



The Westwoodian

Connecting you to Westwood Unitarian Congregation

Summer 2010

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

Summer Serendipity Services

Westwood's summer Sunday services are informal gatherings. Children are always welcome at Westwood, but for the summer serendipity services there is no child care or children's programming. Services start at 10:30am and last about one hour. Visitors welcome!

June 27: Favourite Hymns: Sing with Body, Mind and Spirit, led by Rebecca P

Experience hymns with a spin led by Westwood's effervescent Choir Director.

July 4: Quaker Service, led by David D & Robert K
Three Friends (Quakers) from Edmonton Monthly Meeting will speak of their personal experience of worship.

July 11: Haiku—Huh? led by Trudy G

Haiku - a Japanese type of poems - have been called "small words, big moments". They capture little bursts of experience in 17 syllables or less and appeal even to people who normally don't care for poetry. We will share classical and modern haiku (including Edmonton based authors) and have some fun writing haiku as a group. If you have a favourite haiku, bring it along!

July 18: The Next Step, led by Elaine R, Fabian J, Linda J

Join a beginning conversation about housing for elders or, better yet, a mix of younger and older. It's about living and aging in community in housing that's directed by those who live there. Perhaps, it's about, "Live free or die" or, "Don't let warehousing happen to you." although both do sound a bit more like the concern of elders. Could be about housing co-ops or co-housing. Maybe in the context of row housing or an apartment or separate homes in a common neighbourhood. Who knows? It's about brainstorming. What possibilities can we turn up? Can we find some partners-in-action to work with to make one or more of them real?

July 25: A Spiritual Yoga Practice, led by Connie K

Come dressed in loose clothing to allow comfortable movement.

Aug 1: Simplicity Circle, led by Lindsay M

Come learn and share about intentional simplicity. A Westwood favourite revisited!

Aug 8: "The earth does not argue, is not pathetic, has no arrangements" (Walt Whitman), Ecological reflections led by Jim L

Aug 15 Garden Tour, led by Dennis F and Marj F

Come visit the gardens of Westwood members, including gardens on the Westwood grounds. In Marj and Dennis' lovely garden, enjoy refreshments and share your readings and thoughts on gardens and how gardens and plants affect your life.

Aug 22: The Blessing of Trees, led by Allison A

Come join us in the "west wood" under our Tree of Life banner. We'll explore the significance of trees in our lives and their meaning as a religious symbol across many cultures. Bring your own tree-related poems or stories. We may even take a short walk among trees so wear comfortable shoes.

Aug 29: Spirituality in the Music of the Moody Blues, led by David D

The Moody Blues has been a progressive rock band since 1965. Their music introduced me to eastern spirituality and authentic humanitarian ethics. Earth-based and universe-based cosmologies are also evident in their music. Inspired by Kevin Fitzgerald's presentation of the music of Yes, a contemporary of the Moody Blues, I will spin many of their songs and pass around album art.

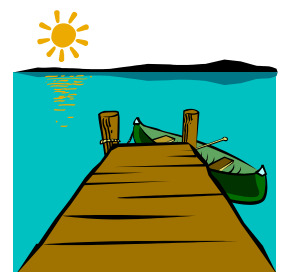
Sept 5: Westwood Open House, hosted by Carl U and Rev. Anne B

Do you want to learn more about Westwood Unitarian Congregation? Here's your chance – join us for an informal and informative session.



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Minister's Message

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Settling into Summer...

The sunshine has finally returned to Edmonton – let the festival season begin!

I hope, for each of you, that there is time for rest, recreation and relaxation during the summer season. We have had a busy year ... accomplished many things ... and learned much about one another. Taking time to restore our spirits with sunshine and water, fresh air and music ... these are precious endeavours.

I'm off now, for the next eight weeks (4 weeks of study leave / 4 weeks vacation). In the case of a serious pastoral emergency, contact our administrator Suzanne Grant (info@westwoodunitarian.ca) or our president Mitch Waldon (president@westwoodunitarian.ca) – as they will know how to reach me. Otherwise, I look forward to seeing you when I return to the office on Wednesday August 25th.

Remember to gather water from the places you visit: exotic journeys ... the local pool ... the kitchen faucet as you scrub clean the summer's haul. Bring your samples to the In-gathering Service Water Communion on September 12th, where we'll share our stories and reconnect as a community. And remember – that's a potluck Sunday as well!



In peace and love,
Reverend Anne

Changing Hands at the Committee on Shared Ministry (CoSM)

Carl Ulrich is stepping out of his role as chair of the CoSM and Deidra Helmig is stepping into membership on the committee. Many thanks to Carl who stayed on an extra year and a big welcome to Deidra. Lorian Kennedy will assume the chair and Elaine Roberts and Anne Barker are remaining as members.



