

## This month, we remember ...

- Stuart Hatcher, son of Peter & Frances Hatcher who passed on February 14<sup>th</sup> 1985.

## Healing @ SSB

Healing is available, by appointment, on the second and fourth Monday of each month. Appointments are available between 6.30 pm & 8.30 pm on a first come, first served basis.

### February Dates:

14<sup>th</sup> February  
28<sup>th</sup> February

### March Dates:

14<sup>th</sup> March  
28<sup>th</sup> March

For an appointment, contact MaryAnn Leonard at: 905 332 9934

## Who's On ...

### February 2011

6<sup>th</sup> Rev. Lynne Forget  
13<sup>th</sup> Hazel Burton  
20<sup>th</sup> David Gordon Wilson  
27<sup>th</sup> Jana Hefferman

### March 2011

6<sup>th</sup> Marilyn Mazzotta  
13<sup>th</sup> Victor Abbott  
20<sup>th</sup> Rev. Doug Eyre  
27<sup>th</sup> Malcolm Skanes

## Upcoming Events

### February 2011

6<sup>th</sup> Future Platform Workers Demonstration - 1.00 pm following the divine service  
12<sup>th</sup> Valentine's Gourmet Dinner



Spiritualist Society of Burlington  
Roseland Plaza, 3027 New Street, Burlington, ON  
spiritualist@cogeco.ca

# The Message

Issue: 2.3 Feb. 2011

## Who are we?

What is it that makes us who we are? But, perhaps more importantly, how do we come to know who we truly are?

We can come to know who we are through comparison. In fact, we do it all the time. When we enter a new situation, we automatically compare it to other situations we've been in and make decisions based on our understanding. Each time we learn a bit more, broaden our understanding and grow.

What is happening when we experience these situations is that we are effectively finding out that which we are NOT ... and through that process, we eventually discover what we are, but it's not always that obvious.

The difficulty we are faced with is that we can become completely absorbed in our material world and allow ourselves to become defined by our lifestyles and possessions. Whereas the reality of the situation is that we are not our homes, we are not our cars, we are not our jobs.

This is probably best summed up by Aldous Huxley the author of 1984 who once wrote "They intoxicate themselves with work so they won't see how they really are."

It can be a very uncomfortable and challenging experience to find out what we are not. None of us likes to open that cupboard of skeletons too wide and possibly expose our weaknesses for what seems like the whole world to see.

Trouble is, in these types of situations, we often don't have much choice. We are effectively forced to look at our values and decide whether or not that is who we really are ... this is the comparison effect we actually experience.

**Spiritualist Society of Burlington**

It comes back to our recognizing what we are not. If we systematically work through the list, we will realize that we are NO THING; that is to say, nothing material.

When we change the way we perceive ourselves, we're in effect discarding the unnecessary baggage we carry around to allow more of our soul to come through, allowing us to experience more of the spirit world in the here and now.

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### **The Seven Principles Explained: Eternal Progress Open to Every Human Soul**

The seventh principle of Spiritualism tells us that being part of God means that He never turns His face away from us. We are all his children and he loves us. He does not give up on us no matter what we have done or how little we have learned. This does not mean that God condones or approves injurious behaviour or iniquitous actions, but rather He is patient with us, and our failings, and gives us the chance to redeem ourselves over time. The length of time it will take does not concern Him; what is of greater importance is that we are willing to take action to make improvement.

It is our responsibility to accept that there is further progress to be made and work to be done in order to achieve greater spiritual evolution. We are given unlimited time in which to develop our spiritual potential and as we unfold we shall find ourselves sharing the companionship of those enlightened souls who have been charged with the task of assisting us on our way.

What the seventh Principle underlines is that God, the Supreme Being is at the heart of everything. This Being is timeless and has always existed and will continue to exist for all time, and this Being is All Love and All Knowledge. We have been created by, and are an essential part of, this Being, sharing its abilities and capabilities. Like Him, we too are timeless, and so we are given unlimited time in which to realize our full spiritual potential.

The Seven Principles must be maintained as a whole. While each Principle can be studied and discussed individually, there is a need to come back to the wholeness of what they express in order to truly understand their meaning.

Eternal progress points us toward our ultimate goal of attaining perfection and returning to God. In our finite physical condition, we cannot hope to comprehend the infinite. We are each of us free to choose when and in what manner and even in what surroundings we make progress. There is an overriding requirement within the Plan of God for each of us to become more aware of our own spiritual nature and our spiritual relationship with all forms of life and with the Godhead itself.

All that has been created by God will progress in its own way, in its own time. Nothing has been overlooked. Every eventuality has been foreseen. His trust in us will never fail. We will all progress and eventually reach our goal.

*Extract from The Philosophy of SNU Spiritualism 2007*

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### **Gourmet Dinner ...**

This year's gourmet dinner is being held on Saturday February 12<sup>th</sup> 2011 between 5.30 pm to approx 9.00 pm at the Copetown Community Center 1950 Governors Rd., Copetown, Ontario. There will be entertainment, door prizes, a silent auction and a bar. The tickets will be \$45 per person with all proceeds going toward the growth of the church.

To buy tickets, send an email to: [ssbgourmetdinner@hotmail.ca](mailto:ssbgourmetdinner@hotmail.ca) including your name and the number of tickets you wish to purchase. At the following Sunday service, give Fran Hatcher the money and she will give you the tickets.

There are a maximum of 60 tickets available, so make sure you book early to avoid disappointment.