

The Edmonton Unitarian

Unitarian Church of Edmonton

10804 119 Street NW, Edmonton, AB T5H 3P2

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Volume 49 Number 8 September 2008

Services for September

Services Begin at 10:30 a.m.

Our Vision
The Unitarian Church of Edmonton— a liberal religious, multi-generational congregation. We celebrate a rich mosaic of free-thinking, spiritually-seeking 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.

September 7, 2008

“Ingathering”

Rev. Brian J. Kiely

“From the four winds gathered hither...” says one of hymns. Many of us have scattered over the summer, some physically, some just taking a break. With the summer waning, it’s time to start our church year again. We will celebrate our regathering with a water communion. If you have saved some water from your journeys, bring some to share in a common chalice. Or you can just describe the waters that are meaningful for you. This will be an intergenerational service.

September 14, 2008

“All Heretics Day”

Rev. Brian J. Kiely

On August 8th we mounted a display on Unitarianism at City Hall and noted that its debut coincided with the fledgling holiday “All Heretics Day”. Today I’ll talk about our heretical tradition and how the day got its start.

September 21, 2008

“Knoxville”

Rev. Brian J. Kiely

Many of you will have heard about the tragic shooting that occurred in the Tennessee Valley UU Congregation in August. Two were killed, but perhaps the real story is the response by local, national and international UU’s.

September 28, 2008

TBA

Ministerial Musings

Why do we come to church? There are lots of reasons, probably as many as there are Unitarians. Some come for their children, some to hear ideas. Some come because of a passion for social justice and the human condition. Still others come to explore new ideas, or at least not the typical topics discussed in the workplace or on TV. And some come to nurture the spirit. This Fall Bonnie Kyle and I will be offering an adult program called ‘Spirit of Life: Exploring Spirituality for Unitarian Universalists’. See elsewhere in this newsletter for details. As well Karen Stevenson will lead a team looking towards making our church more green. This comes out of the course she offered last Spring exploring the spirituality of our connections with nature. And some of the services this Fall will reflect a quest for the spirit.



But what is this thing 'spirit'? It's a word that makes some of us uncomfortable. After all, we can't touch it or taste it. We can't prove that it exists or identify its essence with any certainty. Yet, every religion speaks of it in one way or another. Every major religion has some practice that is intended to produce or help us discover our own spirituality. Even many athletic activities use language that approaches or at least parallels the language of spirituality. How many athletes in this recent Olympic Games spoke of breath control, focus, muscle memory, emptying the mind? You will find the same or similar terms in many formal religious practices.

And then there is the Unitarian Church. We don't have a formally prescribed spiritual practice nor do we have any consistent definition of what spirituality is or can be. Heck, we don't even insist that it exists! But then, 'Spirit of Life' is one of our most popular hymns. "Roots hold me close, wings set me free," is as close as we get to defining the spirit.

This fall I invite you to consider the realm of the spirit and think about what it means for you. Is it a reason you come to church? Or do you come in spite of this kind of conversation? Whatever you think about it, however you feel about it, we can all benefit from the conversation.

I hope you all had a wonderful summer, and I look forward to seeing you soon.

See you in church
Brian

President's Message



As we start another church year, I hope everyone had a very good summer.

This summer seems to have flown by – I've seen more of Alberta this year than I have over the last nine years, and it's been great.

Just to update everyone our niece had her last surgery on her second lung a few weeks ago and they say she is tumour-free and doing well. WooHoo Candle Power!! Thanks to everyone for their thoughts and well wishes.

Keep an eye on the calendar this year – it should be a great fall.

See you around
Mike Keast

Treasurer's Report

Preliminary figures show that we ended our fiscal year on June 30 with a \$9,600 operating deficit -- not a great situation for a little church like ours. Still, we had expected a \$30,000 deficit, so hats off to all those who restrained their church spending over the year. For the month of July we were actually in the black -- we brought in 68 cents more than we spent.

Whoo-hoo.

Susan Ruttan, treasurer@uce.ca

Entertainment Books '09

THEY'RE HERE AND READY TO BE SOLD! Our annual Entertainment Book fund raiser for UCE is underway. Please see Jennifer Hinchcliffe or Shirley Edgar to purchase your copy - still only \$40.00 per book. Get your copy early to take advantage of the fall theatre productions.

