



# The Westwoodian

Connecting you to Westwood Unitarian Congregation

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## 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.

### February 1 – Pride and Prejudice

This Sunday we will reflect of some of our defining moments as a denomination – for better and for worse. What do these lessons from Unitarian Universalist history have to offer us now?

**Speaker:** Anne Barker

**Service Leader:** Heather MacDonald

**Musician:** Steven Bell

### February 8 – Who Are We?

What is your story about why you love being a UU and how you came to this spiritual home? What defines a UU? Is it our beliefs? Our values? Our actions? What are our defining characteristics as Canadian Unitarian Universalists? How do you live out your UU values in society?

The Canadian Unitarian Council has invited congregations across the country to engage in a dialogue about our national identity. Join us this week as Westwoodians share their stories.

**Speakers:** Terry Anderson, Ainsly MacPherson, Janice Williamson

**Service Leader:** Pam Brierley

**Musician:** Toot Ensemble and Marj Foth

### February 15 – Memories from Selma

The Selma to Montgomery March in 1965 represented one of the peak events of the US Civil Rights Movement. Its purpose was to bring attention to the inability of African Americans to register to vote. Within months, it led to the passage of the US Voting Rights Act of 1965. Along with thousands of others, there was heavy involvement by UU ministers and laity in this campaign. Carl spent 5 days in Selma during this 18 day campaign. He will share his experience in Selma.

**Speaker:** Carl Ulrich

**Service Leader:** Marc MacKenzie

**Musician:** Harmonia

### February 22 – Seeking Peace

For some, maintaining a personal spiritual practice is second nature – like breathing. For others, the concept seems mysterious, irrelevant, or even bizarre. This service explores the connections and contradictions between personal practice and our communal religious experience.

**Speaker:** Anne Barker

**Service Leader:** Virginia Gillese

**Musician:** Joel Crichton

*Each of us has much more hidden inside us than we have had a chance to explore. Unless we create an environment that enables us to discover the limits of our potential, we will never know what we have inside of us.*

--Muhammad Yunus, winner of 2006 Nobel Peace Prize for Microcredit Banking

## Barker Bits



### Where do we come from? ... What are we? ... Where are we going?

In recent weeks we have been sharing a conversation that will continue for the life of Westwood. The questions

are not new – they inspired and guided the birth of this congregation and they have been asked across the years – but the answers are ever evolving. Who are we? What is it that we are trying to do here? What is our philosophical underpinning? Our theology? Our core beliefs? What are we trying to promote and preserve, and what changes do we want to see in our selves, our church, our community, and our world?

#### ***The Westwood Mission Statement:***

*Westwood Unitarian Congregation is a democratic and inclusive liberal religious community, dedicated to respectfully supporting each other's spiritual quests, nurturing our children and youth as well as the larger community, and working towards social justice.*

Our mission statement is a good starting place, interpreted differently by each member. Informed by personal experience, history and tradition and motivated by the unique gifts of this particular community, we aim always toward a current, practical and proud expression of our shared faith.

We explore these questions in Worship Visioning (what are we trying to do on Sunday? at Solstice? whom do we serve? why?), within our Sunday Services, during individual conversations and as part of the Leadership Summit. We will continue asking and growing, in all aspects of our life together.

There is no 'right answer' – no perfect ideal that we are aiming for. Rather, the goal of the conversation is to deepen our connections with one another, to stretch our understanding of what is possible, and to grow into our most

healthy, most sincere collective self. You are always welcome to participate. For the most current ways to connect, please watch the Sunday Announcements, the newsletter and the website. And – as always – feel free to give me a call. I am deeply honoured to be invited to share your joys and concerns, and enjoy getting to know each of you more deeply.

In love,  
Anne Barker

## Upcoming Events

### Simplicity Circle

**February 22, 7:30-9:00 pm in the sanctuary**

You are invited to spend time with our guest Ivor MacKay. He has lived the 100 Mile Diet, was a planner for the Food Sovereignty conference held in Edmonton last month, and looks forward to sharing his interest in reclaiming primitive and traditional skills with us. For example canning and drying food, weaving, working with leather, learning to make some of the hand tools we use. Many possibilities for topics abound. Watch in our Sunday Bulletin for more specifics closer to the event.

