



The Westwoodian

Connecting you to Westwood Unitarian Congregation

11135-65 Avenue, Edmonton, AB, T6H 1W3

E-mail: info@westwoodunitarian.ca

Web Site: www.westwoodunitarian.ca Tel: 780-434-5819

Upcoming Sunday Services - 10:30 AM

February 5

Getting to 'No'

We think of '**no**' as a negative ... a rejection ... an objection to be overturned, but learning to '**say no**' can be essential to well-being ... and learning to '**hear no**' can be equally as important. Join us for this service where we intentionally engage with '**no**'.

Speaker - Rev. Anne Barker
Service leader - Terry Anderson
Musician – Steven Bell

February 19

Baby Steps

As we watch the little ones around us, what do 'baby steps' bring to mind? Join us for this service exploring new beginnings and fledgling starts.

Speaker- Rev. Anne Barker
Service leader - Dean Wood
Musician – Sheila Killoran

February 12

Telling Old Stories in New Ways

An exciting new university is in the planning stages in East Africa. Committed to social justice and contributing to enfranchising that part of the world, it aims to change the game in education for the region. Jan will share some of her experiences as she worked much of last year with this exciting team in Nairobi Kenya.

Speaker - Jan Selman
Service Leader - Heather MacDonald
Musician - Harmonia

February 26

The Wild Unitarian

Rev. Charles Potter was minister of Edmonton's fledgling Unitarian church from 1914-16. A decade later he was a media darling in New York City and part of Clarence Darrow's defence team at the Scopes Monkey Trial. Susan Ruttan will share Potter's story and his often radical views.

Speaker - Susan Ruttan
Service leader - David Deephouse
Musician - Karen Mills

We hope you can join us on Sunday!

Westwood is a scent-free space. There are those among us for whom illness is triggered by smoke and scents.

Please honour the request to come to our church having used no scented products.



From the Minister's Study

February 2012: **Whack a Mole**

My friend Margret and I have this game we used to play. You might be familiar with it, in its original form; we adapted it to play by email – since we live miles apart from one another. We started playing January 2005 when we met at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago, where we were month-long roommates and fresh new companions on the path to ministry.

Do you remember Whack-A-Mole? That arcade game where the Mole pops up, from one of many holes, and you have to Whack him with a mallet? It's fast and crazy and you never know where that pesky Mole is going to pop up next. Sometimes he seems to be everywhere, and you are swinging and whacking in all directions ... until you collapse in an exhausted frenzy of laughter and/or frustration.



When Margret and I started seminary our seminary degrees, we already had our undergrad work completed, children safely into teen and adulthood, and strong healthy relationships with our local congregations. *(To be fair, Margret already had at least 3 other degrees ... and was Dr. Margret, associate dean of all kinds of important stuff at a big college in St. Louis ... but I like to pretend we were a matched set of seminarian bookends, so let's get back to the game....)*

That first January, we came to understand the path before us. In addition to papers and projects, books and regional sub-committees, there were annual reviews, yearly praxis, agency studies, psychological tests, peer review, worship services, community service ... in addition to a year-long internship ... and the small matter of proving our competency to the MFC. Missing a deadline, or a signature, could mean waiting another year ... a costly and heart-breaking experience that we saw people encounter, time and again. Completing requirements became a full-time scramble – like an endless game of Whack-A-Mole! So every time we crossed a new hurdle, we sent each other an email – with the subject line *Whack! Or Whap! Or 3 More Moles Down!*

This morning, I sent the last *Whack!* to my friend Margret. On Thursday December 22nd the letter from the Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC) arrived in my mailbox – letting me know that our three years of Westwood reviews had done the trick ... and I have now moved from 'Preliminary Fellowship' to 'Final Fellowship' (...or what I like to think of as "cooked"). ☺

Thank you, Westwood, for taking a chance on me – fresh out of the gate. Thank you for your willingness to learn and to grow together ... to jump the last three years of hurdles with me ... and for your on-going commitment to shared ministry. I will be eternally grateful for the generosity of this loving community.

In peace & love,
Reverend Anne

Sounding Board – Update from your Board of Trustees

Rev. Anne advised the Board that she had received a letter on Dec. 22 from the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the UUA indicating she had been granted final fellowship as a UU minister. This achievement will be ceremonially recognized during the “Service of the Living Tradition” at the UUA General Assembly in Phoenix in June. The Board extended its congratulations and appreciation. Anne indicated that the MFC had recognized the quality of the annual reports provided to the committee by the Board, the Committee on Shared Ministry and herself over the past three years. She emphasized that this feedback speaks very positively about Westwood as a congregation.

