosmology/the Creation Myth*:
How do we relate to the universe?

December 17 Rev. Ray Drennan: *Christmas Reverence for Unitarians*. Christmas is a season that makes most of us a little crazy, eating and buying more than is good for us. Unitarians have tried many ways to "deal" with the season. We have ignored, watering down, sentimentalized and, in our worst moments, even ridiculed the Christmas story and season. Whether your spiritual path embraces Christianity or not what might it look like to reverently enter the season?

December 24 Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes will lead the congregation in a celebration of song, lights and community. (Stay tuned for more information.)

December 31 *The turn*. Come for a talking circle, reflecting on the year past, and looking forward to the

year future, with songs of remembrance, and songs to pull us forward. Eggnog and friendship aplenty afterwards.



Women's Potluck

The monthly women's pot luck is cancelled for the month of December and will be held January 12, 2007, 6 pm at the home of Joan Brewer, 31 Ridgewell Place. "Show and tell" topic still to be decided. Please, also mark your calendar for February 16th. when the pot luck will be held at the home of Travis Lane. For more information contact Joan Brewer at jrjeb@nb.sympatico.ca or 455-5169.



A Note of Thanks

This note is to thank everyone at the Women's Potluck for making me feel so welcome. Thanks to Janet Crawford for coming to tea with me and Pat Mason for the visit. Thanks to Barb for the car trip and your friendship. A special thank you Tony and Margaret for having Patricia and me for tea at your home. Much thanks to Sheila for being my friend. All of you make me feel so good. I am pleased to be part of the Fellowship.

*Thank you all,
Mary Malanych*



Motion for January GM

Editor's note: the following has been submitted by the board as notice of a motion to be brought to the January General Meeting

The following proposal is designed to facilitate the work of ministry at tUFF, through more appropriate distribution of committee work and focus. This proposal will be an integral part of the general meeting in January at which budget (and at least this item) will be considered and voted

on.

Proposal on the restructuring of Adult Programs, including Small Group Ministry:

The current board proposes: to divide the Adult Program Committee into two committees—Worship Committee and Adult Programs; to integrate the Music Committee into the Worship Committee; and to convert the Ad Hoc Committee on Small Group Ministry into a Standing Committee on Small Group Ministry.

In this way we will establish three separate standing committees with the following mandates:

Worship Committee:

The Worship Committee shall normally consist of at least three members and/or friends of the Fellowship. The chair of the Worship Committee must be a member. The Worship Committee shall:

1. Coordinate the Sunday worship services of the fellowship, and any other worship service as needed to carry out the work of the fellowship.
2. Arrange for guest speakers and or services.
3. In consultation with those providing music and leading the choir, choose the musical selections for services.
4. Provide information about worship services to the Public Awareness Committee.

Adult Programs Committee:

The Adult Programs Committee shall consist of at least two members and/or friends of the Fellowship. The chair of the Adult Programs Committee must be a member. The Adult Programs Committee shall:

1. Implement and evaluate adult religious education programs, including programs for young adults and older adults,
2. Consult with the Children’s RE Committee to organize intergenerational activities and programs for youth, and with the Worship Committee to organize special services,
3. Secure and support facilitators of workshops, courses and activities in the Fellowship.
4. Provide information about adult programs and special programs to the Public Awareness Committee and/or promote these programs in consultation with the Public Awareness Committee.

Small Group Ministry Committee:

The Small Group Ministry Committee shall consist of at least two members and/or friends of the Fellowship, including the Small Group Ministry Coordinator. The chair

of the Small Group Ministry Committee must be a member. The Small Group Ministry Committee shall:

1. Implement and evaluate small group ministry in the Fellowship,
2. Secure and support the Coordinator and the Facilitators of Small Ministry Groups,
3. Arrange for training sessions and scheduling of Small Ministry Groups.



Revised Parking Plan

Barb Fairweather and Michel measured the driveway and Barb has come up with a mindful revised parking plan. It follows the 1999 plan but now includes disabled parking and angled parking. Since we can no longer park on the grass areas, parking according to the new parking plan is essential. Please only enter from the upper driveway and leave the property from the lower driveway. Barb will have everything ready in a week or so. The new parking plan will be added to service bulletins, be posted in the Fellowship and will be communicated to all who use our Fellowship.

