



THE Chalice

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

FROM THE TREASURER

It's canvass time again. Members and friends who have pledged donations for this year have received a statement to show where they are at with their donations to date. Soon I will send out the pledge requests for 2011 to the people who have pledged for this year. Want to receive a pledge statement too? Let me know.

Why Pledge?

Many of us put a lot of sweat equity into our small group, but our congregation also needs money to fund our meeting space, our speakers and all the other things that make our church work. In order to plan our next year we (the Board) need to know how much we can spend, and therefore we need to have an idea of our projected income.

This is where your pledge comes in. So please provide us with a realistic pledged amount; we'd rather see your donations exceeding this amount, that a scenario where we receive less in donations than we budgeted for. These shortfalls will only be noticed at the end of the year, when all budgeted expenses will have been made, and the shortfall is irreversible

How much to pledge?

The CUC suggests donating 2-5% of gross income and our expenses for 2010 amount to \$577 per member (this does not take our donating friends into account), but there are

merely rough indications and we are thankful for however much you can devote to our congregation.

How to donate?

As you may have noticed sometimes the donation baskets arrive at the front (almost) empty. This is because some people donate a larger amount once a month, or it may be that we have received post-dated cheques at the beginning of the year. Some people only make one donation, once a year. Whatever system works best for you...

Thank you for making this church a reality.

Nardo Kuitert, Treasurer





UNICAMP HOLIDAY

This past summer Kelsye and I were the lucky bidders on a 2-night stay voucher for the Unitarian summer camp near Creemore, and as we like mini holidays, we looked forward to our visit.

During the drive up through the back country, we enjoyed a lovely rural scenery until we approached Shelburne where the landscape is dominated by wind turbines (which I personally don't mind), the view of which, I imagine a good many people do not like. We stopped and explored on foot to hear for ourselves how much noise was emanating from these giants. Frankly, from about 300 feet distance, it was difficult to hear anything, but nevertheless, I think that these aspects of electricity generation should be properly studied before placing them near human habitation. Anyway, we mosied on up to where the gps (I am geographically challenged) told us we would approximately find the camp and there it was, the Unicamp sign, handwritten and nicely decorated in the uniquely colorful Unitarian way that makes you feel at home right away.

Checking-in was not necessary because the director wasn't there, but a friendly guest showed us where we could stay, namely

Tom's cabin, cozy and comfortable -- we even had our own shower, much to the envy of other cottagers who had to use a communal system.

It rained when we got there and after checking out the community room/dining hall, we decided an excursion to the nearby town of Creemore would be a pleasant distraction, the town very reminiscent of Elora and home to a brewery of the same name. Later, we went back to our abode and read 'till suppertime. For us, this enforced idleness is very relaxing, since at home there is always work to do. Supper was a buffet style, with a vegetarian option, served by a cheerful crew of youngsters, who also cook all the meals. Kelsye could not get over how great everything tasted and I must admit I felt kind of jealous, being the main cook at home and rarely getting rave reviews -- but those are the breaks! At supper, fellow Unicampers are all very friendly and it does not take long to find connections to common friends and causes, so it is with regret that the meal is done and you all go your own way.

We explored the 50 acre camp and enjoyed a nice little hike this way, and a pleasant looking pond where at that time only some hardy little kids braved the water at the clothing mandatory beach. The nude beach was, well, naked, nobody there.

The bunk beds in the cabin are good sized, but the mattresses are rather Spartan, so I would suggest bringing some padding, should you visit. Since all meals were provided we did not have much use for the well equipped kitchen, but it was nice to be able to brew our own supercharged caffeine jolt in the morning.

The next day was cloudy, really a perfect day for a planned bike trip from Collingwood to Meaford on the Georgian trail, with Kelsye's sister, Karen, meeting us in Meaford and driving us back to Collingwood. We stopped for lunch in Thornbury at a little bakery and packed blueberry biscuits for an afternoon snack along the lake. Almost in Thornbury, we still hadn't stopped for our swim, so when we saw the sign for Christie Beach, we biked down, down, down to the Georgian Bay. Kelsye went in for a swim, and I stayed back with the blueberry biscuits. Refreshed now, it was just a short way to Meaford Harbour, where Karen was waiting.

Returning to Unicamp, we enjoyed our supper and sat outside watching the kids race around, and later sat around the bonfire. But not for too long – we were both tired and longed for sleep. Next day, the sun came out and after breakfast, we checked out the Unicamp swimming hole, clothing optional beach. We had a lovely swim, joined by a new friend from Kitchener. After lunch, we headed to Wasaga Beach for a family visit before our trip home. Unicamp – rustic and relaxing.

