



The Edmonton Unitarian

Unitarian Church of Edmonton 10804 119 Street NW, Edmonton, AB T5H 3P2
PHONE (780) 454-8073 FAX (780) 452-1641 E-MAIL chadmin@uce.ca

Volume 47 Number 11 December 2006

Services for December The service begins at 10:30 a.m.

December 3 "Lessons and Carols" **Chorealis**
Join our choir for a seasonal service of readings, choral pieces and Christmas carols.

December 10 **Rev. Brian J. Kiely**
"For So The Children Come"

The great Unitarian educator Sophia Lyon Fahs wrote a beautiful poem that begins with these words (#616 in the hymn book). She celebrated the holiness of every birth. It is my favourite Christmas reading. This morning, this reading and the Jesus story.
The children will join the adults for the first part of the service

December 17 **Rev. Brian J. Kiely, Michelle Van Der Molen**
and just about everybody else
"Mitten Tree"

Come join us for our annual pandemonious pre-Christmas family service. There will be stories, songs, a celebration of the new babies in our community and a complete lack of sober silence. We will also decorate and dedicate the Mitten Tree with hats, scarves, mittens and socks to be given to the Boyle Street Coop and iHuman.

NOTE We have a Mitten Tree tradition of lighting special candles to mark the arrival of new babies in our community. If you have a new child, grandchild or very special young friend you would like recognized, please let Michelle Van Der Molen know at 454-5816.

Saturday,
December 23 6:30 p.m. **Rev. Brian J. Kiely and friends**
"Blue Christmas"

This will be our 10th annual service offered for those who have tough times with the Holidays. Not everyone has joyful memories from childhood, while others are mourning losses this

Our Vision
The Unitarian Church of Edmonton-
a liberal religious, multi-generational congregation:
We celebrate a rich mosaic of free-thinking, spiritually-questing individuals joined in common support and action. We welcome diversity, pursue the common good, and work for justice. We believe in the compassion of the individual heart, the warmth of community, and the search for meaning in our lives.

year. This is a quiet service of readings, reflection and candle lighting. We make room to touch and honour the pain so many feel in hopes of finding solace if not outright joy. The service is followed by a free supper of homemade soups, pies and bread served up by willing volunteers. Everyone is most welcome.

Sunday, December 24

10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

The Kiely Family

“A Dickensian Christmas Eve”

Charles Dickens had close ties with early British Unitarians. His enduring tale of the redemption of old Scrooge is a kind of Unitarian Easter story as much as a Christmas tale. Today we'll celebrate this "sacred scripture" in a family oriented service with stories and carols. Note that because Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year we will also have a service in the morning...because the church ought to be open on Sunday mornings.

December 31 Vandermolen-Pater family **“Reflections on the stories of 2006”**

Join us for a relaxed year-end service where we combine the sharing of food with reflections on the year past. We will consider all the stories we encountered in 2006--both real-life and fictional--and provide time to reflect on the year's highs and lows. The sharing of food will take the shape of a potluck brunch; bring what you will and we'll toast the old and new years together.

Ministerial Musings

December Already???

Normally I'm the annoying neighbour who is ready for Christmas ahead of everybody else. Though I categorically

refuse to turn them on before December 1st, my exterior Christmas lights are always up before the first snowfall just waiting for the electricity.

Well, that used to be true BC (Before Children). Between my two delightful daughters and the practical weather jokes this year, I am woefully behind.

Take the incident of the bulbs, for example, no, not the Christmas kind, the growing kind. Teilya was away attending a birth and I thought a nice surprise was in order.

One warm sunny afternoon in October (remember those?) Lily, Elora and I went to the hardware store to buy some bulbs. Finding the right bag took only a minute or two. Catching my girls running giggling around the store took half an hour. Checking out through the automated system took another 20 minutes because Elora kept climbing on the bagging scale causing the machine to chirp, "Unscanned purchase has been bagged" Next time I'll put a bar code on her diaper!

Back home we set out to plant the 50 bulbs in our two small plots, one by the house and one near the sidewalk. Lily was intently interested in the bulbs. Elora was intently interested in the sidewalk. Several hilarious chases (from her point of view) ensued.

