



LUF Newsletter

Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship

November 2011



“An inclusive spiritual community promoting a compassionate, just, and sustainable world.”



Empty Bowls Caring Hearts

www.emptybowlstb.com



Murray seems to have difficulty making a choice while Heidi and Shannon have happily chosen their bowls at the 12th annual Empty Bowls dinner in support of Shelter House and the Food Bank.



Shirley Dolph, member of the Thunder Bay Potters Guild marks her bid for the Silent auction. Another successful year!

SUNDAY SERVICES at 10:30 am at 129 S. Algoma St.

Children's Religious Exploration Classes (Child Care Provided)

Nov. 6	Title: Personal Perspectives on China Speaker: William Roberts Service Leader: Elaine Foster-Sergeant	Nov. 20	Title: Part-time Ministry Speaker: Rev. Antonia Won Service Leader: TBA
Nov. 13	Title: Right Society/Right Community" Speaker: Rev. Frances Deverell Service Leader: Margaret Wanlin	Nov. 27	Title: TBA Speaker: Dale Sparkes Service Leader: Ed. Prinselaar

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Campaign 2012 Canvass is "Steppin' Up"!

Your LUF can be described in many ways. In one way we can be looked on as having aspirations and then finding the way to make them happen. Some say we're made of dreams and dollars. And so much is going on right now. Last year our Campaign '11 was built on the intention of "Enhanced Ministry" which, when you look at what was accomplished was a thriving process. It has swept us forward and in turn, urges us to continue in this direction while "Steppin' Up" the spirit. Thus our Campaign '12 is "Steppin' Up" the enthusiasm and "Steppin' Up" the activity. A very short list of our activities must include the ministerial visits of the Revs. Deverell and Wasilczuk, the Ken Morrison lectures, Green Sanctuary, a thriving RE, adult RE, and hardly a free evening where something isn't happening at LUF. We're definitely "Steppin' Up" - and more. Last year's Circle Dinners on Enhanced Ministry confirm our direction to ministry. The Ministerial Search Team are now ready to advertise with the Canadian Unitarian Council and the Unitarian Universalist Association for a Part-time minister for the fall of 2012. This is exciting news and something we've long been waiting to support!

Our annual Canvas begins officially Oct 30th. This is where our team of 14 will contact every member and friend to have a face to face meeting where we outline our Dreams, Challenges and Opportunities in 2012 and give you an chance to question and make your views known to the Board. Your pledge card, or gift of intent, indicates to us what financial support we can expect in 2012 and allows us to apportion your gifts most effectively in response to your vision of where LUF needs to be. Please welcome the canvasser into your home when they call - it won't take longer than 15 minutes (unless you want it to). The Canvass period extends into the first week of December. And in the words of Paul Evered, our consultant from last year, please give until it feels good, really good! We're worth it.



2012 Budget Submission Deadline

All Committee chairs are notified of the deadline for budget submission for 2012. It is extremely helpful to the Finance Committee and Board when you make a timely and detailed submission. The Budget is built on your ideas, your needs and your dreams. Get them in by November 20th to the Treasurer. Please make all your submissions by email to <rvanwyck@tbaytel.net>.

October Letter from the President

Some highlights from the October 19, 2011 board meeting:

-our finances are still in good shape, with lots of pledges arriving in September. I again ask committee chairs to have another look at their budgets, and if there are revisions please do advise Rob, so we can reallocate funds to better represent the realities of today.

-A Halloween potluck dinner will kick off the 2011-12 Canvass.

-Rev, Suzanne Wasilczuk & Sunday Services - contract with Suzanne signed

In terms of workshops she suggests we figure what we want, be deliberate and be organized to determine the best use of her services. Some suggest that this could be things such as pastoral care or conflict resolution. A joint meeting of the Board and Sunday Services has been suggested

-Antonia Won is our designated District Representative for CUC and our consultant for searching for part-time ministry. Sat. Nov19, 9:30-12:00 she will be here to present a round-table workshop to work with congregation and leadership to explain the process. The board wishes that following this meeting a formal Ministerial Search Committee would be set up. This team may consist of board members, committee chair, or any fellow members.

