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OIIM  
Open International  
Interfaith Ministry  
*News and Events*



Fall 2010  
Issue 24:1

## *Connecting the Interfaith Movement*

### News:

NTI Graduation June 12, 2010



*Rev. Sandi King and Rev. Barry King present Nancy Mercier her Certificate of Applied Spiritual Counselling (CASC) and Certificate conferring on her OIIM Lay Minister status (LM)*

### Inside:

#### **OIIM-NTI University Seminars:**

- ✧ The Healing Power of Guided Visualization
- ✧ The DaVinci Code ~ Part 1
- ✧ Holistic Stress Busting
- ✧ What Is Interfaith?

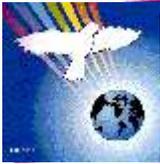
#### **OIIM News**

- ✧ Rev. Barry King elected Chair of (WCIC) World Council of Interfaith Congregations
- ✧ Rev. Sandi King elected President of (ISGC) Interfaith Seminaries Global Council
- ✧ Chapters' News
- ✧ Chapters' Calendar of Events

#### **Photo Gallery**

- ✧ NTI Graduation 2010
- ✧ SSF International Conference

**... and Much More ...**



# Welcome to [www.interfaithconnections.org](http://www.interfaithconnections.org)

OIIM Ministerial Team

We welcome all members and visitors to the Interfaith Ministry. Our ministers, trained through our seminary program, The iNtuitive Times Institute (NTI) qualify: to carry internationally recognized clergy cards through the International Council of Community Churches, a member of the World Council of Churches (ICCC); and as licensed Naturotherapists through the Canadian Association of Naturotherapists and Naturopaths (ANN). We hope you enjoy our publication and invite you to attend any of our events and celebrations.

As Interfaith Ministers, it is natural for us to approach spirituality from an Interfaith perspective. That means that our approach is inclusive, celebrating all traditions and diverse approaches. When we look at the beautiful, diverse world that God has created for us to live in, it is clear to us that God is a God of Diversity. There is not just one type of tree, or one type of bird, or one type of flower, or one type of person. The world is populated with a multitude of forms including trees, birds, flowers and people in all shapes, sizes and colour. This diversity makes the world more beautiful.

If we believe that God is infinite, then one place to begin to understand God is to embrace the knowledge that in this diverse and beautiful world created by God, it is only natural that God should manifest the message of unconditional love in many ways to many peoples.

We in the Interfaith movement, celebrate these many faces of God represented by different religious traditions and rejoice that we have been given such a beautiful and diverse world. We express this truth with the phrase ~

*“The paths are many, the truth is one  
~ Love thy neighbour.”*



**OIIM Ministerial Team:**

*(back row L-R) Rev. Susan Eaton, CASC, OM, Rev. Sandi King, OM, PhD(TC), Rev. Barry King, OM, PhD(TC), - Senior and founding ministers.*

*(front row L-R) Margaret Flood, Nancy Mercier, CASC, LM, Debra Lynn Sinclair, CASC, LM and Ellen Hicks.*

**Open International Interfaith Ministry (OIIM)**

32 Greenwood Drive, Charlottetown,  
Prince Edward Island,  
Canada C1C 1J3

**Phone:** (902) 629-1385

**Email:** [info@interfaithministry.com](mailto:info@interfaithministry.com)

**WEB- SITES**

OIIM: [www.interfaithministry.com](http://www.interfaithministry.com)

NTI (Seminary): [www.intuitivetimes.ca](http://www.intuitivetimes.ca)

Weddings: [www.weddingsonpei.ca](http://www.weddingsonpei.ca)

🌐 NTI Graduates from all five programs are eligible to be licensed Naturotherapist with the Association for Naturotherapists and Naturopaths in Canada.

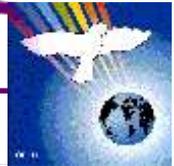
🌐 OIIM Ordained Ministers are automatically accepted into the International Council of Community Churches with International recognition as clergy.

🌐 OIIM Lay and Ordained Ministers and Spiritual Practitioners adhere to the International Code of Ethics for Spiritual Directors.



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OIIM workshops, courses and programmes are based on research. These articles summarize the research by our sanctioned Lay

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**a line in our email signature (over 1000 contacts on our E-List sent almost weekly)**



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**Rev. Barry King**

*B.Sc.(Hon), O.M., Ph.D.  
(T.C.), n.d., Reiki Master*

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Saint John NB & Halifax NS  
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## Prince Edward Island Interfaith Ministry



Rev. Barry King, PhD(TC), OM  
[revbarry@interfaithministry.com](mailto:revbarry@interfaithministry.com)

Rev. Sandi King, PhD(TC), OM  
[revsandi@interfaithministry.com](mailto:revsandi@interfaithministry.com)

Rev. Susan Eaton, CASC, OM  
[revsusan@interfaithministry.com](mailto:revsusan@interfaithministry.com)

**Thursdays 7-9PM**

Service: 1st Thursday of month  
Workshops: 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th  
Fee Non-members \$30

32 Greenwood Dr., Ch'town

[www.interfaithministry.com](http://www.interfaithministry.com)

## Interfaith Wedding Ceremonies

OIIM

**Interfaith Ministers**

Rev. Barry King, Rev. Sandi King  
& Rev. Susan Eaton PEI

**(902) 629-1385**

[info@interfaithministry.com](mailto:info@interfaithministry.com)  
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# Interfaith News

Maritime Clergy Attend SSF 35th Annual Conference

## Maritime Interfaith Clergy attend the Montreal, PQ 2010 Annual International *Spiritual Science Fellowship* Conference



Rev. Barry, Rev. Rossner and Rev. Sandi at the SSF Ordination Service



Rev. Marilyn Rossner, PQ with Rev. Barry King, PE and Lay Minister Nancy Mercier, NB



Rev. Sandi King, PE with Rev. Michael Hiltz, NS

Rev. Sandi, Rev. Barry, Nancy, LM, CASC and Mike just got back from Montreal where they fulfilled some of their registration obligation to obtain continuing education credits. They are pictured above with Rev. Marilyn Rossner, Ed.D. They partook in the Spiritual Science Fellowship's 35th Annual Conference. Besides having a wonderful time in Montreal, we had the privilege of broadening our understanding of Spirit through workshops with world renowned researchers/practitioners such as:

**Grandmother Sara Smith**, Mohawk Elder: “*Changing Ourselves for a Better, Brighter Tomorrow*;” **Raymond Moody**, MD, PhD: “*Glimpses of the Afterlife*;” **Charlotte Szivak**, “*Animal Communication and Healing*;” **Lynne Kitei**, MD: “*Beyond the Phoenix Lights: Coincidence or Connection?*;” **Michael E. Salla**, PhD: “*Exopolitics*;” **John English**, “*For a New Humanity There Must Be a New Mind!*;” **Vernon C. Barksdale**, MD, MPH, CPI: “*Medical Meditation: Research, Benefits, and Strategies for Accessing Higher Consciousness*;” **Mark Macy**, PhD: “*Our True Ancient Heritage*;” **Rebecca Hardcastle**, PhD: “*Exoconsciousness: Embodying Extraterrestrial Consciousness*;” **Christine Page**, MD: “*Living on the Edge of Chaos While Remaining Sane and Awakening to the Mystery*;” **Mitchell Gibson**, MD: “*Introduction to Spiritual Power*;” **Cairo P. Rocha**, PhD, OMD: “*The Doctrine of the Signatures: Mother Nature’s Key to Health and Wellness*;” **P.M.H. Atwater**, LHD, PhD: “*Major Changes in Near-Death Studies: A New Model*;” **Alfred Lambremont Webre**, JD, MEd: “*Exopolitics*.”

