



The Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton

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Sunday Service 11 a.m.

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Contents for December 2011

Sunday Services	1
Memorial Service for Shirley Weyman	1
Women's Pot Luck Dinner	1
Meeting With Occupy Fredericton	1
Call for Leadership and Action on Climate Change	2
Some December Festivals	3
Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice	3
Medically Assisted Dying and the Law	4
From your President	4



Sunday Services

Dec 4 Sylvia Hale *Spong and Iona Calling: the Search for meaningful Death.*

Dec 11 allison calvern *Intergenerational Service.*

Dec 18 Tony Fitzgerald *Solstice Celebration* Circles, Spirals, Beginnings and Endings. The continuous cycle of creation and destruction - the power of the ancient signs to stir emotions still in modern minds.

Dec 25 *Carols and songs for the season.*

Jan 1 *Talking in the Round: New Year Resolutions.*

Jan 8 Janet Crawford *Spirituality in Photography.*



Memorial Service for Shirley Weyman

We were all saddened to learn of the passing of Shirley Weyman on November 13. Shirley Weyman was one of the original members of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton.

There will be a memorial service for Shirley Weyman on the 10th of December at the Fellowship, 874 York Street, at 2:00 p.m. The Reverend Mac Campbell will be conducting a service developed jointly with Sharon van Abbema.

An after-service reception will be catered by Caribbean Flavas, at the request of Shirley's son, Tedd Weyman. Tedd will be coming to Fredericton for the service.



Women's Pot Luck Dinner

We will not be holding a women's pot luck dinner during the month of December. We will come together again in the new year. For more information contact Joan Brewer at 455-5169 or jebrewer@rogers.com



Meeting With Occupy Fredericton

Members of the tUFF Social Responsibility Committee, Tom Hanley and Janet Crawford, met with two members of the Occupy Fredericton group, Dana Hartt and Andre Faust, on the morning of Nov.22nd. The meeting was organized at the request of Occupy Fredericton and the discussion included the objectives of both the international movement and the local group.

While the international Occupy Movement is primarily concerned with lessening the influence of large corporations, the local group is devoting its efforts to local issues including improving local public transportation and urban agriculture. There is also a significant educational component in the local program.

At the time of our meeting members of Occupy Fredericton were working through a process to respond to the mayor's request that they vacate or move their tents from the city hall location. They were being asked to move so that the annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony could be held in its usual spot. The representatives from Occupy Fredericton felt that the Christmas tree lighting could be held while allowing them to retain at least one tent at their current location. They felt this prominent location adjacent to city hall is important as a symbol that the Occupy Movement is alive and well in Fredericton and members are ready to continue their regular "teach-ins" as well as their work on local social issues.

This meeting was one of a series of meetings being held with churches in Fredericton to explore the possibility of church members supporting the social efforts of Occupy Fredericton through letters or phone calls to the appropriate authorities.

Tom Hanley, Chair
Social Responsibility Committee



CANADIAN INTERFAITH

Call for Leadership and Action on Climate Change

October 25, 2011

Climate change: the spiritual roots of a crisis

1. We, representatives of Canadian faith communities, are united in our conviction that the growing crisis of climate change needs to be met by solutions that draw upon the moral and spiritual resources of the world's religious traditions. We recognize that at its root the unprecedented human contribution to climate change is symptomatic of a spiritual deficit: excessive self-interest, destructive competition, and greed have given rise to unsustainable patterns of production and consumption. Humanity's relationship with the environment has become distorted by actions that compromise the welfare of future generations of life.
2. Our faith traditions and sacred texts call upon us all – individuals, civil society, businesses, industry, and governments – to consider the spiritual dimensions of the crisis of ocean and climate change; to take stock of our collective behaviour; to transform cultures of consumerism and waste into cultures of sustainability; and to respect the balance between economic activity and environmental stewardship. The November 29-December 9, 2011, 17th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 17) conference in South Africa has the potential to be a transition point – where we, as a global community, change how we think and act to address climate change.

Values for a sustainable economy

3. The world's religious traditions teach us to look beyond ourselves – individually and collectively, now and for future generations – as we confront the crisis of ocean and climate change, and to reflect on our choices and decisions. We see people as more than consumers with unlimited appetites. The foundations for a sustainable economy include the values of restraint, cooperation, and reciprocity. We believe we must work together in transforming cultures of self-interest and unprecedented consumption into cultures of justice for all.

4. All religious traditions uphold the nobility of the human spirit, calling on us to seek moderation and service to the common good. Such a vision empowers individuals to take responsibility for relationships with each other and our planet. Indeed, our everyday choices about food, transportation, clothing and entertainment are all practical expressions of what we value. At the same time, disconnections between our professed beliefs and our daily actions indicate our need for personal and collective awareness and transformation. We need to seek coherence between our beliefs and our actions, so that our lives and consumption habits reflect our relationship with the rest of humanity and the Earth itself.

