



The Westwoodian

Connecting you to Westwood Unitarian Congregation

Further contact info available from your directory or the office

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 and are encouraged to stay for refreshments and conversation afterwards.

April 6 – Walking on Sacred Ground: The Gentle Art of Visiting Sacred Places

Professor Butler has studied, written and taught about connecting to nature and sacred power places around the world as an academic and ordained Buddhist monk. Travelers far too often fail to connect with the special energies of sacred sites they visit. There are rituals of passage and other preparations one needs to know and practice. This intimate talk shares tips and steps for mindful visits to sacred power places in general, including ancient ruins, sacred corners in backyards, famed pilgrimage destinations, old-growth forests and even hilltops in Wales where the Little Folk are said to dance at midnight.

Speaker: Jim Butler
Service Leader: Owen Brierley
Musician: David Jones

April 13 – sUUPERheroes!

Join us for a look at Unitarian-like superheroes and superhero-like Unitarians. What makes a superhero? How can a normal, mild-mannered UU become a superhero? Come dressed as your favourite superhero, and come prepared to battle evil and make the world a better place. This is an inter-generational service.

Speaker: Dean Chan
Service Leader: Deidra Helmig
Musician: Sheila Killoran

April 20 – Riding the Waves of Change

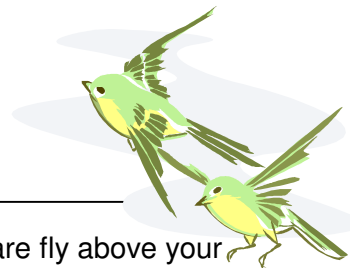
On this Sunday nearest to Earth Day, and the first day of the Jewish Passover, our service will address the theme of change and transition in our lives. Change and growth is most evident in the spring. Change is part of life for individuals, groups, nature, climate, businesses, and particularly for this congregation. Whether the changes are planned or unplanned, we are affected and must respond creatively.

Speaker: Rev. Wendy McNiven
Service Leader: Marj Foth
Musician: Harmonia & Westwood Children's Choir

April 27 – Cappuccino Time

Join Fred Cappuccino, co-founder of Child Haven International and retired Unitarian Minister, for this morning's presentation.

Speaker: Fred Cappuccino
Service Leader: Leigh Bornn
Musician: Toot Ensemble
 & Cherilyn Michaels



That the birds of worry and care fly above your head – this you cannot change.

But that they build a nest in your hair – this you can prevent.

--Chinese proverb

Words from Wendy

In transition, things can move slowly or quickly, but they definitely move. I would say that this congregation is a moving, happening place.

On March 15th, thirty-plus Westwood members and friends joined me for a workshop called “Who's Who in the Zoo?” My intent was for the participants to create a “picture” of this congregation, it's Norms, who does what, where some of the tensions and tugs are, and perhaps some sense of where our energies might best be directed. It was a Very Lively Event! Participants jumped right into the exercises, named and compared observations about how things work around here, laughed about their diversity, and their strengths, and their “growing edges”, and stayed right until the end of the afternoon. Some “pictures” were indeed created – check out the several-armed 20-something pulled-in-many-directions, Unitarian with growing pains! Lists of Norms were made, in several colours, and I hope to post these for further viewing.

You are indeed a very high-energy group. You are growing, and your shoes might be a bit too small at the moment. These are good problems to have.

I hope to convene a few people (at least) who are interested in co-creating some Next Steps for this project of naming who we are and finding our direction. Please contact me if you want to be part of it.

In the meantime, here are some suggestions for living with the high energy and changes that are happening – an old chestnut that has been seen in various UU newsletters.

Rules for Whitewater Rafting and Congregational Life

1. It's what you came for. Enjoy it.
2. Rest in the calm places. There will be more white water soon.
3. Never stop paddling, even when it seems hopeless.
4. When you're in trouble, don't panic.
5. If you go under, let go. You'll come back up.
6. Don't be surprised if the boat doesn't go where you want it to.

7. Everyone paddles furiously but it's still the current that takes you.
8. The more activity on the right, the more the boat goes left, and vice versa.
9. Decide who is going to steer, the person in the bow or the person in the stern.
10. Balance, balance, balance!

Shalom,

Wendy
(Rev. Wendy McNiven)

Contact information

I will be in Edmonton from mid-day Saturday April 19th through Tuesday night, April 22nd. Please contact me if you would like some time with me, either individually or as a committee, group, or whatever.

