



The Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton

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## Sunday Services

**August 5** Carlos Elder-Gomes "*Talking Circle*"

**August 12** Tony Fitzgerald "*Interdependent Web*" Human activity can have severe effects on the natural systems within which we live. A look at eutrophication in marine ecosystems based on the November 2006 Scientific American article "*Reviving Dead Zones*"

**August 19** Mary Scott "*Finding Patterns, Context and Direction*"

**August 26** Board Retreat

**September 2** "*Ingathering*" Our traditional start of year. Everyone knows that the real new year in our society is the end of the summer vacation period and the start of school. We will have our traditional corn boil following an ingathering service. Please bring water or another token or symbol of a pleasant or significant summer memory and share a few sentences about where and why.

**September 9** Angus Hamilton "*Global Warming/Climate Change in Perspective*" North American [Indian] Proverb: *We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.*

If you are expecting a talk on efficient light bulbs and hybrid cars, you're going to be disappointed. What I am going to do is touch lightly on many related things that will, I hope, put global warming and climate change in perspective.

**September 16** Rev. David Hutchinson; Unitarian Society of Houlton "*Hippo Eats Scott Alexander: What is the Meaning of Life?*" Rev. Scott Alexander (former minister at the Houlton Church) was my room-mate at GA this summer in Portland, Oregon. While there were no hippos in Portland, we did discuss their relevance over breakfast one morning at a pancake house. Come and hear my answer to one of the most frequently asked questions around.

**September 23** Saint John (UUCSJ): Dedication day for their new home, 545 Sandy Point Road, Saint John. At 2 p.m.

We anticipate that a number of Fredericton members will want to join our sister congregation in their celebration and will plan to end on time with a low key social hour so that people may make their way to Saint John in good order if they choose.



## A tidbit from Buildings & Grounds

News flash! - we are getting free of charge a large wheeled blue dolly for paper recycling.

It's similar to the green garbage dolly that stays outside in the driveway. This is a program of the Fredericton Solid Waste Commission and they will empty the blue dolly regularly. If you live out of town, or if you find this dolly with a lid more convenient for paper recycling you are welcome to use the Fellowship's dolly. I will post a list of items that can be put in the blue dolly.

*In fellowship*  
Patricia



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## Yard Sale

Grandmothers Helping Grandmothers (a Fredericton group supporting African grandmothers raising children whose parents have died from aids) will be holding a yard sale at the Fellowship Saturday September 15, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Come out and enjoy the sale. 25 plus families are involved. For more information contact Linda Sprague (spraguella@yahoo.com)



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## Dirty Laundry!

Please put tablecloths, dish towels and dishcloths that need washing in the yellow net bag in the kitchen. Please don't take items to your home to wash - we'll do them when there's a 'load'. For more info. about dirty laundry please see Betty Gruffydd or Patricia desChamps.

a tidbit from Hospitality & Buildings and Grounds!



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## Buildings & Grounds

It's been a busy summer for Buildings & Grounds at the Fellowship.

We have done major work outside.

Five truck loads of brush have been removed from the south-east corner of the property. Ornamental bushes had grown for too long without being trimmed - one was fourteen feet high! It's mostly cleaned out now - there is just a bit more to do. We purchased a concrete bench for \$44.98 for this area of the south lawn. It was less than half price when the seasonal nursery was closing for the season at the SuperStore.

A very tall dead spruce tree on the east property line was felled and cut into wood fire sized pieces by professional forester Neil Trebble for \$100. A professional was contracted to do this job because the tree would damage neighbours' property if it fell in the wrong direction. Michel wasn't comfortable doing this particular tree because it was on the property line. Danny Mathias has offered to remove the wood next week. Danny has a use for the wood.

The baby birds that lived in the kitchen oven vent this spring have 'flown the nest'. Michel cleaned the eight foot long vent and covered the entrance to the vent with fly screen to prevent any more mother birds from nesting there next spring.