We also were delighted with world renowned speakers of the **PANEL DISCUSSION**: “*Prophecies of Spirit and Space Worlds*” - **Rev. Michael Livingston**, Exec. Dir. of the International Council of Community Churches, and past Pres. of the National Council of Churches, USA; **Swami Swaroopananda**, Yoga-Vedanta Acharaya and scholar in Judaica, Kabbalistic wisdom, and comparative mysticism; **Shaykh Abdul Haqq**, distinguished Naqshbandi-Sufi leader and scholar; **Fr. John Rossner**, Founder/President of the IIIHS, Emeritus Prof. of Religion (History of Religion & Culture), Concordia U., Anglican priest, and author; **Grandmother Sara Smith**; **Dr. Raymond Moody**; and **Dr. Christine Page**, medical doctor, homeopath, and author.





## World Council of Interfaith Congregations Organizes Names Rev. Barry King first Chair

[www.worldinterfaithcongregations.org](http://www.worldinterfaithcongregations.org)

At its first organizational meeting of the World Council of Interfaith Congregations (WCIC) the founding national representatives present elected Rev. Barry King, Ph.D., Co-founder and President of the Open International Interfaith Ministry (OIIM) and the Prince Edward Island Interfaith Ministry, as its first Chair. The WCIC is the ecclesiastic home for the Interfaith movement which includes those following an Interfaith, Multifaith or Interspiritual path which is already on five continents. The Interfaith movement is not creating a new religion, but recognizing an existing spiritual expression in the world. Unique in the world's family of spirituality, Interfaith claims all the world's religions as part of its rich spiritual heritage and lineage.



In September 2009 C.E., the Council of Interfaith Congregations of the USA and the Open International Interfaith Ministry of Canada first signed a letter of intent in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada, the historic home of Canadian Confederation, to begin the process of defining and building a world movement. Rev. King noted, "That the creation of the Council is a response to a need expressed by people all over the world who have worked in isolation celebrating an understanding of God which embraced

diversity, inclusiveness, and an Interfaith perspective. Central to their understanding of an infinite God is the belief that prejudice and intolerance have no place in religious practice." Rev. King has proclaimed that the theme of his first chairmanship will be: "World Council of Interfaith Congregations Celebrates the Many Faces of God."

All member organizations of the Council offer Interfaith, Multifaith or Interspiritual worship, education programs, services and community building according to the World Council of Interfaith Congregation's principles.

### The principles are:

1. We are called to serve All Creation as a Divine Expression which calls us to give dignity, respect and compassion to all life and the planet we live on.
2. Every human being has been given their own unique interpretation of Divine processes and their own relationship to the Divine so that no two humans should be considered exactly alike in their faiths or congregations alike in their collective spiritual expression.
3. We believe in the freedom of all individuals and groups to practice the spiritual path(s) and/or religion(s) of their choice and be free of any coercion to act in any way so long as their beliefs and practices do not injure others or infringe on the rights of others.
4. We affirm the value of spiritual/religious ritual that includes multiple religions together as a sign of solidarity with adherents of all faiths and to honour the wisdom and value of all spiritual paths and religious traditions both old and as yet unrevealed.
5. All member organizations of the Council are inclusive of all individuals from diverse spiritual-religious backgrounds and are inclusive of individuals with diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds; sexual orientations and gender identities,

*Cont'd Pg. 6*





# Interfaith News

Rev. Tim Miner, OUnI, Acting Secretary – WCIC

## Cont'd from Pg. 5

expressions and orientations; and those with disabilities or different-abilities.

6. All member organizations of the Council are called upon to respect the personal faith systems of every human being, so long as it maintains dignity, respect and compassion for others.

7. While in the conduct of spiritual support towards others, all ordained Interfaith Ministers endorsed and embraced by The Council, shall transcend beyond their own personal faith systems to understand and support the needs of others based on their spiritual needs and interpretations.

Rev. King has worked in the Interfaith Community for over 30 years and is Educational Director of OIIM's Seminary Program. Dr. King stated, "Today Interfaith Communities have taken significant steps forward towards the creation of a less divisive religious landscape by creating communities where people of all faiths can come to worship, learn, serve and build community without loss of identities or the need to change their own spiritual path. The creation of the WCIC as a home for Interfaith Communities will enable us to work, grow and learn together. At present, the organization has members in countries on five continents of the world."

The Open International Interfaith Ministry and the PEI Interfaith Ministry has been offering Interfaith services on Prince Edward Island for over 20 years.

Rev. King, in describing the PEI Interfaith Ministry said, "The Interfaith Ministry affirms that God is love and that there are many paths to God. There are a number of common denominators which unite us. One is our desire to eliminate intolerance and prejudice in spiritual practice. Another is our readiness to testify in a reverend and respectful climate to the reality of the Spiritual world and the subtle faculties through which it may be perceived. Central to the Interfaith message is the certain knowledge that we are eternal and that divine guidance is available to people of all traditions who sincerely open themselves to it. The key to Interfaith harmony is to focus on the essential oneness of all faiths, of all cultures, of all peoples."

As part of his presentation at the first meeting of WCIC, Rev. King said, "The Interfaith Movement after many years of development has reached a milestone. It is time for Interfaith communities all over the world to come together to clearly articulate what it means to be Interfaith and the high level of training that Ordained Interfaith Ministers achieve."



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An Interfaith Ministry

**Sunday Services:**  
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- Talks on Matter of Spirituality
- Different Religious Traditions
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## Interfaith Global Seminaries Council Elects Rev. Sandi King as founding President

In November of 2009, the Interfaith Seminaries Global Council (ISGC) elected as President Rev. Dr. Sandi King from Prince Edward Island, Canada and Registrar of the iNtuivie Times Institute (NTI), the seminary for the Open International Interfaith Ministry (OIIM). The slate of elected officers are: Vice-President/Secretary, Rev., Dr. Tom Lynch of Mexico, Treasurer, Rabbi Roger Ross of New York and Members-At-Large - Rev., Dr. Barry King, PEI, Rev. Cynthia Lynch of Mexico, Rev. Jacob Watson of Maine and Rev. Joel Grossman of Massachusetts. This founding Board of Directors have established a Charter or Constitution.

**The Mission of the Seminaries:** is to train or educate individuals, who wish to be ministers, beyond just acceptance and inclusivity but also embraces the notion that each person regardless of what faith path they follow, is actually on their own unique path. The Interfaith Minister understands that each person is following their own journey and the role of the Interfaith Minister is to support and help the soul journey that is consistent with their soul's purpose as opposed to fitting their soul into a predefined template of any kind.

**The Mission of the Interfaith Seminaries Global Council:** is to encourage and assist seminaries in providing a consistent set of skills, knowledge, and competencies in their curricula that are associated with being an ordained Interfaith Minister.



### ISGC's Objectives are:

- 1) To provide an opportunity for Interfaith Seminaries to meet for discussion of critical issues in the area of training Interfaith Ministers – primarily to train well qualified Interfaith Ministers.
- 2) To provide a fluid forum for identifying core curriculum for an accreditation process for Interfaith Seminaries; and to develop a process for assessing each Interfaith Seminary that applies for membership and seeks ISGC accreditation;.
- 3) To serve as a vehicle for lobbying appropriate university departments and faculties, governments and agencies to help Interfaith Seminary programs and services meet their primary goal of providing education and professional training to Interfaith Ministers and obtain ISGC accreditation.
- 4) To provide a means by which Interfaith Seminary Educators can support one another through increased collaboration.
- 5) To serve as a direct link with the World Alliance of Interfaith Clergy, the World Council of Interfaith Congregations, and other relevant organizations: thereby providing an opportunity for the presentation of mutually sought aims and objectives; identification of exclusive aims and objectives; and fostering a general awareness of the organizations that Interfaith Ministers would be involved in as a means to promote professionalism in their day to day functioning – all fostering a solidarity amongst the Interfaith community.
- 6) To serve as an Advisory Council to the World Alliance of Interfaith Clergy, the World Council of Interfaith Congregations, and other relevant organizations, on matters of professionalism, ethics, accreditation of institutions, credentialing of individual Interfaith Ministers and professional development, as requested.