Contacts: Fabian or Linda Jennings, Sara McEwan.

### Are You Curious About Unitarian Universalist Beliefs?

Come to a Q & A session

**Sunday morning, February 1st, after service**

Attend Sunday service and plan to stay for **New2UU**, about an hour. Anne Barker, Westwood's minister, preaches and hosts this session following.

If you plan to come, please RSVP or sign up on the notice board, so we can prepare snacks and fruit. Child care can be arranged.

For more information contact Sara McEwan, for Pathways to Spiritual Community, [pathways@westwoodunitarian.ca](mailto:pathways@westwoodunitarian.ca)

## Book Discussion Group

**3 Wednesdays: Feb 18, Feb 25, Mar 4  
7:30 – 9:30 pm**

The Adult Programming Committee is sponsoring a three-session discussion group based on the book *Freethinking Mystics with Hands: Exploring the Heart of Unitarian Universalism* by UU minister Tom Owen-Toole. The book is short (107 pp.) and is made up of wonderful little essays exploring the thoughtful (freethinking), spiritual (mystics) and social justice (hands) aspects of UU-ism. The sessions will be highly interactive providing participants with the opportunity to explore the personal meaning they find in the book. The book is equally relevant to new members and long-time members.

Dean Wood will be the facilitator. For further information and/or to register, please e-mail Dean at [dean.wood@shaw.ca](mailto:dean.wood@shaw.ca). The books will be available in advance for \$15.00. There is a limit of 12 registrants.

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**March 8 is Stewardship Sunday!** Join us for a feast after the service to celebrate our Westwood community. (There will be no canvassing on this day.)



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## Child Haven International 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner & Silent Auction



**6:00 – 10:00 pm  
Saturday, March 14, 2009  
Maharajah Banquet Hall,  
9257 - 34A Avenue**

- Delicious East Indian buffet
- Auction and sales items, local & exotic
- Child Haven slide show by Bonnie & Fred Cappuccino

Admission just \$30, children under 12 free (*Reserve now as no tickets are sold at the door*). Contact Leigh Bornn

See [www.childhaven.ca](http://www.childhaven.ca) for details of the remarkable Child Haven story.

## UUGuys

**Sunday, February 1, 7 – 9 pm at the church**

Westwood's men's group UUGuys will meet Sunday, Feb 1, from 7-9 pm. After our check-in, each of us will talk about "my greatest challenges". Newcomers are always welcome.

### Postponed

#### Luncheon and Jam Session

*for all Westwood musicians and choir members*

Sponsored by the Worship Committee

Watch for this to be rescheduled in April or May

## Spinning the Web Dinners

**Saturday, February 21, 6:30 – 9:30 pm**

Spinning the Web dinners are about forming connections, about meeting new people, about communicating in more depth than is possible at coffee. They are great for newcomers and seasoned members as well. Spinning the Web dinners are potluck dinners held in the homes of members or friends of Westwood. After dinner we pursue a planned topic, offering personal experiences or reactions to the topic. Or perhaps we talk about something else. It is up to the group and the host or facilitator. In short, Spinning the Web dinners are the combination of a social evening with meaningful discussion.

A sign up sheet will be found on the bulletin board at the back of the church. This sheet will be taken down on February 15, and groups will be formed. The host of each group will contact its members with details.

The topic will be food. The major discussion point will be local food, but other topics may be considered; organic, whole foods, planet-friendly diet, food for the soul, food as a community gathering point.

Bring dishes for the pot luck made with local products. What does that mean? Just work towards whatever the next step would be for you. Go as local as you can, or all Alberta grown, or all within 160K.

## Stewardship: *Cultivating a Sustainable Congregation*



Stewardship is about taking care of something we value and enabling it to grow.

Stewards are caretakers with a forward vision. They hold something in trust. They ensure that it will be there in the future for the benefit of others. Successful stewards not only protect, but help something to improve and grow. Their actions are empowering.

