



The Westwoodian

Connecting you to Westwood Unitarian Congregation **March 2010**

11135-65 Avenue, Edmonton, AB, T6H 1W3
Tel: 780-434-5819; E-mail: info@westwoodunitarian.ca
www.westwoodunitarian.ca

Sunday Services

Services start at 10:30 a.m. and last about one hour. Visitors are welcome. All are encouraged to stay for refreshments and conversation afterwards.

March 7 – Working Together...

In October, we began creating our Covenant of Right Relations with the service and workshop entitled "Nobody's Perfect ... Now What?!" Join us for a second 'seriously funny service' – stay for lunch and the Committee on Shared Ministry workshop that follows – where we explore the general nature of covenant and our shared Westwood interpretation.

Speaker: Rev. Anne Barker

Service Leader: Committee on Shared Ministry

Musican: Steven Bell

Lunch & workshop "Working Together...But How?!" follows the service

March 14—Stories from the 1st World Conference of Women's Shelters

In the time that it takes to brew a cup of tea, three women in Canada will be assaulted by an intimate partner.

The Alberta Council of Women's Shelters is a province-wide organization supporting 42 women's and senior's sheltering agencies.

The 1st World Conference of Women's Shelters was held in Edmonton in September 2008. This conference created an amazing and unprecedented networking opportunity for family violence prevention workers from all around the world. Many of the delegates came from countries where it is difficult and controversial to operate a women's shelter.

March 8 is International Women's Day.

Come hear **Jan Reimer** share some powerful

stories from this groundbreaking conference and find out what progress has since been made towards strengthening the international network of women's shelters and the sheltering movement in Alberta.

Speaker: Jan Reimer

Service leader: Kevin Fitzgerald

Musician: Cherilyn Michaels

Today is bring a friend day at Westwood and there will be a 'Second Sunday Potluck Lunch' following the service

March 21: Spring Equinox

This service will celebrate the Spring Equinox, when light and darkness are balanced. As we enter the time of year when new life is nurtured and grows, we will hold a ritual to nurture our dreams and help them grow. Just as last year, the ritual will include a blessing of (provided) seeds, and you are welcome to bring your own seeds to be blessed too.

Service leaders: Westwood Earth-Based Spirituality Group

Musician: Harmonia

March 28: International Affairs

What do our international relationships mean to our local practice of Unitarian Universalism? And what, exactly, are our international relationships?

Speaker: Rev. Anne Barker

Service leader: Wendy Proudfoot

Musician: Marj Foth & Diana Bacon



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Don't forget to set your clocks forward on March 14!



Barker Bits

Today's Special: **Connection**

Consider the monthly potluck lunch at Westwood ... on *Second Sundays*. With just a little planning ahead, we have managed to provide an easy meal for one another – 6 times already this year! And then there are all the meals that have been provided for us, meals as part of a group or committee meeting, and meals shared in one another's homes.

Some of my favourite conversations take place at these meals, especially the potluck lunches – conversations emerging from the preceding service ... conversations about justice issues ...

conversations regarding our children, our parents, our work and our play ... the full range of human concerns.

Taking the time to sit together – no rush to be someplace else – no worries about needing to feed hungry offspring – these slower moments bring great joy. I treasure the opportunity to sit with you, each of you, to catch up on both the little details and the big events which combine to make our lives full. The food is secondary (*but still essential!*) It is the time together – face to face – that makes the greatest impression.

As you plan the busy weeks ahead, make note that there are two

lunches this month at Westwood – the first lunch available Sunday March 7 for folks attending the *Covenant of Right Relations workshop* following the service, and the *Second Sunday Potluck* on March 14, as usual. I look forward to these meals together – to all of our conversations together – where we share life experiences and deepen connections.

As we head into the Spring season, weather warming and activities increasing, know that you are in my thoughts. I look forward to seeing you again.

In peace and love,
Reverend Anne



A Note of Thanks ...

To Kathy Lightfoot & Zoe Larson

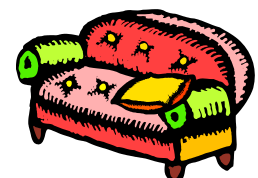
For causing the comfy couches to come together!

