

U.U.&you

newsletter of the universalist unitarian church of halifax

Vol. 49, No 7
March 2015

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Church of Halifax
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Emily Dodge
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Kim Turner
President

Newsletter
Etta Hamm
Sandra Jamieson

Sunday service
10:30 am
All are welcome

Children & Youth Education
Child care available

Theme for March: Transformation

March 1

Presenter: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Sass Minard

Wanting What You Have — Our materialistic and consumer-driven economy does all it can to motivate us to want the things we don't have. Norm explores how we can find more happiness in wanting what we already have. (This service originally scheduled for February 22nd was rescheduled due to the weather.)

March 8

Presenters: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Wynne Jordan

The Paradox of Transformation — Carl Rogers the psychologist wrote: "The curious paradox is that when I accept myself just as I am, then I can change." Today, Norm will propose that, just as the best way to prepare for spring is to accept and love winter, so must we accept and celebrate who we are before we can accept and love who we are becoming.

March 15

Presenters: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Mary Spurr

Awesome Transformations in the Natural World — A part of our experience of religion is rooted in the awesomeness of the natural world we inhabit. Even more, we are awed by the manner in which things around us, and our very selves, are transformed. From caterpillar to butterfly, from baby to grandparent, from energy to matter. Come and be amazed again as Norm explores transformation in the natural world.

March 22

Presenters: Rev. Norm Horofker; Service Assistant: Louise Malloch

From Frog to Prince... Grimm or Disney? — The story of the transformation of a frog into the prince who was meant-to-be has several variations. The most familiar of these involves the transformative power of a kiss as used in the Disney stories. But in the Brother Grimm's earlier version, the transformation is brought about in a much more violent manner. Today Norm will consider the many triggers that lead to transformation in our lives.

March 29

Songs that Changed my Life—followed by ***Soulful Singing*** with Wendy Luella Perkins.
This is OUR BIG ONE this month--see next page.



MARCH 8: Remember to "spring forward" for Daylight Saving Time!



Our Mission is to provide a community which nurtures personal and spiritual growth, practices inclusiveness, celebrates diversity and affirms individual and collective commitment to community service and social justice.

March 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9 am Chalice Singers 9:45 am Family Singers 12 noon Worship Committee	2	3	4 4:45-6:15 After Choir	5 9:30 – 11:30 am Parents & Tots	6	7
8 9 am Chalice Singers 12 Noon Social Responsibility	9	10 11:30-3:30 Library Meeting	11 4:45-6:15 pm After Choir 6:30 pm Board Meeting	12 9:30 – 11:30 am Parents & Tots	13	14
15 9 am Chalice Singers 9:45 am Family Singers 12 noon Humanist Group	16	17	18 4:45-6:15 pm After Choir	19 9:30 – 11:30 am Parents & Tots 6:30 pm Spiritual Show& Tell with Potluck Dinner	20	21 7 - 9 pm DUP
22 9 am Chalice Singers 9:45 am Family Singers	23 10 am Newsletter Deadline	24	25 4:45-6:15 pm After Choir	26 9:30 – 11:30 am Parents & Tots	27	28 Prospect Hike See page 9
29 9 am Chalice Singers 9:45 am Family Singers Wendy Luella Perkins: 10:30 Service 1 pm Soulful Singing	30	31				

Sunday Service, March 29, 10:30 am “Songs that Changed my Life”

Presented by the Reverend Wendy Luella Perkins
Service Leader: Marilyn Shinyei

Pete Seeger said, "Songs are funny things. They can slip across borders. Proliferate in prisons. Penetrate hard shells. I always believed that the right song, at the right moment could change history." Rev. Norm says that a handful of songs have changed his life. How about yours?

Join us for a spirited, song-filled morning exploring how can we leverage the power of song for personal and community transformation.

Stay after church for a light lunch, followed by Soulful Singing with Wendy Luella, 1- 2:30 pm.

\$5-20/person (pay as you are able). Invite friends.
Children 8+ are welcome if accompanied by an adult.

See *MORE* on page 4.





