



The Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton

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Sunday Service 11 a.m.

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## Sunday Services

**January 7** *Top Ten—what was great about 2006?* Join us as we ponder the year past by focusing on specific events in three categories: personal, U\*U, and global. What happened to you, or what did you observe that was good, satisfying, right? Three congregants will be sharing their reflections—that will give us nine out of our top ten. Perhaps we can convince the children to provide us with the tenth. David Letterman, look out.

**January 14** Neil MacLean, *Religion, Faith and Truth for Me*. "The differences between our different faiths, to me, are much less dramatic than the realization of just how utterly dependant all of us are on some form of faith merely to survive." Neil MacLean, long-standing member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Saint John, was trained as a mathematician. In this talk at tUFF, Neil reflects on the scope of his religion, explaining his framework for thinking. Most notably, he equates all of his assumptions with faith.

**January 21** Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes, *Go-4-It: Service as Worship, Worship as Service* In what ways is being

of service part of inner growth as well as part of collective action? This look at the ideas of faith, service and spiritual practice will be a way of introducing our Go-4-It! Workshops, in which we will be asking each other questions about where we are going, as members of the Fellowship, of the Canadian Unitarian Council, and of a movement. What direction will lead us to the community of open minds, loving hearts and giving hands we dream of being?

**Pot-Luck and Workshops:** January 21 and January 28, 1:00 - 2:30

**January 28** Joan McFarland, Tom Hanley, George DeMille, *Retirement* Since Germany introduced the first national old-age social insurance program in 1889 under Otto von Bismark retirement has been seen as bane or boon by those who love or, perhaps, hate their work too much. We will take three different perspectives on this life transition in the modern turning of the wheel. *Service leader: Tony Fitzgerald*



## Children's Program Report

In the last issue of Touchstone we reported that the Children's Program Committee, acting on a decision at the November board meeting, was actively looking for someone to fill the paid position of children's program facilitator. This individual would be responsible for the delivery of the children's program each Sunday morning. The committee is pleased to report that Stephanie Yorke has been named to this position. Some of you may have met Stephanie when she attended our Sunday service with Ray Drennan last month. Stephanie is a fourth year honours student at UNB, majoring in English and Creative Writing. She expects to continue her studies at the master's level at UNB following her graduation this spring. Although not a Unitarian, she comes from a liberal protestant background and is very comfortable working in accordance with the UU principles. She has had considerable experience working with children in a number of summer positions that she has held in recent years.

We welcome Stephanie to our Unitarian community and wish her every success and joy in working with the young

people in our congregation.

*Submitted by the Children's Program Committee: Mary Scott, Haifa Miller, George DeMille*



## Membership in Our Fellowship

What does it mean to be a member of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton? As a liberal religious movement, Unitarianism attracts independent thinkers into a community that embraces differing beliefs within a context of mutual respect and shared values. Our Fellowship is a place where theists (believers in a personal God) and non-theists, the rational and the mystic, can commune in a supportive environment.

The Fellowship offers:

- A place of belonging, support and stimulation.
- A place to grow spiritually, to find meaning and gain perspective.
- A place to fully express your individual gifts and focus on your life.

As a religious community that has no creed, becoming a member does not involve a declaration of faith or allegiance to any code.

If you are new to our Fellowship, take time to find what goes on here.

The Membership Committee will be offering a "NEW U" program of 4 sessions for those who would like to explore denominational and congregational history. If you are interested, please call or e-mail Sheila Moore 363-2480 or kmoore@nbnet.nb.ca

*In fellowship*  
Sheila Moore



## tUFF Scarves

Our tUFF scarves project has grown and flourished thanks to all of you! We have enough scarves this term to offer them to UNB International Students as well as STU. This is the third term that we have been able to provide scarves for Saint Thomas University.

Please help yourself to yarn. We have had large donations of yarn for our scarf project. The huge wicker basket on the library hearth is full of yarn. There is a pale blue flag with balls of yarn on it hanging above the wicker basket - please sign the flag if you have participated in the tUFF scarf project by donating yarn, knitting needles or by knitting scarves!

Please keep knitting!