Ruth Patrick History Project

Come and hear more about this history project on Sunday, Sept. 28 after church service. Louise Charach and Susan Ruttan will brief you on our plans to record the stories of church elders and share them with the church. We're looking for ideas on who should be profiled as part of our project, and for help in photographing the subjects, creating a website for the project, doing the interviews, and maybe creating a video. We hope to have our first profile done by then, and it will be of founding UCE member Ruth Patrick. Come and help, or just come and listen.

Susan Ruttan

Chorealis Highnotes

Another year of great music and camaraderie coming up! We all love to come and sing because we have such enthusiastic, joyful and professional leadership in our outstanding co-directors Karen Mills and Gordon Ritchie!

Chorealis had two barbecues this summer. In July we enjoyed the lovely garden of Susan Ruttan with ideal weather. August's barbecue was cool and so we had to eat indoors, but had a wonderful time anyways at the home of Marilyn and Jim Gaa. Thanks so

much for sharing your homes with us.

Our first rehearsal in the fall is Thursday, September 4th at 7:30 pm here at the church. New members are always welcome. No singing experience necessary. *Jan McMillan*

Green Sanctuary Program

I hope everyone has had a great summer and are looking forward to the new church year. I'm excited about this year as we start the new Green Sanctuary initiative. The Green Sanctuary program provides an opportunity for all members of UCE to work together to deepen awareness of our human impact on the environment and work towards a more intentional way of living on and with this Earth. Drawing on our Seventh Principle for guidance, the Green Sanctuary Program goals are to:

- Build awareness of the significance and complexity of environmental issues,
- Encourage personal lifestyle changes,
- Engage in community action and environmental issues,
- Strengthen the connection between spiritual practice and earth consciousness and,
- Work to heal environmental injustices.

A first step will be for the Green Sanctuary Committee to work with everyone to determine a baseline of what we are doing well and what we can do to improve our commitment to the Earth. Watch for upcoming services and newsletters for more information on this important work! If you'd like more information about the Green Sanctuary Program at UCE please contact me at ucegreensanctuary@gmail.ca or call me at 780-461-1708.

Karen Stevenson
CUC Environmental Resolution Update

Spirit of Life: Exploring Spirituality for Unitarian Universalists

The Unitarian Universalist Association's Spirit of Life program seeks to bring meaning, beauty, inclusivity, and growth to Unitarian Universalist adults as they deepen their spiritual awareness and connections. The Spirit of Life program taps into one of the central functions of religion, eloquently described by minister Kendyl

Gibbons: "...how we—each of us, in our uniquely constituted beings—recognize and understand and make sense of that unbidden, overwhelming awe at the wonder, magnificence, danger, demand, and delight of being alive."

Built around the lyrics of this much loved hymn, the course includes a series of workshops. They ask us to consider our celebrations and rituals, our caring community, the natural world, living the spirit in day-to-day lives, our justice work, our traditions and our hopes – all as dimensions of our spiritual lives.

Join Brian Kiely and Bonnie Kyle for this nine session course running from Tuesday, October 7 – to Nov. 25 from 7:00 -9:30 p.m. If there is interest there will also be a 1 – 3:30 p.m. class on the same dates. It's free. Contact the church office to register or sign up in the foyer after Sunday service.

Kitchen Update

So we raised a lot of money thanks to all our donors and we came up with a great plan and now.....

Currently the Edmonton Unitarian Community Foundation is being setup. This foundation will be applying for grants that we can not otherwise access.

So until this paperwork is all taken care of and we find out what we are looking at, the Kitchen project is on hold. We may be able to expand it or afford better of everything. Stay tuned for further updates, as information becomes available it will be forwarded onto you.

Thanks
Mike Keast

CUC Environmental Resolution Update

As a member of the CUC Environmental Monitoring Committee I am please to let you know that the committee is working toward redrafting a strengthened version of the 1999 CUC Environment Resolution for congregational input. It is meant to better reflect the concern that many at the May 2008 ACM expressed about the need for action on environmental issues. Watch for more information from the CUC and the Environmental Monitoring Committee as we move forward on this next step. Please see the summer issue of The

Canadian Unitarian (Web of Life – Let's handle with care) for my impressions of the CUC ACM and the energy generated by grassroots UU's looking to make a difference in their communities.