Back to the garden, and Lily had carefully rearranged the patterned clumps of bulbs into a more pleasing shape. She was not fond of having all the daffodils together and preferred to mix them with the hyacinths and tulips of varying colours. After some negotiation, some guesswork and rearranging, we started to dig and plant. This went smoothly until the dog escaped and Elora chased him down the street. More exercise for Dad.

Meantime, Lily was still hard at work redoing our planting plan. It will sure be interesting to see what comes up where next Spring. One bed was done and so was Dad. Time for juice and TV.

Well, the snow fell a few days later, and fell, and fell. The bed by the house never did get planted, and the lights are still in the garage with Remembrance Day well behind us.

But you know what? I wouldn't trade that Saturday afternoon for all the organizational peace of mind in the world. The lights didn't get hung, half the bulbs are unplanted, but the important things were accomplished.

Lily and Elora are probably too young for that Saturday to become a memory for them, but I will remember for a long time. But it may become a family story, the kind that shapes their memory of their Dad. I hope so. If this latter day parent has learned anything, it's that somehow the important things will all get done in time. And the stuff that doesn't get done? Maybe it wasn't that important after all.

See you in church
Brian

Message from the President

The Canadian Unitarian Western Regional Conference was held in Saskatoon on October 27, 28 and 29th. Attendees from Edmonton were: Jan McMillan, Audrey Brooks, Karen Mills, Karen Stevenson, Laura McDonnell, Dorothy and Bernie Keeler, Brian Kiely and Sylvia Krogh. It was a great opportunity to meet with other Canadian Unitarians from Victoria, BC to Thunder Bay, Ontario. Of the 88 participants, 35 were youth. Although they were sleep deprived from staying up most of the night to socialize with new friends, they all seemed to really enjoy the program and interaction.

UCE will be hosting this conference in October 2007. Dorothy Keeler and Karen Stevenson will be co-chairing the conference organizing committee. Please offer to assist them. Of course, I hope you will attend the conference since it is being held right here. It is always interesting to meet with fellow Unitarians.

As well, the CUC annual conference will be held at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver on the May 2007 long weekend. This is also a great opportunity to meet other Unitarians from across Canada. I have found that attending these conferences is always a very rewarding experience and makes one proud to be Unitarian. Special residency rates are available now on the UBC web-site.

I wish you all a happy holiday season.

Sylvia Krogh

The Bible for Liberals

Many folks were sorry when I found it necessary to cancel the Bible for Liberals class in September. Did I say cancel? I mean postpone! Mark your calendars. The Bible for Liberals will run for six Wednesdays, February 14 through March 21st. If numbers warrant there will be an afternoon class (1-3:30 p.m.) and an evening session (7-9:30 p.m.) It's o.k. to switch between sessions. Look for more details in the January newsletter.

Brian

Save the Date

Fifth Annual Child Haven Dinner will take place at the Maharajah Banquet Hall on Friday, March 16, 2007. Tickets sales to commence in January

Blue Xmas - Now Hiring

The following positions need to be filled for this special Christmas event on December 23rd. Applications close on December 17, 2006.

Soup makers, Pie makers, Bread givers, Wait persons (experience preferred), set-up crew, clean-up crew, and a person willing to deliver leftovers to the Youth Emergency Shelter. Benefactors (money donations) are also most welcome.

Remuneration - the joy of giving cheer and comfort to members of the community to whom the Christmas season is not always a time of joy and happiness.

If you would like to volunteer your talents, there is a sign-up sheet on the Adult Program Table, or you may phone Arlene Zajic 456-6284 for more information.

Make We Merry
Monday, 18 December 2006
Unitarian Church of Edmonton
7:00 PM

Free Admission

Edmonton Vocal Minority and the choir of the Unitarian Church of Edmonton; **Chorealis** presents its annual Christmas event, *Make We Merry* on Monday, 18 December. This evening of music, food, and friendship has become a popular tradition for many. Celtic harpist **Gordon Ritchie** will add a touch of old world charm to the festivities and the audience will have the opportunity to join in singing favourite Christmas songs and carols. The whole family is invited to this free community Christmas party. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information call (780) 479 2038, e-mail sing@evmchoir.com, or visit www.evmchoir.com.

Unitarian Women's Gathering
June 29th – July 1st, 2007

The next Gathering will be celebrating 21 years of meeting at St. Michael's Retreat in Lumsden, Saskatchewan to share and celebrate being woman.