*Hello Patricia,*

*You likely have noticed that I picked up the scarves. They are beautiful - all so different. The students will love them and it is such a warm welcome item! Our receptionist, Donna, enjoyed looking at each one since she is also a knitter.... she raved about them.*

*I'll send you a card of thanks for the Fellowship & try to get some pictures taken.*

*Judy Coates*

*In fellowship*

Patricia desChamps



## tUFF scarves - Thanks

A thank you note from Judy Coates, International Student Advisor STU

Thank you so much for the beautiful scarves that I will give to each new International Student arriving in January for Term 2. The scarves are a 'warm welcome' to these new students. We have approximately eleven students coming from Japan, Barbados, Bahamas, Switzerland and Sweden.

They are beautiful - all so different. The students will love them and it is such a warm welcome item! Our receptionist, Donna, enjoyed looking at each one since she is also a knitter.... she raved about them.

On Behalf of Student Affairs, St. Thomas University, thank you! We are very appreciative of this partnership/relationship between STU and the Unitarian Fellowship.

I'll try to get some pictures taken.

Enjoy your holidays and may joy, love & hope which are the spirit of Christmas be experienced by you throughout 2007.

*Cheers*

Judy Coates

International Student Advisor, STU



## UFF Family Corner

UFF Family Corner

Here are two memory devices to help kids and adults remember our U\*U principals. The first one is the rainbow, ROYGBIV, which we used over the year leading up to our Welcoming Congregation resolution:

**R - RED** - Respect All Beings

**O - ORANGE** - Offer Fair and Kind Treatment to All

**Y - YELLOW** - Yearn to Learn

**G - GREEN** - Grow in Spirit and Mind  
**B - BLUE** - Believe in My Ideas and Act on Them  
**I - INDIGO** - Insist on Peace, Freedom and Justice  
for All  
**V - VIOLET** - Value the Connections in Creation

(There is a version of this that can be sung to the tune of Do-Re-Mi.)

The other is one I found on a U\*U listserv. This is a memory device that runs along the same lines as “Every good boy deserves fudge” (but how sexist, judgmental and unhealthy is \*that\* phrase?). I think this phrase is a great idea to keep our principles in our minds:

I Hope All Souls Do Good Work

**I** = Inherent worth of the individual

**H** = Human relations should be treated with compassion

**A** = Acceptance of one another

**S** = Search for truth and meaning should be responsible and free

**D** = Democratic process when making decisions

**G** = Goal of world peace

**W** = Web of life is interdependent

*In faith*

Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes



## Buildings and Grounds

We have been enjoying a ‘fireplace log’ in the sanctuary fireplace on Sunday mornings during our service. The fireplace works really very well (and it’s use is allowed by our insurance). The Fellowship building is warmer with the plastic film on the windows. We really notice a difference on Sunday mornings - no more outside cold air streaming in through the windows. We must be careful not to turn up the heat too high on Sunday mornings or we are too warm by the end of the service!

Michel turned the temperature gauge higher on the electric hot water heater. We are making a stainless steel rack to cover the burners on the stove - it will turn the stove in to a serving area when we need the extra serving space. Disaster struck last Sunday morning when a tempered glass shelf in the plate cupboard broke in two from the weight of dinner plates (the shelf was meant for small plates). The broken glass is at Speedy for a replacement to be cut. It will be reinstalled by Thursday Dec 21st. The kitchen needs a good cleaning from the cupboard doors to the ovens. We need more tea towels and dish cloths.

Sheers will go up on windows on the second floor to save on heat loss. Each sheer panel is 41 inches wide and cost \$3. The R factor increases significantly with sheers and plastic window film.

The accessible restroom, ramp and outside door are appre-

ciated by so many of our members and friends. The renovator, Mario Hebert has had to call the licensed electrician he sub-contracted back three times to fix the lights. The light relay dis-functioned causing the lights to mal-function in other rooms in the Fellowship. Once the lights were turned on using the switch inside the new outside door, no lights in the building could be turned off unless you repeatedly turned this switch on and off. It has now been rectified. The first floor toilet work well but it takes a strong hand to activate the flushing mechanism.

We can’t find the temperature control for the baseboard heaters in the wet bar, the accessible restroom and the hall by the new outside door. The three heaters work together. We may have to call Leachmans in to take a look at it.

The basement is finished. We have two new rooms ready for use (D1 and D2). The Buildings and Grounds Committee would like to put down a new floor, perhaps laminate in D2 and a ceiling in D1. As well, the boiler room and electrical room have been sheet rocked and painted. The entire basement has been cleaned. The dehumidifier and the Humidex continue to run. There is no smell in the basement anymore - what a positive change! We are planning to move several tables (ones that don’t fold down) from the garage to the basement for use there. The folding chairs we used on Charlotte Street are stored in the boiler room. The basement is not to be used for storage.