The Board was pleased to confirm Grant Harlton’s application for membership. Grant will be welcomed into the congregation as a part of membership recognition on January 15.

The Board is seeking expressions of interest from members who are interested in attending CUC’s Annual Conference and Meeting, May 18-20, in June in Ottawa. Interested members should contact Dennis Foth, Board Secretary.

Melanie Goodwin, Administrator, advised the Board that the collection from the Winter Solstice Service totalled \$2211.53 which will be donated to the Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society.

Treasurer Gordon Thomas indicated he is beginning the development of the 2012/2013 budget. Budget preparation forms will be sent to each committee chair by mid-January.

While the next congregational year seems a long way off at this time, committees are encouraged to beginning planning for committee “staffing” in the new year. Any questions can be directed to Mitch Waldon as Chair of the Nominating Committee.

Reminder: Board Meetings are Open

If you would like a decision or discussion at a Westwood Board meeting, please submit your items by the last Wednesday of the month to Dennis Foth so you will be added to our agenda. Meetings are almost always the first Wednesday of the month.

Child Haven International

Child Haven International 10th Annual Dinner and Silent Auction

Friday, April 13, 2012 - 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Meridian Banquet Center
4820 - 76 Avenue, Edmonton

Tickets \$40 adults, \$15 children 5 - 12, no charge children under 5 years

For tickets contact:

- Lillias Cowper 10640 - 59 Street, Edmonton, AB T6A 2K7 780-488-5608
- For Silent Auction contributions contact: Bonnie Kyle 11512 - 135 Street, Edmonton, AB, T5M 1K8 780-453-1331 [minimum value \$25, please; include your full name, full address and phone number and the dollar value of your item]
- If you wish to volunteer contact: Sylvia Galbraith 780-455-6741

On our Differences

I think that one of our most important tasks is to convince others that there's nothing to fear in difference; that difference, in fact, is one of the healthiest and most invigorating of human characteristics without which life would become meaningless. Here lies the power of the liberal way: not in making the whole world Unitarian [Universalist], but in helping ourselves and others to see some of the possibilities inherent in viewpoints other than one's own; in encouraging the free interchange of ideas; in welcoming fresh approaches to the problems of life; in urging the fullest, most vigorous use of critical self-examination.

- Adlai Stevenson
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What a Choir!! Perhaps Westwood's largest ever choir, Harmonia, practices for Solstice. Missing is the photographer - Lorian Kennedy. Lorian would also like those who have pictures of the very successful Solstice 2011, to email them to her.

**Course Offering for February/March 2012:
"Practical Pastoral Concerns"**

Westwood is offering a series of evening workshops
Hosted by Reverend Anne Barker
Each dealing directly with a "Practical Pastoral Concern"

Topics include:

7-9pm Thursday February 23rd: **End of Life Decisions & Planning**
Join us for information & conversation focused on both *personal planning* and
walking with someone else through end of life concerns.
Discussion Guide: Elaine Roberts

7-9pm Monday March 5th: Helping Others (and yourself!) in Extremely Stressful Situations
Discussion Guide: Susan Anderson

March: **Practical Skills for Hospital or Home Visiting**
Discussion Guide: Kaitlin O'Brien

March: **Supporting Life Balance**
Discussion Guide: TBA

**You are welcome to attend all sessions –
Or just the ones that particularly interest you!**

Please RSVP – to ensure adequate seating
Sign up in the sanctuary or email: anne@westwoodunitarian.ca
(You don't need confirmation – just email and attend ☺)

Reflections from the Committee on Shared Ministry



“Westwood is a collection of individuals – together ‘we’ are Westwood” ... “We are a democracy that attempts to hear every voice” ... “Change is a given” ... these are three of the statements on page 8 of the Westwood Covenant of Right Relations. Three simple statements – that say A WHOLE LOT!

Focusing on Purpose & Passion this year, I am reminded of these three statements every single step of the way. As the contributions roll in, along with the P&P workshop responses, and even in the New Member Ceremony that we held last month – there are excellent candidates for a *Westwood Purpose Statement*. I suspect that any one of us could sit down, reflect, and create a useful statement for the congregation to adopt.

