



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

Sunday Service 11 a.m.

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Sunday Services

April 6 Dave Warman and Anne Leslie *The Lay Chaplaincy*

April 13 Alice Finnamore *Dreams*

April 20 Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes *Transcendentalism and Beat Generation Poetry*

April 27 the reverend Mac Campbell *Literal to Living*
 Mac Campbell is a retired United Church of Canada minister. Mac will try to speak to many peoples struggle with interpreting the literal meaning of sacred texts and living a good life. Like many, Mac does not want to check his mind at the door before entering a church.

Mac is looking forward to a lively discussion.

May 4 *Celebration of the Weber Piano*

May 11 *Mothering Sunday*



Buildings and Grounds Report March 2008

The key codes changed March 10th If you need the new key codes please telephone Patricia desChamps at 454 6019.

Our committee is busy dealing with the refurbishments to the stairwell in the Fellowship. Michel has removed the carpeting from the stairwell and the landing on the second floor. It took a lot of cleanup! We found out why people had lost their footing or fallen on the stairs in the past. The carpet underlay had deteriorated over the years and had disintegrated into small pieces under the carpet. At the edge of each step the pieces of rubber underlay had collected and caused people to slip and/or lose their balance.

The second floor landing has had new hardwood laid. We decided not to use laminate but real hardwood that was pre-stained and pre-finished. Real hardwood is in keeping with the rest of the house. Michel did a wonderful job laying the underlay, trim and new hardwood. The landing was a big job - at 142 square feet it's the size of many rooms! Hardwood of this quality usually sells for \$5.80 per square foot. I was able to buy a discontinued colour for \$2.49 per square foot at Home Depot.

The steps are bare at this time - I believe each step is 1" pine where it was carpeted and the exposed edges are oak. We are still looking into the best option for the stairwell. Several members and friends have given us advise and comments. It's great to have others interested in these projects.

We put a new ceiling light fixture - the old one held three small base 40 watt incandescent bulbs. The new one actually gives us more light at the top of the stairs and uses only one 15 watt florescent bulb! It's a 'new to us' fixture. I paid \$2.00 for it at a yard sale last summer.

Michel cleaned the sanctuary carpet last week. There is a stain near the large window that he couldn't get out. Please remember that the board asks that no food or drinks be taken to carpeted areas of our Fellowship. Members and friends have been quite co-operative with bringing inside footwear or wearing our knitted slippers. It certainly keeps our Fellowship cleaner and it reduces allergens and bacteria.

In the sanctuary Michel thoroughly cleaned and polished the brass trim that goes around the marble hearth. Brass legs that hold the hearth were cleaned too. We used a spray urethane to keep the brass from discolouring in the future. The brass used to be much darker than the brass

fireplace insert. I had hoped to have them the same colour but now the fireplace insert is darker than the brass trim!

We continue to battle the bad odours in our basement. Ken Moore's help with this has been great. The odour is less than it was a month ago. There is a new sign in the stairwell asking that nothing be stored in the basement. The special project (Patricia, Danny and Barb F.) to design and build a removable stage for the large basement room is on hold until Malcolm Miller decides where to hold his play.

The City of Fredericton has complimented us on our use of the large blue paper recycling container in the driveway. They say we are putting appropriate paper items in the container. There is a small blue container on the kitchen counter - when it gets full, it's emptied into the large blue container outside.

We are missing our very large polyester loden green tablecloth. It has been gone since sometime in January. If you took it home to wash it please bring it back.

I have asked that the snowploughers sand our driveway/parking area as needed. The snow ploughing has been very expensive so far this year because of all the winter storms we have had. The contractor is doing an excellent job.

Offices 1 and 2 are not ever cleaned. If you have and personal items in those areas, please put them away. I plan to ask our cleaners to clean Office 1 and Office 2 this month. The cleaner comes on Friday evenings.

In fellowship
Patricia desChamps



Maritime UU Spring Gathering at Bouctouche

The second annual(?) Maritime Unitarian gathering will be held at Ray Drennan's Auberge Le Vieux Presbytère de Bouctouche on the weekend of April 12-13.