The garage has been cleaned! Lawn care items are together on the north side of the basement. There are two closets - one is for tools and is labeled as such. All cardboard and renovating bits are gone. The Diabetes Society came with their truck and took away unwanted but still useful items. We are giving away the office dividers - they are clean and in good repair. Do you want one? The garage has hazardous paneling and is off limits for any Fellowship or related activity. The new Trius dolly, which we purchased this fall is working out well. Barb stenciled our name on the dolly - I feel it is part Public Awareness too! Next spring, we need to re-mortar probably forty marble tiles that have become loose on the lanai, our north entrance and the side entrance.

It is so nice to come in the entry way and see light from the windows on the north wall of the garage. Before, the office dividers blocked the window light. Michel changed the light in the ceiling fixture to one with higher wattage. It was difficult to see the lock box numbers. We still have to fine-tune the small heater in the cloakroom.

In the last couple of weeks the Fellowship has been found unlocked on one occasion and the heat has been left on a couple of times. I have send an email to all groups using the Fellowship to remind them to lock the doors and turn the heat down. If you are last to leave the Fellowship, please close the sheers in the sanctuary and the library - it helps with heat loss.

The outside work is finished until spring. Barb and I

planted daffodils in the raised bed by the garage and in the new 'birn' out by the street. We had to chop the earth - it was starting to freeze!

Tru-vents have been purchased. We have to use two, stapled together to get the required length because of our sloping roof line. They will be installed in the attic the beginning of January along with the insulation.

While our fiscal year is not ending somehow it feels as though things do end at this time of year.

We are certainly in good shape:

- the contents section of our insurance policy has been increased to reflect the replacement cost of our belongings
- research showed our insurance policy includes two million dollars of Director's Insurance,
- we have re-visited our property zoning with the city to the satisfaction of both the city and the Board,
- we are warm, dry, insulated, cleaned and painted,

our building is so much better this year for those with environmental allergies and other allergies,

- we have a cleaned out garage,
- dead trees and over grown shrubbery has been removed,
- we have a new cloakroom and a new dishwasher and a fire in the hearth!

Seems to me as though we are ready for a winter snooze.

*In fellowship*  
Patricia desChamps  
Chair, Buildings and Grounds



## Let's Go 4 It!

O.K.. So... where shall we go?

As the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton's liaison with the national Communications and Coordination Committee of the CUC's Go-4-It! Planning Framework (easier to write than to memorize!), I would like to invite all members and friends to take part in workshops on "Go-4-It!: A framework for planning throughout the Canadian Unitarian and Universalist Movement".

The Framework is designed to help the Canadian Unitarian Council and its member societies and social action groups to interact and co-ordinate planning efforts and

resources. The Framework consists of four strategic perspectives from which we might examine what it is we are and what it is we do, with the goal of helping us work more effectively and efficiently together to employ our Unitarian \* Universalist principles in our daily lives and in the world at large.

\* stands for: and/or/or the reverse

The four components of Go-4-It! / Par quatre chemins are:

1. Go On! / Un pas en avant -  
Maintain and enhance our service delivery
2. Go Deep! / Un pas en profondeur -  
Enhance understanding, spiritual development and connection
3. Go Out! / Un pas vers l'autre -  
Take our "good news" out into the world, and
4. Go Big! / Un pas de geant -  
Explore opportunities to dramatically expand our "reach".

Materials, including a Worship service, an Overview of the Framework, workshop activities and poetry, have been designed by the CUC and can be found on the website (go to "About Us" and click on "Strategy (Go-4-It!)". During the workshop, participants will have an opportunity to explore the four perspectives, discussing questions such as: What are the things we do as a congregation that make us proud? What is / should be our role in supporting the wider community of non-members? If we support "every individual's journey", what can we do meaningfully together? What makes Unitarians different? What does growth actually mean? (Growth in numbers? Growth in impact?) What are some "outside-the-box" ideas to achieve dramatic growth?

The two workshops we have planned for the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton will help us to identify our own strengths, hopes for growth, and deepest desires, and to look at our local community in the context of the wider U\*U movement. I believe it will both complement our work in covenant / mission / vision.