At the church: 434-5819 extension 1 – this is a confidential line. When I am in Edmonton I will check this message line frequently; when I am away, I will check it about twice a week.

Other ways to contact me:

E-mail: wmcniven@uniserve.com

Telephone in Kelowna (call office for number)

Westwood News

Westwood's Newest Committee: Ministerial Relations

This is an exciting time for Westwood and we are happy to be forming a new committee, the **Ministerial Relations Committee** to work with Rev. Wendy McNiven. The role of the committee is to strengthen the quality of shared ministry within Westwood, to promote listening and feedback between the consulting Minister and the congregation and to assist with planning relating to the Minister's work and professional development. The members are Rev. McNiven, Gordon Grant, Bonnie Stonehouse, and Lorian Kennedy. Our first order of business will be to review the draft Terms of Reference for final tweaking. The final document will soon be available for everyone to see on the Westwood website. Discussions of the committee will remain confidential but we hope you will feel free to approach any one of us with any concerns or questions.

Basement Renovations to Start in April

The renovation work to be done in the basement will be taking place between April 6 and 19th. The plan is to complete it for the usual Sunday service on April 20th.

A wide assortment of help is needed to complete this ambitious project, including but not limited to:

- packing and other preparations
- smashing down a couple of walls and cleaning that up
- patching walls, building, finishing, painting
- help with food for the volunteer crew

There will be several opportunities to pitch in on this project. Two Saturdays in particular - April 12 and 19 - will need many hands. Thanks in advance for checking your calendar.

Please contact Mitch Waldon or David Jones if you can help with the renovations. Thanks!

Special Offering April 13 for African Leadership School

In February 2008, in spite of the turmoil in Kenya at the time, the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists held a Leadership School in Nairobi for congregational leaders of Nigeria, Kenya, Burundi, Congo and Uganda to help meet the need for resources for organizational development, worship and leadership. Rev Brian Kiely, minister of the Unitarian Church of Edmonton and recently elected President of the ICUU served as one of the faculty for the school. See the Global Chalice ICUU Newsletter for more details.

The ICUU has asked that individual congregations consider supporting one African student at this school at a cost of \$450. Funds are still needed although the event has already taken place. This is an expensive exercise for an organization with ICUU's small budget. The majority of funds have been raised from individuals and congregations across North America and Great Britain. As well, most of the faculty have raised all or part of their own travel expenses. They are still several

thousand dollars short. Any additional funds raised will go to support another Leadership school proposed for the Philippines or Indonesia . The offering from our Sunday service on April 13 will go to support the ICUU Leadership school.

Please make cheques out to the **Canadian Unitarian Council with ICUU Leadership School in the memo line.**

You can read more about the African Leadership School in *The Global Chalice*, the newsletter of ICUU, which is attached in the electronic mail-out.

Campus Ministry News



By Rev. Audrey Brooks

On March 4th, the Campus Ministry team presented a discussion on the role of human responsibility in technology and research, featuring Ubaka Ogbagu, research associate from the U of Alberta Health Law Institute. Background preparation included attending the play, "Frankenstein," at the Catalyst Theatre, a classic representation of an inventor who creates life, but is indifferent to what he creates. Gilbert, Suzette and myself were moderators for a dynamic and informative evening.

We continue to host information tables at the Students' Union Building , having had contact with 130 people since the beginning of September. With the help of David Haas, a Campus Ministry brochure was created, these are now on display at the table and at chaplain's offices in SUB and HUB.

As a member of the Interfaith Chaplain's Association, I was moderator for the International Week presentation: "Global Challenges and World Religions; Part of the Problem or Part of the Solution?" at the Timms Centre on February 1st. This was well received, with over 100 people in attendance. Members from UCE and Westwood were there

in support, as they have been for our other events. Thank you all, for this! How wonderful it is to know that we are never alone out there, that the love of our church members is palpable and evident - inspiring us to keep on working to raise the Unitarian banner on campus!

Other events where I represented the Chaplains Association, social justice of our two UU churches, and also wore the hat of a Raging Granny, were at the memorial for the murdered and disappeared women, held at the Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples; the University rally for adequate housing; the rally to end the siege of Gaza, and the rally for the Fort Chipewyan health and environment crises.

