

nouvelles estrie news

March-April 2017 mars-avril



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

March 5

Rev. Carole Martignacco
"Simple and Free"

SIMPLICITY is our theme of the month - what the poet Longfellow called "the supreme elegance." More than clean lines in art or a lack of household clutter, simplicity can also be the art of traveling lightly through this life, burdened with a minimum of baggage. Rooted in clarity, honesty, and integrity of spirit, it can lead to inner freedom.

Musician: Llinos Owen

Coffee Convenor: Amanda H'burg

Wednesday, March 8, 7:15 pm

Carole Martignacco
"The Spirit Group"

This month's theme is Symplicity. If you would like to participate, please contact Rev. Carole first (revcarole@uuestrie.ca).

Service Leader: Rev. Carole Martignacco

March 12

Rev. Carly Gaylor
"And the Turtle Wins the Race"

Note: Daylight Savings Time begins today! Spring forward or be late.

Experiences of burnout and busyness abound in our society, and, sadly, congregational life is often no exception. How do we find quiet, renewal, and oasis, from the hectic nature of contemporary life?

Following the service please join us for a **potluck lunch**; bring whatever you'd like. After lunch Carly

will lead a short informal workshop on 'young adult welcoming'.

Service Leader: Keith Baxter

Coffee Convenor: potluck lunch

March 19

Mr. Robin Cappuccino
"Life Stories of Child Haven People"

Robin Cappuccino's parents, Bonnie and Fred, co-founded Child Haven over 25 years ago. Child Haven provides homes for over 1,300 formerly destitute children in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Tibet, including food, clothing, shelter, medical care, education and loving care.

Robin travels with his mother several times a year to visit each of the Child Haven homes. He will also be hosting the fourth annual Lennoxville Child Haven Dinner and Silent Auction at Shalimar Restaurant on April 18.

Service Leader: Keith Baxter

Musician: Frances Alvo

Coffee Convenor: Mary Lynn Ross

March 26

Mr. Nicholas Williams
"Music, Music, Music!"

Nicholas Williams leads Les Voix du Village (the Waterville community choir), in a music service up in our sanctuary.

Upstairs, in the Sanctuary

Service Leader: Keith Baxter

Musician: Nicholas Williams

Coffee Convenor: Crystle Reid

Saturday, April 1, 9:00am
“Spring Cleanup Day #1”

It's that time again, with lots of big and small cleanup chores to do, inside and out. Join us anytime after 9 am. A list of chores needing doing and tools for doing so will be available at our meetinghouse. Questions? Speak to Mary Lynn Ross, or Keith Baxter.

April 2
Rev. Carole Martignacco
“TBA”

Coffee Convenor: Célyne & Joey

Friday, April 7, 7:15 pm
Brian Campbell and Jocelyne Dubois
“Spring Reading Series”

Sponsored by the Quebec Writers' Federation, we follow up a successful literary reading we held last August with three more this spring, on the first Friday in April, May and June. Each reading will be preceded by a 'meet the writers' potluck supper at 6 pm in Stoddard Hall, at UUEstrie. No charge, but donations will be welcomed.

Service Leader: Steve Luxton

Saturday, April 8
“Spring Cleanup Day #2”

See April 1.

April 9
Frances Alvo
“Self-Directed Education: The Sudbury
Model of Schooling”

Frances Alvo is an alumna of the Sudbury Valley School. The Sudbury Valley School gives children the time and space to form themselves into responsible, independent, and resourceful adults. At SVS, children take control of their own lives within a community where all members are treated with trust and respect, and allowed full participation in the democratic process of running the school. SVS was inspired by Summerhill, which was a major breakthrough in the Free School movement.

Downstairs, in Stoddard Hall
 Service Leader: Camille BouskÉla

Wednesday, April 12, 7:15 pm
Rev. Carole Martignacco
“The Spirit of Life discussion group”

This month's theme is Resistance. If you would like to participate, please contact Rev. Carole first (revcarole @uuestrie.ca).

Downstairs, in Stoddard Hall
 Service Leader: Rev. Carole Martignacco

April 16
Mr. Keith Baxter
“Contemplating the Easter Story as
Metaphor”

A conventional Christian reading of the Easter Story has Jesus literally and visibly rising, body and soul, from the dead, demonstrating thereby his miraculous messianic powers.