I'm planning to hold the workshops in the Congregational Conversation format with which some of you are already familiar. The workshops will run from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m., with opening words, an introduction and then workshop discussions each time. They will be preceded by pot-luck lunch immediately following the Sunday Service. Dates are January 21 and January 28, and written material will be available for those who arrive late or can only attend the second session. No registration or preparation is required, but if you have questions, please contact me by phone

(455-0413) or e-mail (elder@nb.sympatico.ca). I look forward to seeing you there!

*Blessed be*  
Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes



*Yule Stag*



## Notice of Meeting

The board has approved Tuesday, January 23, 2007 at 7PM for a General Meeting. There are two items to be considered:

- The approval of the 2007 operational budget. The final budget will be submitted to the board for consideration at the January 16 board meeting.
- A change to the bylaws as published in the December Touchstone and repeated with revision below. Note, however, that the revised version below replaces, for the most part, the word “Worship” with “Sunday service”.

Following the meeting, there will be wine and cheese and,

of course, discussion and fellowship. A quorum is necessary to approve these items, please reserve the time and show your commitment to the running of the Fellowship.

Thank you very much.

### Bylaws amendment

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—Sunday Service and Adult Programs; to integrate the Music Committee into the Sunday Service 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:

Sunday Service Committee:

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

1. Coordinate the Sunday 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 Sunday 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 Sunday Service 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 a 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.

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*In fellowship*  
Tony Fitzgerald  
Chair, Finances

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## Women's Pot Luck

Regular Women's Pot Luck dinner and conversation on January 12, 2007, 6 pm at the home of Joan Brewer, 31 Ridgewell Place. "Show and tell" topic is "embarrassment" ..... do you every feel it? how do you respond to it? do you ever cause it? Please, also mark your calendar for February 16th. when the pot luck will be held at the home of Travis Lane. After February we will try and get back on track with meeting the 4th. Friday of the month. For more information contact Joan Brewer at jrjeb@nb.sympatico.ca or 455-5169.

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## Diary Entries

**Wednesday, February 8 Sunny** Since I have begun this reminiscing, it seems I am now hearing people on the radio talking about things as they used-to-be. Like when you went to the bank, and the teller made out your deposit and withdrawal slips, and wrote in your bank book by hand, without computers. That does seem a while ago.

My Dad said that if a man had saved a \$1,000 he was considered to be pretty 'well off.' I often remember hearing

people say, "I wouldn't do that for a \$100," or, "If I had a \$100 a month for the rest of my life, that would be wonderful." Of course, they never thought it would happen! Now, everyone over 65 gets three times that much, and some even get six or seven hundred dollars each month, and it still isn't enough.

When we asked Mum or Pup for money for a treat, it was for a penny or a nickel. Sometimes he gave us a dime, but we sure didn't ask every day. We were traders in school, I soon learned to buy butterscotch in town and sold it for a cent each—way above the buying price. Some of the kids had apples from their orchards, and these were much in demand. They could be traded for a pencil, or even a fountain pen. Highway robbery!

When we went to town for the Fredericton Exhibition, Pup gave us 25 cents each for rides and treats, and we had one whale of a time! The exhibition buildings were grand. The main building was two or three stories high. You could sit upstairs and look down one floor, at least, maybe two. The rides were so wonderful. The merry-go-round was beautiful and bright with all the coloured horses, and the music was so distinctive. It isn't at all like today, and that's too bad. Some of those horses are now collectors' items.

**Thursday, February 9, Foot Clinic** My volunteer work at Foot Clinic is very rewarding. I think back to Pup's accident in 1922 when the elevator cable broke and the elevator came crashing down with Pup in it—two floors, I think, and Pup rolled out onto the mill floor. No doubt, those present thought he was dead. I really don't remember the tragic event, or his long stay in Portland. I only know that Dr. Gardner in McAdam sent him, to quote Pup, "to the best damned bone specialist on this continent," and he was in Portland, Maine. He must have been good because they did a remarkably good job. I think Pup broke just about every bone in his feet. When he finally came home he was on his knees, on knee pads. We still have a peg leg in the barn with padding on the knee, and a belt and buckle for attaching it. It was made for him by Mum's Uncle Dode Little. We had great fun wearing it when we were kids.

Each year Pup received shoes from Hartt Boot and Shoe Company in Fredericton. These had a special last. The soles were at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch thick and they were black leather, laced up over the ankles like a half Wellington. They were wide, hard, and heavy, but he wore them all his life, until the last 20 years—then he wore sandals.