For those who wish to come to Bouctouche on Saturday Ray and Anne are offering very attractive overnight rates at the auberge - \$20 per person, double occupancy, including Sunday breakfast. To take advantage of this great deal contact them at the auberge directly:

Raymond Drennan & Ann Vickers
Auberge Le Vieux Presbytère de Bouctouche (1880)
157 Chemin du Couvent
Bouctouche, New Brunswick, E4S 3B8
mraymond@nb.aibn.com
www.vieuxpresbytere.nb.ca
1-506-743-5568 (Auberge)

We are planning to have informal workshop sessions on

Saturday afternoon. At 2 pm those present will meet in the chapel for a get acquainted session where we can share news of what is going on in the several Maritime congregations. Following this we can break into smaller, self-organizing sessions on subjects of interest to those present - e.g., worship, small group ministry, financial matters, etc. Ray Drennan refers to this as a "pot-luck" program and thinks that it is preferable to having a more formal workshop on a topic handed down from above.

For dinner on Saturday night, Ray and Ann again have offered to let us use the auberge kitchen facilities to prepare a spaghetti and salad meal. This meal is being organized by Caroline Smith (UUCSJ) who will contact a few from those attending for food items. We will need a team of volunteers to help in the kitchen before and after the meal.

Saturday evening will also be informal. Ray has some video presentations which might be of interest. Otherwise, if your talents run to music, gaming, dancing, poetry reading or whatever, bring along the props you need and share with the rest of us.

The highlight of the weekend is the service on Sunday which will start at 12 noon - giving those who want to drive to Bouctouche Sunday morning plenty of time to do so. That service will be followed by a pot luck lunch so please bring a sample of your favourite comestible to share.

Steve McCavour (UUCSJ) is organizing a UU youth meeting at Bouctouche over the same weekend. So we will be sharing time and space with some of the young people.

Driving time from Fredericton to Bouctouche is about 2.5 hours. The distance (according to Google Maps) is 234 km. Directions to the auberge are available on the website, www.vieuxpresbytere.nb.ca/Maps.html (or from George DeMille).

It should be a great weekend. Come along!



For those who like to plan well in advance, the 2011 ACM will be hosted by the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto.



Green Workshop in BC

It's Easy Being Green! I'm dreaming of a green summer camp! Are you dreaming about Green Projects, Green Living, Green World? Our speaker Claudia McNeill will share this with all of us June 28th - July 5th at Eliot-Naramata. From living machines to green roofs, forest gardens to compostable fabrics, come hear some good news for a change!

Now's the time to start dreaming, and planning, for your summer vacation! Are you looking for a great week of fellowship? How about sunny, dry heat surrounded by vineyards? On the shores of Lake Okanagan, in the heart of fruit and wine country in the hot south-central interior of beautiful British Columbia you will find all that and more!

Join deans Liz Goodger and Greg Olynyk for an excellent week of good fun, great friends and green living. It's easy being green! Register soon and start your summer with a UU green time! Find out more on the website at: www.eliotinstitute.org



In Our Prayers



CLF Online Courses

Did you know that online courses are available from the Church of the Larger Fellowship? You do not have to be a CLF member to take these courses, and some are free!

Much more information may be found at <http://www.clfuu.org/learn> and the editor can send you electronic copies of the brochure on request. A sample:

A UU Approach to the Bible

Taught by John Nichols: starts October 13
The Fundamentalist insistence that the Bible is to be read

literally is fairly recent. Those who wrote the scriptures knew they were writing stories in metaphorical language to illuminate our encounter with the inescapable issues of living and with the sacred. Read as they should be, Biblical passages reveal their meaning and power for everyone, including people of many religious backgrounds. This course will allow participants to try a new way of looking at familiar passages, a way that is fully compatible with Unitarian Universalism. \$40US.



Peterborough Milestone

Members of the Unitarian Fellowship of Peterborough, Ontario invite you to share in their celebration of a very special milestone. The Rev. Julie Stoneberg has been called as our first full time minister, to serve with us in creating a vital liberal religious community for Peterborough and surrounding area. After almost 35 years as a lay led congregation, 10 years of part time ministry, and then three years of interim ministry, we are excited about this transition and optimistic about our future. We are planning a special service of installation on Sunday, April 27, at 6 p.m. We welcome your attendance. Look for details in the invitation which will be mailed to your congregation.