# Prince Edward Island Interfaith Centre

For more Info or to register: 902-629-1385 [revsandi@interfaithministry.com](mailto:revsandi@interfaithministry.com)  
[www.interfaithministry.com](http://www.interfaithministry.com)

## PEI-IM ~ Calendar of Events: September and October 2010

Every Thursday there is something happening at the Centre here on PEI.

The 1st Thursday of the month is a Service; the 2nd and 4th are Workshops and the 3rd Thursday is devoted to Exploring Research in Psychic Studies and its Relevance to Mystical Experiences.

We invite you to join us!

Thurs., Sept. 16 7-9PM	<b>Interfaith Celebration Service</b> - We invite you to join us for an uplifting evening celebrating the many paths to the Divine - <b>Donations Welcomed.</b>	Revs. Barry, Sandi & Susan
Thurs., Sept. 23 7-9PM	<b>WORKSHOP - FEE \$30/Mem \$20: Creating Sacred Spaces as Altars in the Home</b> ☞ Carving out spiritual time and space ☞ Infusing spiritual energy into your personal space without using a whole room ☞ A fresh perspective on Altars.	Rev. Susan Eaton, CASC, OM, Spiritual Director, Reiki Master
Thurs., Sept. 30 7-9PM	<b>WORKSHOP - FEE \$30/Mem \$20: Message Circle:</b> ☞ Heavenly messages for the soul for each participant; ☞ A talk with questions/answers on Matters of Spirit; ☞ An uplifting evening with like-minded people; ☞ Pre- registration is necessary as enrolment is limited to allow everyone a message.	Rev. Barry King, OM, PhD (TC), n.d., Reiki Master
Thurs., Oct. 7 7-9PM	<b>Interfaith Celebration Service</b> - We invite you to join us for an uplifting evening celebrating the many paths to the Divine - <b>Donations Welcomed.</b>	Revs. Barry, Sandi & Susan
Fri., Oct. 8 7-9:30PM (Oct. 8, 22, and Nov. 5)	<b>COURSE - FEE Mem \$25 per night: Mediumship 1:</b> ☞ Develop and train your gifts of spirit ☞ Strengthen your connection to spirit, your guides and angels ☞ Enjoy the relaxation, joy and warmth of connecting to your higher power ☞ <b>Must be a current OIIM member, taken Level 1, and have Instructor's permission.</b>	Rev. Barry King, OM, PhD (TC), n.d., Reiki Master
Thurs., Oct. 14 7-9PM	<b>WORKSHOP- FEE \$30/Mem \$20: Aura Sensing and Sketching:</b> ☉ Sense auras ☉ See colours and symbols clairvoyantly ☉ Intuit the meaning of colours and symbols as they relate to one's innate characteristics ☉ Sketch a class-mate's aura and interpret the symbolism and colour.	Rev. Sandi King, OM, CCC, PhD (TC), n.d., Reiki Master
Sun., Oct. 17 10AM-4PM	<b>COURSE - FEE \$100/Mem \$60 (FREE to prior participants who are current OIIM Members): Level I Meditation as a Gateway to Intuitive Development:</b> ☞ Experiential course for personal use, devoted to enhancing one's personal connection to Spirit through the exploration of the nature of spirit communication, spiritual healing, energy work and the chakras; ☞ Receive messages from your angels and your higher guidance; ☞ Use dreams, colour and symbols to strengthen your intuitive powers. ☞ <b>Includes:</b> an e-copy of Rev. Barry's book 'The Paths Are Many, the Truth Is One - An Affirmation of Spirit;' and OIIM membership. <b>A half hour is free for lunch. Participants bring a pot-lunch contribution.</b>	Revs. Barry, Sandi & Susan
Thurs., Oct. 21 7-9PM	<b>WORKSHOP - FEE \$30/Mem \$20: Research in Field of Psychic Studies 1</b> ☞ Explore research in the field of Spirit communication, spiritual healing and psychic abilities; ☞ Experience experiments in the field; ☞ Explore your psychic and healing abilities; ☞ Learn to channel only positive, constructive and up-lifting messages.	Revs. Barry and Sandi
Fri., Oct. 22 7-9:30PM	<b>COURSE - FEE Mem \$25 per night: Mediumship 2:</b> (Oct. 8, 22, and Nov. 5)	Rev. Barry
Thurs., Oct. 28 7-9PM	<b>WORKSHOP - FEE \$30/Mem \$20: CHANGE YOUR LIFE ~ Intention+ Action= Healing</b> ☞ Articulate your intentions clearly, positively and prayerfully with thoughtfulness ☞ Develop an action plan (daily, weekly, monthly, yearly spiritual rituals) that you can follow to deepen your connection to the Divine ☞ Live your healing intentions.	Rev. Barry



# Prince Edward Island Interfaith Centre

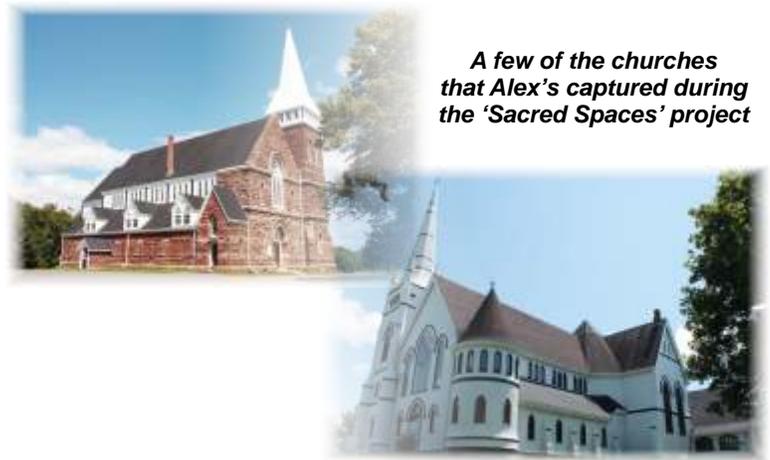


News and Calendar of Events November and December 2010

Thurs., Nov. 4 7-9PM	<b>Interfaith Celebration Service</b> - We invite you to join us for an uplifting evening celebrating the many paths to the Divine - <b>Donations Welcomed.</b>	Revs. Barry, Sandi & Susan
Fri., Nov. 5 7-9:30PM	<b>COURSE - FEE Mem \$25 per night: Mediumship 3:</b> (Oct. 8, 22, and Nov. 5)	Rev. Barry
Thurs., Nov. 18 7-9PM	<b>WORKSHOP - FEE \$30/Mem \$20: Research in Field of Psychic Studies 2</b> ✧ Explore research in the field of Spirit communication, spiritual healing and psychic abilities; ✧ Experience experiments in the field; ✧ Explore your psychic and healing abilities; ✧ Learn to channel only positive, constructive and up-lifting messages.	Rev. Susan Eaton, CASC, OM, Spiritual Director, Reiki Master
Thurs., Nov. 25 7-9PM	<b>WORKSHOP - FEE \$30/Mem \$20: Working with Crystals:</b> ✧ Discover the healing power of crystals; ✧ Find out what colour and crystals have in common; ✧ Understand the physical and the esoteric properties of crystals; ✧ Use high-vibrational crystals and experience your personal power exponentially.	Nancy Mercier, CASC, LM, Spiritual Practitioner Apprentice
Thurs., Dec. 2 7-9PM	<b>Interfaith Celebration Service</b> - We invite you to join us for an uplifting evening celebrating the many paths to the Divine - <b>Donations Welcomed.</b>	Revs. Barry, Sandi & Susan
Thurs., Dec. 9 7-9PM	<b>WORKSHOP - FEE \$30/Mem \$20: Spiritual Alchemy:</b> ☉ Understand the alchemical process of spiritual and personal growth; ☉ Experience the alchemical process of transformation; ☉ See the duality of how the physical process reflects the spiritual process; ☉ Clarify the meaning of symbols and symbolism in your life.	Rev. Susan
Thurs., Dec. 16 7-9PM	<b>Seasonal Celebration</b> - We invite you: ✧ To join us for an uplifting evening of the many seasonal celebrations of the Divine; ✧ To bring a donation for the food bank and a hand-made or \$5 (or less) spiritually up-lifting gift to exchange with like-minded people; ✧ Bring a Potluck contribution. <b>Final Donations to support the Interfaith Movement in 2010 are gratefully accepted.</b>	Revs. Barry, Sandi & Susan
<b>Check the BUZZ for up-dates</b>	We wish you all a Merry Christmas, Seasonal Blessings and a New Year that brings you health, prosperity, peace and contentment. We will begin our 2011 activities with a Service on January 13.	<b>For Info or to pre-register:</b> <b>902-629-1385</b> <a href="mailto:revsandi@interfaithministry.com">revsandi@interfaithministry.com</a>

