

November 2014 novembre



## Events this Month

All Sunday services start at 10:30 am unless otherwise specified.  
We have an active children's program during our Sunday service, at which all children are warmly welcome

### **November 2, 10:30 Standard time** **Various personal testimonies** **“All Souls Sunday”**

A service in memory of friends and loved ones who have recently passed away. A joint service with l'Olivier, a francophone group devoted to the spiritual connection we have with the departed. Personal testimonies from everyone who would like to participate are welcome.

Upstairs, in the Sanctuary

Service Leader: Keith Baxter

Musicians: Céline Francosz & Francis Marcoux

### **November 9** **Ms. Blondine Maurice** **“The Need for Simplicity Parenting”**

The speed, stress, fear and over-stimulation of contemporary society takes its toll. Especially on children.

Blondine Maurice leads workshops in Simplicity Parenting as well as Inner Clown Play. She was the pioneer Waldorf teacher in the Eastern Townships, starting 'l'Oiseau d'or' kindergarten in her home in 1986. (L'Oiseau d'or later occupied our own Stoddard Hall for two years in 1990-92!) She lives in Montreal.

Upstairs, in the Sanctuary

Service Leader: Keith Baxter

Musician: Pat Bird

### **November 16** **Rev. Carole Martignacco** **“Two Birds with One Hand”**

Our theme of the month is Courage. What does it take to live a life of courage? We often think of it as a response to threat. What are the real threats in our world, and how might we rise in courage to face and perhaps even transform them?

This morning marks our move downstairs for winter services in Stoddard Hall, so our service ends with a procession carrying chalice, hymnbooks, guestbook and other worship items.

Upstairs, in the Sanctuary

Service Leader: Rev. Carole Martignacco

### **November 23** **Prof. Jamie Crooks** **“Spinoza and the Love of God”**

Baruch Spinoza, banished from the Jewish community of Amsterdam in 1656 at the age of 24, continued his striking philosophical reflections throughout his life. Among ideas that continually got him into trouble with authorities, was Spinoza's insistence that reason and rational intuition were sources of knowledge on a par with the revelations of the Bible.

Dr. Jamie Crooks is a professor of philosophy at Bishop's University.

Downstairs, in Stoddard Hall

Service Leader: Keith Baxter

### **November 29, 8 p.m.** **Chœur des Sangs Mêlés** **“World Music”**

The singers of Le Chœur des Sangs Mêlés will carry you off on a vocal journey to the four corners of the world, offering up captivating rhythms, exotic languages, thrilling harmonies . . . and incomparable energy rooted in diversity!

Suggested donation \$12; proceeds to Avenir Togo Canada. There will be African crafts for sale at some of the shows, for the benefit of Togolese NGOs. Information: [choeursangsmeles.ca](http://choeursangsmeles.ca)

Upstairs, in the Sanctuary

### November 30 “Our Story”

In this DVD showing, university professor and Secretary General of the Palestinian National Initiative Dr. Mustafa Barghouthi recounts the Palestinian story from 1948 to the present, with particular emphasis on the evolution of the Israeli apartheid system. A video presentation, and another episode in our ongoing exploration of the unhappy history of the Middle East.

Downstairs, in Stoddard Hall

Service Leader: Keith Baxter

### Social Justice Series - Time for action?

This will have been the 6th service in 9 months devoted to the ongoing strife in the “Holy Land.” After these very powerful films and reflections on the problem, I suggest it is time to take some formal, concrete actions, such as drafting a statement, writing letters, and providing input to the CUC's resolution process. How should we go about this? *Lin Jensen, ed.*

### 3 Timely Social Action Projects:

#### THE BARE NECESSITIES

A non-profit in Sherbrooke distributing free coats and food to ward off cold and hunger this winter needs your help. “*Because you shouldn't have to choose!*”

*Clean your closets!* At UU Estrie, we will be collecting coats, jackets, snowpants, vests – for all ages, cleaned and gently used – throughout the winter months – just place them in the box outside the church office. Merci – thank you!

#### MITTEN TREE

Again in December, we'll trim our holiday tree with new hats, mittens, scarves, socks and warm knitted or fleecy wear for all ages.