In fellowship
Patricia desChamps
Chair Buildings and Grounds



Finances Report

The Fall operational campaign wrapped up at the end of November with our “gala” dinner and a good time was enjoyed by all. By the end of the evening, 27 pledges had been received for a total of \$21,130. Most of these were accompanied by cheques, post-dated and otherwise. We deeply thank those people who are willing and able to make such strong commitment to the Fellowship as we are grateful to anyone who can support the Fellowship in the various ways they do and we are sympathetic to and understanding of those who wish they could do more.


All pledges submitted with cheques were eligible for the draw and with much thanks to the donors of the prizes and congratulations to the winners: Gail Moore’s Perfect Pumpkin Cake with Celebratory Cream Cheese Frosting - won by Joan McFarland. Beth Carroll’s Famous Brown Sugar Fudge - won by Allan Walls. Beth Carroll’s Famous Peanut Butter Fudge - won by Gary Manuel. Barb Fairweather’s Chocolate Raspberry Cheesecake - won by Sylvia Hale.

The bad news is that this is down from the \$23,115 that had been pledged by the end of the campaign last year from 26 received pledges. Fortunately, our identified contributions for this year are projected to exceed the pledged amount by about \$10,000 and we hope that next year will be similar.

We would like to know how much solid revenue we can expect and base our plans on that amount. We want that number to be as accurate as possible, however, we can't always get what we want. Fortunately, we usually get what we need.

The next task of the finances committee is to prepare the budget for presentation to the congregation at the January General Meeting. It would be appreciated if committee chairs could get budget proposals in to me by the end of December. Once more, earlier is better. If your committee has dreams, please express them.

In fellowship
Tony Fitzgerald



Children's Program Report

There have been some major changes in the organization and delivery of children's program since the report by Sharon Flatt in the last issue of Touchstone. Sharon and Don have resigned as co-chairs of the Children's Program Committee. At its meeting on November 21 the board agreed that we turn over the task of delivering religious education for our children to a paid teacher. The proposed budget for 2007 will include a line item for this position. The board also appointed me as chair of the Children's Program Committee. This is quite a new direction for an old guy. I have asked Haifa Miller and Mary Scott for their guidance and support and, very graciously, they have agreed to serve on the committee. I want to thank them publicly for accepting this challenge.

For some time my view has been that it is the job of committees at TUFF is to organize the work of the committee and that it need not (indeed, should not) be the committee members who actually do that work. The chair of the Hospitality Committee is not the person who actually puts on the coffee pot on Sunday morning. (Sometimes, of course, it may be actually easier to do the job oneself than to find another person to do it.) For the children, however, it has seemed in the past that it is the RE chair who is expected to be upstairs every Sunday with the children. I am proposing to change that delivery method. None of the three us on the RE committee intends to be directly involved with the teaching (with the exception in my case of the OWL program).

Last year the UU church in Saint John appointed a paid director of RE. In this case the individual had served previ-

ously as a volunteer. Their experience with a paid position has been a positive one, tending as it does to validate the worth of the children's program both for the RE director and for the whole congregation. At the board meeting it was felt that we should look outside our present membership for a suitable person for the director of children's RE. This search is now underway. If it is successful and the budget item passed we will be starting a fresh chapter in children's RE at TUFF.

In the meantime, Allan Walls very generously has undertaken to work with the children on Sunday mornings with various craft activities. Elizabeth and Gabriel are available to provide child care as required. Thanks to them all for their valued contributions.

