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Sunday Service 11 a.m.

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## Contents for December 2010

Sunday Services .....	1
Women's Pot Luck .....	1
Now I lay me down to sleep... ..	1
Pope and the Priest .....	2
Fund Raising Ideas???	3
Some December Festivals .....	3
New U program in 2011 .....	3
A brief note from your Board .....	4



## Sunday Services

**November 28** Alan Bentley *Spiritual Symbolism in Blake's Poetry* Alan will bring copies of poems he will analyze.

**December 5** The Reverend Bill Main *Chaos is Your Friend*

**December 12** Rabbi Yosef Goldman *Chanukah*

**December 19** Intergenerational *Would You Like to Hold the Baby*

**December 26** Listening Circle *Looking Back*

**January 2** Listening Circle *Looking Forward*



## Women's Pot Luck

Because of the Gala Dinner at the Fellowship on November 26th, the date for the women's pot luck dinner was moved to Friday, December 3rd. We gather at 6 PM and eat at 6:30 PM. Sharon van Abbema will host the gathering at her home, 130 Cortland Street, New Maryland. The topic for discussion is: What other place in the world would you choose to live ... other than here? Why? What keeps you where you are? For more information contact Joan Brewer 455-5169 or [jebrewer@rogers.com](mailto:jebrewer@rogers.com)



*Gala Dinner Closes Fall Campaign*



## Now I lay me down to sleep...

Have you ever thought that old bedtime prayer, the one that ends, "If I should die before I wake..." might be a bit of a non-starter when you are trying to get a child to go to sleep, especially one with an active imagination.

Well this might be the answer for you. A friend of mine, Louis Fyffe, has created a prayer book, called *Ordinary Prayers for Ordinary People*.

Yes, I am shamelessly flogging this book for a friend. But I feel I may also be doing a service to people who struggle to find suitable prayers for various occasions, for whom the old standards just don't cut it any more.

Louise has 15 years experience as a lay worship leader with St. Paul's United Church in Riverview and is a recently retired music teacher.

Here are some examples of what is covered in this book:

In *We Pray For Others In The World*, Louise has written, "In our world where a few hold power and resources are unequally divided, we pray for the generosity to share our time, our talent, and our money in equitable ways..."

In another, *Prayer in the Midst of Busyness*: "This morning we think of those who struggle with too much to do —

those harried by economic fears or frazzled by unrealistic demands to be perfect in all things.”

As you can see these are prayers written for our time.

There are prayers for various themes and occasions, a night time prayer, a prayer to bless a new baby, prayers for graduations, Thanksgiving, Remembrance Day and even for summer holidays.

Now the words “God” and “Jesus” do appear in these prayers. But Louise is being very generous in giving license for anyone who wants to use the book to adjust and reword these prayers to suit their own beliefs.

As she says in her foreword, in true teacher style, she has provided a blank page opposite each prayer where people can jot down their own ideas and inspirations as they read through the prayers. It could be where you do your own revisions and adaptations too.

I think many of the prayers can be quite easily adapted for those of us who do not subscribe to many traditional religious concepts.

The cost of the book is \$20.00. If you want to preview it I have a copy you can see. To order the book contact me at ghanley@nb.sympatico.ca or by phone, 472-8431.

Submitted by Glenna Hanley



## Pope and the Priest

In September, Pope Benedict made a visit to Great Britain; Catholic and Protestant government leaders alike received him politely. The faithful thronged to his open air masses. The stated purpose of his visit was to discuss the relations between the Christian churches and the major faiths. The trip was estimated to cost 15 million pounds, not including policing costs.



The Catholic clergy was not prepared for the outcry of protests from the British public. The crowds, estimated to be in the tens of thousands by anti-pope organizers, protested against the scandals surrounding the pope. Placards denounced his dim view of women and homosexuals; sexual predation by priests on young children; interdiction against abortion and birth control; and, many other ‘sins against the people’ in the eyes of a secular public. English actor and activist Stephen Fry best stated the outcry in a video at:

[http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xbvr0m\\_shortfilms](http://www.dailymotion.com/video/xbvr0m_shortfilms).

At the end of the visit, a high-ranking church official on BBC World belittled the protesters’ show of strength. “At the Pope’s masses, we had as many as 200,000 adherents

present”, he said, “The protestors could only manage a turnout of about 3,000 people”. In other words, in his schoolyard logic, the Pope had won because he drew bigger crowds and, therefore, no further dialogue with the protestors was necessary. End of story.

