

nouvelles news

May 2012 mai



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

May 6

Rev. Carole Martignacco
“Beltane”

Celebrate the spring equinox and honour the wisdom of earth religions with a traditional Maypole Dance. All are welcome to join in. Featuring lively outdoor Celtic dance music performed by France Thibault and Laurent Hubert.

Upstairs, in the Sanctuary

Service Leader: members of UUEstrie
Coffee Convenor: Sooky Dunton
Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

May 13

“Honouring mothers and motherhood”

Each year we are moved by the testimonials we receive at this Mother's Day service honouring mothers and motherhood. All are welcome to bring a short recollection/reflection of a mother in their lives, perhaps accompanying this with a photo or other evocative artifact.

Upstairs, in the Sanctuary

8:30-9:30 am Waffle Breakfast for Mother's day, a fundraiser by the children!

Service Leader: Carol McKinley
Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

May 18

“Canadian UU Symposium in Ottawa”

A Canadian UU symposium in Ottawa will include a CUC business meeting on Friday May 18 all day, followed by two days of activities May 19 and 20, centred on the theme of Spiritual Leadership. Monday

would be time for special caucuses and affinity groups to get together. All are welcome. All church leaders are strongly encouraged to attend.

Away from UU Estrie

May 20, 11:00 am

Rev. Shana Lynngood and friends
“Leading with Spirit”

We plan to live stream the worship service from the Canadian Unitarian Council Symposium being held in Ottawa this weekend. Join us to get a taste of the excitement.

Upstairs, in the Sanctuary

Service Leader: Lin Jensen
Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

May 27

Rev. Carole Martignacco
“Serving with Grace”

Everything we do is spiritual, from worship to hospitality, cleaning up to children's Religious Exploration. Expanding on the theme of the May Conference in Ottawa, we will celebrate the grace we give to each other with a Flower Communion of gratitude and recognition. Come prepared to be celebrated and bring a flower to share if you can!

Upstairs, in the Sanctuary

Flower Convenor: Sooky Dunton

Coffee Convenor: ***Sign up early, see your name in print!***

“Justice is what love looks like in public.”

- Cornel West



**GATHERED HERE –
Minister's Message
for March 2012**

*“From the pastoral
prayer to the passage of
a policy, it's all a school
for the soul.”*

– Erik Walker
Wikstrom, in

Serving with Grace: Lay Leadership as
Spiritual Practice

In my work with the Lay Chaplaincy Program of the Canadian Unitarian Council, I've learned to caution new recruits against the dangers of burn-out in what can be both a deeply fulfilling and intensely demanding form of service. This past month, I spent a long weekend at First Unitarian in Hamilton, Ontario, leading a CUC training – our largest ever - that drew together 22 lay chaplains in various stages of their journey – all of whom shared stories of being called to a deeper spiritual path. In each “boot camp” training we explore the unselfishness of disciplined self-care. Conducting meaningful and personalized rites of passage – child dedications, weddings, memorials – puts celebrants in the front lines of our movement. They serve couples and families from all faith traditions, often on demand, under all kinds of circumstances. To do this well requires a grounded religious identity, reserves of inner strength and self-awareness. As I've watched seasoned lay chaplains progress through their six-year terms, it's apparent how the work naturally leads to profound spiritual growth and personal development over time. Testimonials of retiring chaplains speak of gratitude for the privilege of serving, being present to the joys and sorrows of others' lives.

What if we could experience similar levels of nurture and growth in all the many ways we serve within our congregation? What if, instead of draining us and leaving us feeling overwhelmed or hassled, our work to further our shared vision actually encouraged, energized and uplifted us? What if opportunities for personal spiritual growth were the natural outcome of just showing up, being in community?

Lately, I've found hope for this possibility. Erik Walker Wikstrom writes in Serving with Grace: “At best churches can be – perhaps should be – a kind of spiritual total immersion environment. And just as total immersion language programs make no distinction between classroom and non-classroom time, so too, congregations can avoid distinguishing between spiritual and non-spiritual things.” *In other words, if it's church-related – it's all spiritual!* How might we foster intentional spiritual nurture, experiences of real growth, or a profound sense of connection, in all that we do together? It's easy to see how this might happen while conducting worship, playing music, welcoming arrivals as Sunday greeter, or bringing food for the potluck lunch. Less obvious if working on the budget process, shovelling the walk or showing up for spring clean-up days, producing the newsletter or minutes of the last Board meeting.