The challenge of climate justice

5. Climate change is a planetary crisis that knows no borders. Some countries are far more adversely affected by climate change than others as they experience major changes in weather patterns. They know the impact of rising seas and erosion of lands, leading to drought or flooding. These countries are most often among the poorest and least equipped to respond.
6. Many countries are suffering from the long-term consequences of unrestrained carbon emissions that damage the atmosphere. We believe all nations need to adopt energy policies that result in actual emission reductions to a fair and safe global level. Organizations, businesses, and individuals have similar duties to reduce their emissions. For high-income nations such as Canada, justice demands that our governments shoulder a greater share of the economic burden of adaptation and mitigation – first and foremost, because of access to greater means, but also because of an historic role in contributing to its causes. We have a moral imperative to act.

A call for leadership and action

7. We call for leadership to put the long-term interest of humanity and the planet ahead of short-term economic and national concerns. The teachings of our faiths tell us that the best interests of one group or nation are served by pursuing the best interests of all. There is one human family and one Earth that is our common homeland. Climate change is a global crisis and requires global solutions that put the well-being of all people first – especially the most vulnerable. Furthermore, our environment is the natural source of our wealth and the home of millions of species for which we are planetary stewards. How long can we barter this priceless inheritance for the promise of growing economic returns?

8. In our neighbourhoods and communities, in businesses and organizations, we need to change wasteful patterns of production and consumption. This calls for a cultural transformation that brings the values of sustainability to the forefront of public consciousness – and into more responsible practices. We cannot wait for others to act but instead must lead by example. Religious organizations, public institutions, and businesses all have important roles to play in promoting ethical consumption and more sustainable lifestyles and practices in their everyday operations.
9. We speak respectfully to our political leaders, who have been entrusted with authority by Canadians. We ask that you act with due regard for the values of both religion and science, looking objectively on the problems confronting our planet. Climate science points to a future of greater instability and unpredictability, problems that can be addressed by action today. We stand ready to work alongside you to promote a future of security, prosperity, and justice – for humankind, and the whole of creation.
10. As you carry out your responsibilities at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 17), we urge you to honour the values we have described and adopt the following policy goals:
 - in the spirit of global solidarity, take collective action by signing and implementing a binding international agreement replacing the Kyoto Protocol that commits nations to reduce carbon emissions and set fair and clear targets to ensure that global average temperatures stay below a 2° Celsius increase from pre-industrial levels;
 - demonstrate national responsibility by committing to national carbon emission targets and a national renewable energy policy designed to achieve sustainability; and
 - implement climate justice, by playing a constructive role in the design of the Green Climate Fund¹ under United Nations governance, and by contributing public funds to assist the poorest and most affected countries to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change.

We believe these to be practical and critical measures necessary to secure the well-being of the planet for future generations of life.

¹ The Green Climate Fund is being established by the United Nations to support projects, programme, policies and other activities in developing countries related to climate mitigation and adaptation.

Leaders of faith communities

Editor's Note: signatures of representatives or leaders for 60 faith and faith related communities and organizations. Full document will be forwarded to anyone who requests it electronically.



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.

Hanukkah will be from sundown December 20th through sunset 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 start of Kwanzaa which will run until January 1st. This also is a festival of lights with candles and harvest symbols.



Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice

CUSJ links to new opportunities for individual and congregational involvement. Website (www.cusj.org) updates include:

- * First Nations Page - Link to KAIROS on-going action to implement UNDRIP (UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous peoples)
- * New Page on Food Security

- + Link to National Farmer's Union to speak out against the cancelling of the Wheat Board
- + Link to CBAN's campaign to stop contamination of our food with low levels of unapproved GMO foods.
- + Links to USC Canada on Food Security
- * New Page on Economic Justice
- + CUSJ Supports Occupy Movement. Take a message to your local Occupy group.
- * Criminal Justice Page
- + Sample Letter on the Omnibus Crime Bill
- + Link to Elizabeth Fry's postcard campaign

Our website is a service to congregations. We try to bring you good information and links to other groups that we are supporting. Please let us know if there is an issue you feel we should be addressing. For better communication, think about forming a CUSJ chapter in your area.

In Faith,
 Rev. Frances Deverell
 President,
 Canadian Unitarians For Social Justice
 president@cusj.org



Medically Assisted Dying and the Law

This timely and topical workshop will be presented by:

Don Heights Unitarian Congregation
 18 Wynford Drive, Suite 102
 Toronto, Ontario
 M3C 3S2

On January 29, 2012 at 1:00 pm

What Sue Rodriguez started, Gloria Taylor is determined to finish.

