



THE CHALICE

FEBRUARY 2012

Sunday Services - 10:45 a.m.

February 5 Black History Month Rev. Myron Andes

Canada is an intentionally multicultural nation. Black Canadians have participated in and contributed to Canada's history from early on. As part of a commitment to inclusivity, multiculturalism, and anti-racist efforts, the Canadian Unitarian Council has adopted at least two resolutions calling on its member congregations to engage in and report on conversations regarding racism. Yet, there is very little information available about racial diversity and anti-racism actions in Canadian Unitarian congregations to this day. What shall we make of this? What will we do about it?

February 12 Building Tomorrow Rev. Myron Andes

We are building tomorrow today. Taking action to improve times to come is central to our Unitarian and Universalist history and Principles. Upon what are we building? What are our materials, our tools? What skills do we need? Do we have a blueprint? And most importantly, what are we building, and what do we need to be doing to build it? Answers to these questions will come from all of us. So will all the things we need to build tomorrow.

February 19 Evolution Sunday Rev. Myron Andes

Evolution Sunday is observed this time of year by many congregations worldwide, in order to show that faith in science and religious sensibilities can coexist. We join in that demonstration, and use it as an occasion to examine Humanism as one of the core sources of our Unitarian Universalist tradition.

February 26 Wade in the Water David Vaughan

It is where life began. It is a part of all life. It is needed to live. Water is so simple and common that we often take it for granted. At the same time, it is a vital and powerful agent for shaping and sustaining our world. No surprise, then, that water is an integral part of the rites, myths, and beliefs of many traditions, or that many cultures have identified it as one of the four fundamental elements of existence. Come. Wade in the water.

From Your Minister

Curiosity makes the cat alive and passionate, contrary to popular opinion.

Being alive and passionate is a pleasant and exciting way to be in the world.

Therefore, let us be curious!

Looking at ourselves, and the situations we find ourselves in, with curiosity is a powerful tool. It certainly beats approaching them with an attitude of judgment or blame. There is no room for shame in curiosity; no egotism; no envy; no violence or destruction. And there is no room for disinterestedness when curiosity is present. Curiosity is the beginning of science, or all true learning.

Curiosity is playful in nature. It opens us to unforeseen possibilities; that's what curiosity means. If we look at our "successes" and "failures" with curiosity, examining them to see what we can see, it is the beginning of growth and a source of delight. If we look at other people's words and actions curiously, seeking the wonder and mystery in them, we show respect for them. If we look at our own actions and feelings with curiosity, we playfully open to who we really are, without looking through the filter of who we think we are supposed to be.

So let us be like Alice, down the rabbit hole and through the looking glass: curiouiser and curiouiser!

The Reverend Myron Andes is available for appointments regularly on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and would love to talk with you. Please contact him to schedule a time and place to meet.

Building Tomorrow

We have opened the doors to our future. But what is our future? Is it community love? World peace? Spiritual enlightenment? Whatever we want tomorrow to hold, it is our responsibility to build the foundation of understanding and knowledge today to reach our wanted tomorrow. Those building blocks are made up of your donation of thoughts, time, and money. The UFL Stewardship Team invites you to share all three during our annual stewardship dinners. At a stewardship dinner, you will have an opportunity to sign a pledge for your 2012-13 contribution to the UFL.

Rev. Myron Andes will kick off our construction with a sermon on February 12th. The dinners will be held from February 13th through March 4th and we will celebrate our masterpiece on March 11th.

If you wish to host a dinner, please contact Bev Ball via email bdball_99@yahoo.com, or by phone 519-657-1712. Sign up for dinners will start on February 5th at the UFL. You can also contact Bev to sign up for a dinner.

Kathy Kaill

From the President

I'm thrilled that Carol Cott has agreed to serve as our V.P. for the rest of the congregational year. By taking on this responsibility, Carol has agreed to oversee the Congregational Health portfolio, which involves personnel, sitting on the finance committee, and overseeing membership, volunteer development, communication, and denominational affairs. Carol's warmth, generosity, wisdom, and years of experience at the UFL are welcome assets that will benefit the Board and the congregation tremendously.

