



# THE Chalice

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ELORA & FERGUS UNITARIAN CHURCH  
SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2009

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## 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.

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## IN MEMORIAM

This year the Unitarian community has lost two treasured members who we had come to know, love and respect and whose loss is keenly felt by us all.

On June 12th 2009, Marnie Elizabeth Morrow, aged 55, unexpectedly and suddenly passed away following complications from a blood disorder she had had for a number of years. Marnie was a member of our congregation from 2002-2005 and led many services until she moved to Waterloo where she was a chaplain. Marnie was a quiet, thoughtful person with a delightful smile, loved her garden and being outdoors. Several members attended her Memorial service in Waterloo which was a true celebration of a life well lived. She will be sorely missed.

In Marnie's memory a donation to "Doctors without Borders" has been made.



*Marnie Morrow*



*June Gilbertson*

On July 25th 2009 June Joy Kay Gilbertson, 63, of Guelph passed away from cancer on her way home from a farewell trip to relatives in England. We knew June well as she was often our Sunday speaker at church and inspired us all with her openness, her humour, her wisdom and courage. She was last with us at our picnic in June and delighted us with descriptions of her daughter's marriage the previous day. She had so wanted to be there for such a joyous occasion. Several church members attended a musical evening in celebration of her life and some to the Memorial service at the Arboretum, Guelph. She too will be sorely missed

In June's memory a donation to 'Child haven' our Unitarian orphanage in Nepal has been made.

## YOGA GROUP

Did you know that our yoga group has raised over \$1,000 for local charities this year? The money collected at these free sessions, so generously organized by local yoga instructors like Jill Davey and Karen Murtagh, goes to a local charity drawn from suggestions by the yoga class.

Want to raise money for your local charity? Then come on out to the yoga sessions on Sundays before church (starting at 8:30) and suggest your charity of choice. Maybe they will be the lucky recipients of the donations!

Charities that already benefited from the generosity of our yoga class this year are: the Canadian Cancer Society, Centre Wellington Food Bank, The Humane Society and United Way.



*Nardo handing over cheque to Food Bank manager Fred Aleksandrowicz*

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## FROM THE BOARD

This year is promising to be an exciting one. The Welcoming Congregation series will be completed this year which will allow us to add the emblem to our sign and website, the Lay Chaplains are busy officiating at many weddings in the area, our new membership committee has some VERY interesting events planned and Kerry is prepared to inject some new life into the RE program. Keep on reading to see more details about our committees.



### WHO YA GONNA CALL?

<b>President</b>	Catharina Walhout
<b>Vice President</b>	Leigh Brownhill
<b>Lay Chaplain</b>	Ellen Papenburg Jill Davey
<b>Secretary</b>	Kelsye Coulter
<b>Treasurer</b>	Nardo Kuitert
<b>Sunday Services</b>	Jim Sannes
<b>Social Action</b>	Terisa Turner
<b>Communications</b>	Louisa Kuitert
<b>Membership</b>	Deborah Forman
<b>Religious Exploration</b>	Kerry Boyle

## TREASURER'S REPORT

August 2009 (Based upon financial figures up to June 30, 2009)

The Church is still in fairly good shape. Our Offerings were up slightly compared to budget - thank you all! Hopefully we can grow our numbers from September on to keep this positive balance until the end of the year. Expenses are under budget by a few hundred dollars, mainly due to lower expenses than expected for RE Teachers and Sunday Speakers.

Maybe we can all think of ways to raise money for the church from the community at large? Chris Nye, former Treasurer and now Chair of the Membership Committee, has some good ideas - but feel free to share your thoughts with her or myself.

Another Church season has begun. We hope to see you often, let us know if you have ideas on how to make things even better - and bring a friend or two!

