



# THE Chalice

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ELORA & FERGUS UNITARIAN CHURCH  
SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2008

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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.

## WHERE ARE WE GOING?

When I was asked to become president I was hesitant to accept because I had not been with the church very long. I wasn't sure where I was going or where the church was going. Together we can answer both questions.

Up to now it seems we have been trying to get new members through the door. Why are we trying to get more members? Are we playing a number game to fill seats at our services? Or are we trying to balance the budget by increasing our financial resource base? Or are we trying to reach out and invite newcomers to what we're all about?

When I read our Mission Statement I don't see those goals there. What stands out for me is "to reach out to our community guided by the principles of Unitarian Universalism.

So if our goal is to reach out to the community what steps could we take? Perhaps we could display our banner in a parade. What better way to reach out to the community than to march

down the main street carrying our banner with everyone watching! There is a Santa Claus parade and the Canada Day parade in both Elora and Fergus every year. I'm sure there are other community events where we could share our vision, like the Fergus Highland Games, the truck show or the Elora festival, just to name a few.

Let's really reach out to our community in a big way and maybe some of those other objectives will be achieved as well!



*Catharina Walhout, President*

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## BUSY SUMMER

Despite the summer break, the church has been busy the last couple of months. Cleaning a high way, Unitarian Beans project at the Eco fair in Toronto, the Annual Conference Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council in Ottawa, two Elora Fergus people being Youth Advisors at the Youth Rave Con in Toronto, two members following CUUL school (Canadian Unitarian Universalist Leadership school), two members following the Lay Chaplain course, and there were Books for Beans in Unicamp.

It probably is too much to have all of this described in the Chalice, but be assured it has been quite a full summer. We will post some pictures on the web site. Great to return to regular services and to reconnect with our community.

*Ellen Papenburg, Lay Chaplain*

## A ROAD WELL CLEANED

The congregation has adopted a highway of about 2.5 km which seemed twice as long, as we did clean both shoulders. It was quite a job since June 15 was a hot day and we basically melted. But look at the pictures how much we collected! Kelsye spearheaded the idea to sort some out for recycling.

Thanks to all who participated, it was very satisfying. We will have to do this again soon, in September or October, total three times a year.

*Ellen Papenburg,  
Lay Chaplain*



## WE WANT YOUR STUFF!

Our yard sale in June was a huge success and I would like to thank everybody who donated items and/or time. Together we raised \$430 and because it was so successful we are planning another yard sale for next year.

I know it sounds a bit premature, but please keep the church in mind if there is anything that you want to get rid of and that is still in good enough shape to sell. It would be great if you could store the item(s) yourself until June, but if this poses a problem, contact me and we can look for an alternative.

*Louisa Kuitert, Communications*

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## CUC CONFERENCE IN OTTAWA

A number of the congregation and youth went to the Annual Conference Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council in Ottawa in May. It was a great experience for all of us.

Jim and I were billeted with members of the Ottawa congregation. In fact we stayed with one of the long time lay-chaplains. Billeting is a great way of getting to know other UUs. There were over 600 Unitarians in a big hall and at the sanctuary of the church. We reconnected to many old friends, promoted the Unitarian Bean Project and Unicamp as well, made the Elora & Fergus church prominent as a small but active church and, as delegates, voted at the official democratic part of the conference.

I spent a day at a workshop for lay-chaplains which was basically about finding space for ourselves whilst serving. The youth had a great time and I am certain many would want to return to the ACM in Thunderbay next year. Highly recommended!

*Ellen Papenburg, Lay Chaplain*



## ABOUT SEPTEMBER 21

I had such a great summer. For me, summer means getting away from it all, and my favourite way to do that is to choose a destination, pack up, and go. When I was a child, our church would host "slide-show" nights in the fall, so that families could show off (to each other) their photos from summer trips. I loved these events and always sat in the front row. I think that, of all of my interests and hobbies, I put the most time and energy into planning my trips and travels. For me, getting away from home and schedules and chores completely recharges my batteries.

