



The Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton

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Sunday Service 11 a.m.

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Sunday Services

November 1 Sylvia Hale "*The Christmas Imperative*
(Leslie Bella 1992)."

December 8 Margaret Dykeman "*The Brunswick Street*
Community Health Clinic."

December 15 The Reverend Mac Campbell "*Watch*
Where You're Going." What does a study by the
Arizona Highway Department have to do with a UU
community in New Brunswick's capital city? Quite
a bit, as it turns out. Join Rev. Mac Campbell, as
he leads his last service under his existing contract,
and explore some of the insights from this study and
their implied suggestions for our community.

December 22 Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes "*Intergenerational*
Service."

December 29 Carlos Elder-Gomes "*Talking Circle.*"



Your Generosity Is Appreciated

A big "Thank You" to everyone who submitted their
pledges in November. Your strong support will help us
continue with our many programs into the coming year.

For those who haven't done so already, there is still time
to hand in your pledge forms. George, our Secretary-
Treasurer, would be really pleased (and relieved) to receive
the rest of your pledges and contributions. We are now
heading into our budget exercises and that task will be
much easier for everyone if we could have a solid handle
on the amount of financial support we might expect for
2010.

The budget process will culminate with a congregational
meeting in mid-January. At that time you will be invited
to have your say in voting on our financial program for
the year. However, we need your firm commitment now in
order to make this a successful process.

Thank you again and best wishes for a safe and happy
December.

John van Abbema



Dialogues with Darwin

Dialogues with Darwin is a lecture series to celebrate the
150th anniversary of the publication (November 24, 1859)
of Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species* and to discuss
the impact of Darwin's work on the sciences, religion, and
literature.

The scheduled lectures include:

Tuesday, November 24 150 Years Of Building On The
Origin: How Science Today Would Blow Darwin's Mind
by Dr. Stephen Heard, Chair, Dept. of Biology, UNB
editor's note: this lecture has already taken place

Tuesday, December 1 God and Mr. Darwin: So What's
the Problem? by Dr. Michael Higgins, President, STU in
the Kinsella Auditorium. The talk will be from 4:00 pm -
5:30 pm; there will be a reception to follow.

Tuesday, December 8 Darwin And Rhetoric: The Ori-
gin And The Language Of Science by Dr. Ross Leckie,
Director, Creative Writing Program, Dept. of English,
UNB The lecture and discussion will be held in Tilley Hall,
room 5 from 4:00 pm 5:30 pm. A reception will take place
before the lecture at 3:30 in Tilley Hall, room 28.

This lecture series is sponsored by - UNB Faculty of Sci-
ence and the Departments of Biology and History - St.

Thomas University and the Science & Technology Studies (STS) Programme at STU.

For further information, you may contact Dr. Jane Jenkins, Director of STS, STU, at jenkins@stu.ca

Children's R.E. Piano



Sheila Thompson affixes the commemorative plaque to new children's RE piano, donated in memory of her mother, Margaret Warren.

Family Sleigh Ride and Baked Bean Supper

Date: **December 29, 2009.**

Time: Sleigh Ride 4 p.m.
Supper 5 p.m.

Cost: Sleigh ride \$6.00 per adult and \$4.00 for children under 12
Supper \$9.25 for adults and half price for children

Meal includes baked beans and brown bread, homemade rolls, potato scallop, pickles, and homemade deserts, coffee and tea.

Two sleds available. Each sled can carry 20 passengers. Payment by cheque to "Oakland Farm and Lodge" must be given to me by Dec. 5th, to reserve space. If interested please contact Haifa Miller at 472-1509 or email hmiller@nbnet.nb.ca

A New Vision

Religion is no more
Fragmenting humankind
with doctrine, creed
and narrowness of heart,
Not darkly through a glass
Truth stands at length
in beauty unaffected
A prospect indivisible
Love is her only name.

David Stevenson
From *Eternal Life* by John Spongs

Christmas

The Christmas story is found largely in the gospel of Matthew. Christians celebrate the birth of the Messiah on the 25th of December. The story is well known in our culture and this



author is not up to the task of further embellishment. Let us wish our Christian friends joy as they celebrate the birth of the "Prince of Peace".