Michel glued and painted many of the second floor shut-

ters. Many had loose pieces, some hanging on an angle! Some paint has been repaired on the second floor - there is more paint repair to do. Several cracks in the foundation have been repaired. The outside tile repair is nearly complete.

A lot of 'regular' maintenance has been completed. The lawns were rolled with a water filled 40gal. metal roller. It has smoothed the lawns out a lot and removed the small bumps. All the lawns, shrubs and trees have been fertilized. It's a continuing job to keep weeds out of the driveway. The rain gutters and eaves troughs were cleaned out (they were full of leaves again!). Two lovely fifteen foot shrubs located six feet from the uphill side of the lanai were removed. Their roots were clogging our underground weeping tile. Several red stakes in the driveway were replaced. Regular maintenance was done on the Humidex and the dehumidifier. Moss was removed from the roof (the north side over the library picture window). The slate lanai, north portico, and north sidewalk have been power washed. The north hedge has been 'taken down' about fourteen inches - an old picture of the house shows the hedge at the height it is now. It was cut back about twelve inches on the north side as well making it a bit narrower.

The sanding of the oak north entrance is a work in progress. Michel will have twenty-five hours of help sanding the oak and doing yard work. We were contacted by Trent Russell of the Alternative Measures Dept. PNB and asked to participate in their program by having as a volunteer, a young woman who would work for us for twenty-five hours. She will be in the company of Michel at all times. She is a first time offender (a \$20 shoplifting). She has good family support and is a likeable young woman. I don't envy her having to sand doors and scrape weeds out of the driveway but she is delighted to have this opportunity to 'make things right'. She phoned last week and we made arrangements for her to help Michel.

Spring clean up was done by Michel Plourde our maintenance person with help from Tony Fitzgerald. A three foot high maple seedling was removed from our wheelchair ramp area. Michel took the seedling home to plant at his house. Shrubs on the north lawn were trimmed. Rocks that were brought to the surface by the frost were removed from the lawn areas and put along the south border of the driveway where it stays too wet. The crushed rock in the driveway was raked back in place from a season of winter snow ploughing. Leaves were raked and put out (with other trimmings and brush) for the city's spring cleanup. The city mulches all of this for use by their Parks and Trees Dept. The fenced dog house was locked with a padlock. The large cedar tree by our dusk-to-dawn light was trimmed at the base. The trimmings from this tree alone filled a pickup truck. A flower bed near the Magnolia tree was turned back into lawn as were two areas on the south lawn where small Potentilla shrubs had died.

Michel made two benches for the table on the lanai. They

are two inches higher than is usual. We made them higher so they are easier for elderly people to use. There are two new benches under the linden tree as well. Michel repaired legs on several of the office type desks we have. The propane tank on the BBQ has been filled.

Linda Sprague, Michel and I got together to clean the garage to prepare for yard sale items. Linda and her group, 'Grandmothers helping Grandmothers in Africa' is having a yard sale at the Fellowship in September.

I got a great buy on salt for use on the driveway this coming winter. I purchased six, twenty pounds bags at 80% off in May! It is stored in the garage.

The key codes were changed last month. We will change them three times a year. I try to change the message in the Wayside pulpit every three weeks or so. There is a new blue carpet by the door in the library to soak up water and dirt brought in on shoes. The plants and flowers are doing well. A thank you to our Margaret for dead heading the pansies.

Patricia desChamps



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## Sunday Services / *Worship* Committee

The Sunday (*Worship*) Services Committee gathered as many of its members as it could manage on short notice and met in early July to make sure there was something planned for each summer Sunday and enough into September so that we could defer meeting again to late August. I thank the members of the committee for their support and suggestions and hope that the congregation will find the service topics meet their spiritual needs from the diverse angles of intellect, emotion and community.

We are a lay led community, however, the committee wants and plans to continue bringing in professional ministry to complement our lay efforts. To that end, we will revive a practice which I am told was frequent when our congregation was a member of the North East District of the UUA of inviting the Houlton minister to speak.

