



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

Contents for March 2008

Sunday Services	1
Global and Local Food Issues	1
Kitchen Buzz	1
Buildings and Grounds	1
Finance and Facilities	2
A Memorial to Margaret Warren	2
Celebrating Diversity	2
Come Sing at Spring Choral Fest	4
CUC ACM	4
Ralph Waldo Emerson	4
Changes	4
Unicamp	5
Kingston Workshop	5
Reasons to Attend ACM	5
A message from Mary	6

Sunday Services

March 2 Heather Lunergan *Our Place in the Web* (SOF Sunday Service Designed by Rev. Wendy McNiven). This "Sharing Our Faith" service is an annual offering from the CUC to the congregations, a complete service in itself, which (it is hoped) will happen in many or all of our U*U Congregations in Canada. The theme of this year's service is related to the theme of the 2008 Annual Conference and Meeting: "The Web of Life, In Our Hands."

March 9 TBA

March 16 Wendy Robbins *Women's Issues*. Wendy Robbins was a recipient in October, 2007, of one of the Governor General's Awards in Commemoration of the Persons Case, partly for her work in pay equity issues.

March 23 Easter Service.

March 30 TBA

Global and Local Food Issues

The Social Responsibility Committee is showing a series of films on global and local food issues. The films are being shown Sundays after the service. The committee will be making some soup for those who can stay. The next film, to be shown Sunday, March 30 at 12.45, is "Banana Split". It takes the viewer on a journey that begins with the hustle and bustle of a fruit market in Thunder Bay, Ontario and ends up with an examination of the daily challenges of life in Honduras.

Kitchen Buzz

We are now keeping Fair Trade Decaffeinated Coffee

It is especially for UFF evening events, but may be used when coffee drinkers request de-caf. It is stored in the bottom drawer of the kitchen freezer along with the regular Fair Trade coffee.

This note from your
Hospitality Committee

Buildings and Grounds

Report February 10, 2008

Ken Moore has been most helpful, lending us a large fan to circulate the air in the basement. Moisture is still a problem in the basement since the water event last summer. Ken Moore did some research into the basement moisture and we have raised the temperature to seventeen degrees, raised the dehumidifier thirty inches off the ground and renewed our commitment to keep cardboard and storage out of the basement. In the last thirty days there has been and improvement in the smell.

The problem we have at this time is from water flooding down the outside of the foundation at the north-east corner of the building last summer. It is significant - we may

have to excavate the earth on the north-east corner if we can't get enough water to dissipate naturally - our soil is non-draining clay!

Many items were taken to the basement for storage in early February and had to be removed. Signage asking for no storage in the basement has gone missing. I made and re-posted a new one. If any of you would like to help or volunteer with a Buildings and Grounds responsibility, please let us know.

I would like the Board to ask for one or two people to 'come on board' with Buildings and Grounds now with the idea of taking over this committee July 1st 2008. There is a lot to learn about the property before the new Buildings & Grounds Committee chair and members start in July. I would like a transition now so I can completely step down from this committee at the end of June.

In fellowship
Patricia desChamps



Finance and Facilities

Report February 2008

The Finance chair presented the new budget to the Board at our last board meeting. Since that time the budget has been unanimously approved by the membership of UFF at our annual budget meeting.

Patricia desChamps



A Memorial to Margaret Warren



Earlier this year a proposal was received to honour Margaret Warren who was a founding member of the Fredericton Unitarian Fellowship. The proposal from Buz Barsby, Margaret's partner, included three items in which Margaret Warren had a keen interest: the children of the Fellowship, music, and the piano that she, herself, had helped to choose for Fellowship House. After a consultation, it was decided that Buz would contribute a financial donation to provide for regular tuning of the piano used for the children in the Religious Education room.

In addition to the financial donation from Buz, a descriptive plaque has been installed on the RE piano in memory of Margaret Warren.

This donation is a thoughtful and generous contribution that is greatly appreciated by members and friends of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton.