Paul Hennekens

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



UPCOMING POD DUTIES

POD #1 Kelsye* & Paul, Janice, Carolyn
Dates: Nov. 7, Dec. 5, Jan. 16, Feb. 13, March 13, April 10, May 8, June 5

POD #2 Chris*, Ellen & Jim, Leigh & Terisa
Dates: Nov. 14, Dec. 12, Jan. 23, Feb. 20, March 20, April 17, May 15

POD #3 Deborah*, Margaret, Ineke, Margie
Dates: Nov. 21, Dec. 19, Jan. 30, Feb. 27, March 27, April 24, May 22

POD #4 Anna* & Don, Jill, Louisa & Nardo, Mairy
Dates: Nov. 28, Jan. 9, Feb. 6, March 6, April 3, May 1, May 29

* denotes contact person for the POD

DEDICATIONS PART 1 - OF A BABY

It's not an every day event to have ceremonies and rites of passage. For Lay Chaplains it can be busy and then be quiet again. Mostly we do weddings and so now and then memorial services and then some other, like a child dedication.

Kathrin (Kay) Cook of the Unitarian Fellowship of North-West Toronto dedicated our son Sebastian in front of the whole congregation in April 1992. I have no pictures of this event, other than one in my mind's eye. Dressed in a red turtle neck sweater with blue garden overalls, my little baby boy was in Kay's arms whilst she sprinkled water over his head. I don't think he cried, but he wasn't very impressed.

The congregation acknowledged him and committed themselves to him. It was an important, moving and touching moment for Jim and me as parents. Our son was recognized and embraced by the Unitarian community.

By some our faith is being perceived as a movement you can sniff at, check out, just drop in and drop out of, like a club, a novelty. For most however it is a life-long commitment and attachment. If Unitarianism Universalism is part of your being, your belief system, your mind set, this is a religion you can be feeling fully committed to for the rest of your life. It might not have a dogma or creed, but it has seven principles, which require quite an undertaking of responsibility to adhere to them. To live by these principles and the complete mindset of our liberal and tolerant religion is not at all that easy and simple, it might be harder than the ten commandments. To commit to our Unitarian Universalist principles can actually be quite complicated,

challenging, even scary at times, requiring courage. For me they are very fulfilling and they have directed me to new roads I had not envisioned to have the courage to travel.

Can Sebastian or any dedicated child step away from this? Of course, but it has been part of his formative years and often we see people who are raised with UU-ism return to it as adults.



DEDICATIONS PART 2 - OF A TREE

Some Rites of Passage are very infrequent, like a tree dedication....

Which brings us again to Kathrin Cook. She was a very elegant, eloquent woman with quite a presence. She loved robes and scarves. A Lay Chaplain with the NW fellowship for 30 years she was an icon and representation of this congregation of which Jim and I were part 20 years ago. Kay was a great example for other lay-chaplains. When the six year restriction of service by lay chaplains came in from the Canadian Unitarian Council, she continued as a celebrant with the Humanist Society.



Kay was felled by cancer and passed away this summer. I was asked by my old congregation to say some words at the dedication of a tree in her memory and , the additional request was to appear in full regalia as representative of other lay chaplains in the Eastern Region and actually conduct the full but short ceremony before Elly Elder dedicated the plaque at the young Ginkgo tree. It was at 12.noon on the same Sunday that we had to go to Toronto for a Memorial service at 1 p.m. at Don Heights (by Lay Chaplain Margo Holland) for our friend Mona Brown who had very recently passed on. It could be rushed and I was asked to do this three days before.... Matter of making it concise enough, leaving enough time to cross the city after.

Now.. I had never performed nor attended a Tree Dedication yet. So I had to do some research. It is actually quite popular. I recalled our shared memories of Kay and added some of my personal encounters with trees which had given me direction at some crucial times in my life. Thus connecting the history of Kay, trees and especially the value and longevity of Ginkgo trees together with the presence of roots in our Earth and branches reaching into the Universe creating a new ceremony.

The day was beautiful and all turned out to be very special and meaningful gathering. It was all done in a timely fashion and we made it to Mona's memorial service at Don Heights in plenty of time.

It was a great honour for me to be asked to do this and so enabling me to do something back for Kay. The tree will be there for many decades and generations to come to remember our friend.

