



THE CHALICE

SEPTEMBER 2007

Strategic Planning Task Force News

The Strategic Planning Task Force (SPTF) is a Congregational Committee established at a Special Congregational Meeting on April 28, 2007. Its mandate is to examine both the financial health and the general health of the Congregation and to make recommendations to the Congregation in the light of its findings.

In light of decisions regarding mortgage renewal, which must be decided upon prior to November 2007, the SPTF has been instructed to report back to the Congregation in October 2007 with some preliminary financial recommendations. It will then issue a further and broader set of recommendations in February 2008 and make its final recommendations to the Congregation prior to April 30, 2008.

The SPTF is made up of three UFL Board representatives, Edna Anderson, Bill Ratcliffe, and Arja Vainio-Mattila, and three congregational members elected at the most recent Annual Congregational Meeting on June 9, 2007, Grace Flesher, Ann Klinck, and Paul Nesbitt-Larking.

The SPTF has been busy since early summer getting established and beginning its work. Grace Flesher and Paul Nesbitt-Larking were selected as co-chairs of the SPTF. Work soon began on assembling a breadth of documentary data including the Operations Manual, Annual Reports, visioning statements, canvass feedback from both 2005 and 2007, leadership reports and notes from leadership retreats, notes from congregational workshops, and statements from leaders within the UFL and the CUC. Work over the summer consisted of compiling and assessing the broad content of these documents. A full-day meeting on August 17th allowed for the SPTF to assess the data already available to us and to begin making plans for further work. The next round of work extends the data gathering and information seeking processes. Once we are satisfied that we have sufficient background information, we will be entering into a consultation phase during which you can all expect to be invited to contribute.

Reflecting what we hope will be broader congregational experiences of the strategic planning process, the tone of our first meeting was supportive, warm and affirming for each participant. We were productive and focused on a range of specific challenges and opportunities.

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September's Pastoral Care

contact people are
Marianne Nyhof
Sept. 1-10 and
Judith Warren
Sept. 10-30

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Bill Ratcliffe drew our attention to some words that capture the nature of the process to come, referring to the SPTF as “a holding environment where a set of questions, tensions, and learnings can bubble creatively for a certain period of time, until the congregation is ready to make decisions about them.” This is how we see the process and we are aware that the process may be “messy” and even possibly frustrating for some. But we are also convinced that this time of transition affords us with a powerful opportunity to renew ourselves in the context of some deep rethinking. For our part, the SPTF is determined to communicate effectively throughout the process and to listen and learn from all in the Congregation prior to making any specific recommendations.

In Fellowship,
Grace Flesher, co-chair
Paul Nesbitt-Larking, co-chair

Board News

As the rain is beating down on my window, I am aware again of the transition in seasons. As I meet friends and colleagues I hear of the various strategies we use to make these transitions in our gardens, work lives, adjusting to a new school year and so on. At the UFL, too, we are in transition. After saying good-bye to Leaf as our Minister, we hope to be welcoming an Interim Minister by October. We also look forward to welcoming a new part-time DRE. This fall you will be hearing a lot from the Strategic Planning taskforce (see an article in this Chalice), and in not too distant a future, we will be setting up a Ministerial Search Committee. In addition, the regular schedule of committee, council, and board meetings is about to start.

In all this transition, we also need to find the calmness of heart to create and enjoy our community. I look forward to meeting you all again, to making new acquaintances as well as strengthening old ones. Let's take care of each other through this year, so that we may all be stronger in spirit, mind and body for being part of UFL.

Looking forward,
Arja Vainio-Mattila
President

A Month of Sundays



- September 2**—*The Examined Faith* - David Vaughan
- September 9**—*Ingathering Water Communion* (Intergenerational)
- September 16**— Grace Flesher
- September 23** —Gratitude and Service—Gary Smith
- September 30**—*Principles and Progress* – Goldie Emerson

We Gather Together

From the Worship Committee

I recently had the opportunity to attend services at a Christian church. While they had excellent music and good preaching, I found the relative complexity of the liturgy they used a little much for me (others may enjoy it). This experience gave me a new appreciation for the relative simplicity and flexibility of our current service format. It has just enough formality and ritual to appeal to the need for ritual in our congregation. At the same time, it has plenty of room for non-traditional services, spontaneity and for participation by lay members. As we move into a new phase of ministry at the UFL, it is the goal of the Worship Committee to continue with and improve upon the order of service that we have developed over the past 3-4 years.

To tide us over as we await an interim minister, the Worship Committee has put together a slate of lay-led services for the month of September. See the Month of Sundays column for a full list. It promises to be an interesting month and I hope to see lots of you in church.

