

April 2011 avril



## Events this Month

All Sunday services start at 10:00 am unless otherwise specified.  
We have an active children's program during our Sunday service, at which all children are warmly welcome

**April 3**

**Ms. Kelly McDowell**  
**“Stuck in the Mud?”**

We are a decade into a new millennium. Is UUism a relevant and dynamic religion for the 21st century?

How we frame our UU story is critical to our character, our attitude, and our effectiveness. Kelly will reflect on Unitarian Universalism as she has experienced it, and the insights and engagement needed to keep it unstuck and moving.

Kelly is Congregational Services Coordinator for CUC Eastern Region. She met several of us from North Hatley at the Eastern Fall Gathering in Montreal in November, 2010. She will also meet with us today for a Visioning Workshop after lunch.

A special Sharing Our Faith collection will be taken on this Sunday. Please be generous. Combined with similar donations from all CUC congregations, these funds are used to finance important projects in UU churches across the country. Sharing our Faith monies have come back to us here in North Hatley in the form of grants to develop both our RE program and our current Communications project.

Avec Kelly McDowell, Conseil unitarien du Canada (CUC). Réflexions sur le mouvement unitarien universaliste au Canada et les visions et les implications nécessaires pour le garder bien en vie et en action.

Les homélies sont présentées en anglais seulement. Plus! La programmation pour enfant tous les dimanches. Toutes et tous sont les bienvenus!

Les descriptions en français à [www.uuestrie.ca](http://www.uuestrie.ca)

UU Estrie VISIONING WORKSHOP -Noon to 2:30 p.m. All members and friends are encouraged stay

following the service for chile and salad luncheon, and to meet with Kelly after lunch to voice our ideas about our vision of UUEstrie. Help us imagine a future for our dynamic spiritual community. All are welcome.

Service Leader: Keith Baxter  
Musician: Keith Baxter  
Coffee Convenor: Kevin & Lin Jensen  
Flower Convenor: Ann Rothfels

**April 9**

**“Clean Up Day!”**

**9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Clean-up Day #1!**

All members and friends are invited to a spring cleaning party in the church. Please mark the date in your agenda and join the work party. If the time does not suit you, you can come later in the day, or the next Saturday, April 16, instead. The dates are chosen to prepare for our move back upstairs, scheduled for April 17. A list of tasks available to work on will be available in the church. All we need is you!

**April 10**

**Rev. Carole Martignacco**  
**“Noah, the Preservationist”**

Noah, the Preservationist\* Sunday, April 10, at 10 a.m., with The Rev. Carole Martignacco Is there a message for us today in ancient flood stories of the middle east? In this season that threatens flash floods in many parts of the world, we revisit the old biblical story from a fresh and entertaining perspective. A look also at issues related to water protection, in anticipation of Earth Day 2011.

Service Leader:  
Musician: Pat Bird  
Coffee Convenor: Carol McKinley  
Flower Convenor: Ann Rothfels

**April 16, 7 p.m.**  
**“Water on the Table”**

"Water on the Table" Saturday, April 16, at 7 p.m. A film about Maude Barlow's continuing efforts, on behalf of the Council of Canadians, and as a special UN delegate, to highlight the need for appropriate policies for managing the world's precious and scarce (fresh) water resources. The film will be followed by a panel discussion and questions and comments from the audience. Dr. Elisabeth Levac, professor of environmental studies at Bishop's University, and M. André Nault, président des AmiEs de la Terre de l'Estrie have confirmed as panelists. All welcome. Free-will donations to help cover the cost of the film will be accepted at the door.

**9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Clean-up Day #2!**

Congregants are invited to join a spring cleaning party in the church. Please mark the date in your agenda and join the work party, especially if you missed the one on the 9th. The dates are chosen to prepare for our move back upstairs, scheduled for April 17. A list of tasks available to work on will be available in the church. All we need is you! If the time does not suit you, you can come later in the day. (Bring your supper! Stay for the film!)

**April 17**  
**Dr. Harvey White**  
**“All About God”**

"God" suffers a lot of doubt and criticism, especially, but not only, by Unitarian Universalists. Attempts to describe what one means by 'God', or the existence and nature of something called 'God', are fraught with argument and contradiction. Can some of the venerables of theological thought help us out?

Harvey White, professor of religion at Bishop's University, returns to our pulpit to reflect on so-called negative theology's contribution to the discussion.

This service was rescheduled to this date after the extreme snowstorm of Feb 6.

Service Leader: Keith Baxter  
 Musician: Laurent Hubert, France Thibault  
 Coffee Convenor:  
 Flower Convenor: Ann Rothfels

**April 23, 9:30 am**  
**“Clean Up Day #3”**

See description under April 16. A third and final chance to join in fellowship to get the windows all washed, the floors shining, etc. etc. A task list will be available in the church. All are welcome. All are needed. Come for an hour or two or three, whatever you can do. Thanks.