Karen Stevenson

Standing Up For Farmers

An initiative to show our support for local farmers!

Westwood has been asked by the Greater Edmonton Alliance (GEA) to participate in their upcoming event. I thought that UCE members might want to participate in this as well. Its purpose is to:

1. Demonstrate our collective capacity and commitment to local farmers.
2. Demonstrate to local retailers our desire for them to carry local foods.
3. Show our support for farmers whose land is threatened by industrial development.
4. Give an opportunity for farmers to speak about local farming issues.

The Westwood Social Justice Committee is committed to focusing on environmental issues this year. Though we have yet to decide exactly what we will do, one area of focus will be local foods since many Westwoodians expressed an interest in this issue in our brainstorming session. I posted this information on the Westwood egroup and I am happy to say a number of Westwoodians have already signed on.

This event involves 250+ participants paying for a food basket (\$26.25) by September 8th and committing to pick up the food basket from local farmers at a location where you and other consumer's physical presence would be felt and noticed. The media will be there and there will be speakers. The food baskets will contain the following:

2 pounds ground beef 1 dozen eggs
5 pounds potatoes 5 pounds carrots

This food basket is not ideal for many Unitarians who are vegetarians or find the quantities too large. I suggest that you bring any surplus to the church on Sunday and find someone who will take a run to the food bank. Or trade or share with a friend! I do not know yet if any of this food is organic but I do know that GEA is supportive of organic farmers and has sponsored local organic farmers to speak about

the many benefits of their practices.

I think this will be an uplifting and inspiring event. I look forward to seeing many Unitarians there! Maybe you can bring your banner. Oh yes, and bring a friend.

To pay or for more info. contact:

Christine Watts (chris_sq@interbaun.com)
780-438-5486 Cheque Payable to: The Greater Edmonton Alliance (mail to Christine) Basket payment deadline: before or by September 8th
Pick-up day: Saturday, September 20, 2008, 11:00 a.m. Location: TBA (car pooling can be arranged)
Christine Watts of Westwood

Hymnals

Did you know you could buy a hymnal for the church—or for your own use? The cost is \$55.00 for a hymnal you take home. \$50.00 will buy one for congregational use and that includes a bookplate with donor names and a short message (i.e. in memory of, in honour of, etc.) See Bernie Keeler.

Doing Ethics in a Pluralistic World

The Chester Ronning Centre at the Augustana Campus of the U. of A. in conjunction with Robertson-Wesley United Church will present Dr. Roger C. Hutchinson, Professor Emeritus, Emmanuel College, U. of Toronto, as speaker.

Dr. Hutchinson will explore “multiculturalism” and the theory of secularization that declared religion had been banished from the public realm. Discussion of various forms of pluralism in relation to a method for clarifying ethical issues should help us to recall that when we are “doing ethics in a pluralistic world”, secularization (no religion) and fundamentalism (my religion) are not the only options.

Tuesday, September 9, 2008 7:00 p.m.
Robertson-Wesley United Church
10209 123 Street NW, Edmonton

With Regret

Long time member Solveig Mary Anne (Sware) Wacko passed away on July 19, 2008.

Welcome Back, one and all!! Our Children's Church begins again Sept. 14th

Chalice Children (ages 4-7)

Will meet in the large classroom, located in second hallway. They will be "**Celebrating Me and My World**" through song, movement, crafts, stories and other activities this year.

Pathfinders (ages 8-12)

will meet in the small classroom located at end of second hallway. Pathfinders will celebrate "**Holidays and Holy Days**" this fall, then challenge themselves to make a difference with "**In Our Hands: a Peace and Social Justice Program**" in the winter and spring.

Please register! Whether you are returning to us or new to us, we'd like to make sure that we are informed. Registering means that we have some contact information about you; we can keep up to date only if you update that information! If you are new to this program, please make sure to ask for an introduction packet which includes registration forms.

