

July-August 2011 juillet - août



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

July 3

Dr. Jamie Crooks

“Five Lessons from Job”

Jamie Crooks is a professor of philosophy at Bishop's University. By this date he will have just completed a stint as Dean of Arts and Science there. This will be his first visit to UUEstrie.

Service Leader: Keith Baxter

Coffee Convenor: the Jensens

Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

July 10

Rev. Ken MacLean

“What Are We Looking For?”

After the worship service, to which we invite all our friends from both the Montreal and Lakeshore UU congregations and First Parish in Derby Line VT, we shall adjourn to the Jensen farm in Hatley for a picnic lunch and games. Bring food for your family, or food to share, frisbees and soccer balls, bathing suits?, musical instruments. But most of all bring yourselves.

The Reverend Kenneth Torquil MacLean has been a favourite summer minister in North Hatley for over 40 years. It is especially gratifying that he can be with us for our picnic Sunday this year. Ken is now Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert, in Rancho Mirage, California. Ken writes:

"WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR? Someone asked why people join a church, and after some serious study, a group was able to come back with three single words, and they all began with the same letter. Two of the words surprised me as answers to the original question, and I decided to see where one of those words would take me. The first letter for all three words is H. "I have been coming to the church in North Hatley since 1965, and am grateful for the warm welcome I still find, for the sharing of this

ministry from Carole, the hospitality of the Duntons, the decades of devotion to the church of people with names like Baxter, Jensen, van Lier, Booth, and Pacaud, and the memories of others, now gone, who invested a chunk of their lives in the community that has been housed in this building. It is like coming home for me. KTM"

We shall also have the pleasure of music on this Sunday from a band called "JAMS", with members Jessica Burpee (vocals, ukulele & bass), Ann Cascarano (vocals & mandolin), Margo Ellis (vocals & guitar), and Shawn Dohring (vocals & guitar). They are all members of the Music Collective of the Montreal Unitarian Church.

Service Leader: Keith Baxter

Musician: JAMS

Coffee Convenor: Debra Fougère

Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

July 14

“CUUL School”

Canadian UU Leadership School runs in Halifax NS and Nanaimo BC from July 14 to 17 this year. More info at the church.

July 17

Rev. Richard Forcier

“Tikkun”

Reverend Rich Forcier is retired from UU Parish Ministry since last year, after serving the First Church in Barre, Universalist, our sister church in Barre, Vermont, for a number of years. He is an annual visitor to our pulpit, and we are blessed each time with his wisdom, compassion and oratorical skill.

'Tikkun' is an ancient Jewish concept best translated as "Repair the world." It is also the title of a regular publication published by the Network of Spiritual

Progressives, an organization based in San Francisco, founded by Rabbi Michael Lerner.

Service Leader: Keith Baxter
Coffee Convenor: Debra Fougère
Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

July 24
Mr. Mark Abley
“Imagine”

"Imagine": This service will explore the value of human imagination as well as the tension it can provoke in a religious context. Think of John Lennon, William Blake, Harry Potter, *Alice in Wonderland* and *The Snow Leopard*. Mark Abley is a poet, non-fiction writer, journalist, editor and children's author. He has been a member of the Unitarian Church of Montreal since 2004.

Service Leader: Keith Baxter
Coffee Convenor: Jane Pankovitch
Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

July 31
Rev. Carole Martignacco
To be announced

Coffee Convenor: Mary Lynn Ross
Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

There WILL be services throughout
August

Unfortunately, no details are available as we go to press

August 28
Ms. Katherine Pérusse
“L'autodéfense: démarche spirituelle?”

Service Leader: France Thibault
Musician: Laurent Hubert
Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

Sooky Dunton receives Lieutenant-Governor's medal



Sooky was one of three Townshippers who were awarded medals by the Lieutenant-Governor of Quebec at a recent ceremony at Bishop's University. Sooky received her silver medal as an outstanding volunteer in the category of those over 65. She is recognized for her work with the Grandmothers to Grandmothers on behalf of the Stephen Lewis Foundation and for her work on behalf of refugees, among others. (*Here seen in her role as part of our kitchen committee.*)

Bravo and Congratulations Sooky for this well deserved honour. We are very grateful for all your past and continuing efforts here at UU Estrie and for your wonderful friendship.