#### LOCAL FOOD SHELVES

Donations are needed. Please bring a non-perishable food item or harvest vegetable to the Thanksgiving service on October 12<sup>th</sup>, and continue with donations each Sunday in the months to come. Many will benefit from your generosity!

#### THE RELIGIOUSLY HOMELESS

(abridged, reprinted fr. LUUC Oct. Newsletter)

“Stuff happens – often stuff over which we have no control. Things change. Especially today. American religion is changing at a rate that is unprecedented. We are witnessing nothing less than a spiritual mass migration of tens of millions of people away from religious institutions. This is occurring after decades of relative stability. We see denominations struggling to adapt as membership drops and financial resources dwindle.

“We cannot control these cultural shifts. We can control our response. One response is to continue to do what we have always done, perhaps redoubling our efforts. We can stubbornly cling to old ways, eating into our financial reserves and delaying the inevitable. Sadly, I see some congregations doing exactly that.

“Or we can look around for new possibilities. We can open ourselves to new ways of being, to new ways of being faithful to our core values. Ultimately, this is a spiritual discipline. This is about letting go, about exploring, about paying attention to what is happening all around us, about listening deeply to one another and to our inner voices.

“What our thriving congregations do have in common are qualities of spirit and culture. They know who they are. They know where they are. They have a shared vision of what is possible right here, right now. And our thriving congregations have leaders, both lay and ordained, who seize the opportunities before them. We need thousands of passionate leaders – leaders in communities large and small.

“I am convinced, absolutely convinced, that we live in an era of enormous opportunity for liberal religion. This is a time of historic possibility for us. Just look at how the culture is shifting in attitudes about sexuality, cultural diversity, and environmental sustainability. We can become the spiritual home, the supporting community, for the religiously homeless. The great issue before us is whether we will adapt quickly enough.

“Think of your congregation, your location. What is your great opportunity? And what will it take to grasp that opportunity? Imagine what you might do in partnership with others...”

***Members of UU Estrie – how might we answer this challenge?***



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

As we begin our third month of exploring theme-based ministry at UU Estrie, I am preparing to attend the CUC Eastern Fall Gathering in Halifax, along with Board members Rachel Garber and Debra Fougère. Ministers in the Eastern Region will be presenting a stream on Theme-Based Ministry. I hope all of you have been enjoying our OPENING TO THE SPIRIT weekly column in the Sherbrooke Record based on words used in the theme-based model. I'll be presenting it as one way to use the themes beyond our walls as we fulfill terms of our Northern Lights grant for interfaith outreach.

COURAGE is our November theme. With excerpts from one of our September columns, let me introduce my three courageous spirit-filled colleagues one by one:

Rev. Mead Baldwin of Waterville/Hatley/North Hatley United writes: "As children growing up in Baldwin's Mills we watched "The Wizard of Oz" on television every year...One lesson from that movie was that the quality each of the travellers wanted to find; a heart, a brain, courage, a home, could not be given to them by some magical person, or mystical experience. The power was inside each of them the whole time...This summer our world has seen passenger planes shot down in Ukraine, bombings in Israel and Gaza, racial prejudice in Ferguson, Missouri and a raging Ebola epidemic in Africa. I could list even more headlines, but that's enough. There are enough problems for a decade, let alone a single summer. Many of us have also faced personal struggles of one kind or another this season. Perhaps it's time for discover the gift of courage. We need people to speak out in our time with a message of hope and peace. We need to stand up to our fears and speak the truth in our place and time."

Anglican Canon Rev. Wanda Lynn Dillabough says: "If it doesn't scare you, then it doesn't really take courage...Sometimes we confuse courage with bravado. We think that courage is chest-thumping war cries or going into battle heavily armed. Courage, I think, is

something quieter than that...Sometimes the great act of courage is to show your vulnerability and to let someone see your weakness, or to share with them how you have been hurt. It can take courage to talk things through with someone rather than just walking away or gossiping behind their back...This writing group is practicing speaking with our authentic voices. We have such a good time together, writing about our word of the week and then sharing our thoughts with each other. But this is also more than a little bit scary. We are revealing ourselves to each other, and then to you. I'm glad we find the courage and I hope we inspire you to think about our word of the week and to share your thoughts with someone nearby...What would you like to say, if you felt a little bit braver?"