If you have not already –

Check out the 'legacy room' downstairs ...

A great place for a meeting

Or a cozy visit!



*If you are ill, at home or in hospital
Please let the minister know
And we will check in with you on a regular basis.*

*If you are experiencing symptoms
Of Flu-like illness
~ Please ~
Take the time to recover at home
Before returning to the church building.*

*We never want to exclude anyone –
We simply want to do our best to care for everyone.*

*Thank you for your help,
Reverend Anne*

Sounding Board

In February we approved a 2010 Budget for presentation at the February 28th Special Congregational Meeting. We believe it strengthens our core programs and has exciting potential. Included is increased financial support for the Children and Youth Religious Education program: a paid Director position as well as staffing of the nursery.

The Board also consolidated a new Mission and Vision document, draw-

ing from the 3 congregation forums held in November and January. This will be presented at the February 28th Congregational meeting. Westwood's Long Range Planning Team will then be charged with moving the finalized Mission and Vision forward into a five year Long Range Plan, involving input from the congregation and Board approval.

March is Stewardship Month. The time for financial pledges. Watch

for your stewardship package. Also the time to consider volunteer roles. On that note, 6 of your current Board members have agreed to stay in their roles next year – great continuity! We would welcome 2 or 3 additional members to our team. Do give the Board or participation on one of Westwood's committees some thought for your volunteer contribution.

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. Our meetings are almost always the first Wednesday of the month.

Our next board meeting is Wednesday, **March 3 at 7:00pm.**

Westwood Endowment Trust Fund Call for Project Proposals



Application deadline: March 31, 2010

Our Endowment Fund was created and has grown by the contributions of several Westwood members. Some donated during their lifetime; others left our congregation a sum of money in the form of a bequest upon their death. We are grateful for the opportunity to invest these funds, and then use some of the proceeds for purposes related to congregational growth and outreach. The remainder of the proceeds is reinvested in order to maintain and grow our fund over time.

Once again, our Fund will have monies coming available this spring to be used for outreach and congregational growth. This money supports activities of the congregation not normally funded by the regular operating budget.

Westwood committees, members and friends are invited to submit or sponsor an application for consideration.

A review of the applications will be done by the Fund trustees who then take their recommendation of new proposal(s) to the annual general meeting for potential approval of the congregation. In the past year, our membership has voted to support both Camp fyrefly and the Earth Centered Spirituality Group.

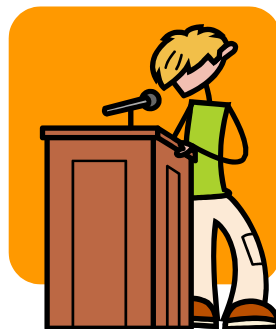
Applications are due March 31, 2010; application forms are available now.

For more information, contact one of the trustees – Linda Axley, Margaret Harris, and Bruce McWhirter; or our church administrator, Suzanne Grant.

Reflections on Service Leading

Not being one to speak in the presence of more than 15 people, I was surprised to find that one of Westwood's most cherished traditions is – *public speaking*? I am amazed that about one third of the community are brave souls who are willing to stand at the podium to lead us each week. One of the first things that attracted me to Westwood is the comfortable spirit of openness & trust that pervades the community each Sunday morning. I have heard many others remark on this indefinable element of our congregation. This warm spirit creates a safe place in which people feel free to open themselves in the vulnerability of self expression. It is a pleasure each week to see a different familiar face from 'the crowd' moving to the front to lend their own personal touch to our familiar rituals. This treasured practice strengthens connections among us as we get to know one another week by week. Over the years these individuals' contributions form a beautiful, complex & unique mosaic that is quintessentially **Westwood**.

~Melissa Henderson, worship committee



Worship Committee Check-In

Round Two

January: Solstice has passed. Fall services finished. The balance of winter & spring services are scheduled. Time to breathe a deep relaxing sigh, curl up with a book & watch snowflakes quietly fall outside.

