



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](mailto:tuff@nbnet.nb.ca)

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## Sunday Services

**January 6** *"Promises and Possibilities: Universalism in World Religions"* Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes will be the presenter: What would the world be like if everyone believed that people of all beliefs were united in their goodness, and all were deserving of love and grace? Universalists are more than the other U in U\*U; people who define themselves as Universalists also belong to several denominations of Christianity and other religions. In this service, Jo-Anne will be exploring how universalism is defined by Quaker, Jewish, Independent, and other Universalists.

**January 13** *"The Argentine Desaparecidos"* The speaker will be Karen Robert.

**January 20** *"Victoria (Clafin) Woodhull"* Sue Steen will give a presentation on this 19'th century feminist who was reviled as Mrs. Satan by some of her critics.

**January 27** *"Environment"* In preparation for the pre-

sentations in early February on the environmental crisis as highlighted in Al Gore's "Inconvenient Truth" movie, Valerie Hillier will be speaking.

**February 10** *"Three Years Later"* Three years ago, the Fellowship began the final drive to achieve welcoming congregation status. Coincidentally, Tony Fitzgerald brought his closet out into the full light of day. Some retrospectives and observations on both events.

**February 17** the reverend Kitsie Winthrop will be conducting the service as well as several workshops and will be available for pastoral care. Keep your eye out for further announcements.



## Children's Religious Education

January - June 2008

January 2008

**Theme:** "We Believe That All Persons Should Have A Say About The Things That Concern Them"

January 6: Music & Singing

January 13: Principle 5 Discussion

January 20: Environmental Topic

January 27: World Religion

February 2008

**Theme:** "We Believe In Working For A Peaceful, Fair And Free World"

February 3: Music & Singing

February 10: Principle 6 Discussion

February 17: Environmental Topic

February 24: World Religion

March 2008

**Theme:** "We Believe In Caring For Our Planet Earth, The Home We Share With All Living Things"

March 2: March Break Activity

March 9: Music & Singing

March 16: Principle 7 Discussion

March 23: Environmental Topic

March 30: World Religion

### April 2008

**Theme:** “We Believe That Each And Every Person Is Important”

April 6: Music & Singing

April 13: Principle 1 Discussion

April 20: Environmental Topic

April 27: World Religion

### May 2008

**Theme:** “We Believe That All People Should Be Treated Fairly And Kindly”

May 4: Music & Singing

May 11: Principle 2 Discussion

May 18: Environmental Topic

May 25: World Religion

### June 2008

**Theme:** “We Believe That We Should Encourage One Another And Learn Together”

June 1: Music & Singing

June 8: Principle 3 Discussion

June 15: Environmental Topic

June 22: World Religion

June 29: Wrap Up



**the web of life la toile de la vie**  
IN OUR HANDS ENTRE NOS MAINS

Canadian Unitarian Council  
Annual Conference and Meeting  
Ottawa, Ontario  
May 16 to 19, 2008

Plan Now and Be There!



## Women's Pot Luck

The next women's pot luck will be held January 25th., 2008 at 6 pm. Haifa Miller and Carol Ann Hanley will host the gathering at 874 York Street. The show and tell topic is “Life Changing Experiences” or something less dramatic if you wish. Tell us about the experience and in what way you were changed by the experience. For more infor-

mation contact Joan Brewer at jrjeb@nb.sympatico.ca or 455-5169.



## Caring Committee

We would appreciate being informed if a member or friend of the congregation is in hospital and may be comforted by a visit or a card. Therefore, if a member of your family or a friend could use our support please let us know. The members of your Caring Committee are: Janet Crawford, Margaret Fitzgerald and Haifa Miller.



## tUFF Scarves

TUFF SCARVES

Calling all knitters!

Saint Thomas University will be getting in touch in a couple of weeks, looking for TUFF scarves for their new international students. We don't have enough scarves knitted at this time to give each new international student a scarf. If you can knit a scarf for this worthy project, please do! There's lots of yarn in the basket on the hearth in the library.

Scarves can be big or small, long or short, perfect and not-so-perfect too!

*In fellowship*  
Patricia



## membership committee

From the membership committee at the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton

No one comes to this house

Who is not changed.