Paula Greenwood
Newsletter editor
Unitarian Fellowship of Peterborough



A Note from Linda

Editor's note: The complete version of this material, that went out in the recent congregational mailing, can be viewed on-line at: http://cuc.ca/whos_who/drs/NotefromLindaMarch08.pdf

March'08

Information & News for the Central & Eastern Regions of the Canadian Unitarian Council

Getting Ready

I've found myself thinking a lot about Lent this year. I grew up in a fairly liberal Protestant tradition and we didn't spend a lot of time thinking about it in my childhood Sunday School. After becoming a UU I didn't, nor was I encouraged to, think about Lent. I was surprised several years ago when a member of the Hamilton congregation talked about what she was giving up for Lent. Lent, as a UU? - I didn't get it. But this year, I've heard people around me talking about Lent and while I've not jumped whole-heartedly on the fasting 'band-wagon' I've

been thinking and reading. The English word 'Lent' comes from old words for Spring (Old English *lencten*) and March (Anglo-Saxon *lenct*). I've learned that the purpose of the Lenten practice of fasting is preparation. The observer is encouraged to let something go in order to be more receptive to new possibilities. Lent is intended to be a time of pause and reflection, so that the observer is better able to appreciate the wonder of Easter - the rebirth of hope and possibility. I find myself thinking there might be room for Lenten observances in my life. What would it take to let

go of the cold and grey in me, in order to be ready for the warmth of spring? And then I found this reading:

Fast from criticism, and feast on praise;
Fast from self-pity, and feast on joy;
Fast from ill-temper, and feast on peace;
Fast from resentment, and feast on contentment;
Fast from jealousy, and feast on love;
Fast from pride, and feast on humility;
Fast from selfishness, and feast on service;
Fast from fear, and feast on faith.

And I find myself wondering if our congregations might be well served by a practice of community fasting. Fasting and feasting as promoted in the reading might be good for us and for our congregations. What would it mean to your congregation, if its members fasted from an 'oh so easy' negative focus and instead worked to remember what is good in community life? What would it mean if members were able to have the courage to talk about vulnerabilities and engage in meaningful connections in spite of them? What would change if we let go of grudges and found ways to be in right relationship? The process of Appreciative Inquiry, used by our Shared Ministry Teams starts with the premise that we are better able to effect change and elicit collaboration when we build on what is good in an organization, rather than when we focus on what is wrong.



A message from Mary

Cross-Country Check-up It's a time-honoured Canadian custom to do a regular "cross-country check-up". Since 2000, partly triggered by the hiring of an Executive Director who lived half-time in Vancouver, the number and variety of teleconferences has increased exponentially.

The CUC staff meet every week and it begins to feel so natural, we sometimes forget that we haven't seen each other for several weeks.

Some committees, including the Nominating Committee, Social Responsibility Monitoring Groups and the national Annual Conference Program Planning committee meet only by email and teleconference. Sometimes they manage to find a way to at least share a meal together at the ACM

and get to know each other a little better.

Others, like the two Lay Chaplaincy Committees have just had their once-a-year full weekend meetings and we will continue the plans laid down by telephone and email until next year.

This means it's affordable to have a lot of connection for the CUC. But the other reason for this is it works well for people's own time commitments.

We are now realizing that our reliance on telephone and email over meetings that would involve a lot of travel is also environmentally sensitive.

We still have meetings face-to-face-our Annual Conference & Meeting will likely attract 500 people-but we try to be very intentional about the costs (in money, time and footprint) resulting in significant benefits.

To supplement the workshops and consultations that we have offered congregations since 2002 when CUC took over service delivery from the UUA, we have been experimenting with teleseminars. And we've started calling them teleseminars to differentiate from teleconferences that we think of as meetings.

They're an effective way to share knowledge from a presenter. Usually "handouts" are sent out in advance and sometimes, with the help of a volunteer scribe, notes are sent out following the call. Sometimes we've actually recorded the presentation and had it available online. We're still learning how to do all of this easily and effectively.

But more than just dissemination of information, what we've noticed is the remarkable degree of community building that occurs. Unitarians like to connect across the country. In the 15-20 minutes of time allocated for introductions and comments, people listen intently to others. And they ask to have the list of participants with email addresses sent out after the call (and before when possible!)

We start and end with a chalice lighting and closing words. As well as the presenter, a facilitator "hosts" the session, doing their best at long-distance to make people comfortable and relaxed.

Usually they're scheduled at 8:30pm to 9:30pm Eastern so that those who work 9-5 in BC can (barely) manage to be on. Even though this means that those in Newfoundland are ending the call at 11pm.

From early successes, we expect these to be more and more popular, and if that's the case, we will occasionally schedule repeat calls at times more convenient to those on opposite ends of the country.

We have just lined up a series on Policy-based Governance - of interest to the CUC board as well as other congregations who have (or have considered) adopting "Carver". We have begun doing a monthly teleseminar focused on Social Responsibility to share what's happening at the national level with the various monitoring groups. And

the first teleseminar in the Lifespan Learning area will be Monday, March 10.