March: Springtime on Worship Committee. Time to throw a party for Westwood's fabulous music community! Invite the congregation to a discussion on this year's Solstice & worship experience. Train a fresh group of Service Leaders. Find this year's Summer Solstice leaders. Discover people with great ideas for Summer Serendipity services. Plan a much-needed Worship Committee summer retreat. Facilitate people finding their place in September & October services (fall comes early to Worship Committee!). Identify next Winter Solstice's trio of coordinators... Break's over – time for another invigorating round!



Upcoming Worship Meetings

The Worship Committee meets at 7:15pm on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Charleen's house. If you would like to attend, please email the worship committee for the address: worship@westwoodunitarian.ca

The next worship meeting is on March 11.

Service Leader mathematics:

- 34 active leaders
- 40 regular services to lead
- 26 regular services available to guest or Westwoodian speakers
- 12 informal serendipity services

Watch for **Service Leading 101** this spring—a brief introduction for those new or returning to service leading. This 30 minute session provides helpful tips & tools for smooth & happy service preparation.

The Reverend Anne offers **mentoring** to new Service Leaders to help ease your first steps in leading a service, ensuring that you feel supported throughout the process & well-prepared when the day arrives.

Summer is just around the corner (really, it is!). Do **you** have an idea to share for a **Summer Serendipity** service? Talk to Melissa to make arrangements.

The Worship Committee is currently booking **fall services** – if you want one of the highly-prized start-of-year service slots speak to a Worship Committee member soon!

The potluck dinner at the February Worship Committee meeting featured a **2:1 ratio of desserts to main courses**. J (Moosewood Veggie Shepherd's Pie, homemade Valentine's brownies & handmade Sunterra berry pie)

In search of free hotdogs – Adventures in the web garden

Westwood's web garden consists of more than 60 web pages. While the homepage is a well trampled-through patch, many corners of the garden are hardly being visited. As the web gardener, I'm interested in finding out what content visitors are interested in and making sure they can find it. My crystal ball for this task is called Google Analytics.

Once set up on each page, Google Analytics delivers a bunch of interesting statistics: How many virtual visitors did Westwood get each day? Where do they live? How did they find us, and how long did they stay? Did they just come by accident or did they dig into the site to find particular information? Which pages are the most visited and which ones the least?

Since its launch on December 7, Westwood's site has had 1526 visits by 886 unique visitors, who viewed 5106 pages, an average of 3.35 per visit. About half of all visits were from returning visitors. The highest daily number of visits was 96 on December 21st, the lowest was 4 on December 31st. Visitors came from 35 different countries as far away as Singapore, Iran and Ghana. Even within Canada, visitors came from 73 different cities.

I am now interested how these numbers will change over time. With the newness of the site worn off and the excitement of winter solstice behind us, visitor numbers have decreased to 6 to 20 per day, but average length of visit has increased from 2 to 3 minutes. I hope this is a reflection of more information being found on the site, and not of information being harder to find! Also, the number of returning visitors increased, and each Sunday shows a little peak in the visitor time-line when people seem to remember and use the website.

After the homepage, the winter solstice announcement received the most hits in December, followed by the upcoming services and the welcoming congregation page. Westwood kids, newsletter, newcomers' information and adult programming were also in the top ten pages. Since mid January, upcoming services and newcomers' information have been most viewed after the homepage, and audio/ sermon archives have been well used. The calendar on the other hand hasn't yet been taken up well, and hardly anybody looks at CUC information on our site or the collection of UU links.

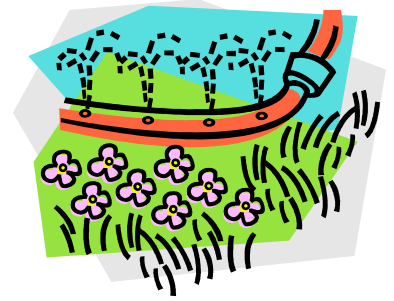
What I find most fascinating is the data on how people find us. Over the last month, 56% of visits came through search engines, 15% from referring sites such as CUC, facebook, twitter and our Yahoo group, and the rest from "direct traffic", i.e. from your bookmarks or people typing our web address in their browser. The top keywords people searched for before arriving at Westwood's site predictably are several permutations of the words Westwood, Unitarian, church, congregation and Edmonton. In December, a long list of search strings containing the word solstice led visitors to our site.