I also visit members at home and in hospital, am in contact with people interested in learning more about our faith, have interviews and counselling sessions as requested by those visiting Chaplain's offices, or by email. On April 15th, I will be attending a University Crisis Intervention Certification Program, and later on in the month, will be preparing food for clients at the Mustard Seed Church. As you can see, I live in very interesting times! So far, there are over 400 hours logged in as Unitarian Chaplain and Campus minister. In May, I will celebrate my 20th anniversary as a community minister. I can't believe time has slipped by so fast! I must be having a good time!

To make an appointment to connect with me that fits your time schedule, phone me or email at: audbrook@telusplanet.net

You might be a UU if....

- You think a holy day of obligation is when it's your turn to make the coffee
 - You think the trinity is reduce, reuse, recycle
 - You get mail from committees you didn't know you were on
-

Upcoming Events

Winter Solstice Townhall Meeting

Sunday April 6, 12:30 – 2:00

Westwood's Winter Solstice services are something very dear to many Westwoodians' hearts. A winter solstice service has been held at Westwood for the last 20 years! The event has gotten so popular that our Westwood space is simply too small to continue holding the winter solstice service here. We are looking at alternative locations, at least until we have a new permanent space. The worship committee has done a great deal of research and would like to present the different options to you so that we can make this decision as a group.

Please come and hear about the different options, be prepared to give your opinion (in a short and concise way) and your suggestions, and help us with this major decision. The Winter Solstice Townhall Meeting is to take place at Westwood, Sunday, April 6 from 12:30 - 2:00 pm. We are hoping that this will be a quick meeting – snacks and child care will be provided.

Come and explore creativity Sundays at Two

Next one: April 20, 2:00

Come and join Kathy for Sundays at Two! Come for a time of fun and exploration. It will be a time to explore different artistic mediums and play in the exploration. Once a month there will be a hosted time for anyone who would like to come and explore their creativity. There will be a variety of activities. You can come to one or some or all of the Sundays! It is up to you!

These Sundays are intergenerational. This means the activities will be accessible by all but there will be no childcare. There is no cost. Some of the themes we will explore: art as meditation, decorating Easter eggs, playing with cameras, making music – perhaps a little karaoke?! There are more ideas to come!

Mark your calendar for the future dates: May 11 and June 14. Hope to see you there!

Spinning the Web Dinner

Saturday April 5, 2008

Spinning the Web dinners provide a forum so we can get to know each other better. These small group pot luck dinners are held in the homes of friends and members of Westwood during our church year. There is a sign up sheet at the back of the Sanctuary on the bulletin board. Please sign up by Sunday **March 30**. After that the sign up sheet will be removed and the dinner groups formed. The dinners are open to all friends and members of Westwood – Please join us!

For more information contact Charleen Miles (cpmiles@telus.net) or Kath Oltsher (3dawg@telus.net).

UU Guys

Sunday April 6, 7-9 pm, at Westwood

With the onset of springtime and recent attention to eggs, resurrection, and renewal, we invite men to join us in discussing "What we're giving birth to". Newcomers are always welcome. For more information, contact Bruce MacPherson (madscot@telusplanet.net).

Child Haven International 6th Annual Dinner & Silent Auction

April 26, 2008, 6:00 – 10:00 pm
Maharajah Banquet Hall, 9245 34A Ave.



This event will be featuring an authentic Indian dinner, emcee Brian Dunsmore of CKUA, a slide presentation on Child Haven Homes in India and Nepal by directors Bonnie and Fred Cappuccino, a silent auction of Nepali and Indian artifacts and donated items, and a sale table of Nepali and Indian artifacts. See www.childhaven.ca for details of the remarkable Child Haven story. Tickets are \$30 per person; children under 10 are free. Tickets are available from Leigh Bornn.



PATHWAYS TO SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY

Prospective Member Orientation Session

Sunday April 27, 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Conversations and considerations of your spiritual journey.

Connections with lay leaders and key congregational programs.

Westwood's offerings, rewards and responsibilities for members.

Childcare and light LUNCH provided. Sign up poster on notice board.

Contact Sara McEwan, saraemc@telus.net

Social Justice Meeting

The next meeting of the Social Justice Committee will be on **April 17th at 7:15** at the home of Edda Loomes. We welcome newcomers and visitors to our meetings. Check the Westwood directory or contact Edda to get the address.

Summer Serendipity – Summer Worship at Westwood

First held the summer of 2001, Summer Serendipity is a series of informal Sunday gatherings at Westwood. It may be coffee and conversation, sharing favourite readings, a book discussion, a hymn sing, a special speaker, maybe even a walk in the park. If you are willing to facilitate a gathering, please sign up on the sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary **before June 8th**. A sheet of simple instructions will be provided to each leader. This is an opportunity to be as creative as you want.