In fellowship
George DeMille



Social Responsibility

As I write this, the hail is falling and we are practicing up for the Empty Bowls event at the Fellowship this evening. The Fellowship is certainly "responsible" and "social" for this social responsibility fundraising event! Yeah for tUFF!...actually, Yeah! for the Welcoming Congregation, and Yeah! for the Raging Grannies, and Yeah! for those who are members of the Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice!and Yeah! for the wheelchair accessibility! and Yeah! for everyone who all in their own ways help our congregation be socially responsible. The results of the few social responsibility surveys that you filled out point in all the above directions and more! I feel secure to be able to leave the position of Chair of Social Responsibility for awhile as my health is not great at the moment. I do hope to send emails of some VIP Social Responsibility activities at a somewhat regular interval to help you stay informed about what's happening in the social responsibility scene around Fredericton. Some of you are Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice members and I would like you to know that I totally intend to continue my involvement in this including Safe Spaces. I sincerely hope that someone will take over the social responsibility committee. If not, I will no doubt feel better and jump back on board at a later "healthier" time! perhaps some day a minister of Religious Education (all ages) or a the very least, a hired RE facilitator (I've heard rumors of this good news) will more than fill in the gap we are leaving. Please feel free to contact me by email at any time and perhaps some of the RE kids will visit us out in Douglas!

Love
Sharon



Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice

This is a call to all who would like to stand up and speak out in the name of your faith based organization. The Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice does just that! I invite you all to visit the CUSJ.org website to find out more. I am also available for tea parties and cocktail parties that inform folks about a worthy,faith based cause! The CUSJ in NB chapter helps run a queer youth organization called Fundy Region Safe Spaces. We also submit articles and ideas to the national organization and hosted the CUSJ AGM this past year in Saint John. Please join us in taking a stand in the name of our UU principles! This is a recent letter that we sent to the Prime Minister and his friends:

Prime Minister Harper,
House of Commons

Dear Sir: re the latest expenditure of \$ 80 million for transit authorities for the “War on Terrorism”

Two of our Unitarian principles are: (i) the free and responsible search for truth and meaning and (ii) the goal of world community with peace , justice and liberty for all. Consequently Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice are deeply concerned with the latest expenditure on the “War on Terrorism” and your whole approach to the issue of security. Present government policy is far too focused on dealing with the consequences of possible terrorist acts and gives little attention to their causes. Political leadership is needed to help us build dreams of hope rather than promising to protect us from nightmares.

The recent announcement of spending \$ 80 millions for transit authorities is very questionable. There is no evidence to indicate that more video cameras will lessen any threat. If such was the case then Britain would be a safe country. The UK has 4.2 million closed circuit television systems or one for every fourteen people. Yet this did not stop the perpetrators of the London subway bombings. The installation of more video surveillance cameras in Canada will only increase the “culture of fear” which is exactly the goal of terrorist groups. The only other result is bigger profits for the military-security complex

The causes of terrorism are well known. They include poverty and the violence inflicted by many governments on their own people. In fact the anger of many young Muslim men is directly caused by the federal government’s foreign and military policies. They include:

Canada’s uncritical support for Israel

Canada’s action as the first western state to cancel aid to

the new government of the Palestinian Territories. Your response that the Hamas government supports terrorism

rings hollow when our major ally on our southern border is “Terrorist State Number One” by their invasion or the use of proxy forces in twenty countries in the last fifty years.

Canada’ counter insurgency in Afghanistan cannot succeed. Our Minister of Defence agrees with this view. Your response to our letter on this issue is that it is in Canada’s national interest to be there but such an interest is not identified. Although Afghanistan is a very divided country they are all united in their opposition to the occupation by all foreign soldiers in their country.

The imprisonment in Canada of the three remaining Muslim men on Security Certificates creates more anger among Muslims. We hope the Supreme Court rules to abolish such certificates and that Parliament will create a more just system which balances freedom and security.

Canada has yet to meet the United Nation’s recommended target for foreign aid. It is this investment that would reduce one of the causes of global violence.

We encourage your government to change these policies and to begin to deal with the underlying conditions. More surveillance cameras, more spending on weapons, the hiring of more police, more prisons and longer criminal sentences will not work. Our principles strengthen our belief that much more attention and resources need to be spent in order to mitigate the conditions that create such violent anti-social behavior whether here or abroad.