Minister's Notes

in a month of transformation

*Changing, changing, everything is changing,
always rearranging, nothing stays the same.*

When I selected “**Transformation**” as the theme for our March services, I was thinking about the transformation from winter to spring. I see now that I was getting a little ahead of Mother Nature. But regardless of the short-term weather forecasts, we do know that the transformation that spring brings is coming eventually. Our seasons progress and transform our world in predictable ways.

Other transformations in our lives follow predictable patterns, for the most part. I have officially become a “senior citizen” and can look back at the amazing physical transformation from my baby pictures to the present unrecognizable older gentleman in my passport photo. I have indeed been blessed to have experienced this gradual and natural progression. Others, I know, are not so fortunate and often have transformation thrust upon them in the form of sudden and serious physical or mental incapacities.

But just as sure as some transformations are out of our control, there are also transformations that we can initiate or at least influence, guide and direct. Some transformations in our lives come about due to the choices we make and the people we choose to associate with. In this way, our congregation is a potential source of positive transformation in the lives of each one of us.

As we enter March, I sense a new transformative attitude toward the future of the congregation. Our attitude toward the financial aspects of church life is transforming as we discuss issues more openly and with a sense of empowerment. Recent congregation meetings addressed our **endowment fund** and **planned giving**. Our small pledge campaign shortfall has been addressed directly and the action taken will involve every member and friend in a ‘**Close the Gap**’ campaign that will end in March.

Your Board has begun to look with fresh eyes at **membership and outreach** for our congregation. We are beginning the process of transforming who we are and what we do in ways that will ensure that our future will be strong and dynamic.

These changes often begin in small ways. Molly Hurd has started a **Parents and Tots** group that meets at the church on Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:30 am. Check it out and tell others: www.meetup.com/Halifax-Parents-and-Tots-Coffee-House-and-Playgroup. And for the last two weeks in February, your church has been **open on Saturday mornings** for drop-in by neighbours and friends. We are offering coffee and cookies (donuts if you arrive early). Last week we had six visitors and shared some very fascinating personal stories. Everyone is welcome to join us: Saturday mornings, 10 to 12. These are small steps toward transforming and strengthening our connection with our neighbourhood.

“Changing, changing, everything is changing, always rearranging, nothing stays the same.”

I learned that musical chant at a minister’s retreat with Reverend Wendy Luella Perkins. Other pages tell of her visit at the end of March. I can guarantee a transformational experience.

Rev. Norm Horofker

Soulful Singing with Wendy Luella Perkins **March 27 - 29**

The Reverend Wendy Luella Perkins is a Unitarian Universalist community minister and lifelong singer. Wendy is returning to Halifax after a few years' absence, bringing us and the larger community her gift of ministry in song and chant.



She developed Soulful Singing (singing as a spiritual practice) in 2002. A prolific writer of folk songs and meditative chants, her song "We Give Thanks" in the UU hymn book *Singing the Journey*, and her seasonal song "Every Night a Holy Night" are sung in congregations across the continent.

In addition to music, Wendy Luella's ministry focuses on food and farm sustainability, community arts and engagement, and life visioning. She brings spiritual depth and lively enthusiasm to all that she does. While Wendy Luella has lived in Kingston, Ontario for twenty years, she still considers Nova Scotia "home". She was born in Halifax, lived her early years in Sackville and grew up on a farm between Shubenacadie and Nine Mile River. Find out more at wendyluellaperkins.com.

As the newsletter goes to press we are planning events to maximize Wendy's ministry opportunities during the weekend of Friday March 27th to Sunday the 29th. Watch for the details!

What is Soulful Singing?

Soulful Singing is an active meditative practice that celebrates each unique voice, fosters spontaneity and play, and nurtures living in the present moment. Experience freedom, joy, power and peace through communal singing and chanting. Soulful Singing is about presence, not performance. What folks say about Soulful Singing:

"If you value community, creativity, fun and spirituality on your own terms, you will love it."

"... amazed at the beauty we can create together."

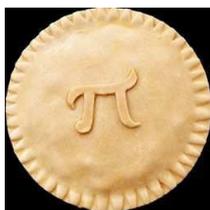
"... a safe, nurturing, open space to explore."

"I have found my voice."

Dining for Dollars

There are still spots available for upcoming D4\$ events. Here are two for March and April. The Dinner Theatre is definite now, and there is lots of room for more people to sign up. May and June availability will appear in the April newsletter.