As we learn to express our UU values through actions, we become stewards.

-- *Stewardship: The Joy of Giving*

### *Stewardship Stories*

#### **Finding Hidden Gems**

100% Unitarian Universalist? I expected Neo-Pagan to be the top score for me on that BeliefNet quiz, but just who were these Unitarians? I thought they were like the Shriners...

It was a couple of years later that I started to investigate UU more.

I first arrived on Westwood's doorstep like a Dickens character, bruised and battered from years of an illness that had left me housebound, often with long periods of being bedridden or unable to walk; by the system designed to 'help' in such need; and with little support. I'll never forget that summer serendipity service, with the service leaders asking anyone who was interested to pick up a noise-maker and play – to create our own music. The woman beside me, another newcomer, was aghast (I never did see her again). I was all too happy to participate – 'church' should be fun! I couldn't believe this gem of a place that I had found.

I had lost a lot of skills during those years of being sick, and Westwood afforded me the opportunity to explore; to exercise those rusty skills that lay dormant for so long, and to acquire new ones, with confidence.

Most importantly, I found a spiritual home with many wonderful friends, mentors, role models; and in an atmosphere of welcoming, kindness, support, fun, curiosity, equality, passion, compassion, and personal and social responsibility.

Having seen others in situations similar to mine, I cannot even begin to fathom where I'd be if I hadn't found this community. I barely recognize that person from 3 ½ years ago; I have grown immensely on so many levels.

The support we give each other, and receive, is invaluable. In a society where support is increasingly replaced by separation and competition, our congregation is a rare gift. Finding Westwood was a pivotal moment in my life. It has enabled so much for me, and in turn I want to give back as much as I am able to, and to the best of my abilities. I want this very special and dynamic community to continue, and I want to play a part, to continue 'creating music' with Westwood. I aspire to have the positive effect on others that so many have had upon me.

I write this piece with deep gratitude. My story is one of many that make up the fabric of Westwood. That's the beauty of UU to me – we all matter, we are all important. We all have our talents, our ideas, our experiences – ourselves – to share with each other, and the world.

Anastasia Sydor

## Be a Canvasser: Cultivate Valuable & Lasting Connections!

The Stewardship Team is looking for canvassers to help with this year's campaign. Already 13 volunteers have agreed to help, but of course the more people involved, the lighter the load will be on all.

Canvassing is an excellent opportunity to reflect on what is valuable about the Westwood community and to create a sense of belonging and investment among the congregation. Previous years' canvassers have remarked how their experiences with canvassing have created valuable and lasting connections with fellow Westwoodians that might not have happened otherwise. Send an e-mail to Gord Grant at [stewardship@westwoodunitarian.ca](mailto:stewardship@westwoodunitarian.ca) for more information or to join the team.

### Orientation Session

There will be an orientation meeting for Stewardship Canvassers on **Sunday March 1** downstairs at the church after the service, until about 3:00 pm. Lunch will be provided.

## March is Stewardship Month

Westwoodians will be canvassed for contributions of time, talent, and treasure between March 9 -29, in order to cultivate, sow, and harvest next year's vision.

## Editor's Choice

### Violinist in the Metro

A man sat at a metro station in Washington DC and started to play the violin. It was a cold January morning. He played six Bach pieces for about 45 minutes. During that time, since it was rush hour, it was calculated that almost a thousand people went through the station, most of them on their way to work.

Three minutes went by and a middle aged man noticed there was musician playing. He slowed his pace and stopped for a few seconds and then hurried up to meet his schedule.

A minute later, the violinist received his first dollar tip: a woman threw the money in the till and without stopping continued to walk.

A few minutes later, someone leaned against the wall to listen to him, but the man looked at his watch and started to walk again. Clearly he was late for work.

The one who paid the most attention was a 3 year old boy. His mother tagged him along, hurried but the kid stopped to look at the violinist. Finally the mother pushed hard and the child continued to walk turning his head all the time. This action was repeated by several other children. All the parents, without exception, forced them to move on.

