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Sunday Service 11 a.m.

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## Sunday Services

**Sept 30** John van Abbema *Diversity and Confluence in Faith* Clear pixel for spacing "Diversity and Confluence in Faith". The world religions can be summarized into a few broad categories, outlining our differences and our similarities. John will review these characteristics from a Unitarian perspective.

**Oct 7** Sheila Moore, Gail Moore, Sharon van Abbema, and Tony Fitzgerald *Lay Chaplain Service* The CUC recommends that a service each year be dedicated to explaining the function of the Lay Chaplain. This will be that service.

There will also be a brief installation ceremony for Tony Fitzgerald, the junior member of the Lay Chaplain pool.

**Oct 14** Ellen Black *Habitat for Humanity*

**Oct 21** Three Speakers *Will address a common topic from their Unitarian experiences.*

**Oct 28** the Reverend Priscilla Geisterfer *Remember Who You Are* This service is a follow up to Priscilla's September 23rd service.

**Nov 4** The Unitarian Chamber Readers *I learned it all in Kindergarten* See ad elsewhere in this issue of Touchstone.



## Women's Pot Luck

The next women's pot luck is planned for Friday, October 26th . We gather at 6 pm and eat at 6:30 pm. Doreen Boorman will host the evening at her home, 28 Sarah's Lane, #6. Discussion topic is still to be decided. For more information contact Joan Brewer at 455-5169 or [jebrewer@rogers.com](mailto:jebrewer@rogers.com)



## Chamber Readers' Theatre

### *I learned it all in Kindergarten*



Join the Unitarian Chamber Readers as they perform this play as part of the regular Sunday Service on November 4th.



## From your President

After a lovely, hot and busy summer, the September feeling of ‘must get doing something’ is alive and well, certainly for me. Having done a lot of travelling this summer- New Zealand in July, weekends in places like Lunenburg and the Shediac shore, and then to the UK in late August for my step-daughter’s baby’s christening in North Wales and an idyllic tour around the Isle of Arran, I’m ready to ‘get stuck in’ here in Fredericton.

Despite the fact that we didn’t have a Board Meeting, we are fortunate that there are a lot of very competent and willing volunteers who carried on business as usual throughout the summer.

For example, the Sunday Services committee filled Sundays with interesting and challenging topics, while the Caring committee continued looking after those who needed a little TLC. Allison rallied people around the Pride Parade, which had a healthy Unitarian support contingent. The Building and Grounds Committee enlisted Bill Knight as Chair of the ‘Bird Friendly Garden’ group, which is getting organized to follow up on advice given by Tony Diamond earlier this spring (there’s a Work Party on the morning of October 6th). The Fall yard sale netted over \$300 for tUFF coffers. Unfortunately, having friends visiting for the incredible Fredericton Harvest Jazz and Blues Festival meant I was unable to participate this year. Better planning for next year, methinks!

### Board activities - overview

We held our Board of Directors meeting on the 23rd of September, the first meeting since our Annual General Meeting in June, and the first Board meeting since May. The Board is there to help guide decisions relating to our Fellowship, ensure things are kept in line with our by-laws, and support the many valued volunteers who keep our community alive, healthy and active. Because things have been ticking over smoothly, there was no urgent need to pull together a meeting over the summer.

We welcomed new Board Members Rhonda Connell as Vice President of Finance and Facilities, and Betty Ponder as Associate Vice President of Communications and Outreach. They join myself as President, Joan Brewer as Past President, John van Abbema as Vice-President and Gail Moore as Associate Vice-President of Programs and Ministry, and Tom Hanley as Associate Vice-President of Finance and Facilities; Betty Lou Daye has agreed to take over from Allison as secretary, hard shoes to follow in, she says. The ‘Oldies’ gave the ‘Newbies’ a brief outline of expectations of their roles.

A big Thanks to George DeMille for his years of dedication and sterling work, and for being the treasurer’s treasured assistant for Allison. We are very appreciative of all the fine

work that George has done for many years looking after our finances and making sure we met all our obligations with the larger Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC). He’s been working with Rhonda over the summer to bring her up to speed so she can provide updates on our Financial position.

A big Thanks also goes to outgoing secretary-treasurer, Allison Calvern, whose humour in writing up minutes is unsurpassable.

### Business arising from minutes

With changes in the Board membership following our Annual General Meeting in June, signing authority for cheques also has to be changed in line with requirements from our financial institution.

Regarding recommendations from the ad hoc committee on part-time ministry that were presented to and approved for follow-up at the Annual General Meeting, Joan Brewer will be consulting with the Sunday Service Committee as to how best to take these forward. We’ll keep you posted.

Gail Moore reported on the ‘Invitation to Unity’ event that she and Allison attended late in May. Gail is excited about the opportunity to work together with other religious groups in areas of common ground that support UU principles. She’s currently waiting for information following that meeting.

### Committee reports

Sounds boring, but it’s the opportunity for the Board to hear about what all the various groups and committees active in our Fellowship are doing and planning. There’s a lot going on, and it’s great to be kept informed about what people are involved with and concerned about.

Glenna was on hand to talk about what she’s been doing with Publicity and Membership, and answer questions about new ideas that she’s exploring. Keep up the good work, Glenna!