-the search for a part-time minister may take a while and it will be expensive to bring in candidates to present to the congregation. Some of the funds set aside this year for this purpose can be carried over, however more must be budgeted for next year.

It was suggested by some of the members that as a board we set aside time specifically to deal with "vision" issues, and that less time be spent on reporting on reports. I.e. they must be distributed beforehand, read, and dealt with in terms of prepared motions.

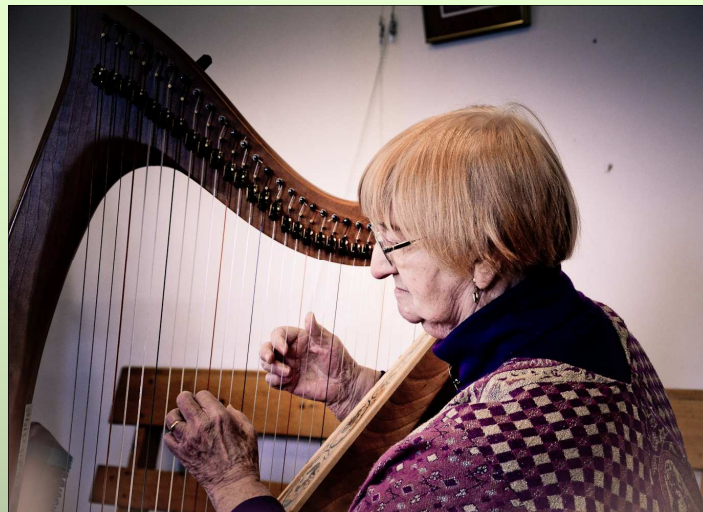
Pyteke and I are off to Holland, to see my mother. We will be back around mid November. Meanwhile the 2012 Canvass will take place. Members of the canvass team will appeal to our generosity, so we can move forward with our search for a part-time minister while continuing to offer a full program. The commitments made at the canvass will be of great importance to the prospects for part-time ministry at LUF. Bert

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST IN A DAY

Saturday, November 26th 9 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. LUF Orientation session for new Unitarian Universalists. If you are curious about this denomination, its history and tenets, consider attending. Lunch is provided. There is no charge and child care can be arranged. Contact the Fellowship's administrator: Elaine Sombrutski to register and/or for more information 344-5980 or e-mail lufship@tbaytel.net

CHALICE CIRCLE

Chalice Circle will meet on Wednesday, November 2 at 7 p.m. at the home of Jean Morrison, 98 Peter Street, with Christine Meronyk as facilitator. Each member is asked to give a report on a favourite/interesting book.



THANKS TO OUR SUNDAY SERVICE COMMITTEE WE ENJOY:

SPOOKY STORIES with Rev. Suzanne Wasilczuk and our children during a pre-Halloween service on October 16th.

SUNDAY MUSICIANS such as Marianne Wahl during the Samhain service on Oct. 30th.

LONG TIME MEMBERS such as Jean Morrison during the "Honouring Our Elders" service on Oct. 30, 2011.

How fortunate we are!!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR NOVEMBER 2011

Every Sunday at 9:00am,
Non-Violent Communication-LUF Basement Kitchen

Every Sunday at 10:30am,
Sunday Service at LUF

Every Sunday at 7:30pm,
Meditation

Every Tuesday morning,
Cleaning of the Church

Every Wed. at 5:30pm Yoga
with Sarah, \$6- LUF Hall

Every Wednesday at 7:30pm
Mindfulness Practice

Every Thursday at 4:00pm
Tai Chi LUF Hall

Sun., Nov.6, 9:15am, RE
meeting - LUF Boardroom

Mon., Nov.7, 6 pm, Slow
Food Superior Invitation -
LUF Hall

Mon., Nov. 21, 1 pm Fi-
nance Mtg. -LUF Kitchen

Mon., Nov. 21, 7pm LUF
Board Mtg. - LUF hall

Tues., Nov. 1, 15, 22, 29,
6pm - Welcoming Congrega-
tion Workshop - LUF Hall

Tues., Nov.8, 5pm
Sun. Service Mtg - LUF Kit

Tues., Nov. 8, 7pm Nu-
Moon Meeting - LUF hall

Wed., Nov. 2, 7pm Evening
Chalice Circle - Offsite

Wed., Nov. 16, 5:30pm
Crafter's Circle - Offsite

Wed, Nov, 16 7:30pm Fel-
lowship Life/Membership
Mtg. - LUF Boardroom

Thurs., Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24,
7pm Cup of Our Life Work-
shop - LUF Hall