I'm also delighted that Cathy Smith and Christine Kelsey have agreed to serve as co-chairs of Membership. In this role, they will examine the UFL membership experience from the first visit through years and even decades of participation. This process will help us to envision what we want the UFL membership experience to be and to make that vision a reality.

Alison M. Konrad

Board Highlights

At the January 12, 2012 Board Meeting we:

Approved the nomination of Carol Cott for V.P. for the rest of this congregational year

Were delighted to be notified that Cathy Smith and Christine Kelsey have agreed to serve as co-chairs of Membership

Approved the allocation of a preliminary budget of \$5,000 for upgrades to the sound system

Renewed rental agreements with ongoing users of the Sanctuary Building, Participation House and Shades of Harmony

Decided to notify Just Energy that we will be switching to another gas supplier, likely Union Gas as of March 1, 2012, in order to lower our gas rates

Approved a new Living Tree Fund brochure

Approved the new version of the UFL Investment Guidelines that was updated after receiving comments from members of the congregation

Decided to invest the money in our Living Tree Fund into GICs in order to gain a higher rate of interest

Alison M. Konrad

Are you new to the UFL or have you been attending for awhile and are curious about membership?

Do you wonder what it means to be a member?

Are you thinking about becoming a member?

Would you like more information about Unitarian Universalism in general or the Unitarian Fellowship of London specifically?

If you've answered YES to any of these questions, our Membership Committee is holding two Information Sessions:

Sunday, February 12

Sunday, February 19

12:15 - 1:30

Come out and hear about membership from Rev. Myron and from members of the UFL!! Your presence at both of these interdependent sessions is requested.

Light lunch and Childcare provided

Please RSVP

to our Office Manager, Patricia Daly at ufl@execulink.com or 519-451-0424 by noon, Thursday, February 9th

or

to any member of the Membership Committee

(Christine Kelsey, Cathy Smith, Michelle Ross, Gina LaForce or Bev Ball)

or

by adding your name to the sign-up sheet at the back of the Sanctuary at the UFL

News from RE

When we watch the news it can be overwhelming to think about all the problems in the world. We may wonder what we can do to help and we might feel that one person cannot make a big impact. You may say: "I am too young," or "I am too old", "I am just one person", or "I have my own problems to worry about." There are lots of excuses but when we work together as a community we really can have an impact. In January the Religious Exploration program discussed how we can each be a superhero and save someone's life by working towards social justice. Mark Konrad taught the children about political prisoners and the impact of letter-writing campaigns. We discussed the power of philanthropy and the children voted on three charities to direct the proceeds from our Change for Change campaign. They are the London Humane Society, ReForest London and the London-Middlesex branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association. The children made soup that will be sold on February 5th after the service and the proceeds will support these valuable organizations. The children have been collecting spare change this year. You can contribute too by saving your pennies, nickels and dimes. The children will be collecting them on an upcoming Sunday.

In February we will spend some time learning about the Underground Railroad in honour of Black History month. On February 12th we will be discussing love as a universal force that guides us. On February 19th our classroom lessons will focus on the concept of loving others as ourselves. On February 26th the children will discuss the concept of finding truth through scientific reason. The children will explore reason and science as a means to answer one of the ultimate religious questions, "how did we get here?"

In February Mystery Friends is back. What is Mystery Friends? Adults are matched with younger UFLers- each week for five weeks, you'll reveal a little clue about yourself in your letter to your mystery friend, who will give you a little clue about himself or herself in a message to you. After five weeks, one letter per week, we will meet for a Mystery Friends potluck breakfast on March 4th where all will be revealed. Mystery Friends starts February 5th. It is a great way to celebrate our intergenerational congregation and get to know each other better.

The children recently discussed what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist and their responses are in the section below. Be sure to check it out.

As always, sincere thanks to our many volunteers who deliver our Religious Exploration Program.

Christine Mckinlay
Co-ordinator Children's Religious Exploration Program

Getting to Know our UFL Kids

The children's Religious Exploration Program aims to create an environment in which children and youth can explore the history, heritages, traditions and principles of Unitarian Universalism and various other spiritual and religious belief systems. The Religious Exploration Program fosters personal growth, self esteem, appreciation of spiritual diversity and a sense of one's responsibility towards the world, through the exploration of relevant curricula, the freedom of open discussion and the opportunity for community involvement.