In this informative and engaging session you'll learn about:

- * the laws governing assisted dying in Canada and around the world;
- * Canadian court rulings on assisted dying, and
- * the right to die challenge brought forward by Gloria Taylor and the BC Civil Liberties Association.

In 1993, Sue Rodriguez asked the Supreme Court of Canada for the right to medically-assisted dying so that she would have a peaceful way to end her suffering. The Supreme Court ruled against her then, by a 5-4 decision.

A lot has changed in the last two decades. This November, a challenge brought by BC Civil Liberties, Gloria Taylor

and others is coming before the BC Supreme court. Whoever loses will undoubtedly appeal the case to the Supreme Court of Canada so this case will ultimately impact all Canadians.

This workshop is sponsored by Don Heights Unitarian Congregation.



From your President

Hello all!

It's been a very busy autumn so far for the Fredericton Unitarian Fellowship: the Eastern Regional Fall Gathering, which was such a success The Little Fellowship that Could punched above our weight!; timely information sessions about hydraulic fracking; illnesses of dear members of our congregation; maintenance on Unitarian House and property; and your Board wanting to meet and exceed the expectations of our membership.

Budget

According to George DeMille, the treasurer's (allison calvern) treasured assistant, our budget is so far looking pretty much on target for the year. It's a little down on the donations, but our expenses have been down slightly, and rent from groups using Unitarian House contributes to our coffers. The biggest expenses we have are Buildings and Grounds and renovations to keep the House and property in order, Denominational -Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) membership fees, Children's programs, Sunday Services including guest speakers, and public awareness (publicity). As you're no doubt aware, November is pledge month, and we've added direct deposit for those wishing to find any easy way to make regular contributions to support our Unitarian Fellowship- if you can submit your pledge by the 4th December that would be most appreciated, so we can work up a budget for next year.

Speaking of next year's budget, Committees and their Chairs are working up budgets for 2012 (already!-where has the time gone?), which need to be submitted to Tom Hanley, Vice-President of Finance and Facilities, by the 15th of December.

West Bequest Fund

In the past year we used West Bequest Funds (a fund established in the late 1880's to promote the religious opinions and doctrines held by Universalists) to support additional help for an expanded and thoughtful Children's RE program (religious education). This year we have been successful in our application to the West Bequest Fund to enhance our Sunday Services program with guest speakers/ministers. Our Fellowship really appreciates the contributions we have received from the West Bequest Fund.

Our Fellowship is fortunate to have two representatives on

the Board of Trustees for the West Bequest Fund. Thanks to Ken and Sheila Moore who served with both heart and efficiency these past six years. Janet Crawford and John van Abbema have kindly agreed to take over.

Social Responsibility

The Social Responsibility Committee has been involved in raising awareness about hydraulic fracturing (fracking the process, by which water and chemicals are pumped underground in order to release natural gas found in shale), and Tom Hanley submitted a list of questions on behalf of almost a dozen of our members/friends following an information night when we viewed the film Gaslands. (CBC has recently been talking about this film and spoken with the man who produced it.) Tom and Janet Crawford also met with representatives from the Occupy movement, which resulted in a lively discussion and Tom's reaction that they were very sensible suggestions/appeals.

Publicity and hospitality

What do you think of the refreshed Unitarian Fellowship sign with a white background instead of dark teal? I've heard people say it catches their eye now as they drive by, which is a good thing. The light over the garage is now on from dusk to dawn, which unfortunately is a much longer time now that winter is setting in. There have been some incidents, including a car being broken into, so, a word to the wise- please remember that if you must leave items of value in your car, make sure they are out of sight.

The Gleaner ad now includes mention of our Children's RE program. And, we've had a coup! - our Chair of Publicity,

Glenna Hanley, has identified that if we have speakers from the University of New Brunswick (UNB) or Saint Thomas University (STU) we can provide information on the relevant university websites mentioning the Unitarian Fellowship.

While we're managing on the Hospitality front, with people kindly committing to ensure the much appreciated coffee and refreshments following Sunday Services, we're still looking for a Chair for the Hospitality Committee.

Memorial trees and such

Some people (me, for one) have expressed a wish to plant trees in memory of loved ones, where there is some relationship with the UUF. Your Board has established a protocol so if anyone wants to have a lasting, growing memorial, you can approach Ken Moore on behalf of the Building and Grounds Committee.

A Heads-up! We're planning a Special General Meeting after the Service on the 29th of January 2012 to present a draft budget for 2012, explore the idea of part-time ministry, and bring a notice of motion by the Social Responsibility Committee regarding the pilot process to adopt a primary social focus. Your Board will be meeting on January 8th, 2012 to get ready for this special meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Thompson

President, Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton

Remember the past, dream about tomorrow, but live for today. (anonymous)

This space wants your material!