



THE Chalice

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ELORA & FERGUS UNITARIAN CHURCH
MARCH – APRIL 2010

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.

CHURCH WOMEN SUPPORT GROUP

We all have our joys and sorrows in this life and some of the women in our church recognized a need for the church to get together a support group for us women to express ourselves and to help each other in times of need and also to celebrate our successes and important occasions.

Chris Nye felt that the following lyrics from one of our Unitarian hymns could easily be a theme song for our group.

"We laugh, we cry, we live, we die, we dance, we sing our song. We need to feel there's something here to which we can belong. We need to feel the freedom just to have some time alone. But most of all we need close friends we can call our own. Chorus: We believe in life and in the strength of love and we have found a place to be together. We have our hearts to give, we have our thoughts to receive and we believe that sharing is an answer."

When I was out biking it came to me that "Lean on Me" with the following lyrics would also be a good theme song, although I would change the line "call on my brother" to "call on me sister". Perhaps our group could be the Sisterhood of _____ Ideas anyone?

The plan is for our group to meet monthly. Anyone wanting more information please contact me, Kerry Boyle, at kerboyle@hotmail.com or at 519-831-0859.

- Kerry Boyle

Sometimes in our lives we all have pain

We all have sorrow

But if we are wise

We know that there's always tomorrow

Lean on me, when you're not strong

And I'll be your friend

I'll help you carry on

For it won't be long

'Til I'm gonna need

Somebody to lean on

Please swallow your pride

If I have things you need to borrow

For no one can fill those of your needs

That you don't let show

Lean on me, when you're not strong

And I'll be your friend

I'll help you carry on

For it won't be long

'Til I'm gonna need

Somebody to lean on

If there is a load you have to bear

That you can't carry

I'm right up the road

I'll share your load

If you just call me

So just call on me brother, when you need a hand

We all need somebody to lean on

I just might have a problem that you'd understand

We all need somebody to lean on

Lean on me when you're not strong

And I'll be your friend

I'll help you carry on

For it won't be long

Till I'm gonna need

Somebody to lean on

Lean on me...



FROM THE TREASUR(ER'S) CHEST

Budget

First of all another big thank you to all of our members who attended our budget approval meeting, or gave their proxy vote to somebody who attended. Thanks to your efforts we now have an approved operating budget for 2010.

Growth

Apart from all the time and energy that friends and members put into our congregation, we need money to make our church work. Our current group of supporters have been great (thanks!), but it would be nice if we could expand the base of our group. A larger pool of contributors would make a lot of things a lot easier; not just church finances, but also things like POD duties, road clean up and the organizing of social and social action events. So try to bring a friend to our group the next time you're coming to church.

Empty Baskets

Some people may wonder why some Sundays empty donations baskets make their way from the front to the back of the church. Well, several church members donate by means of post dated cheques that are handed to me as Treasurer at the beginning of the year. There is also the possibility to wire funds straight from your bank into our account. Please contact me if you are interested in any of these options.

Tax receipt

All 2009 donations above \$10 have been given a tax receipt. Please contact me if you have not received it. If you want to receive a tax receipt for donations over \$10, you have to make sure that you write your name and address onto an envelope when making your donations. We receive a lot of anonymous donations, which is great, but if you are one of those anonymous

donators who would like to receive a tax receipt this year, I will need to have your information.

Questions? Just ask ☺

- *Nardo Kuitert, Treasurer*



Greetings all. I can't believe it is March already, but thankfully the evenings are getting lighter & the worst of the winter weather should be behind us.

It has been good to see new people attending Sunday services regularly & other welcome visitors. Be sure to sign the visitors book & pick up a Welcoming leaflet church survey so that we can better offer services that meet your needs.

Not too much has been happening socially, what with the H1N1 flu circulating, the Christmas break & the weather, so it is time now to get re energized, shake out the cobwebs, so to speak.

To this end I am proposing that we plan a Welcome Spring Pot Luck Get together on Saturday March 20th at 7pm (Location to be decided upon). Since it is just a few days away from St. Patrick's Day, we could have an Irish theme. So keep the evening free & bring along your stories & songs & Irish jokes. Let's make it an occasion to celebrate the end of Winter.