For more information, contact Deidra Helmig.

Workshop: Planning Worship and Adult Religious Programming

Sunday May 4, 12:30 - 3:00

In my opinion, a picture of Westwood should be in the dictionary next to the definition of 'Shared Ministry' – in so many ways, we are the perfect example of what shared ministry is. We see it every week at Westwood we have a different service leader and/or speaker each Sunday. After being involved with the worship committee for four years, I am still amazed by the fabulous services each Sunday. The vast majority of Westwood's services are discussed and decided upon at the Annual Worship Planning Workshop.

And new this year...since so many of us are getting together to discuss next year's services, we thought we could also discuss your ideas for Adult Programming for next year as well.

So, if you have a service or workshop you would like to see happen next year, please join the Worship Committee, the Adult Programming Committee and Rev. Wendy McNiven for this vitally important workshop on Sunday, May 4. Bring your ideas, thoughts, suggestions for future services and workshops, speakers, topics, musicians, etc.

If you would like to give us your ideas ahead of time, please fill out the form at the back of this newsletter and give it to Deidra Helmig (Worship Chair), Linda Jennings (Adult Programming Chair) or leave it in the appropriately marked envelopes at the back of the sanctuary. Lunch and child care will be included.

For more information contact Deidra

Benefit Concert

BIG MUSIC = SMALL LOANS

Friday, April 18, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Unitarian Church of Edmonton

10804 - 119 Street

Brian Kiely, minister of the Unitarian Church of Edmonton and President of the International Council of Unitarian Universalists visited Kenya in February, 2008. His sharing of his experiences while there inspired two members of his congregation to arrange a benefit concert to provide seed money for African micro financing.

The concert will feature the Edmonton Schoolboys' Alumni Band. They have entertained people in and around Edmonton for many years and have several recordings. They rehearse in the sanctuary of the Unitarian Church of Edmonton while the Central Lion's Senior Centre is being renovated. They have enjoyed the church facilities so much that they want to show their appreciation by giving a benefit concert for a cause that the church endorses which is micro financing in Africa.

The net proceeds from this concert will be the seed money for small loans to Africa's poorest. This concept is known as micro financing, a proven key poverty alleviation tool. The small loans benefits increase well being, self-sufficiency and care of future generations. Participants of this concert will accelerate the time when the poor of this world will have access to small loans.

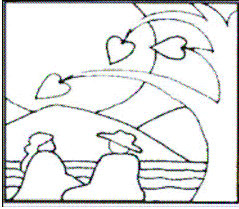
An evening of toe tapping music and songs to sing. Refreshments to be served.

All tickets are sold in advance for \$20 per person.

Call 481-4381 or 423-1407

At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.

-- *Albert Schweitzer*



ELIOT INSTITUTE PRESENTS

Green Projects, Green Living, Green World

Camp Conference, June 28 – July 5, 2008

Now's the time to start dreaming and planning for your summer vacation! Are you looking for a great week of fellowship? How about sunny, dry heat surrounded by vineyards? On the shores of Lake Okanagan, in the heart of fruit and wine country in the hot south-central interior of beautiful British Columbia you will find all that and more!

Eliot Institute is a both a camp conference *and* a vacation. It is a one-of-a-kind intergenerational experience of stimulating speakers, discussions, music, activities and worship for the whole family.

Eliot Institute creates and supports an inclusive community of celebration, friendship, exploration, relaxation and joy for Unitarian Universalists, their families and friends.

Our speaker Claudia McNeill will share some thoughts on green living with all of us June 28th - July 5th at Eliot-Naramata. From living machines to green roofs, forest gardens to compostable fabrics, come hear some good news for a change! Through telling stories of thriving, innovative ecologically-designed communities and projects in many areas of human life, Claudia will instill a sense of gratitude and wonder for all that we receive, experience, and learn from the Earth and its interdependent living community.

Join deans Liz Goodger and Greg Olynyk for an excellent week of good fun, great friends and green living. It's easy being green! Register soon and start your summer with a UU green time! Find out more on the website at: www.eliotinstitute.org

Board News



Treasurer's Notes

People Empowering People!

