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## Sunday Services

**June 3** Tom Hanley *About Faith and Our Diversity of Beliefs*

**June 10** Tony Diamond *A Bird-Friendly Garden*

**June 17** Kevin Matthews (Conservation Council) *The Co-op Movement*

**June 24** John van Abbema *American Politics From a Canadian Perspective* John & Sharon recently returned from a three month stay in South Carolina during which time the American news media was in a frenzy over the Republican primaries. The main event, for control of Washington and the American voter, is now playing out through November. John will share his observations on what may be a tight race with an outcome that will have significant impact on the rest of the world.



## Women's Pot Luck

The next women's pot luck is Friday, June 22nd. We gather at 6pm and eat at 6:30 pm. Judi Day will play host for the evening at her home, 280 Dunns Crossing Road. Discussion topic: Are you able to maintain and keep a peaceful and harmonious relationship with your adult children? If so, how? If not, what is it like? Is it hard work or does it come naturally? If you do not have children perhaps you can think about a sibling or a good friend. For more information contact Joan Brewer at 455-5169 or [jbrewer@rogers.com](mailto:jbrewer@rogers.com)



## Birthday Party

### Invitation to Josephine and Joan's postponed birthday celebration:

we will be having the potluck and dance party on Saturday, June 9 starting at 7pm at the Fellowship (874 York St). All are welcome. Best wishes only.



## From your President

### Welcome to June!

Outdoor activities that have been waiting, like cycling, lawn mowing and spring planting, are now well underway for many of us, in between raindrops. Unfortunately, some people lost their lovely spring plantings to some of nature's zealous critters, namely squirrels and ground hogs. Luckily there's still time to plant.

### Board activities - overview

We welcomed John van Abbema back from his summery winter in the South. Due to George DeMille's surgery just before the May 27<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, although we did not have a Financial Report, we were assured that financial things are in order. Hopefully George will be well and fit soon. (George subsequently sent out the financial report when he got out of hospital.)

The main topic of business was preparation for the upcoming **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** on **Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup>**. We had a report from Ken Moore (Buildings and Grounds) that rental rates for use of Unitarian House have not changed in a very long time. The Board agreed with him that the building should be used, but costs for maintenance have increased. Ken recommended changes that seem reasonable, with the option for flexibility in charges for members of the Fellowship, and use that is in keeping with, and sympathetic to, UU values and goals.

Joan Brewer updated us on results of the Ad Hoc Committee on Part-Time Ministry see more detail below.

The Nominating Committee has been busy talking to people in order to fill positions on the Board of Directors and Committees; Joan tabled their report to date and everyone

around the table was really pleased with the Committee's work. The Report of the Nominating Committee will be presented at the AGM.

The Social Responsibility Committee has reviewed the pilot project for selection of a Primary Social Focus, and will recommend that we continue with support for the Fredericton Food Bank.

Minutes of the Board meetings are available for anyone interested.

#### Annual General Meeting (AGM) June 24<sup>th</sup>

The **AGM** has been set for the last Sunday, **June 24<sup>th</sup>**, immediately **following the Sunday Service** (once everyone has got their refreshments). Please mark it in your calendar.

#### Ad hoc committee on part-time ministry

The Ad Hoc Committee on Part-time Ministry held a number of focus groups, ably organized and led by Sheila Moore and Joan Brewer. Results of returned questionnaires were collated by John van Abbema and the Committee's report will be posted in this month's Touchstone. This has been an excellent exercise for people to gather together and share their opinions, ideas and concerns. More than 50 people attended one of the eight focus groups, with 34 surveys returned. Recommendations will be presented at the AGM.

The upshot is that many people would like some input into our Sunday Services by professionally trained clergy, but the consensus stops short of wanting to commit to part-time ministry. The recommendations therefore will include **a)** that everyone take the opportunity to suggest suitable/thought-provoking speakers for our Sunday Services that link into our UU Principles (see the back of any Sunday Order of Service), and **b)** advertising through our wider Unitarian networks for someone to work on a contractual basis involving giving Sunday services, facilitating workshops, and providing one-on-one counseling, either regularly (every third month, say) or as needed.

#### Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee has been working to provide a list of nominees for Directors on the Board and Chairs of Committees for the year 2012-2013. Some of your dedicated and hard-working members of the Board, namely Allison Calvern and George DeMille, feel they have done their stint' and would like to enable others to have the opportunity to participate in the workings of the Fredericton Fellowship. The input of Allison, as Secretary-Treasurer, and George, as the treasurer's treasured assistant, has been cheerful, selfless and invaluable! They will be sorely missed on the Board and deserve a huge Thank You! We hope they will continue to fuel their addiction to attending Sunday Services and other Fellowship related activities for many years to come.

If you're interested in serving on the Board or a Committee, there's valuable work to be done. Although Committee Chairs don't have to attend Board Meetings, they are welcome. **Join us!** The nominating committee of Joan Brewer, Glenna Hanley, John van Abbema and Betty Lou Daye will present the roster of nominees at the AGM in June.

#### Social Responsibility

As Chair of our Social Responsibility Committee, Tom Hanley reported that the Pilot project, in which Unitarian House chooses a Primary Social Focus from amongst many, has come to a close. While the board continues to encourage members and friends to be socially active according to conscience, at the upcoming AGM and subsequently, the board will include one primary social action on the agenda. Tom is recommending that we continue with support for the Fredericton Food Bank, thereby continuing TUFF's support of this project with a monthly collection of non perishable food items, by the last Sunday of the month. (We'll also provide you with a tax receipt for monetary donations).

Annual CUC Symposium It was unfortunate that for the first time in many years, the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton was not represented at the CUC Symposium in Ottawa. George DeMille and Allison Calvern were planning to go and be our delegates, but health issues conspired against that. We just hope that those health issues are in full recovery very soon. We will follow the outcomes of the meeting and share relevant information and developments.

By the way, we're still looking for a new stove top cooker (now is that a British term creeping in, Sheila?) for the kitchen, so if you know of one that will replace our poorly operating one, we could use it.

If you have any questions, or would like to raise an issue, please don't hesitate to contact me or any other member of your Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Thompson  
President, Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton



## Ad Hoc Committee Report

### Committee to Explore Options For A Part-Time Professional Ministry

Report to the Board of the Fellowship, May 27, 2012

#### Committee Members:

Joan Brewer, Chair; George DeMille;  
Sheila Moore; and, John van Abbema

#### Survey of TUFF Members and Friends

As part of the exploration of options, we decided to poll the membership to gauge their concerns and expectations

on hiring a part-time minister. Accordingly, Sheila Moore organized eight focus group sessions from April 9 to May 6. Fifty people attended the focus groups, and 34 people returned the questionnaire. Sheila Moore and Joan Brewer attended each focus group. Participants were keen to express their sentiments and were pleased to have been asked for their input.

**Focus Group Activity**

The question asked at each focus group was, “How do you feel about part-time professional ministry for our Fellowship?” Discussion followed about whether part-time ministry would enhance what we already enjoy.

The take-home questionnaire asked for more detailed input regarding the following questions:

- Relationship to TUFF (Member, Friend, length of association);
- Value of a part-time minister: important to not important;
- Ministerial duties expected of a part-time minister;
- TUFF congregational strengths, existing or to be developed;
- Suggestions for a 3-5 year plan for TUFF to accomplish;
- Pros and Cons of TUFF membership growth; and,
- Additional comments and signatures were welcomed.

Responses were tabulated by the committee at a meeting on May 16, 2012. A summary of the answers received from the questionnaires follows.

All sessions and questionnaires provided useful information. Seven questionnaires were only partially completed but were still taken into account. No differentiation was made between responses from Members or Friends, nor for the length of association with TUFF, as we felt all responses were valid for the respondent’s interests and needs in TUFF as of today.

**Responses to Question 3 regarding the level of importance for the Fellowship to seek part-time ministry using a scale of 1 (very important) to 6 (not important) were as follows:**

#1 – 8 #2 – 11 #3 – 2 #4 – 4 #5 – 2 #6 – 4

**Question 4 - “Which responsibilities do you consider most important for a part-time minister?”** were consolidated into larger headings, with the following results:

**No. of Detailed Responses to Question 4**

- 27 -Providing individual counseling and developing the Fellowship community;
- 24 -Providing stimulating Sunday services;
- 19 -Stimulating R.E. and Adult programs;

- 9 -Visible community leadership; and,
- 5 -Developing lay leaders and effective administration.

**Question 5 - “What strengths does our congregation possess that you would like to either see maintained or developed in the immediate future?”** garnered numerous complimentary responses for the past and current volunteers in our Fellowship.