We are a lay led community, and, that gives us the advantage of being more involved in our own ministry. Rather than being empty vessels into which the minister pours spiritual wisdom, we have to work for ourselves to find out and experiment with exactly what worship means. If you have any suggestions, please bring them to any of the committee members for discussions at our meetings. If you are interested in being a service leader, please approach any of the committee members for consideration.

Two items were discussed regarding the Sunday services components. The actual layout of the order of service is the decision of the service leader, however, the committee will probably strongly suggest that the announcements be

moved to before the actual start of the service and we will emphasize that announcements should be brief and bear on the life of our community. We have bulletin boards, the web and this publication for details as well as the printed Order of Service. Once the announcements are out of the way, we can get down to the business of why we come to Sunday Service. One also hopes that everyone will have settled down and be ready as well.

The second item is a little more challenging and evoked significant discussion. The question of how best to conduct the Joys and Concerns portion of the service was raised and not really satisfactorily resolved. One of the good things about being a small congregation is that we can have a "real" Joys and Concerns where people actually get up and talk. In the larger congregations they have pretty much given it up with a symbolic ritual to represent the act. The committee hopes that we can find a way to allow people who want to to share their sense of joy or express their personal concerns while maintaining the overall flow of the service. We will be looking at what other congregations have done and, as always, welcome input from the congregation.

*In fellowship*  
Tony Fitzgerald



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## Diary Entries

**Friday, February 3, 9:15am Storm brewing** Beside the little pantry-type closet, was a large sink, at least I thought it was big. Everyone washed hands there and dried them on the roller towel which hung under the kitchen shelf. Heavens, Pup's razor strop also hung there! We were threatened with it from time to time, but it was mostly used to sharpen Pup's straight razor. We were a bit afraid of the razors, too. Pup shaved everyday, sometimes twice. He had a shaving mug and a brush, and he sometimes 'whiskered' us when he got all lathered up. Periodically, Mum would shave his neck. She would shave him, and wipe the razor on a piece of newspaper that was hung up on a hook, and disposed of when the process was finished.

The medicine cabinet hung up over the sink. It had a mirror and we liked to get up on a chair to look in it. Later, it was a great place for setting our hair. A little shelf beside the sink held Pup's shaving mug, some 'Surprise Soap' for dishes and other cleaning. There were no soap powders or detergents then. It also held a big dipper for filling the kettle or watering plants, and for taking a drink. If Pup called for one of us to "fetch him a drink," he wanted half a dipper. When Mum had a drink, it was always a few sips. We had no hot water from our taps, but we had beautiful drinking water from a spring—we still have. Before Pup build this house, he asked his Uncle Alex for the rights to

the spring. He really had it made, he thought, but the pressure would only bring the water up to the kitchen, and not to the second storey. Even so, it was pretty great and even if the power is off we have drinking water. Pup kept a comb on top of the pantry door, and a brush full of 'Cuticura' salve, for his hair. We felt there was something magic about that brush, and perhaps there was. Pup lived to be 97 and he still had hair, and no bald spots!

**Saturday, February 4, 9:30am Cold** Naturally, people didn't have electric dishwashers back in those days. Our dishes were always washed in the dishpan on the kitchen table. We had a second pan to put them in for rinsing and drying. Our dishes sparkled because we had soft spring water. Mum had a strict routine for the dish washing performance. Sometimes we tried to get away without rinsing, but no dice. Vernice was here often as we were growing up and she noticed how our glasses shone. She even mentioned a white blouse of mine in school, but this was the difference in water. Their water was very hard, and of course, these were the days before water softeners.

Instead of one big window overlooking the dam, we then had two smaller windows that went down lower, so we got a full view out back. How Mum enjoyed her view all her life, as I enjoy it now.

Another source of entertainment for us kids and our company, was the toy drawer. It was a bottom cupboard drawer and it held fascinating things to play with, not just toys. We sat on the kitchen floor to enjoy our bounty. One day I was playing with my cousin, Edgar Wilson. I showed him how smart I was by taking a train apart. He thought I broke it and he was so exasperated, he wrapped his fingers in my hair and pulled out a whole handful. I screamed, and cried. I received a lot of attention, as did he. After that, I never could stand to have my hair pulled, but I was always very fond of Edgar. Our mothers must have handled it just right.