We practice shared ministry at Westwood and our committee is charged with reflecting on the ministries (note the plural) of our congregation, which include the professional minister and all the others; e.g. our ministry to children, our music ministry, our social justice ministry. We are here to hear your concerns and your kudos. Part of our job is also to facilitate healthy communication between and among members and friends; and that leads me to the Covenant of Right Relations. In the next church year we are going to be pitching the Covenant to all of you, mainly, but not exclusively, through the vehicle of the Board and committees. We'll be asking to be invited to your committee meeting sometime during the year to show you how it can be used and to get feedback from you about its usefulness.

Another focus for us will be looking at the vitality and community aspects of Westwood. Deidra is looking forward to speaking to each of you about how you are feeling about Westwood..the good and the bad. As the kick off to this project we are bringing in Liz James to do a congregational workshop with us on the weekend of October 1-3. You can find more information about this workshop on page 5. In the meantime, over the summer and into September, if you would like to talk one-on-one with Deidra about your overall feelings and views regarding Westwood, please be in touch with her at 780-465-7901.

Enjoy the summer and watch for us in the fall!

The Board has had a very active and rewarding past month. Beyond our regular monthly meeting we hosted two significant extra events—our Annual meeting and our annual two day retreat. I think we were all pleased with the deliberate and respectful discussions surrounding the budget, the endowment fund allocations and the elections associated with the annual meeting – and thrilled that it ended on time! The budget reflected increased emphasis on children’s programming, building maintenance and long range planning. We are pleased to welcome Christine Lesiak to the board and were glad to publically express our thanks for very considerable efforts to outgoing members Linda Jennings and Virginia Gillese.

Issues of recruitment and nurturing of our volunteers continue to present challenges to us. We were unable to recruit a Nominating committee chair, so the board prioritized volunteer vacancies and did a phone out to many of you – hoping to provide you with challenging, but rewarding service opportunities. We were able to fill many crucial roles (Thank you!),

but are still looking for volunteers to serve in a number of areas, most especially the Board and the Worship and Caring and Connections committees. We hope that each member and friend finds a way to serve, to develop their skills and talents and as importantly to be adequately nurtured and supported through their involvement in our congregation. Please contact either any of the Board members or Anne (Minister) if you ‘d like to learn more about volunteer opportunities at Westwood.

This year’s Board retreat was hosted by Dennis and Marge Foth and provided us with an extended time period to reflect, laugh, scheme and plan together. Anne challenged each of us to think about what we most enjoyed about Westwood and what we are longing for our congregation to become. This led to more collaborative brainstorming about successes and challenges of the past and “rough edges” that we still need to work on. We also discussed organization models for churches and tried to decide which of four roles most defined Westwood- a House of Worship, A

community Centre, a Focus of Social Justice or a Social/Intellectual Leadership hub – of course Westwood is a little of all four, but getting the mix right is our goal. Finally, we looked at the many components of growth – numbers of members, increases in learning, increased budgets, more service and social justice contributions, enhanced worship and increased care and nurturing of our community and especially of each other. The discussion showed that we want to grow, but growth is a multifaceted construct and we have much to learn about finding the appropriate and achievable measurements of our continuing ‘growth’.

We wish for each of you to have a fun filled, relaxing and rejuvenating summer break. There is an old joke that Unitarians are the only people that God trusts enough to take the summer off!. However, when you have need for a relaxing, informal spiritual fill-up, don’t hold back from attending any of the Summer Serendipity Services held most Sunday mornings during the summer. We look forward to welcoming you in September!

Music at Westwood

Do you love to sing? Have you always wanted to sing but haven't gotten around to it yet? There is a place for you in **Harmonia**, Westwood's choir! There are no auditions and experience is not necessary. We practice on Tuesday evenings September to May and sing for the Sunday service once a month. We also participate in special occasions such as the famous Westwood Winter Solstice service. Our friendly circle is always open and we welcome newcomers! For more information, contact Rebecca at choir@westwoodunitarian.ca.

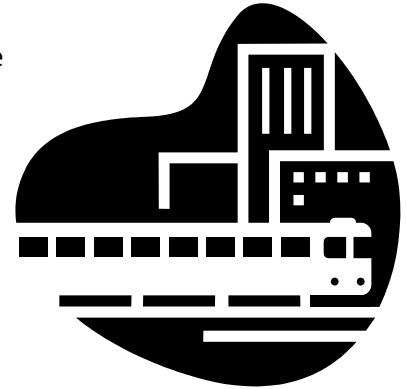
Calling all musicians: At Westwood we enjoy a great variety of music at our Sunday services. Whether you are a pianist and could accompany a whole service or you play another instrument and would like to participate, we would be happy to hear from you! For more information, contact Rebecca at choir@westwoodunitarian.ca.