The Children's R.E. Piano



Celebrating Diversity

The Diversity Monitoring Group offers this statement for our congregations to consider adopting as a vision statement or in completion of the credentialing process.

We seek to build a congregation and a society made whole by the empowerment of all. We seek to be a people of diverse racial identities, diverse ethnicities, diverse cultures, diverse languages.

We celebrate the presence of people of all ages, abilities, and economic levels. We are welcoming to people of all sexual orientations and gender expressions. We value and celebrate diversity. We endeavour to reflect the diversity of our society in our congregation and in our faith community. We strive to respect all people. We hope that all who visit, join, participate, or serve our congregation will extend the same respect to those they meet here.

In honour of the above, we seek to promote diversity, respect, and the inclusion of all, in our congregation and in our community.

*With thanks to The Association of Neighborhood Houses.

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY: CUC Workshops
Following the 2007 Resolution on Racial, Religious and First Nations, Metis & Inuit Justice and Equity, the Canadian Unitarian Council's Diversity Monitoring Group has developed a credentialing process to recognize member

congregations and societies for their work in “Celebrating Diversity”.

The CUC has adapted and developed three workshops to help congregations learn about racial, religious and First Nations, Metis and Inuit justice and equity, and to work towards greater awareness and diversity. The outlines for the three programs can be found at: www.cuc.ca/social_responsibility/diversity.htm

Training and information sessions will be offered at Annual Conferences and Meetings, at Regional Gatherings, at cluster workshops, and by electronic means.

The three workshops are:

(i) Welcoming/Celebrating Congregational Diversity (WCCD), a workshop for the general membership of congregations wishing to consider their openness to diversity, both in membership and staffing, by addressing questions of race and ethnicity, including First Nations heritage;

(ii) Rainbowmaking Workshops (RBW), a six-session series of workshops on intercultural and interfaith outreach intended to help congregations build bridges to other community ethnic groups; and

(iii) Connecting the Canadas From Coast to Coast to Coast, a half-day workshop to help us appreciate the mosaic which is Canada and to reflect on our personal sense of belonging to various communities.

Additional information about the workshops, the credentialing program, diversity issues and social responsibility resolutions regarding Racial, Religious and First Nations, Metis & Inuit Justice and Equity is available from the Monitoring Group’s Web page at: www.cuc.ca/social_responsibility/diversity.htm or by sending an e-mail to diversity@cuc.ca

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY: CUC Workshops

Credentialing Process The “Celebrating Diversity” credential will be given after the congregation has submitted an application showing that they have completed certain steps. Here are examples of a few.

A. Statement of Intent

1. Provide a statement of intent, a mission or vision statement, a resolution or other document which clearly states the congregation’s openness to greater diversity within their midst and desire to build bridges to diverse groups in their local area, throughout Canada and around the world.
2. Include the name of a contact person or group responsible for the Action Plan.

B. Details on Workshops

Congregations should show that they:

1. have offered two of the following workshops:

(i) Welcoming/Celebrating Congregational Diversity (WCCD),

(ii) Rainbowmaking Workshops (RBW)

(iii) Connecting the Canadas: Coast to Coast to Coast (5 Cs); and

2. have at least one member trained as a workshop leader and available to give workshops to the congregation or a cluster of congregations; and

3. commit to offering at least one workshop on diversity each year; and

4. commit to providing lifespan learning activities to develop awareness of diversity among members of all ages and stages of faith development, including church school and youth groups where these exist. Congregations are encouraged to include details on when and how the workshops were offered, the names of the facilitators, the number of people who attended, and feedback from participants.