The challenge of communal creation requires that we resist the urge to short-cut ... that we gather the responses and then articulate our Purpose as a joint venture. The gift of communal creation is that we hear from many voices ... incorporate diverse ideas ... and create participatory inclusion. While it is often easier to just ‘do it yourself’ – and sometimes that is a perfectly useful approach – an undertaking like Purpose & Passion requires us to work together, to take time to listen, and to trust that the process is an important part of a good outcome. The Covenant keeps this message present before me... and helps to calm me in my most impatient moments.

How does the Covenant of Right Relations work for you?

Rev. Anne for the Comm. on Shared Ministry

ATTENTION WOMEN

At this year’s Prairie Women’s Gathering on June 24-26, 2011, women from all walks of life gathered at St. Michael’s Retreat Centre in Lumsden Sk. This was the gathering’s 25th anniversary, an event originally founded in 1986 by Beth Hone of Lumsden and Lois Whyte of Winnipeg. This year was bittersweet, as we marked Beth’s passing by celebrating her life and all that she gave to us.

Highlights of this recent event included a presentation by Liz James of Saskatoon on “Transforming Our Power”. Liz used her experience as a trapeze artist as a metaphor to help us grasp some of the key elements of transformation such as need, desire, timing, risk, and trust. Liz really helped make this experience come alive for us. Wow!

At the same event, we had an opportunity to try ZOOMBA. What a way to fun and fitness! It was also a joy to be circle dancing with Tracy once again.

What might next year’s gathering offer *you*? Spending time amongst an accepting circle of women. Creating new friendships. Enjoying good food and a relaxed atmosphere. A short getaway from the stresses and obligations of daily life. Even time by yourself if you want it.

We look forward to welcoming you to next year’s Prairie Women’s Gathering, which will be held from June 29 – July 1, 2012. Karen Baxter of Saskatoon and her team will be bringing you “Women’s Symbols: A Guide to Self-Discovery”. Watch for further information during the coming months, and make sure you don’t miss another great Gathering!

Prepared by:
M. Ruth Patrick
Unitarian Church
of Edmonton





What is this?

FEBRUARY, 2012

What are these people doing with such concentration and dedication?

They are learning how to set up our sound system so they can be Sound Tech volunteers! Another example of Westwoodians contributing to our successful worship services.

We are committed to making sure EVERYONE can hear our services (even the people downstairs, helping in the nursery). We periodically offer orientation to new sound tech volunteers (or anyone wanting a refresher). The job is not difficult and there are detailed written instructions to supplement this brief orientation. Did you know that we also record our services so that they can be added to our website for people who cannot attend or are looking to see what we offer? Westwoodians have been wonderful about volunteering for the five positions of greeter, sound tech, coffee hosts, and library, sign & sanctuary that we need every Sunday. It is particularly helpful that more and more people are planning ahead and signing up for dates into the months ahead. Volunteers are sent an email reminder mid-week before their Sunday commitment. Details of the positions are available on our website

www.westwoodunitarian.ca under the Quick Links section on the left.

Contact sundayvolunteers@westwoodunitarian.ca for more information or to volunteer. Please note that Linda Axley will be filling in as Sunday Volunteer Coordinator from mid-February to mid-March.

Lorian Kennedy

We currently have a bit of a backlog of recordings waiting to be edited for the web. This job can be done on a home computer. If you are interested in volunteering for this please contact our newsletter editor (newsletter@westwoodunitarian.ca).

SOMETIMES

Does the caterpillar feel pain
As she transforms herself into the butterfly?
Does she feel the loss of
What she once was
As she breaks the chrysalis?
Does she fear the new world she is entering?

Does the rose miss being the bud
Tightly furled
As she opens her petals
Slowly into the warm summer sun?

Do you know when you have changed?
Is it gentle, like climbing a hill
You only see how far you've come
When you look back.

Or is it like
Falling off a cliff
You didn't see the drop ahead
And you don't know if you'll
Fly
or
you'll
fall

Rosemary Manning

The Social Justice Committee Invites you to an After the Service Lunch on February 5 for an Update on What is Happening with the Implementation (or Lack thereof) of the Municipal Development Plan

Over the last three years, GEA organized hundreds of citizens to participate in a dialogue with industry and elected leaders about the Municipal Development Plan (MDP), a statutory land use plan with a 30-year horizon. Passed in 2010, Edmonton's MDP presents a unique opportunity for environmental stewardship by requiring the consideration of the agricultural potential of land in the City's development decisions. Westwood Social Justice Committee and many members of the congregation played an active role in bringing about this progressive policy.

