



# The Westwoodian

Connecting you to Westwood Unitarian Congregation

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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.

## September 7 – Ingathering

Ingathering is a traditional service at Westwood. It is our first regular service and it is an opportunity for us all to re-gather after the summer months and share the tales of our travels. You may add water from your travels to our common bowl or place a small memento of your trip on our chalice table. We will also install the new board this morning. Caution: Come prepared for a longer service than normal.

**Service Leaders:** Westwood Board of Trustees

## September 14 – Beginning Again

Every September is a new beginning ... even though we have done this so many times before. We begin the church year, school classes, new projects at work or at home ... and now we begin together. Come celebrate the tenacity and resilience of the human spirit, as we explore 'the ability to begin again'.

**Speaker:** Anne Barker

**Service Leader:** Hannah Barrington

Welcome!

*A warm welcome to our new minister, Anne Barker, and her family. We are thrilled to have you with us and look forward to growing together!*

## September 21 – Our Doors and Our Hearts Will Remain Open

Join us for a ceremony of healing and hope in response to the Knoxville Tragedy of July 27, 2008 (see p. 10 for more information). We will hear from a number of Westwoodians about how this tragedy has impacted them, and how they plan to keep their hearts open during this difficult time. We will have a special offertory with the collection being donated to the UUA Knoxville Relief Fund.

**Service Leaders & Speakers:** members and friends of Westwood.

## September 28 – Covenant of Right Relations

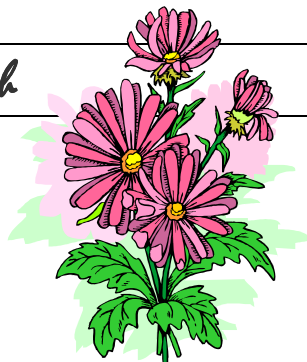
Conflict - it is inevitable. But how we manage conflict is what is important. A Covenant of Right Relations is a living document that gives us a frame of reference for managing that conflict. Join Bonnie Stonehouse and Pam Brierley as we officially begin work on the development of Westwood's Covenant of Right Relations.

**Service Leaders:** Bonnie Stonehouse and Pam Brierley

## Poem of the Month

wild asters appear  
tiny purple starwheels  
turn us toward Fall

--Allison Akgungor



## Barker Bits



### The Road Home

It is a funny thing – moving ‘home’ to a place one has never lived.

As we negotiate Edmonton – fresh from the adventure of American interstates and remembering the simple grid roads of Saskatchewan – we are quickly learning the ins and outs. We can almost tell you which bridge goes where ... and we have found our way to the Farmer’s Market, the church and, of course, Ikea. Most surprisingly, we are already finding ourselves ‘at home’.

‘Coming home’ is something we had been planning for months – returning to our beloved country, our beautiful prairies, our friends and families, and our Canadian Unitarian Universalist community. We are filled with gratitude for the ease with which we have settled – to a lovely house, a beautiful neighbourhood, meaningful work and reunited family (*glad to have you back, Casey!*)

We bring with us a great appreciation for the lessons of the past year – how to enter a completely new community, what it means to be a church family, what we need to feel ‘settled’ and ‘landed’ – and we are finding it delightfully easy to land in this place.

A large part of that soft landing is the gracious welcome we have received. Emails and phone calls extending greetings, offers of assistance, and advice on everything from neighbourhoods to schools to local arts and entertainment – each of these have helped us to feel connected and cared for. It was a pleasure to arrive in Edmonton and to be received with such obvious joy. We look forward to meeting more of you, to putting down deep roots, and to building a future together. Most of all, we are so very, very happy to be *home*.

In love and gratitude,  
Anne Barker, Lori & Casey

## Upcoming Events

### UUGuys

**Sunday, September 7, 7-9 pm at the church**

We will begin with a check-in. We will then discuss the topic for the month: "How chance meetings have affected our lives." Newcomers are always welcome.

### Adult Programming Meeting

**Wednesday, September 10, 2008, 7:30 pm**

The Adult Programming committee will meet again on Wednesday, September 10 at 7:30 pm. Anyone interested in attending is welcome. For more info talk to Linda Jennings, Dean Wood or Allison Akgungor.