Ellen Papenburg, Lay Chaplain



Ellen at the Tree Dedication

MY GRANDMOTHER

Jessie May Hawes nee Tilton, 1912-2010
Grandmother to Leigh Brownhill, who read the following eulogy at her memorial service on 1 October 2010 at the Congregational Church in Padanaram, South Dartmouth, Massachusetts.

My grandmother lived most of her life a stone's throw from where we stand today. She was a Padanaram girl, through and through, well before it was fashionable to live here; well before house prices prohibited ordinary folks from making their lives here in this peaceful place.

And she was from ordinary folk. Her father was a carpenter, and her mother grew much of the family's food – from vegetables to chickens and eggs - in the back yard. Grandma Jessie's beloved husband, Harold Hawes, was at different times a chauffeur, the village gas station proprietor and a small engine mechanic.

As ordinary as all of this seems, Grandma was also an extraordinary woman. She was faced with personal challenges that were to shape much of the rest of her life. When Grandpa went blind at age 47, Grandma had to step up and do things she may otherwise never have done. She took lessons and became the family's main driver. She went out to work to help support her household. She became Grandpa's main support system. She did this so well, in fact, that she helped him to become supremely independent, despite his disability. This independence was most famously manifested when he established a small engine repair shop and continued for many years as 'the blind lawnmower mechanic.'

Grandma was also extraordinary to us, her grandchildren, who loved her. She was strict and extraordinarily well-organized. She kept her house as neat as a pin, because that was her nature and because by keeping everything in its place, her blind husband would never trip over anything and could always find what he was looking for.

I remember as a girl, when we lived with Grandma and Grandpa for a spell, that my favorite room in her 200 year old home was the pantry. I'd never known of pantries before. As a child, it appeared to be to be a huge kitchen cabinet into which people could fit. Or, alternatively, a tiny house with half a dozen drawers and doors, shelves up to the ceiling, and a step stool that served as a perfect chair for a seven year old – a space in which a little child could feel quite snug, and have all the snacks she could wish for in quiet privacy.

There was a window in the pantry that faced east. The morning light would pour through the mottled, antique glass panes and illuminate the glasses on the shelves, the crystal wine goblets that were rarely used, and the cheerful jars of colored fruits and jams. And on the pantry door jam, Grandma recorded all of her grandchildren's growth and development by marking our heights with a pencil and noting our names and the date.

Up until quite recently, wherever I was living in the world, if I had a kitchen or cooking related question, I'd get Grandma on the phone and ask her advice. Whether it was a recipe, or what to substitute for that ingredient I just couldn't get, she was always there with wise words. Inevitably, the conversation

would wander from kitchen matters to the larger matters of life – love, children, health,

work, world affairs. No matter how far away I was at the time, during these phone calls I felt as if I were sitting with her at the kitchen table, sipping tea and looking across into her bright blue eyes and her cheery smile.

Jessie Hawes left a legacy of love and compassion, independence and mutual support, and good housekeeping – not for the sake of keeping up with the Joneses, but for the sake of ensuring that everyone around her had what they needed and knew where to find it. I usually found what I needed in the pantry, whether it was some moments of sunny solitude on the step stool, or the less salutary contents of the cookie jar.

Grandma showed me and, I think, many others, that while we make our lives, we do so under circumstances not of our own choosing. And when we find ourselves faced with circumstances – such as blindness – that we thought we were unprepared for, we can seek within ourselves the strength, skills, love and good humour to make it through – not only to survive, but to thrive and get the best out of life despite the curve-balls we're thrown.

This is the extraordinary gift that Grandma gave to me, one I will always treasure, carry with me and try to pass on to others as best I can.

Leigh Brownhill



I found this recipe in my grandmother's recipe box, which I inherited after her recent passing.

I've tried it out and it's perfect for chilly fall and winter evenings. Of course you can substitute any vegetables you wish (or have in your fridge). I also left out the flour.

Cheddar Vegetable Chowder

1 qt milk
3 medium potatoes, 1/2 inch cubes
1 onion chopped
3 carrots
1 package frozen peas, thawed
1/4 cup flour
1/2 tsp dry mustard
1/2 cup water
10 ounces shredded cheddar cheese
1 tsp Worcestershire sauce (or Braggs or soy sauce or tamari)
1/4 tsp pepper

In a three quart sauce pan, combine milk, carrots, potatoes and onions. Simmer for 20 minutes. Add peas. In small bowl, combine flour and mustard. Slowly add water, and stir into hot vegetable mixture. Cook for one more minute.