Edmonton is now developing a Citywide Food and Agriculture Strategy. Landowners in the Southwest and Northeast are developing Area Structure Plans, or general planning frameworks, for these remaining agricultural areas. These Area Structure Plans must align with the Citywide Food and Agriculture Strategy. For these progressive policies to be implemented, citizens are going to have to find ways to make sure our elected leaders are held accountable to the vision of the Municipal Development Plan. This is a crucial time to engage citizen and industry leaders in visioning that advances the intent of the MDP. GEA's core business is to train leaders for effective engagement in public decision-making processes.

The Social Justice Committee is hosting a Luncheon and House Meeting on February 5, 2012, right after the Sunday Service. This is an opportunity to hear more about what is going on with GEA's Local Food Team and listen to each others' hopes and fears about the future of local food and development in our City. Monique Nutter, the chair of the Local Food Team of GEA will be with us to lead our discussion. A sign up sheet is posted in the back of the Church, so let us know if you can attend.



Greater Edmonton Alliance (GEA)

On behalf of the Social Justice committee and Westwood, I have been attending the Senior's Task Force. We have narrowed our focus to the need for better home care in order to assist seniors to remain in their homes for as long as possible. Better home care would reduce the need for long term care beds and reduce the stress on family members who provide so much care in the home. In February we have to make a brief presentation to the delegates of GEA's member organizations who will decide on GEA's focus for the coming year. We hope they will support the Senior's Team and our Home Care project. If we get their support we will interview home care providers and people who are receiving (or have received) home care to get their feedback on the program as it is and to elicit ideas for how it could be improved. It will mean talking to some of Westwood's members and friends. I'll keep you posted.

Solstice Offering

The Social Justice Committee is responsible for recommending the recipient of the Solstice offering to the Board. In 2011, we chose and the Board approved the Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society to receive the funds. Their mission: "The Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society is committed to building on the strengths of Aboriginal children, youth and their families to enable them to develop spiritually, emotionally, physically and mentally so they can walk proudly in both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities." In early January, the committee presented a cheque for \$2211.53 to Cheryl Whiskeyjack, the Executive Director of Bent Arrow. To know more about the Society, check the web site: www.bentarrow.ca

Westwood UU guys group
 Sunday Feb. 5 7-9 pm

The remarkably long lived guys group meets at Westwood on the first Sunday evening of each month, except when it doesn't because of long weekends. This month we'll ask each attendee to dig deep and come up with a persistent trouble, and a persistent joy in their life's journey. Newcomers are welcome, and snacks would bring ephemeral joy.
 Bruce MacPherson

Moon rise at the Labyrinth
 Monday Feb 7, 2012-5:00 PM

Join some of Westwood Earth centered spirituality group for a walk at the beautiful stone labyrinth site in Louise Mckinny Park, just below the Shaw center east parking lot. Although Moonrise is just before 3 pm, I'm going to suggest meeting at 5 pm so the moon is well up, the sky is dark, and the workday is done. Please contact Bruce MacPherson at bruni7@telus.net with any questions.

4th Fridays: Making Space for Deeper Connections!

Westwoodians and friends of all ages are invited to gather from 6-9 pm on the 4th Friday of the month.

Next gathering: Friday February 24, 2012

Your Host: Reverend Anne
 Supper: Soup & Bread
 Activity: **Poetry & Painting**



Enter, Center, Food & Fun!

Second Sunday Potlucks... Are Full of Love!!!



Feb . 12.
 Bring lots to share ...

We love to feed our visitors

Purpose & Passion Update

A note of gratitude for all the thoughtful Purpose & Passion responses to date.

We are currently sorting, reflecting on And working with the responses.

We expect to have content for your reflection Following the March 4th Sunday Service. Please mark the date, And save time for a:

Purpose & Passion forum Sunday March 4th, 2012



Humour Corner:

Overheard at Unitarian Universalist coffee hour.