### Re-Dedication of New Rooms

**September 21 during the service**

The two new rooms in the basement will be rededicated on Sunday, September 21st. As with many Westwood celebrations, there will be cake!

### Social Justice Meeting

**September 25, 7:30 pm**

The meeting will be at the home of Christine Watts. Please talk to a member of the social justice committee for more information.

## Westwood News

### Westwood on the Web

Westwood recently got a digital recorder and will have some audio offerings of sermons. Please check the web site for updates on this new feature.

The web site will be getting an overhaul in upcoming months. If you have ideas or requests for the new development, please send an e-mail to:

[webmaster@westwoodunitarian.ca](mailto:webmaster@westwoodunitarian.ca)

## Invitation to Join a Chalice Circle

This fall Westwood again hopes to have two or more Chalice Circle groups, depending on the number of people who sign up.

Chalice Circles give us an opportunity to meet on an ongoing basis with a group of 6 to 8 people for a 2-hour discussion twice a month. As a small group it enables us to develop a more intimate personal relationship with one another.

The discussions are oriented toward sharing. It is not therapy, nor is it an "intellectual" discussion, per se - there is no debate, no working towards a conclusion or consensus on any topic. The emphasis is on listening and sharing.

At each meeting the group chooses the topic for the next meeting. Topics are related to issues that come up throughout our lives and that are important to us as Unitarian Universalists.

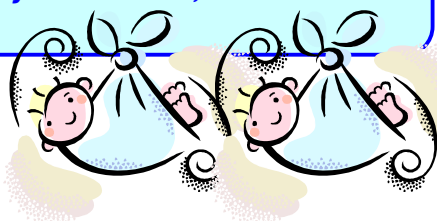
This fall there will be a Monday Afternoon group that will begin meeting on **September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:15 PM**. There will be at least one evening group that will meet on an evening yet to be decided, beginning the week of **September 29**. The make up of the groups will be decided according to who signs up and their choice of times. Each group will have six to eight sessions between now and Christmas.

A registration form can be found on the literature table at the back of the church and also at the end of this newsletter. There is also a detailed brochure about Chalice Circles at Westwood in the literature rack.

For more information please contact Carl Ulrich (culrich@incentre.net) or Anastasia Sydor (u4ic\_1@shaw.ca).

## Congratulations!

*Congratulations to Daniel and Patty Mallett, and proud big sister Nora, on the arrival of their twins, Emily and Rowan, who were born August 4!*



## Social Justice at Westwood

### An Initiative to Show Our Support for Local Farmers

Westwood has been asked by the Greater Edmonton Alliance (GEA) to participate in their upcoming event. Its purpose is to:



1. Demonstrate our collective capacity and commitment to local farmers.
2. Demonstrate to local retailers our desire for them to carry local foods.
3. Show our support for farmers whose land is threatened by industrial development.
4. Give an opportunity for farmers to speak about local farming issues.

The Westwood Social Justice Committee is committed to focusing on environmental issues this year. Though we have yet to decide exactly what we will do, one area of focus will be local foods since many Westwoodians expressed an interest in this issue in our brainstorming session. A number of Westwoodians have already signed on.

This event involves 250+ participants paying for a food basket (\$26.25) by September 8th and committing to pick up the food basket from local farmers at a location where you and other consumers' physical presence will be felt and noticed. The media will be there and there will be speakers.

The food baskets will contain the following:

- 2 pounds ground beef
- 1 dozen eggs
- 5 pounds potatoes
- 5 pounds carrots

This food basket may not be ideal for many Westwoodians who are vegetarians or find the quantities too large. So, if you would like to bring any surplus to the church on Sunday, someone will take a run to the food bank. Or trade or share with a friend! It is not known yet if this food is organic, but GEA is supportive of organic farmers and has sponsored local

organic farmers to speak about the many benefits of their practices.

This event promises to be uplifting and inspiring. Looking forward to seeing many Westwoodians there! Maybe we can bring our banner. Oh yes, and bring a friend.

