



THE Chalice

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ELORA & FERGUS UNITARIAN CHURCH
MAY – JUNE 2011

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.



UNITARIANS ACROSS THE BORDER

During our vacation in Arizona this winter, we celebrated the vernal equinox with the Unitarian congregation in Lake Havasu City. This is a small but brave little group which meets in the public library. Since the library prohibits candles, the Chalice was lit with a battery operated candle and instead of lighting a candle of joy or concern, each person planted a seed in the dish garden in the centre of the table.

The group is struggling with low membership as we do but they are in a more difficult situation. Lake Havasu is a tourist town with a

large transient population of "snowbirds" who generally don't want to join community organizations. They told us that there is a group in Parker who are interested in joining with them but cannot manage the hour-long drive. They are trying to find a way of including this group of people. After the service we celebrated with cakes and ale (actually, homemade cookies and juice). We enjoyed meeting this group and sharing their joys and concerns.

- *Janice Ferri and Bill Hertel*

LABYRINTH AT WHOLE VILLAGE

I have had the great pleasure to work on creating a labyrinth at Whole Village, fulfilling a dream of several years. Last year I chose the site, or should I say, I was led to the site. In the fall, we moved the grass and did a ritual including a sacred circle dance to prepare the land. At the last new moon we started laying out the design. A team of people worked with me yesterday to largely complete it. See picture below. What remains is planting flowers in the border of the path, and choosing the centre stone. We will have a grand opening soon, but it is open for walking now.

In case you are not familiar with labyrinths, I recommend the book, *Exploring the Labyrinth: A guide for Healing and Spiritual Growth* by Melissa Gayle West. Here are some quotes from it:

"The labyrinth is one of the oldest contemplative and transformational tools known to humankind, used for centuries for prayer, ritual, initiation, and personal and spiritual growth. It is unicursal, offering only

one route to the centre and back out again: no blind alleys, dead ends, or tricks, as in a maze. Once you set your foot upon its path, the labyrinth gently and faultlessly leads you to the center of both the labyrinth and yourself, no matter how many twists and turns you negotiate in the process.

Since the destination is assured, there are no obstacles to overcome, no muddles to figure out, no dead ends to retrace. What remains for the labyrinth walker is simply the deeply meditative and symbolic discipline of setting one foot in front of the other, of honoring the journey itself and what it has to teach. The mind can be stilled and attention paid to the body, the wisdom of the heart and the graces of being rather than doing."

I heartily recommend that you try the labyrinth - either ours or another - to discover its joys. If you have already walked one, do it again. Every time is different; every time yields a new blessing. My hope for our Whole Village labyrinth is that it will help us through this difficult time we find ourselves in.

- *Mairy Beam*



ANNUAL CHURCH YARD SALE

A reminder that our annual church yard sale is coming up very soon. There will be a posting on the e-group as soon as a definite date is set.

Of course, volunteers and sale items are always welcome! You can donate your time, unwanted but useable stuff or your home baked goods.

Please call Louisa if you have any questions: 519-787-8701.

Thanks on behalf of the church!



WHO YA GONNA CALL?

President	Leigh Brownhill
Vice President	Ineke Booy
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

Having anything funny, important, moving, interesting to say? Do you want to share something with the rest of the congregation?

Your article could have been in this edition!

Contact Louisa for more information (louisa@u-cwebs.com). It's free, so you have nothing to lose, only to gain!!

WHAT'S ON AT CHURCH IN MAY & JUNE 2011

Church service starts at 10:00 am

May 1 THE HUMBLE LIFE OF A SEED
Guest Speaker Faris Ahmed is the lead in USC's policy and campaigning work, and has worked extensively in Canada and South Asia on food and seed sovereignty issues for many years. Join the discussion about the roots of our global food crisis and the reasons why there are almost one billion hungry people on this planet.

May 8 AN ETHICIST LOOKS AT THE GOLDEN RULE
Guest Speaker: Craig Beam from the Waterloo Unitarian Congregation

May 15 TO BE ANNOUNCED

May 22 NO CHURCH SERVICE
CUC ACM in Toronto

May 29 TO BE ANNOUNCED

June 5 FOSTER PARENTS APPEAL

June 12 PICNIC AT MAPLETON FARMS
Details to follow. This will be our last service before our summer break.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!



UPCOMING POD DUTIES

POD #1 Kelsye* & Paul, Janice, Carolyn
Dates: May 8, June 5

POD #2 Chris*, Ellen & Jim, Leigh & Terisa
Dates: May 15

POD #3 Deborah*, Margaret, Ineke, Margie
Dates: May 22

POD #4 Anna* & Don, Jill, Louisa & Nardo, Mairy
Dates: May 1, May 29

* denotes contact person for the POD