The Meaning of Membership

One of the things we know about congregations is that they are as vital and engaged as their membership is. Committed members who understand the relevance and importance of the work their congregations are doing make thriving congregations possible! James Luther Adams, respected Unitarian Theologian and teacher, often made the point in his classes at Meadville- Lombard Theological School, Strong, effective, lively liberal churches, capable of altering positively sometimes the direction of their whole society, will be those liberal churches whose lay members can say clearly, individually and collectively, what are their own most important loyalties, as church members.¹ Congregations therefore, are advised to think carefully about their membership

The decision to join a congregation is a significant one orientation and integration processes. We aren't served by members who can't articulate the meaning of their membership. Similarly, congregations that help their members understand the meaning of their membership

will be well served by a corresponding understanding of their membership in the national association of Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist congregations: The Canadian Unitarian Council. How is the relationship of individuals and congregations as they relate to the CUC important? What does it mean to be a member of a member congregation? What mutual responsibilities do congregations have for one another through their membership of the CUC? These are important questions. The CUC is an association of congregations. Our members are the congregations in Canada. In joining the CUC those congregations are, in essence, making a commitment to the larger movement and to other congregations. Then, the CUC, through its Board and staff, in consultation with its member congregations works to support congregations in that collective responsibility. Our Mission and Vision statements say that the CUC is a voice for liberal religious communities in Canada, is relevant to contemporary life, and acts to nurture, support and enhance Unitarian Universalism in Canada. Any consideration of the nature of the relationship between individuals, congregations and the collective body, the CUC, will serve to help us understand our mutual responsibilities the rights and responsibilities of membership. As part of their membership in the CUC, congregations and their members can reasonably expect to support the organization in a variety ways. Some of the responsibilities of membership might include:

- stay informed read CUC materials that are circulated, so that you are aware of the current initiatives and issues,
- provide accurate and timely information to the CUC office so that we can keep accurate membership records, leadership lists and membership numbers,
- ensure you have the maximum number of delegates allowed at the CUC's annual meeting (your delegates are your congregations voice on CUC business),
- remit Annual Program Contribution payments as promised and on time,
- connect with others, through e-mail, e-lists, telephone and through participation at regional and national events, and
- use the supports and services we offer.

In return for congregational support, congregations can expect to receive benefits too. The benefits of membership are varied, and the staff and volunteers who deliver supports and services are aware of the trust placed in them and strive to be good stewards of our financial and human resources. Benefits that congregations and their members can expect from the CUC include:

- training for congregational leaders in areas such as stewardship, membership, conflict management, volunteer development, worship planning, small group ministry leadership, meeting facilitation, etc
- coaching and support for congregational leaders,

- meeting facilitation,
- leadership training through CUUL school and other programming,
- administration of the Lay Chaplaincy program,
- a voice on national issues various monitoring groups prepare statements and press releases consistent with resolutions passed at Annual Meetings, and
- publications and electronic forums that support membership awareness of the work of the CUC and which provide and support cross-congregational connections.

The relationship between congregations and the national association the CUC is a mutual one. With the support and engagement of our members, we are all better able to foster the kind of vital, liberal, religious communities that can make a difference in the lives of our members, our congregations and in the world. Its important work, and it is work we do together.

In faith and with affection,
Linda Thomson
Director of Regional Services



Hanukkah

Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, is an eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt of the 2nd century BCE. Hanukkah is observed for eight nights, starting on the 25th day of Kislev according to the Hebrew calendar, this year beginning on the 12th of December.



The festival is observed by the kindling of the lights of a special candelabrum, the nine-branched Menorah or Hanukiah, one light on each night of the holiday, progressing to eight on the final night. An extra light called a shamash (Hebrew: “guard” or “servant”) is also lit each night for the purpose of lighting the others, and is given a distinct location, usually above or below the rest.



UU Holiday Ideas

The Church of the Larger Fellowship offers UU themed gifts for that special UU in your life – note cards, pendants, lapel pins, and posters. Check out the CLF Shop. Check out this link: <http://clf.uua.org/catalog/>.

The Church of the Larger Fellowship also publishes a monthly worship publication titled Quest, filled with sermons, poetry, and thought provoking ideas from renowned UU ministers. How about purchasing the Gift of Quest for a friend? Check out this link: <https://secure.uua.org/clf/quest/gift.html>

For more information about the Church of the Larger Fellowship and its UU ministry to members all over the world, visit the CLF website: www.clfuu.org.

Happy Holidays!

Beth Murray
Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF)
617-948-6150



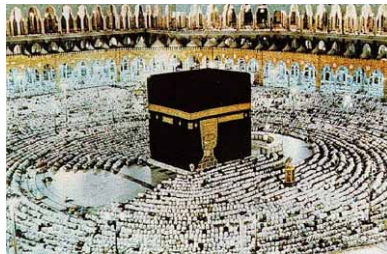
Yule

December 21st marks the winter solstice, marked by some Pagans as the time when the sun child is reborn, an image of the return of all new life born through the love of the Gods. The solstices and equinoxes are the four lesser sabbats in the Pagan calendar, the greater sabbats are the cross quarter days falling between the solar events and are considered to be the “Fire Festivals”.



Al-Hijra

The Islamic New Year will be on the 18th of December this year depending on the first sighting of the new moon. The Muslim calendar counts dates from the Hijra, which is why Muslim dates have the suffix A.H. (After Hijra). The festival marks the migration of the Prophet Mohammad and his followers from Mecca to Medina which took place in 622 C.E.



This space wants your material!