Your friends at UUC



Minister's Reflection - Carole's Column

*A **ritual** is a set of actions, performed mainly for their symbolic value. It may be prescribed by a religion or by the traditions of a community.*

– the Farflex Online Dictionary

Again, I rush to take my place, remarking to my neighbour how much larger this year's than the last. Arriving at one's chair, finding one's place in this beloved community begins before one enters the room with "running the gauntlet" – greeting along the way so many friends one hasn't seen in a while, fleetingly catching up on so many lives, with hugs and smiles and tears of welcome. The music begins, gathers momentum, the speaker up front proclaims opening words, everyone stands to sing. The air fairly crackles with excitement and expectation. One by one the colourful banners appear, each held high and carried proudly from the side entrance, paraded down the centre aisle, bobbing up and down to shouts of recognition and camera flashes, eventually forming a circle that brightly surrounds the assembly hall. Each one unique, each designed to visually announce a distinct identity, mission, vision, geographic location - like a coat of arms. All the while, lively music and rhythmic clapping, and spurts of spontaneous dancing continue till the last banner is in place, the music subsides, we settle back into our seats. I turn to my neighbour again, who whistled loudly as her congregation's banner floated past, and remark how "medieval" this all is. "Yes," she replies, "that's why we love it!" So opens the 50th Anniversary Annual Conference and Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council, this past May in Toronto. A Conference that held multiple rituals of sacred significance to many – from a Bridging service for youth becoming young adults right down to the Closing Ceremony, where the soil from one host congregation is passed on to the next, to signify – what? The transfer of responsibility for keeping our beloved traditions alive – and so many meanings there is not space here to name.

Occasionally it comes up – the question posed something like this: *Isn't ritual a key element in all religious celebrations? If we are a religion, where are our rituals?* Isn't this a "big missing" in our liberal faith? The answers are yes, and we do have them, and yes again – even when they are there, we often miss them. Either because they are so familiar to us, or so different from what others do. Focusing on ritual in religious service is a bit like studying the brain signals and muscle contractions one makes while walking – if it's working well, we're more caught up in participating than analyzing.

Ritual can be defined as any repetitive action one performs, individually in private life or in community, ordinary or sacred in significance. Rituals thread through our lives, often so intricately interwoven and daily as to be almost invisible. We have rituals for getting up in the morning, formulas for behaviour that we hardly need think about – like bathing or cleaning our teeth; other rituals around meals, family gatherings and annual observances hold more significance. Religious ritual is behaviour that holds a shared symbolic meaning, and reflects the shared values and vision of a community. Ritual when it works brings us to a place where doing and being merge.

So we ring our steeple bells to signal the beginning of each Sunday. We say a traditional (for us) inclusive statement of welcome, followed by a Prelude, then Opening Words. We light our Chalice, universally recognized symbol of our free faith, with the same brief chant every time, and rise for a hymn, followed by a candle lighting celebration of Joys and Sorrows, then a unison Affirmation that gives meaning and purpose to our behaviour in community. And so it proceeds. When our expectations are fulfilled, we have a sense of beginning, moving through and perhaps even forward or deeper, and coming to completion. Orders of service are designed to shape the holy hour (symbolic for whatever time it takes), creating a time set apart, to focus on life's holy (wholly), to provide an anchor to our longings, give us comfort and "strength for the lives we lead." And the shape over time becomes so comfortable, we may actually need to change the elements or the order of things a bit just to awaken our awareness of what we are doing.

Are we a ritual people? How many UU rituals can you name? Would it include Coffee Hour? Water Communion, rites of passage, annual church picnics, dancing the Maypole, or a Yuletide play with Turkey Feast to follow? Our challenge, as a choosing (not chosen) faith is to create rituals that have meaning for us as a gathered community. If we find something missing, we might ask: what needs to be created to answer the need? What new rituals might we give rise to, here in our own midst, to deepen our sense of the sacred? I look forward to YOUR answers to these questions. And may all we love be blessed! — Rev. Carole

If you can get "a penny for your thoughts", how is it that you can on the other hand "give your two cents worth"? What happens to the extra penny? (Ed. note: I say it goes to taxes!)

VOW OF SILENCE

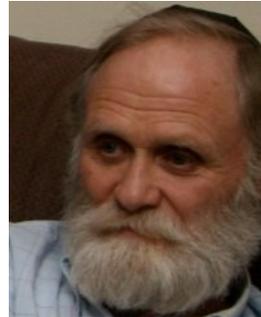
At a remote monastery deep in the woods, the monks followed a rigid vow of silence. This vow could only be broken once a year on Christmas, by one monk, and the monk could speak only one sentence.