I meet no one here who does not change me.

— from *Gestalt at Sixty*

by May Sarton

poet and Unitarian Universalist

Beginning this month, the membership committee will be holding a New U\*U program, developed by Anne Leslie, which is a four-part information series on Unitarian Universalism and tUFF. Join us if you want to download new information, or upgrade an already working file. Please contact allison calvern for details: acalvern@nbnet.nb.ca / 459-1436.

- Session I, Thursday, January 10, 7-9pm** Getting to know one another by sharing faith journeys.
- Session II, Thursday, January 17, 7-9pm** Learning about tUFF, and about Unitarian Universalism.
- Session III, Thursday, January 24, 7-9pm** Learning about the structure and activities of the congregation. Discussing ways of getting involved.
- Session IV, Thursday, January 31, 7-9pm** Absorbing and synthesizing the information. Beginning the process of becoming involved in the life of the congregation.

(This program will also be offered at your home should you be unable to manage evening attendance.)

We welcome you. In our faith community spirituality lives in the commonplace and we find the holy amid the ordinary. We invite you to enter our community with delight. We can use your help as we try to be **truthful, serving and loving**.

**We are a community of truth**, differing somewhat from the orthodoxies of current religious thought. We believe that truth is multifaceted and elusive, that there is not just one path to enlightenment. Our truths arrive in small installments, via modest and well-lived insights—enough to sustain us and make us want to welcome you.

We face the world as we experience it now, without putting excessive energy into an imagined afterlife. We trust that the imperfect singularities of our individual visions, will respect and welcome other singularities, other visions. Together we create a home that pulls each of us in the direction of our own fulfillment.

**We find our voice in serving.** Unitarianism declares that we are not sufficient unto ourselves; we are interdependent, and are called to treat the entire universe with tenderness. At the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton, you will find many opportunities to serve, and we need you to show us even more how our contributions to the universe may be deepened.

**We are a community of love**, trying to say thanks for this gift of abundant life. However imperfectly we interact with one another, we are a faith tradition grounded in and nourished by infinite love. Even as we sometimes fail in being truthful, even as we sometimes fail to serve the larger world, we count on love to carry us through. We invite you to consider love, if you are cynical. To risk love, if you are bitter. To share love, if you are exuberant. To trust love, if you are hurting.

Whoever you are, if you find yourself at 874 York, we welcome you to our Unitarian faith community. May you walk with us, your way of truth and service. In our presence, may you experience love.

allison calvern  
chair of the membership committee

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## Joyful Noises Director

The Joyful Noises choir is searching for a new director. Is there anyone at the Fellowship who would be interested in this position? If so, please contact either Linda (452-0982) or Margaret (454-5319).

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## Final cost of capital projects 2007 budget

I am sending this report to all of you via Touchstone. In the left column is the amount that was given to Buildings & Grounds to do special 'one time' jobs. The right-hand column is the amount of money we actually spent. *Editor's note: I have moved the centre column to the right for appearances sake in the two column format of Touchstone.* In the centre is an explanation of how the money was spent. Several jobs were much more work than we anticipated others were not. Several jobs 'lead to other things or we got into more than we thought once the job was started - for instance the sanding and varnishing of the music room led to including the foyer and then replacing the trim in the music room where it was missing! I feel it is very important to keep members and friends of the fellowship informed.

I also want you to know that I have enjoyed doing these projects very much. Thank you for placing your trust in me to do these repairs and upgrades. A lot of the thanks goes to Michel Plourde - with out him we could never have achieved this much and this much this well! He is a joy to work with, and is very respectful of our fellowship and the people who use our fellowship.

<i>budget</i>	<i>spent</i>	<b>comments</b>
900	900	Sand and varnish Music floor. We are doing both the foyer and Music rooms for 900 Included is refurbishing the brass railings & wood trim on the railings and new trim where it's missing in the music room
2500	2500	North entrance refinish. this item was much more work that we had first thought but we still managed to keep to the budget. Michel sanded forever! We used a premium marine grade spar varnish. We used a Min-Wax oak stain because of the black mold damage. We didn't budget the stain or the extra labour.