Remove from heat. Add cheese and Worcestershire sauce and pepper.

Makes 8-10 servings.

THE GREEN SANCTUARY OF EARTH

Our Social Action committee has joined the steady stream of Unitarian Universalist congregations in 'going green.' As we UUs like catchy phrases, this process has been dubbed the *Green Sanctuary* initiative. But before bringing to the rest of you the details of the steps to consider taking to make our activities and our rented space as green as possible, let's step back and consider what the greening of the sanctuary of our church signifies outside our walls.



Being a Green Sanctuary is about more than minimizing or eliminating plastics in the kitchen; though this is very important to our health as well as the health of the Earth. It is about more than buying fair trade, cooperatively-grown, organic coffee, tea and

sugar; though, this too is crucial to our expression of social justice and care for the planet.

In the larger sense, being a Green Sanctuary, at least for me, is an expression of our care and commitment to protecting planet Earth, the sanctuary of humanity, and of all known life, and of all earthly elements and attributes, such as rain, wind, rocks, flowers and grass.

So as we embark on greening our little sanctuary in Fergus, we can see ourselves as part of those efforts abounding within the planetary community to green the Earth for the benefit of all.

Terisa Turner - Social Action



The Lunch Club - Many Sundays we have Lunch with the Guest Speaker, do join us next time. In this picture some of our members with speaker Allan Grose and his wife Lloy from the KW Memorial Society. His address was about Natural and Green Burials. Visit www.kwmemsoc.ca for more info.

ON BECOMING A MEMBER...

Yes! We have a ceremony for New Members on November 14! It is earlier than normal, simply because we have three very enthused and inspired candidates who are trampling down our membership door, so here we go!

What does it mean to be a member instead of a friend?

As a friend you can partake, do a service even, help out, be part of the pod, pledge an amount to help with the budget, partake in many events, and be a valuable part of the community, so what actually is the difference? A friend can be a Unitarian at heart, without joining. Yet there is the vague line of diversity.

Material differences are that members receive a Canadian Unitarian Universalist

membership pin during the ceremony, the "Unitarian Pocket Guide", or another significant book, like "A Chosen Faith". But of course these can be borrowed and read anyway. And the congregation pays a fee for each member to the CUC (Canadian Unitarian Council) to be part of the greater organization.

Of course we could say since the difference seems so vague, why NOT become a Member? Well, I myself felt it was a huge step to become an official Member. A real commitment and dedication. Of course we don't require much like a confirmation in the traditional religions, but it is like going through a very important door. It took me a very long time before I became a member, but now I feel very much connected and inspired. Will that be always the case, with each and everyone? Of course not. We believe in agreeing to disagree, in the individual freedom of belief and as such, change of heart is within the parameters of this mindset as well. Even when it might be feeling that Unitarianism just isn't cutting it.

The rich variety, the rainbow kind of diversity, the many possibilities and options can be very disconcerting, confusing and overwhelming. Yet, if we go back to the seven principles, it is actually quite straightforward. It also means that many people are Unitarian even though they never heard of it or do not "belong" to a congregation. Keeping ourselves to these principles could be possibly harder than keeping ourselves to the 10 commandments and in fact it requires a hauling load of forgiveness, even more so than in the traditional churches, because of our flexibility which does at the same time not mean we go wherever the wind blows. For people adhering or being strongly connected to the traditional belief-systems this could mean an

additional set of commands, widening what already is inspiring and looking at other religions as well, which is part of our outreach.

The facts

The congregation pays about \$90 per member to the Canadian Unitarian Council per year, our central organization who organizes workshops, is the legal entity for lay chaplains and ministers, and sponsors youth and adult conferences, training and many other kind of meetings..

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 Canadian 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 Universalism, in some way or another, serving on a committee or the board.

A member can truly state without any hesitation: "I AM a Unitarian." and will feel this reverberating through his or her being and spirit. It is a commitment between the congregation and ourselves, between our other members and ourselves.

Next opportunity to join will be early March, so IF you are a friend, do give it a thought... and meanwhile: welcome Carolyn, Janice and Kate! They will introduce themselves on the next page.

Ellen Papenburg - Membership committee

For more info contact Membership Chair
Chris Nye - chrisnye@sympatico.ca

INTRODUCING: OUR NEW CHURCH MEMBERS

KATE CROZIER

I live in Belwood with my partner, Craig, and son, Evan. At Guelph-Wellington Women in Crisis I work as an individual and group counselor. Currently I am also busy completing my Master's degree in Leadership at the University of Guelph.