Thurs., Nov. 24, Empty
Bowls Caring Hearts Evalua-
tion and Cheque Presentation
4:30 - LUF Hall

Sat., Nov. 5, 19 Bridge 1pm -
LUF Hall

Sat., Nov. 19, 9-12, Ministe-
rial Workshop- LUF Hall

Sat., Nov. 19, 5:30pm Pot-
luck - LUF Hall

Sat., Nov. 19, 8pm - Milonga
Night - LUF Hall

Sat., Nov. 26, LUF New
Member Orientation 9pm -
LUF Hall

Hello Everyone!

We have had a great month so far, and met some new friends! It's great to see some new participants, we are so happy to have you.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Harvest Sale through purchasing or contributing veggies, baking etc. The children have voted and would like the money raised to go to the Thunder Bay and District Humane Society with a small portion going towards new books for our library. All in all we have raised over \$50!

This month in the Primary class we will be learning about different churches, having a special Halloween lesson (to explore our feelings about Halloween - especially fear), and continue to be exposed to adult members of the Church. A sign up sheet for volunteering in the Primary class will be posted by the main entrance at LUF. Please sign up! There is no preparation work required, just come and enjoy the children with teacher Katie Hughdie.

The Junior class has finished two visiting sessions with other churches. Their first was a service with Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship with visiting minister Rev. Suzanne Wasilzcuk. Later on Friday, October 15th the Junior class and teachers and family attended the Shaarey Shomayim Congregation's service at the synagogue. We saw a temporary shelter outside the doors, where, if weather had been warmer, we would have eaten our meal afterwards, since this was the Festival of Sukot, the Jewish harvest celebration. Minowaywin accepted the invitation to shake the traditional Sukkot "lulav", a bundle of palm, myrtle and willow leaves in the four directions, and Rose was intrigued by the ceremonial "etrov", a special citrus fruit from Israel. Our host families were very welcoming, and their children showed off their knowledge of the Hebrew songs and blessings. Everyone enjoyed the wonderful "Challah" (braided bread) and the potluck meal after the service, and had a chance to talk about the similarities/differences between our faiths. For this "Church Across the Street" Program to be really successful we need to have more participants. We are still looking for children ages 9 to 12 to join us in our investigation of other religions being practiced here in Thunder Bay. This is a great opportunity, so parents please take advantage! The class will be learning about Paganism and Christianity next! We are also field testing a curriculum for the UUA called "Building Bridges". This curriculum is being used in the Junior class as it is very closely linked to the "Church Across the Street".

Thanks for all of your involvement and support with the children in our Religious Education Program!

Cheers, Katie

POTTERY PICK-UP

The glazed and fired " Empty Bowls" made by children on May 14th, 2011 have returned. They are displayed in the main hall on the north side entrance table. If you recognize them as yours, please pick them up and treat them with care. May these hand crafted "young" bowls teach our youth that there are people who face empty bowls on a daily basis. Call 344-5980 to be sure there is someone in the office to let you in.

A Minister's Eye View #1

Part of the job description for a minister is “to comfort the afflicted, and to afflict the comfortable.” I hope I am doing my job.

Every Sunday I try to remember that somewhere in the pews someone is hurting. I try, somehow, to acknowledge that hurting, and to give a comforting word – a reading, a hymn, a bit of hope. Or maybe the comfort comes from words of the Service Leader. Maybe it comes from the wonderful music of Heather Morrison, our music director, and her guests. Maybe comfort comes from the caring hearts and hands of the community. I do hope comfort – and the strength to carry on – comes from this religious community of faith and vision and missionary zeal.

Ah, and there comes the discomfort. *Religious. Faith. Vision. Missionary zeal.*

Yikes! Egad! & Zounds! you may say. What a bunch of loaded words! (though you are probably too polite to describe with what substance they are loaded – at least not out loud in polite company.)

Next month (or the month after, who knows...) I will write more about those particular uncomfortable words and their relevance to Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship.