Even those challenged by spelling (solcist, solstace, uniarian, unitartian, unitarion, univrsalist, westweood) or geography (church Edmonton 65 ave) can find us. Some are looking for rentals or a specific topic (church social justice Edmonton); some just want to steal a sermon ("international women's day"+sermon, sermon slow food). Unfortunately, the person looking for "druid priests in Edmonton" didn't hang around long on our site, but the person looking for "pretty church Edmonton" did view 3 pages. The names of our minister, musicians and several other church members have also been searched. My all-time favourite is a search for +january +2010 "free hotdogs", that directed a person to Westwood. I tried this search at Google, with no success of getting to our site. If anybody knows where those hotdogs are hiding at Westwood, let me know!

Trudy Grienauer, Web gardener

We are on Twitter!

Twitter is a real-time information and social media network on the web. Westwood has joined the growing number of tweeting UU congregations. Follow us on twitter.com/westwooduu. For all things UU, search for #uu on Twitter.



Working Together..... But How??

Remember the fun we had at the Nobody's Perfect workshop last fall? We generated lots of good ideas there and we have used them to prepare a draft covenant that we can use to guide our interactions with each other and as a congregation.

Are you ready for another good time? We want you to see our draft – hear about it – work with it – comment on it at this workshop planned for **Sunday, March 7 after church**. Lunch by Miguel. Child care provided. Sign up so we know how much food to prepare. Plan to be there!

Hosted by the Committee on Shared Ministry:
Carl Ulrich, Lorian Kennedy, Elaine Roberts
and Rev. Anne Barker



March 14 is “Bring a Friend” day at Westwood

The Social Justice Committee has arranged for Jan Reimer to be the speaker for our March 14 service.

You all know Jan Reimer as the former mayor of Edmonton. On March 14, she will be speaking to us in her current role as the Provincial Coordinator of the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters. In celebration of International Women's Day, Jan will be sharing stories from the 1st World Conference on Women's Shelters.

We have declared this to be “Bring a Friend day” at Westwood. Please consider bringing at least one person with you that would not normally attend a Westwood service.

March 14 is also a Potluck Sunday. Please consider bringing a little food so that we can invite all newcomers to join us for lunch!

Lay Chaplaincy Committee Invites New Members and Lay Chaplain Candidates

Are you curious about Lay Chaplaincy? Whether you've considered the possibility of becoming a lay chaplain, or you're interested in joining a small, pleasant Westwood committee, please feel free to get in touch with me, Susan Anderson, susaneanderson@shaw.ca or you may leave a message for the committee by calling Westwood at 780-434-5819.

Annual Reports

Annual reports are due by April 15 in order to allow time for assembly and distribution prior to the Annual General Meeting on Sunday May 30. Please email your report to the church administrator: info@westwoodunitarian.ca.

An Addition to the Westwood Library

The DVD “The Preacher's Sons” has been added to the Westwood Library. It tells the story of the gay UU Minister, Greg Stewart, and his partner Stillman White's experience in adopting five African American foster children. It depicts an unconventional family with surprisingly conventional values as they struggle to meet the everyday challenges of life in four American cities.

The Rev. Greg Stewart presently serves as the senior minister at the San Francisco Unitarian Universalist Church.

Westwood UU Guys Group

Sunday, March 7

This group meets at Westwood, 7-9 pm the first Sunday of every month (except when long weekends postpone the meetings 1 week). The Guys Group has prevailed remarkably for several years now, perhaps because of the sense of community that has developed, and perhaps because there are few obligations beyond that.

Please join with us and share good conversation, newcomers are always welcome, as are snacks and readings. A check in is followed by discussion on a chosen topic.

This month's discussion topic is "Community".

Wanted:

Awesome, caring person to provide weekly childcare
in the Westwood Nursery.

