



THE Chalice

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ELORA & FERGUS UNITARIAN CHURCH
NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2007

THE LAY-CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM

It was a pleasure to officiate my first official ceremony on the 6th of October for Unitarians outside our congregation. It was a reaffirmation of marriage vows celebration for a couple to commemorate their marriage with family and friends.

Steve Watson and Arlene Kelland are long time Unitarian friends from Toronto and have been visiting our Elora & Fergus Unitarian Church, supporting the Dinner for Mary event and bringing Father Hernan Astudillo of the San Lorenzo Anglican congregation with them to sing for us in gratitude for the Bean Project. Steve, an opera singer, led a service for our congregation in the past and sang as well.

Originally they wanted the celebration on their 25th anniversary a year earlier, but waited for me to become a fledgling lay-chaplain.

About a month before the event we had an inspiring meeting and designed the ceremony together, using material from the chaplaincy courses, their favourite poems, songs, and readings from many other sources. Some exchange of emails, and phone calls followed to fine-tune the event.

It was to be held outside, next to a fountain just like they had 26 years ago in Vancouver. Alas, as we arrived in a downpour that lasted for hours, we resigned to the real possibility it would have to be inside after all. What a disappointment. However, very similar to our Unicamp wedding many years ago, the rain stopped, and a totally overcast sky cleared up, just 15 minutes before the event.

Everyone got excited and chairs were hastily wiped off and dried outside. Guests arrived and we had a lovely ceremony in the warm sun.



The couple received a commemorative certificate signed by the couple, witnesses, and the officiant, yours truly. This lovely souvenir symbolizes their meaningful time together and is a token to remember the celebration with family and friends. I feel honoured and privileged to having been part of this wonderful rite of passage.

The feedback, to me personally right after the service and later from guests to our regional lay-chaplaincy committee supervisor Yvonne Greig, was very positive and encouraging.

However, the most meaningful, inspiring and especially unexpected outcome is that a friend of the couple, an 85 year old life long Jewish lady now wants to know more about Unitarianism and has asked Steve and Arlene to take her to the next Sunday Service in Toronto as "she loved the Unitarian ceremony". There must have been something that was special for her in those poems and readings.

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Truly inspiring for me and hopefully, when doing rites of passage in our own region, lay-chaplaincy will have a positive effect on people in our community, providing a profound service with the beneficial side effect to get Unitarianism more into the spotlight and to attract people to our congregation. I know it has been that way in the past when we had a lay chaplain.

Note: Rites of passage for members of the lay-chaplain's congregation are free.

*-- Ellen Papenburg
-- working on a backup system with our
Guelph Unitarian Lay Chaplains*



CHRISTMAS MUSIC

We are looking for volunteer student musicians to perform at the December 23rd Christmas service. Heather or Don can provide accompaniment if needed. Interested musicians should contact Don at 787-0272.

-- Don Beals



POD DUTIES

POD #1

Members: Kerry*, Karen and Rob, Dwight and Jill
Dates: Nov 4, Dec 9, Jan 27, March 2, Apr 6, May 11 (June 15?)

POD #2

Members: Anna* and Don, Arwa, Miranda and Louise
Dates: Nov 11, Dec 16, Feb 3, March 9, Apr 13, May 18

POD #3

Members: Kelsye* and Paul, Jennifer, Leigh and Teresa
Dates: Nov.18, Jan 6, Feb 10, March 16, Apr 20, May 25

POD #4

Members: David*, Ineke, Catharina, Julie and Kim
Dates: Nov 25, Jan 13, Feb 17, March 23, Apr 27, June 1

POD #5

Members: Chris* and Norm, Deborah, Jim and Ellen
Dates: Dec 2, Jan 20, Feb 24, Mar 30, May 4, June 8

* denotes contact person for the POD



CUC NEWS:

Greetings!

Here is a Press Release and Note on Buy Nothing Day -- which is November 23. It's also posted on the Environment SR page on the CUC website: http://www.cuc.ca/social_responsibility/environment/index.htm

To join these groups, just send a blank email to:
cuc-environment-discussion-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
cuc-buy-nothing-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

For a list of other e-groups, check out:
<http://www.cuc.ca/e-lists/index.htm>

Buy Nothing Day Survey:

We are experimenting with collecting and sharing ideas through surveys - and are currently focusing on the upcoming date: Buy Nothing Day which the CUC has endorsed for several years. This survey provides a way for you to share how your congregation incorporates "Special Dates" into your community life -- and for you to learn about others. If you have a little bit of time, we would welcome your input!! Just click or cut and paste this link into your browser:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=H4mbeYwWBBDLMso1grfLaA_3d_3d