I don't just like to go anywhere though, I am very selective about where I go and why. I think that our choices in this area can tell us a lot about ourselves and even about where we are headed in life. On September 21st, members of the congregation will have a chance to reflect on this idea. If you went on a trip recently and would like to share a brief story about your travels, please come prepared to tell us something about where you went, why you chose to go there, and the impact that your trip had on you now that you're back home. If you can bring a photo or object from your trip to show us all, that would be great too.

See you on September 21!

*Jennifer Hewitt*



## BOOKS FOR BEANS OR BEANS FOR BEANS?

As many of you know, the Unitarian Bean Project has the mandate to collect funds to send Ontario grown beans to the Food Banks as an excellent and low cost source of protein.

Again Jim and I have been hauling Books for Beans at Unicamp, almost every weekend we were there. This is a way to get books and donate for the beans, but we both find it increasingly becoming a big chore physically to cart the mostly very interesting books around for display on tables. We contemplate of returning to the old way of promoting the Unitarian Bean Project. Visiting the different Unitarian Churches and hand out samples of the beans and just asking for donations,. Books were fun, but it was such a success that people would donate more books to the cause than we got rid of, and they need to be stored!

For the Bean project Jim, Sebastian and Ellen participated in the Sustainability Fair of the Greater Toronto Unitarians at our old North West Unitarian Fellowship on June 7<sup>th</sup>. We promoted the bean project and made several contacts.

*Ellen Papenburg, Lay Chaplain*

## GAS STATION GURU



The Unitarian Minister, Robert Fulgum once said that everything he ever needed to know he learned in kindergarten. It was a truth that spoke to a lot of people because it was simple and true. And like many epiphanies that come our way, we often miss the full extent of the wisdom presented to us at the time. Sometimes it is because we are not ready to hear the message, and sometimes it is because we are not able to recognize the messenger.

Everything I needed to know I learned in a gas station one sunny summer afternoon around 1966. I was about 10. And my guru of the day turned out to be a garage mechanic.

I found myself at this particular crossroad in my life because the gas station had an air hose and I had a flat bicycle tire. I had been fixing things on my bike for quite a while by the time I was 10, and was pretty good at some things. Especially at changing the configuration of my handlebars. A ten year old in 1966 could make some pretty bold statements by the way he set up his handlebars. You could show the world that you were conservative by using them the way the maker intended, a serious racer by putting them on upside-down and backwards, or a total rebel by having them turned forward. Things in 1966 were like that. Can't say why exactly.

As I say, I was pretty good fixing some things on my bike, but I had never fixed a flat tire. However, I had an attitude of, "How hard can it be?" in one hand, and a tire repair kit from Canadian Tire in the other, so I went to work. I read the instructions—well, I looked at the pictures—and then proceeded to fix the tire. I could see where the hole in the tire was, but for some reason, no amount of patch and glue applied to the outside of the tire was able to fix

the problem. No matter how long I let the glue dry, the moment I put air back in the tire, the patch came off. After about half an hour (or so it seemed), the owner of the gas station walked over to me and congratulated me on my good effort, and told me that I was doing almost everything right. The one small thing I missed, however, was that to fix a leaky tire you have to fix it on the inside, not the outside. He then took me and my bicycle into his car garage and taught me how to fix a flat.

I learned how to fix a bicycle tire that day, a lesson I never forgot. But I missed the really important lessons that kind man was offering until much later. That you need to struggle for a bit on your own so that when help is offered you are ready to learn. That when someone doesn't just take away your problem but shows you how to fix things for yourself they are giving you a much greater gift. That gurus and great teachers sometimes have dirty hands and don't wear ties. Or robes. And that most things can't be fixed by working on the outside. Most things, especially if they are eventually going to be under pressure, have to be fixed from the inside.

*Dwight Pile, Sunday Services Committee*

*This article was printed in the Fergus-Elora NewsExpress, August 13th in the Spirit Lines Column.*



## LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Catharina and I attended CUUL School (Canadian Unitarian Universalist Leadership school) at McMaster in Hamilton with about 30 other participants from as far as Nova Scotia and Saskatchewan. We stayed at the dorms - (with internet access (hurrah)! - and had a wonderful time. My thanks to the congregation for sponsoring half of the cost.