\$30/week

For more info, please contact kids@westwoodunitarian.ca



It's happening again ...

Second Sunday Potluck!

Next potluck: **March 14, 2010**

We have a



following the service
the Second Sunday of every month

No meeting ... no agenda ... just

lunch together!

Bring lots!

It's sure to be delicious!

Second Sunday Potlucks!

Thinking about Chalice Circles ...
but just not sure?

Interested in Unitarian Universalism?

Looking to meet people?

Tea with the minister?

Try...

“Welcome Circles”

A drop-in Chalice Circle

Downstairs at Westwood

All are Welcome!

7 to 9pm

Wednesday, March 31

Wednesday, April 28

Downstairs at Westwood

Please RSVP to

anne@westwoodunitarian.ca

******Please note location change!******

Further GEA Considerations

Membership Fee for the Greater Edmonton Alliance (GEA)

In the last two issues of the Westwoodian I answered questions about GEA raised by our membership. I believe almost all our members would immediately agree to joining GEA if it was free, but it is not. There is an annual fee of \$1500. Therefore we must decide if the cost is worthwhile. It works out to be about \$20/member/year. Is this expenditure as worthy as other items in our budget?

Benefits of GEA to Westwood:

Provides opportunities to live our principles by:

- Effecting real change in social issues/policies that are only possible by working with a large group of people
- Participating in a democratic, relationship-building process
- Valuing and working together with a diversity of people

Increased Visibility/Profile:

- Westwood's name would be listed as one of GEA's members in its website, pamphlets and on the name tags of the involved members. It would be announced at large rallies.
- working on GEA projects involves communicating with policy makers, the press, and businesses

Potential New Members:

- While attending GEA meetings and working on GEA projects, Westwood representatives would interact and be involved with many socially engaged people who will be asking about Westwood
- Westwood members would be able to tell friends and acquaintances how Westwood was involved in GEA's newsworthy activities which show up in the Journal or are broadcast on radio.

New Opportunities for Personal Development

- GEA mentors new members in their non-confrontational methods of communication and leadership

Disadvantages of Membership

Taking Up Time

- Some of our members may get drawn into the activities at GEA to such a degree that they may have less time for Westwood, although they would be acting on our behalf for social justice.
- Westwood must be willing to devote one general membership meeting a year toward deciding what social justice issues are important to us. A Westwood representative would take this information to an annual GEA meeting.

An unknown factor:

- Westwood would be one of 35 members voting on the issues that GEA would focus on for the year. So far GEA has chosen to work on low income housing, senior care, local foods, and green jobs. As these projects finish, new ones will replace them. There is no guarantee that the new ones will be as interesting and engaging to our members as the present ones.

Please contact a member of the social justice committee if you have any questions or comments about GEA membership

Westwood's Social Justice Committee

The next Social Justice meeting is at Christine Watts' place at 7:15pm on March 4th, 2010.

Anyone interested in social justice issues is welcome.

For address and information, email sjc@westwoodunitarian.ca



Heads Up... The Larger UU and You

Getting specific about CUC's national gathering in Victoria, May 21-24.

- It opens Friday night and closes Monday mid-day.
- Westwood sends 2 voting delegates who attend the 3 sessions of the CUC's AGM as well as 4 workshops of their choice.
- Regular registrants can choose 7 workshops.

Delegate selection: Note - the board has developed new and more inclusive policies.

A board member and a committee chair get 1st dibs on being delegates. If 2 people don't come forward, the opportunity (ies) pass on to other interested Westwood members.

Westwood's board approved paying up to \$820.00 for each delegate, which would cover almost all of the costs of registration, flight to and from Victoria, shared room on the University of Victoria conference site, and meals (other than banquets).

If delegates opt to pay some or all of their expenses, the remainder of the \$1640.00 budget is available to other Westwood members attending as non-delegates (= regular registrants).

So, if you are a Westwood Board member or a committee chair, or a Westwood member wishing to attend as a **delegate**, please apply (*see below).

If you are a member and wish to attend as a **regular registrant**, and would welcome financial support, please apply (** see below).

