



Fundy Wave
**Newsletter of the
 Unitarian Universalist
 Congregation of Saint John**

Unitarian Universalist religious services take place every Sunday at 10.30 a.m. at our building, 545 Sandy Point Road, in the north end of Saint John, New Brunswick. See "Sunday activities" in this monthly newsletter for details.

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1 -- **SUNDAY SERVICES**

March 1 – 10.30 a.m: "CELEBRATION IN SONG" Service leader, Martha Vowles
 "Celebration in Song" continues the former Singing Sunday with additional events -- chalice-lighting, joys and concerns, readings and so on. The main purpose will be to practice with the choir and to provide an opportunity for the congregation to become familiar with new songs. We may sing the same song 2 or 3 times until everyone feels comfortable with it. One of the selections each month will be a song suitable for children. This will be a monthly event on the first Sunday.

March 8 – 10.30: "A SHARING CIRCLE" Service leader, Connie Humphrey.
 Come and join in a Sharing Circle where we will worship and share by listening and speaking on personal spiritual experiences helping to strengthen our foundations of community.

March 15 - 10.30 a.m: "NOURISHING OUR ROOTS" Service leader, Rev. Ray Drennan.
 Our living Unitarian Universalist Tradition finds its source in many places. How can we possibly speak of who we are in a convincing manner if we are unfamiliar with these sources? Today we will look at our first and most distinguishing source; namely Direct Experience.

March 22 -10.30 a.m: “A CELEBRATION OF LOVE IN SIGHT & SONG”. Service leader, Connie Humphrey.

Four of our congregation’s talented children, Monet & Maya Comeau, and Jerry Faye & Sheehan Flatt, will celebrate love in song, in partnership with a slideshow prepared by Frank Loomer.

March 29 – 10.30 a.m: “AN INTEGRATED SERVICE FOR EVERY AGE.” Service leaders, Sharon and Don Flatt.

Join the Flatt family and the children for a Children's Church service in the sanctuary. Based on the small group ministry model, the children will share their downstairs service with the congregation upstairs! If you've ever wondered what's going on "down there", this is your chance to find out!

2 -- ADVANCE NOTICE

The regional spring gathering in Bouctouche on the Acadian coast takes place this year on Saturday and Sunday April 18 & 19. That is a week after Easter. Details to come.

3 -- KITSY’S CONTRACT NOT RENEWED

At a membership meeting on February 15th, the Saint John congregation (UUCSJ) approved a proposal from the Board of Trustees not to renew its ministerial relation with the Rev. Kitsy Winthrop. The decision will take effect on July 1st 2009, the day the new church year begins.

The members voted by a count of 23 to 12 to support the proposal from the board in a secret written vote. The wording on the ballot was:

“The Board of Trustees recommends that the existing ministerial relationship with the Rev. Kitsy Winthrop not be renewed in the next church year, beginning July 1, 2009. Do You Agree? (Yes / No)”

The meeting went on for almost two hours and brought comments from almost everyone in the room. In outlining the board’s proposal not to renew Kitsy’s contract, Fred Webster, the president, explained that the board would be acting improperly if it made any move to find a replacement while a contractual relationship existed with the current minister.

4 -- KITSY’S SCHEDULE THIS SPRING

Rev. Kitsy will not be coming to Saint John in March, but she will be back for her regular weekend visits as usual in April and May. If you want to get in touch with her, phone her in Portland, Maine at (207) 773-7738 or e-mail revkitsy@hotmail.com.

5 -- MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Will Bundschuh March 11th

Wendy Smith March 21st

Andrew Pollock March 27th

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL!

6 -- GIVING KITSY THE MESSAGE

On Monday, February 16th, I had to make a difficult phone call. How do you tell a friend that you are severing a relationship that goes so deeply? Kitsy isn't just our pastor, but also a friend to many. A friend who has shared our joys and sorrows for over eight years.

Kitsy was very gracious and kind, and we had a warm conversation. In subsequent communications, I discovered that she also felt that we were approaching the time when we as a congregation may be at a point where a change was warranted. After eight years, and the evolution of this community, it was time for us to seek new directions that could be realized much better with a different focus on ministry.

As I explained at the congregational meeting, the Board of Trustees does not have another 'deal in our back pocket'. Although we may see other possibilities, we have no commitments with any other source of pastoral care or ministry. But, until we made a decision to not renew Kitsy for another year, we were not at liberty to engage actively in a search. It is not unusual for UU congregations even larger than ours to go without a ministerial relationship for some months, or longer. I suggest that we form a small group to act as a Ministerial Search Committee, that would engage the entire congregation and especially with those who voted in the minority.