“I’m not even sure if I am a UU. I suppose that removes all doubt”

Pathways to Spiritual Journey - Our Membership Committee

This is the final church year of a personal 5 year Westwood commitment to volunteering for Pathways to Spiritual Journey, paying attention to visitors, newcomers, aspiring members & folks who leave membership. I have loved this volunteer job! Mostly because I get to meet folks who are looking for what Westwood has to offer as a spiritual community here. I'm writing in hope that one/some of you reading this article might be willing to step up and into the role.

I would like to share some highlights of my experience.

The best part is saying hello to new folk, watching & helping them check out the congregation & seeing them find their way here. In the beginning that may be as simple, as answering a question, connecting folk with someone who knows, watching a candle being lit & seeing a celebration expressed. Over the long term, it means getting to know folk, their talents & aspirations for Westwood. There is a pleasure for me in knowing current members of the Board who were congregational strangers when I began this role.

I'm not leaving because I'm bored with the job. In fact, I have been very happy working with the variety of newcomers & membership. It's just time for me to take a break with confidence that another's vision of this role will have something fresh to offer Westwood in this capacity. Another great thing about this role is the good folk I get to work with in the congregation.

One core partnership is other volunteers who contribute their time & energy to Westwood; creators of nametags,

Ambassadors welcoming on Sunday mornings, helpers with orientation sessions & member ceremonies, writers of notes to folks who sign the book, & keepers stocking the visitor information table.

I also enjoy good connections with my Board liaison & webmaster for this function, as well our wonderful church staff the minister who is invaluable as a welcoming agent & the church administrator who keeps track of all the comings & goings of our population.

Interested? Qualities for this job would be, member of Westwood, enthusiasm for UU, comfortable with assisting brand new spiritually questing folks who've never heard of us. Also coordination & organization abilities for varied role tasks. One key learning curve for me has been not taking it personally as good folks come and go. Even though I look forward to my volunteer sabbatical, I would be happy to mentor anyone willing to give it a go.

If you are interested, you can talk me or Mitch Waldon, Nominating Committee Chair.

Terry Anderson, Dean Wood, Board liaisons & Rev. Anne Barker also know Pathways.

A description of all the bits & pieces for this role is included elsewhere in this newsletter.

Best regards from Sara McEwan for Pathways to Spirituality until June 2012.

pathways@westwoodunitarian.ca 780 426 7748.

***"Get a good sense about what defines & is unique about
UU & Westwood"***

**PATHWAYS TO SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY
Orientation to Westwood**

**Sunday February 19th
Noon – 3 p.m.
(following the worship service)**

**CONVERSATIONS & consideration of your spiritual journey;
OVERVIEW of UU principles & Westwood core programs;
Social Action ~ Children & Youth ~ Religious Education
REWARDS & responsibilities of friendship & membership.**

**A light LUNCH is included. Child care provided on request.
For more information contact Sara McEwan [780 426-7748](tel:7804267748)**

Editor's Note: Sara McEwan has asked that we reprint the terms of reference of the membership Committee. Although Sara has undertaken all of these tasks as a one-person committee for the past 5 years, there is no reason why the tasks below cannot be shared by a group of members or friends. As an aside, the terms of reference for other committees (please check out how you can contribute) are maintained on the web from our [Website](#) under 'About Us' or at https://docs.google.com/View?docid=dgkdvjv3_4vsrm2x

Westwood Unitarian Congregation Membership Committee

Purposes:

- 1) To ensure newcomers are welcomed & provided with information about Unitarian Universalism & Westwood congregation.
- 2) To encourage & facilitate newcomers & visitors becoming friends & members.
- 3) To ensure current, accurate congregation membership lists, directories & databases