In the 45 minutes the musician played, only 6 people stopped and stayed for a while. About 20 gave him money but continued to walk their normal pace. He collected \$32. When he finished playing and silence took over, no one noticed it. No one applauded, nor was there any recognition.

No one knew this but the violinist was Joshua Bell, one of the best musicians in the world. He played one of the most intricate pieces ever written with a violin worth 3.5 million dollars.

Two days before his playing in the subway, Joshua Bell sold out at a theater in Boston and the seats averaged \$100.

Joshua Bell playing incognito in the metro station was organized by the Washington Post as part of a social experiment about context, perception, taste, and priorities. The experiment raises the questions: In a commonplace setting at an inconvenient time, Do we perceive beauty? Do we stop to appreciate it? Do we recognize talent in an unexpected context?

One of the possible conclusions from this experience could be:

If we do not have a moment to stop and listen to one of the best musicians in the world playing the best music ever written, how many other things are we missing?

*The text above was written by an unidentified author and circulated via blogs and e-mail. It's a true story. For the complete story and video footage of the performance see:*

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/04/04/AR2007040401721.html>

## Westwood News



### Westwood Endowment Trust Fund: Call for Project Proposals

**Application deadline: March 1, 2009**

Our Endowment Fund has been created and 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 very grateful for the opportunity to invest those 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.

In the recent past, our membership has voted to support the efforts of the Unitarian Campus Ministry, and ICCU African Leadership School. The Fund trustees will be bringing new proposals to the next special congregational meeting for your potential approval.

Meanwhile, our Fund will have approximately \$500 coming available this spring, once again for outreach and congregational growth, to support activities of the congregation not normally funded by the regular operating budget. Applications are due **March 1, 2009**.

For more information and/or an application form, contact one of the trustees: Linda Axley, Bruce McWhirter, and Margaret Harris; or our church administrator, Susan Kraft.

### Green Hymnals Available

If you would like to purchase a copy of the small green hymnals "Singing the Journey", please contact Edda Loomes ([e.loomes@shaw.ca](mailto:e.loomes@shaw.ca)). The cost will be ~ \$20.



**Westwood's locks will be re-keyed January 31.** See Susan Kraft to sign-out a key (\$20 deposit).

## For Jack

As the newsletter deadline hits, a crew of 15 people are getting ready to meet for two weeks of work in Horconcos, Honduras. The project is to build a stand alone computer lab for a high school, in honour of Jack Allen.



The Jack Allen Memorial Fund was established through World Accord (a non-governmental organization - NGO) after Jack's death in 2007. The fund has grown amazingly and will cover the costs of the new computer lab.

The crew on this build includes several Westwood connections: Jack's partner, Elaine Roberts; her daughter Lindsay, Heather Smith, Yvette Claveau (all former Westwoodians who have moved from Edmonton), as well as Jack's grandson, Charles, who read Jack's credo at Westwood in 2005.

To share the stories of this build, as well as memories of Jack, a couple of blogs have been set up. Check them out at:  
<http://knowwherestand.blogspot.com/>  
<http://jack-stories.blogspot.com/>

## From the Worship Committee

### Solstice Feedback Please!

The worship committee and winter solstice planning committee met on January 15 to discuss 2008's winter solstice service. We would love to hear from the rest of the congregation about your views on our new location, having one service as opposed to three, and any other comments. You can give your feedback to the worship committee by emailing [worship@westwoodunitarian.ca](mailto:worship@westwoodunitarian.ca). There will also be an opportunity for you to give your feedback at the worship planning workshop in April 2009.



## PATHWAYS TO SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY

### Our Best Intentions for New and Not-So-New Members

***Let us journey forth together, creating our history together, as a community of those who cherish an open space for the growth of the free spirit and the free mind.***

In January, 10 congregational friends spoke these words in spiritual community, becoming Westwoodians, members of the congregation. In conversations with them all, I know that none made that decision lightly.

For some, membership is embracing responsibility and dedication to a church for the first time in their lives.

For others, it is a stepping stone, moving on from a former beloved congregation or faith to this one.

For some the choice of membership entails sacrifices, both personal and financial.