**No. of Detailed Responses to Question #5**

- 27 -Sense of an open-minded, friendly church community, whose members are accepting of each other;
- 13 -Superb lay leadership and lay-led services on a variety of interesting topics.
- 11 -Involvement of members providing care for each other; and,
- 8 -Respondents would like to see:
  - \*More community outreach i.e. students, other churches; 3
  - \*Continued stimulating adult programs; 2
  - \*Restart of discussion groups; and, 2
  - \*Greater social justice emphasis. 1

**Question 6 - “What are the main things you would like the congregation to accomplish or get involved in within the next three to five years?”** better clarified the responses to Question 5, above.

**No. of Detailed Responses to Question 6**

- 13 -Social Justice issues and food security, with emphasis on one project in community outreach;
- 13 -Increased membership to prevent burnout and to attract young families; and,
- 5 -Develop ministry to provide:
  - \*more vibrant and inspiring Sunday services; 2
  - \*spiritual development workshops for adults; 1
  - and,
  - \*attractive programs for youth & children 1

**Question 7 - “Would you like to see the church’s membership grow?”** brought in **22 ‘Yes’** votes and **3 ‘No’** votes. Some respondents listed both advantages and disadvantages.

The Advantages were expressed as follows:

- \*Larger membership to share the load; 7
- \*Ensure future stability in membership & finance; 7
- \*New ideas & diversity for, “A richer, more stimulating atmosphere.” 7
- \*Bring in young families; and, 6
- \*More community involvement. 4

The perceived Disadvantages were:


- \*Lack of a personal touch; 4
- \*Growth brings change and not all may agree (personalities); 2
- \*Lack of space; and,
- \*Existing members should attend more regularly. 1

Although many members said they would be interested in having part-time professional ministry, their interest came with a concern about the possible financial burden of such a move. The present lay-led Sunday services are very much appreciated, valued and enjoyed for their diversity and stimulation. The responses indicated there may be room for finding more ways to provide cerebral stimulation along with a spiritual component that connects us with our UU principles. Caring for members should also continue as a high priority.

Some people made some interesting suggestions such as, having a variety of clergy rather than only one, perhaps a liberal non-UU clergy, contracting for RE person or for pastoral care person. While others said that liberal non-UU clergy are fine but the UU perspective is missing, and having a variety of clergy does not allow for someone get to know us and feel part of our community.

**The committee made two recommendations to the Board**

1. Members to be more forthcoming in recommending to the Sunday Services Committee speakers from the local area, including non-UU clergy, who could lead a Sunday service.
2. The Board to advertise for a UU clergy who could visit with us throughout the year, much in the same manner of Rev. Kitsy Winthrop. This would involve a contractual arrangement that could involve leading a Sunday service, providing one-on-one counseling conversations, and workshops as requested on perhaps an every-third month basis. The advertisement could be circulated through the CUC and/or UUA network.



**Interfaith Summer Camp**  
**for 5-10 year-olds**  
**JUNE 25-29, 2012**  
**8:30 am - 12:30pm**  
**Odell Park**

This summer camp, to be held in the mornings in the

last week of June, under the auspices of Rev. Priscilla Geisterfer, who is looking for volunteers and participants.

The theme is the Elements of Faith with a focus on water, earth, air, and fire. The goal is to share stories that reflect various faith communities. In order for this camp to function, Patricia needs the following:

- Children to participate—25 total
- Youth interested in being counselors— 10 per day
- Adults willing to help out —1 or 2 per day
- Funding— Perhaps a donation of \$100 or \$50 from each faith community (for the lodge. food, supplies, t-shirts, etc.)

Patricia is particularly interested in stories blessings, prayers etc reflecting your faith and if possible to meet with you beforehand to learn some of them.

Please contact Rev Patricia Geisterfer 455-2108 who is currently working with Nashwaaksis United, if you have children, time, talent, or money to contribute to this interesting project.



Interfaith Summer Camp  
 O'Dell Park Lodge  
 June 25-29, 2012  
 8:30am – Noon

Registration Form

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Birthdate (MM/DD/YYYY): \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ T-shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address (if different from above): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cellular Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Church: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of a special friend your child would like to be with: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency/Medical Information  
 In case of emergency, contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency Contact Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Medicare Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Doctor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Known Medical Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Known Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

This space wants your material!