**April 24**  
**Rev. Carole Martignacco**  
**“Renewal and Resurrection\*”**

Easter service in the upstairs sanctuary, our first 'sanctuary' service since Christmas. A coloured egg parade will occur during the coffee hour, which will also be held upstairs in Avery Booth Hall.

**A Federal Election Is Coming!**

Just a heads up to everybody that if the election is called, we plan to hold in our church another all-candidates forum for the Compton-Stanstead riding, which includes North Hatley, Lennoxville, and Rock Forest. Stay tuned for the date and time!

**Child Haven International** will be featured on an hour-long program across Canada by W5 CTV. A W5 team spent four days filming at Child Haven's largest Home in Kaliyampoondi village near Chennai (formerly Madras) and two days at the home of Unitarians Bonnie and Fred Cappuccino, Directors of Child Haven. Tentative date for the airing of the program is Saturday, April.2.

**Denominational affairs**

If you are a member, you get the Canadian Unitarian newsletter. On-line readers can access current and past issues at <http://www.cuc.ca/newsletter/canu.htm>

Also check out their electronic monthly newsletter at [cuc.ca](http://www.cuc.ca).



### Minister's Reflection - Carole's Column

*"The UU church of the future will be unrecognizable from any UU church of today, and from any that has ever existed. Anyone now over fifty years of age may find the description of this church preposterous, but would probably enjoy going there, nonetheless... This church will draw on religious sources that UUs have not considered, and in fact have scorned. Yet these sources will be a wellspring of renewed religious faith. They will bring about a revival of Unitarian Universalism we have yearned for since our heyday in the nineteenth century."*

– Michael Durall, of the Commonwealth Consulting Group

The "Sky Above the Roof" is the title of a small collection by the French poet Paul Verlaine. Lately, as we've grappled with expenses to both roof and foundation in our Pledge campaign begun last month, as we move into April and a visit with CUC congregational consultant Kelly McDowell, I've been haunted by this phrase. What about the sky above our church roof? Are we in service to something larger than ourselves? Are we due for a new dream?

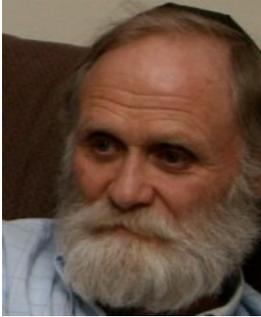
During my recent Study Month – between meetings on both local and national levels – I've spent time studying healthy congregational dynamics and the visioning process. I came across a fascinating study on UU churches entitled The Almost Church: Redefining Unitarian Universalism for a New Era (Michael Durall, Jenkin Lloyd Jones Press, 2006). The religious landscape has changed significantly and churches everywhere are in decline. In a secular climate where just holding our own as a small, surviving congregation can seem like success, Durall is one of those prophets who delivers uncomfortable truths about ourselves that we need to hear, all the while pointing us in the direction of some vision of hope.

"These are not the best of times for churches of any size," Durall writes of statistics of decline in the U.S., confirming what we already know here

in Quebec. "Thousands of churches have already closed, and gracious old buildings have been turned into condominiums, restaurants, and movie theatres. Yet other churches with small or moderate-sized memberships and an apparent shortage of money remain active and vital." *Is he talking about us? Which are we?* And what will it look like – this church of the future? It may surprise you to know, we at UU Estrie share a few significant and promising characteristics. With some careful visioning and planning, we could be poised to move forward into this future. (Look for a list of these characteristics posted elsewhere in this newsletter.)

An important feature of churches that not only survive but thrive is that they are more empowerment- than governance-oriented, more outward than inward in vision and mission. Their resources go not primarily toward sustaining the status quo, valuable as that is. Instead, they are vehicles for doing justice, where members commit to something larger than themselves, combining their resources and efforts to create a better world. "The healthiest of small churches have a clear 'vocation,' something they do well, toward which they focus their time, energy, and money." A congregation needs to have a soul, according to Durall.

The Voice and Vision Workshop to be held the first Sunday of April gives us an opportunity to open ourselves to re-imagining UU Estrie as a church of the future. One built solidly upon and honouring our long tradition, but not mired in it. What is our purpose, our *raison d'être*? All the literature on church growth advises that if we define our vision as small, we will stay small. In these challenging times, shall we "circle the wagons" or make a "leap of faith"? Come to the service on April 3rd, stay for the luncheon and workshop, lend your voice to help shape a new vision. We've nothing to fear but fear itself! *And may you be blessed beyond measure!* – Rev. Carole



### Capsule K, vol. 2, # 6.

Another successful **Pledge dinner** will be in the books as you read this. Money is very definitely funny. Thanks to all who were there, lending their spirits to our collective, democratic,

communitarian spirit.