## PEI-IM ~ News

We have been blessed this summer to have a project: '**Sacred Spaces,**' funded through the government of Canada's Jobs for Youth Program. Alex Beattie, the same student that volunteered to video tape our NTI Retreat, was hired. He recorded a number of Churches as well as a few weddings. This will all be good material for the future development of down-loadable MP-4 files and a DVD on Sacred Spaces here on Prince Edward Island.



A few of the churches that Alex's captured during the 'Sacred Spaces' project



[www.interfaithministry.com](http://www.interfaithministry.com)

[www.interfaithconnections.org](http://www.interfaithconnections.org)



# Shediac (NB) Interfaith Centre

For more Info or to Register: 506-533-7018 [nm@arcadia-angelic-sanctuary.com](mailto:nm@arcadia-angelic-sanctuary.com)  
[www.arcadia-angelic-sanctuary.com](http://www.arcadia-angelic-sanctuary.com)

## AASIM News and Calendar of Events September and October 2010

Most events happen in Shediac on Monday nights. Rev. Sandi and Rev. Barry visit one week end a month for Service, Course or Workshop and/or private appointments.

Fri., Sept. 10 7-9PM	<b>Interfaith Celebration Service - We invite you</b> to join us for an uplifting evening celebrating the many paths to the Divine - <b>Donations Welcomed.</b>	Revs. Barry, Rev. Sandi & Nancy, LM
Sat., Sept. 11 10AM - 4PM	<b>COURSE - FEE \$100/non-Mem \$60Member (FREE to prior participants who are current OIIM Members): Level 1 Meditation as a Gateway to Intuitive Development:</b> ☞ Experiential course for personal use, devoted to enhancing one's personal connection to Spirit through the exploration of the nature of spirit communication, spiritual healing, energy work and the chakras; ☞ Receive messages from your angels and your higher guidance; ☞ Use dreams, colour and symbols to strengthen you intuitive powers. ? <b>Includes:</b> OIIM membership and an E-copy of Rev. Barry's book 'The Paths Are Many, the Truth Is One-An Affirmation of Spirit.' A half hr. is free for lunch. Participants bring a pot-lunch contribution.	Rev. Barry King, OM, PhD (TC), n.d., Reiki Master;; Rev. Sandi King, OM, CCC, PhD (TC), n.d., Reiki Master; Nancy Mercier, CASC, LM, Spiritual Practitioner Apprentice
Sun., Sept. 12 by Appointment	<b>Private Spiritual / Psychic Readings - FEE \$60:</b> Covered by most extended health care plans; Taped; 45 minutes. <b>Private Spiritual Counselling and Direction - FEE \$60:</b> Covered by most extended health care plans; 45 minutes.	Rev. Barry King Rev. Sandi King
Fri., Oct. 1 7-9PM	<b>Interfaith Celebration Service - Donations Welcomed:</b> We invite you to join us for an uplifting evening celebrating the many paths to the Divine.	Revs. Barry, Sandi & Nancy, LM
Sat., Oct. 2 10AM - 4PM	<b>COURSE - FEE \$100/\$60Mem: Spiritual Stress Busting:</b> This experiential course empowers you to: ✨ Discover the relaxing benefits of many complementary therapies including deep yogic breathing, progressive relaxation, guided meditation, affirmations, aromatherapy, vibrational medicine, etc.; ✨ Discover your spiritual type through the Myers Briggs Type Indicator as a path to understanding your spiritual motivation ~ your behaviours, thoughts and feelings; ✨ Go beyond learning coping strategies to re-inventing a new you in touch with your Soul Self living a vibrant life; ✨ Draws on such teachings as yogic masters, Shakti Gawain, the Drs. Simmontons, Dr. Herbert Benson, Drs. Bernie Siegel, Joan Borysenko, Depak Chopra and others. ? <b>Includes:</b> the MBTI, course manual, relaxation and deep breathing and a guided meditation recording. A half hour is free for lunch. Participants bring a potluck contribution.	Rev. Barry & Sandi
Oct. 2 7-9PM & Oct 3 10-1 by appointment	<b>Private Spiritual / Psychic Readings - FEE \$60</b> <b>Private Spiritual Counselling and Direction - FEE \$60</b> Covered by most extended health care plans; 45 minutes.	Rev. Barry King Rev. Sandi King
Mon., Oct. 11 7-9PM	<b>WORKSHOP - FEE \$30/Mem \$20: VibroAcoustic Harp Therapy</b> ☞ Discover the healing power of Harp Music as Therapy; ☞ Not all music is healing. Find out what is Healing Music and how it works; ☞ Each participant will experience a VibroAcoustic Healing	Laurence Marie, RN, BMus, CTHP, SAHT <a href="http://www.harpsylon.ca">www.harpsylon.ca</a>
Mon., Oct. 18 7-9PM	<b>WORKSHOP - FEE \$30/Mem \$20/night: Meditation/ Spiritual Group 1:</b> (Oct. 18, and Nov. 1, 15 and 29) ☞ Meditate with the energy of the group; ☞ Discuss spiritual experiences; ☞ Strengthen your own intuition; ☞ Understand how symbols, visions, colour and dreams affect your daily life.	Nancy, LM, CASC
Mon., Oct. 24 7-9PM	<b>WORKSHOP - Spiritual Cinema: Spiritual Healing Movie</b> ☞ Enjoy a movie night with like-minded souls; ☞ Understand the roots and commonalities of spiritual healing in the many different traditions - <b>Donations Welcomed.</b>	Nancy, LM, CASC