After two years of involvement with the Greater Edmonton Alliance to include a food and agricultural land strategy in the Municipal Development Plan (MDP), the City of Edmonton has given final approval to the MDP.

In addition to a food strategy, the MDP covers a number of other related issues including a greater emphasis on infilling in older neighborhoods transportation corridors that will encourage more compact housing.

Below is a more detailed report from the City Planning Department on what is covered in the MDP:



A strategic growth and development plan will move Edmonton toward a more compact and sustainable urban form.

The major City plan that directs Edmonton's growth and development for the next ten years received third reading by City Council, and thus final approval, on Wednesday, May 26.

The Municipal Development Plan (MDP), also known as The Way We Grow, was created in tandem with the Transportation Master Plan (TMP), The Way We Move, over the course of almost four years of public consultation and City Council deliberation. Hundreds of citizens attended public hearings on the plan in the past 18 months, providing final input to City Council on the shape the city's urban form should take in the coming years. The MDP will chart the course for Edmonton to evolve over time into a more compact, transit oriented, and sustainable city.

Highlights of MDP:

- The plan calls for the downtown, mature neighbourhoods and LRT stations to gain a greater portion of new housing growth.
- The plan works with the Transportation Master Plan to integrate transportation systems and land use, encouraging transit-oriented development such as employment growth and medium to higher density in areas with LRT stations and transit centres.
- A Growth Coordination Strategy will be created to manage new residential growth by focusing on neighbourhoods that have already been approved and/or that already have public infrastructure and services.
- Attracting people and investment to Edmonton is a strong theme in the plan. Quality urban design, revitalization of main street commercial areas and promotion of eco-industrial planning are amongst the tools to achieve these goals.
- Food and urban agriculture policies and strategies will be researched, developed and integrated into future city planning.
- The plan confirms a commitment to protect, preserve and enhance Edmonton's natural environment.

October 1-3, 2010 Westwood Presents...

Going Deeper: A Weekend Workshop focused on Strengthening our Small Congregation

Facilitator: Liz James is a Canadian Unitarian Council volunteer, president of the Unitarian Congregation of Saskatoon, and a devoted partner and mom of 4.

You may remember her from Reverend Anne's Westwood Installation Service last October – where she offered the "Charge to the Congregation" (and gave you secret insider information on Anne).



A note from Liz:

Coming from a small congregation myself (a Sunday attendance of around fifty when I joined), I've learned that a small congregation seeking to grow faces entirely different challenges from the "typical" church with a building, staff people, and a full time minister. So many of the recommendations in growth literature begin with the phrase "form a sub-committee of six people who can meet monthly with your minister, DRE, and office administrator to..."

Small congregations have different priorities. They almost never want to morph into a "mega-church", and tend to set modest goals like "we want a few more new families", "we want a stronger presence in the community" or "we want to retain our new members for the long term, with less turnover". These kinds of goals are easier to achieve, and allow the congregation to preserve its close-knit, "extended family" feeling.

I've learned that small congregations looking to grow need to do different things that larger ones. Smaller congregations function differently and so they grow differently. Members can often tell who's new on sight, Sunday services are informal and relaxed, and relationships are easier to form in a smaller group. At the same time, smaller congregations face unique challenges - they have fewer resources to draw on and need to spend their time very wisely. Assessment is a critical. Shortcuts are needed. Where larger congregations focus on concepts and programs, smaller congregations have a more "nuts and bolts" approach. When tackling a goal, they want specific resources - publications that are complete and ready to use with little modification, for example. Whenever possible, they look for ways to do things differently or better - rather than adding new tasks. They want to focus their energy on relationships, not work.

It was observations like these that led me to develop my small congregations' consultation - a weekend program tailored to the unique needs, goals, and resource of smaller congregations. I hope to meet as many of you as possible on the weekend of October 1st-3rd!

At the CUC Annual Conference and Meeting in Victoria this past fall, four members of Westwood attended Liz James' workshop called Growth in Small Congregations. Stay tuned for testimonials about their experience with this workshop. This month, we'll hear from Lorian Kennedy:

I particularly enjoyed the workshop on growth in small congregations as Liz drew our attention to the importance of turning our attention away from numerical growth (number of members and pledges) as a place to start and looking towards improving our abilities to nurture and be nurtured, and to find our personal ministries, excitement and commitment. She started by asking us what we were looking for when we first came to Westwood. She had lots of relevant stories and practical resources that can help us make Westwood a place we are bursting to tell all our friends about. We all left feeling quite keen to use some of these ideas – because we think everyone will enjoy them too. I hope lots of other people will come to this weekend.

Save the Date!

Events happening at Westwood...