Teleseminars: From Mary's Message, October We hope to be able to extend our ability to connect UUs across the country and provide training opportunities without the need for travel by either presenters or participants. We've hosted sessions on media relations, social responsibility and lay chaplaincy and are planning some on worship and financial stewardship. The only cost to the participants is a long distance charge to a US phone number. Upcoming workshops include 'Media Relations' with Penney Kome, CUC's media relations consultant, and 'Social Responsibility' with Mary Bennett and Jan Greenwood, CUC's SR Board Liason

If you'd like to receive notifications about upcoming teleseminars you can join the e-list by sending a blank email to:

cuc-teleseminars-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

CHURCH CANVASS

It's November again and time for our annual Church Canvass. This is the time when we need to know what kind of financial commitment we will be receiving in the coming year from our members and friends in order to plan for the 2008 budget. Canvass forms will be distributed at church on November 4th together with a statement of donations received so far in 2007 from each member who pledged.

Will those members who have yet to meet their pledge amount please forward their donation by the end of the month so that we can prepare an audit of income versus expenses for the year 2007. To date we have received \$5500. A long way from the \$9900. pledged.

This year will be very challenging as we embark on paid professional Religious Education Leadership, the cost of which can be of the order of \$4000 annually. The Board has considered this & feels that in order to grow we must take this route even if it means using our savings.

Our goal for the Canvass for 2008 is \$12000, and with a membership of 21 members that means that we will have to dig into our pockets a little bit more if we are to succeed. If we want this church to continue to exist, this is the financial reality.

-- Chirs Nye

WHO YA GONNA CALL?

Our current Board of Directors of course...
Here they are:

President	Vacant	
Secretary	Kelsye Coulter	519-787-0461
Treasurer	Christine Nye	519-846-0552
Sunday Services	Dwight Pile	519-846-6607
Social Action	Leigh Brownhill	
	Jim Sannes	519-638-5444
Communications	Catharina Walkout	519-830-9285
Memberships	Deborah Forman	519-846-9079



WHAT'S ON AT CHURCH IN NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2007

Gathering music begins at 9:45 a.m and services begin at 10:00 a.m.

Nov 4 ON THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS Dwight Pile

Epiphanies come in many shapes and sizes. This morning we will look at our own and the epiphanies of others, and try to understand what we are called to do with them.

Nov 11 REMEMBRANCE DAY WAR AND HUMAN BEINGS June Gilbertson & London Green

The service will include the intimate thoughts that some great poets and writers, past and present have shared with us about war, its creators, its soldiers, its victors and its victims -- ideas of central importance for our own time.

London Green has been an actor, director and a teacher of Fine Arts at Bishops University Quebec, prior to coming to Guelph over 12 years ago. He has been an active member of the Unitarian Congregation of Guelph.

June Gilbertson is a Chaplain in the Unitarian Congregation of Guelph and a much loved regular guest at our church.

Nov 18 NOTHING SPECIAL

Many Unitarians find no conflict at all between the teachings of the Buddha and their own religious orientation.

An address written by Rev. Mike Young and presented by David Steuermol

Nov 25 PATHWAY TO TRANQUILITY AND PEACE

Nishan Nathwani a local 15 year old completed a ten day meditation and silence vigil this summer in India. He will relate his experiences and talk about meditation as a pathway to tranquility and peace.

Service leader: Don Beals

Dec 2 SACRED SPACES Jennifer Howitt

The places and spaces in which we spend our time often have more impact on us than we're aware of. The spaces we spend time in - whether by choice, habit, or necessity - can set the mood for our day or our lifetime.

Using sources of study about surroundings and their significance, we'll explore our relationships with the spaces in our lives, specifically as they relate to the sacred, and we'll take some time to think about how to create a personalized sacred space of our own.

First Advent Candle

Dec 9 THE BOOK THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

For many of us, there is often one book we look upon as the catalyst that caused a major shift in our way of looking at our world. Throughout the year different speakers will be looking at the book that changed their life. Dwight will kick off this journey with his.

Service Leader: Dwight Pile

Second Advent Candle

Dec 16 ON PRAYER

For many of us, prayer is either a lost art or not relevant to our way of being. In her address, Rev. Lucy Reid will explore the different faces of prayer and what it means to her. Rev. Reid is a frequent guest of our church. She is an Anglican priest currently serving on the Ecumenical Campus Ministry team at the University of Guelph.

Service Leader: Kim Muller

Third Advent Candle

Dec 23 A FUNNY CHRISTMAS TALE

Author Bruce Iserman who has just released a book of Christmas stories will return to tell another funny Christmas tale. There will be heaping servings of low calorie Christmas carols and hilarity to start the holiday season.

Service Leader: Don Beals

Fourth Advent Candle

Dec 30 NO SERVICE

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season.

Jan 6 NO SERVICE

We look forward to seeing you in the New Year!