# Shediac (NB) Interfaith Centre



AASIM News and Calendar of Events - November and December 2010

Mon., Nov. 1 7-9PM	<b>WORKSHOP - FEE \$30/Mem \$20/night: Meditation/ Spiritual Group 2</b>	Nancy, LM, CASC
Sun., Nov. 7 2-4PM	<b>Interfaith Celebration Service - We invite you to join us for an uplifting evening celebrating the many paths to the Divine - Donations Welcomed.</b>	Revs. Barry, Sandi & Nancy, LM
Sun., Nov. 7 7-9PM <i>by Appointment</i>	<b>Private Spiritual / Psychic Readings - FEE \$60</b> <b>Private Spiritual Counselling and Direction - FEE \$60</b> <i>Covered by most extended health care plans</i>	Rev. Barry King Rev. Sandi King
Mon., Nov. 8 7-9PM	<b>WORKSHOP - FEE \$30/Mem \$20: Working with Crystals:</b> ? Discover the healing power of crystals; ? Find out what colour and crystals have in common; ? Understand the physical and the esoteric properties of crystals; ? Use high-vibrational crystals and experience your personal power exponentially.	Nancy Mercier, LM CASC, Spiritual Practitioner Apprentice
Mon., Nov. 15 7-9PM	<b>WORKSHOP - FEE \$30/Mem \$20/night: Meditation/ Spiritual Group 3</b>	Nancy, LM, CASC
Mon., Nov. 22 7-9PM	<b>WORKSHOP - Spiritual Cinema: Dr. Wayne Dyer DVD/Presentation</b> ☞ Enjoy a movie night with like-minded souls; ☞ Our thoughts and intentions have the power to heal and shape our future; ☞ Deepen the awareness of your intuition - <b>Donations Welcomed.</b>	Nancy Mercier, LM CASC, Spiritual Practitioner Apprentice
Mon., Nov. 29 7-9PM	<b>WORKSHOP - FEE \$30/Mem \$20/night: Meditation/ Spiritual Group 4</b>	Nancy, LM, CASC
Mon., Dec. 6 7-9PM	<b>WORKSHOP - French Spiritual Cinema: "The Celestine Prophecy"</b> ☞ Enjoy a movie night with like-minded souls; ☞ Movie is presented in the French language with English sub-titles ☞ Chat about synchronicity and intuition with like-minded souls - <b>Donations Welcomed.</b>	Nancy, LM, CASC
Sun., Dec. 12 2-4PM	<b>Seasonal Celebration - We invite you</b> ☞ To join us for an uplifting evening of the many seasonal celebrations of the Divine; ☞ To bring a donation for the food bank and a hand-made or \$5 (or less) spiritually up-lifting gift to exchange with like-minded people; ☞ Bring a Potluck contribution. <b>Final Donations to support the Interfaith Movement in 2010 are gratefully accepted.</b>	Revs. Barry, Sandi & Lay Minister, Nancy
Mon., Dec. 12 7-9PM <i>by appointment</i>	<b>Private Spiritual / Psychic Readings - FEE \$60</b> <b>Private Spiritual Counselling and Direction - FEE \$60</b> <i>Covered by most extended health care plans; 45 minutes.</i>	Rev. Barry King Rev. Sandi King

## AASIM ~ News

☞ An application was submitted to the "Director under the Companies Act of Service New Brunswick Corporate Registry Office" for the Incorporation of Arcadia Angelic Sanctuary Interfaith Ministry Inc. (AASIM), as a non-profit/ charitable religious organization.

☞ Nancy continues her volunteer calling, assisting in Palliative-Hospice Care.

☞ Nancy was invited to be a volunteer as a Stanford University trained workshop "Leader/Facilitator" with the

New-Brunswick Ministry of Health for the "My Choices - My Health" chronic disease self-management program.  
<http://www.gnb.ca/0053/phc/workshop-e.asp>

☞ While in Montreal, PQ special permission was given to lay Nancy's 'Healing Journal' on the Chief Alter of the Notre-Dame Basilica, to be blessed in an anointing ritual! A votive candle holder and Holy Water used in the ritual was brought back to AASIM to anoint future 'Healing Journals.' If you would like your name or the name(s) of a loved one added to this sanctified 'Healing Journal,' you're invited to come in person to sign the book or call; or e-mail us to have a name(s) recorded for you.





# Stratford (ON) Interfaith Centre

For Info or to Register [dgsinclair77@hotmail.com](mailto:dgsinclair77@hotmail.com)

## Stratford Interfaith Centre News



**Debra Lynn Sinclair,**  
**CASC, LM, RH, Reiki Master,**  
**Spiritual Partitioner Apprentice**  
**Director of the**  
**Stratford, Ontario**  
**Interfaith Centre**

The Stratford Interfaith Centre is small but mighty, with many plans for the upcoming fall. I will be again offering some volunteer services with Wellspring Stratford, a supportive centre for Cancer Patients who are in the throws of their treatment, as well as their families and caregivers. Offering Guided Visualizations, Yoga, Tai Chi and Reiki at the centre, I have found personal blessings in the role of Leader with the Reiki and Guided Visualization Programs, as well as occasionally volunteering in the Office/Supportive Role.

As well, this spring, I completed the first level of Palliative Care for which I will be volunteering with a patient here in the Stratford area, accompanying them on their last stretch of this journey we call life.

I have also been asked to officiate at a Baby Blessing in early September for which I am very excited and honoured and sincerely hope this will be something that will be well accepted in our area.

## Stratford Interfaith Centre Calendar of Events

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays:** The Centre will be offering "Guided Visualization" the 2nd and 4th Wednesday evening of the month, re-convening in September.

**On-Going:** The Centre is also offering a "Master/Teacher Reiki Level" in October as well as "Level 1 and Level 2" on an ongoing basis as needed.

**November:** In November there will be an "Introduction to Chakras" offered at the centre.

**Up-Coming:** I have been working on a seven week program called "*Spirituality and Your Healing Journey*" for which I hope to start in the new year.

**One-on-One Consultations:** In addition to the above, individual appointments for healing with hypnosis is available, making for a small but busy centre.

Contact Debra at:

[dgsinclair77@hotmail.com](mailto:dgsinclair77@hotmail.com)

## OIM Outreach Initiatives

For more info Call 902-629-1385 or email [revbarry@interfaithministry.com](mailto:revbarry@interfaithministry.com)

### Halifax, NS Spiritual Group

**Sun. Sept. 26, 7-9PM** Revs. Barry and Sandi Guest Speakers at SSF Service

**Mon. Sept. 27 by App.**  
Readings with Rev. Barry

**Mon. Sept. 27 7-9PM**  
Spiritual Group - Meditation and exercises to strengthen your intuition.

### Saint John, NB Spiritual Group

**Sun. Sept. 12, Oct. 3 & Nov. 7 7-9PM**  
Spiritual Group - Meditation and exercises to strengthen your intuition.

**Mon. Sept. 13, Oct. 4 & Nov. 7 by App.**  
Readings with Rev. Barry

**Mon. Sept. 13, Oct. 4 & Nov. 7 7-9PM**  
- Workshop Series



# Guided Visualization

Debra Lynn Sinclair, LM, CASC, RH, Reiki Master



I have included a brief description of *Guided Visualization* for which I truly believe can help ease so many of life's stresses and the consequences that can follow stress. I hope you enjoy!



perhaps an area in need of healing. Sometimes it may involve visualizing a journey through the beauty of the natural world. Other times you may be led to envision yourself working with light or energy, accomplishing goals, or repeating positive thoughts or affirmations. *Guided Visualizations* can help change a

Meditation has long been considered an effective way to cope with stress and achieve a deeper state of mental relaxation. *Guided Meditation or Guided Visualization* is the process of using words, and often music, to take the listener on an inner process of relaxing your body and shifting your mind's focus with the voice generally being used in soothing, soft tones.

habit, access untapped potential or perhaps merely find the silence within you.

Combined with soothing music, *Guided Visualizations* can bring about the state of mind and body---deep relaxation and positive focus---conducive to healing. *Guided Meditation* can also be used to release tension, anxiety and a variety of negative emotional states.

Once learned Meditation is a tool that will always be available to you. It will take you on a journey that will allow you to see and experience your own inner world - a place that truly only exists within you and that can be revisited at any time.

With the *Guided Meditation* you will be guided to focus on aspects of your physical body, such as your breathing, relaxing your muscles one-by-one, or

In short, when done on a regular basis, *Guided Visualization* can enable you to become aware of your inner resources of joy and peace, while feeling the effects on your mind and body.