Here are the details:

**To pay or for more info. contact:** Christine Watts (chris\_sq@interbaun.com)

**Cheques are payable to:** The Greater Edmonton Alliance

**Basket payment deadline:** on or before September 8th

**Pick-up day:** Saturday, September 20, 2008, 11:00 a.m.

**Location:** TBA (car pooling can be arranged)

## Knitters Wanted

Our fundraising for the water project in Peru is done. However, there is knitting to be done. The children in the village of Huayallcocha in Peru get cold in the rainy season and in the winter. You think it's warm in Peru and you're right, but Huayallcocha is in the mountains and the air is colder there. Hilaria, the woman from the village who visited Edmonton in April, was delighted by the idea of the sleeveless vests and toques we proposed to knit and send to them. Edda had knitted a brightly coloured sample from leftover wool - stripes of different widths and colours. The pattern is on our web site. All sizes are welcome, so don't worry that your tension is different from the next knitters. The children are all different sizes too.

Please get your fingers busy this summer and bring your vests and toques to Westwood by **October 1**.



## Volunteer Opportunities

- **Audio/Visual Tech**

This new Sunday volunteer role will include setting up the microphones, doing the sound check with the service leader and speaker, and making digital audio recordings of the service.

When the projector is needed during a service, this crew of volunteers will also assist with that. Training will be provided.

Hopefully we can get at least 6 or 8 people, so that each volunteer could be on the schedule once every 6 to 8 weeks. That would be between 5 and 7 Sundays of A/V volunteering during the 42 weeks that Westwood has regular services from September through June.

More info? Love to volunteer for this? Please be in touch with Manfred Kalk or Dawn N. and we'll follow up with you!

- **CRE Committee**

The Children's Religious Education committee meets about once a month and covers assorted issues relating to children's programming at Westwood. Please talk to Brenda Niska-Aro or Gord Grant for more information.

- **Adult Helpers for Weekly Sunday Children's Program**

Training is provided. It's a great way to get to know the children! Please talk to Kath Oltsher, Director of Children's Religious Education, for information.

- **Communications and Publicity**

Help is needed to let members, friends and guests know about services, workshops, courses, events and activities at Westwood. It's a great way to keep yourself and others informed about what's upcoming. Other tasks include the newsletter, the web site, the weekly announcements and sign, and the sanctuary bulletin board. If you'd like more information or to help out with any of these tasks, please contact a member of the Board.

- **Coordination of Building and Grounds Maintenance**

## Grooving at CU\*UL School

By Janice Williamson

Each year the Canadian Universalist\*Unitarian School invites Unitarians interested in leadership to learn and worship together. For four days in July, I participated with Westwoodians Pam Brierley and Anastasia Sydor in the CU\*UL School held at the University of British Columbia.

While the packed schedule was exhausting by late in the evening, we also had heaps of fun. Lively voices filled the rooms around these highly motivated Unitarians from across the country. Spirited conversations made our meals together a recipe for celebration and newfound friendships. This generous group made me feel right at home among strangers as we shared significant and even powerful experiences together.

Over a third of the Thursday to Sunday workshop time was a series of talks by an accomplished group of leaders. Topics ranged from non-violent communication to how to grow and nurture a healthy congregation.

Co-Coordinator Leslie Kemp and Anna Isaacs from Victoria's Capital congregation led a workshop on "Systems and Conflict" that helped us understand how to enable healthy conversations and congregations. Supplementing the workshop, Leslie contributed her mobile lending library that circulated over the weekend. Other presenters included Mary Bennett, CUC Executive Director, who explored personality typing, a useful way to mark out how individual patterns of behaviour and character fit into a social context and various styles of leadership. Suzanne Hansen from the Lakehead Unitarian Fellowship in Thunder Bay and Laura McNaughton, the CUC Director of Regional Services in the West explained the "Whole Congregation Approach to Lifespan Learning" and what it means to build "Safe Congregations." And informally, Samaya Oakley, Registrar, shared some of her long experience working with youth.