- *Nardo Kuitert, Treasurer*

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## WE'LL BECOME A WELCOMING CONGREGATION IN THE 2009-2010 YEAR

On Sunday 26 April 2009, we marked the half way point in our Becoming Welcoming series. As a congregation, we have undertaken this process with commitment and genuine interest and care. Those who have participated in the various events and services have commented on the good impact it is having on them personally, offering spiritual and social growth. We have two Becoming Welcoming Sunday services lined up for fall and are

working on a plan for a set of workshop to bring us through the final stages of our Becoming Welcoming process. We are confident that we can reach this goal in the forthcoming 2009-2010 year.

Of course everyone cannot attend every Sunday service, or every workshop that takes place outside of church time. In the interest of inviting all members to re-commit to Becoming a Welcoming Congregation, the social action committee asks that anyone who wishes should please write a note with suggestions about how it would be easier for you to attend a Becoming Welcoming service or workshop. What would help motivate you to attend? Is there a time or a topic that would increase the likelihood of your involvement? Is there anything that is keeping you from attending these services and workshops? Please drop an anonymous note addressed to the Becoming Welcoming sub-committee into the collection basket on any Sunday, so that we can take your suggestions into account.

In order to complete the process of Becoming Welcoming, we need your involvement. We are doing this as a group, and only with group commitment and engagement will we succeed.

- *The Becoming Welcoming sub-committee, 31 August 2009*

The word "WELCOME" is written in large, bold, capital letters. Each letter is filled with a different color from the rainbow spectrum: W (purple), E (blue), L (green), C (yellow), O (orange), M (red), E (purple). The letters have a white outline and a slight drop shadow.

## MEMBERSHIP

This year we will be trying some different ideas.

Firstly, I will become a permanent "Greeter" at the door hoping to provide a constant face in the event that we have repeat visitors.

Secondly, I will provide each new visitor with a Letter of Welcome, letting them know what to expect from the service together with a brief summary of questions and answers commonly heard at Unitarian church services and a brief survey sheet which we ask that they complete in order that we may better understand their experience with us.

Thirdly, as regards social activities, I hope to have something of interest each month, with various activities like film night, Pot luck dinner, ladies Spa night, A Winter Carnival, Thanksgiving day Hike, Gentleman's Mystery Drive with Pizza, A Christmas get together and New Years Eve if requested. Let me know what kind of interest there is in this proposal and whether there are other activities we might pursue.

And let's not forget that we must do the ROAD CLEAN Up sometime in late October and again next May. We had such a good turn out this year, I am optimistic that we can get the same support again this year.

The membership committee comprises Chris Nye, Deborah Forman, Ellen Papenburg & Kerry Boyle. Anyone else wishing to join is welcome. The Membership committee focuses on Welcoming visitors and providing information for members as well as providing opportunities to meet socially throughout the year.

- *Chris Nye, Membership*

## RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Religious Exploration Beginning of Year Report  
Sept. 2009 by Kerry Boyle

My plan for this year is to work with general themes drawn from our principles and develop them according to the age groups I have and what the children find engaging. I would like to make the sessions interactive with lots of action which I find appeals especially to children who find sitting still challenging. I am planning on using songs, shorts skits, painting, and puppets shows, among other things.

The first theme I have planned is kindness and I plan to start with the song "He Ain't Heavy He's My Brother." Which I will play for the children and then get them to illustrate or interpret it.

I would like to see the children more integrated with the adult congregation. I propose having five minutes or so of service time, some of the time, for children to sing a song or present a skit. I could see this happening after the children's story or as replacement for the children's story. Also I would like to see children join adults for snack after the service which I would monitor.

- *Kerry Boyle, Religious Exploration*



## LAY CHAPLAINCY

The word is getting out about our Lay Chaplains! Both Ellen and Jill have four weddings this year so "The ball is rolling" as Ellen would say. One of the weddings is a Same-Sex ceremony! The Board has decided that part of the fees going to the Church be returned to the Lay Chaplaincy committee to help cover the cost of advertising, printing, etc.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Our weekly service appears in the Elora Fergus News Express and we are planning to advertise our service in the Wellington Advertiser when Jessica Purple Rodela, the minister for the Waterloo Congregation comes to visit on September 26<sup>th</sup>. We will also need someone to help with our Life Line articles for the Elora Fergus News Express. Anyone interested in writing something on behalf of the Church, please feel free to contact us.