Debra Lynn Sinclair  
CASC, LM, RH, Reiki Master  
Spiritual Practitioner Apprentice



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# Secret DaVinci Code

Nancy Mercier, CASC, LM, Spiritual Practitioner Apprentice

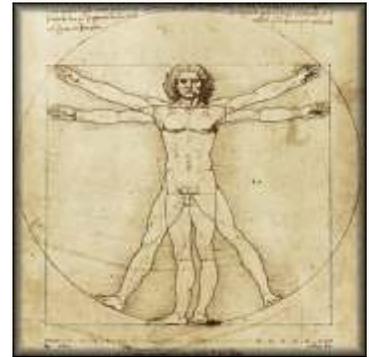
## Part I

Leonardo DaVinci was one of those amazing human beings who comes along once in a blue moon, and who leaves behind clues that the rest of us can learn from. I'm not exaggerating when I say that he was a genius, and a mysterious genius at that. He invented the helicopter centuries before anyone ever dreamed it possible. He could write perfectly in mirror image, and he left behind countless riddles and codes in his famous manuscripts that are mind-boggling to behold. Leonardo devoted over twenty years of his life, and hundreds of pages in his manuscripts, to one idea - THE DIVINE PROPORTION!

What exactly is the Divine Proportion, and what does it have to do with YOU? Let me explain...Our lives are shaped by sacred numbers and hidden codes. Leonardo discovered something in his studies that the ancient Egyptians knew many centuries before, a universal truth embedded in a mathematical code. Unfortunately, this knowledge was greatly suppressed, but it somehow survived and was passed down to the ancient Greek mathematician Pythagoras. He started special mystery schools and taught this powerful knowledge to a few students, who were sworn to secrecy. But his schools were burned down and Pythagoras was killed by those threatened by the power of his teachings.

The secret code was forgotten for many years, and might have been completely lost, but luckily it was rediscovered during the Renaissance, by Leonardo DaVinci. What was this secret code that had been so powerful, and so feared, that those in power would try to destroy it? It's a secret so valuable, it's GOLDEN! You see, Divine Proportion is another name for something called the Golden Ratio and/or Sacred Geometry, which is a very special mathematical proportion. It's "Divine" because it's the proportion by which life grows out of itself - the human embryo, snow flakes, pine cones, flower petals, crystals, the star we spin around, the galaxy we spiral within, the

air we breathe, even the DNA molecule, the basis of all life as we know it, all follow this timeless geometric code or ratio of growth. And, the ancients discovered that this ratio is not only the secret code to life, it is also the most pleasing proportion that exists to the human eye.



So we were all born with an innate knowledge of this "Universal Truth," because we all recognize it without even knowing it! And here's the most amazing part: every single one of us - in our own bodies - contains the Golden Ratio. That's right, the human form is a perfect image of this magical code - and Leonardo DaVinci knew about this, and it was this discovery that he felt would change all of humanity. But we don't tap into this power, even though the potential for perfection is encoded within us - Luckily, like a map leading to treasure, Leonardo left a very potent image to help guide you to the "Truth"... Leonardo left as his legacy: a manuscript describing a Universal Man (Vitruvian Man). It is an image of a man contained within a circle and a square. You see, DaVinci understood that the most balanced combination of shapes is the circle and the square - the circle being the spiritual, heavenly realm, and the square our material, earthly existence. The human body is the perfect marriage of matter and spirit, the perfect form for our dual natures. This is the secret that DaVinci wanted us to know - the secret to perfecting the proportions in our own life! He was leaving us the clue that the answer to our problems lies within us, that our own bodies are perfectly proportioned, a walking talisman that we take with us everywhere.



# Holistic View of Careers

M. Ellen Hicks, BSc, BEd, CCC, NTI Associate Professor of Counselling



## Follow your dream! Live your passion! Be authentic!

How often we hear these phrases these days. What does it really mean for me? As a professional counsellor who has a speciality in career counselling, it means many things. It means that I serve as a guide to others who have lost their jobs; who feel their jobs no longer meet their needs or whose jobs bring little satisfaction. It means helping first time job seekers and those who feel and confused, afraid, are grieving, or who feel their lives are purposeless due to job loss as a result of downsizing or injury.

How is holistic career counselling different from traditional career counselling that uses tests and check lists to help people find a good fit between themselves and jobs? For one thing, holistic career counsellors see the person as someone on a journey. They begin where the person is - at the time they begin to work with them. All life and work experience is validated since all teach valuable life skills. The counselling process involves helping one see their options, understand the social contexts that may influence decisions, helping to seize the opportunities that bring fulfilment. An appreciation that an individual will make the best decision for themselves is demonstrated. It does not separate a job from emotions, or spirit or life struggles. Instead it embraces change as part of life and helps individuals embrace all aspects of their lives as part of the decision-making process. It does not try to put people in boxes so that all they can see is the sides. It challenges, guides, and frees the person to look at all possibilities. It is more than simply matching a person to a job based on their interests and education.

Helping people identify their unique talents and gifts is part of the journey. If we cannot see our uniqueness how can we find a job or calling in which we are actively engaged - to which we feel we bring our own uniqueness and our own skills? Many different techniques may be used. Self-assessment tools may be a place to start helping people assess themselves in a concrete way. Discussion, accomplishment identification, and narratives are just some of the many techniques that can help an individual discover themselves and then decide what they want to use in their next job. After all most of us will hold at least 10- 15 different jobs in our lifetime.

In the era that we are now in - where jobs are no longer secure, when job loss is common, and contract work is prevalent; it is more important than ever for us to understand who we are at this point in our lives, what we have for work skills and personal skills that will make us not only attractive to an employer, but also be life-giving to us. In a spiritual sense we are trying to find a job that will allow us to be true to our own values while allowing us to live out our life purpose. No easy feat for most of us. Life is a journey that is often fraught with unexpected challenges. Career counselling done from a holistic perspective assists people to look at what they have and where they have come from. It also involves assisting people to discover where there are potential job opportunities (including self-employment, part-time and contract work), and which companies might bring them the most satisfaction in what they do. People who do what they love, love what they do. This makes all the difference!

If you decide that you would like career counselling and wonder how to recognize if a career counsellor does practice from a holistic perspective, here are some suggestions. Give the counsellor a call and ask what training they have and how they perceive their role as a career counsellor. Some may say that they follow a particular career counselling theory such as developmental or constructivist, for example. If they start to tell what to do, you may want to think again about seeing this counsellor.

You may want to ask if the counsellor uses assessments and whether there is a set process that is the same for every person. Listen for words or phrases like: I begin with where you are; I believe that each person can determine his/her own future; I will assist you to discover your passion or dream. Such statements are often indicators that the counsellor will counsel from a holistic perspective.

The journey of self-discovery is one of challenge and change. Take the chance!





# Holistic Stress Busting

Rev. Sandi King, BA, BEd, MEd, PhD(TC), OM, CCC, n.d., Reiki Master

**S**tress is the body's nonspecific response to positive or negative stressors.

Stress is different things to different people, and is also different for the same person at different times in their life. What is stressful to us at age fourteen is different than what is stressful to us at age twenty-four. Stressors for a sixteen-year-old single mother can be quite different from the stressors for a sixty-year-old woman.

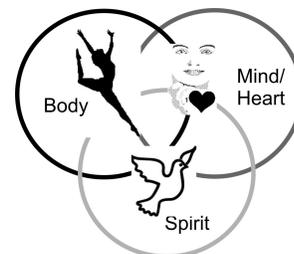
The body reacts to stress through the "fight or flight" response. This response is like revving up a car and not going any where. If it happens too often, you can burn out the engine. There are specific physiological reactions that occur in our bodies as a result of exposure to stressful situations. Adrenaline is secreted, respiration increases, our extremities (hands and feet) get cold, our blood moves quicker, our heart races, our muscles tense up, our sugar levels increase, our blood vessels constrict and digestion is slowed. If this "fight or flight" response happens too often, we can easily understand how 'burn out' follows.