Rev. Kitsy has brought so much to our community -- guidance at board and committee meetings, pastoral care, friendship, theological discussion, and more. She has also demonstrated that age three-score-and-ten is just a number, that has nothing whatsoever to do with passion, intelligence and competence.

So, as I see it, we now have the pleasant task ahead of us of preparing for a "Celebration of 8 Years Together" - a party to wish Kitsy well, and thank her for all she has done for us.

As a last comment: I was so proud and honoured to be part of the congregational meeting. The discussion was kind, respectful and intelligent, where it could have descended into sniping, harshness and hurt feelings. But now is the time for us to take a breather and then to focus on the future - seemingly a natural talent of this church community. --- *Fred*

7 -- FAREWELL FROM KITSY

Dear ones:

As promised, Fred phoned me the day following your vote. I had prepared myself well for whatever the decision. While my sense of call to this congregation is still strong, I have learned that it is important to end a ministry before that is no longer the case, as well as once the congregation shows signs of being ready to move in a new direction.

From what I have heard from some of you, the discussion leading up to the vote, while difficult and painful for many, was respectful, honouring the feelings of those who spoke while working to discern what might be best for the future of the congregation.

I am proud of you and I congratulate you. For me, sadness at the thought of not seeing you all again is the hardest part. When Fred told me that I would be invited back once a year for the foreseeable future, my sadness lifted.

My ministry with you has been one of the happiest and most fulfilling of my professional life. We have done a lot together, but it is you who have truly done the "heavy lifting."

I will be with you in April and in May. After that, I will be with you in spirit as you and I pursue new directions. With much admiration, appreciation, and affection. --- *Kitsy*

8 -- **WORSHIP IN COMMITTEE & IN PRACTICE** *By Kathleen Webster*

I have just returned to being a member and the chair of the worship committee and it is with pleasure that I look forward to working with Connie, Doug and Jennifer.

Neil resigned from the committee after serving for some time. On behalf of the committee, I want to thank him for his dedication to making worship an enjoyable experience of being in community together.

Also a thank you to Steve who served on worship. Steve needed to drop off the committee to give himself time to work with the youth. The youth program is a great success because of his work.

Every worship service cannot be all things to all people. Since we moved to our new home, the worship committee has worked with enthusiasm and intention to providing good lay-led worship three Sundays a month. Speaking for myself, and also based on the many positive comments from others, I want to thank the committee. They have done an excellent job. There is more work ahead as we move into a period of time without Rev. Kitsy's professional ministry for one Sunday a month. Hopefully we will not go too long before we engage with another professional minister.

Because of the many requests to return to the first Sunday of the month being "Celebration in Song", we have done just that. Thanks to Wendy for the beautiful music and to Martha for your 'directing' as we continue to learn new hymns. And a big thank you to Caroline who always steps in to 'direct' when needed. Even if you think you can't sing, I think you will enjoy this less formal structure and have fun singing along with the group.

We are also honouring the request of many to return to the third Sunday being a "Discussion Sunday". For any new members and friends who do not remember these lively and interesting discussions, please come along and experience the respectful way UUs engage in debate. When this decision was made we already had a fairly full calendar, so 'discussion Sundays' will officially begin in September. I invite you to contact the worship committee with any topics you have that are of interest to you.

What is **Good Worship?** In the words of Rev. Brian Kiely who adapted from Rev. Mark deWolfe:

Good Worship

- provides sacred space and time
- inspires us to be our best selves
- acknowledges the pain of life...not all people at worship are happy
- readies us to step back into life invigorated, reconnected and hopeful...
- must be intentional... it must be based on solid ideas, have an articulated purpose and be executed with a sense of unity flowing through its elements.

The worship committee is committed to providing good worship, as good as we possibly can. This is your community, you are free to present ideas to the worship committee at any time and you will be encouraged to work with one of us if you would like to present a service.

Today is a brand new day. Lets us rejoice in it!

9 -- **MUSIC FOR EASTER**

The Early Music Studio, in collaboration with the Choir of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception directed by Richard Kidd, presents a concert of music for the Easter Season at **2 p.m. on Sunday, March 29, 2009** at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 91 Waterloo Street.

The Studio and choir will be joined by soprano Jessica McCormack in a program of works by Charpentier, Schutz, J.S. Bach, Handel and other baroque composers. A freewill offering will be taken.

For information, please call the Cathedral Office (658-6820), the Early Music Studio (634-8442) or visit our website at www.earlymusicstudio.ca

10 -- THE FLATT FAMILY'S WEEKEND OFFER

The Flatt family would like to offer a variety of spirit-filled activities on the weekends. If you are interested in Sacred Circle Dancing, drum circles, or CUSJ film events, now is your chance to come out!