R.E.C.



## Linking Governance and Emotional Systems

General Assembly 2007 Event 2022  
Speaker: Rev. Stefan Jonasson

Rev. Stefan Jonasson, the Unitarian Univesalist Association (UUA) Director for Large Congregations, welcomed a large crowd of anxious Unitarian Universalists (UUs) who, as Jonasson said, are apparently dissatisfied with their present church governance, are perhaps in search of the perfect model of church governance, and maybe have the mistaken belief that Jonasson has found it. Jonasson emphasized there is no universal model. However, any model

can work when used with common-sense wisdom, or can fail in the hands of zealots. In other words, every system needs a flexible approach.

With any system, it is important to understand the role of emotions. For example, potential leaders may become anxious and reluctant to take on the distasteful tasks of leadership, especially when our congregations are not sufficiently appreciative of our leaders. Apparently, Board and Council members do not always feel embraced by the "beloved community." It is essential to reduce anxiety and create an emotionally-rewarding way of working together.

Jonasson's Powerpoint presentation outlines the three models recommended by the UUA Extension Office in 1984: the "Administrative Board Model" which works well for many congregations; the "Board-Council Model" which is appropriate for Mid-sized or Program churches; and the "Policy-Making Board Model" for large churches. This large-church model is based on the Policy Governance(R) model of John Carver.

Jonasson advocates the Policy-Making Board Model for large churches, though he stressed the need for flexibility. An approach that works well in some congregations may flounder in others. What gets in the way?

Our UU tradition of congregational polity suggests an important test: if something seems to violate our tradition of polity it will likely be troublesome. As always, flexibility is essential: inflexible zealots can paralyze any system.

Furthermore, size matters. Jonasson discourages small fellowships from using the Policy-Board Model.

The four congregational sizes are illustrated in slide 11 (of 37) in the Powerpoint presentation. On the left are the relationship-based systems of smaller congregations; on the right are the organizational systems of large congregations. At the top are the member-centered systems of both Family and Program churches; and on the bottom are the minister-centered systems of both Pastoral and Campus churches.

Pay attention to the changing needs of your congregation, Jonasson recommended. The origin of your future failure is often seeded in your past success. In other words, if your congregation grows, your system of governance may need to change.

Competence matters. But we may not want to go there because people will get anxious-which takes us back to Jonasson's title theme: emotions matter.

Roles matter. In business systems, there are "owners," "staff," and "customers." However, in a church, these three roles overlap. For example, a Board member could be cast in all three roles.

Keep in mind that Boards do more than govern. So, indeed, do Members of Congress. However, when a Member of Congress responds to voter concerns about an inefficient

Post Office or a delayed passport application, s/he is not engaged in governing. This is micro-management, not the visioning and policy-making that are the primary functions of the Board in John Carver's Policy Governance(R).

Furthermore, as stewards, Board members are guardians of both tangible and intangible assets. The tangible assets are the buildings and investments. The intangible assets are the congregation's reputation and credibility.

Also, the leaders are seen as role models. When nominating leaders, select people who are generous with their time or money. The congregation will not be more generous with time or money than is the Board.

The Board should not step into other fields without an invitation. Indeed, it may spend a lot of time defining boundaries and fences. However, good fences have gates. We should not ignore the fences, nor should we risk losing the keys to the gates.

Emotional systems are crucial. To illustrate the point, Jonasson described how, as a boy, he had more than 700 Matchbox(R) toys and used these to create an imaginary community of plastic people. It was a well-ordered community because he was in control. As adults, we deal with real people. We may try to create a tidy organizational structure and then become anxious and discouraged when real people mess it up.