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Westwood Welcome Back BBQ

Saturday, August 28th, 2010, 5-9:30 PM.

Call Lorian for address and directions

This is a potluck gathering so bring salad, or dessert or munchies and whatever you want to cook - the BBQ will be hot for all to share. You can bring your own plates and cutlery and we will have disposable plates for those who forget. Remember a lawn chair! All ages are welcome- there is lots of space for the kids to run around. If it rains we will move indoors. It is a good opportunity to bring new friends – maybe they will want to see more of us!

Sorry, the fire pit is gone this year- maybe just as well as it was located over the gas line.

We will be waiting to hear all about your summer adventures. For information, please call Lorian at 780-465-7113.



Sunday Sept 12 In-Gathering Sunday: Water Communion



Join us for the first regular Sunday of the season, where we install the 2010/11 Board of Trustees, share stories of our summer experiences and reconnect for the coming year. Wherever you wander this summer, collect a bit of water and a story to share as part of our celebration of gathering together once again in the fall. (The water doesn't have to be drinkable.) You are invited to bring water from your summer experiences, or mementos to place on the chalice table. Caution: this service tends to run long.

Speaker: Westwood Board of Trustees, Rev. Anne Barker, and You!

Service Leader: Westwood Board of Trustees

Musician: Steven Bell

****There will be a 'Second Sunday Potluck Lunch' following the service****

Solstice Discussion – September 19

Come share your vision of Westwood's Winter Solstice celebrations after the September 19 service.



and Within the Wider Region...

Small Congregations' Leadership Training Opportunity with Rev. Robert Latham

September 25-26, 2010 in Saskatoon, SK

Life in a small congregation isn't just a miniature version of life in a larger one -- small congregations face unique challenges and have unique resources. Join us in sunny Saskatoon, for a weekend workshop focused on equipping lay leaders of small congregations. Particular attention will be paid to how to be a vital community without the benefit of a full time minister.

The weekend will be split into three workshops: worship, leadership and committee on ministry. You are welcome to attend some or all of the workshops. Home hospitality will be available. To register or for more information, email Liz James at LizJames@me.com.

Western Region Fall Gathering: "Shared Ministry"

October 15-17, 2010

Winnipeg, MB

In the theme of shared ministry within our vital liberal heritage, workshops and activities will address issues of volunteer and leadership development.

Hello from Bill Woolverton

It was good to see all of the Westwoodians at the CUC ACM in Victoria. I will always remember my involvement at Westwood, especially the Chalice Circles.

I live in Nanaimo in a cohousing community with several potlucks per week and various common facilities including guest rooms, should anyone need a place to stay in Nanaimo. A number of the residents are also Unitarians., a couple of whom were at the ACM.

Bill Woolverton
(250) 732-1639

Items for sale to someone in our interconnected web:

- Bike trailer/jogging stroller for 2 kids (Chariot Carrier made in Calgary)
- Umbrella stroller
- Toddler and youth car seat
- My Little Pony 12" bicycle with training wheels
- Other little kids' toys
- King bed
- Gas lawn mower
- Canister vacuum

Contact David Deephouse 780-433-9983.

Second Sunday Potlucks...

Are taking a summer break

Next potluck: September 12, 2010

following the

In-gathering & Water Communion Service!

Newsletter Editor Needed!

Do you like working independently? Do you enjoy writing, editing, and formatting?

I am stepping down as editor of the Westwoodian so that I can focus more on my new role on the Committee on Shared Ministry. We are actively looking for a new editor for the Westwoodian. If you are interested, or just have some questions regarding the role and responsibilities associated with it, please be in touch! newsletter@westwoodunitarian.ca.

Thanks,
Deidra



UU World – Summer 2010 edition – Opening Words

How can people move beyond isolation, a banal individualism, and a lack of purpose? One way is by coming together with others in religious communities that fire our intellects, touch our hearts, connect us in loving support with others, turn us to face the world's painful realities with honest and critical analysis, and direct us into deeds of service and social activism. Through assembling – coming together – people can harness what James Luther Adams called "the organization of power and the power of organization."

The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Ann Parker



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: choir@westwoodunitarian.ca

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!

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 September 2010. The submission deadline is August 15.

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.

We welcome any feedback or suggestions to make the newsletter the best it can be. If you have an idea for a feature you would like to see in the newsletter, please let us know.

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.

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.....
Treasurer..... Gordon Thomas
Secretary..... Dennis Foth
Trustees..... Kevin Fitzgerald
Terry Anderson

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... worship@westwoodunitarian.ca
U of A Chaplain Rev. Audrey Brooks (780-489-8842)

Mark Your Calendar

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August 28—Welcome Back BBQ

September 12—Ingathering & Water Communion

September 19—Solstice Discussion

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October 15-17—Western Region Fall Gathering