The Reverend Jim MacDonald wants intelligent people to think beyond the characters in the story. He wants the Easter story to become again that incredible metaphor that reveals an important truth about life. To become again that story of hope that relates to every troubling situation we encounter in life.

Upstairs, in the Sanctuary
 Service Leader: Keith Baxter

Tuesday, April 18, 6 pm
Robin Cappuccino
“Fourth Annual Child Haven Dinner and
Silent Auction”

Fundraiser at Shalimar Restaurant in Lennoxville, co-sponsored by UUEstrie, to benefit Child Haven International. Child Haven provides homes for over 1,300 formerly destitute children in South Asia, providing them plenty of loving care, and healthy food; clothing and shelter; and education through at least secondary school to get them launched into a productive life. Tickets on a sliding scale: \$50 minimum and everything over \$28 earns a charitable tax receipt. Speak to Phyllis or Keith Baxter.

Away from UU Estrie
 Service Leader: Keith Baxter

April 23
Ms. Joanna Bateman
“Living in Constant Transition”

Joanna Bateman lives in Sherbrooke. She is Director of Literacy in Action, which is based in Lennoxville. She is also a graduate of Bishop's U. and a social activist who tries to live intentionally. Joanna will reflect on her experience of constantly being faced with choices and decisions, and the taking of responsibility that comes with making choices of all kinds. Decisions, both long-term and short-term decisions, seem to become even more demanding as one emerges into adulthood.

Upstairs, in the Sanctuary
 Service Leader: Phyllis Baxter
 Musician: Frances Alvo

April 30
TBA

Friday, May 5, 7:15 pm
Mark Abley and Linda Leith
“Literary readings”

The second in our spring series of literary readings in our sanctuary. Preceded by a 'meet the writers' potluck supper at 6 pm downstairs in Stoddard Hall. Sponsored by the Quebec Writers Federation. No charge, though freewill donations to UUEstrie are welcome.
 Service Leader: Steve Luxton

Friday, June 2, 7:15 pm
Keith Henderson and Kenneth Radu
“Literary readings”

The final session in our spring series of literary readings held in our sanctuary. Preceded by a 'meet the writers' potluck supper at 6 pm downstairs in Stoddard Hall for all who are interested. Sponsored by the Quebec Writers Federation. No charge, though freewill donations to UUEstrie are welcome.
 Service Leader: Steve Luxton

Note: There was no January-February Newsletter, due to the flu and general business, my apologies -- Lin

Attribution:

Dear all, I would like to attribute the story I told on **January 15** to its true source: Mr. Wendell Berry. 'Tis he that invented those characters, and the story of the 'First Consent'. 'Tis the adaptation and the telling that were mine.

Keith

Thank you, whoever you are!

Wow! UUEstrie received in November a beautiful new computer in the mail from an unknown donor. We are so grateful! It was so greatly needed.

But now the treasurer is wondering if the anonymous donor would like to receive a charitable receipt for their in-kind donation. If that is you, and you would like to stay anonymous to UUEstrie members AND get a charitable receipt, the treasurer can arrange that. Just contact me at treasurer@uuestrie.ca or 819-640-1340.

And again, THANK YOU!

Rachel Garber, Treasurer & Past 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/enews/>

Twelve Steps to A Compassionate Life

In the spirit of resisting the hatred, bigotry and intolerance of our time, UU Estrie is offering a seven session series for adult exploration. This series is open to all members and community. Using Karen Armstrong's book by that title, we will explore a 12-step approach to living more compassionately. Books will be available for purchase, or you can acquire your own copy from Chapters or Amazon online.

We will meet in Stoddard Hall 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. on the following dates:

Tuesdays, March 14, 21, 28; April 4, 11, 18, 25

Orange Decadence Tea and Poetry ~ Reverend Carole Martignacco, reading old and new poems from her project, The Orange Obsessions

Saturday, March 11 from 2 to 4 pm



Minister's Reflection - Carole's Column

*"All beautiful the march
of day as seasons come
and go..."*

Thus begins one of my favourite songs praising nature in our grey hymnal. March means many things, but one of them is that it harbors the beginning the Spring Equinox. While winter is still visible, the earth is shifting toward warmth, the days are increasing incrementally, with earlier sunrises and later sunsets. Seed catalogs appear among the bills in the post, and a recent visit to the Sawyerville Seed Festival has put a spring in my spirit. I now have various seeds sprouting in a sunny window - lavender, tomato, bean and purple garlic - and the growing season will be upon us before we can drag out the garden tools from the shed.