He did not get it. The concerns of the people did not matter. Church objectives took precedence.

One who does get it is a young parish priest in Obdam, Holland. He is a vibrant young man and empathetic to the needs and feelings of his parishioners. Paul Vlaar is a charismatic priest who knows how to fill a church. While other churches are closing for lack of parishioners, his church is filled. People find the hope and comfort at his church that they cannot find elsewhere.

Vlaar makes church fun again, He emphasises relevant social interactions as part of Church life. During the FIFA World Cup Games this summer, Holland had a chance to win the world championship. Soccer fever was at high pitch throughout the land. Everyone was wearing orange, the national colour worn by the Dutch soccer team.

The Sunday before the last game (Holland subsequently gained second place after losing to Spain), Vlaar had set up a soccer net at the front of the sanctuary. He and his helpers were wearing orange robes over their vestments and a parishioner was invited to kick a soccer ball down the aisle and into the net. This action was a wonderfully light-hearted show of ecclesiastic support for the national team. His parishioners loved it. His superior, the Bishop of Amsterdam, was not amused. He called Vlaar up on the carpet, relieved him of his duties and sent him to eight weeks of silent confinement in a distant abbey.



Upon entering, one of the brothers in the abbey showed Vlaar his place, outlined by a braided rope. “This will teach you to stay within the lines”, he was told. Vlaar replied, “This rope is made of the same cotton as is found in candle wicks. There is lots of stretch in it”. Vlaar pointed out that the rope would give him ample opportunity to stretch the limits of his confinement.

After eight weeks (at about the time the Pope was in England), Vlaar returned to his parish and was met with a standing ovation and a rousing chorus of the hymn, “This is the Day”. In closing the service with the ritual blessing, “Peace be with you”, Vlaar could be seen wearing a regulation cream coloured robe. When he raised his hands for the blessing his watchband was defiantly orange in colour. “Orange is still my colour,” he exclaimed. He also suggested that the parish extend an invitation to his Bishop

for a visit, as an act of forgiveness for the Bishop. End of story? Not quite.

The Pope, apparently satisfied with his trip to Britain, returned to his duties in Rome. The Archbishop of Utrecht, overseer of the Church in Holland, and no doubt familiar with the story of the "Orange Priest", will likely be promoted to Cardinal in November. Paul Vlaar, the hero of Obdam and sensing his parishioners' anger with the church's hierarchy, has quietly suggested that the Bishop's visit should take place, "Perhaps next year".

Life and the world go on.

John van Abbema

p.s. The information for this true story has been available in the British and Dutch TV, print and Internet media. Any opinions, views, observations or interpretations implied in this article are mine alone.  
J.V.A.



## Fund Raising Ideas???

Recently at a meeting of the Finance and Facilities section of tUFF the subject of fund raising activities was discussed. We reviewed the process for our annual pledge campaign and discussed the Goods and Services Auction as well as the Art and Crafts Sale. The discussion then turned to other possibilities. Various ideas were put forward but none that the committee really got excited about. Then, the idea of asking the members and friends of the congregation for ideas was suggested. It was hoped that members may have experienced or heard of fund raising activities that were a little different - perhaps something that would be unique in Fredericton. So members and friends put your thinking caps on and share your ideas with:

Ed Leslie, Chair, Finance Committee  
Tom Hanley, VP, Finance and Facilities  
Jeff Frooman, AVP, Finance and Facilities  
Ken Moore, Chair, Buildings and Grounds

or any Board member.

Thanks for any help you can give us.

Tom Hanley  
VP, Finance and Facilities



## Some December Festivals

This year, December 5th is Ashura (literally the tenth)

for the 10th day of Muharram in the Islamic calendar. Commemorated by Shia Muslims as a day of mourning for the martyrdom of Husayn ibn Ali, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him. Sunni Muslims remember the day as the day upon which Moses fasted to express gratitude to God for liberating the Israelites from Egypt.

December 8th is Bodhi Day, traditionally the 8th day of the 12th lunar month in the Chinese calendar and is a Buddhist holiday that commemorates the enlightenment of the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama.