Pup was a dude, I'm told. He was a pretty sharp dresser in spite of those shoes. He liked straw hats and always wore a three-piece suit, even on picnics. He was very fussy about his neck ties. He wore a watch fob and a chain with a gold pen knife attached. Yup, he was a dude—a good dude!

**Friday, February 10, Sunny and Cold** Our car garage was attached to the office. It was a double garage for our

car and Matt Briggs.’ In those days, there was a bridge between our house and the office. We called it the “little bridge.” The run of water under it was just a brook, except in a very rainy time or during Spring run-off when it became a river. I only remember once when that bridge was washed out and Pup had to put planks to walk across to get to the mill. When we looked back, in later years and expressed our concern about Roy, Marie, and the other ‘little’ neighbour kids during that time, Uncle Lorne Coffey said, “Oh don’t worry. I can remember when your father went to the mill with a lantern, and you kids followed along behind. He walked the plank and so did you, and he expected you to do it.” It makes me afraid to think of it now.

Getting back to the garage, sometimes when we got home late at night, Pup would carry us up to the house if we were asleep. Often we’d just pretend to be asleep and were too cute to wake up. Another rather painless way to cover the distance home, if Pup was already carrying one child, was to wrap our arms around his legs, with our head between his legs. It must have been quite a drag on him, but he never said so.

I don’t remember when the garage was reconstructed this side of the little bridge. They use it to store wool now. The cars were not kept in the barn until years later. There wasn’t room with all the sleighs and wagons, and we had a pony, a horse and a cow. And there were ducks down below, behind the barn. Laddie was our one and only dog. I’ll write about him one day.

R.E.C.



## Letter re Terminator Seeds

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
House of Commons  
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister:

It has come to my attention that the official Canadian position on the on-going ban of terminator seeds is ambiguous, and that the Canadian Food Inspection Agency is preparing the road for approval of terminator seeds. Unitarians across Canada are very concerned. We strongly urge you to promote the continued ban of terminator seed technology.

Unitarians consider it a religious imperative for all concerned citizens to protect the sensitive interdependent web of life on this planet, our only home. The primary purpose of every species on earth is to continue life by reproducing itself. Creation is made up of many diverse species and

sub-species living in complex ecosystems based on relations of interdependence. We have no idea what the consequences of introducing something as dangerous as terminator seeds into this web of life will be, and we have no way of testing in advance to find out.

There can be no possible justification for introducing a technology that goes so against the ways of the natural world. The only apparent reason for supporting such a practice is to give the powers of private ownership and property rights to corporations for their personal profit. In the past, in Canada, farmers, universities and governments have worked together to develop new varieties of seed for all to use. In some cases today, corporations take the seed developed by many generations of farmers, make one genetic change, and patent that seed. The introduction of terminator seeds is a step in the process of taking control away from independent farmers and granting control of the world’s food supply to private companies.

Such a concentration of power over the basic needs of life should not be in the hands of people who are not ultimately accountable to the public good. It would also be a major violation of the rights of farmers to save and reuse their own seeds. It threatens farmer livelihoods, food security, and agricultural biodiversity, globally, and here in Canada.

Farmers have saved seeds since the beginnings of human agriculture. Each farmer has saved the seed that thrived best in a particular place under particular conditions to ensure the best possible results for the next crop year. The diversity of the seeds have provided optimal chances for survival under different conditions. Terminator seeds promote reduction in genetic diversity. The Seeds For Survival program of the Unitarian Service Committee is a proven model that has helped poor farmers in the third world survive drought and bring land back into production. This program empowers farmers to stay on the land and feed their families.

So far, Canada has supported the international moratorium on Terminator Seeds at the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. We applaud this decision. The Canadian Unitarian Council appeals to you to be firmly committed to maintaining this ban.

Canada’s position on terminator seeds is important to the rights and independence of Canadian farmers, but it is equally important to millions of farmers around the world. Canada is considered a leader in the area of agriculture. This is an environmental and an economic justice issue. The choice we make will influence the ultimate decisions of the world on this issue.

Please instruct the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to ensure and promote a ban on terminator seeds globally. In Canada, we ask that you enact legislation banning all research, field-testing, and commercial production of terminator seeds in Canada. Take a clear stand on this issue. Let us walk on this planet with an attitude of humility, a

respect for life and for the way of nature. Affirm the rights of all farmers to save and reuse their own seeds. Affirm life.