C. Action Plan

Congregations should submit an Action Plan in which they show what projects they have already undertaken and what actions they commit to, including as many of the following as possible:

1. Conduct awareness and educational programs about one issue a year
2. Add a “non-discrimination” policy or statement to the congregational by-laws, with explicit language about celebrating diverse origins, languages, religious backgrounds and beliefs
3. Establish a committee or task force to oversee the Action Plan, this could be: a combined Welcoming / Celebrating committee, a sub-committee of the Social Justice / Responsibility committee, or a Board-sanctioned ad hoc committee to ensure that the Action Items are completed as planned
4. Develop practices of “right relations” with other racial, religious and First Nations, Metis and Inuit groups in the local area (see Suggestions for Action).
5. Consider resources on cultural mis/appropriation and develop a policy on the respectful treatment of objects and stories belonging to other people and groups.
6. Organize activities to honour the contribution of members of various racial, religious and First Nations, Metis and Inuit groups to the local, national and international community.
7. ”Follow” rather than “lead” outreach efforts to local First Nations, multicultural, and/or multifaith communities.
8. Consider whether your congregation reflects the racial, ethnic, class and linguistic make-up of the area in which it is located.
9. Offer rites of passage, ceremonies and other recognitions

which celebrate and honour the diverse religious beliefs of members of the congregation, their families and friends.

10. Use language which is inclusive to people of all origins, classes and abilities, as well as to all sexual orientations and gender expressions.



Come Sing at Spring Choral Fest

What's it like to sing Mozart with a hundred other people? Find out by registering for this year's Spring Choral Fest, taking place the weekend of March 28-30 at Wilmot United Church in Fredericton.

Hosted by the New Brunswick Choral Federation, this stimulating workshop experience provides ordinary choristers from church and community choirs with an opportunity to rehearse and perform a major work of choral music under a nationally renowned director. The guest conductor for Spring Choral Fest 2008 is Dr. Victoria Meredith, director of the acclaimed University of Western Ontario Singers, and her accompanist is Michael Capon, formerly organist and choirmaster at Christ Church Cathedral and now director of music at Glenview Presbyterian Church in Toronto. The work the massed choir will be singing is Mozart's Solemn Vespers.

All singers welcome, regardless of experience. For more details and a registration form, visit the NBCF's website at www.nbchoral.org or contact Lisa Alward at 453-3731 or nbcf@nbnnet.nb.ca. The deadline for registration is March 25.



CUC ACM

www.cuc.ca Toll-free: 1-888-568-5723

Toronto: 416-489-4121 Vancouver: 604-264-0088

The full schedule is now posted at:

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

CUC Annual Conference & Meeting 2008

*The Web of Life-In Our Hands
La toile de la vie-Entre nos mains*

May 16-19, 2008 – Ottawa



Ralph Waldo Emerson

An Introduction to Ralph Waldo Emerson: What Emerson Might Teach Us Now : Ralph Waldo Emerson was, for a very brief tenure, a Unitarian minister. Then he became a

Unitarian contrarian, challenging the stiff and staid ways of traditional Unitarianism. We'll look at the life of Emerson, read some primary texts, and ask together what we might still have to learn from Emerson's critique.

Taught by the Rev. Jay Leach, UU minister and Emerson scholar, this course begins March 10th and runs six weeks.

Cost: \$40.

The Church of the Larger Fellowship's Online Learning Center is an educational facility that provides courses designed to serve a variety of people—from complete newcomers to Unitarian Universalism who want to learn more about our liberal faith to long-time CLF members who are hoping to deepen their spiritual and ethical lives.

We divide our courses into four categories:

- * UU Identity
- * Theology and Faith Development
- * Spiritual Practice
- * Ethics and Social Justice

There is no cost for our introductory courses ("A Chosen Faith Study Guide" and "The New UU"). Other classes carry a \$40 fee, in order to enable us to bring in experts from beyond the CLF staff. Courses include Covenant Group Leaders' Training, Spirit of Life, Raising Ethical Children and a range of other subjects.

The Online Learning Center provides a class structure in which teachers are able to post class materials and assignments on the site, and students are able to post their responses, which the software then distributes to teachers and participants. Although some classes may include online chats or larger audio files, most class work takes place in email format, and will work for those with slower internet connections. Generally, classes do not require that participants acquire material other than what is available on the Learning Center, although there are some exceptions which are noted in the class descriptions.