Your response to our concerns would be much appreciated

Yours truly,
Bob Stevenson,
President,
Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice

cc Honourable Stockwell Day, Minister for Homeland Security
Justice Critic of the Liberal Party
Justice Critic of the NDP
Justice Critic of the Bloc Quebecois



Children’s Religious Education

The children will be experiencing a change in their Sunday morning service routine as Don and I have decided that we can’t continue with RE for the time being. The program was a hit-don’t get me wrong-and we had fun and were fulfilled-that’s for sure! It’s just that I get allergic to the

rugs, curtains and mold and there is too much of it in the building. Jerry Faye and Sheehan are also affected by these things. So, for now, we will be content to briefly visit. Too bad for us-we will miss out but perhaps some day a minister of Religious Education (all ages) or a the very least, a hired RE facilitator (I've heard rumors of this good news) will more than fill in the gap we are leaving. Please feel free to contact me by email at any time and perhaps some of the RE kids will visit us out in Douglas!

Love
Sharon



Empty Bowls Cheque



A cheque for \$3,983.55 is presented by Allison Calvern to Dr. Heather Logan and Dr. Carmen Stuart in support of Alpha Foundation, a charity that feeds and medicates sick children at the Wesleyan Hospital in Kamakwie, Sierra Leone. The monies were collected nationally by U*U congregations for Empty Bowls 2006, a CUC sponsored campaign.



Diary Entries

Sunday, February 5, 9:30am Sunny, cold Well, what do I think of this wonderful kitchen today, and the cellar,

and all? My pipes are frozen and when I went to the cellar to put the hair dryer in position to hit the proper pipe, I saw that a good portion of the cellar floor was wet. More scary was when I went to switch on the light in the cold room and was hit by a fine spray of water. Panic, panic. What now?

The leak was in the valve on the cold water system, and while anything to do with plumbing is serious. I am sort of relaxed again. I'm waiting for this tap to start dripping, and then for a big gush. It really is a marvelous sight. And it happened! As for my pipe leak, I could hold my finger on it, but in lieu of that, I wrapped a cloth around it and now it drips into a pail which I will empty as required. Tomorrow I'll call a plumber.

This has not been a day for nostalgia. I have a gimpy leg and I am not sure of the treatment. I will hope that after a day or two it improves. Meanwhile, I took Mum's 1929 diary up to Aunt Eva's. She only wrote in it for less than two months. One wishes it had covered a much longer period. She started writing on her Birthday, February 5, just 60 years ago today. She was 39 years old.

Monday, February 6, Fine, steady snow Monday was always wash day, if weather permitted. On Sunday night the boiler was brought in, put on the stove, and filled with water from the kitchen tap. It was quite a performance. The washing machine was brought in from the shed and a rinse tub was placed on a stand beside it. Nothin' was simple, and I'm not even sure how that old washer worked. The wringer was turned by hand the way you'd crank a car, or wind up a Voctrola, if you know what I mean. Mum used a washboard, a thing you rubbed the clothes against if they were particularly soiled. And, boy, you had to be fussy about getting the white things done first. I look back and wonder how Mum did it, especially with all Pup's greasy clothes fromt eh mill.

When she hung all the clothes out, on the lines, her fingers would go white like mine are Marie's do now. The large, heavy rinse tub was left for Pup to dump from the back platform when he came home at noon. Mum had to get all this done in the early part of the morning, and wipe up the floor before she started preparing the noon meal. She'd just have to hope Pup wouldn't arrive home from the mill with a couple of men for dinner. It happened.

Many things had to be starched, sprinkled, and rolled up for ironing. The irons were heated on the stove. We used two or three irons with a holder that fitted on them so you could get a hot iron as your old one cooled down. I ironed a lot of handkerchiefs. Today, few people use them a box of hankies, as a gift, was a usual thing, now it would be an antique. Well, so much for Blue Monday, Surprise Soap, bluing and starch!

Tuesday, February 7, A kinder day, grey and calm I am enjoying writing and remembering so much. It was a whole different world back then and I want to write on

many topics.

We had a rural telephone line and could call anyone in York Mills without going through the switch. We had rings like, one long, and two short, and to make a ‘ring’, you simply turned the crank on the side of the phone box, which was usually mounted on the wall. Every ring was heard in every household on the line. People would recognize their own ring, and pick up the phone. On our list of phone numbers, our ring was ___ __ __, Elmer’s was __ __ __, Sterling Brown’s was ___ ___ ____. I’m showing off a bit because I suspect no one will question. If we needed to go through the switch—one long—we rang Bell Embleton (Ted’s mother) and asked her to put us through to Jim Nesbitt’s or Albert Little’s. I think we only had to go through one switch to talk to Aunt Nan or Grandma, but if we had to ring the doctor we had to go through Tom Lister’s, and perhaps another. If a ring was heard a lot over a short period of time, a neighbour might lift the receiver to see if there was something he or she could do to help. There were many neighbours in each area who automatically ‘listened in’—sometimes with shocking results! If ten short rings went in, it meant there was a fire, or a call for help, and everyone answered. Nobody liked hearing that ring. If we wanted to have a party or a dance, we’d just get on that old party line and spread the word.