Pi Dinner at UUCH, Saturday, March 14, 6 pm



The Babylonians stumbled upon π about 4000 years ago. At the same time or earlier the ancient Egyptians invented pie. But this pie won't be ancient—it will be freshly made and steaming hot for your dining pleasure.

The menu: Savoury pies: tourtiere, chicken pot pie, Gardeners (vegan) shepherd pie and potato carrot Kugel (vegetarian), Caesar salad. Dessert: cranberry-pear pie. Wine, tea and coffee.

Pi Dinner hosts are Marilyn and Frank Shinyei, with wine provided by Kay Smith & Kathy Anthony.

We can serve 20 guests; there are spots remaining. \$35 – for the church that you love.

Dinner Theatre: Spirits of 5500. UUCH, April 10, 6:30 — 5500 Inglis Street is empty now...or is it?

Musical fun and a gripping experience for all who dare to be there for this world debut staging of the original '*Spirits*'. [Read all about it on page 10.]



A substantial dinner will include gluten-free, dairy-free, or vegan options if requested at time of ticket purchase.

Hosts are Deborah Wiggins and Kathy Spencer. They'd love to serve **40** guests so let's fill those spots! Parties of 4-6 can reserve a table. All ages welcome.

\$35. Multiply that by 40! \$20.00 for 16 & under. Subsidies are available through Rev Norm by request.

Marilyn Shinyei

Spring Art Exhibit May to June 2015

'Our Favourite Things' Ballroom Gallery



Opportunity is knocking still for those of you willing to share your favourite things with us through art.

Why not name some of them? *Tell us* why you are so fond of those particular items. You could even share in written form. *Play* with printed or cursive writing, add flourishes, images, or pictures cut out of magazines. Then, *voilà*—you're done before you know it!

Many of you have shown fascinating art entries and even solo shows in the past. I am as proud of all of you as you *should be* of yourselves. Let's see something from you again. Look around your home ... isn't there something there that calls to you to help it shine out to the world? A beautiful glass pitcher? Your comfy old sneakers? Books? Your favourite fruit? (The glorious pear is mine.)

If you have never (or rarely) exhibited, now could be the time to gather up a few supplies and get started! Consider COLOURED PENCILS, an ECONOMICAL and EASY way to start making art.

PASTELS are another great option, and so textural. A basketful of yarn, your grandfather's old pipes, that old quilt (or clock or crock) you cannot imagine ever parting with ... think of these in coloured pencil or pastels... wow! ... and of course the humble, easily-controlled graphite PENCIL is not to be ignored!

I was tickled to death, upon the return of my "Food Inspired" entries, to find a heartfelt painting by Bronwyn Appleby of the Cratchit's dinner from *A Christmas Story*. I had hoped to see a food-related entry from the Appleby's (who live on a farm) and I was not disappointed! You see? Bronwyn had a thought and *went with it*.

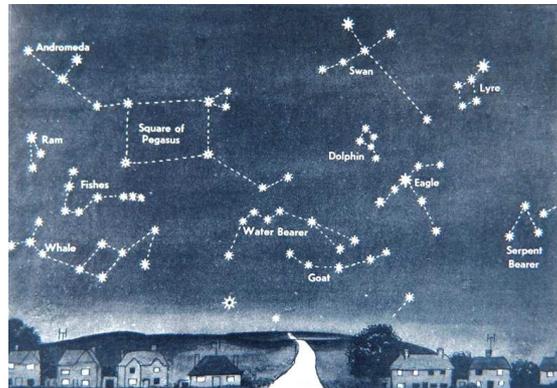
There IS a way for anyone to start, and quickly too. It might be easier than you think! Just take the steps—you'll get there.

Ella Wilson

Music Montage

*“The harp at Nature's advent strung
has never ceased to play;
The song the stars of morning sung
has never died away.”*

~ John Greenleaf Whittier



Upper right: the Lyra constellation, the harp in the night sky.