I am a beginner runner and the Race Director of a Mother's Day 5K run in Fergus

CAROLYN CROZIER

Almost five years ago I moved to Fergus with my husband, Frank Stillo. We now live on Union St. in a bungalow that we renovated a couple of years ago and are so happy to be settled into this community – and to have discovered the Unitarian Congregation.

I was born on a century farm not too far away (that my family had settled about 175 years ago) and was a teacher for 30 years. I also had great fun as a hobbyist bee-keeper, builder/ renovator of homes and political activist. A number of years ago my daughter, Kate and son, Josh took a university course with me at U of G – taught by Terisa Turner!

Both Frank and I are very happy to be living near family. We now have 3 grandchildren – one of them attends our Unitarian Congregation. Outdoors is where we like to be: in the garden, at the lake or lately, cycling. My three passions are fine art painting, native landscaping and little grandchildren. Each is so rewarding and important. Frank, before he met me, was an avid canoe tripper. He enjoys cooking (makes a mean pasta sauce and vegetarian chili) and presently lives part-time at the Fergus Curling Club.

JANICE FERRI

In 2006 my husband, Bill Hertel and I built a house on Union St. in Fergus to be closer to our children and grandsons. Two of our grandsons live only a block down the street. Our newest grandson, three months old now lives in Guelph with his parents.

I am a retired medical social worker who specialized in working with frail, older people and their families. Since retirement I have divided my time between my two passions: my grandsons and my artwork. I enjoy painting portraits of people and animals and also enjoy working on projects with my grandsons like medieval castles or creating a replica of the Stanley Cup.

For the past several years Bill and I have spent winters in Mexico travelling in our Fifth Wheel camper.

For many years I have felt the need to belong to a spiritual community, which also focused on environmental, social justice and community-building issues. A number of years ago I returned to the Anglican Church but found it wasn't a good fit. I had outgrown the church dogma. Since finding the Elora-Fergus UUC, I feel I have found a spiritual home. Not everyone here believes exactly as I do, but all respect my right to search for my own truth.





For my grandmother **Jessie May Hawes nee Tilton**, 98, who died in her sleep on Sunday 19 September, at 10:20 am, in New Hampshire. Unknowingly, at about that same time, I lit a silent candle for her in our sanctuary in Fergus.

- Leigh Brownhill

For **Mairy Beam**, who became a Crone on October 28, 2010.

For **Norm Homanchuk**, who will have his 80th birthday on November 17th.



For **Jim Sannes**, who will have his 69th birthday on November 1st.

WHAT'S ON AT CHURCH IN NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2010

Church service starts at 10:00 am

Nov. 7 BARE TREE RELIGION

Rev Peter Hughes, UU minister from Toronto, talks about having a faith that will sustain one in hard times as well as good ones, one that we can turn to in the November of life.

Nov. 14 KENYA AND NEW MEMBER CEREMONY

Leigh Brownhill presents a brief reflection on her recent visit to Kenya. Slides and anecdotes illustrate how Unitarian Universalist principles informed her experiences and illuminated what turned into a spiritual journey.

Afterwards the congregation will welcome our newest members with a new member's ceremony, before we join together for special snacks.

Nov. 21 DIVING OFF THE (SPIRITUAL) DEEP END

With Guest Speaker Rev. Jessica Purple Rodela from the First Unitarian Congregation of Waterloo.

On a summer excursion to the Bruce Peninsula, Jessica and her friend Kandis debated the nature of a "spiritual experience." What do we mean by "spirituality"? How is it related to "religion" in general and our reasonable Unitarian faith in particular?

Nov. 28 LEARNING THE LAW

Susan Deefholts will talk about discovering a new way of seeing the world--through the invisible, intangible framework of the law. Our legal system is both beautiful and tragic. It speaks to our humanity, as a living reflection of our own best aspirations and the ways in which we fall short.

Dec. 5 AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

We will hear about several current cases and write letters during the service. Bring envelopes and paper, we will supply the stamps.

Dec. 12 A COGNITIVE APPROACH TO HEALING

Kate Crozier will discuss what trauma is, and what it does to the brain. She will cover several strategies for healing from trauma including, "stories that heal", self-regulation, resiliency, and building self-esteem.

Dec. 19 CHRISTMAS MUSIC SERVICE

Join our musicians for Christmas carols and music to celebrate the season.

Dec. 26 MERRY CHRISTMAS!

No Sunday Service. We will meet again in 2011!

*Merry
Christmas!*