We kids loved the phone. We knew who ‘rubbered’ and we had all sorts of tricks for spreading rumours. Like we’d ring our own number and pretend we were talking to another number. When we heard the click of a receiver we were ready to spread our stories, risqué joke, or whatever. It may not have been one bit funny, but we thought it was hilarious! And, of course, Mum and Pup always warned us, before they went away, to “Stay Off the Phone!”

R.E.C.



Don’t Take Me for Pomegranate: A Parable

I would lead you
and bring you to my mother’s house—
she who has taught me.
I would give you spiced wine to drink,
the nectar of my pomegranates.

SONG OF SOLOMON 8:2

Preface (that is, if one can have a preface for such a short article): When i began writing this little story, i was thinking about my mother and me—and apples, and other things autumnal and Canadian. Over the course of the writing, i made a cup of tea, and noticed the pomegranate on my kitchen counter. Which reminded of what my mother was able to buy in the 1950s supermarket that fed her children—no pomegranates, that’s for sure. Before me, in the form of a baseball-sized fruit, was an artefact, and

the realization that there is no escaping history. When i returned to the keyboard, the story had become a parable. It was no longer looking backward; it was looking forward. It had become a parable about letting go; about trying not to be sad because i will not be sharing eggnog with my children this Christmas season. (Do you suppose this is Touchstone’s first parable? You might forgive the pun in the title. Or not. At least i resisted using the sentence: This is a parable, probably, though not a parabola. OK, i didn’t resist it, but at least i will leave the explanation of parabola to the physicists among us.)

A Parable (finally):

When i visit my mother i leave her kitchen to find the hills i knew when i was a little girl. At the right time of year, i find the tree from which we used to pick apples—an amazing thing, in that country of low bushes and tiny berries, there was a tree that would yield such large, perfect food. We called them green apples, as if they were a species, though perhaps we were just impatient. We brought the salt shaker with us, stolen from the back of the stove, and this is how we ate the green apple. First, we made sure there were no worm holes in it, then we rubbed it on the front of our shirt, to clean it, and give it that irresistible polish—as if it needed any more irresistibility. Then we bit in—we did not actually take a bite, we bit into the apple with our front teeth and pulled the chunk of flesh away, and sprinkled the wound with salt. Then we took the bite, tart and salt together. And then we sprinkled our way through many apples. When the stomach ache came, we did not complain to our mother, but took ourselves as quietly as possible to the bathroom, and endured. It was always worth it.

When i get back to the house, my mother is making a pie, the smell of cinnamon and nutmeg swirling into the fresh apple tang of sliced Cortlands. Her floured fingers pinch pastry into a familiar flute and she slips the bulging promise into the oven. We play crazy eights, letting the kitchen warm into the full presence of the best dessert in the world.

My mother never served me pomegranate. Just as well. Think of Persephone, daughter of Demeter the goddess of harvest. One day Persephone was kidnapped by Hades and brought to his underworld home because he wanted her for his own—an abrupt courtship. Demeter was devastated, and in her mourning, refused to let the harvest continue. And so winter arrived on earth, prolonged and frightening. While Persephone was with Hades, she refused to eat, knowing that swallowing food would bind her to him and to his cellar of a home.

By the time Hermes was dispatched by Zeus to retrieve Persephone, Hades had been in her company a long time, and she in his. Hades was calm in manner; he was kind. Before he would release her, he gave Persephone a gift.

Here, he told her, moving close to her straight posture, to

her long white arms. I want you to have this, he said with his mouth close to her ear. He wanted to put his voice into her.

She took his gift, weighed its dark promise in her hands.