And these words are from Rev. Lee Ann Hogle, United minister in Magog/Ayer's Cliff: "To live a human life is a courageous act. I don't think we give ourselves enough credit for that. Each of us carries our share of burdens and fears, though most often we are good at masking our troubles....One of the reasons I like living in a small town is that we come to know a little more of the history of families and individuals. We get to know some of the burdens they carry... When asked, many people who have carried out amazing acts of courage, will deny that courage played any role in what happened. They simply did what was required. Helping someone we know is struggling can sometimes simply mean pointing out the courage they are exhibiting by rising one more day, taking one more step, breathing one more breathe."

Rarely do I quote myself, but here's a fragment of my own thoughts on courage: "Studying a language can make even familiar words appear strange. Courage is one of those French cognates, and I wonder - are its roots in *coeur* as in heart, or *cours* as in course? This prompts me to imagine courage, instead of facing up to fear, as a kind of heart-filled staying the course...What is it you care about with all your heart, that protecting it calls forth a hearty course of action, maybe even a "holy outrage"? Is it loving in the face of all odds, or facing the world news? When I'm really awake and paying attention, there's enough at stake in my own corner of the world. And courage looks less like a leap than holding the line."

"Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying 'I will try again tomorrow.'" (Radmacher) Our column always ends with an invitation to ponder the theme: "One word. Four voices - now add your own. What in your life calls for courage, how do you experience courage in others?"

May we live courageously! - Rev. Carole



### President's Report *Thoughts about Loss*

A few weeks ago, it was a joy to celebrate Thanksgiving and the harvest festival of Sukkot at the historic

Huntingville Universalist Church.

The Huntingville Church was built in 1844, just 170 years ago, on land donated by Seth Hunting, one of two Hunting brothers who settled in the area and founded Huntingville. The congregation formed a constitution in 1867. The following year, it joined the Universalist Convention of Vermont and Quebec. Over the years, financial problems and the decline in the number of members forced it to close down, and it was formally dissolved in 1964. (That's per the archives of the Eastern Townships Resource Centre.)

And this week, it is with sadness that we greet the death of Ross Hunting. He was a descendent of the founders of the Huntingville Universalist Church, and in 1961 built a planing mill next to the Ascot River in Huntingville. He operated it for many years, but now it is closed.

I remember Ross as that quiet gentleman who so often graced the centre left pew of UUEstrie, alongside his wife Iris. He hasn't been able to come for some time, and he was quietly missed. Now he will not return. You who knew him better and longer no doubt feel an even keener sense of loss. And I think of you.

I think of Phyllis who lost her mother Pearl this past week, too.

The process of losing is lifelong, and multifaceted. We age and lose our strength or health, even memories. We lose loved ones, sometimes slowly, sometimes abruptly. We lose positions, we lose institutions. We lose businesses, we lose money. And it is hard.

It's normal to feel afraid of loss. We instinctively fear its threat to our physical integrity and the emotional pain it brings. So sometimes we try to deny it, even when in the midst of it. But knowing darkness is what lets us appreciate light. "Light is known to exist by virtue of darkness. One is the chair upon which the other sits" (Anonymous). It is a hard lesson, but a rewarding one. Light shines never so brightly as when it is surrounded by darkness.

And then there's the aftermath. It's hard to let go. But that too is rewarding. It can bring peace, and it may also bring new life. "Loss provides an opportunity to take inventory of our lives, to reconsider priorities, and to determine new directions" (George L. Sitter).

Is there a lesson here for us in our congregational life? Change always involves some kind of loss. It is not easy, but it is inevitable. It is the one constant in life. How do we negotiate it?

In the spirit of Love,  
Rachel Garber, President

### Denominational affairs

If you are a member, you probably get the Canadian Unitarian newsletter by email. Current and past issues can be found on-line at <http://cuc.ca/the-canadian-unitarian/> You can also request a paper copy there.

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

### SPECIAL EVENTS THIS MONTH:

**Génie en gris** -A series of 6 luncheon concerts with shared sponsorship by The Estria Woodwind Quintet, UU Estrie, and Uplands Cultural & Heritage Centre, and funding by MADA.