Special Guest Musician

I am looking forward with great anticipation, to the weekend of March 27-29, when Haligonian singer/songwriter, the Rev Wendy Luella Perkins will share her enthusiasm, joy and many talents with us. We were blessed to have her with us a few years ago, and are very excited for her return. The Sunday morning service will be filled with her sing-along music, and Sunday afternoon she will present her wonderful Soulful Singing (singing mindfully with spirit and joy). At least one other event is in the planning stages, as well. Watch for announcements and read more in other parts of the newsletter.

Opportunities for Family Singers

Again this month, come and sing at 9:45 am on Sundays March 1st, 15th, 22nd and 29th. I encourage all ages and stages of singers to 'make a joyful noise' more often. March 8th is the only exception. So, there will be opportunities to sing *almost every Sunday*. You will be strongly supported by our stalwart and dedicated *Chalice Singers*.

March's 'Singing as We Gather'

The Gathering Hymn for this month is #330 *The Arching Sky of Morning Glows*. Since March's theme is 'transformation', and the month of March heralds the official start of the spring season, the lyrics of this hymn remind us that *“the ragged hills of greening spring, like chorus masters, bid us sing”* and *“whenever sounds the sacred sigh beneath this gable of the sky, the forms of art and spirit blend; by craft and morn our hearts transcend.”*

If you are interested in learning more about our music program and the many opportunities to participate, such as our *Chalice Singers*, *Family Singers*, *qUartet*, or *After Choir*, please contact me.

Deborah Wiggins

Music Director
uuchmusic@yahoo.ca
902-463-0988



Spiritual Show and Tell Thursday, March 19

This is a potluck dinner event starting at 6:30 pm. These wonderful evenings will continue the third Thursday of each month up to and including May.

The attendees of January's **SS&T** were delighted, intrigued, uplifted and satiated in mind and body. Unfortunately, February's had to be cancelled. Do come and check it out for yourselves.

If you would like to be a presenter or wish to learn more, please contact either of us. We are looking forward to you joining us there!

Devin Murphy
Deborah Wiggins

DEADLINE

The deadline for the
April newsletter is
Monday, March 23rd.

Please send your
submissions to both
braeside@eastlink.ca
and
uuchurch@eastlink.ca

Church Directories Available

Copies of the 2015 UUCH Directory are still available to members and friends whose names are 'in the book'.

If you do not yet have your copy, be sure to ask for it next time you are in church. If you are unable to pick it up, we can mail it to you.

Sandra Jamieson
uuchurch@eastlink.ca
902-429-5500

Religious Exploration

Our nature-centered curriculum for the winter continues to go well. The junior group has been learning about the importance of balance in ecosystems and healthy habitats, both by enjoying games and activities indoors and outdoors. They will continue their program into next month, looking at the different life cycles of animals, as well as the importance of decomposition to our ecosystems.



The senior group continues their learning about water as a resource. They have examined the importance of clean water, water scarcity, and the idea of ownership as it pertains to land and water and what that means for people and the earth. The senior group will continue this journey by looking at the benefits of individual efforts within a collective, as well as the practice of gratitude within the realm of water.

This March brings us the promise of spring, which we look forward to weaving into the curriculum, as well as the possibilities for some field trips to further our learning.

As always, we are looking for new potential volunteers. If you have a special gift that you would like to share with the RE program, or if you would like to teach or simply help or observe, please contact me.

I can be reached at esdodge@gmail.com or **902-817-1489** on Tuesdays from 12 to 3, and Thursdays from 8 to 12.

Emily Dodge
Interim RE Director

“Teaching children about the natural world should be seen as one of the most important events in their lives.” Thomas Berry



Board Buzz

Pam Berman
Board Secretary

The Board recently hosted a salon on the **Governance Structure** at the church. Property Chair and Past President Allyn Clarke led the presentation and discussion. He began with an overview of the current structure including the Board and standing committees.

The basic premise is that the church has too many committees for the size of the congregation which leads to burnout: we need to cull them or increase the number of the participating members! The current situation is broken, people are feeling overtaxed and under supported. The Board has been struggling to find a new chair for the Worship Committee, an important function we need to fill. (UPDATE: Since the meeting Avarad Woolaver has agreed to take on this important role.)