Homeostasis is the process by which the body restores balance to itself. If we are exposed to too many stressors, then this process will not be able to keep up and unwellness and eventually dis-ease can set in. Homeostasis is like an inbuilt thermostat that regulates our body's physiology to be in perfect balance for us. We all have a 'normal,' individual level of arousal. Homeostasis, when we have stress under control, returns our arousal level to 'normal.' What is 'normal' is unique for each individual, but the process of balance is the same. This is part of the body's natural ability to heal itself. When out of wack, homeostasis does not return our arousal levels to 'normal.' The body can then not heal itself efficiently, leaving an open door for unwellness and eventually dis-ease to settle in.

Individuals born with or having acquired a chronic health or emotional concern (such as ADHD, autism, cerebral palsy, family violence, etc.) have constant

stress on their system. It is therefore essential to engage in stress reduction techniques just to balance the circumstances dealt at birth or through life's challenges. Their 'normal' arousal state will be considerably above those without a chronic health or emotional issue. We are all striving to reach zero arousal state. Some of us have to take responsibility at a younger age to achieve this than others.



In addition to this physical reaction, there are our mental/ emotional and spiritual connections to stress. Mentally we can handle things in an empowering manner which creates good feelings about ourselves or we can perceive the world as being against us, disempowering ourselves and creating bad feelings about ourselves and our world.

Our mental/emotional outlook will affect the impact of our stress. Certain stressors can also affect the very core of our being on a spiritual level. An extreme example of this would be prisoners of war, or the Jews in Nazi war camps. Spiritually these events are very demoralizing.

On the spiritual plane is where we decide to take responsibility for how we handle stressors that affect our life. It is where we decide to do what feels right or not. Allergies, for example, are a physical stressor, but how we handle them is a mental/emotional process based on our spiritual relationship to them. We can avoid taking responsibility, become a victim and do nothing to improve the quality of our lives. We choose on the spiritual plane, to either do, or not do, things that empower us such as to avoid foods we are allergic to, use an air purifier or use the appropriate medication.

Body, mind/heart and spirit are more intricately entwined than what it would initially seem. Research, most credibly at The Harvard Medical School's Body Mind Institute, is now showing that how we think actually affects us at a cellular level.



# Holistic Stress Busting



Rev. Sandi King, BA, BEd, MEd, PhD(TC), OM, CCC, n.d., Reiki Master

Although more research needs to be done to understand this connection, it is evident that one has a direct effect on the other. Researchers are just beginning to look at the spirit connection to body and mind.

Carl Jung, a famous psychologist who incorporated spirituality into his therapy, believed that we are all driven by our native spirituality. He believed that our receptivity to the spiritual world through guardian angels or the Holy Spirit affected our course in life. In Christian terms this would be a receptivity to 'Divine Grace.' Biography becomes biology and biology becomes biography. Some modern therapists also

believe that our spiritual outlook can have a direct impact on us physically and mentally/emotionally.

There are therefore three fronts on which to tackle stress management in one's life: physically, mentally/emotionally and spiritually. To respond in an empowering, responsible and integral manner, we must look at how stress affects us on these three levels and how we respond to stressors in body, mind/heart, and spirit.



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# The Autumn Equinox

Rev. Susan Eaton CASC, OM, Reiki Master, Spiritual Director



## Earth-Based Spirituality and the Autumn Equinox

**E**arth-based spirituality is a spiritual path which honours the Earth and the cycles of life.

In today's technological world, many people are out of touch with the world of nature. The people of ancient times were very aware of the changing seasons, aware that life always moves in cycles of life and death and new life again. They were very dependent on the cycles of nature - for growing crops, for hunting or raising animals - much more than we are today.

These natural cycles can be used as guides on our journey through our days and lives, from the daily rising and setting and rising again of the sun, to the changing seasons - spring to summer to autumn to winter and so to spring again - to the great cycles of birth and death and rebirth.

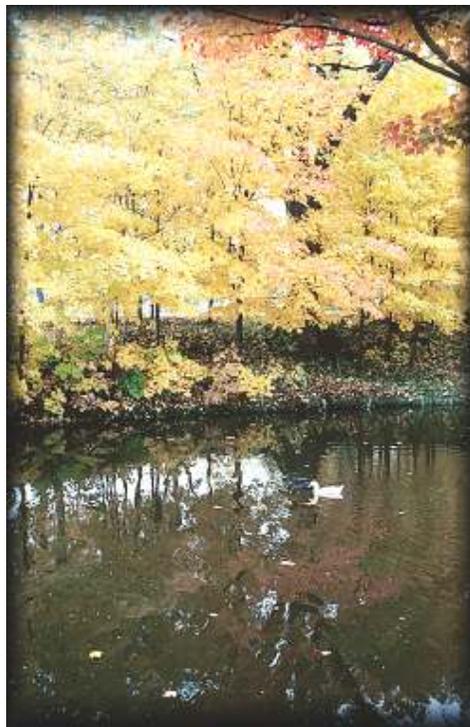
The autumn equinox is one of two times of year when the length of day and night are equal (the other is the spring equinox). After the autumn equinox, the days begin to grow shorter, and the nights longer. The autumn equinox, which occurs in 2010 on September 22, is a time of harvest. Autumn represents sunset, the bounty of harvest, the final years of life. The autumn brings a time of looking back, and gathering in a harvest of the year's experiences. It is always a good time, as the nights draw in, to consider what you have achieved during the past twelve months.

Harvests can be of many things, not just farm crops. Every one of us has achieved something during the past 12 months. As with the harvest of wheat, chaff and straw and weeds are all cut down at the same time, and the combine harvesters sort out

the grain from the rest. We too have to gather in, symbolically, all the things we have done this year, and then sort the items of value, the seeds for next year's sowing, from the rubbish that modern life clutters us up with.

Perhaps you want to take time to write down two lists: one of your achievements and successes; and one of your challenges including those goals that didn't ripen in their own field of existence. One example of achieving closure to last year's challenges is, if you like, to light a candle or small fire and burn the challenge list, torn into fragments. Imagine all those challenges being transformed into a positive growth experience, being turned into fertilizer for the next crop of new things in the coming year. There are no mistakes - only opportunities to learn and grow.

Then, celebrate all that is good, all the successes you have had, or the bits of luck. Even little things like nice sunny days after long rain, of starry nights and rainbows, of the scent of honeysuckle on an evening breeze - all those little beautiful moments that the last year has brought.



Remember absent friends, say a prayer for peace, for humanity to act with kindness and forethought towards Nature and all her creatures. Rejoice, and also remember that you must now begin to choose the seeds for next year's harvest. Begin to decide which tasks you will complete, which ideas are worth carrying on into next year, which skills you need to learn in the everyday matters of living. Think how you can be a better person, whatever philosophy of life you choose to hold.



# What Is Interfaith?

Rev. Barry King, BSc(Hon.), PhD(TC), OM, n.d., Reiki Master



What is Interfaith? It has been almost 30 years now that I have been part of and worked within the Interfaith community. We have worked to develop and share an Interfaith Faith Path for those who wish to celebrate and explore the manifestations and nature of an infinite and incomprehensible God. One of the challenges that I have seen in the development of an Interfaith Ministry is the fact that there is a lack of a common vision of what Interfaith means. Given that, there is little consensus as to what an Interfaith Minister or an Interfaith Ministry believes or does. There are many who just cannot get their heads around an Interfaith Ministry. This leads to the misconception that Interfaith may in essence mean a no-faith ministry. What is an Interfaith Ministry? What does it do? What does it believe? How does one become an Interfaith Minister? What kind of training do they need and have?