There will be a large calendar of events in the second hallway as well, on the outside wall of the large classroom. Please check here if you'd like to see what is happening, as well as in the newsletter and the orders of service.



WE Need You! Plans are being made for the 2008/09 Children's Church season. Volunteers will be needed to teach classes (Chalice Children, ages 4-7; Pathfinders, ages 8-11; Time to Talk with Youth, ages 11-18), to help in the Chalice children classroom, to provide snacks each Sunday, and to be part of the RE committee (meeting once a month). Sign up sheets will be available in the foyer ; you may also contact Michelle at 780-454-5816 if you know where you want to be!

NURSERY

The nursery will be staffed by Youth again this year. Many thanks to our able staff of 2007/08 – Erin Vandermolen-Pater, Nathan Vandermolen-Pater, Graeme Battigelli, Hannah Jackson and Chandra Smith. If YOU are 11 or older, and have taken the Babysitting course and have a S.I.N., you are invited to apply to be part of our Nursery staff for 2008/09. Please pass on any concerns or comments you might have about the Nursery to Michelle (780-454-5816 , dre@uce.ca)

YOUTH Time To Talk (T3)

First session will be September 14th....(during the church service) happens every second Sunday in the chaplain's office (end of first hallway) or in the Youth corner of the unfinished hall (check out the old couches!) for worship, discussion and learning. This year we will be using a great program called "Popcorn Theology" to lead discussions. Please call Pam at 780-760-2504 or Michelle at 780-477-7576 with any questions.

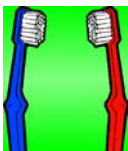
OTHER NOTES

The Great Book Review continues! We would like all books in the RE library to be reviewed and a special card filled out...we're going to catalogue books and look at building our library into something special! If you have some time, are interested in children's fiction, and would like to be part of this, please see Michelle!



iHuman Youth Society

The iHuman society which works with high risk youngsters needs: toiletries, especially tooth brushes and tooth paste.



These items can be placed in the box on wheels which is close to our kitchen.

Ada Nanning

Who Are We?

Wanted. . .Insightful, fun-loving, creative individuals who are willing to take on the challenging and rewarding (okay, sometimes frustrating) task of helping Canadian Unitarian Universalists articulate who we are.

The National Identity Task Force needs good facilitators who are able to think broadly, listen respectfully, and willing to explore possibilities.

We especially need professional ministers, members of the lifespan learning community, youth and young adults, and people with communication skills. Knowledge and a high comfort level working with computers, the internet and teleconferences would be an asset.

The commitment is expected to be for two years. Please send an expression of interest, outlining your skills in the areas above, to vyda@cuc.ca by September 30th .

Avgen Gift Card Fundraising

Thanks to all those who have participated in this ongoing fundraiser for U.C.E. You've seen the notice board and the order forms....some of you now have collections of gift cards and certificates to spend or pass on....but did you know... This is a YEAR-ROUND opportunity for U.C.E. – not just for the holidays. Even a small order every month can add up for money for the church. If you get into the habit of ordering for stores you are at regularly (like gas stations, or department stores, or grocery stores), we can see this grow! If you would like ideas for making this work for you, please talk to Barb Forbes or Michelle Van Der Molen. Also, keep turning in your order forms with your cheques to Barb or Michelle. Barbara Forbes (780-439-4553) continues to ably administer the program, with support from Marjay Russell.

Just a Reminder

If you have a fund-raising idea for the church, please make sure to run it past the Ways and Means Committee to make sure that it fits the schedule and that is appropriate and supported! Please contact Michelle Van Der Molen, Acting chairperson at 780-477-7576 or mavdmolen@shaw.ca with your ideas.

Church Photos

I have collected photos and articles of friends and members of our church and church activities. These photo albums are on the desk in the library for your viewing. Please feel free to add any photos, newspaper articles, etc. It would be nice if you dated and labelled the people and activities. And please feel free to label, add names and dates of any of the present photos and put them in chronological order (in case they are not!). Thanks for any contributions you may add to the albums. It will be nice to have this visual memory of our church people and activities.