***In doing so, we apply our gifts in the transformation of ourselves, our congregation, and our world.***

Those of us who have been members for a time rejoice in intentional, bright and shiny folk to join the endeavours of providing a spiritual community of a unique and precious kind in this city.

At our member recognition ceremony we called for mutual commitments to Westwood Unitarian Congregation. The affirmations we spoke to each other are fine intentions.

***In the bonds of fellowship and love, we unite to promote spiritual growth and ethical commitment, to minister to each other's needs and to those of humanity, to celebrate the sacred moments of life's passage, and to honor the divinity within each of us.***

Intentions sometimes challenging to do when faced with all the tasks in our congregation. We tend to measure worth at times by what a person contributes rather than who we are and why we are here.

As we welcome new members, I wonder how many will be with us in five years time? UU experience suggests some will remain at the core of the congregation, and others will have moved away, moved on, or burned out.

I hope our primary conversations and engagements with new Westwoodians are rooted in individual journeys of each one's spirit, and our relationship with the broader community as Unitarian Universalists. In that way, we can respect the sometimes precarious balance between giving to and receiving from Westwood.

Best regards from Sara McEwan  
for Pathways to Spiritual Community

### Ways We Can All Strengthen Westwoodian Membership

#### Some tips from Art Brewer, a seasoned Unitarian leader:

1. Offer to carpool Sundays or other events with someone who lives in your neighbourhood.
2. Thank people for things they do in the congregation.
3. Call that member you haven't seen in a while and ask how they are doing, rather than to do something.
4. When you embark on a project, think of ways to involve newer members.

5. Send a note to someone who has shared a significant joy or loss in their life at candles of concern.
6. Help celebrate the completion of a task or project.
7. Organize, or help organize the celebration of a membership anniversary.
8. Remind someone who might be burning out that they're entitled to a *sabbatical*.
9. Encourage *greening of committees*, making it clear that volunteers have freedom to leave.
10. Encourage leaders to establish specific terms of office for volunteer positions.
11. Organize, or help to organize *fun* events at church ~ concerts, dances and picnics.
12. Make it a point to include members in your social life during the week.
13. Organize/help organize a survey of member satisfaction.
14. Practice random acts of kindness. For example a note to a randomly selected member telling them you're glad they are part of the church.
15. Send a copy of a sermon or newsletter to someone who is away for a while, raising kids, studying, moved...
16. If a person looks particularly *splash*, offer to take their picture and send it to them.
17. Help to develop a *member highlights & challenges file* - birthdays, anniversaries, etc.
18. Keep a personal list of members you have met and notes about them, kid's names and ages, travel destinations.
19. Host a Spinning the Web dinner. Encourage others to do the same.
20. Organize or help organize more Chalice Circles. Encourage others to join one.

## Social Justice at Westwood

### Are you a Closet Social Activist?

Did you know Unitarians are renowned as social activists? Do you harbour a secret desire to be playing a greater role in righting social injustices, but you just don't have the time? Or are you perhaps less aware than you'd like to be as to why there are so many homeless people in Canada, or why Canada has become an environmental pariah, or how we could obtain a sustainable socially just economy in our country?

If so, join Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice. CUSJ is the social justice arm of our denomination. It is affiliated with, but distinct from the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC), which allows CUSJ to lobby governments without jeopardizing the CUC's charitable status.

All CUSJ members receive JUSTnews, the organization's newsletter. From it you can learn what other Unitarians are doing for social justice from New Brunswick to B.C. Some articles may make your blood boil at the lack of compassion of some of our politicians and bureaucrats, but others will make you chuckle, and you will read occasional good news too. For social activist-news junkies there's the CUSJ e-list, where you can pick up much of the news you'll never read in the mainstream press.

Membership fees are what you can afford, but as a guide, CUSJ's costs are about \$50 per membership household. For some members this is too much, but others willingly pay more and make up the difference. To join, pick up a copy of JUSTnews (every congregation receives several copies), and complete the membership form on the back page, go to the website (<http://cusj.bravehost.com>), or simply send a cheque (made out to CUSJ) with a request for membership and your name and mailing address to Bob Stavely, c/o CUS Membership, P.O. Box 40011, Ottawa, ON, K1V 0W8.