Below is a list of offered activities and some possible time frames. **Please e-mail your choices to them or sign up at the church.** This idea has come about as a result of past great interest yet poor attendance at the actual activity.

Children, seniors and youth are welcome at all events and with notice, the Flatts will arrange childcare and/or age appropriate activities. Many of the offered activities are not age restricted to begin with, and are a great multi-generational experience for the whole family!

Activity	When?
<i>Sacred Circle Dance</i>	<i>Saturday afternoon</i>
<i>Coffee House</i>	<i>Saturday evening</i>
<i>Jam Session</i>	<i>Sunday afternoon</i>
<i>Drum Circle</i>	
<i>CUSJ Film event</i>	
<i>Soulful Session (based on Soulful Sunrise)</i>	
<i>UU theatre troupe</i>	

11 -- YARD SALE NOTICE – MAY 2nd

We are planning to hold a yard sale on Saturday, May 2, 2009 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you have any items no longer needed or wanted, please do not get rid of them. We would appreciate it if you would keep them for the yard sale. If you need the space, you can call or email Andrea or Caroline and we'll arrange some way to help.

Closer to the date, we will be asking for a few volunteers to: sort and price items the evening before the sale, arranging items the morning of the sale, selling, and clean-up.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

12 -- PROBLEMS OF THE CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL

The board of trustees of the Canadian Unitarian Council issued a report in February looking at the way it has developed since 2002. The report also examines a number of problems which have upset the development plan for the CUC .

Among the difficulties encountered by the Canadian Unitarian Council:

- The departure of three of its major staff in 2008;
- Growing reluctance of volunteers to commit themselves to long-running jobs;
- Budget and financial problems aggravated by the declining stock market;
- Stagnant membership numbers, stalled for several years at about 5,200.

The full report runs to seven pages and examines the period of the development of the CUC after its separation from the Unitarian Universalist Association in the United States. You can read the report by going to the web address shown below:

<http://www.cuc.ca/governance/board/CUC%20Board%20Analysis%20-%20Jan-09.pdf>

13 -- BOOK CORNER

If you're reading a book that inspires you in your own quest and you think it might interest other UU's, why not tell the newsletter editor about it.

Here's one for starters: "The Faith of the Founding Fathers" by David L. Holmes. If you're a UU who enjoys history and biography this scholarly book might be for you. Here the author delves into the religious thoughts of the founders of our "Big Brother" to the south, and since many of them were deists and/or Unitarians it gives insight into the evolution of Unitarian Christianity (1760-1830) as it began its move to something very different. This book is published by the Oxford University Press, NY, (2006), ISBN- 13: 978-0-19-530092-5 and ISBN- 10: 0-19-530092-0 . – *Doug Devine*

"A Short History of Progress"

This book, by Ronald Wright, was studied by a total of 15 people in five sessions in January and February. At the end, all agreed it had been enjoyable and most expressed interest in having another study as soon as possible. ---*Bob Smith*

14 -- OUR SUMMER VISITORS FROM B.C.

This letter, sent in January by Al and Liz Earl in British Columbia, should have appeared in The Fundy Wave last month, but I lost it and did not find it again until mid-February . -- (Editor gl)

Good health and much happiness to the Unitarian congregation for New Year. We want to express our sympathy to the von Weilers for the loss of their grandson. We also want to send the congregation a CD.

Al is on the list to receive Fred's request as well as the interesting responses. Useful information for all of us.

You met Kelly and Gary Hamilton when they visited you last fall. Gary showed us the pictures he took of your congregation. They really enjoyed being with you. They got home around the end of November. They didn't make it to Mexico but headed back on the California coast. They had lots of wonderful adventures. Kelly and Gary hosted a party last winter where each of us was required to bring along one of our favourite songs. The minister's husband brought along the enclosed CD. We both enjoyed it so much that we immediately bought it and have enjoyed it this past year. We are now ready to part with it. I'm not sure if you could classify it as any particular type of music..... Hope some of you enjoy it.

Al had a health problem that caused us to cancel our Mexican holiday with our closest children. (They got to go anyway.) On a test that was just routine, they found that Al had quite a weakened heart. Thank goodness they found it before anything bad happened. He's been on medications since November to both give his heart a rest and strengthen the pumping action. These drugs have taken him out of the danger zone. He's now in a healthy heart program and it looks like we won't have to give up travel after all.

Thank you for sending on the newsletter. We appreciate it. Hope to see you next summer.