This month, let me talk in general about hot button words – words that may make us cringe, grit our teeth, seethe, or shake our heads. Words like *God, religion, worship, angels, grace, prayer, sanctuary, salvation, soul*. And many more.

Why do we need to listen to these words, much less give them a moment's thought?

Here are some of my reasons:

In our pews we have folks who think these words have some merit, some bearing on their spiritual lives. We at Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship claim to be an inclusive religious community. If this is truly true, we need to make room in our tent for all those folks who long for a religious community that allows them the freedom to follow their spiritual path along the road of Love & Justice. And, in that context, to use some of these very words. In our pews we have non-theists. Theists. Christians. Muslims. Buddhists. Jews. Taoists. Mystics. Wiccans. Scientists & Poets alike. Seekers of all bents who long for help in seriously considering and describing Things of Worth that seem to be ignored in our day-to-day lives.

If we truly open our hearts and minds to talk with one another and, more importantly, listen to one another about our spiritual lives, we will not only open our arms to our fellow Unitarians. We will prepare ourselves to listen to those folks of other faiths, to find not just our differences, but also our commonalities.

My philosophy mentor, Dr. Albert Borgmann, once stopped a senior seminar of graduate students who were trashing a certain philosopher. “Anyone, any sophomore student, can find something to criticize in every philosophy there is,” he told us. “But each of these philosophies has stood the test of time. They have each proved worthy in some respect. Your job is to find the kernel of wisdom, the bright shining bit of truth, in each philosopher. And add that bit of truth to your collection of Truths.”

We Unitarians are quite good at telling ourselves and others what we do not believe. If we grapple with religious language – with these prickly hard words and, more importantly, with the symbols and ideas they represent – we just might get closer to being able to describe in what it is we do believe.

A couple books I would recommend for this spiritual/linguistic journey:

Fredric John Muir's *Heretics' Faith: Vocabulary for Religious Liberals*. Muir believes that we will deepen and strengthen our faith by opening ourselves to old, classic words, and giving them fresh new meanings.

A House for Hope: The Promise of Progressive Religion for the Twenty-first Century, by John A. Buehrens & Rebecca Ann Parker, is a work that talks about various theological concepts from a Unitarian Universalist viewpoint.

By: Suzanne Wasilczuk

Many blessings on your journey!
Reverend Suzanne

Ministerial Search Team News

During the past month, we have been compiling the informal feedback from the members of Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship regarding our ongoing process of searching for part-time professional ministry. Thanks to those 43 members who participated, and with a few exceptions, expressed support.

The Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) provides significant support for congregations in this search process. To that end, on Saturday, November 19 from 9:30 am until 12:00, the Rev. Antonia Won, our District Representative for Congregational Affairs will lead us in discussions about the process, and answer questions. She has been participating in our meetings via Skype and is closely following our progress. We encourage all members of working committees, and past and present leaders of our congregation to attend, as well as interested members and friends. Everyone is invited to meet Antonia informally at the potluck dinner that evening from 5:30 - 7:30 pm. Plan on staying for the Milonga dance session afterwards with Fritz Lehmborg and Joyce Seppala; you may participate as dancers or audience. Be sure to put these events on your calendar!!

As we read the comments from the Feedback forms, we realized that there is some confusion surrounding the Ministerial Search Team and our mandate. Last fall, an ad hoc team of myself, Erin Beagle, Brenda Gillespie, Ida Korhonen and Marsha Reinikka followed up on the directions of the previous board to proceed with exploring the call from the majority of our members for "professional ministry". We prepared discussion questions and organized Circle Dinners during the month of November 2010. There were ten highly successful dinners or lunches held with 49 members and friends attending, and then 32 people met in December for the follow up workshop on Enhanced Ministry (the title of the Canvass theme, 2010-11) where Stefan Jonasson led the discussion of the compiled answers to those Circle Dinner questions. An invitation to members to join the work team that would take this project forward was issued in the December newsletter. When there were no volunteers, the board appointed me as liaison, and I recruited Christine Meronyk, Ed Prinselaar and Margaret Wanlin to serve on the present Ministerial Search Team. Our role is to prepare the collection of data for the Congregational Record which is required of congregations advertising for ministers listed with the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the CUC, and to keep the congregation involved in this process. We are not a Ministerial Search Committee, as defined by the UUA, and are not involved in the hiring, but simply are searching for possible candidates. Since LUF was fortunate in being able to hire the Rev. Suzanne Wasilczuk to visit us for ten Sundays in 2011-12 as a Consulting Minister, we intend to complete this data gathering and application process in time for the spring candidating season in 2012. After meeting with Antonia, the board will proceed with creating a search team with a budget for ministerial candidates to visit and possibly present a candidate to the Fellowship to serve as Part-time minister for the fall of 2012. These are exciting times indeed! By: Rosemary Burris