It is a pomegranate, he said, hoping the sound of his voice would be in her ear when next she heard her mother speak.

Persephone could feel the shapes inside the pomegranate. Her fingers moved over its surface, found the calyx. Knowingly, her fingernail pierced the leathery skin. Gently, persistently, she coaxed the wound open, and when she had entry, she placed her thumbs tenderly between the red, wet seeds. They were blushing at the soft touch of air; they glistened with the pleasure of expectation.

Persephone pressed increasingly against the white, mossy combs, and pried them apart. Each seed, excited by her touch, wanted to be dislodged, wanted the fall into her cool, white hands, and to be lifted to her mouth and swallowed. In her great hunger, Persephone ate three seeds.

Hunger for adulthood. Hunger for a husband. Hunger to be away from her mother.

by allison calvern



Church of the Larger Fellowship

The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) offers a wonderful array of UU gifts for the holidays. Please help us spread the word.

As you give thanks this holiday season to volunteers, teachers, staff and friends, please remember that the Church of the Larger Fellowship can help.

Window shopping and purchases can be made from: <http://www.uua.org/clf/catalog/> Look for CLF's ad in the Winter Issue of the UU World.

Purchasing your UU gifts from the CLF is another way to support the work of Unitarian Universalism throughout the world. All proceeds from the sale of our chalice themed jewelry, note cards and other gifts support the many ministries of the Church of the Larger Fellowship. Learn more about CLF at www.clfuu.org.



Message from Mary

Editor's note: this article had a lot of web references which do not format well and were never intended for paper publications. If something catches your interest and you want to pursue it, send me a note and I can forward a copy of the original

I write this on November 14, the day before the anniversary of the death of Francis David and so include information that may be of interest to you and your congregation:

Special Dates: November 15

Anniversary of the Death of Francis David

Francis David's most famous quotation is:

We need not think alike to love alike

Ferenc Dávid

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia (If you go to Wikipedia, you can click on all of the underlined words to learn more.)

Ferenc Dávid (1510 - November 15, 1579) was the founder of the Unitarian Church in Transylvania.

Ferenc Dávid (also rendered as Francis David in English) was born in Kolozsvár (known as Cluj-Napoca in Romanian) around 1510. After studying in Wittenberg and Frankfurt he was elected Calvinist bishop of the Hungarian churches in Transylvania, and appointed court preacher to John Sigismund, prince of Transylvania. His discussion of the Trinity began in 1565 with doubts of the personality of the Holy Ghost, because he could find no scriptural basis for the doctrine of the Trinity.

His antagonist in public disputations was the Calvinist leader, Péter Juhász (Melius); his supporter was Giorgio Blandrata. John Sigismund, adopting his court-preacher's views, issued (1568) an edict of religious liberty at the Torda Diet, which allowed David (retaining his existing title) to transfer his episcopate from the Calvinists to the anti-Trinitarians, Cluj being evacuated by all but his followers.

In 1571 John Sigismund was succeeded by Stephen Báthory, a Catholic, and trouble began. Under the influence of Johannes Sommer, rector of the Kolozsvár gymnasium, Dávid (about 1572) abandoned the worship of Christ. The attempted accommodation by Faustus Socinus after Blandrata's request was unsuccessful. Tried as an innovator, Dávid died in prison at Déva (Romanian: Deva) in 1579. The ruins of the prison site at Déva now hold a memorial for Dávid.

Quotations:

Dávid is best known among modern-day Unitarian Universalists for his often quoted statement, "We need not think alike to love alike."

There is no greater mindlessness and absurdity than to force conscience and the spirit with external power, when only their creator has authority for them.

As quoted in "The Transylvania Journey" by Rev. Michael McGee (25 July 2004)

Neither the sword of popes, nor the cross, nor the image of death — nothing will halt the march of truth. I wrote

what I felt and that is what I preached with trusting spirit. I am convinced that after my destruction the teachings of false prophets will collapse.

His last words, a message he carved onto the walls of his dungeon cell, as quoted in *For Faith and Freedom* (1997) by Charles A. Howe; also quoted on their web page about the Transylvania Unitarian Church by the Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church, Houston.