A good system makes room for complex emotional systems. Ideally, the system should be in place to deal with human issues proactively and avoid the need for the Board to respond reactively in crisis mode. Proceed from the general to the particular, i.e., from general rules and policies to particular disagreements and problems.

Sometimes, by-laws are written reactively, to fix previous problems. Jonasson described a church that had consumed (or perhaps chewed and spat out) eight previous ministers. Because he knew the personalities of these previous ministers, he could predict which bylaw had been written in reaction to which minister.

You probably know the formal agreements and written contracts that govern your congregation, but do you know the informal or tacit agreements of your congregation? If you are a long-time member, you may know them subconsciously. However, to a visiting UU from another congregation, they may feel uncomfortable; while to a first-time visitor familiar with another religious tradition they may be bewildering to a degree that may be alienating. For example, within Boston, the behavior expected at King's Chapel is different from that at Arlington Street Church. How obvious it this to you, and how obvious is it to a visitor? And how do these tacit agreements affect the congregation?

The most important tacit agreements deal with how we treat each other. Does your "beloved community" have a behavioral covenant, wither written or unwritten? New-

comers pick up these signals and may be either drawn in or feel excluded. How do first-time visitors feel when they are from other faith communities, other economic communities, or other ethnic communities?

Does your Board speak with one voice, or as separate individuals? A Board member who throws his/her weight around as an individual is counter-productive, whereas a unified Board that creates a proactive system to anticipate problems is more effective.

Let it be a dance, but not one where we laboriously follow the numbers marked on the floor; that is not dancing. Both in dance and governance, flexibility is essential. Those who know the dance will improvise as needed.

Finally, Jonasson talked of Richard Chait's concept of governance as leadership. Chait advocates modes rather than models. For example, in the Fiduciary mode, the Board focuses on waste or misuse of resources, whereas in the Generative-Governance mode, the Board defines the meaning of what we do and focuses on the big picture rather than micro-managing the minutia.

In summary, there is no absolute goal and no perfect model. However, a simpler way is likely to be a more effective way. And if the system is set up to consider human emotions, it will be more effective.

Reported by Mike McNaughton; edited by Jone Johnson Lewis.



## Church of the Larger Fellowship

The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) is a cyberspace and mail UU congregation, able to provide helpful resources.

Are you

- housebound
- working on a Sunday morning
- looking for more UU resources
- wanting UUism 24/7?

What resources can the CLF provide?

- Quest, a monthly publication of sermons and other material
- Lifespan Religious Education resources
- A loan library including books, sermons, videotapes and more
- Online classes

- E-mail lists, cyber communities, and online covenant groups focusing on sharing ideas and spirituality

Visit or contact the CLF:

www.clfuu.org  
 clf@clfu.org  
 617-948-6170



## Lotta Hitschmanova Honoured

Lotta Hitschmanova Honoured in Museum of Civilization's New 'Personalities Hall'

Ottawa/Gatineau, June 27, 2007. In the company of the Prime Ministers, writers, and industrialists who shaped Canadian history, is an unlikely character: a young Czech woman whose parents were in a World War II concentration camp, who found refuge in Canada and made it her lifelong mission to help those in need around the world.

Lotta Hitschmanova, along with 26 other famous Canadians, is featured in Face to Face: The Canadian Personalities Hall, a new permanent exhibit of the Canadian Museum of Civilization that opens Saturday June 30. The exhibit brings visitors face to face with the fascinating people whose decisions, actions and accomplishments shaped Canada.

Everything about Lotta was intriguing: her name, her trademark military uniform, and her story. In 1945, she established the Unitarian Service Committee (USC), a small group of humanitarian aid workers sending supplies to war-torn Europe. She became a venerated symbol of how one person can make a difference in the lives of many, making "56 Sparks Street" a household name through her numerous radio and television ads.



"In many ways, Lotta represents Canada's coming of

age on the international scene," says Susan Walsh, USC Canada's Executive Director. "Lotta spoke passionately about human dignity, and about the hopes and values that connect humanity across borders. Today, her words ring true more than ever, as we tackle the problems of global poverty and injustice, conflict, and climate change."