* **delegate application** due on March 15th – application form available on bulletin board outside the church office – specify 'delegate' on the form

** **non-delegate application** for financial support due on March 22nd.

Full details of the national gathering will appear on the CUC home page as soon as they are finalized.

Questions? Be in touch with Linda Jennings or any of the other Board members.

Eighth Annual Child Haven Dinner and Silent Auction

Edmonton & area supporters of Child Haven are pleased to announce the **Child Haven International Eighth Annual Dinner** will be held on Saturday, **April 17, 2010** from 6 pm to 10 pm. We are looking forward to having it at a new venue, the Meridian Banquet Hall, 4820 – 76 Avenue, Edmonton .

Featuring an Indian Dinner and MC Brian Dunsmore of CKUA. Bonnie & Fred Cappuccino, Directors, will give a slide presentation on Child Haven Homes in India and Nepal . There will be a Silent Auction of artifacts from Nepal and India and donated items, as well as a sale table of artifacts. Tickets are \$30 per person; children under 10 years are \$10.

We have come to depend on the enthusiastic participation of Edmonton Unitarians and we appreciate it. Thank you for your support.

Tickets available from:
Sylvia Krogh 780 454 6216
Edwina Madill 780 462 2089
Bonnie Kyle 780 453 1331
Lillias Cowper 780 488 5608
Cynthia Smith 780 434 1896

The CUC has moved!

Please update your records to:
Canadian Unitarian Council
100 - 344 Dupont Street
Toronto ON M5R 1V9

Our phone numbers remain the same:
416-489-4121
1-888-568-5723
Email: info@cuc.ca

For directions to our new office visit our website at www.cuc.ca

Wider UU & Other Community Announcements

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Campus Ministry Report

Rev. Audrey Brooks

On January 10th, R Van Manen, Christian Reformed Church chaplain and I presented a dialogue on "The Servetus Affair," at the Unitarian Church of Edmonton. Rick presented information about John Calvin's role in the judgement against Michael Servetus, and Servetus' death at the stake. I presented an outline of the anti-Trinitarian dialogue between Servetus and Calvin, along with a bio of Servetus' accomplishments as a geographer, editor, lawyer, theologian and doctor of medicine. Both Rick and I had bobble heads of our theologians, to add to the presentation. We were invited to repeat "The Servetus Affair," for the Emeritus Professors Association, which we did, on the 26th of January. On February 2nd, the U of A Interfaith Chaplains Association and the Interfaith Centre for Education and Action sponsored the Interfaith dialogue "Walking Together to Create a World of Peace," for International Week at the University. I acted as moderator for this successful event, that included representatives from the Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, and Christian faiths.

Other involvements : I represented Interfaith Chaplains at the bi-monthly Philosophers Café where theological, environmental and philosophical discussions take place at Steeps tea house on Whyte avenue; I attended a debate between Christian and Atheist professors at Myer Horowitz theatre at the U of A campus; presented a noon lecture about Freedom of Religious practice in the principality of Transylvania in the 16th century, at the Interfaith Centre; attended the board retreat of the Interfaith Centre; hosted, with Brian Kiely, the January meeting of the Interfaith Centre at UCE; spoke at the 5th annual memorial march for the murdered and missing aboriginal women; participate in scripture discussion with U of A students twice a week; presented Unitarian principles to a group of United Church students; continue hospital and home visiting on behalf of UCE; and do pastoral counseling. I am also planning, with Rabbi Davie Kunin, to offer a "Building Your Theology" course on campus, for September 2010.

University of Alberta, Augustana Campus, Chester Ronning Centre, and the U of A Interfaith Chaplaincy Association Present the Winter 2010 Philosopher's Café Series

"Thinking Our Way In a Time of Crisis" at Steeps, 11116- 82nd Avenue, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Topics are:

Sat. Mar. 13- Changing our Ideas About Progress

Sat. Mar. 27- Is the Good Life the Pursuit of Happiness?

Sat. Apr. 10- How should we Rethink the Purpose of A Liberal Arts Education?