Dr. Arpád Szabó, Unitarian Bishop of Romania, as quoted in "From these Roots". The edict of 1568 he refers to stated "It is not permitted for anyone to intimidate anyone with captivity or expulsion for his teaching." This is considered by some historians as the first legal guarantee of religious freedom in Christian Europe

GLOBAL CHALICE LIGHTINGS

ICUU Global Chalice Lightings are sent from the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists each month. Here are two that may be of interest to you at this time:

Global Chalice Lightings from Romania and Hungary

March 2005

As it was the will of our Lord Sovereign, his Highness, to bring decisions along with his country on the sessions of the Diet the preceding days, regarding the matters of religion, he is willing to confirm the same this very day, namely that preachers are supposed to preach the Gospel in all places, according to their own understanding, and if the community is willing to accept, it is well, if it is not, no one is allowed to press them to adopt it in spite of their not being reassured in their heart; but they may keep a preacher whose teachings they like. And no one among the superintendents or others are allowed to hurt them for this, for on account of the religion no one is to be sneered at, according to the former rules. No one is allowed to threaten anyone with imprisonment or deprivation of his office; for faith is the gift of God, this comes from listening, listening through the words of God

—Diet of Torda, 1568 submitted by the Transylvanian Unitarian Church unitarius.ro

July 2004 (in English and Hungarian)

Where there is Faith
There is Love.
Where there is Love
There is Peace.
Where there is Peace
There is God
Where there is God
There is no Need.

Hol hit ott szeretet,
Hol szeretet ott béke,
Hol béke ott áldás,
Hol áldás ott Isten

Hol Isten ott szükség nincsen.

Hungarian Home Blessing submitted by the Unitarian Church in Hungary unitarius.hu

Who Are Our Partners in Transylvania?

Many Canadian congregations have Partner Churches in Transylvania. You can learn more about this program at <http://www.uupcc.org/>

The Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council has a curriculum on their website including a Lesson on Transylvania.

The World Wide Web of Which We are a Part

Join the Dialogue

Do you think CUC should make statements about social responsibility issues? What does "worship" mean to you? How can we integrate members into the congregation after they join? How can you make meetings and conferences "green"? These questions—and more—are being actively pursued electronically by Unitarians and UU's from across Canada. *Contact the Touchstone editor for web references.*

Mary "Goes 4 It" on MP3

So far as I know Beacon Unitarian Church in Coquitlam, BC, is the only Canadian congregation regularly adding audio files to their website. I delivered a sermon on "Go4It: Looking Ahead" there and it's posted on the site.

An adaptation of the sermon along with other readings will be circulated in early December as the 2007 Sharing Our Faith worship service package. We encourage all congregations to do a worship service with an offering going to the CUC's Sharing Our Faith Fund. Many do this in February, but any time that fits your congregation's schedule is fine. Deadline for grant applications and other details can be found online.

'Tis the Season

Yes, it's coming—

Christmas is Coming - and Solstice and—

You might appreciate Rev. Phillip Hewett's article on Season and Solstice at the CUC website.

December 22 - Candle Night can be celebrated on the Solstice

Started in Japan in 2001, it's become popular around the world. Details at the CUC website.

Lay Chaplaincy Updates

Lay Chaplaincy Resources and Support - en français

Lay Chaplains who wish to share resources and support in the French language are invited to join this new email list: cuc-celebrants-en-francais@yahogroups.com

Ceci est une liste de discussion de langue française pour les Unitariens Universalistes au Canada. Tout sujet relatif à l'épanouissement spirituel, à la religion libérale, à nos valeurs et aux idées est pertinent, ainsi que des questions et des décisions propres à notre dénomination et au Conseil unitarien du Canada. Details on subscribing from the Touchstone editor.

Lay Chaplaincy "Basics" - Designing & Delivering Rites of Passage

This full weekend program for new lay chaplains and those who have been appointed as lay chaplains in training by their congregation will be offered in early 2007.

March 9 -11 North Shore Unitarian Church, West Vancouver, BC

March 30 - April 1 Unitarian Church of Montreal, QC

April 13-15 Unitarian Congregation of South Peel, Mississauga, ON

More details and registration information will be available at the CUC website as it becomes available.