There were several issues raised during the meeting. They include clarifying who is accountable to whom—the Board needs to ensure committee chairs are in place and that committees are functioning. It should be clear that committee chairs report to and are accountable to the Board. Every committee should regularly send a report to the Board even if it is one paragraph to indicate they are still active. Rev Horofker also suggests that the Board should choose the chairs and then it is up to the chairs to choose the committee members.

There are also communication issues. New members aren't always sure how to get involved. The structure needs clarifying. Committee chairs also need to stay in touch with each other, but the point was made that there is no time to get to existing meetings. So no one is interested in doing any more meetings. This was in response to a suggestion for quarterly sessions between committee chairs.

There was a suggestion however, that the CUC has an Internet meeting platform that UUCH may be able to get access to. Other churches do things very differently. Rev McFadyen pointed out that Edmonton only has three committees because the congregation already experienced burnout. So everything happens organically from the church leadership. The Finance Committee pointed out that they meet face-to-face only about three times per year. The rest of the work is done through email.

It was suggested that if we improve the way we are organized the right people would serve. For example

we could have a Sunday Committee and everything done at the church on Sunday mornings would fall under it: worship, music, RE, etc. Another idea was for chairs to co-ordinate tasks so there isn't a need for so many meetings. As for communication there was a thought that the Board could invite one to two chairs to each Board meeting.

As for increasing the number of members as a way to solve our burnout problems it was pointed out that the church does not have anyone responsible for outreach and growth. It was suggested that we revisit an idea that was raised in the past of distributing the front covers of our newsletters using a service that would post them at libraries and local businesses. One participant said that market research indicates that people are “church shopping” and we need to find out what they are looking for. Others suggested we can't dwell on numbers—we have an amazing message and we need to get it out, but we may need to do some visioning.

The Board intends to work on a new governance structure and bring it back to congregation, as well as a plan for membership growth.

Closing the Gap

At a special congregational meeting on February 22nd we announced that we were projecting a \$9,000 deficit based on pledges received to date for 2015; this after late cuts in discretionary programs.



The meeting resulted in a unanimous vote in favour of a “Close the Gap” short-term campaign to allow members and friends to increase their pledges if they chose to do so. It was pointed out that we are not in a financial crisis but that it was good for all to be aware of the shortfall, and to have the opportunity to “Close the Gap” and preserve our limited savings.

Pledgers will therefore be contacted by either email or regular mail requesting a response to the appeal. The campaign will wrap up on Sunday, March 29th.

If you would like to avoid receiving a call, and help those who are taking on the work of contacting each member, you can contact either of us before you are contacted. Thank you.

Marilyn Shinyei, Finance Chair
marilyn.shinyei@eastlink.ca

Kim Turner, President
kturner@labour-law.com

March Hike: the Prospect Coastal Walk Saturday, March 28

The March hike will be a coastal walk in Prospect. This hike has some great views, and passes by some interesting rock formations as well as small streams and ponds. I hope the weather will co-operate and that the trail will be ice-free. If not, I will change the location of the hike. Being early spring, the trail will have some wet and muddy stretches.



UU hikers on this trail, April 2013. L-R: the late Katherine Clough, Allyn Clarke, Wynne Jordan, Faye Mingo, Nick Baros-Johnson, Sandra Clarke

Meet at the church at 12:20 or at the commuters' parking lot at the intersection of the St. Margaret's Bay Road and the Prospect Road at 12:30 or at the trail head at 1 pm.

From the Bay Road, take the Prospect Road in the direction of Exhibition Park and Peggy's Cove. Soon after the Terrence Bay / Lower Prospect turn-off, turn left on the Prospect Bay Road (direction Prospect), right on Selig Road, left on Jamil Road, and right on Hage's Lane to its end. If we have sufficient people and cars, we may send half the group to Prospect Village and do the entire hike in both directions.

If you get lost or are running late, call me at 902-483-4731.

Allyn Clarke



Silent Auction

April 12 & 19

Spring really is just around the corner, albeit a wet, cold Maritime spring but we can heat things up a bit with our **Spring Auction.**

We are now open for donations! Any items that qualify as **new** or in **pristine** condition with a value of at least \$20 are welcomed.

Please leave your items under the pew in the Ballroom Gallery any Sunday in March — or phone me at 902-827-4707 to arrange pickup.