Attached below are fuller descriptions of these upcoming events, with information about how to register and dial-in instructions.

You can enjoy connecting with Unitarians from coast to coast from the comfort of your own home, or gather a group from your congregation around a speaker phone at someone's home or your building.

I hope that, when you see a topic of interest, you'll try this out with us and let me know what you think.

Take care of yourselves and each other,

Mary

Mary Bennett

Executive Director

CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL

mary@cuc.ca

Editor's note, most of the references consist of long URLs which don't work very well on paper. I can forward the original note to anyone who requests. While some of the teleseminars have passed, the information provides some context for seminars yet to come. Most teleseminars require registering for the calls so organizers can plan for who will be participating and learn some other areas of interests for teleseminars. Contact the editor for details.



April Update

Unicamp has witnessed a dramatic decline in the number of "Penny" toads that used to frequent our island, forest and trails. We would welcome pictures, encounters and accounts of sightings as we go in search of the lost penny toads. Please send submissions to scumbost@uoguelph.ca.

Feature Program: The CIT program this summer will run as three separate intensive one-week training sessions. This is both an effort to accommodate the growing number of potential CITs, as well as to focus on the training aspect; with hands on workshops, added responsibility and other practical experience that will help to better prepare potential future staff members.



Earth Hour

Editor's Note: a little late for us, but some might find this interesting and there is follow up information

Canadian Unitarians: Turn Off Your Lights

The Canadian Unitarian Council encourages you to join Earth Hour, a world wide demonstration of the difference we can make to our environment when we act together. On March 29, 2008 individuals, families, communities, cities across Canada and around the world are pledging to turn off their lights, appliances and anything else that uses energy for Earth Hour from 8:00 to 9:00 PM (local time) Saturday 29 March 2008. Join a World Wildlife Fund event intended to raise climate change awareness and symbolize that, working together people can make a difference.

The first Earth Hour, in Sydney, Australia in 2007, was a great symbolic success, as 2.2 million people and 2100 businesses turned off the lights in that city. This year, the concept is a global phenomenon across six continents. An event that Canadian Unitarians are encouraged to join with literally thousands across the world. Individuals, groups, congregations, cities are encouraged to go to www.earthhour.org and sign up for Earth Hour. Sponsor your own event to symbolize and share your concern for addressing climate change, one of the most critical issues facing our world today.

Let Us Know What You're Up To!

Our CUC Environment Monitoring Group wants to know about your activities so we can let our government know that Canadian Unitarians think the climate crisis requires immediate and substantial action. Send a message to environment@cuc.ca to reach chair, Forrest Smith. Read our resolutions from 1999 and discuss the proposal to study that will come to this year's Annual Conference and Meeting. Join the email discussion group to share your thoughts and ideas with Unitarians across the country. Just send a blank email message to cuc-environment-discussion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or include a request in a note to environment@cuc.ca Lots of information about CUC's statements on the environment can be found at:

http://cuc.ca/social_responsibility/environment/index.htm

Here is a message from KAIROS with some resources you may find of use.

JOIN KAIROS FOR EARTH HOUR

KAIROS wants you to turn off your lights for an hour at 8 pm on Saturday, March 29!

Why? Because our use of fossil fuels -symbolized here by a light bulb- is contributing to global climate change. In 2007, the people of Sydney, Australia, decided that they could send a powerful message for change by turning off

all their lights at the same time. More than 2 million citizens and businesses did so. Now, the World Wildlife Fund is taking Sydney's history-making moment global by encouraging people, businesses, and communities all over the world to turn off their lights and demand action on climate change.

KAIROS asks you, your church, and your community to join in this global effort as part of your commitment to the Re-Energize: Time For A Carbon Sabbath campaign
<http://www.kairoscanada.org/e/action/earthhour/index.asp>

Use this time to reflect on your use of fossil fuels and their connections not just to climate change but to human rights and conflict as well. Build community around these issues. Advocate with local and federal governments to change their policies and practices related to fossil fuels.

Want to get started? Download the "KAIROS Earth Hour Kit" (PDF file)– it has ideas big and small, from turning out the lights at home to approaching your community government, local businesses, and the whole community to turn out the lights.

Have a little more time and energy? Download the

"KAIROS Earth Hour Worship" (PDF file) – Bring your church community together to observe this time and take action.

Take care,

Mary

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



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

This space wants your material!