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Recruit & orient volunteers to write follow-up notes to newcomers signing the guest book; prepare name tags; tidy the name tag holder & act as Westwood ambassadors welcoming newcomers & help them become acquainted at Sunday services.
- Facilitate ways & means for regular attenders to receive nametags & be included in the church directory.
- Schedule, organize & host *New2UU* information sessions introducing Unitarianism & Westwood to newcomers. Arrange food & childcare as required.
- Schedule, organize & host *Orientation to Westwood* sessions to provide in depth information about Westwood & Unitarian Universalism.
- Promote upcoming membership related events in monthly newsletter, order of service announcements & on sign-up sheets & website.
- Forward membership applications to Westwood Board for approval.
- Schedule & coordinate member recognition ceremonies during a Sunday service.
- Provide new members with materials, individual chalices & signing of church register.
- Correspond by Email or registered letter with non-active members determining if they should be removed from Westwood membership rolls. Forward names to Board for confirmation.
- Collaborate with church administrator: maintaining membership records, register, & data bases including twice a year revision of church directory, ensuring appropriate inclusion & forwarding of annual membership reporting to Canadian Unitarian Council, maintaining Newcomer Information table & guest book, preparing & updating Pocket Guide for Newcomers & Visitors, & ordering UU pamphlets or booklets as needed for the table.
- Collaborate with Stewardship committee, preparing up to date friends/member lists during annual solicitation.
- Report on membership activities as required & prepare an annual report for AGM.
- Submit an annual budget in January to church Treasurer & monitor spending from the Membership budget line.
- Keep Westwood Board liaison informed of activities & issues that require Board attention.

An Evening singing
with Carolyn McDade

wednesday March 7th 2012
7:30 to 9:30 PM

Unitarian Church of Edmonton
10804 - 119 Street NW



Find inspiration, sustenance & celebration
with Carolyn at the piano & lyrics in your
hands. A great way to warm the late winter ~
singing together favourites, old & new ~

Admission by Donation
Refreshments Provided

Proceeds to the Widening Embrace Project
~ for the generations of life who continue
beyond our time ~

Event Information: Sara McEwan
hisaram@gmail.com
780 426 7748

Carolyn McDade draws on the power of the
human voice to sing & speak humanity toward
liberating transformation. For decades she
has moved us to deeper human consciousness &
to understand ourselves as part of a living
planet.

Circles of women sing songs rooted in
experiences that encompass the spiritual &
political, planetary & cosmic.

As a social activist, Carolyn connects people
of all faiths, to touch families throughout
the world with a sense of communal
responsibility
to care for each other & to work for a
sustainable world.

for more information
visitcarolynmcdademusic.com

“Creation is too grand, complex, and
mysterious to be captured in a
narrow creed. That is why we
cherish individual freedom of belief.
At the same time our convictions
lead us to other affirmations . . .”

- William Schulz

Free Guided Imagery Sessions

I am offering free individual sessions as part of my
final practicum with the *Association for Music and
Imagery*.

**The Bonny Method of Guided Imagery and
Music** (BMGIM) is a music-assisted
transformational therapy. The participant listens to
specially programmed classical music in a relaxed
state. The music may evoke images, feelings,
memories, or sensations which are shared with the
therapist. Individual sessions are 1.5–2 hours.
From participating, your creativity may be
awakened. You may gain new perspectives on
your life issues and may feel empowered to work
with them with renewed energy.

For more information or to book a session, please
contact me at:

Sheila Killoran MA, BMT, FAMI (candidate)

Music Therapist

Tel: (780) 989-5235

A call for Social Action

The Omnibus Crime Bill, Bill C-10 - Safer Streets and Communities Act

Bill C-10, an Omnibus Bill comprised of 9 separate and distinct pieces of legislation, passed the House of Commons in early December. The Bill now travels to the Senate, where it will be studied by the Legal and Constitutional Committee beginning February 3, 2012.

Despite its name, the Bill introduces a number of measures that are regressive, do not promote community safety and are contrary to the long Unitarian tradition of calling for a humane criminal justice.

Canadian Unitarians have, since 1968, passed 8 resolutions on Criminal Justice calling on our governments to:

- improve prison conditions,
- improve quality and quantity of psychiatric, social service and educational programs in correctional institutions;
- restrict incarceration to dangerous offenders and engage in more extensive use of probation, parole and day parole,
- Support research into best practices in all areas of criminal justice
- Create laws and administrative practices in full accordance with our best knowledge based on scientific studies on violence, capital punishment and drug abuse.

Bill C-10 is in shocking contrast to these resolutions: the Bill

calls for longer, harsher mandatory minimum sentences for both violent and non-violent offenses. This is contrary to all research in the areas of crime reduction and victim safety, which requires addressing childhood poverty, taking a health-based approach to mental health and addiction and addressing the social and economic realities of Canada's native peoples.

The changes to the Youth Criminal Justice Act deny judges the ability to consider the mental health of young people when sentencing, and forces Crown Attorneys to seek adult sentencing for youth age 14 and above for certain offenses. The Canadian Pediatric Society has denounced the bill.