## Shop Local Resources

At the service on Jan 11, local restaurateur Jessie Radies presented a list of resources about how you can improve your community by shopping locally. Here they are again:

### Books

- *The Small Mart Revolution: How Local Businesses are Beating the Global Competition* (Michael Shuman)
- *Going Local: Creating Self-Reliant Communities in a Global Age* (Michael Shuman)
- The Small Mart Revolution Checklist (a fact sheet available on-line at [www.smallmart.org](http://www.smallmart.org))
- *Big-Box Swindle: The True Cost of Mega-Retailers and the Fight for America's Independent Businesses* (Stacy Mitchell)
- *Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and Durable Future* (Bill McKibben)
- *Going Public: An Organizer's Guide to Citizen Action* (Michael Gecan)

### Web Resources

- The Story of Stuff ([www.storyofstuff.com](http://www.storyofstuff.com))
- Institute for Local Self Reliance ([www.ilsr.org](http://www.ilsr.org))
- The Hometown Advantage: Reviving Locally Owned Business ([www.newrules.org](http://www.newrules.org))
- American Independent Business Alliance ([www.amiba.net](http://www.amiba.net))
- BALLE - Business Alliance for Local Living Economies ([www.livingeconomies.org](http://www.livingeconomies.org))

### Some Current Programs

- Keep Edmonton Original ([www.keepedmontonoriginal.com](http://www.keepedmontonoriginal.com))
- Eat Local First
- Original Fare - independent restaurants ([www.originalfare.com](http://www.originalfare.com))
- Greater Edmonton Alliance ([www.greateredmontonalliance.com](http://www.greateredmontonalliance.com))

- Edmontonians Supporting a Green Economy ([www.e-sage.ca](http://www.e-sage.ca))
- Edmonton Conference on Food Security **January 29-31** (more info and registration at [www.foodalberta.org](http://www.foodalberta.org))

On **February 26**, Michael Shuman, author of *The Small-Mart Revolution* will be giving a public talk on the importance of buying local, and the impact our habits have on local economics.

**When?** 7:00 – 9:30 pm

**Where?** Village Lifestyles 10429 -79 Ave

Hosted by E-SAGE (Edmontonians Supporting a Green Economy)

## Campus Ministry Report



By Rev. Audrey Brooks

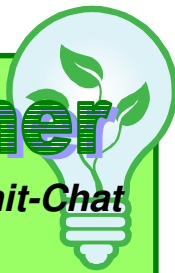
The discussion group that met at Beth Shalom synagogue for five weeks, concluded a series of interfaith dialogues based on the books on atheism by Christopher Hitchens and Richard Dawkins. David Kunin who calls his congregation, "egalitarian", hosted chaplains from the Evangelical Lutheran, Christian Reformed, Anglican and Unitarian churches, with representation from the Department of Religious Studies at the U of A. Our input was lively, informed, and participatory, in that members of Beth Shalom asked questions of us all.

In December, I represented the Chaplain's Association by hosting Nine Lessons and Carols, at the Winspear Centre, with the U of A Mixed Chorus, and the Dept. of Education Handbell Players.

I served at the Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples, for Xmas dinner, on behalf of the Chaplains, and will be preparing and serving food for the Mustard Seed Church in early February. Other tasks included meetings with Student Services, individual contacts with students and staff at the U of A, and planning for Unitarian campus ministry events. On Friday Jan 16, I presented a Unitarian church service for retired members of SAGE.

# Green Corner

## *Not Just Idle Chit-Chat*



By Christine Watts

At the time I am writing this article, our city hall is deciding whether to pass an anti-idling law. The only cars you can't idle are hybrids. I think this is one of the best aspects of hybrid cars. When they are stopped, they truly are stopped.

Among the "low bred" cars, manual gears (standards) are next best for not idling. Why? You can turn the car off before it stops moving. I used to turn off my engine a block from home and coast the rest of the way. This took some skill as I had to not go so slowly that the car would come to a stop before I got home and not too fast that I couldn't turn the sharp corners on the way.