Yours sincerely,  
Vyda Ng  
President,  
Canadian Unitarian Council  
conseil unitarien du Canada

Cc: The Hon. Chuck Strahl, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food  
Wayne Easter, Liberal Agriculture Critic  
André Bellavance, Bloc Québécois Agriculture Critic  
Alex Atamanenko, NDP Agriculture Critic



*Fisherbirds set out at dawn*



## Letter re Afghanistan

Hon. Peter G. MacKay  
Minister of Foreign Affairs Canada  
125 Sussex Drive  
Ottawa ON K1A 0C2

Dear Minister MacKay:

As the President of the Canadian Unitarian Council, representing Canadian Unitarians and Universalists across the country, I am writing to express my concern over the situation in Afghanistan and to request that the Government of Canada conduct a full review of the role of Canadian Forces there.

Our First Principle states our commitment to the worth and dignity of every human being. In 2004 the Canadian Unitarian Council adopted a resolution calling for a Canadian “defence policy that will equip and train our military to ... participate in state interventions for humanitarian purposes that are fully and transparently compliant with international law ... that has as an overriding consideration the avoidance of serious harm to the civilian population.”

In light of this resolution, we are extremely concerned with

the number of civilian deaths that are occurring. Just recently, Afghani officials claimed that 60 to 80 civilians have been killed in NATO operations. Even if this figure is high, the perception that civilians are being killed will undermine the desired positive effect of Canada’s rebuilding efforts.

The recent increase in the number of civilian deaths has undermined the confidence that Afghans have in the international community and the central government. This loss of confidence should lead us to question whether Canadian troops are in Afghanistan to engage in military missions that try to defeat the insurgents, or if they are there to patrol communities where they are welcome and where they can provide the support needed to allow the Afghans to rebuild.

As Unitarian-Universalists, we are asking the Government of Canada to undertake a full public review of the impact and effectiveness of its military and other involvements in Afghanistan and specifically request that the role of Canadian troops be examined to ensure that they are providing security to areas where they are welcomed, and are enabling the Afghans to rebuild their country. We believe that conflict resolution, peace-building, reconstruction and humanitarian support should be the main focus of Canada’s involvement in Afghanistan, and that the balance of non-military commitments to Afghanistan should be increased.

Yours sincerely,  
Ms Vyda Ng  
President  
Canadian Unitarian Council

Cc: The Right Honourable Stephen Harper

The Honourable Keith Martin  
Liberal Foreign Affairs Critic

Ms. Caroline St-Hilaire  
Bloc Québécois Coopération internationale

Ms. Francine Lalonde  
Bloc Québécois Affaires étrangères

Mr. Wayne Marston  
NDP Foreign Affairs Deputy Critic (for Human Rights)

The Honourable Dawn Black  
NDP Defense and Peace Advocacy

The Honourable Alexa McDonough  
NDP Foreign Affairs Critic/ International Cooperation



## Year-End Message from Mary

CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL  
www.cuc.ca 1-888-568-5723 info@cuc.ca  
December 29, 2006



Hello, Friends,

## **ARE YOU A FRIEND OF THE CUC?**

This is a year-end message to encourage you to become a (capital F) Friend of the CUC before year-end. Our Friends campaign represents about 10 per cent of our overall budget. We always have a lot of ideas about things we wish we had the resources to do. So I find myself quite stumped whenever I think about what we'd do without our Friends! We want to Go BIG, And we count on the generous spirit of our Friends—as well as myriad volunteers and congregational partners who provide programs and resources to help “grow vital religious communities in Canada.

The letter from our president, Vyda Ng, along with our report to Friends who donated to last year's campaign, can be found at: <http://www.cuc.ca/friends/> There you will also find a link to Canada Helps - a service for non-profit organizations that offers the convenience of secure online donations using either Visa or Mastercard. Donations sent via cheque to the CUC office (018-1179A King Street West, Toronto, ON M6K 3C5) need to be postmarked by December 31, 2006 to be eligible for a tax receipt for this fiscal year. Phil Strapp can also arrange direct transfers on a yearly or monthly basis if you contact him at 1-888-568-5723 or [phil@cuc.ca](mailto:phil@cuc.ca)

We are about 80 per cent towards our goal of \$40,000 for this year's campaign, and the 2007 budget is based on a jump to \$50,000.

All donations are appreciated and with a donation of \$100 or more, you may receive our gift of a Multifaith Calendar. Additional copies of the calendar can be sent for \$10 each (no tax-receipt). Regular price is \$15.95. Please send a note with your donation letting us know you wish the calendar and where to send it.