USC Canada works in community-based agriculture with partner organizations in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and is involved in public education and policy work in Canada, and globally.

"We've learned over the years that it isn't enough to support communities to carry out development programs," says Walsh. "It's just as important to have active global citizens who can change the structures and policies that keep people poor."

Walsh adds that USC's work is still premised on recognizing the potential in every human being, and helping them achieve that potential with their own knowledge, resources and creativity. "That was Lotta's conviction more than 60 years ago, and it's even more relevant today," she says.

For more information about Face to Face, or an interview with Susan Walsh:

Faris Ahmed, USC Canada tel: (613) 234-6827 ext. 223  
 e-mail: fahmed@usc-canada.org



## Wheelchair Redemption

Margaret Fitzgerald is collecting Sobeys' sales tapes to be handed in at Pinegrove Nursing Home. When enough tapes are accumulated, they will be redeemed for wheelchairs. If you want more details, please contact Margaret at 454-5319.

*In fellowship*  
 Margaret Fitzgerald



## News from the CUC Board

The CUC Board met in Vancouver prior to the Annual Conference & Meeting.

The current focus of the Board is two-fold: 1) to maintain on-going excellence in service delivery and the financial stability of the "CUC of today" while, 2) laying the groundwork for the "CUC of tomorrow".

The "Regions & RNGs" plan for the CUC was introduced 5 years ago as we took over responsibility for most of the service delivery to Canadian congregations. The Board has now launched a formal evaluation process to see how we implemented the plan and if we have realized the benefits

envisaged.

The demand continues from congregations across the country for consulting services from our network of service consultants. New consultants have joined our ranks, as those who initially took on these roles cycle off.

The CUC Western Regional Office in Vancouver is now firmly established, as Laura McNaughton joins us as our new Director of Regional Services (West).

We are on track with our balanced budget this year. The Annual Program Fund contribution was set at \$88 per member for 2008.

The Board spent a lot of its time discussing Go-4-It!, our new strategic plan. We have developed a series of “strategic directions” based on much research and input from across the country. The Board led a spirited intergenerational workshop at the Vancouver ACM in addition to an in-depth review of the plan, which can be found at [www.cuc.ca/strategy](http://www.cuc.ca/strategy).

Within the Go-4-It! framework, the Board will be developing detailed action plans and proposals to guide our growth and service delivery over the upcoming years.

The Statement of Principles Task Force has presented preliminary feedback on the recent survey on the use and views of the current Statement of Principles. The full presentation and set of responses can be found at [www.cuc.ca/statement](http://www.cuc.ca/statement). In the coming months, the Task Force will complete its analysis of the workshop results and make a recommendation to the Board as to next steps.

The CUC continues to play a lead role on the international UU scene. John Slattery is Vice-President and Rev. Brian Kiely (CUC Past-President) is the North American Co-Chair of the International Council of Unitarians & Universalists (“ICUU”). Mary Bennett attended the UUA & UK General Assemblies on our behalf.

The CUC Board of Trustees for 2007-8 is:

President: Jean Pfeiderer (Eastern Region)  
Vice President: Calvin Drake (Central Region)  
Treasurer: Jean Armstrong (Western Region)  
Secretary: Ron Bulmer (Eastern Region)  
Trustees: Rev. Katie Stein Sather (BC Region)  
Jan Greenwood (BC Region)  
John (“Mich”) Michell (Western Region)  
Rev. Christine Hillman (Central Region)  
Ex-officio: Vyda Ng (Past President)  
Mary Bennett (Executive Director)  
Youth Observer: Nick Nesbitt-Larking



## The Wisdom and Solace of the Ages

Using the latest in mobile technology, we bring you the

wisdom of the words in which people have sought meaning and solace for millennia. More information on our Bible quote service may be found on our web site:

<http://www.mobilegospel.ca/>

The service brings Bible quotes and devotions directly to any mobile phone using text messages (SMS).