Automatics are geared up to go, not to idle. You have to keep your foot on the brake to keep them from moving forward. Standards are much more laid back. Maybe this is one reason they are more efficient.

When I am idling away gas I think about the air pollution and all the people in the future who would have loved to use the gas for more essential purposes. So if I know I have at least a minute wait, I will turn off my engine at stop lights and traffic jams. This isn't much, but to me it's a gesture of appreciation.

**Bonus tip:** If you want to play environmental cop, Earth General Store will supply you with idling tickets to slip onto people's windshields.

The next Social Justice meeting will be on **Thursday February 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 pm** at Christine Watts' place. Anyone interested in social justice is welcome.

## Board News

### Splinters from the Board

By Keith Wiley, Board Secretary

The Westwood Board members met on Monday, January 12th and once again made it through a packed agenda.

### Pre-Authorized Automatic Donations

The Board made the final decision and signed the papers to initiate a pre-authorized electronic withdrawal plan for accepting donations through the Servus Credit Union. Thanks to Kevin Fitzgerald for making the arrangements with Servus for this convenient service which will cost us just \$50 a month. Kevin is pleased to get this set up in time for this spring's canvass, which is coming up soon. Contributors will have access to the forms to sign on for a regular monthly "chequeless, painless" donation.

### Annual General Meeting June 7

Without settling all the details, the Board voted to hold our Annual General Meeting on Sunday June 7, 2009, which is, propitiously, a full moon.

### Our Trusty Snowclearer Off the Job

Oscar has loyally cleared the snow from Westwood's walks for some time, but recently has been unable to do so. It's a problem that we don't have an active building and grounds committee so it falls to the Board to decide what to do. In the interim the Board agreed to ask Casey Barker to shovel the walks for a small fee.

### Furnace Issues

Our furnace actually went out recently but luckily our administrator Susan was on hand to call and get the furnace quickly fixed. We also decided to purchase and install two carbon monoxide detectors, one for each floor, just in case of any further malfunction.

We also had a problem in the hard cold days, when the furnace drew in so much cold air it froze our water meter, which promptly burst and began spraying mightily. Luckily this happened when Mitch Walden and Bruce McWhirter were on hand to shut down the water and limit the damage. They also replaced the kitchen taps. Thanks to Bruce for hanging around for some time until Epcor could replace the meter.

Mitch is checking on what's up with the negative pressure in the furnace room and whether the building has inadequate cold air return ducting.

### **New Members**

The Board was pleased to confirm a number of new members to the congregation. Heather MacDonald, Mark Nicoll, Anne Barker, Casey Barker, Lori Crozier, Mel Tyree, Charleen Miles, and Sheila Killoran were all accepted as members. New member recognition is coming up in the service on January 18.

Three former members who are no longer attending, and have not responded to enquiries from us are being removed from the member roles: Jane Vallentyne, Fred Demers, and Steve Lilgedahl. If this is in error and any of them wishes to maintain their membership they can contact Sara McEwan or any member of the Board.

### **Leadership Summit**

Lots is coming up fast in the congregation including the chance to gather to discuss our overall functioning at the grandly named "Leadership Summit" on **Saturday January 31**.

### **Board Meetings are Open**

If you would like a decision or discussion at a Westwood Board meeting, please allow two weeks notice so you will be added to our agenda. Our meetings are almost always the second Monday of the month. Our next Board meeting is **Monday February 9 at 7:00 pm**.

## **Treasurer's Notes**



Westwood's budget planning for next year is well underway. If you need assistance with your committee's budget, please contact me. I would like to get all budget requests by **Monday, February 2** so I can work with the Board of Trustees on February 9 to prepare a final budget. The Stewardship Team will then use this information for our Stewardship Sunday Service on Sunday, March 8 and during the Stewardship Drive March 8-29. This is when we ask all members and friends to support the goals and dreams of our Westwood Community to become a more thriving, inclusive, and diverse religious community.