One Christmas, Brother Thomas had his turn to speak and said, "I love the delightful mashed potatoes we have every year with the Christmas roast!" Then he sat down. Silence ensued for 365 days. The next Christmas, Brother Michael got his turn, and said, "I think the mashed potatoes are lumpy and I truly despise them!" Once again, silence ensued for 365 days.

The following Christmas, Brother Paul rose and said, "I am fed up with this constant bickering!"

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>



The Keith Capsule

Our president is convalescing from his knee replacement surgery.

He has sent this news, that comes from a group at www.cban.ca:

The Peruvian Parliament has approved a 10 years Moratoria for the release of GMOs into the environment. Peruvian activists say: "We did it, dear Friends, We did it. After to much suffering, this is our present. Thank you for your support, dear friends..."

Meanwhile, in Bolivia: A law is about to be approved in Bolivia that will mean the legalization of GM crops.

From UUSC:

UU Seminarians Help Earthquake Survivors Build Eco-Village in Haiti

Ten seminarians and leaders from UUSC and the UUA recently returned from a pioneering joint service-learning trip to Haiti's Central Plateau. They worked side by side with members of the Papaye Peasant Movement (MPP), a UUSC partner, building the foundations — literally and metaphorically — for an eco-village project that will provide homes and sustainable livelihoods for 40 Haitian families displaced by the 2010 earthquake.

Call for Accountability: This is Torture Awareness Month

What's the best way to commemorate June as Torture Awareness Month? By demanding an end to torture! While some leaders are trying to convince people that its use is justified to counter international terrorism, we know that torture is always immoral — and that we can end it.

After what is taken from UUSC, we would add: We can question the Canadian government's deposit of unanalyzed documents supposedly exonerating Canadian troops from responsibility in turning over prisoners to Afghan authorities. - eds.

From his *Poet's Guide to Life*, Rainer Maria Rilke offers this counsel:

Get up cheerfully on days you have to work, if you can. And if you can't, what keeps you from doing so? Is there something heavy that blocks the way? What do you have against heaviness and difficulty? That it can kill you. So it is powerful and strong. This much you know about it. And what do you know about things that are easy and light? Nothing. We have no memory whatsoever of that which was easy and light. So even if you choose, ought you not actually choose what is difficult? Don't you feel how it is related to you ? . . . And are you not in agreement with nature when you make this choice? Don't you think a little sapling would have an easier time by staying in the soil? Things that are light and things that are heavy don't actually exist. Life itself is heavy and difficult. And do you actually want to live? Then you are mistaken in calling it your *duty* to take on difficulties. It's your survival instinct that pushes you to do it. So what is duty, then? It is duty to love what is difficult . . . You have to be there when it needs you.

Newsletter published by: Unitarian Universalist Church of North Hatley l'eglise unitarienne universaliste de North Hatley	
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<p>Minister's Office Hours Tuesday & Thursday, 2:30 – 4:30 pm Please respect the Minister's sabbath, Sunday afternoon and Monday. <i>For emergency pastoral care, phone:</i> 1. Rev. Carole 2. Sooky Dunton 3. Joyce Booth</p>
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Calendar and Schedule

--JULY--

SUN 3 10:00AM SERVICE: JAMIE CROOKS
 TUES 5 6:30PM BOARD MEETING
 SUN 10 10:00AM SERVICE: KEN MACLEAN
 PICNIC
 SUN 17 10:00AM SERVICE: RICH FORCIER
 SUN 24 10:00AM SERVICE: MARK ABLEY
 SUN 31 10:00AM SERVICE: REV. CAROLE

--AUGUST--

SUN 3 10:00AM SERVICE:
 SUN 3 10:00AM SERVICE:
 SUN 3 10:00AM SERVICE:
 SUN 3 10:00AM SERVICE: KATHERINE
 PÉRUSSE

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	Treasurer
Rachel Garber	Secretary
Howard Hale	Member at large
Lin Jensen	Member at large

This is your newsletter !!!

Next issue of Newsletter is September 2011

Deadline: **August 20.**

*Please send photos, or write your contribution on paper, parchment, or computer. Send to the newsletter committee in person or by email, send to **newsletter@uuestrie.ca.***