100	165	Barberry around street sign. we added a weed liner, peat moss, fertilizer and did major edging of the bed
1500 600	2050	D1 ceiling/floor D2 floor. Both rooms total budget 2100 for 2050 we managed to gyproc/crackfill and paint both rooms
500	500	Outside tile repair. we were able to include other repairs to the lanai and north portico to include: repair and painting light fixtures and step repair
200	90	Refurbish street sign. This project was not as much work as we thought
800	1069	Replace refridgerator. 500 donation for a fridge went into General Revenue making this item actually \$231 under budget
1000	400	Outside painting. this item was not finished (we ran out of good weather) It's in the 2008 budget

*In fellowship*  
Patricia desChamps  
Chair Buildings & Grounds Committee



### January Update

Are you a fun loving, open minded, dedicated individual? Have you considered working at Unicamp this summer? All positions are currently available, apply online today at [www.unicampofontario.ca](http://www.unicampofontario.ca)

Unicamp Day is February 3rd! Make sure to wear your Unicamp shirt to service and bring along any crafts, artwork, and stories to tell. We recommend setting aside a time, early in the service, for children and youth to share their favourite moments at camp.

Featured programme for 2008: every Friday, this August, there will be a weekly drum circle followed either by story telling or dancing! Stay tuned for the full programme line up in the brochure.

Looking for somewhere to have your church picnic or board retreat? Why not at Unicamp? Contact [unicampofontario@hotmail.com](mailto:unicampofontario@hotmail.com) to make your reservation today!



## Buildings and Grounds Report

Dec 9th 2008

Now that the heat is on we must close the sanctuary sheers when we leave the fellowship. There are new notes on several doors and the folding door to the wet bar.

The sanding and varnishing of the foyer and music room has been a major trial this week. To contend with was a broken tap at Michel's home which took him away from the project for a half day, then there was the snow storm that made the fellowship inaccessible last Tuesday and the commercial sander that we rented malfunctioned! Our one week project has turned into a two week project. We still have to do two coats of varnish on the music room and three coats of varnish on the foyer before Rev. Ray Drennan's service next week. Varnishing is planned for Monday and Thursday mornings next week.

We have lots of supplies ahead for winter. Toilet tissue, paper towels for the kitchen and for the bathroom dispenser. We have a good supply of cleaners as well.

The kitchen drain is running slow again. I used Draino last week and it didn't help much.

Planned for December is cleaning of the two sofas and two chairs in the library and four chairs in Board Room 1.

We need as a group to help out a little more here and there. Before the 1st Thursday potluck this week the kitchen really needed attention. The garbage was full, the dishwasher was full of clean dishes and there were a lot of dirty dishes in the sink and on the cupboard. The counter had coffee stains on it. No one seems to want to help with putting out the garbage and bringing in the containers from the street either. Tony Fitzgerald wrote a letter for Touchstone where he said 'although there were several cars at the fellowship, the garbage containers remained at the street'. Perhaps we could ask for volunteers to shovel snow from the wheelchair ramp and shovel around the entrance door after the ploughing is done.

Last week, two joints of marijuana were found on a table in the foyer at the fellowship. One was partly used. This is not acceptable! No one should bring any illegal items into our beloved spiritual home.

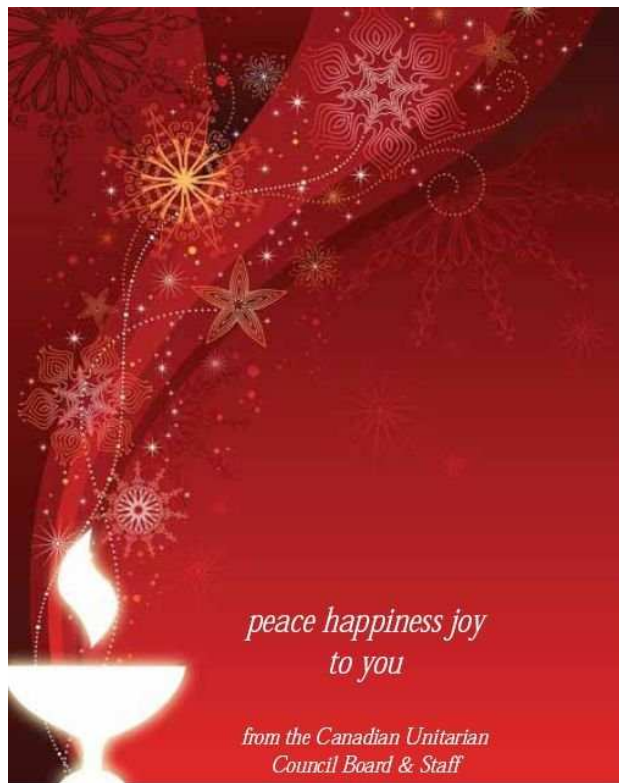
*In fellowship*  
Patricia desChamps  
Chair Buildings & Grounds Committee