On November 13, 2006, six women met in Calgary in the first planning session for the Gathering. They represented Moose Jaw, Edmonton and Calgary.

The theme chosen for the 2007 Gathering is: "Prairie Spirituality"

Start planning now to attend. We wonder how many of the original attendees will be there. Who will come for the first time? It promises to be a good one. Organize a car pool!

Edmonton contact: Ruth Patrick,
780-436-3108 or mruth.Patrick@shaw.ca

The Real Alaska

Five Alaskan UU fellowships invite you to eco-cultural programs in June right after the Portland General Assembly or in July, 2007. See the REAL Alaska! With UU homestays in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Seward, Juneau and Sitka, UUs host parties and lead tours. We visit Tlingit and Inupiat Native Alaskans, see wildlife from bears, moose and caribou to whales, sea otters and sea lions. We visit Denali and 3 other National Parks. Led by Rev. Dick & Mary Weston-Jones, 12th year. www.wuurld.org, E-mail alaska@wuurld.org or phone 1-888, 998-8753 for a brochure. Reservation deadline: February 28.

Freeman Patrick
Memorial Reading
and Reference Library

Last month the Library Committee made some "**temporary**" changes on our shelves. We opened a "**Freebies – help yourself. Borrow or Take books**" section and already it has proved useful. This month we open a "**Freebies – help yourself, borrow or take C.D.'s**" section on our shelves.

We all have music C.D.'s we have enjoyed in the past and are would give someone else the pleasure. So, any you are prepared to give away, please bring and put on the shelves in the same corner as the book freebies in the Library. Maybe some one has already put something there you will be glad to take home for your pleasure.

The Freebies and the Library are coexisting in good harmony. We appreciate the cooperation with our policies.

This committee continues to seek some new members. *Your Library Committee*

Spring Inn Victoria

Join First Unitarian Church of Victoria for Spring Inn Victoria 2007! Bed and Breakfast Vacation Package April 21-25 victoriaunitarian.ca/bedandbreakfast

Entertainment Books

Just a few more days to buy. Please help. The books are still only \$40.00. Perhaps two people would like to share? We get a bonus by selling all our books and save yourself money. See Shirley Edgar or Jennifer Hinchcliffe.

Did You Know?

Did you know that for twenty five years during the fifties and sixties Phyllis Ferguson headed a small group from our church who collected, sorted, cleaned and packed used clothing for the Unitarian Service Committee(now known as the USC) ? This clothing was then sent to people in Korea. The late Dr.Lotta Hichmanova made several trips to Korea so was able to inform the group as to what items were most needed.

Florence Campbell

**Retired and Semi-Retired
Christmas Friendship Luncheon
at the
Unitarian Church of Edmonton
10804 119 Street
Friday, December 1st, 2006
12 Noon**

New Year's Eve

The folks at Eliot Institute want to know, "What are you doing for New Year's?" It's really not too early to think about it. Winter Eliot has become a New Year tradition for many UUs. Relaxing in front of a cozy fire and sharing stories with friends is a peaceful antidote to the mania and stress of the holidays. Read, knit, nap. Be inspired by music and worship. Welcome 2007 with an intergenerational dance followed by a delectable midnight feast. The Rev. Patrick O'Neill, long-time friend of Pacific Northwest UUs, will lead us

in considering the implications of living a "reasonable ethical life" in an age of religious extremism and intolerance. Children and youth programs too. December 28-January 1

Seabeck Conference Center on beautiful Hood Canal in Washington.

Registration and information at <<http://www.eliotinstitute.org/>> www.EliotInstitute.org, 206-374-2497 and <<mailto:registrar@eliotinstitute.org>> registrar@eliotinstitute.org.

With Appreciation from E4C

To the congregation of the Unitarian Church of Edmonton. Your contributions and support of clean, recyclable containers for the Edmonton School Lunch and Nutrition Snack programs is greatly appreciated. The ongoing collection of the containers provided by Ada Nanning and the delivery of them to our programs is just super! We thank you ALL!
Rob Pearson, E4C Donations

2007 Multifaith Calendars

2007 Multifaith Calendars have arrived now. Because of business conflicts too involved to mention, the 2007 calendars had to be obtained from a different source. They are multicultural but contain much more detailed information which is also more accurate. The cost remains \$16 each. These are sold to support the work of the Edmonton Interfaith Centre for Education and Action and are one of the main sources of income. Calendars will be available for sale after the worship service each Sunday until the end of December. Please see Jim Logan, Past-president, Edmonton Interfaith Centre.