Did you hear the one about the UU Church Treasurer who was sick and tired of church, so took himself for a healing walk in the woods on a gorgeous Sunday morning in late spring? Beautiful day, total solitude, alone on the path with Great Nature blooming all around. When all of a sudden, an apparition! On the path, directly in front him, it's God Himself, doing the exact same thing on a beautiful, late-spring day.

Naturally, they struck up a conversation, and the UUCT said, "God, you know, when I was a little boy, they taught me that a million years of our time, was but a second in your time. Is that really so?" And God replied that "Yes, that is so."

"Wow. All my life I thought it may be true, but I was never sure. Thank you. And I suppose that would mean that a million dollars to us is but a penny to you." "Again, that also is true," said God.

Hmmm, thought the UUCT, and then he said, "God, I'm a little embarrassed to ask, but I wonder if you have a spare penny you could give me?" "Sure, no problem," says God. "I don't happen to have one on me right now, but just give me a minute and I'll go and fetch one for you."

And God turned and walked up the path.

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We are planning all-church events in April, in addition to our weekly worship. April 3, a two versions of chili and salad luncheon is being provided for all so that as many as possible can stay for a collective **reflection on our vision**, as each of you sees it. De facto. Desired. Delightful. Delineated. Plan for an interesting

couple hours after 'church', with our guest that day, Kelly McDowell from Peterborough.

Another is a film screening in the sanctuary on Saturday, April 16 at 7 pm. The film is "**Water on the Table**", a documentary following Maude Barlow in her efforts to raise the many serious issues about how we manage Canada's fresh water resources, which are precious, limited, and vulnerable. What is the most constructive way to look at this resource, a resource that is so critical to life, and becoming scarcer than oil? A panel discussion will follow with open mike time as well. Panelists as of this writing are Elisabeth Levac and André Nault, two of the townships most qualified environmentalists. Should be good.

See you in church, Keith

### Letter from the Rev. Ken MacLean

It is always good to hear from you and to keep my long connection with North Hatley alive. Tentatively, it looks as though I could come to North Hatley to preach on July 10th. I expect to be in the pulpit in Harvard Square, Cambridge, the following Sunday. I have not yet decided about the General Assembly or Star Island.

Terry goes back to London next week, and he will probably not be on this side of the Atlantic this summer, though that is not positive yet. I expect to go to London in August and to preach in Oxford one Sunday.

After having a lot of visual difficulty for several months, my eye surgeon zapped my left eye with the laser and there was an instant transformation and I could see again! That is the most exciting thing that has happened lately. I have agreed to minister here for one more year, and we are conducting a capital drive to pay off the mortgage so that they can finally have a full-time minister after I bow out.

We have three Star Island visitors this week—two from Vermont and one from Georgia.

Please scatter my love to my good friends, and I look forward to being with you again this summer.

Love, Ken

## Revelation Is Not Sealed

In 1921 Lewis B. Fisher, Dean of Ryder Divinity School, a Universalist Divinity school in Chicago, said:

We are often asked to tell where we stand. The only true answer to give to this question is that we do not stand at all, we move.... We do not stand still, nor do we defend any immovable positions, theologically speaking... We grow and we march, as all living things forever must do. Nothing is clearer than the fact that the old definitions do not meet the needs of the new day.... Each living age has always defined religion in the light of its own experiences, and all ages to come will do the same.

## Children's Religious and Spiritual Education Briefing April 2011

*by Lindsay-Jane Gowman*

For almost a year I've co-ordinated the Religious and Spiritual Education (RSE) programme with the support and guidance of the RE Committee, consisting of Rev. Carole, Phyllis, Keith and France, along with members of the congregation.

I am happy to have shared the joy and success of my first service, 'Spirit of Play', which was held on March 13. This was a unique opportunity for our children to interact and share our ritual with members of the congregation. After a story telling to which everyone in the circle contributed, we played telephone and a mixer game to get to know one another better, then divided up into tables to play board games. We shared popcorn, snacks and laughter. It was beautiful to look around the room and observe people of all ages becoming better acquainted and playing freely. To close our ceremony, we joined hands and heard a lovely flute solo by Morgan.

If you missed the service, you won't have seen the sign-up sheet for RSE substitutes. Volunteers are needed because I will be taking a three-month travel/work journey to British Columbia this summer with my son Sebastien. I strongly encourage all members of our church to participate in a very special part of our community and keep this programme running through the summer. Beside the sign-up sheet is

a list of suggested activities. Volunteers are welcome to form teams if they should prefer to work this way. Please note that the picnic in July will require planning of the gala second annual Children's (and Adults') Relay Race.

Thank you in advance!

Also to be noted:

If you haven't become familiar with Sam Savage's blog on our new website, check it out at [www.uuestrie.ca](http://www.uuestrie.ca)!