Marilyn Shinyei

The Caring Column

We wish Cynthia Connor a speedy recovery from her recent fall on the ice.

Wietske's elevator is working and she is happily sleeping upstairs in her own bed again.

We are grateful to all the caring people in our community who assist others by shopping, giving rides, visiting, making meals, shoveling out cars and much more.

Mary Ellen Onno



It's show time...
SPIRITS OF 5500
Dinner Theatre
Playing at UUCH
Friday April 10 6:30 pm



There is still time to secure your seats for this not-to-be-missed, fanciful 3-act musical production. Be present for the gripping, world-debut staging of the original '**Spirits**'.

In the spotlight: Rob McClure, Sheila Morrison, David Ballum-Haftka, Marilyn Shinyei, Andrew Dorfman, Deborah Wiggins, Joann Duran, Kathy Spencer, Margaret Galbraith, Mia Huh, Faith Piccolo and Alison Chipman.

Dinner theatre guests will be served a sumptuous 3-course meal of: squash Soup, bread & crackers, carrot & raisin salad, bean salad, Moroccan chicken tazine on rice, assorted sweets, coffee & teas. Gluten-free and vegan fare can be provided if pre-ordered.

A limited number of seats are still available but reservations are required, so don't delay! Tickets can be purchased at \$35 per person (\$20 for 16 yrs & under) by placing payment in the UUCH collection plate on Sunday, or mailing directly to the church **prior to March 22nd**.

Be sure to note '**D4\$s Dinner Theatre**' on your payment—and **you must also talk to Kathy or email her at kathy.spencer@dal.ca** stating the number of seats required. Otherwise, a **spirit** might chase you out.

On a tight budget? Do NOT let such a piffling trifle deter you. Speak to Rev. Norm right away. He is offering subsidies to defray admission.

Thank you,

Alfred Hitchcock, no, Gilbert and Sullivan, no, Wayne and Shuster ... oops, just kidding, they are all 'no longer with us', Thank you from ...

the real live creators, directors and hosts of 'Spirits**':**

Wiggins & Spencer





May 15-17

As one of 46 members of the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC, the Canadian association of Unitarian and Universalist congregations), the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax is entitled to send up to two delegates to the CUC's Annual General Meeting each year. At a Special Congregational Meeting on February 22nd, Devin Murphy and I were selected as UUCH's delegates to this year's national **AGM, being held May 15-17 at Algonquin College in Ottawa.**

National AGMs are always an exciting place to meet old friends, make new ones from across the country, get energized and learn about everything UU. This year's theme is social responsibility: "*Seeking justice in a changing land,*" and aims to explore how we live out our faith as engaged and compassionate global citizens. In addition to many workshops, spiritual practice sessions, social events, and annual meetings of related UU groups, this year there will be four resolutions considered:

1. Abortion Rights Resolution
2. Fossil Fuel Divestment Resolution
3. Clean Air, Water, Soil Resolution
4. Truth & Reconciliation between Aboriginal & Non-Aboriginal Canadians Resolution

Devin and I will be honoured to represent Nova Scotia's only UU congregation in the nation's capital. Please do not hesitate to talk to us about your views on proposed resolutions, concerns about the CUC, or thoughts on the direction and future of our faith movement in Canada.

Additionally, I plan to be driving to Ottawa for the AGM and still have space for one or two more who can brave the day-long drive each way. Let me know if you want a ride, at no cost; priority will be given to those who would not otherwise be able to attend.

AGM registration is now open at www.cuc.ca. More about the CUC's AGM, resolutions, and other details can be found under the "Governance" menu at that same site.

Andy Blair
902-717-2639

Fossil Hunting at Blue Beach, May 10

We are excited to announce that a trip to Blue Beach is being planned for this spring. Blue Beach in Avonport is a fascinating stretch of coastline that contains an abundant number of fossils. Our hope is to enjoy an afternoon on the beach, and find a base for our chalice at this unique and special location.