UCE is a welcoming congregation, which means our community is open to all, without regard to sexual orientation, race, gender, age, ability, or income. It's nice to have you with us.

Kidstuff

Starting with a past - a belated, but very sincere thank you to those who made our October 29th (Halloween) service such fun for all attendees. A plethora of costumed children (and their parents), a storyteller extraordinaire, a spooky puppet mistress, a media specialist and some prime decorators took over the sanctuary and gave us a scarily good time!

December is full of holidays and holy days for families of many cultures, styles and understandings. We look forward in Children's Church to celebrating and learning about some of them.



December 3rd we will talk about the Christmas tree and it's "roots", along with a jolly fellow that the Vandermolen-Pater household calls "Sinte Klaas".

December 10th we will join the adults for the first part of the service, and then will learn about Santa Lucia

December 17th is our famous (or infamous) Mitten Tree Service. The children will be in the main sanctuary for the whole service, enjoying the giving of warm gifts, the recognition of new babies and the joy of being together.



December 24th and December 31st there will be no children's church; we will endeavour to have themed material in the quiet bags (located in the cloakroom) and will also do our best to make sure that there are nursery workers if needed.

****Family Christmas Fun****

Please mark your calendar for **December 16th (Saturday) from 2pm to about 4pm** for some traditional Christmas-themed activities for the whole family and any friends who want to join. We will decorate cookies, make gifts for some wild friends, sing songs and enjoy each other's company for a little while. Please RSVP to Michelle Van Der Molen (454-5816, dre@uce.ca) so we can make sure there are enough supplies for all. Children of ALL ages are welcome.

May warmth and light fill your December

Unitarian Social Justice

Living Our Principles for a Better World

Please Support the Edmonton Interfaith Centre

The Board and members of the Edmonton Interfaith Centre for Education and Action invite you to support the work of the Centre by attending a Fund Raising Banquet. The date and time is February 10, 2007, at 6:30 pm at the Maharaja Banquet Hall, 9257 - 34A Avenue. There will be award presentations and a guest speaker, who is yet to be named. The dinner gives a choice of vegetarian or meat dishes to satisfy everyone's taste. A cash bar will be available. The tickets are \$50 per person and a charitable donation receipt for \$25 will be given for each ticket purchased. Why don't you arrange with friends to come and enjoy the evening at your own table?

For more information and tickets, see Jim Logan at church on most Sundays.

Building World Peace

Hon. Douglas Roche, Conference Co-Chairman: With humility and great admiration, I congratulate the organizers for the landmark conference we had in Edmonton. Role of religion and human rights is vital in bringing peace to our troubled world.

As a poet in Urdu, I share with All my poem (English translation) on Peace. It is written as Tazmeen (a collaboration) of the last line from Sahir, one of the greatest poets of the Indian sub-continent.

" The whole world is afflicted with
madness and conflict,
Where is the legendary tradition of 'Live
and Let Live'?
In every direction, the humanity is
riddled
With disturbance and depredation!
God, have Mercy on the innocents;
May religious shrines and sanctuaries

proclaim Peace!

Put a stop to those who engage in
violence,

'I beg from you: Peace and Civility'

Respectfully.

Teja Singh

Submitted by Jim Logan



World Aid's Day

World AIDS Day, the global day of action and remembrance on HIV/AIDS, takes place

every **December 1**. Now in its 19th year, *World AIDS Day* is about **increasing awareness and education and fighting prejudice**. *WAD* reminds the world that HIV/AIDS persists, and that there are many things still left to be done. By working together, we can make a difference in the global fight against HIV and AIDS.

This year, the *Unitarian Universalist Global AIDS Coalition (UUGAC)*, the *Unitarian Universalist Association Washington Office for Advocacy (UUA-WOA)*, and the *Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO)* encourage all UUs to get involved in the global fight against HIV/AIDS.

December 1, World AIDS Day, is also about wearing the Red Ribbon reminding us all that HIV is an issue for everyone. We need your help to encourage your community and the broader public to **?Wise Up and Wear It?** as a sign of support for people living with HIV and as a symbol of hope for the future. www.uu-uno.org/?q=taxonomy_menu/2/7/84.