If you have questions, concerns or ideas about the programme, visit me in the children's space after the service or e-mail me at [re@uuestrie.ca](mailto:re@uuestrie.ca).

## Website and Communications News

Did you know you can make **comments** on anything you read on our website?

As we post news there, we hope you will do so. In particular, we want to say something about each Sunday service, a "starter" and hope you will add to it.

Why should you register? You will not have to type in your name and email each time you comment, and I can "promote" you to a contributor or author.

The schedule is now being rendered into French, and available, as the rest of the website, using "Language Switcher" - Lin

## The UU Church of the Future

adapted from The Almost Church, Michael Durall

- These churches will not have steeples, pews, organs, or stained glass windows. They are likely to be located in warehouses or other commercial sites. The people who come to these churches will be of all ages. These places will be noisy and boisterous, full of excitement and energy.

- Worship will be highly participatory... People will stand close together, sing loudly, and perhaps have their arms about one another's shoulders. The music will be live... the lighting will be colourful and dramatic.

- Worship services will be conducted in two or three languages, alternating from one to another, with the text of hymns and prayers projected onto large screens so that all can take part. Rudimentary language classes will be offered before worship services so that all may participate to some extent. These churches will attract interracial couples, both straight and gay, bringing the mix that UU churches have not achieved to date.

- Services will be held on Sunday mornings, in the afternoon, and in the evening. The church will also host mid-week services.

- Smaller groups will also meet for worship in apartments and houses.

- These churches will... be "permission granting." The emphasis is on empowerment, not governance, just the opposite of UU churches today.

- These new congregations will send shock waves through the communities in which they minister because they will focus their efforts on a single cause – the least fortunate among us. Their model will be the Salvation Army, but without the requirement that recipients adopt a particular theology.

- The people in these congregations will break the current cycle of those whose dominant image is being served, rather than to serve.

- These new churches will draw newcomers because people will want to be associated with them.

- The vision of UU churches in the early years of the twenty-first century is not to promote the autonomy of the individual and to seek truth. Their vision is a deeper spirituality through service.

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**Earth Day** this year is April 22 (same as Good Friday). Our social justice theme this month is Water. Choose from any of the ways below – or come up with your own – but find a way to take action.

1) Come for the film and discussion on April 16th at UU Estrie. Bring a friend or neighbour.

2) Google the Petition for Article 31, and sign it:  
Proposed – To add Article 31 (below) to the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights:

"Everyone has the right to clean and accessible water, adequate for the health and well-being of the individual and family, and no one shall be deprived of such access or quality of water due to individual economic circumstance."

3) Recommended reading: The Holy Order of Water, by William E. Marks; BLUE GOLD – The Battle Against Corporate Theft of the World's Water, by Maude Barlow

4) Documentary films on Netflix and available for rental include such titles as: "Tapped" and "Flow". Go to [www.flowthefilm.com](http://www.flowthefilm.com)

5) Celebrate an Environmentalist Lenten fast: Google 100 Ways to Conserve Water – and commit to changing one habit a day until Easter (or Spring Equinox).

As Gandhi said: "There is enough water for human need, but not for human greed."

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Minister's Office Hours  
Tuesday & Thursday, 2:30 – 4:30 pm  
Please respect the Minister's sabbath, Sunday  
afternoon and Monday.  
*For emergency pastoral care, phone:*  
1. Rev. Carole  
2. Sooky Dunton  
3. Joyce Booth



**Rites of Passage Ministry Team**

## Calendar and Schedule

SUN	3	10:00AM	SERVICE: KELLY McD.
TUES	5	9:30AM	GRANNIES WORKSHOP
SAT	9	9:00AM	CLEAN UP DAY #1
SUN	10	10:00AM	SERVICE: NOAH
SAT	16	9:00AM	CLEAN UP DAY #2
		7:00PM	WATER ON THE TABLE
SUN	17	10:00AM	SERVICE: HARVEY WHITE
TUES	19	9:30AM	NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE
SAT	23	9:00AM	CLEAN UP DAY #3
SUN	24	10:00AM	SERVICE: RENEWAL

### Board of Trustees

You have elected this board to take care of business, please discuss your hopes and concerns with any member:

Keith Baxter	President
Adele Ernstrom	Vice-President
Mary-Ann McCarron	Secretary
Rachel Garber	Treasurer
Howard Hale	Member at large
Lin Jensen	Member at large

**This is your newsletter !!!**

Next issue of Newsletter is May 2011

**Deadline: April 18.**

*Please send photos, or write your contribution on paper, parchment, or computer. Send to the newsletter committee in person or **by upload** through the church directory, or by editing "news-draft" at [www.uuestrie.ca](http://www.uuestrie.ca) (if you are a web editor). If you must use email, send to [newsletter@uuestrie.ca](mailto:newsletter@uuestrie.ca).*