<http://clf.uua.org/learn/>

From Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes,
Chair, Adult Programs Committee



Changes

Hi Folks, Just wanted to remind you of a new shop in town that is just starting up. CHANGES is the name of the shop and Pat Carlson (Shelter for the Homeless) I believe, has started up this business venture. People who might not otherwise have the opportunity, will be given a chance to work in business and learn much. CHANGES is located at King and Smythe St 173 KING ST to be exact, between Simms and Iriving. It is open each day from ten til

five, with parking in the back. The folks there are looking for nic knacs, bric a brac, good used clothing, teddy bears, ornaments....pieces of china, momentos, picture frames.

Let items that are cluttering up your homes and have no further use for you, become the merchandise for this fledgling shop. Let's support others who are putting great effort into making the lives of other Frederictonians more meaningful. AND while you are there making your own donations, purchase someone else's donation. Another person's donation can become your treasure.

"CHANGES"

Where? 173 KING STREET
DON'T DELAY... LET OTHERS KNOW
Sharon van Abbema



March Update

This month's featured program is *Family Camp*. Join us for a week of out-doors fun and relaxation with your family. Separate programming offered for children and adults in the mornings, and combined family activities such as soccer, capture the flag, and camp circle in the afternoons. Join other families for a week of enjoyment in this relaxing, welcoming and open environment!

Parents: Register your child for Kids' Camp by March 15th and receive a 10% discount. Aspiring Staff: Want to work at camp this summer? Don't wait, apply online at unicampofontario.ca

To register look for the pink newsletter, which should be available at your congregation, or contact unicampofontario@hotmail.com; 41 Home Street, Guelph, Ontario, N1H 2E4, (519) 822-6353.

Kingston Workshop

Small Congregations as Lifespan Learning Communities

When: Saturday March 29, 9 am - 5 pm

Where: Kingston Unitarian Fellowship

Fee: \$10 person

Register by: March 7, 2008

Who might consider attending this workshop?

People serving smaller congregations (under 100 people average Sunday attendance) or congregations with small or developing RE programs (under 20 children and youth on average each Sunday)

Directors of Religious Education or RE Coordinators, RE Committee members, Adult RE Committee members, ministers, Sunday service Committee members, RE teachers, and those interested in being in community to dialogue about faith community!

Sylvia Bass West
Director of Lifespan Learning
888-568-5723

Reasons to Attend ACM

Top Ten Reasons to come to the CUC Annual Conference and Meeting

Amazing Ingathering Celebration and Banner Parade!

Enjoy the company of Unitarians and Universalists of all ages for worship, song, and reflection. This is a joyous occasion to share with Congregations and Fellowships, not only from Canada but the United States, Great Britain and France as well.

Incredible variety of workshops!

With over 70 in English and 5 in French, you'll have difficulty choosing. Topics include everything from social responsibility, music, use of technology, the environment, congregational leadership, and our UU faith and spirituality, to international and interfaith relations.

Music will fill the air!

Come for the love of music and song. Learn the ACM theme song, "Circle of Song" (composed by Tony Turner and published on the 2008 ACM website). Enjoy the music of Ottawa First's BIUUES Band and delight in the inspirational music of the combined choirs of Ottawa's Congregation and Fellowship and the ACM Choir directed by Jane Perry. Something for every music lover!

More than workshops and speeches!

Let loose and be fancy free at our fun-filled social events. To start, on Friday night Tony Turner will host a cabaret night with an open microphone. If you have a great singing voice, an amazing talent or just love to perform, contact ACMspecialevents@gmail.com.

Gotta dance?

Bring your toe shoes and kick up your heels on Saturday evening for an Ottawa Valley Ceilidh with a live band and caller to guide us through the steps. Friday evening, get into the rhythm through Sacred Circle Dancing with Margaret Rao.