## **CUC RESOURCES FOR YOUR CONGREGATION**

Are you and your congregation in New Year's mode—reflecting on the past and planning for the future? We have four teams of Regional Network Group members standing by to receive your requests for workshops, consultations and connections to assist your congregation to Go 4 It!

We now provide one more way for you to easily send us a request or inquiry. If you wish, you can fill out an online request form at: <http://www.cuc.ca/programs/regions/index.htm> And.. you are welcome to just send a note with any request you may have to a staff member, networker, or when in doubt, to [info@cuc.ca](mailto:info@cuc.ca).

You can “meet” our impressive team of CUC Service Consultants and Congregational Networkers at: [http://www.cuc.ca/whos\\_who/sc\\_contacts.htm](http://www.cuc.ca/whos_who/sc_contacts.htm)

## **CUC BC & WESTERN REGIONS UPDATE**

During the transition time between Sara McEwan's retirement December 31 and until a new Director of Regional Services - West (DRSW) is hired by May 1-I will be the staff person working with the BC & Western Regional Network Groups and congregational leaders to ensure all inquiries and requests are handled quickly and effectively. Both Regional Network Groups are well “staffed” with experienced and committed volunteers. As well as the current Service Consultants and Congregational Networkers, there are great resourceful people available as “contract consultants” to deliver CUC workshops if the current RNG teams need extra assistance. For instance, past CUC board members, John Slattery and Barb Bowmar, who retired from the BC RNG this year after more than four years, are available to offer workshops on covenanting, conflict resolution, mission, vision and planning.

Travel expenses and honorarium to facilitators are paid for from your congregation's Annual Program Contributions (and, as mentioned above, our Friends campaign!) and provided to your congregation with no additional cost.

The BC RNG will meet in Vancouver in January and the Western RNG in March in Winnipeg to begin planning for 2007 Regional Fall Gatherings and continue their work for the regions.

## **CUC STAFF UPDATES**

Janice Lincoln, our Administrative Coordinator has decided to move from Toronto to Vancouver. After recovering from the email message with “My Resignation” as the subject line, I talked with the CUC Human Resources committee, the CUC President, and Janice about working for the CUC in Vancouver.

As of January 8, Janice will be working from an office at the Unitarian Church of Vancouver. She will continue with many of her tasks as Administrative Coordinator and also assist me by handling additional communications and administrative tasks involved with Regional Services - West and the Annual Conference & Meeting scheduled for Vancouver.

[Janice@cuc.ca](mailto:Janice@cuc.ca) will be the best way to reach her, and for the first weeks of January, she will be using my BC CUC Number of 604-617-0142 if you need to contact her directly. You can also continue to leave messages for any CUC staff at 1-888-568-5723.

If you are based in BC or Western regions and have materials to send to the CUC West office, it can be sent to 949 West 49th Avenue, Vancouver BC, V5Z 2T1.

## **LOOKING BACK - LOOKING FORWARD**

As 2006 comes to an end, the CUC board and staff are very much in the mode of “Looking Back - Looking Forward.”

It has been a richly satisfying year, with many successes: Program staff and Regional Network Groups have continued to build on the programs developed over the past few

years; we had a well-attended and energizing ACM in Saint John with 30% of the 350 participants in the children's and youth programs; Art Kilgour's resignation as CanU editor has produced a new team of graphic designer, Sharon Mah, and regional writers coordinated by CUC staff and a fresh look at our newsletter; the Terre Commune youth leadership gathering in Winnipeg produced a number of significant proposals regarding youth ministry and with Phil Strapp's abilities to do both the detailed recordkeeping as well as produce analysis of financial and membership data, we are confident that expenses for the fiscal year will come in under budget yet again.