Blue Beach, Kings Co., NS

The owners of the Blue Beach Fossil Museum will be on hand to give us a tour of the museum, as well as offer insight into the fossils and rocks that we discover at the beach. Our planned date is May 10th after the service. We will arrange car pooling, so if you are willing to drive and have available space in your vehicle, please contact me at esdodge@gmail.com. A rain date later in May will be announced in the event of inclement weather on the 10th. Watch for more details as they become available.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. We hope to see you there as we embark on this journey to help create our new chalice!

Emily Dodge
Interim RE Director

UUUnclassifieds – Advertise with us

Do you need a service, or is there one you can offer? Have you something to sell, or is there something you need? Place your *free ad* with us.

How it works: The two parties negotiate a price, and the person receiving the pay donates all or a portion of the amount to UUCH. Everybody wins: the service is rendered or the article changes hands—and the church that you love benefits. Like any newsletter piece, please submit your ad to both of us (our back-up system), and we'll publish it in the next issue.

Sandra uuchurch@eastlink.ca
Etta braeside@eastlink.ca

Sunday Service Volunteers

March 1

Greeting Wietske Gradstein
 Anne Knight-Gorman
Ushering Andy Blair (e), Janet Horofker (l)
Kitchen TBF (set-up)
 Anne Knight-Gorman (clean-up)
Audio Devin Murphy
Library Valerie Chapman

March 8

Greeting Kathy Anthony, Sass Minard
Ushering Valerie Chapman (e)
 Sylvia Mattinson (l)
Kitchen TBF (set-up)
 Sass Minard (clean-up)
Audio Avard Woolaver
Library Stephen Butler

March 15

Greeting Michael Seary, Margaret Galbraith
Ushering Eileen Ross (e)
 Margaret and Paul Galbraith (l)
Kitchen TBF (set-up)
 Stephen Butler (clean-up)
Audio Paul Galbraith
Library Norma McPhee

March 22

Greeting Sandra Clarke, Sylvia Mattinson
Ushering Kay Smith, Kathy Anthony (e)
 Sylvia Mattinson (l)
Kitchen TBF (set-up)
 Sandra Clarke, Kathy Spencer (clean-up)
Audio Devin Murphy
Library Alison Chipman

March 29

Greeting Alison Chipman, Sandra Clarke
Ushering Wendy Ozon (e), Dean White (l)
Kitchen TBF (set-up)
 Dean White (clean-up)
Audio Paul Galbraith
Library Alison Chipman

Please contact Wietske Gradstein at 835-9272 to join the Sunday Service Support Team.

Local Unitarians Concerned about Carbon Pricing for Nova Scotia

I'm sure you've been hearing about the introduction to the table of a price on pollution in Nova Scotia. Several Unitarians are directly or indirectly active locally on this matter. Margaret Galbraith and the Climate Action Team have made the church available for tabling of information on a revenue neutral **carbon fee and dividend plan**. Lars Osberg has written major papers, which are readily available for reading. Brian Gifford has been active with the "Affordable Energy Coalition" to make sure the lower income brackets are not hurt by this development. (To be sure, this plan protects the poor and takes a small bite out of poverty while other approaches do not.)

Andy Blair and I have been meeting with politicians and policy people for two years and recently have amped up our activity to address the at home introduction of carbon pricing to the tax agenda for Nova Scotia as the fairest, least expensive and simplest way to price carbon.

"Here's your cheque!" Imagine the Nova Scotia government pronouncing this to you four times a year by depositing money into your bank account. Whether you like it or not, the Department of Finance has been advised in its recent regulatory review on the tax system to introduce a carbon tax to Nova Scotia. This is a good thing as has been shown in British Columbia where carbon emissions have been reduced by 15% in five years while not hurting their economy; in fact, most of the Canadian clean energy technology start-ups are happening there.

Locally, the Diana Whalen led finance department is studying different proposals for introducing carbon pricing to Nova Scotia; top of their list is a B.C. type carbon tax which is delivered through the income tax system by way of lowering taxes. The amount is about \$100+ per person per year (half of that for children).

The method that Citizens' Climate Lobby Canada (by way of our local group) is promoting is one better than that for our province. It's called **Carbon Fee and Dividend** and it pays the citizen more than a BC type carbon tax because it's a direct, quarterly rebate. Local economist, Dr. Lars Osberg of Dalhousie University has been promoting this plan since before 2008. Since pricing pollution has been put on the table in Nova Scotia, he has produced the dollar figures that such a plan here would deliver: \$79 per adult per quarter in the first year (rising incrementally each year over a ten-year period) and half of that per child. A pollution tax fee would come out at between two and six cents a litre for

gas at the pumps based on taxing the fuel upstream at the well, the mine, etc. as it enters the province.