**Nov. 7 at 11:00 ~ Luncheon and Concert at UU Estrie** features Clarinet works Opus 114 written by Johannes Brahms at the age of 61 – performed by the Uplands Trio. Seniors FREE/\$10/non-seniors

*Open your arms to change, but don't let go of your values – Dalai Lama*

**Nov. 21 STUDENT HOSPITALITY SUPPER** at St. George's Anglican in Lennoxville – hosted by UU Estrie volunteers, with a chili and cornbread menu. If you'd like to be part of the host team that helps cook and gathers at 4:15 that Friday to serve and mingle with university students from 5:30 – 6:30 that evening, your participation would be most welcome. Contact Rev. Carole at [revcarole@uuestrie.ca](mailto:revcarole@uuestrie.ca)

#### QUOTES

*A boo is a lot louder than a cheer. If you have 10 people cheering, and one person booing, all you hear is the booing. - Lance Armstrong*

*The one thing that doesn't abide by majority rule is a person's conscience. - Atticus, in To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee*

#### Special Thanks this Month

Thanks to all who helped orchestrate our Thanksgiving Sukkot service in Huntingville. Joey Marosi polished silver cups for the ceremony and provided refreshments. Gudrun Brand and her family decorated the sanctuary on a theme suggesting abundance of the harvest. The visit by Rabbi Anna Maranta of Ottawa was organized by Isaac Romanov of JCCET, who also led the congregation in singing. To Rev. Abigail Stockman of Irasburg VT for her exquisite performance on the harp and perseverance in accompanying the hymns on a difficult piano. Thanks to Edson Warner for getting the Rabbi to the bus on time.



Thanks to those who attended the moving workshop “the Power of Song” with Rev. Wendy Luella Perkins. Her leadership in singing meditation indeed moved those present off the hymnal's page.



Thanks in advance to Rachel Garber and Debra Fougère who, with Rev. Carole, are attending the Eastern Regional Gathering and making the long drive to Halifax to represent UUEstrie. We wish them a safe trip.

**Minister's Note:** I have purchased on behalf of UU Estrie Wendy Luella Perkins' two C Ds for our use in making Soulful Singing part of our Sunday worship. Contact me if you wish to use them in planning a service.

*From The Compassionate Community – Strategies That Work for the Third Millennium: “Religions are organizationally committed to outreach...Their major sources for funds are religious people who see contributing to charities as a way of carrying out a religious obligation...Local religious communities can provide ways for people to become involved in their own neighborhoods or cities. Local clergy need to be conscious of preaching the social message as part of the spiritual message. They have many opportunities to talk...about the demands of justice as inherent to a religious commitment. Each local church, synagogue, and mosque needs to be made aware of the global, the national, and the local calls for compassionate justice, and how it can be part of the effort, not a part of the problem.” (from the chapter Who Is Responsible And How?)*

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Minister's Office Hours  
Wednesday , 2:30 – 4:30 pm  
& Friday 10:30 – 12:30  
Please respect the Minister's sabbath, Sunday  
afternoon and Monday.  
*For emergency pastoral care, phone:*  
1. Rev. Carole  
2. Joyce Booth



Biking with babies to Huntingville

## Calendar and Schedule

SUN	2	10:30AM	SERVICE: ALL SOULS
TUES	4	2:00PM	BOARD MEETING
SAT	8	ALL DAY	INNER CLOWN
SUN	9	10:30AM	SERVICE: BLONDINE M.
TUES	11	11:00AM	LUNCHEON & CONCERT
		1:30PM	PROGRAM COMMITTEE
SUN	16	10:30AM	SERVICE: REV. CAROLE
SUN	23	10:30AM	SERVICE: JAMIE CROOKS
TUES	25	10:00AM	NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE
SAT	29	8:00PM	WORLD MUSIC
SUN	30	10:30AM	SERVICE: OUR STORY

### Board of Trustees

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

Rachel Garber	President
Heather Lewis	Vice-President
Joey Marosi	Secretary
Keith Baxter	Treasurer
Mary-Lynn Ross	Member at large
Debra Foug�ere	Member at large

## This is your newsletter !!!

Next issue of Newsletter is December 2014 - January 2015

**Deadline: November 23.**

*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](mailto:newsletter@uuestrie.ca).*



Memorial plaque in Huntingville church