Sylvia Krogh

Keeping Our Promises Hanging Out

Canada's Dirty Laundry

An opportunity to demonstrate solidarity
with
the grandmothers and AIDS orphans of
Africa

September 6th, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Gazebo Park, Old Strathcona

Music * Speakers * Call to Action * National
Petition

*Hosted by Grandmothers of Alberta for a New
Generation ("The GANG") in affiliation with
Canadian Grandmothers for Africa: A National
Advocacy Network*

New Ways to Learn at Meadville Lombard, a Unitarian Universalist Seminary

Weekend and Week-long formats allow flexibility for Ministers and Lay Leaders
Meadville Lombard is now offering courses in formats that make it easier for

working religious professionals and lay leaders to broaden or deepen their theological and congregational understanding. These on-campus courses were designed in a format best suited to developing religious leadership skills--a format that is face-to-face and heart-to-heart.

Visit our website for a full listing and course syllabi and to register online. Please note that the tuition does not include lodging, and registrants will need to apply for Student at Large status (\$45.00) and pay a registration fee of \$50.00.

Contact Erika Chavez, Director of Admissions, at 773.256.3000 x 250 for more information. Meadville Lombard Theological School Changing Lives to Change the World www.meadville.edu

Fabulous Food

Food, food, fabulous food and a big problem in our kitchen. If you are involved in an event that includes food and there is some left over, please make sure that is removed from our tiny kitchen. If you wish it to be used for an event the following day you need to mark it clearly and to see that it is used at that time, including cleaning up. Public Health Regulations prohibit the storing of perishable food for more than one day. It is impossible for the wonderful coffee makers to handle more than coffee and tea on Sunday mornings.

Property Management Committee

Protecting Our Floors

When it is wet or snowy or muddy outside we really appreciate your taking time to change or clean your footwear just as you would in your home.

Property Management Committee

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.

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Deadline for the October newsletter is September 19, 2008

People Finder

Minister: Reverend Brian J. Kiely
minister@uce.ca 780-455-9797
President: Mike Keast
president@uce.ca 780-497-1303
Religious Education Director: Michelle Van Der Molen
dmolen@uce.ca 780-454-5816
Canvasser: Andrew Mills 780-987-2174
Campus Ministry: Rev. Audrey Brooks
audbrook@telusplanet.net 780-489-8842
Chorealis: Karen Mills 780-432-0826
Gordon Ritchie 780-420-9018
Church Office: Linda Stolee
chadmin@uce.ca 780-454-8073
Donations Secretary: Marge Roche .. 780-464-3348
Head Teller: Edwina Madill 780-462-2089
Lay Chaplaincy: call office 780-454-8073
Denise Wenzel and Pam Willerton
Ministerial Relations: Stefan Sicking . 780-434-9201
Pastoral Care: vacant
Property Management: Bernie Keeler
btkeeler@shaw.ca 780-458-1250
Social Justice Committee: Sylvia Krogh
skrogh@shaw.ca 780-454-6216
Vision: Gilbert Bouchard 780-439-8149
Worship Committee: John Pater 780-477-7576

UCE Walking Friday Mornings

This group is open to everyone who likes to walk (and talk) and eat! Join us and bring your spouse and friends.

SCHEDULE - September 2008

(Entertainment Books are often useful for the Lunch component of these walks)

Leaders are assigned arbitrarily so exchanges are expected and possible.

1. We always meet at the church at 9:30 on Friday mornings and car pool from there to the walk of the day. (A loonie for in town and a twoonie for out of town to the driver is suggested.) If you prefer to meet us at the starting point of the walk please let the leader (or Dorothy or Helen or UCE office) know.
2. We try to maintain an email list to update you on changes. If you wish to be added to that list please contact Helen Ready or Dorothy Keeler. Many of us carry cellphones.
3. Sometimes we change our routes or leaders to accommodate the weather or other activities. Check the Order of Service each week. We will try to advise those on our email list in advance but sometimes you will not get that news until you arrive at the church at 9:30.
4. Many, but not all walks, finish with lunch at a restaurant before returning to the church.
5. Many of our walks are dog friendly. If you want more information please contact the leader for the day.
6. If you have a favourite trail please let us know so we can incorporate it into our schedule.
7. Call one of us if you need more information about a route or this program.
8. During the nicer weather we try to go further afield. These walks take more time and are underlined in the program.