- *Chris Nye, Membership*

TAKING MYSTERY OUT OF MEMBERSHIP

We will be doing a new member ceremony on March 21st with Linda Reith of the Guelph Unitarian Congregation. To be able to vote at the Annual General Meeting you have to be a member for at least a month. Members will get a pin and The Unitarian Universalist pocket guide.

I will try to explain what membership means, because it tends to be very vague. Eighteen years ago **I actually did not want to become a member** at the Guelph congregation at the time, and I know some of the Guelph people were not happy about it. When the Elora & Fergus congregation emerged, it took a while before I bit the bullet. I only did it **when I felt it was time**. So having said that, you have to understand there is no real pressure, just awareness that **membership is a viable option**. Unitarians tend to be low key / no pressure, but it can cause people to wonder if we even care and for sure we do, so here comes the scoop on membership.

What does it mean to become a member of the church. Is it not the same as being a Friend?

Of course we are inclusive as much as possible, and friends do belong, many pay annual dues even. For members we do pay an annual contribution per member of \$85 to the Canadian Unitarian Council, our central organization who organizes workshops, is the legal entity for lay chaplains and ministers, who sponsors youth and adult conferences and many other kind of meetings.

So at first sight there isn't that much of a difference between members and friends. Yet, a member can vote and therefore help steer the direction the congregation will be taking. A member can serve on the board, instead of at

most assisting in a committee. If a member would like to attend the four-day UU leadership training, (CUUL school) the church will subsidize part of the fee. To become a lay-chaplain one has to have been a member of the congregation for at least a year and have shown commitment to Unitarianism, in some way or another. But foremost, becoming a member is a readiness and commitment between the church and yourself, between our other members and yourself, to truly be able to state:

"I AM a Unitarian."

So give it a thought... are YOU ready?

Please contact Membership Board Member Chris Nye - chrisnye@sympatico.ca - 519 846-0552 - if you want to take the step.

- *Membership committee member: Ellen*

P.S. if you prefer staying a friend for the rest of this decade, we will of course accept you as a Friend :-). Because it's better to **ONLY** become a member when you truly feel ready.

UPCOMING POD DUTIES

POD #1 Chris*, Ineke, Ellen & Jim, Leigh & Terisa
Dates: Mar. 28, Apr. 25, May 23

POD #2 Kerry*, Deborah, Catharina, Ingrid
Dates: Mar. 7, Apr. 4, May 2, May 30

POD #3 Anna* & Don, Miranda, Jill, Louisa & Nardo
Dates: Mar. 14, Apr. 11, May 9, June 6

POD #4 Kelsye* & Paul, Jennifer, Julie, David
Dates: Mar. 21, Apr. 18, May 16

* denotes contact person for the POD

Child Haven International

An organization that operates homes for formerly destitute children

Presents

An Exciting Bazaar Style Evening

Featuring:

Silent Auction

*

**Bazaar table selling objets d'art from
India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Tibet**

*

Indian Dance Performance Door Prizes Cash Bar

*

Vegetarian Dinner catered by Jaipur Fine Indian Cuisine

*

Child Haven home updates from directors

Fred and Bonnie Cappuccino

www.childhaven.ca

Sunday 25th April 2010

3:00 pm Silent Auction Bazaar Henna Painting

4:00 Appetizers 4:30 Child Haven Slide Show 5:30 Dinner

at

St. George Banquet Hall

665 King Street N.

Waterloo, ON N2J 4G8

Tickets: Adults \$35.00 Children 5-12 \$10.00

Tax Receipts will be given for all donations above the price of the ticket.

For tickets, please contact:

Ida Fisher

519 884 3466

Prerna Patel

519 883 0772

Joan Rentoul

519 767 1360 (Guelph)

Leroy Dickey

519 885 7261 or lee@dickey.ca

"WE HATCH, MATCH AND DISPATCH"

What are Rites of Passage? In larger congregations the minister will conduct weddings, child dedications and memorial services and other major rites of passage in our lives. Lay-chaplains have been called in to be of assistance to the minister with these events. In smaller congregations without a minister being present, lay chaplains are the ones to lead in these celebrations and commemorations. Jill Davey and Ellen Papenburg are the lay chaplains for our congregation and conducted nine weddings last year for people of the outside community. They donate part of their fees to the congregation as support and also as a budget for the lay-chaplaincy promotion and training. Lay chaplains provide a service and also reach out to the community to make them more familiar with Unitarianism. Note: except for expenses, Rites of Passage are free for members of the congregation.