There are officially four members on the Worship Committee right now: David Vaughan (Chair), Patrick Breault, Wilda Mardlin, and Paula Mattes. We will also have representation from RE as often as possible. New members are always welcome. No worship experience is necessary. Your ideas and energy are what we need!

Of course, you don't need to be on the committee to be involved in worship at the UFL.

We also need:

Service leaders

The service leader works with the minister/worship leader in presenting the service by doing greetings, announcements, and other elements of the service as required.

Moments of Wonder

We need people to offer the wonderful stories that both children and adults enjoy after the joys and concerns.

Lay worship leaders

We occasionally need worship leaders to cover services when there is no minister (such as summer vacations) or to work with the minister in providing ritual or other team-led services

Ideas

We are always open to suggestions for ideas for services.

If you want to join the committee, or participate in worship in other ways, feel free to drop me an email (david_vaughan@sympatico.ca) or give me a call (519-667-1223, evenings after 7 and weekends only, please).

I hope you all had a good summer and look forward to seeing you all this fall.

David Vaughan
Chairman, Worship Committee

Ufl Lay Chaplaincy Committee

The Board has initiated the re-establishment of a Lay Chaplaincy Committee which will be responsible for the promotion of the UFL lay chaplaincy program, provide support for our lay chaplains and will keep the congregation informed with regard to the lay chaplains' engagements.

The committee consists of 5 members of our congregation and will invite our interim minister upon her or his arrival in London to be part of the committee. We had our first meeting in July. In order to become better acquainted with the CUC lay chaplaincy program several committee members will be attending a CUC training course in Ottawa in October .

Gary Smith is one of our chaplains and will serve in that capacity until May, 2008. Our other lay chaplain is Patricia Stockwell whose lay chaplaincy term is ending in September of this year (be sure to be at the Fellowship on September 23rd when we will honour and thank Patricia for her years of dedication to the lay chaplaincy role she so ably filled). At the ACM the congregation approved the appointment of Mary Hagan to become our new lay chaplain after she completes the required CUC training. Mary will be part of the group attending the training course in Ottawa.

The committee is looking forward to working with our lay chaplains to develop a vibrant program that serves the UFL family and the London community.

Warm regards from the committee members: (in alphabetical order) Edna Anderson, Goldie Emerson, Ellen Faubert, Marianne Nyhof (chair), and Tom Orchard.

Happenings in Property

A big thanks to Bill Ratcliffe and his crew of grass-cutters for tending to the lawns over the spring/summer season. Now that fall is approaching the lawns will be greening up and grass-cutting will continue well into October. Give Bill a call if you can help out.

Another pat on the back goes to Bob Harrington for labouring on our garage and reconstructing the front doors and some of the siding. This pink structure has become the repository of extra chairs and excessive odds and sods. In the fall we will have a 'garage-bee' whereby we will clean up the interior, scrape and sand the exterior and apply a fresh coat of paint!

On the interior our custodian continued to work in July and besides cleaning up after rentals, he stripped and waxed all vinyl floors- they are very shiny! Yours truly made some executive decisions, especially after trying to open one of the refrigerators only to have the handle fall off! Both fridges were 30 years+ or more; in fact one was of the vintage whereby it had to be defrosted quite often. In trying to be better conservers of energy, both fridges were disposed of cost-free; a new 18.3 cubic foot Energy Star Frigidaire was purchased for \$729.00, no PST thanks to a government program; with delivery and GST the total was \$829.74 coming from Property budget. The new fridge will be shared between R.E and Sunday coffee-makers and resides in the R.E. kitchen. I know we can make this arrangement work, so no grumbling allowed!

Another Bob Harrington feat- our 2nd stove had to be removed as it became a fire hazard. Bob saw a second-hand stove for sale on his street for \$50.00. After committee consultation, Bob bought it for \$40.00, put it in his small station-wagon, and, voila, we now have a very clean, well-functioning second stove!

I am still looking for someone who is willing to oversee the kitchens to be sure they are kept orderly, clean and safe. I know that person is somewhere in the congregation!

Eileen Howay, Property Co-chair



UFL Bulletin Board



Arts & Craft Show

Oct 20th from 9-3pm

Mark your calendar for our 3rd annual Arts & Crafts Show to take place Saturday, October 20 at the UFL, 9—

3pm. Several of last year's vendors will be returning but we are seeking others- phone the church office and let Cindy know if you are interested in selling your crafty wares- tables are rented for \$25, \$20 and \$15 depending on size.

One of our Circle of Friends have agreed to be the organizers of this event- they include Eileen Howay (coordinator of the Show), Hilda Gray, Adriana Maathuis, Marianne Nyhof (who all will run the tea-room/bake-sale), Shiela West (doing the raffle), with Meryl Baker, Donna Jamieson, Lynda Mandziuk and Del Sexsmith all advising and contributing. What a team!