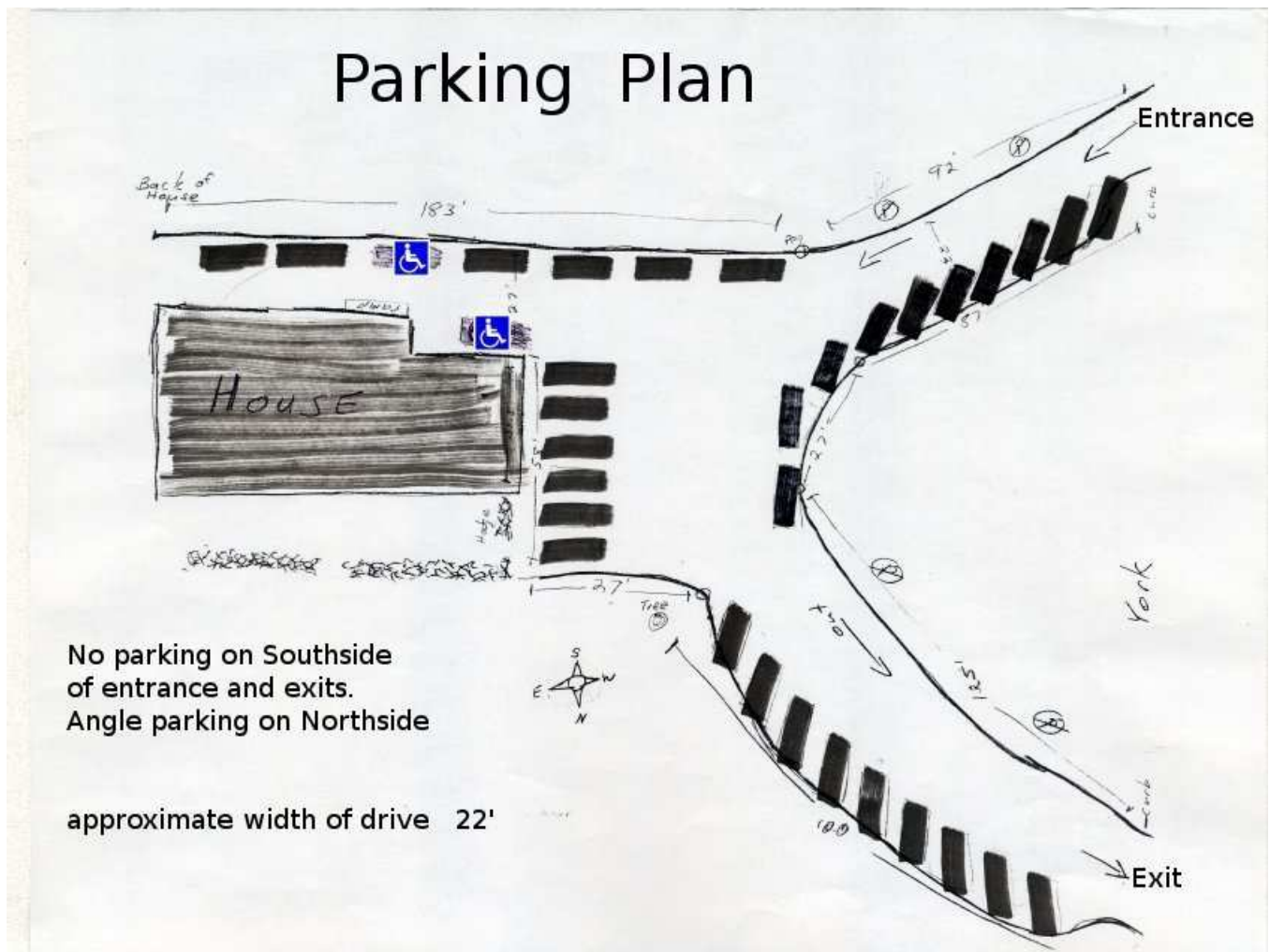
Sara McEwan's resignation as Regional Director- West, Janice Lincoln's move to Vancouver and Linda Thomson, Regional Director - East embarking on a course of studies towards a Masters of Divinity all mean we are entering a time of both challenge and opportunity. I feel good about decisions that will allow for effective use of staff and resources for the transitional period of January-June and will be working with the board to consider possibilities for

longer-term administrative possibilities.

Personally, I look forward to 2007 being a year of building on the firm foundations that have been laid by board members, staff and volunteers over the past number of years. While changes are on the horizon, compared to my first couple of years (2000-2003) where the entire organization was being re-created, I am confident that we can "Go On" with the service delivery model created in 2000-2003 while exploring ways to also Go Deep, Go Out and Go Big. It is timely to be entering a new strategic planning process at this time, five years into what was the "new CUC" and we now know as "today's CUC".

All the best for the new year - hope that CUC can serve you well in the coming year.

Take care of yourselves and each other,  
 Mary  
 Mary Bennett, Executive Director  
 CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL  
 mary@cuc.ca 604-617-0142



*Revised Parking Plan*