John van Abbema gave a very helpful update on all the committees that come under Programs and Ministry. Briefly, these included:

Sunday Services (Sylvia Hale is Chair) – (see above regarding suggestions for Sunday Services)

Hospitality (Heidi O’Donnell is Chair) – everyone is helping out

Caring - Haifa Miller, Margaret Fitzgerald, Sharon van Abbema and Janet Crawford keep an ear to the ground and carry out this gentle, supportive role, including checking registers at the hospital for any tUFF members who might need some TLC.

Lay Chaplaincy (Sheila Moore is Chair) – The October 7th Sunday Service is dedicated to recognizing and learning more about the roles and responsibilities of Lay Chaplains. Our Lay Chaplains are Sharon van Abbema and Tony

Fitzgerald.

Newsletter and Website (Tony Fitzgerald) – The Website includes all the information about our local congregation and activities, and the Newsletter continues to provide information and items of interest to our readership.

Children’s Program – As Chair, Rhonda Connell gave an update and overview to the Children’s Program – this year they are learning about other religions. The program follows a curriculum from an excellent selection offered by the CUC. Rhonda reported that Michelle is very happy and involved in doing a good job working with our children.

Under Finance and Facilities, Allison has kindly taken over the responsibilities as Chair of the Building and Grounds Committee, and got Bill Knight to agree to chair the Bird Friendly Garden committee. Thanks Bill! Ken Moore will continue to look after bookings for renting out space at Unitarian House. Our bookings have dropped off, presumably since we’ve had to raise our rental rates to offset rising costs for running Unitarian House (heat, electricity, etc). However, we do have some flexibility for adjusting rental rates for requests from members of the Fellowship, and for use that is in keeping with, and sympathetic to, UU values and goals.

Rhonda provided an update on our finances. She is ‘getting to grips’ with the flow of income and expenses, and it appears we’re in a healthy position at the moment. Many thanks to Rhonda for taking over this vital role within our community.

#### Odds and sods

The Fellowship receives requests from time to time on a variety of different subjects. For example, we’ve had a request for use of the building for an ecoFredericton Dinner Theatre. Rhonda is kindly following up to find out more about the organization and what they’re looking for.

Rev. Frances Deverell has sent information on Fasting for Climate Leadership. Information about this will be shared with the congregation so they can decide what they’d like to do on a personal basis. Social Responsibility is a key aspect of the UU community, and Tom Hanley will continue to keep his finger on that pulse.

The Canadian Unitarian Magazine is looking for input, which we gratefully passed over to Glenna to deal with under the banner of Publicity.

And finally, the Board agreed that I should continue to provide updates for Touchstone.

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. Minutes of the Board meetings are available for anyone interested.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sheila Thompson  
President, Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton



## Work Party

A work party to put 874 York and yard in order for the new season is scheduled for Saturday, October 6th, 9:30 am till lunch at 1 (or earlier if we are quick) to be followed by a potluck picnic lunch. While the regular housework is fully up to scratch, there are bushes to be tamed, leaves to be raked, and miscellaneous stuff outside. Inside, there are chairs to be dusted and polished, a kitchen to be tidied, a library to be organized, and a wet bar to be thoroughly brought to order. Besides potluck picnic items, you might bring a rake, garden shears, and/or, your favorite cleaner and cleaning rag. If you need more information, contact Allison Calvern (acalvern@nbnet.nb.ca / 459-1436). But it’s your house, too!



## Eastern Regional Fall Gathering

The 2012 gathering will be held in Ottawa on the weekend of October 12-14. The theme this year is A Time for All Ages. See The September issue of Touchstone for further information.



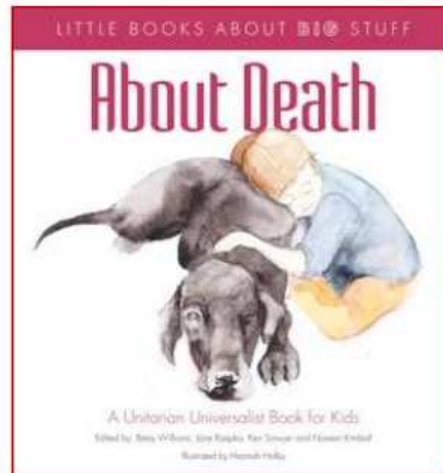
## Spanish Classes

Wilmot Church through the Cuba Committee will be offering Spanish classes again this year. These sessions are designed for both beginners and advanced participants. They will begin on Tues. evening, Oct. 2, from 7:00 to 9:00 pm, upstairs in the Board Room. All are welcome even if you do not attend Wilmot, so please tell your friends. If you wish to take advantage of this opportunity, but cannot attend the first meeting, please contact either Meca or Norm Laverty, (455-3349). Otherwise, just show up at the above time and place.

For Your Home and Church Libraries

## Little Books About Big Stuff

Continuing the tradition of bringing Unitarian Universalist values and practices to the everyday lives of children and families.



From the pages of *uu&me!*, a popular magazine from the Church of the Larger Fellowship for Unitarian Universalist children, comes the first in a series of small books about big topics - ***About Death***, a Unitarian Universalist Book for Kids.

**This is a book for Unitarian Universalist parents to have in their homes before they think they need it.**

--Gaia Brown, Credentialed Religious Educator, Master Level

More information  
about the book can be found at  
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