Sat. Apr. 24- Is it Possible to Find a Comfortable Place For Death in Our Approach to Life?

www.augustana.ualberta.ca/ronning

UNICAMP March Update

Featured program for 2010: every Friday in August, there will be a weekly drum circle followed either by storytelling or dancing! 2010 brochures are available at your congregation's Welcome Table.

Looking for somewhere to have your church picnic or board retreat? Why not at Unicamp? Contact admin@unicampofontario.ca to make your reservation today!

In July, Unicamp offers week-long camps for children ages 7-13 and youth 13-15, as well as a Counselor in Training and Leader in Training program. In August, there are 3 weeks for families to come to camp as well as weekend programs such as Sacred Circle Dance and the Magic of Music.

If you've never been to Unicamp, 2010 is the year you to discover and experience the magic yourself. Contact admin@unicampofontario.ca or telephone 519-822-6353 to make your reservation. Or find out more at www.unicampofontario.ca



WWho Are UU?

What is your name? Fons Schellekens

How old do you feel? Lately, I am starting to feel my age a bit, which is well over 40. However, with some more exercise in the near future I hope to feel 40 again!

What is your favourite month? November. I have always liked the fall, it is still magical to me. I enjoy the anticipation for winter solstice, and watching the Grey Cup.

How long does it take you to get to Westwood on a Sunday morning? 20 minutes.

What is your favourite meal? I like many different things. Lately I have had a couple of lovely Indian suppers.

If you could wake up anywhere you wanted tomorrow, where would it be? If I had my choice, I suppose that would probably be somewhere in the Cypress Hills, Saskatchewan, or anywhere in New Zealand. I have been in both places, but there are many places where I have not been, which I would like to visit.

Tell us about your family. There is my lovely wife Sherrill and our daughter Skylar. Both are very dear to me. I was born in The Netherlands, and came to Canada 20 years ago. I studied in Ottawa and worked for a year in Calgary, before we settled in Edmonton.

In what ways do you participate at Westwood? I am on the winter solstice committee and the long range planning committee. I enjoy attending the Westwood guys group and regularly do sign and sanctuary. With a core of Westwoodians we have started to play basketball on Friday evenings, which I enjoy very much.

Tell us one thing about you that you are particularly proud of. I am still trying to make a difference/impact through my work as a civil servant for the federal government. I do what I can in environmental assessment review and through my contributions to policy initiatives, to ensure that as a federal government we protect the environment and promote responsible development and good environmental stewardship in industry. Obviously, sometimes I am more successful than at other times, but it is a worthwhile goal.

What is one thing you are looking forward to? Tough question... Peace, harmony? I am looking forward to more actively working towards a community, very much in the spirit of our 7 principles, where we as a family, friends and those that do not know us yet, as individuals feel at home, and are happy.

24th PRAIRIE WOMEN'S GATHERING

St. Michael's Retreat, June 25 – 27, 2010

This years' theme: **"IT'S A GIFT TO BE SIMPLE" or "THE GIFT OF LIVING SIMPLY"**

Choosing to live life more simply is a voluntary act that is an expression of human freedom and self worth. Behind this choice is a desire to develop new meanings for the rest of our lives. It includes self-exploration: mindfulness about what is false and negative and addressing what security and success really mean to us. It means a process of becoming in relationships of mutuality through moderation, while practicing choices that motivate and support a simple life style.

It is in this context the Wonderful Unitarian Women of Edmonton invite their Wonderful Unitarian Sisters and Friends, to engage and encourage our journeys toward simplicity by attending the 24th Annual Prairie Women's Gathering at St. Michaels from June 25 – 27th in Lumsden, SK.

Workshop and participation choices center around building an environment to encourage reflection.

Watch for further information in future newsletters. Meanwhile start making your plans to join us. Any questions or inquiries should be directed to the Registrar:

M. Ruth Patrick, U.C.E., Telephone: 780-436-3108, Email: mruth.patrick@shaw.ca

Come sing with us!