## Mary’s message (June)

June 8, 2007

My son, Jamie, laughs when I tell him, “I’m an early adopter.”

I insist that in my circle of friends, I am often the first one to try some new technological gizmo (oops-may be showing my age there.) In his circles, this means you’re beta-testing new versions of software. He correctly assumes that I’m not in that category since I call on him when I need to know if it’s possible to convert an audio tape to a CD. (“Where do I push the tape in?” I ask. He sighs and says, “Give me the tape. I’ll do it.”

I’m trying to keep up. But it’s not easy.

Have you discovered facebook? If you have, perhaps you are, like me, one of the “Oldest people on facebook”? (There’s a group for those over 22 who are just getting onto facebook, although their younger friends and siblings have been on for months.) Might you want to reach out to youth and younger adults by using a medium that they’re comfortable with?

What about flickr? Do you upload your photos there? Figured out how to issue a guest pass for your friends who don’t want to join in order to see your pictures? Do you think members of your congregation might want to share photos this way?

You may have heard of Wikipedia, but did you know that there’s now Wikiquote, Wikiversity and Wiktionary. Are you interested in experimenting with how your congregation might use a wiki to collaborate on documents and share information?

CUC first formed a Technology Task Force eight years ago. John Michell, of Calgary, is the Board Liaison ([mich@cuc.ca](mailto:mich@cuc.ca)). We would welcome your thoughts on how the CUC can help congregations effectively use technology.

*Editor’s note: Some details of various new web features have been omitted to save space, however, the editor will send electronic copy of the entire article to anyone who is interested.*

I’d be curious to hear if your congregation is using any of these systems.

In the meantime, we’ll keep sending the Congregational

Mailing and the Canadian Unitarian newsletter. Technology has increased the timeliness of our information to those who wish to receive it via email or web and increased access to information. It hasn't reduced the amount of print material nor the number of face-to-face opportunities.

Take care of yourselves and each other,  
Mary Bennett  
CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL



## Big Change in Saint John

In May, the UU church of Saint John took possession of its own building and since then, a lot of work has been done. The building was put up in the seventies by Jehovah's Witnesses, and more recently occupied by a daycare centre.

For the last 10 years, the Saint John congregation has been meeting in a community centre.

The main floor of the new building provides a large room that can easily hold 120, with a stage about 30 cm above the floor at the far end. Downstairs, there's a kitchen, at least two rooms for the children and more space for small gatherings.

The search for a suitable building started almost two years ago, with a search committee considering at least nine locations before

deciding to buy rather than try to rent or share.

Once the new building was taken over, the first job was selling the contents that came with the building, and the proceeds from the sale made all the work a worthwhile endeavor.

The next job tackled by volunteers was ripping out old carpeting and getting down to bare flooring. Then last weekend, 15 people turned out to wash all the walls, and get started on a primer coat of paint.

Other jobs planned include repairs to the existing sound system, replacement of boarded-up windows, installation of our own sign, and eventual construction of an entrance for handicapped people,

While work will likely continue all summer, the congregation is holding its first function in its new building on Sunday, June 24th.

That event will be the annual business meeting and election of the board of trustees.

If you visit Saint John this summer, come and take a look at our new home. The address – 545 Sandy Point Road.

George Legris UU Church of Saint John (not quite 50 members)



The Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax and the Canadian Unitarian Council are pleased to offer a new Worship Associate Training Program: Weaving our Worship.

Friday Sept. 14 7:00-9:00PM

Saturday Sept 15 9:00AM-8:00PM

Sunday Sept 16 9:30AM-2:00PM

To Register: contact Dean White, 902-543-7227 or kikyko@bwr.eastlink.ca by Friday September 7<sup>th</sup>. Home hospitality is available. Payment due on site (\$30/person, \$25/person for groups of 3 or more from same congregation.)

*Editor's note: I have a colour brochure that I can send electronically to anyone who is interested, however, it was unsuitable for inclusion in the newsletter and the editor did not have the time to re-type the text from the image other than the basics here.*

This space wants your material!