We want this show to be the best yet, so we will put a lot of effort into publicity. Please tell your friends and family to save this date for our event. The UFL depends on profits from this show as part of their budget. So support your church community!

UFL Book Club



Sept. 18th—*Medea* by Euripides; discussion led by Dave Smith at Mardlins

Oct. 16th—*A Blade of Grass* by Lewis DeSoto; led by Marianne Nyhof at Wehlau's

Nov. 20th—*White Oleander* by Janet Fitch; led by Wilda Mardlin at Sexsmiths'

Dec. 11th—*Bloodletting & Miraculous Cures* by Vincent Lam; led by Amelia Wehlau at Boyd-Graham's

All book club meetings are held at 2pm. For more information call Dave at 519-672-0128.

Pantry

The UFL pantry shelves are very low in supplies. Please help us fill the shelves again with anything and everything non-perishable. We encourage you to regularly bring something for the Foodbank and our Pantry. A big "THANK YOU" from the Pastoral Care Team

Community Events

Humanists Meet

The Humanist Association of London and Area will meet on Thursday September 13th at the Cross Cultural Learner Centre, 505 Dundas Street at 7:30 PM. Enter from parking lot at rear. Paul Chefurka will be discussing the world's dependency on oil in a presentation entitled "The View From the Peak."

Yoga Classes—Get Inspired

Yoga is an ancient system of breathing practices, physical exercises and postures, the meditation is intended to integrate the practitioners mind, body and spirit.

Enjoy your practice of yoga—you will feel great and keep getting stronger and more flexible. It's a great way to shed stress or relieve tension and increase your energy. Men and women of all ages welcome.

Classes run from September 10—October 29

At the Unitarian Fellowship of London
557 Clarke Rd.

Mondays

9:30-10:30am

2-3pm

7-8pm

Prices

8 week session \$80

Drop-in \$12

Please call Kate at 519-451-2281 and bring your own yoga mat!



Contact Information

The Unitarian Fellowship of London
557 Clarke Road, London, ON, N5V 2E1
Phone: (519) 451-0424 Fax: (519) 451-2678

Email: ufl@execulink.com

Internet Site: [http://
www.unitarianfellowshipoflondon.org/](http://www.unitarianfellowshipoflondon.org/)

Sunday Services begin @ 10:45am
Office Hours: Monday—Friday 9-1pm

Board

Arja Vainio-Mattila, *President*
Don Ewert, *Vice President*
Edna Anderson, *Past President*
Ross Fleischhauer, *Treasurer*
Cathy Smith, *Recording Secretary*
Rod Martin, *Trustee*
Bill Ratcliffe, *Trustee*
Judith Warren, *Trustee*
Nick Nesbitt-Larking, *Youth Trustee*

Staff

Cindy Hayter, *Office Manager*
Anne Polischuk, *Bookkeeper*

Lay Chaplains

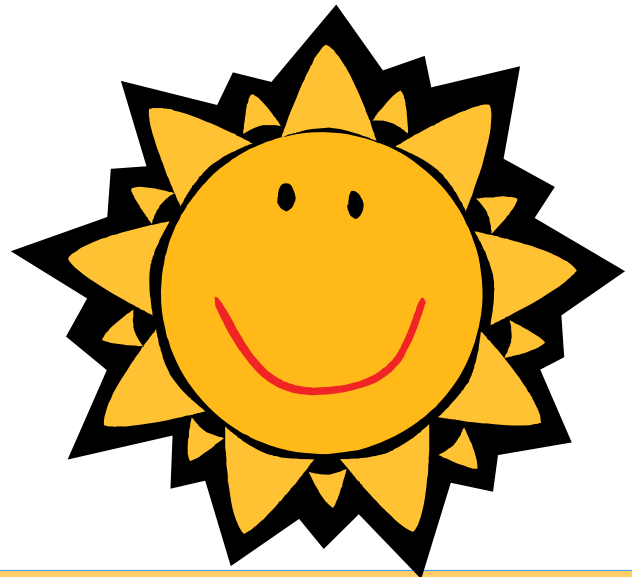
Gary Smith
Patricia Stockwell

Pastoral Care Team:

Janet Anderson, Anita Borm, Marianne
Nyhof, Tom Orchard, Ivan Sexsmith &
Judith Warren

UFL UPCOMING EVENTS

Council	Sept. 10
RE Teacher Training	Sept. 15 & 16
Board	Sept. 24
Craft Sale	Oct. 26



***Chalice* deadline for the October issue is
September 19**

Email Cindy at ufl@execulink.com

Upcoming Chalice Deadlines

October	September 19
November	October 17
December	November 21
January	December 12