It was a very meaningful, useful and inspiring time. We were getting hands on training in organizing and presenting services, honing people and communications skills and becoming relaxed with speaking in public. We also learned how to find out what kind of personality characteristics each of us have and how to utilize talents and

attributes of all to make a very strong presentation and team. I thought it was quite remarkable how fast we were able to work with people, we had not met before.

There were two services each day, one in the morning and the other in the evening. They were put together by the different teams and were all absolutely fabulous and unique: some in the dark, with candles, with singing and humming, others outside in Nature with silence and meditation. Each was deeply moving, inspirational and often unexpectedly very emotional. Especially the goodbye ritual was so moving most of us were in tears. I hope many of our congregation will be able to experience CUUL school in the future.

*Ellen Papenburg, Lay Chaplain*

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## SOME PICTURES OF OUR LAST MEETING IN JUNE





### DURING THE WALK FOR THE DONKEYS AND AT THE DONKEY SANCTUARY



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#### UPCOMING POD DUTIES

**POD #1** Kerry\*, Karen, Dwight, Kim and Jill.

Dates: Sept. 7, Oct. 12, Nov. 16, Dec. 21, Feb. 1, March 8, April 12, May 17

**POD #2** Anna\* & Don, Rob, Miranda, Louisa & Nardo.

Dates: Sept. 14, Oct. 19, Nov. 23, Jan. 4, Feb. 8, March 15, April 19, May 24

**POD #3** Kelsye\* & Paul, Jennifer, Leigh & Teresa.

Dates: Sept. 21, Oct. 26, Nov. 30, Jan 11, Feb. 15, March 22, April 2, May 31

**POD #4** David\*, Ineke, Arwa, Catharina and Julie.

Dates: Sept. 28, Nov. 2, Dec. 7, Jan. 18, Feb. 22, March 29, May 3, June 7

**POD #5** Chris\* & Norm, Deborah, Ellen & Jim.

Dates: Oct. 5, Nov. 9, Dec. 14, Jan. 25, March 1, April 5, May 10

\* denotes contact person for the POD



## WHAT'S ON AT CHURCH IN SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER 2008

Community Yoga class starts at 8:45 followed by the Church service at 10:00 am

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**Sept. 7 ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

Celebrating the start of a new church season.

**Sept. 14 PAY ATTENTION!**

A sermon by Rev. Mike Young presented by David Steuernol.  
Your freedom and your power is right in your own hand.

**Sept. 21 THE IMPORTANCE OF JOURNEYS**

We often choose certain destinations because those places fill spiritual needs: reverence, relaxation or refreshment to name a few. For this service, we ask members of the congregation to bring along a favourite memento or photo from a recent trip and come prepared to briefly tell us what meaning this trip held for you. Service leader: Jennifer Hewitt

**Sept. 28 COPPER KETTLE SERVICE**

Some of the Copper Kettle musicians will return to share their love of music.  
Service Leader: Don Beals

**Oct. 5 WELCOMING CONGREGATION**

This service will continue our series on what it means to be a congregation that is truly welcoming to those who are looking for a spiritual home that is free of gender and sexual orientation bias.  
Led by members of the Welcoming Congregation Committee

**Oct. 12 COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS**

A sermon by Rev. Mike Young presented by David Steuernol.  
Gratitude is an attitude that when we choose it, it seems to choose us.

**Oct 19 OUR MUSIC ROOTS**

Part of a series looking at our 'roots'. Sometimes the word root refers to the past. In this series, however, it refers to the things we have in our lives that ground us.  
Service leader: Dwight Pile

**Oct. 26 AGING, DYING AND OTHER PASSAGES**

We plan for just about every stage of our lives. It is hard to face up to our own mortality and the mortality of loved ones. What kind of plan do we need?  
Service by Don Beals