



THE Chalice

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ELORA & FERGUS UNITARIAN CHURCH
NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2008

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We freely gather to explore spirituality, truth and meaning in our lives, and to provide a base for our children's spiritual growth. We welcome the free exchange of ideas in an environment of respect for diverse beliefs, backgrounds and theologies. We join together in fellowship to celebrate our uniqueness as individuals and to reach out to our community guided by the principles of Unitarian Universalism.

From the President:

"SMALL BUT MIGHTY"

Our small congregation was featured in the News from around the Region section in the November 2008 issue of the Central Region Newsletter. Here is what they had to say about our small group.

"Small but Mighty" could easily be the motto of this congregation. Already well known for their 'Unitarian Bean Project' (for several years now, they've worked to supply Ontario Food banks with Ontario grown beans), they've now adopted a 2.5km stretch of highway. Three times a year, volunteers from the congregation are responsible for cleaning up litter from 'their' road. Their recent newsletter has their president musing about all the local events (Highland Games, Santa Claus Parade, Canada Day Parade and the Truck Festival) where a congregational presence might help others become aware of the congregation.

The picture of our "haul" of litter collected on our first clean-up last June was included with this article.

A BIG THANK YOU

We are a small congregation but we have accomplished a great deal as is evidenced by the above article. Our work is recognized around the

region! Not only have we worked hard to make the many projects happen in our community but we also have our weekly services that would not be possible without our volunteers!

I would like to say a big thank you to all those who have freely contributed their time and efforts to these and other worthy causes that make things work in our church. It is so easy to take our volunteers for granted. It is thanks to them that our congregation has been able to accomplish what we have and hopefully will continue to forge new relationships in the community.

Thank you is something that we don't hear enough and I hope we can say it more often when we see someone helping out and making our church work as well as it does. I know I will.

CENTRAL REGION FALL GATHERING

This year's annual fall gathering is in our back yard. It is hosted in Guelph on November 14-16, 2008. The theme this year is "Feeding Body and Soul: Being UU in a Time of World Hunger". This will be a great opportunity to "learn, laugh, worship and share with UUs from the Central Region", and a great opportunity to network. For more info check out the brochure and on-line registration form at

www.cuc.ca/programs/gatherings.htm.

GO ON, GO DEEP, GO OUT, GO BIG - THE SHORT TERM PLAN

The CUC held their annual board meeting in September 2008 and discussed the three major challenges faced by the CUC: staffing, volunteering and revenue. The September meeting addressed all three of these challenges and they will be sending out an expanded update

to presidents and ministers shortly and will make this available on the CUC website. Check out the highlights at www.cuc.ca/governance/council.

Catharina Walhout, President



JOKES AND QUOTES

- ☪☪☪ You may be a Unitarian Universalist if you think socks are too formal for a Summer Service.
- ☪☪☪ You may be a Unitarian Universalist if you know at least 5 ways to say 'Happy Holidays!'
- ☪☪☪ If, to explain your personal theology, you have to use interpretive dance, you might be a UU.
- ☪☪☪ If the name of your church is longer than your arm, you might be a Unitarian Universalist.

Three children were talking about their religions.

"I'm a Catholic," said one, "and our symbol is the cross."

"I'm Jewish," said the second, "and our symbol is the Star of David. "

The third child said: "I'm a Unitarian Universalist and our symbol is a candle in a martini glass!"

To Question is the Answer! – UU Bumper Sticker



"May your life preach more loudly than your lips." – William Ellery Channing

UPCOMING POD DUTIES

POD #1 Kerry*, Karen, Dwight, Kim and Jill.
Dates: Nov. 16, Dec. 21, Feb. 1, March 8, April 12, May 17

POD #2 Anna* & Don, Rob, Miranda, Louisa & Nardo.
Dates: Nov. 23, Jan. 4, Feb. 8, March 15, April 19, May 24

POD #3 Kelsye* & Paul, Jennifer, Leigh & Teresa.
Dates: Nov. 30, Jan 11, Feb. 15, March 22, April 2, May 31

POD #4 David*, Ineke, Arwa, Catharina and Julie.
Dates: Nov. 2, Dec. 7, Jan. 18, Feb. 22, March 29, May 3, June 7

POD #5 Chris* & Norm, Deborah, Ellen & Jim.
Dates: Nov. 9, Dec. 14, Jan. 25, March 1, April 5, May 10

* denotes contact person for the POD



LET'S TALK ABOUT ...