In a recent lesson the children discussed what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist and we asked the children "What do you like best about the UFL". Here is a summary of their responses:

Unitarian Universalist to me means learning about other religions and learning about our principles. I like that you can believe whatever you want to believe and no one criticizes you –*Danielle Gauthier*

I like coming to the UFL because I get to do fun things. I get to learn about sharing and make crafts. -*Lia Ross*

I like coming to the UFL because I like to be with friends- *Matthew Otchet*

I like playing – *Theodore Bervoets*

I like coming to the UFL because there is a special program just for kids. – *Thomas Breault*

Unitarian Universalist to me means getting to choose our religion. I like coming to the UFL because I like sharing and having fun with other people. I like sharing the vegetables from our community garden with everyone. – *Anje Bervoets*

Unitarian Universalist to me is about learning about other people, being a community, peace and choosing my own beliefs. I like that nobody is left out here. – *Laura Breault*

To Let You Know

January was a relatively quiet month for the Care Team. We visited with a few UFLers which included Wilda's visit to Barbara Vincent at the Queen's Village Retirement Home. Barbara went home on January 26, more than three months after the car accident that resulted in a cracked kneecap in one leg and broken bones in the other, as well as having cracked ribs. She can now walk again and we wish her continued progress.

As always, we do encourage one and all to contact a member of the Care Team when needing support or when hearing about someone else in need of support.

Remember: spring is just around the corner, the days are getting longer!

Greetings to all.

Marianne Nyhof

**CARE TEAM
CONTACT
JOYCE ORCHARD
519-455-9309**

Recycle Your Electronics

Shades of Harmony, Monday night renters at the UFL, are collecting used printer cartridges, unwanted cell phones, laptops, tablets, digital cameras, ipods. A box for collecting these items is in the foyer, next to the pamphlet rack.

Let's help them raise funds to support their charity, National Service Dogs of Canada, the program for children with autism. They now have a dog named 'Harmony' that they sponsor.

First Sunday Finger Food Potluck

The first Sunday of each month is our finger food potluck lunch immediately after the service. Please bring food to share (finger food such as sandwiches, wraps, cheese & crackers, deviled eggs, raw vegetables, fruit or dessert). Your food should be prepared and ready to go on the table. Avoid using nuts in any item you bring.

Our potluck lunches are a great opportunity to visit with each other and to get better acquainted with our newer members and visitors.

The next finger food potluck lunch is on Sunday, February 5.

Next Humanist Meeting

The next meeting of the Humanist Association of London and Area will be on Wednesday February 8th, 2012, at the Cross Cultural Learner Centre, 505 Dundas Street, London, at 7:30 p.m.

The Speaker will be Dr. Meg Westley and her topic is Medically Assisted Dying and the Law. Dr. Westley is President of Dying With Dignity, Canada.

Midwinter Unitarian Retreat

**Contemplating our Essential
Nature**

CEDAR GLEN, YMCA - BOLTON

February 10 - 12, 2012

Website: <http://donheights.ca/mwr>

See yellow brochures in foyer.

**CHALICE
DEADLINE
FEBRUARY 20**

The Unitarian Fellowship of London

557 Clarke Road, London, ON, N5V 2E1
(519) 451-0424 ufl@execulink.com
www.unitarianfellowshipoflondon.org
Minister: The Reverend Myron Andes
Sunday Services 10:45am

The Board

President..... Alison Konrad
Vice President & Congregational Health
Trustee Carol Cott
Past President Paul Heidenheim
Treasurer & Stewardship
TrusteeLorna Dean
Living Tradition Trustee..... Judith Warren
Secretary.....David Winninger
Youth Rep..... Avery Dawson Dance

Lay Chaplains

Edna Anderson and Joyce Orchard

Co-ordinator Children's Religious Exploration

Christine Mckinlay

Office Manager

Patricia Daly

Pianists

Blair Salter, Ian Robertson

Contact us...

General inquiries can be sent to the Office Manager, at the phone # or email listed above. Rev. Myron Andes can be reached at 519-204-2363 or myronandes@earthlink.net. or confidential messages can be left at 519-451-0424 (press 1).

Office Hours

Monday & Wednesday 10:00 am - 1:30 pm
Thursday 10:00 a.m.- 12:00 noon