The Financial Review Team, consisting of Alfred Falk, Christine Watts, and Dean Wood, completed its inspection of Westwood's financial affairs for the period July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. This is one of the many essential but less visible tasks done quietly by Westwood volunteers. If you see any of them, please say thank you in order to keep this from being a thankless task. I especially thank Dean and Christine who have served on this committee for three years.

In the middle of December, I incorporated the summary financial statements inspected by the Financial Review Team into Westwood's "Charity Information Return" and mailed them to the Canada Revenue Agency. This return presents a general description of our programs and financial activities. It also lists our directors and the qualified charities to whom we gave money. If you are interested in seeing a copy, please contact me or Susan Kraft. In the process, I developed detailed instructions to make it much easier for the next Treasurer.

Also related to the Canada Revenue Agency is the preparation of tax receipts for individual donors to Westwood during 2008. As you may know, you get a tax credit (estimated to be 50 cents on the dollar on amounts greater than \$200) for all donations to registered charities like Westwood that can be attributed to you. Please be sure Westwood has your correct address so you can receive your tax receipt.

David Deephouse, Treasurer

## 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's Sunday Services. We could all make beautiful music together. Contact [musicschedule@westwoodunitarian.ca](mailto:musicschedule@westwoodunitarian.ca) for more info or to volunteer.

## 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](mailto:info@westwoodunitarian.ca). (Remember, you haven't got it booked until you have confirmation from Susan.)

## 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.cuc.ca).

## Newsletter Policies

### Deadline: 15<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.

## Who to Contact

### Office

11135-65 Avenue T6H 1W3

Phone..... 780-434-5819  
Fax..... 780-436-5816  
Website ..... [www.westwoodunitarian.ca](http://www.westwoodunitarian.ca)  
E-mail..... [info@westwoodunitarian.ca](mailto:info@westwoodunitarian.ca)

**Administrator**..... Susan Kraft  
Office hours..... Tue 1-3 pm, Fri 10 am – 2 pm

- for any bookings at Westwood
- written Sunday announcements due Friday mornings at 9:00 am

**Minister**..... Anne Barker  
Phone..... 780-434-5819 ext#1  
E-mail..... [anne@westwoodunitarian.ca](mailto:anne@westwoodunitarian.ca)  
Office hours..... Wed 9 am – 12, or by arrangement

### Board of Trustees 2008-2009

President..... Pamela Brierley  
Vice-President..... Mitch Waldon  
Treasurer..... David Deephouse  
Secretary..... Keith Wiley  
Trustees..... Kevin Fitzgerald  
Janice Williamson  
Terry Anderson  
Past-President..... Dean Chan

### Other Roles

Building & Grounds... Lindsay McWhirter  
Care & Connections.. Virginia Gillese  
Chalice Circles..... Carl Ulrich  
Anastasia Sydor  
Children's Program... Kath Oltsher  
Choir..... Rebecca Patterson  
Lay Chaplains..... Deidra Helmig  
Ros McCue  
Library..... Margaret Harris  
Membership..... Sara McEwan  
Newsletter..... Suzanne Grant  
Gord Grant  
[westwoodunewsletter@yahoo.ca](mailto:westwoodunewsletter@yahoo.ca)  
Social Justice..... Edda Loomes  
Bill Woolverton  
Sunday Hospitality... Manfred Kalk  
Webmaster..... [webmaster@westwoodunitarian.ca](mailto:webmaster@westwoodunitarian.ca)  
Worship Services..... Deidra Helmig

**Unitarian Chaplain  
at U of A**..... Rev. Audrey Brooks

## Mark Your Calendar

### February 1

New2UU session, after service  
UU Guys, 7:00 pm

### February 2

Budget request forms due

### February 5

Social Justice Meeting, 7:15 pm

### February 9

Board Meeting, 7:00 pm

### February 18

1<sup>st</sup> book discussion group, 7:30 pm

### February 21

Spinning the Web dinners, 6:30 pm

### February 22

Simplicity Circle, 7:30 pm

### March 1

Endowment Fund applications due  
Canvasser orientation, after service

### March 8

Stewardship Sunday feast, after service

### March 14

Child Haven dinner