“When we attend a dry as dust meeting at work,” writes Wikstrom, “we usually don't suffer too much angst because we don't expect anything else. It is work, after all, and we expect it to feel like work. Yet when it's our church, our spiritual home, there's often a nagging voice saying 'it shouldn't be like this.' It shouldn't feel like work there, it should feel spiritual.” When we begin a meeting with centring words, kindle the flame, and invite a personal check-in round the circle, and end with closing words - it's not a detour from the business at hand. Whenever we are gathered, spirit should lead the agenda. Reminding us not to take for granted the privilege of each other's company. Whatever the task at hand, opportunities abound for learning about the other, growing in self awareness, practising and refining the arts of patience, appreciating diversity, mindfulness and compassionate presence.

As a religious community, we have the exciting opportunity to transform how and who we are, at all levels of interaction. I've shared Wikstrom's book with members of the Board, and it is the theme of the upcoming Symposium which follows the CUC AGM this May in Ottawa. Some of us at UU Estrie will serve as your delegates not only to the Friday plenary AGM, but also for the Symposium that follows. We'll

study the concepts of spiritual leadership and bring it all back to inform and transform our work and play together. UU Estrie is poised for some exciting new change and hopefully, growth -in numbers and spiritual vitality. Whatever your involvement in this unique religious community, I invite you to think of it as your total immersion environment. We've so much to learn, share and celebrate with each other!

May all be blessed - Reverend Carole

RE news – Waffle Breakfast

The children of the Religious and Spiritual Education Program will be having a fundraiser waffle breakfast for Mother's Day, May 13th. We will be charging \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children and this includes coffee, tea and a delicious, healthy breakfast made by the children and me. (It will be gluten free.) We will begin serving it at 8:30am and finishing at 9:45am. We will be matched in our amount raised by Joyce Booth who has gratefully extended her fundraising deal and all proceeds will go to our ongoing roof fund! If you have any questions, ideas or want to give a helping hand please feel free to contact me. If you are a parent of a child in our program I will be calling to make further arrangements and share the details of what I think will be a wonderful morning!

We had a very special visitor in our program in April! Little baby Arthur the grandson of Lin & Kevin Jensen visited us. The children were delighted to have a baby with us, as well as hear Arthur's mama's stories of when she went to Sunday school at UU Estrie.

The children have worked very hard over the past two months to create with words and paint a story of Spring which we shared on Earth Day. Planting tomatoes and cucumbers, nature walks, creative crafts with the principles and sources of Unitarian Universalism have kept us very busy in our little space.

Please feel free to come in and visit with the children and if you have any concerns, questions, ideas or a project you would like to do with the children, please contact me.

Happy Spring !
Lindsay-Jane Gowman

Hello from Shikoku

Right now, in Japan, the land of the tea ceremony and the graceful geisha, there is an old lady from Connecticut walking around looking about as delicate as a moose. She struggles to remove her shoes with one easy motion like the natives. She trips over beautiful wooden thresholds or forgets her glasses next to the temple bell. But the Buddha (or in this case Kobo Daishi) advises her to EMBRACE HER CLUMSYNESS.



It is a custom here for Buddhist pilgrims to be given "osettai" or gifts from strangers, in the hopes that they will be safe and perhaps include the giver in their prayers.

Every day I walk along this 1300 kilometer path dressed in a white vest and traditional hat. Suddenly a man stops his truck and hands me an egg. An old lady rushes out of her house to hand me a little fabric purse with Kleenex inside. A group on a tour give me candies and insist on taking my photo.

I can usually make myself understood in Japanese -yeah!!! That is a big relief.

This is very different culturally and physically from the Camino de Santiago which I did in 2010. Today I only walked 15 kilometers or so , but the steep grade made it seem like 30!

Thinking of you with peace and gratitude.
Gabriella

Ecological Consciousness-raising

M. François Tanguay was the guest speaker at UUEstrie on **Earth Day**, April 22, 2012. His main point was that the problem in living sustainably on planet Earth is the economy—we must figure out how to green the economy of the world.