## Message from Mary Bennett

Hello,  
Whether you're at home or away, I hope the holiday season

has begun for you as you'd imagined and that any surprises for the rest of December are good ones. May 2008 unfold in a way that is "just right" for you. Best wishes from the CUC - and me personally, Mary



January, 2008

Fast away the old year passes

I have not yet made my new year's resolutions. But I will.

Right now I am simply enjoying being a Unitarian and the richness thereof, especially at this season.

At my church, we've been lighting a lot of candles. And I have been reminiscing and reflecting and rejoicing with each candle lit.

At our traditional Sunday Evening Candlelight Service, our minister welcomes us. And then asks, "How long have we been doing this?" When no one responds, he calls on our minister emeritus. "Fifty years, at least." is the answer. I have been coming for 18 of those years.

Our youth are playing music, singing and reading. The young woman I mentored during her Coming of Age year is one of them. She tells me she just got her driver's licence and is thinking about where to go to University next year.

Many of the men and women I have known as elders are no longer present. Some of their children and grandchildren are.

In front of me are three women. After singing the final carol, the woman in the middle reaches to her partner on her left and her mother on the right. They hug and I notice

tears.

At the reception, a man who says he's never been here before says, "I was a missionary, but one day I thought: These are decent people. Why would they go to hell?"

Hail the new! Ye lads and lasses!

I am so grateful to have found this faith. I hope that some of our December guests will feel drawn to trying church out (again).

May we welcome these strangers into our Living Tradition. It will change them. And they will change us.

Take care of yourselves and each other,

Mary  
Mary Bennett  
Executive Director  
Canadian Unitarian Council

### SHORT SNIPPETS & WEBLINKS

<http://cuc.ca/ceremonies>

New web-pages about weddings, memorials and other rites of passage, designed for the public. Link to these pages from your congregation's own pages.

<http://cuc.ca/friends>

As of December 12, we have received \$29,900 for our annual Friends campaign. This is 60% of the 2007 budget. If you have not yet made your annual donation, please consider it. Friends of the CUC help us sustain our mission of Growing Vital Religious Communities with their direct gifts to the CUC, funding about 7% of our annual expenses. Their donations help us support congregations and enhances our ability to be known to even more Canadians. Are you a Friend of the CUC? Donate Now Through CanadaHelps.org! You can mail in or donate online up until December 31 and receive a tax receipt for 2007. Donations over \$100 can receive a gift of our first Poetry book: Shoreline: Water Poems. If you have already donated, just let us know and we'll send your gift to you right away.

<http://cuc.ca/conference/2008>

Lots of information about the CUC Annual Conference and Meeting in Ottawa May 16-19 is already up. Descriptions of concurrent sessions will go up soon. Registration forms will be posted in the new year.



### We are sinking sinking!!

Our kitchen sink drain keeps plugging! I think I have found out why - too much food (organic waste) goes down the left drain of the sink. The garburator in the right drain works really well and we should scrape plates into the right sink

and use the garburator - the switch is on the wall above the sink.

I don't like using caustic cleaners and this year I have used a large can of Gillett's Lye and a whole can of Drano - we won't have to use any of these awful cleaners if you use the garburator.

This will turn into a disaster very quickly if someone turns on the dishwasher, leaves the fellowship and the kitchen sink drain is plugged!

*A tidbit from Building & Grounds*  
Patricia desChamps, Chair



## Pickles: Picked, Pickled & Packed

For those who purchased pickles from the Fellowship, and those who might have some unused mason jars around the house. Sandra Fairweather would be able to refill those jars if they found their way to her.