Our communications committee members are currently Louisa and Catharina. If you are interested in joining our committee, please feel free to contact either one of us.



### UPCOMING POD DUTIES

**POD #1** Chris\*, Ineke, Ellen & Jim, Leigh & Terisa  
Dates: Sept. 13, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Nov. 29, Dec. 6, Jan. 3, Jan. 31, Feb. 28, Mar. 28, Apr. 25, May 23.

**POD #2** Kerry\*, Kim, Deborah, Catharina, Ingrid  
Dates: Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 6, Jan. 10, Feb. 7, Mar. 7, Apr. 4, May 2, May 30.

**POD #3** Anna\* & Don, Miranda, Jill, Louisa & Nardo, Arwa  
Dates: Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 13, Jan. 17, Feb. 14, Mar. 14, Apr. 11, May 9, June 6

**POD #4** Kelsye\* & Paul, Jennifer, Julie, David  
Dates: Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 22, Dec. 20, Jan. 24, Feb. 21, Mar. 21, Apr. 18, May 16

\* denotes contact person for the POD

## WHAT'S ON AT CHURCH IN SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2009

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

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**Sept. 13 PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

**With Water Communion by Ellen Papenburg**

Please join us for our first Sunday of the season, the annual Pancake Breakfast and Water Communion to share water of our special, meaningful, places that are of spiritual or emotional value to you. This can be from your summer camp, from a cruise, from the North Pole or just your favourite back yard. Welcome Back!

**Sept. 20 THE QUARRY AND WATER IN S-W ONTARIO**

Possibly the largest limestone quarry of North America is going to be established less than 3 km next to Unicamp. Basically waters in S-W Ontario are in danger as it will drain the headwaters of many rivers who have their origin in this area. The Grand River, Wasaga and Saugeen would all be affected. The North Dufferin Agricultural Community Taskforce (NDACT) will provide a speaker. Service leader: Ellen Papenburg

**Sept. 27 "WHY PRIDE?"**

Our Unitarian congregations strive to become Welcoming Congregations for the LGBT community, but the process can be frustrated by misunderstandings. Why celebrate "pride" when there are so many other social action causes confronting us? Speaker: Rev. Jessica Purple Rodela from First Unitarian Waterloo Congregation (Soup served for Empty Bowls)

**Oct. 4 FOOD CHOICES IN A GREEN WORLD**

Our spiritual and physical connection with our world encourages us to look at the resulting series of options to get in tune with peaceful and environmental choices of food. Local buying, preparing more vegetarian meals, connecting to other beings gives us opportunity to shift from one comfort zone into another, promoting wellness of ourselves and the interdependent web.

Speaker Dr. Mary Jo Calarco

**Oct. 11 REMEMBERING JUNE**

Michael Gilbertson was married to June Gilbertson for 40 years before her untimely death on July 25 at the age of 63. June was a dynamic leader and a much loved speaker at many Unitarian Universalist congregations. Michael will speak on his continuing search for the meaning of June's life and death.

Speaker Mike Gilbertson.

**Oct. 18 HARMONY**

**Joint Feast Service with the Bahá'í Group**  
Acceptance and understanding, listening and sharing thoughts can create harmony. Religion can be a deep feeling of emotion but it can also be an intellectual experience of thought, all the pieces make a whole.

**Oct. 25 WHAT IS PRECIOUS IN OUR LIVES AND WHY?**

An exploration of meaningful, spiritual and precious moments, people, pets, places, memories in our lives. With meditation, music and sharing  
Service Leader: Ellen Papenburg.

Sneak Peek for November 1: **Afghanistan and the Pipeline Connection**