The industrial economy we have built over the last few centuries, particularly the last century, is simply not sustainable. It overpollutes, it overdepletes, it overpopulates. It provides the illusion of progress and productivity growth while all the while drawing down the ecological capital on which all life depends. In M. Tanguay's words, this is incoherent, it makes no sense, and what we need now, more than ever, is **coherence**.

So what will a green economy look like? One, it will be much more **equitable**. (This will be a major theme at the upcoming Earth Summit, Rio + 20.) It will **maintain** and rebuild **natural capital**. Its institutions will be more **inclusive** and **participatory**, with full **transparency** and all stakeholders involved. It will be fully **accountable**, which implies good governance.

A green economy will also be **resilient** which is much more feasible on a local level where local skills and local knowledge increase awareness. (If forced to choose between organic and local food, M. Tanguay said he would choose **local**, every time. But organic is important to—for only organic agriculture is regenerative of the critical factor, topsoil.)

Economics is all about **efficiency**, but if you pollute you are not being efficient—efficiency implies that polluters pay. Goods produced and consumed with large externalized costs are not sustainable. If they are not sustainable, we don't need them.

Economics is also about investment—in the green economy this means investment in the **well-being of future generations**. Contemporary economic and business calculations discount the future, so that anything beyond 20 years or so is valued at close to zero. This is a fundamental flaw contributing to environmental, economic and socio-cultural unsustainability.

Let me close this review of his reflection by re-telling an anecdote M. Tanguay used to open his talk. In one of Oxford University's colleges there was a large great hall with amazingly thick and long beams of solid oak supporting the structure, which had stood for hundreds of years. One day it was discovered that dry rot had finally penetrated these beams so that their structural integrity was fatally compromised. What to do? Where and how could they replace these magnificent beams that had stood for centuries, but that one saw nowhere anymore? Some panic set in. Eventually someone got around to consulting the university forester, a humble worker in the Building and Grounds department of the University, who took the big wigs to a spot in the University forest where stood a magnificent stand of oaks that had been planted over **300** years ago, and tended by generation after generation of foresters all that time, for just such a purpose. Problem solved!

Keith

Jour de la Terre

Collectif d'auteurs

Nous nous rassemblons pour dénoncer le désengagement du protocole de Kyoto, les dégradations dues à l'exploitation des sables bitumineux, les modèles actuels de développement minier et forestier, les risques liés à l'exploitation du gaz de schiste, du pétrole, de l'uranium et à l'utilisation de l'énergie nucléaire sur notre territoire;

Nous refusons d'être dépossédés de nos richesses et des sources d'un véritable progrès.

Et nous demandons:

Que le gouvernement du Canada participe pleinement au protocole de Kyoto, qu'il intensifie la lutte contre les changements climatiques, qu'il cesse toute subvention aux compagnies pétrolières et gazières et qu'il poursuive toute politique de développement en répondant aux objectifs économiques, écologiques et sociaux les plus élevés au monde;

Que le gouvernement du Québec se dote d'une véritable stratégie, pour le Nord et l'ensemble du territoire, où le développement de nos ressources naturelles et énergétiques répond à nos exigences les plus hautes en matière de partage de la

richesse, de respect de l'environnement et des populations, maintenant et pour les générations à venir.

Part of a declaration signed by over 32,000 which appeared in Le Devoir on Earth Day

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>

As well, the monthly ENews is available at <http://www.cuc.ca/enews/>

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Tuesday & Wednesday, 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

Tight Rope Walk Over Niagara Falls

The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Niagara is offering UUs the opportunity to personally see this once in a life time event. Check the web link below to find out more:

www.firstuunf.org/TightRopeWalk.html

Calendar and Schedule

SUN 6 10:00AM SERVICE: BELTANE
SUN 13 10:00AM SERVICE: MOTHER'S DAY
SUN 20 11:00AM SERVICE: LIVE STREAM
SUN 27 10:00AM SERVICE: REV. CAROLE

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 June 2012

Deadline: ***May 20.***

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

Dear Contributors to Newsletter:

The Newsletter Committee frequently receives texts forwarded wholesale from one or another worthy publication or website. As such, they are not useful. When members come across material of interest that they would like to share, they are cordially invited to digest the texts they find valuable, reframing them in succinct form. Websites or links can be cited for those seeking further information.

Your Newsletter Committee