Westwood's choir, Harmonia, invites you to join in the fun and fellowship of making beautiful music together. No experience is necessary, in music or in singing (if you have experience, we'd love to have you too). We sing at the Sunday service about once a month and rehearse on Tuesday evenings from 7:15 to 9:00 p.m. Contact Rebecca Patterson for more info: 440-6898

Want to spread the word about an event, fundraiser, activity, etc.?

If you have an announcement to share, whenever possible, please send it into the office to be included in the print version. The deadline is **Friday at 9 a.m.** Please send via e-mail to info@westwoodunitarian.ca or call the office. Our time together on Sundays is short and precious. Thank you for helping keep the timelines for Sunday services on track!

Westwood's Website

www.westwoodunitarian.ca

Our website has a new face! Surf by and see what is going on at Westwood. We now have a calendar to keep track of upcoming events, and updates are posted once a week.

If your group or committee has content to share on the website, please send it to web@westwoodunitarian.ca. More photos of Westwood and seasonal pictures are very welcome too!

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.

Members and friends are invited to submit articles of interest to the congregation. Contributions can be e-mailed to newsletter@westwoodunitarian.ca.

Help Westwood save money and trees by receiving your copy of *The Westwoodian* electronically. If you would like to join (or remove yourself from) our mailing list, please e-mail us.

Do you have musical talents?

Would you care to share your talent with the congregation? Whatever instrument you play, there is a place for you in the musical life of Westwood's Sunday Services. We could all make beautiful music together. Contact musicschedule@westwoodunitarian.ca for more info or to volunteer.

Westwood's Yahoo Discussion Group

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WestwoodUnitarian>

An open discussion and announcement list for members and friends of Westwood Unitarian Congregation.

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Need to book a room at Westwood?

Phone the office and talk with Suzanne (our administrator). Or send your request, complete with date, time, and which room/space you wish, via email to info@westwoodunitarian.ca. (Remember, you haven't got it booked until you have confirmation from Suzanne.) Thank you.

Canadian Unitarian Council

The Canadian Unitarian Council connects, nurtures and empowers Canadian Unitarians and Universalists and their congregations, and fosters the growth and outreach of the Unitarian Universalist movement in Canada. See what's happening with the CUC at www.cuc.ca.



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..... Suzanne Grant
Office hours..... Vary, please email or leave message

- for any bookings at Westwood
- written Sunday announcements due Friday 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..... Wed 9 am – 12, or by appointment

Board of Trustees 2009-2010

President..... Mitch Waldon
Vice-President..... Virginia Gillese
Treasurer..... Gordon Thomas
Secretary..... Dennis Foth
Trustees..... Kevin Fitzgerald
Terry Anderson
Linda Jennings

Other Roles

Building & Grounds buildingandgrounds@westwoodunitarian.ca
Care & Connections careandconnections@westwoodunitarian.ca
Chalice Circles..... Carl Ulrich
Anastasia Sydor
Children's Program Kathy Lightfoot
Choir..... Rebecca Patterson
Lay Chaplain..... Colette Orioux
Library..... Margaret Harris
Membership..... Sara McEwan
Newsletter..... newsletter@westwoodunitarian.ca
Social Justice..... Edda Loomes
Sunday Hospitality Manfred Kalk
Website..... web@westwoodunitarian.ca
Worship Services... Charleen Miles
Melissa Henderson
Heather MacDonald
U of A Chaplain Rev. Audrey Brooks

Mark Your Calendar

Mar 3– Westwood Board Meeting
Mar 4– Social Justice Meeting
Mar 7– Working Together...But How? Workshop
Mar 7– Westwood UU Guys Group
Mar 11– Worship Meeting
Mar 14– Set clocks forward
Mar 14– Bring a Friend Day
Mar 14– Second Sunday Potluck
Mar 15– Newsletter submission deadline
Mar 15– CUC ACM Delegate Application Deadline
Mar 22– CUC ACM Non-delegate Application Deadline
Mar 31 - Endowment Trust Fund Application Deadline
March 31 - Welcome Circle
April 15– Annual Reports Due
April 17 - Child Haven Fundraising Dinner
April 28– Welcome Circle
May 21-24– CUC ACM & National Gathering