Go figure: a family or household of five, for example, would receive the following in rebates. Two adults @ \$79 x 4 = \$636/yr. plus three children @ \$39.50 x 4 = \$478 totalling \$1114 annually. For a household of five adults it would be \$1600. The less energy people use, the more they capitalize through this plan. The way this is really more effective than a BC type carbon tax is fourfold: it protects the low income households (more than an income tax reduction would). Research has proven they use five per cent less energy than the national average; it spares the middle class who are rapidly losing ground economically; it is less expensive and simpler to administer than a BC type carbon tax, and people receive an influx of funds quarterly instead of once a year, which is a blessing for cash flow problems that most of us face.

So why doesn't everyone know about this preferable plan? Because it's a bottom-up strategy that empowers the lower income (66%) of the populace, not the wealthier 34%. We, in Canada (and the US) are not accustomed to being considered before the higher income strata. Why? Because of the grip of the "trickle down" 'economic model' which has been pushed on the populace for the last few decades. It says that if we give corporations all the breaks, the ensuing profits will trickle down to the masses. In Canada, it's been in the hard-to-swallow form of the current government's focus on subsidizing the fossil fuel industries to the tune of billions. See where that's gotten us: lay-offs and an insecure future.

Carbon fee and dividend puts cash in the hands of everyone but it's not the wealthy who profit (as usual). Research has proven that they use six times more energy than the national average. In short, this scheme makes the big polluters pay. They will on average lose a bit (the rebate will cover 86% of their energy expenses). But that's good too because they can well afford it and perhaps they'll use their rebates to support clean energy initiatives like Bullfrog Power or invest in wind, solar or tidal power.

If you like what you're reading here, tell Diana Whalen and the finance department that you want a **carbon fee and dividend** for Nova Scotia. She's easy to reach; just google: Diana Whalen contact information.

For further information, go to citizensclimatelobby.ca and/or "like" and comment at Citizens' Climate Lobby Halifax" on Facebook.

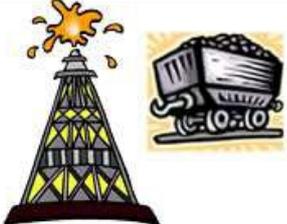
*Joanne Light, Group Leader (volunteer)
Citizens Climate Lobby Halifax*



Citizens' Climate Lobby

How Carbon Fee and Dividend Works



			
The government levies an incrementally increasing fee on the carbon content of fossil fuels at the source	100% of the money collected is given to the people on an equal basis in a cheque to help with price increases ↑	ECONOMICS 101 Costs are passed onto consumers and they consume less carbon. CO2 emissions go down ↓	MARKET SOLUTION The predictable price on carbon spurs clean tech investment & innovation. CO2 emissions go down ↓

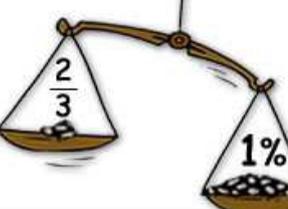
Why we prefer a revenue neutral carbon fee



			
HELPS FAMILIES A 100% rebate insures that 2/3 of families will come out even or ahead	NON PARTISAN MLAs whose base do not like tax increases can still vote the right way	MARKET SOLUTION Efficient & direct market signal. Thus government does not pick the energy winners & losers	RAMPING UP To maintain public support to stabilize CO2 emissions, citizens will need a significant dividend.

Carbon Fee and Dividend Helps Ordinary Families



			150%
The government puts an incrementally increasing fee on the carbon content of fossil fuels at the source	100% of the fees are given to Canadians on an equal basis regardless of their carbon footprint	2/3 of people would receive dividends > fees. The top 1% of earners consume 6X as much CO2 as the bottom 10%	In fact, the bottom 20% of earners can expect a cheque 150% greater than what they paid in carbon fees

Find out more at www.citizensclimatelobby.ca