September 5th John Janzen Nature Centre up Keillor road trail
Leader--Shirley Edgar

September 12 Kennedale Ravine in Hermitage Park
Leader--Dorothy(?)

September 19 Spruce Grove
Leader--Audrey Brooks

September 26 Strathcona Wilderness center
Leader--Kathy Stanley

Please note that the scheduled leaders may be subject to change depending on contingencies that may arise in this fall season. Please let me know if this is necessary. We wish Dorothy well as she continues to recuperate from her eye surgery. See you all soon!--Helen

A Question

"Did you exist before you were born?"

Answer Yes or No

There will be a possible answer in the September newsletter. *Brother James*

A Possible Answer

If an answer is YES, then it may be possible for one to continue to exist after death.

If the answer is NO, then it is highly improbable that one has immortality. In either case the answers are hypothetical and impossible to have certainty. The existence of God can neither be proven nor disproven logically or rationally, It is a matter of Faith!

There is No Absolute Truth but it is not certain that the preceding statement is true.

Brother James

Western Region Fall Gathering 2008

'EVER MOVING': Confluence, Divergence & Transition

Program Overview

Friday, Oct. 17

- Ingathering & Worship

Saturday, Oct. 18

- Rev. Brian Kiely & Rev. Meg Roberts will reprise the Confluence Lecture they gave at the Annual Conference & Meeting "Can Eco-Spirituality Grow Eco-JUUstice?"
- Workshops about: our Six Unitarian Universalist Sources; Ministerial Transitions; Rites of Passage; Living in the Suburbs; Your Spiritual Type; National direction of the Canadian Unitarian Council's Board; Transitions in Membership; and, how UUs create sustainable communities in spite of our diverging views and beliefs.
- Youth Conference
- Children's Program & Child Care
- Banquet & Entertainment
- Worship

Sunday, Oct. 19

- Sunday Worship led by Western Region ministers
- More time for making connections

October 17–19, 2008

Unitarian Church of Calgary

The 2008 Western Regional Fall Gathering will truly be a Regional affair as many congregations and individuals from the Lakehead to the Rockies are making contributions! It is sure to be a great opportunity to build and renew friendships. The weekend also offers participants a chance to learn more about other congregations and practical matters relating to congregational life, training, and to participate in personal spiritual enrichment.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!

Program brochures and registration forms will soon be available at: <http://cuc.ca/programs/gatherings.htm>

For more information please contact Laura McNaughton,
Director of Regional Services - West

E-mail: laura@cuc.ca

Phone: 306-652-0373

This event is created in partnership with the Canadian Unitarian Council, Western Region volunteers and the Unitarian Church of Calgary.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>September 2008</h1>						
	1 Office Closed	2	3 ^{11:30 renter S}	4 ^{11:00 renter S} 7:30 Chorealis S	5	6 6:00 renter S 7:00 renter C2
7 ^{noon} "Ingathering" Membership mtng.	8 6:30 renter C2 6:45 renter S	9	10 7:00 renter S	11 ^{11:00 renter S} 6:30 renter C2 7:30 Chorealis S	12 7:00 renter C1	13 7:00 renter C2
14 ^{noon} "All Heretics Day" Property Managemnt; social justice 1:00 renter S	15 6:45 renter S	16	17 7:00 renter S	18 ^{11:00 renter S} 6:30 renter C2 7:30 Chorealis S	19 ^{Newsletter Deadline!!} 5:00 renter C2 7:00 renter S 7:00 renter C1	20 ^{9:00 renter C2} 7:00 renter C2
21 ^{noon} "Knoxville" Finance cttee 5:00 renter S	22 6:30 renter C2 6:45 renter S	23 5:00 renter S	24 7:00 renter S	25 ^{11:00 renter S} 6:30 renter C2 7:30 Chorealis S	26 7:00 renter C1	27 7:00 renter S 7:00 renter C2
28 ^{noon} TBA RE training; History Project 1:30 renter S	29 5:00 renter S	30 7:00 Spirit of Life C2 6:00 renter S				