*In fellowship*  
Barbara Fairweather



## You are invited to come to Ottawa!

On behalf of the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa, I am pleased to invite you to the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) 2008 Annual Conference and Meeting (ACM) "The Web of Life - In our Hands" "La toile de la vie - Entre nos mains" on May 16-19th, 2008.

Please mark these dates in your calendar today. You won't want to miss this annual three day conference which brings together Unitarians and Universalists from across the country for fun, learning, worship and song.

Engaging lectures and workshops on peace, justice, the environment, building strong congregations, and other issues will be presented as well as interesting and inspiring programming for children, young adults and youth. Visit <http://cuc.ca/conference/2008/> for more information and to register.

The 2008 ACM is also a great opportunity to visit the Nation's Capital. Come early. Stay late. See Ottawa! Residence facilities will be available on-site at Algonquin College, a short distance by public transit to Ottawa's world famous tulip festival, museums and galleries, Rideau Canal, walking and biking paths, and much more.

I look forward to welcoming you to Ottawa.

Chuck Shields, President  
First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa



## A tidbit from Buildings and Grounds

Slippers Slippers Slippers please bring slippers.

For those of you who forget, we will buy inexpensive slippers at Dollarama

The floors are so lovely (they certainly were problematic to restore).

Please wear slippers or bring inside shoes

*Thanks*  
Patricia desChamps  
Chair Buildings & Grounds Committee



## UofNB CofEL No Limits

UNB College of Extended Learning

NO LIMITS..Courses and activities for anyone 50 years and better.

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2. Opera as you Like It
3. Exploring Materials and Techniques of Sculpture
4. Introduction to Harmony Singing
5. Painting with Watercolours
6. Using your Digital Camera
7. Financial Intelligence: Strategies for the Present and Future
8. As Parents Grow Older
9. Beginners Guide to Meteorology
10. Organic Gardening from Seed to Harvest
11. Worldviews, Religion and Spirituality in Contemporary Life
12. Tracing your Family History

These are the winter term courses beginning in Jan 2008 For more info check the web site.. [www.cel.unb.ca/nolimits](http://www.cel.unb.ca/nolimits) or call 506 458-7106 or speak to Sharon van Abbema

Happy Christmas,  
Sharon



## We can park on York Street now!!

The city has erected signs to allow parking on the east

side of York Street on Sundays only. This will make a big difference in the number of vehicles we can accommodate.

*A tidbit from Building & Grounds*  
Patricia desChamps, Chair



## Sharing Collections

*Editor's note: The idea of giving away part of the collection was raised at the "Dreams and Dollars" workshop that we had here in Fredericton several years back and it's interesting to see that some other congregations are pursuing this as a regular activity. In follow up notes, one congregation indicated that all unidentified contributions are given to targeted charities, usually ones that are not high profile. Others encourage people to specify the outside organization to receive the donation and the church simply facilitates getting the donation to the organization.*

I see more and more congregations giving away half of the collection plate. Here's the note from Saskatoon:

### Sharing Money Collected at Sun-day Services

The following good causes were chosen to receive half of the money collected in the offering plate at Sunday Services:

October: Child Hunger and Edu-cation Program (CHEP)

CHEP received a cheque for \$283.25

For more information on CHEP see their website: [www.chep.org](http://www.chep.org)

November: Saskatoon Refugee Coalition

This coalition has as members various organizations in Saskatoon that work on refugee is-sues. The funds raised by the coalition are used mostly to help refugees and refugee claimants with emergency expenses. They received \$221.25.

December: YWCA Crisis Shelter

"The Crisis Shelter has 22 rooms and provides safe, 24/7 emergency sheltering to women, children and youth at risk.

In 2005-2006 the YWCA Crisis Shelter housed 754 women, children and youth."

Money donated will be in Feb. newsletter.

January: we will be donating to the Saskatoon Anti-Poverty Coalition

What does your congregation do? How do you choose the recipients? How do you communicate results with the congregation?

Take care,  
Mary



*Janus as Hermaphrodite*

January takes its name from the Roman God, Janus, who, with two faces looks both ahead to the new year and back on the old. Janus was the god of doors, doorways, gates and beginnings and endings.

This space wants your material!