Love to shop?

Bring your comfy shoes and cold hard cash to our ACM exhibit hall. With a wide selection of UU exhibitors offering reading material, clothes, jewelry, and gifts, you are certain to find something for everyone on your list.

Look no further for family fare... Activities for children of all ages! Bring the entire family to the multigenerational lunch on Sunday, and catch the play Just Food, featuring giant puppets and original music.

Become inspired! Open your mind and your heart as Rev. Dr. Janet Newman delivers the Sunday sermon “As Canadian as Possible—Under the Circumstances” in the gym at Algonquin College, and take in the Soulful Sundown Service on Sunday evening in the courtyard beside the gym.

Two keynote speakers! Both passionate fighters for social justice and members of the UU community, Allison and Will Brewer will bring a wealth of experience in overcoming challenges to bring about positive change in the world.

Good company and great food! A variety of snacks and meals will be available on-site, including vegetarian selections. Remember to reserve your tickets for the International dinner on Saturday and the Knight Award presentation dinner Sunday evening. Visit www.cuc.ca/conference/2008 for all the details.



A message from Mary

First of all - sorry for the delay. I usually send this out before the 15th of the month but a combination of factors, mostly to do with preparation and participation at the CUC Board Meeting recently meant I got behind. I hope those of you who usually include all or parts in your congregational newsletter will be able to either still do that - or forgive me and keep a space for next month.

It seems like yesterday and a lifetime ago that I joined the CUC as executive director. In reality, it's coming up for eight years - an exciting eight years full of change! Preparing for a CUC update at the Midwinter Retreat in Greater Toronto, I summarized some of the highlights, from my perspective. As always, I'd enjoy your responses and reflections. Just hit “reply” - the message goes only to me, not to the 850 people on this “announce only” email list. Mary.

BUILDING COMMUNITY - BUILDING CAPACITY When I think of the past eight years, the phrase I feel summarizes the work that's been done is “Building Community - Building Capacity.”

Since 2000, the CUC staff has doubled in size and the volunteers who participate with us has increased more than 10 times.

This rapid growth in Team CUC increases our capacity to “grow vital religious communities in Canada”. Volunteers connect with others with similar passions across this large country.

Without the World Wide Web of Which We Are a Part, this increase in person-power would have been impossible. Email groups and the web also help us with the intention for open and transparent volunteer recruitment and selection.

Connect, Nurture & Empower Our Annual Conference and Meeting has tripled in size; and added to the mix are Regional Fall Gatherings that attract about 100 people of all ages. Cluster workshops, often a full-weekend in length, provide information and skills but also encourage networking easing the feeling of isolation congregations can feel. Canadian UU Leadership School brings 30-40 congregational leaders together for a three and a half-day intensive school and builds connections that continue. While email groups and teleseminars do not replace the intensity of face-to-face connecting, they do help to build community and often facilitate further connections. Congregational presidents, lay chaplains, membership committees, among others, have dedicated email discussion groups. Connections made this way have often been the first step in getting together intentionally in some other way.

Multigenerational Community We want to model ways to have all the generations participating in a way that allows both age-appropriate activities and having the “whole tribe” together. We'd like to leverage the foundational work that's been done to connect with youth and young adults and also increase participation of families. Volunteer Canada have a report on Family Volunteering, and I'd love to have whole families volunteer for Team CUC.

Cross-Country Check up - CUC-style Teleconferences and now teleseminars continue to increase as we explore how to use them effectively. People appreciate the chance to check-in across the country on a topic of interest.

Knowledge is Power: Book Ministry Over the past two years, CUC has invested time and money in creating regional libraries coordinated by volunteers with a selection of books that can be bought or borrowed.

Are any of these services new to you? I'd love to tell you more about anything here that's of interest - or refer your question to the staff or volunteer most directly involved.

Take care of yourselves and each other,

Mary
Mary Bennett
Executive Director
CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL
mary@cuc.ca