March is Women's History Month, and I think of all the women's marches recently, the amazing power of people gathered in peaceful solidarity celebrating common cause, demanding basic human rights and justice.

March is also marked this year for me by our monthly worship theme of simplicity. In prep for my "sermon of the month", I've been thinking of the many ways simplicity might feature in our lives. Not just our attitude toward material possessions, but how we approach all aspects of our lives. A simplified living space invites reflection and clarity of mind. A simple approach to spirituality is to love honestly what our heart loves. Simplicity of heart makes for a lack of guile and deceit. Simple truths are usually those that ring truest.

I've begun rereading an old favourite by psychologist Erich Fromm entitled *To Have or To Be*. Fromm says we waste psychic energy amassing objects and investing them with some sense of security. While all our lives, our simple task as humans on this earth is, quite simply, to BE. And since April's worship theme is resistance, I'm straddling two months and embracing a simple form of resistance to all the craziness that seems to dominate the public discourse. I vow simply to resist being robbed

of my joy that Spring is coming, and life will - because or inspite of us - renew itself as it always does.

Blessings and love at this joyful turning of seasons! ~ Rev. Carole

President's Report

I felt very proud of our troupe of performers who led our non-traditional winter pageant. What a great original celebration we were part of. Congratulations to Crystle and her crew.

The sanctuary was beautifully decorated. I especially liked all the trees that were lit up providing a magical ambiance to the evening. Treasures decorating the sanctuary, like the crèche scene with the yurt were especially appreciated. Thank you to Mary Lynn Ross for all the time and care she put into creating a special atmosphere for all of us.

The carol and candle lighting service was more subdued, and again the lights and decorations enjoyed. I would have liked to stay longer in the sanctuary with a candleholder to catch the dripping wax..

I was also really proud of the delicious dinner we hosted, feeding over 60 people. The atmosphere was casual and family friendly. Thanks so much to Kevin Jensen, who slaved away all evening, Gudrun Brand, who helped organize the meal, and everyone who pitched in.

On December 22nd, the insurance company called my house because they knew Keith who had been treasurer for a number of years. I was quite shocked to learn that the bill which had been sent in August hadn't been paid. I don't want to blame anyone for the mistakes that were made, but want to sure measures are in place so that this doesn't happen again. Most of us are new at our church volunteer jobs and we don't always realize what needs to be done when.

There are several webinars offered by the CUC coming up. I will try to watch some of them at UUEstrie and invite others to join me.

I am entering 2017 with a lot of hope in my heart. In spite of setbacks, I am hopeful that we can continue our journey together, standing on the side of love; and get encouragement from our UU brothers and sisters. And I hope we can reach out and inspire and help ourselves and visitors

who come in contact with us, whether they are looking for support or not. We have a lot to offer.

Phyllis Baxter

President's Ponderings on Pipes

Back in the early 80's, the UU Church of North Hatley opened for services in April around Easter and closed in November. It was too expensive to heat during the cold weather.

Closing the building included draining the water from the pipes to the kitchen sink and probably the cellar washroom. Once a month, the congregation would meet for a pot luck supper and organized program at the Community Hall, above the fire station.

In those days, the door to the present closet in Avery Booth Hall, opened to a set of rickety, steep stairs that ended in a dirt floor cellar. A small bathroom was dug out of the cellar and a toilet and sink had been installed down there. It was a constant battle to keep the spiders from taking over the space. I tried to avoid using the facilities as much as possible.

Nowadays, we have only to move downstairs for our cold weather programs. We meet weekly instead of monthly and have access to a restroom on each level. But we still turn off the water to the upstairs which gets very cold. A few disasters took place in the past when for some reason or other, those responsible were caught unprepared. Burst water pipes and flooding are a super drag at any time but have to be dealt with as quickly as possible.

This past December 18th, after our Christmas Carole service and everyone had left, Keith and I were doing a few last minute jobs, like turning off the water in the upstairs washroom. We had already experienced some frigid temperatures; close to -30 C at night, which could easily have been disastrous. On that freezing, cold night, Keith valiantly drove out to UUEstrie after midnight, when I first thought to worry about the water freezing in the pipes, and he turned on the heat in the upstairs washroom.