- *Ellen Papenburg*

CHRISTMAS EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR

I was in the car, rushing to finish up my Christmas errands, when that song came on the radio: "I wish it could be Christmas every day of the year." What? Really? I have to admit that my first reaction to this song was I couldn't possibly sustain the amount of energy that I put into Christmas into my daily routine. In fact, I'm looking forward to Boxing Day (Week?) when I can have a relaxing cup of tea and put my feet up.

I know, Christmas is over, and you're probably tired of reading about it in the paper, but newspaper deadlines required that this article be written in advance. Thankfully I'm at the

Boxing Week stage now, and while recovering from the festivities I've had some more time to reflect on what it might be like if Christmas really was celebrated every day of the year. Imagine the improvement to our sense of community if every day of the year we made time to share food and stories, thought about others- especially those less fortunate than ourselves- and actually decided on an action plan to let those people know that we're thinking of them and wishing them peace and joy.

Think of the positive change to our world if we thought about donating our time or money to the causes we care about every day of the year, not just at Christmas. It would be truly amazing if we sang more, lit candles to celebrate and remember, went for more walks just for fun, got to take time to stop and think, to meditate, to read from the writings of the great inspirational thinkers of our times. We could actually take a moment daily to connect with our spirituality in this mad, mad world.

So where do I start to make the spirit of Christmas evident every day. My church-the Fergus Elora Unitarian Church provides me with the opportunity to start making all these changes. Sure, I admit I'm not at church every day and sometimes not even every week. But when I am there, I connect with the essential spirit of Christmas. I'm not going to find Christmas every day of the year anytime soon (maybe that's what retirement is for, ha ha), but I can find the time to go to church. Come and check it out. I promise there'll be no shopping line ups or annoying advertisements. You will, however, find people singing, lighting candles and taking time to stop and reflect about personal action plans to infuse a little piece of the Christmas spirit to brighten the new year.

- *Lifeline article for the Fergus Elora News Express, written by Jennifer Hewitt*

WHAT'S ON AT CHURCH IN MARCH & APRIL 2010

Church service starts at 10:00 am

Mar. 7 WITHER THE WEATHER?

On October 24, people in 181 countries took part in the most widespread day of environmental action in the planet's history. At over 5200 events around the world, people rallied to call for strong action and bold leadership on the climate crisis in anticipation of last month's Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. With so much conflicting information over this temperamental debate, what is the science is saying about the situation both globally and here in Canada, what does the science /not/ yet know, and how should we respond? Moreover, what are the spiritual dimensions as Unitarians that can help guide our reaction?
Guest Speaker: Alisa McClurg

Mar. 14 AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

What they do and where they are going. Opportunity for writing letters to prisoners of conscience.

Mar. 21 BEING A MEMBER

What does it mean to become a member of the Unitarian Church.
Guest Speaker: Linda Reith

Mar. 28 BEING WELCOMING

Soon, our congregational will hold a vote to determine whether we wish to seek certification from the Canadian Unitarian Council as a Welcoming Congregation, affirming that we welcome and celebrate the participation and membership of persons regardless of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Art Brewer, chair of the CUC's Gender and Sexual Diversity Monitoring Group will talk about current good and bad news stories for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons.

Apr. 4 EASTER SERVICE (World Health Day)

Apr. 11 NATURE WORSHIP

People are returning to the original religion. Nature worship is once again becoming a powerful spiritual movement as we reconnect with the earth. Movies like Avatar embody this new spiritual force. As the planet becomes more threatened by human activities perhaps a spiritual reconnection is what will save us. Service Leader: Don Beals.

Apr. 18 WHAT ARE RITES OF PASSAGE?

In our lives we encounter some major milestones for which we need someone officiate for instance the wedding, memorial service or child dedication. Lay Chaplains Jill Davey and Ellen Papenburg lead us in celebrating the annual lay chaplaincy day. Please join us and bring potluck finger food to share.

Apr. 25 FOOD FOR THOUGHT, A COOKIE CEREMONY

Bring cookies to share at our Annual General Meeting. Recipes provided on our e-group.

(If you are not on the e-group, contact ellen@execulink.com.)



WHO YA GONNA CALL?

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