For one message per month of upcoming training and other news, send a blank email message to cuc-lay-chaplaincy-news-subscribe@yahoo.com

Take care,

Mary

Mary Bennett, Executive Director

CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL

www.cuc.ca 1-888-568-5723 1-604-617-0142

PS - November is the time of our annual CUC Friends campaign—fundraising from this campaign results in almost 10% of our budget. See www.cuc.ca/friends for more information and profiles of some of our Friends.



Spring Inn Victoria

Join First Unitarian Church of Victoria for Spring Inn Victoria 2007!

Bed and Breakfast Vacation Package April 21-25 victoriaunitarian.ca/bedandbreakfast 250-744-2665



wUUrld's 2007 WhaleCoast Alaska

Five Alaskan UU fellowships invite you to eco-cultural programs in June right after the Portland General Assembly or in July, 2007. See the REAL Alaska! With UU homestays in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Seward, Juneau and Sitka, UUs host parties and lead tours. We visit Tlingit and Inupiat Native Alaskans, see wildlife from bears, moose and caribou to whales, sea otters and sea lions.

We visit Denali and 3 other National Parks. Led by Rev. Dick & Mary Weston-Jones, 12th year. www.wuurld.org, E-mail alaska@wuurld.org or phone 1-888, 998-8753 for a brochure. Reservation deadline: February 28.



F'ton Chamber Orchestra

The Bel Canto Singers will present their annual Christmas Wassail concert at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 512 Charlotte Street, at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 9. The evening will include delectable edibles and carol singing along with a varied programme of seasonal works ranging from the challenging motet for double choir, "Komm, Jesu, komm", by J.S. Bach, to Snow Angel, a work in five movements for chorus, narrator, piano and cello, by young Canadian composer Sarah Quartel. Special Guests are the UNB Chorale, directed by Bjorn Rune-fors, Dianne Roxborough Brown, piano and David Nielsen, cello. Tickets are available from Westminster Books, Maz-zuca's or at the door. The concert will also be presented at Hillcrest United Church, Stanley, at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 11.

The Fredericton Chamber Orchestra will present a Christmas Concert to delight the young and young at heart at Ecole Sainte-Anne, 2:30 p.m., Sunday, December 10. The programme includes the ever popular Nutcracker Suite by Tchaikovsky featuring the Artemis Dancers, and "The Snowman" by Howard Blake, narrated by Bruce Dennis and with Ben Dennis as soloist. Admission is \$15 for adults; \$10 for seniors & students and \$5 for children age 8 and under.

Carolyn Nielsen
198 Rocky Road
Keswick Ridge, NB E6L 1V2
(506)363-2814
alto@warpnet.ca
<http://nbchoral.org>



Christmas with The LaPointes

The ECMA award-winning and Juno-nominated group, The LaPointes, are ushering in the holidays with a yuletide concert, The LaPointes This Christmas on Thursday, December 7, at 7:30 p.m. and Friday, December 8, 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. at The Playhouse.

A fantastic way to kick off the Christmas season, this is a holiday tradition you won't want to miss. The LaPointes' annual Christmas show has become a favourite for audiences of all ages. It's a time to sit back and unwind as you join this talented trio on a journey of musical Christmas selections.

The LaPointes will once again be celebrating the season with sparkling lights and a spectacular array of music and entertainment. Adding to the excitement this year, the LaPointes will welcome the dynamic Sunset Church Choir, led by Janice LaPointe McLaughlin. Dancers from the Bonnie Kilburn school of dance will also grace the stage. And of course there will be a special guest appearance by none other than Bill LaPointe, the very proud father of this harmonious family who brings his own rich history of music to the show.

As they blend their voices in rich harmony with carols and other Christmas favourites, The LaPointes are guaranteed

to warm your heart, make you want to sing along and bring you to your feet.

Come and enjoy an exciting evening of both new and traditional Christmas selections that are sure to get you in the mood for Christmas! At the Fredericton Playhouse Thursday, December 7 at 7:30 p.m. and two performances on Friday, December 8, at 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Tickets are available at The Playhouse box office, located at 686 Queen Street, Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. or by calling The Playhouse box office at 506 458-8344 or by ordering online: www.theplayhouse.ca.

This space wants your material!