--- *Al & Liz Earl*

(The CD, called Kashtin, contains Innu-style music and singing written and performed by two Quebec musicians, Florent Vollant and Claude McKenzie.)

15 --GETTING TO KNOW YOU!**George Allen**

George is a native Saint Johner. He was born on the third floor of a tenement building on Broad Street in the south end. He says he may have been a surprise baby as both his siblings were quite a bit older. His dad, Coleman, and his mom, Helen, were both born in Saint John. Coleman worked at the T.S. Simms Brush factory for 53 years. George's sister Helen was the oldest. She passed away five years ago. His brother, Bud, (Don) is 80. Because his mom liked to move often, George called many south-end houses home during childhood.

George attended Victoria School from grades 1 to 4. At the age of nine he moved next door to Joan, who would become his good friend, his girlfriend and later his wife. For grades 5, 6 and 7, he attended King Edward School and went on to Junior High and Saint John High School.

George's first job was with the credit card department of Irving Oil. Other jobs included D&J Motors and the Saint John General Hospital. For the last 30 years of his working life, he held various positions with Canada Post in Saint John. Early on in his career with Canada Post, he participated in a cross Canada competition for an administrative trainee's position. He was successful and was awarded a two-year training course. During his career there, he was a Personnel Administrator, Chief Staffing Officer, and Manager of Transportation and Logistics for the district that comprised NB and PEI. He retired in 1994.

George and Joan were married in 1959. They will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary October 17th, but it has been a 63-year love relationship for them. Their eldest child, Kevin was born in 1964. Lisa was born in '66 and their third child, Susan, in 1968. She died shortly after birth due to a heart defect. They have three young grandchildren who live in Ontario.

George has traveled much. He would go to New England often with his mother as a child. When he and Joan married, they explored every dirt road and paved road around. There were a couple of vacations to California with the children. One road trip, across the U.S., was especially memorable with a detour through Tornado Alley. There were many trips to Montreal and Toronto. Traveling by plane is his least favourite way of getting anywhere. Work with Canada Post also required extensive traveling.

George's hobbies include photography, of which he has an extensive collection of pictures and slides, genealogy, because of a grandfather's disappearance, an appreciation for nature and reading. Newspapers, magazines and non-fiction are his preferred choices. His favourite sports teams are the Boston Red Sox and the Toronto Maple Leafs. He remembers vividly listening to a Boston and St Louis Browns ball game as a little nine-year-old boy. What was so great was that Boston won 29 to 4!

His list of involvement in volunteer work is extensive. He began as a young adult with the Saint John Branch, United Nations Association. After that, he was on the board of directors for the first Co-op store and Harbour City Credit Union and also served as president for CUPW and PSAC unions before joining the management ranks. He belongs to the Kennebecasis Lions Club, the Irish Canadian Cultural Association, the N.B. Genealogical Society, the Masons, the Scottish Rite, the Shriners and PASAGE. We all know of George's passion for this last group and his appreciation for all that Joyce Melvin, its Executive Director, does. George has been involved with PASAGE for some twelve years. It all started with a friend's request for help. A person with experience in goal setting and planning was needed!!!

Although George had had a lot of exposure to religion as a child, he knew that he wanted more spirituality than what a United Church Sunday School program could offer. As a young man, he learned about Unitarianism and joined the Church of the Larger Fellowship in Boston, MA. In 1960, when the Unitarian Fellowship in Saint John, He was one of its first members. He was the congregation's first treasurer and Jack Crammond its first president. For the next 25 years, George was very active, serving on every committee. Unfortunately, the church was inactive from 1985 to 1995. After the congregation's re-birth in 1995, George served on the board and, later, along with Bruce Bartlett, served as one of the first lay chaplains. He has worked on many committees with UUCSJ. And... the rest is history. George's goal is to live past the age of 95 and to continue to volunteer, read, enjoy nature and to search his family tree!

16 -- FOR THE CHILDREN

March 1 & March 8: NO Children`s RE, NO Child care, because of March Break

March 15: Children's Church, Child Care Available

March 22: Children to join upstairs Program(). Child Care Available

March 29: Children's Church upstairs with congregation. Child Care Available

17 -- WOMEN AT THE WELL

Women at the well will meet on Thursday March 19, at 6 p.m. We meet at the church for a meal, fellowship, and personal sharing. Please feel free to come and join. If you have any questions, please contact Jeanine at 633-4936 or 12tulips@nb.sympatico.ca.