This is our theme for Canvass, the month-long effort during which we ask you about your involvement with Westwood for the coming church year, Sept/08 – June/09. Westwood is certainly a place where people support and encourage each other, so People Empowering People is a great theme! In order to provide opportunities for learning, growth, and building community through worship services, religious education, social justice work, etc., and to have a heated physical place where we can do this, we need your financial support. Our overall goal is \$97,000. We are asking people to increase their pledge by at least 7% over last year. Remember that a 7% increase is only a 3.5% increase after tax credits for most people. If you are interested in seeing a copy of the proposed budget for next year, please contact me.

Thirteen people have kindly volunteered to meet with members and friends as part of Canvass. They will ask you to complete a survey about Westwood activities that you may wish to be involved with and to complete a pledge form about your financial contribution for next year.

Canvass kicked off on March 9 with an inspiring service led by Colette Orioux and Kevin Fitzgerald, beautiful music by our choir Harmonia, and a wonderful lunch. Many members and friends completed surveys and pledge forms after lunch. Kevin, our canvass chair, will provide regular updates on our progress in terms of members and friends canvassed and dollars pledged.

Separate Receipts for Reimbursement, Please

To simplify the paperwork and computations for you, Susan the office administrator, and the two people who sign reimbursement cheques, please remember to buy Westwood items separately from personal items. When you buy them together, you and three other people have to add up the specific items the receipt to ensure the accuracy of the reimbursement.

David Deephouse, Treasurer

A
man
standing on two logs in a river
might do all right floating with the current
while humming in the
now.

Though
if one log is tied to a camel,
who is also heading south along the bank - at the same pace -
all could still be well
with the
world

unless the camel thinks he forgot something, and
abruptly turns upstream,
then

uh-oh.

Most minds
do not live in the present
and can stick to a reasonable plan; most minds abruptly turn
and undermine the

chance

of

humming.



Jalal ad-Din Rumi was a 13th century Persian poet and Sufi mystic. It is said that even during his lifetime he was noted for his cosmopolitan outlook. His funeral, which lasted 40 days, was attended by Muslims, Jews, Persians, Christians and Greeks.

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.

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 (remember *Spirit of Life*, with violin and flute? *Dide Ta Deo* with a couple of drums and hand clapping?) Let me know... we could all make beautiful music together. Contact Rebecca Patterson for more info.

Need to book a room at Westwood?

Phone the office and talk with Susan (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 Susan.) Thank you.

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 Yahoo Discussion Group

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

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

Westwood's Website

www.westwoodunitarian.ca

Surf by and see what's on Westwood's website. Information and updates continue to be added to the website. Make sure to check out Westwood's new organizational guide on-line under "Westwood documents". Here you can find everything from our statement of purpose to how to make coffee on Sunday morning.

We also have a small archive of sermons given at Westwood. If you have given a presentation and are willing to share it on our website, we'd love to hear from you! Thanks.

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.

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 westwooduunewsletter@yahoo.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.

**Got an idea for an Adult Programming workshop?
Please tell us about it ...**

Please explain in as much detail as possible your Adult Programming idea. Please include the time frame expected for this idea (ie. an 8 week program; a 3-hour workshop, etc).

Why do you think it would make for a good topic for our congregation?

Is there a particular speaker you have in mind? Please include their contact information if you have it.

Is there a particular time of year you think it would be good to have this service – does it coincide with any particular events or occasions?

Would you like to be involved in the facilitation or organization of the program?

Thank you for giving us your input. Please also give us your contact information so we can follow up with you.

Name:

Phone number:

*Please give this to Linda Jennings, Chair of the Adult Programming Committee or put in the envelope marked 'Adult Programming Ideas' at the back of the sanctuary.
THANK YOU!*

**Got an idea for a worship service?
Please tell us about it ...**

Please explain in as much detail as possible your worship service idea:

Why do you think it would make for a good service for our congregation?

Would you like to be the speaker for this topic or is there a particular speaker you have in mind?
Please include their contact information if you have it.

Is there a particular Sunday or time of year you think it would be good to have this service – does it coincide with any particular events or occasions?

Would you like to be the Service Leader for this service? If not, is there anyone in our congregation you think might be interested in being Service Leader for this service?

Any other ideas for the service that you would like to see (e.g. chairs set up in a particular way, activities, particular readings, hymns, music or musician)?

Thank you for giving us your input. Please also give us your contact information so we can follow up with you.

Name:

Phone number:

Please give this to Deidra Helmig, Chair of the Worship Committee or put in the envelope marked 'Worship Ideas' at the back of the sanctuary.

THANK YOU!