Please get involved and campaign to make December 1, 2006 the most effective, captivating World AIDS Day yet!

**EVENTS CALENDAR
CUC WEST Winter 2006**

Financial Stewardship Workshop

From Scarcity to Abundance

Saturday, December 2, 2006 (9 – 4:30) First
UF of Nanaimo

Info: Martha Cosco mjcosco@shaw.ca

Our Whole Lives for Adults Workshop

OWL Leadership Training

Friday, January 12 – Sunday 14, 2007

Unitarian Church of Vancouver

Info: Host Caroline Farley

carolinefarley@telus.net

**Spring Inn Victoria 2007 –B & B Vacation
Package**

Saturday, April 21 – Wednesday, 25, 2007

Info:

<http://victoriaunitarian.ca/bedandbreakfast/index.php>

CUC Annual Conference & Meeting 2007

Diversity in Community

University of BC, Vancouver, BC

Friday, May 18 – Monday 21, 2007

Info: <http://cuc.ca/conference/2007/index.htm>

**CUC National SURVEY Regional Fall
Gatherings.**

*Seeking UU opinions and ideas for future Fall
Gatherings*

Help us make the Gatherings even better!

Feedback welcome on an overall evaluation of
Regional Fall Gatherings--whether or not
you've attended. CUC overall event evaluation
link is:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=158122616420>

CUC Volunteer Position Vacant – BC

Region:

SERVICE CONSULTANT – Congregational
Wellness and Vitality

Info: http://cuc.ca/whos_who/volunteeropportunities.htm

CUC WEB CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For up-to-date web information on CUC
events, go to:

http://www.cuc.ca/CUC_calendar.html

CUC congregations and UU related
organizations are invited to post their
information on this calendar for events that are
open to all Unitarians. Online submission form

**THE EDMONTON UNITARIAN PUBLISHED
MONTHLY BY THE
UNITARIAN CHURCH OF EDMONTON
10804 119 Street,
Edmonton, AB T5H 3P2
PHONE (780) 454-8073
FAX (780) 452-1641
E-MAIL chadmin@uce.ca
WEB PAGE www.uce.ca
Vol 47 No. 11
Deadline for January newsletter is
December 15, 2006**

Electronic Newsletter

Why don't you sign up for the
newsletter via email? You can save the church
money on postage and envelopes. Just email
Linda (chadmin@uce.ca) and she'll add you to
the list!

By the way—if you have changed your
email address recently, did you remember to
contact the church? We're getting lots of
returned email!

People Finder

Minister: Reverend Brian J. Kiely
briekie@aol.com 455-9797

President: Sylvia Krogh
skrogh@shaw.ca 454-6216

Religious Education Office:
dre@uce.ca 454-5816

Canvass: Alex Kozeluk 987-2174

Campus Ministry: Rev. Audrey Brooks
audbrook@telusplanet.net 489-8842

Care and Connections: Jolien Pauw
..... 460-7737

Church Office: Linda Stolee
chadmin@uce.ca 454-8073

Donations Secretary: Marge Roche 464-3348

Head Teller: Stan Calder 488-4136

Lay Chaplaincy: call office 454-8073
Denise Wenzel
Pam Willerton

Ministerial Relations: Stefan Sicking
..... 434-9201

Property Management: Bernie Keeler
..... 458-1250

Social Action Committee:
Sylvia Krogh 454-6216

Vision: Gilbert Bouchard 439-8149

Worship Committee: John Pater . 477-7576

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

December 2006

3 "Lessons and Carols"

4

5 1:00 and 7:00 In the International Garden
7:00 RE cttee

6

7

7:30 Chorealis

8

9

1 noon Retired and Semi-Retired Christmas Friendship Luncheon

10 "For So the Children Come"
11:30 Prop Mgmt; Social Justice

11

12 1:00 and 7:00 In the International Garden

13

14

7:30 Chorealis Potluck

15

Newsletter Deadline

16

2:00 R.E. Family Christmas Party

17 "Mitten Tree"

18

7:00 EVM and Chorealis Concert

19

7:15 Board mtng.

20

21

10:00 Newsletter Collation

22

23

6:30 Blue Christmas

24 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. "A Dickensian Christmas Eve"

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

"Reflections on the Stories of 2006"