Yes, let's talk about sex. And everything that is connected with that: emotions, insecurity, knowledge, STI's (Sexually Transmitted Infections), abuse, responsibility, ... I could go on and on. There is so much more involved than just "the" act, and it all has a place in the OWL program.

OWL, for anyone who is not familiar with it yet, stands for Our Whole Lives, and focuses on humans as sexual and sensual beings. The OWL programs can teach our children, teenagers and young adults a lot about our body, feelings and spirituality.

In October I went to Ottawa to take the OWL facilitator course (just) for grade 7-9 and I got immersed in this magnificent program. It was my first UU course and my first real encounter with Unitarians outside of our congregation, and it was a very positive experience.

There was a very relaxed atmosphere in the group of 19 people, ages roughly ranging from 19-60. The course explored the spiritual aspects of the OWL program and the importance of creating a safe and non judgemental environment when teaching the course. All the people present who had not come in contact with OWL before, were totally hooked on the program, and I have to say I regret the fact that I did not have something similar when I was a teenager (long, long ago ;-). It must be very empowering to get all this knowledge in such a constructive and spiritual way, at a time when you start (experimenting and) exploring the big world and creating your own identity.

We intend to offer an OWL program for the grades 7-9 starting early 2009, combined with the Waterloo and the Guelph congregation. For more information you can contact me or Leigh Brownhill.

Louisa Kuitert, OWL Facilitator



Pancake breakfast ▲

◀ *Halloween party*

Copper Kettle music service ▶



WHAT'S ON AT CHURCH IN NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2008

Community Yoga class starts at 8:30 followed by the Church service at 10:00 am

Nov. 2 OUR SPIRITUAL ROOTS

Part of a series looking at our 'roots'. It is interesting to contemplate the difference between the mystic and the spiritual. We will look at the interweave of the two, and how we breath life into our soul.

Service by: Dwight Pile

Nov. 9 JOURNEY INTO PANTHEISM

A sermon by Tony van der Mude presented by David Steuernol.

Pantheism is the belief that all that is sacred arises not from outside the universe, but is the universe.

Nov. 16 SING WE AND CHANT IT

Unconfirmed at press time, we are hoping that the chant group will be leading us this Sunday. If you have not had the pleasure of experiencing the chant group, which was quite active a few years ago, you will be in for a treat.

*Please note: this service will be held at the Elora Centre for the Arts!
No Yoga this morning!!!*

Nov. 23 RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

One of our members, Kerry Boyle, has, as a random act of social action been encouraging the congregation to perform random acts of kindness. Kerry will be joined by other 'randomers' to talk to us about the ideas and the effects such acts generate.

Nov. 30 TO BE ANNOUNCED

Sidney Bater will return to speak on a topic to be announced. Sidney teaches philosophy at Conestoga College and is a dynamic and engaging speaker.

Dec. 7 "THIS PROGRAM BROUGHT TO YOU BY..."

From old TV commercials to 1950s ear Women's Day articles, a playful and telling look into the roots that have deeply influenced our development – both as individuals and as a society. Brought to you by Colgate, Mattel and Betty Crocker, with sound bites from Dwight Pile. Warning: parts of this program will be in colour.

Dec. 14 A CHRYSTAL CHRISTMAS

Once again we are thrilled to have Zak Martin-Kilgour come to our church to celebrate the beauty of the season.

Dec. 21 CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Bruce Iserman will return to read another of his Christmas stories. Come and celebrate the season with Christmas carols, mirth and joy. All ages welcome. Christmas piano music provided by Heather van der Sluis.
Service leader: Don Beals

Dec. 28 NO SERVICE

Happy Hollidays!