I completely understand the confusion. In recent years, we have become more involved in the international Interfaith community and we have found that there is much confusion and many different ways that people are expressing and understanding the Interfaith path. There are those who understand Interfaith to be like a salad which just throws a number of elements from different faiths together and mixes them up with no spiritual compass or philosophical spiritual foundation. Some would suggest that an Interfaith perspective means that you are willing to carry on an Interfaith dialogue and willing to learn about other ways but that you are grounded in an established faith path. Interfaith in this instance means that you are open to accept that there are many ways to express our spiritual life. Others wish to express Interfaith as non-denominational such as Interfaith ministries which are, for example, fundamentally Christian but see their message as universal and crossing all faith boundaries. People from all faiths are therefore welcome. There are those who believe that religion is fundamentally corrupt and that a more general or spiritual but not religious approach is necessary.

I find all this confusion kind of confusing since to me the nature and path of an Interfaith perspective has always been clear. It seems to me that an Interfaith Ministry must embrace all traditions and draw on the ceremonies

and spiritual practices of all spiritual paths with the understanding that they have in essence the same source. It would by nature celebrate all traditions and embrace the spiritual and positive aspects of all traditions, rejecting those aspects which are not spiritual in nature - things that are grounded in physicality - such as greed, intolerance and prejudice. It is obvious to me that there is no place for intolerance, prejudice and hatred in spiritual practice. It also seems to me that "Spirit" and "Spirit phenomena" would be a natural part of an Interfaith Ministry since we are by nature all spirit - souls - brothers and sisters of a common spirit heritage.

To me that Interfaith perspective should not be limited by language and people's prejudicial sensibilities. Words and symbols of all traditions should be explored and welcomed. Interfaith Ministers must by definition recognize that within all traditions and faith paths there is a fundamental and universal truth. It is also understood that all things from all faiths are not necessarily spiritual since they have been filtered through the minds and fears of cultures and times.

Years ago, I recognized that I had stepped onto an Interfaith faith path. I was no longer a Christian - I was not a Buddhist - I was not a Muslim - I was not a Jew - I was not a Wiccan - I was all of these and more. I was Interfaith following a path which to me embraced the spiritual components of all traditions and rejected the non-spiritual elements of fear, intolerance and manipulation which were present in some traditions.

We are developing through our Ministry the foundations and tools for an Interfaith Faith Path. Unlike most traditions or spiritual approaches, this path is open to everyone no matter what tradition they follow. They do not need to reject the ceremonies and symbols from their chosen tradition or path which have meaning to them to be Interfaith. They do, however, need to reject fear and intolerance and accept a myriad of new ceremonies and symbols which can enrich their spiritual life.

*Cont'd on Page 20*





# What Is Interfaith?

Rev. Barry King, BSc.(hon.) PhD(TC), OM, n.d., Reiki Master

There are several different hierarchies typifying spiritual development. One representative example is the five stage hierarchy created by Vicky Genia in 1995 which is grounded in psychoanalytical theory. It suggests that:

**Stage 1: Egocentric Faith:** Religion is rooted in fear and needs for comfort.

**Stage 2: Dogmatic Faith:** The organizing principle for those in this stage is devotion to earning God's Love and approval gravitating towards groups that focus on self-denial and allegiance to religious authority.

**Stage 3: Transitional Faith:** Individuals in this stage examine the tenets of their faith and are open to exploring new spiritual paths.

**Stage 4: Reconstructed Faith:** People in this stage have chosen a faith which provides meaning and purpose and fulfills their spiritual needs. They are aware of their human limitations, acknowledge their mistakes and seek forgiveness for them.

**Stage 5: Transcendent Faith:** People in this stage are committed to universal ideals and experience community with others of diverse faiths.

To me the Interfaith Faith Path is ultimately and ideally a reflection of Stage 5 in the above hierarchy. In terms of spiritual development, it would seem an interfaith perspective is the final stage that one can achieve. Rev. Sandi and myself have worked in recent years to attempt to articulate a clear and professional face for the Interfaith Ministry. It is important that we establish a clear and well understood spiritual niche for those of us in the Interfaith Ministry working as Interfaith Ministers and following an Interfaith Faith Path.

Spiritual leaders from all faiths whether they be Rabbis, Priests, Fathers, etc. should naturally have an Interfaith perspective because of the universal truths expressed in all traditions - if they are true to the spiritual imperatives

*The Paths Are Many. The Truth Is One.  
~ Love Thy Neighbour!*



of their faith. If they decide to call themselves Interfaith Ministers, they should define themselves as being on an Interfaith Faith Path even though they may practice and embrace their core tradition as their foundation. There is no reason why ministers from all faiths cannot work in the Interfaith community or participate in Interfaith work and dialogue. A multi-faith or interfaith perspective must be instilled in all people so that every soul searching for an understanding that speaks to them can do so without fear.

I believe that it is true that there are as many religions as there are people. Each of us sees and understands spiritual life differently. There is, however, a need for community to allow us to grow and develop our understanding. It is clear to me that if we believe that we are on an Interfaith Faith Path, we must be able to eliminate the vagueness that now exists around the term Interfaith. We cannot be inter-faith-ish & survive as a community.



*Rev. Barry performing a sand blending ceremony.*



# Photo Gallery



*NTI Graduation 2010 and SSF International Conference*



***The happy NTI 2010 graduate -  
Nancy Mercier, LM, CASC  
Lay Minister and  
Spiritual Practitioner Apprentice***



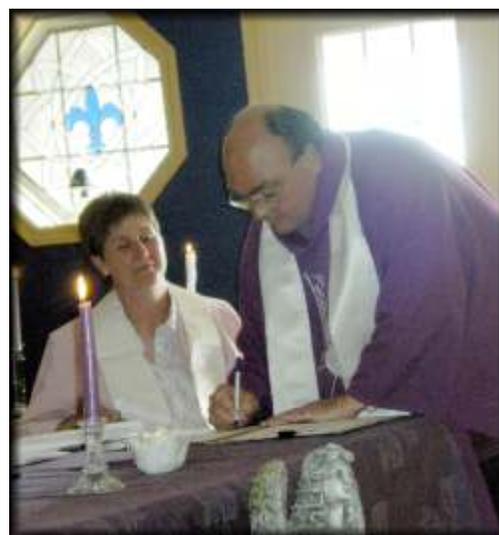
***Nancy receiving  
her Certificate***



***NTI Graduation friends, family  
and supporters***



***Nancy and Mike  
with  
Rev. Marilyn  
Rossner,  
35th Annual SSF  
Conference in  
Montreal PQ***



***Rev. Barry and Nancy signing the  
Covenant between OIIM and the  
Shediac Interfaith Centre -  
Arcadia Angelic Sanctuary  
Interfaith Ministry, Inc.***





# Photo Gallery

Send us pictures of your Interfaith event! [revsandi@interfaithministry.com](mailto:revsandi@interfaithministry.com)



**Rev. Sandi and Rev. Barry along with a Canadian Certified Counsellor colleague, Gary Sampson from Alberta present on inclusivity with respect to introducing spirituality into the therapeutic counselling relationship at the national 2010 Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association**

**Alex, OIIM's summer student, video-taping a beach wedding July 2010**



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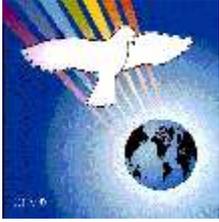
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**The Paths are Many.  
The truth is one.  
Love thy neighbour.**



**Rev. Barry and Rev. Sandi  
at the PEI Interfaith Centre**



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**[www.interfaithministry.com](http://www.interfaithministry.com)**  
**[RevSandi@InterfaithMinistry.com](mailto:RevSandi@InterfaithMinistry.com)**  
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