Hanukkah will be from December 21st through the 28th this year. Also known as the Festival of Lights and is observed by lighting candles in a nine branched candelabrum called a Menorah. One of the nine is the shamash which is used to light the others, starting with one candle on the first night, two the second and so forth until all are lit on the final night. The festival celebrates a minor miracle when the Temple had to be purified and the wicks of the menorah burned for eight days although there had been only enough sacred oil for one day.

December 25th is Christmas and while Christians celebrate the birth of Christ, the day also is within the Pagan Yule festival celebrating the death and rebirth of the Sun God. The Yule is a light festival with as many candles as possible on or near the altar in welcome of the Sun Child and these activities have been carried over into the Christian festival with many other of the Pagan traditions adapted to the newer faith.

December 26th is the date that Zoroastrians commemorate the Death of the Prophet Zarathustra. Much uncertainty surrounds the life of Zarathustra, however, modern thought is that he was born around 1500 BCE in Eastern Persia (now Iran) and that he taught that there was one creator God, Ahura Mazda (Lord Wisdom), so may have been the founder of monotheism. Scholars generally believe that the Israelites picked up monotheism during one of their diasporas in Persia.

December 26th is the start of Kwanzaa, a seven day festival held by some African Americans to celebrate their separate heritage. This also is a festival of lights with candles and harvest symbols.



## New U program in 2011

A New U program is going to be offered in the new year for any non-members who want to learn more about Unitarianism and the Fredericton fellowship.

Participants can take the four-session course as preparation for becoming a fully registered and involved member of the fellowship, and leading up to a special Sunday ser-

vice where they will be officially welcomed by the congregation.

However, after taking the course, there is no requirement for participants to become registered members. That is entirely a personal decision.

The program is being organized by the public awareness/membership committee. Facilitators will be two of our very active members, Sheila Moore and Carol Ann Hanley.

The sessions will be on four Monday nights, Jan. 31, Feb. 7, 14 and 21, beginning at 6:30 p.m. each night. A light refreshment break will be provided.

Contents of the sessions include a history of Unitarianism and Universalism, an explanation of what beliefs we share, the sources of our beliefs, the seven principles and the diversity of beliefs among our members.

It will also include the structure and functioning of the Fredericton fellowship.

Each participant will have the opportunity to share their own personal religious or spiritual journey, if they so chose. And this will be an opportunity to consider what they hope to gain by becoming a Unitarian.

Anyone who would like to register is asked to contact committee chair Glenna Hanley by Jan. 16, 2010, by phone at 472-8431 or by e-mail at ghanley@nb.sympatico.ca

There will be frequent reminders at the Sunday service and in the service program.

If any member knows of someone who might like to take the course, please contact them or give their name to Glenna.

Glenna Hanley  
chair Public Awareness & Membership



## A brief note from your Board

We are grateful to all the members and friends who took the time after the Sunday service on November 7th to share their comments regarding the proposal to raise the floor in the Sunday service area at the same time that the

hardwood flooring is laid. Taking into consideration your comments and the opinions of the other two people we asked, the Board unanimously agreed to have the Building Committee proceed with the project and to raise the floor at the same time. We will keep you informed about when the work will take place.

It has come to the Board's attention that sometimes people are unsure about who to approach with an idea or concern they have. In the near future the Board will post a list of Board members and committee members in the kitchen, library and entrance to the building. Please don't hesitate to raise your ideas or concerns with the appropriate person.

By the time you read this brief note, the Gala Dinner will be over. This event marks the end of the November Pledge Campaign when members and friends of the Fellowship are asked to take the time to consider how they are able to support the Fellowship in the coming year. During the month of December committees will be asked to consider their needs and dreams for the coming year, and submit their requests to the Financial committee members who will prepare the Budget for the Boards consideration. The Board will meet following the Sunday service on December 19th and January 23rd. One of the agenda items at both these meetings will be consideration of the budget for 2011. The end results will be presented at a General Meeting of the membership on January 21st.

Joan Brewer  
President of the Board



## Season's Greetings

In whatever tradition you choose to celebrate (or not) may the Spirit (Lord, Goddess, Deity(ies), Ø, or whatever(s) of your choice) bless your Solstice festival!

May memories of the past year be, for the most part, fond and prospects for the new year bright. May you find love and joy in the company of friends and family.



This space wants your material!