The water had already been turned off in the upstairs kitchen. For some reason, on that December 18th evening, I went into the kitchen and discovered that the drain in the kitchen sink was full of ice and frozen solid. Uuh-ooh! I turned the heat on in the kitchen and said a little prayer and hoped everything would be alright.

Someone, not being aware of the situation had apparently poured water down the drain! Luckily with the heater on and milder temperatures outdoors, the drain thawed and cleared. Phew!

Thanks Keith and Mary Lynn Ross for your timely interventions.

Phyllis Baxter

John Mackley's Update

See the November newsletter. John went to Utah to donate stem cells for his sister, and has since returned. He sent this in November.

Greetings to all,

Eileen is progressing (well) ... and the majority of her Blood Count numbers appear to be ... stabilizing and heading in the right direction which is the indication we have all been hoping and praying for. Other evidence indicates signs also that her immune system is beginning to set up camp, as Janet put it, and like an occupying army taking up residence and possession of newly conquered territory with the intention of strategically taking and eventually maintaining total control of the country.

Thank you all for your love, devotion, prayers and good wishes, and a special thank you to those who looked into the possibility of getting tested in order to potentially donate blood for platelets. You hold a special place in my heart for your selfless compassion.

Yet another exciting up-date

I have been authorised to offer you yet another exciting up-date on Wonder Woman's... ...I mean Eileen's amazing progress!

Her blood counts have normalized to the point that she may be released from the hospital as early as today or tomorrow. She and Janet will be staying at special housing near the hospital ... in about 3 months she should be all cleared to really go home.

She has not only been eating better but walking the halls, arguing with the nurses, riding the exercise bike that they make all the patients do to generate electricity to keep the lights on in the hospital. Just ask Janet, she's the one who told me that.

The best news of all is that there also exists a very good possibility that an unintended side effect might include the elimination of her

previous auto-immune disease *and* her Hypo-Thyroid condition.

God doesn't mess around when He decides to make something good happen, does he?

Thank you all, God bless, John

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Address:	201 rue Main North Hatley QC J0B 2C0, Canada
Telephone:	(819) 842-4146
E-mail address:	info@uuestrrie.ca
Church Website:	http://www.uuestrrie.ca
Minister:	The Reverend Carole Martignacco revcarole@uuestrrie.ca cmartignacco@gmail.com 819-212-7150 (cell) 819-842-1387 (home)
President:	Phyllis Baxter president@uuestrrie.ca
Lay Chaplains:	Jane Pankovitch Keith Baxter
Ceremonies Coordinator:	ceremonies@uuestrrie.ca
Religious Education:	re@uuestrrie.ca
Editor:	Lin Jensen newsletter@uuestrrie.ca

<p>Minister's Office Hours By appointment For emergency pastoral care, phone: 1. Rev. Carole 2. Rachel Garber</p>

<p>"The Caring Committee is in search of volunteers to visit those in need of caring. If interested, please contact Phyllis Baxter or Rev. Carole Martignacco."</p>
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Calendar and Schedule

MARCH

SUN 5 10:30AM SERVICE: REV. CAROLE
 WED 8 7:15PM SPIRIT GROUP
 SUN 12 10:30AM SERVICE: CARLY GAYLOR
 SUN 19 10:30AM SERVICE: CHILD HAVEN
 SUN 26 10:30AM SERVICE: MUSIC, MUSIC..

APRIL

SAT 1 9:00AM SPRING CLEANUP
 SUN 2 10:30AM SERVICE: REV. CAROLE
 FRI 7 7:15PM SPRING READING SERIES
 SAT 8 9:00AM SPRING CLEANUP
 SUN 9 10:30AM SERVICE: FRANCES ALVO
 WED 12 7:15PM SPIRIT GROUP
 SUN 16 10:30AM SERVICE: EASTER
 TUES 18 6:00PM CHILD HAVEN DINNER
 SUN 23 10:30AM SERVICE: JOANNA BATEMAN
 SUN 30 10:30AM SERVICE: TBA

Board of Trustees

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

Phyllis Baxter	President
Camille Bouskela	Vice President
Rachel Garber	Past President/Treasurer
Amanda Hillenburg	Secretary
Ryan Frizzell	Member at large

This is your newsletter !!!

Next issue of Newsletter is May - June 2017

Deadline: **April 22.**

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@uuestrrie.ca.