Provisions remove the requirement that prison guards use the minimal force required to maintain order in our penal institutions and allow prison officials to deny visitation to those held in solitary. Experts predict an increase in violence and human rights abuses in our penal institutions.

The Canadian Bar Association predicts the removal of conditional sentencing options for a wide variety of offenses will result in increased costs and pressure on already our overburdened judicial system.

Finally, the cost – At a time when Canada is set to renegotiate the Health Accord and remains the only G8 country without a National Mental Health Strategy, billions will be spent on new prisons,

unnecessary incarceration and legal expenses.

This is why 34 Unitarians from 7 Congregations in all 4 regions sponsored a resolution to the Canadian Unitarian Council on Criminal Justice. You will have the opportunity to look at it closely between now and the end of February and we hope you will gather a group to discuss it and make us your recommendations. It will propose that we spend a year studying the issues and linking with other like-minded groups who are working for better crime prevention instead of a punitive approach to solving the issues in our communities.

In the meantime, there is no time to lose. The Senate will discuss this bill in February and possibly March. Please join Unitarians across Canada in a massive letter writing campaign to ask the Senate to either defeat or amend this Bill. Liberal Senators have already indicated that they will vote, en bloc, against Bill C-10. Advocacy should therefore be directed to the Conservative and Progressive Conservative members of the Upper House. Find Talking points and Sample Letters at <http://cusj.org/emerging-issues/criminal-justice/>

To become involved in this social justice action, or for more information, please contact Susan Berry (susan.hulley@gmail.com) (or Frances Deverell (president@cusj.org)) Co-chairs of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Study Group.

Who to Contact

Office: 11135-65 Avenue T6H 1W3
 Phone..... 780-434-5819
 Fax..... 780-436-5816
 Website www.westwoodunitarian.ca
 E-mail..... info@westwoodunitarian.ca
 Administrator..... Melanie Goodwin
 Office hours..... Vary, please email or leave message
 for any bookings at Westwood
 written Sunday announcements are due Thursday mornings
 at 9:00 am, send to info@westwoodunitarian.ca
 Minister..... Rev. Anne Barker
 Phone..... (780) 434-5819 ext#1
 E-mail..... anne@westwoodunitarian.ca
 Office hours..... Wednesday, 10am-1pm, or by appointment
 Board of Trustees 2011-2012
 Past President.... Mitch Waldon
 President.....
 Vice-President.. Jennifer Froese
 Treasurer..... Gordon Thomas
 Secretary..... Dennis Foth
 Trustees..... Wendy Proudfoot, Dean Wood,
 Jen Pollock, Christine Lesiak
 Building & Grounds buildingandgrounds@westwoodunitarian.ca
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 Chalice Circles..... Carl Ulrich
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 Choir..... Rebecca Patterson
 Lay Chaplain..... Colette Orioux
 Library..... Margaret Harris
 Membership..... Sara McEwan
 Newsletter..... newsletter@westwoodunitarian.ca
 Social Justice..... sjc@westwoodunitarian.ca
 Sunday Hospitality...Lorian Kennedy
 Website..... web@westwoodunitarian.ca
 Worship Services... Andrea Boyd, Leigh Bornn, Myra Bielby

Reminders:**5 Feb. Social Justice Luncheon**

5 Feb. Westwood UU guys' group
 7-9pm. Newcomers and snacks are
 always welcome.

7 Feb. Moonrise at the Labyrinth
 Monday 5:00 PM Louis McKinney Park

12 Feb. 2nd Sunday Potluck

Everyone is invited to join this potluck
 lunch. No meeting, no agenda. Just an
 opportunity to share. Please bring a
 potluck item to share.

19 Feb. Orientation to Westwood -
 after service

23 Feb. End of Life decisions 7-9 PM

24 Feb. Fourth Friday

7-9 PM - Making Space for Deeper
 Connections! Poetry and Painting

Newsletter Policies

Deadline: 15th of the month.

The Westwoodian is published monthly, with the exception of the July and August issues which are combined. The deadline for contributions is the 15th of the month. The next newsletter will come out in February, 2012.

Members and friends are invited to submit articles of interest to the congregation. Contributions as well as requests to subscribe (or unsubscribe) to the distribution list can be e-mailed to newsletter@westwoodunitarian.ca.

Comments or suggestions to the editor are welcomed - Terry Anderson

FEBRUARIE



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