Closet Singers (or Ringers) Time to Get Together! Our LUF Sunday morning service for Dec 18th involves lots of music. There will be a kids choir (directed by Dianne Potts) as well as an adult choir (by Rob Van Wyck) adding to the festivities. For the children, just arrive for the regular services and practices will be downstairs. Those adults who love to sing but never seem to find the time, or have always wanted to sing in a group will find this their golden opportunity. (FYI The Finance Committee will be budgeting for a reward to those participants who bring a tenor as well.) Practices are at 9:30AM on the four Sundays prior to the Service, that is, Nov 20, Nov 27, Dec 4, & Dec 11. Don't worry if you can't quite make them all - but the more the merrier! We'll be singing hymns and carols and have to solo numbers all by ourselves. For more info call 344-7845.

LUF CONTACTS 2010



OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

President:	Bert Blaauw	344-4052
Vice-President:	Marsha Reinikka	344-9998
Secretary:	vacant	
Treasurer:	Rob Van Wyck	344-7845
Past President:	Ellen Taylor	345-3888
At Large:	Brenda Gillespie	983-2758
	Rosemary Burris	343-9241
	Margaret Wanlin	767-1939
	Elaine Foster-Seargeant	933-4845
	Fred Upshaw	768-2413

STAFF AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

Administrator	Elaine Sombrutski	344-5980 (Office)	lufship@tbaytel.net
Coordinator of Religious Exploration	Katie Hughdie	344-5980 (Office)	mermaidkh@hotmail.com
Bookkeeper	Nadia LaRussa	344-5980 (Office)	
Lay Chaplains:	Rob Van Wyck	344-7845	
	Susan Tiura	346-4223	
	David Belrose	623-3347	
	Susan Patterson-Gulka	626-8149	
Director of Music :	Heather Morrison	767-8233	
Endowment Fund Directors	Tony Carfagnini (Chair)		
	Carl Rose		
	Wayne Hill		

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND CONTACT PEOPLE

Archives:	Del Dickey	Men's Group	Jim Bishop
Bridge:	Del Dickey	Newsletter:	Elaine Sombrutski
Care Committee:	Carol Ann Brumpton	Nominating:	Ellen Taylor
Fellowship Life/Membership	Bev Leaman	Property:	Bert Blaauw
Finance:	Rob Van Wyck	Children's Religious Exploration:	Katie Hughdie
Green Sanctuary Committee:	Erin Beagle	Sanctuary Coordinator:	Del Dickey
Kitchen:	Alice Neudorf, Audrey Saxberg	Social Responsibility:	Ahti Tolvanen
Lay Chaplaincy:	Carol Ann Brumpton	Sunday Services:	Hanusia Tkaczyk
Library:	Siobhan Malashewski	Tai Chi:	Sita Holland
Adult Religious Exploration	Susan Patterson Gulka		
	Trudi Jones		
Mindfulness:	David Belrose		

AFFILIATES AND ASSOCIATES

- Canadian Unitarian Council Board (cuc.ca)
- Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice

The opinions expressed in this newsletter may not necessarily reflect those of the newsletter editor or the Board of LUF.

We hope that you enjoy receiving/reading the LUF Letter, provided free to all members and friends. Receiving the LUF Letter via the website, saves money and trees. Please notify the office at 344-5980 if you no longer require the newsletter to be sent by post. Thank you for your contributions to LUF that make it possible to produce the LUF Letter.

LAKEHEAD UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP

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Deadline for submissions: 20th of the month

The newsletter is usually distributed by the first Sunday of each month from September to June inclusive, via LUF website www.luf.ca, surface mail or hand delivered.