18 -- WORLD EVENTS YOU MAY NOT FIND ANYWHERE ELSE

Britain to host international summit on combating anti-Semitism

Canterbury, England (ENI) To combat a growing tide of anti-Semitism seen to be sweeping Britain, Europe and other parts of the world in recent months, lawmakers from 35 countries will meet to discuss the issue at an international meeting in London. Mark Gardner, deputy director of the Community Security Trust which monitors anti-Semitism told Ecumenical News International, "In recent months, Jewish communities around the world have suffered from a wave of anti-Semitism linked largely to the situation in the Middle East. The world needs to realize the fear and isolation most Jews feel at the present time." (19)

HIV-positive Ugandan priest is 2009 Niwano Peace Prize winner

Geneva (ENI) The Rev. Gideon Byamugisha, a Ugandan who became the first known African cleric to declare publicly he was HIV-positive, has been awarded the Niwano Peace Prize. His actions broke the stigma-induced silence that often hampers combating AIDS. The award is often seen as akin to a Nobel Peace Prize for members of the faith community. It comes from a Buddhist group in Japan, the Niwano Peace Foundation. . The prize comes with 20 million yen (Cdn \$ 255,000). This is the second time in five years the prize has gone to Uganda.

Ecumenical News International (ENI), based in Geneva, offers religious news in French and English

19 -- THE WORK LIST

<u>Date</u>	<u>Welcomer</u>	<u>Refreshments</u>
March 1/09	Joanne Britton	Bob Smith & Kaye Smith
March 8	George Allen	Frank Loomer & Jen Loomer
March 15	Phil Jeffery	Andrea Jeffery & Carol MacDonald
March 22	Bob Smith	Jack Crammond & Susanna Flagel
March 29	George Legris	Caroline Smith & Doug Devine
April 5	Walter Henry	Connie Humphrey & Nancy Hemsworth

(#1- cream & snacks #2- extras & clean up)

ROMERO HOUSE

March 15 Judith Pollock, David Pollock, Walter Henry, Joanne Britton

April 19 Not needed at Romero House

20 --2008 INCOME TAX

You have until April 30th 2009 to submit your income tax return for last year. The treasurer of the congregation, Frank Loomer, has just finished distributing the church receipts for donations, handing them out or sending them by mail. The last of the receipts will be in letter boxes by the end of February.

21 -- MEMBERSHIP

A few projects the committee is working on:

- Updating of the membership by-laws. This will be ready to present to the congregation's annual meeting in June.
- Preparation of a "home-grown" orientation program to be offered in May to anyone interested in UUism. The committee handling this work consists of George Allen, Susanna Flagel, Kathleen Webster and Betty Tattersall. Anyone attending this day of information and sharing will be most impressed with the program.
- Joanne Britton continues to volunteer at the campus ministry office at UNBSJ on Tuesdays.
- Anyone needing a new name tag, please let Joanne or George know. And if anyone needs a drive to a service or church activity, please contact Betty Tattersall at 755-1889.
- Next Committee meeting: Wed. March 18th, 1 o'clock at the home of George Legris. --
-Betty T.

22 -- YOUTH GROUP VISITS MAINE

The young people are taking advantage of the March Break in the schools to go to Bangor for a weekend UU youth conference running from Friday to Sunday, Feb.27 to March 1st. The youth group will be led by Steve McCavour. Steve says Thank You to the Board of Trustees for putting up \$250 to cover some of the expenses. The youth conference takes place in the UU Society of Bangor church building. The conference is attracting young people from Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine.

23 -- HEAVEN & HELL (if they exist)

Heaven is where:

The chefs are Italian
The police are British,
The mechanics are German,
The lovers are French,

Hell is Where:

The chefs are British,
The police are German.
The mechanics are French.
The lovers are Swiss,

And, it's all organized by the Swiss.

And, it's all organized by the Italians.

The Fundy Wave hits the shore every month but July.

DEADLINE FOR APRIL – WEDNESDAY MARCH 24

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MARCH 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10.30 am CELEBRATE IN SONG Martha Vowles Youth conf in Bangor (ends today) X	2	3	4	5	6 7-9 pm PFLAG meets @ 116 Coburg St.	7
8 10.30 am A SHARING CIRCLE Connie Humphrey	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 10.30 am NOURISHING OUR ROOTS Rev. Ray Drennan Romero House 9 am -1 pm	16	17	18 1 pm Membership cttee @ George L's	19 6 pm Women at the well X	20	21
22 10.30 am CELEBRATE IN SIGHT & SOUND Connie Humphrey	23	24 Deadline for Fundy Wave in April	25	26	27	28
29 10.30 am CHILDREN'S CHURCH SERVICE (Upstairs) The Flatt family	30	31				

X means: More details in newsletter

Children's schedule: Page 8