Interspersed throughout the gathering were our six working groups, each responsible for producing either a half-hour worship service or an educational presentation on a topic of our choice. This hands-on leadership-in-action part of the program proved to be both challenging AND rewarding. Anna, our group leader, kept us on track while giving us opportunities to discover own strengths and limits. Each of the worship services and presentations made use of a wealth of collective skills in visual art, writing, meditation, philosophy, history, performance, and music, stretching us all to explore the edges of our imaginations and risk flopping in a safe environment. In the end, we all stumbled onto a collective process to get things done and the results were creative exercises that enriched and sometimes surprised us.

After canvassing some of the participants, I realized that we all cherished different parts of the gathering. For me it was a small "Covenant Group" that we participated in during two ninety-minute sessions on the last two days. Here at Westwood, our Chalice Circles tend to have a topic with a series of readings and leading questions. Many of those I spoke with were impressed at how Westwood has developed a rich resource of sample topics and meetings and they were keen to share in our knowledge.

In this CU\*UL School Covenant Group that I experienced, seven strangers gathered together and began with the usual welcoming chalice lighting, followed by a short centering reading that we all read in sequence. After brief introductory comments about the topic – for instance, how we came to Unitarianism – we were invited to respond individually without interruption except for clarifying questions. Neither a dialogue nor a therapy session, this gathering was an opportunity to speak and listen deeply, to bear witness to our stories. Perhaps it was the fact that I appreciated a short retreat from the high energy of the larger group or perhaps it was simply the synergy of those who came to sit

in our circle—we spanned three generations of Unitarians and had much to offer to and learn from each other. Each time we met, the minutes flew by until we ended with a short reading. I found myself moved by the spiritual/emotional/intellectual generosity of all who participated. Our group leader, the compassionate and funny CU\*UL School Co-Coordinator Peter Scales, can certainly take some of the credit for our collective sense of well-being.

At the last morning plenary called “Taking it Home,” we all formed congregational groups to discuss where we might apply some of what we learned. Pam, Anastasia and I made a list of ideas and issues that had intrigued us.

As I reread my handwriting scrawled in purple ink on a giant piece of paper, I mentally catalogue the excitement and energy we collected during our time together.

One of the ideas we discussed was the “groan zone” that was required when making change in order to make certain that everyone has an opportunity to raise differences and reach a genuine consensus.

A member of the Comox Unitarian congregation talked with me about the value, especially for major congregational decisions, of the “radiance of agreement,” a voting process that avoids binary yes/no responses to questions and allows people to record the complexities of responses.

We also talked different models of governance where the Board of Trustees could be a “Vision Board” rather than strictly a “working” Board.

We wondered how other congregations streamlined their committees organizing their educational programs for all ages, spinning the web dinners and small group ministry under the umbrella of “Lifespan Learning.”

We talked with concern about recruiting more volunteers to educational programs including for children and adults. And we became excited about the possibility of staging the series of evening “Evensong Services for Families” that is based on a predetermined curriculum.

We also considered how important it is for Westwood to appeal to our various needs. While we are known as a very family friendly congregation, single people or families without children may have difficulty entering into the community. One suggestion was we start a cultural group to bring together single members for regular outings to the theatre.

We extolled the virtues of our wonderful Chalice Circles that nourish members and also our community when they take on projects that range from worship services to raking leaves. And we noted the way Social Justice activities involve individuals while expanding our sense of community.

We wanted to know more about UU history and remarked on the importance of enriching our knowledge of our theological legacy and promise.

We echoed others in wanting to maintain a sense of the spiritual even when we commit to do service in our own communities.

We also thought about how important it is for us all to get together informally. Why not have a series of documentary films with speakers, popcorn and fun.

We considered how Liz James’ presentation on the growth of congregations would be a wonderful workshop event at Westwood as she is skilled in understanding how healthy congregations work and grow. Her suggestion that we have a greeter (who hands out hymnals etc.) and a meeter who actively

circulates during coffee hour to make new members feel at home reminded us of the innovations that Sara McEwan and others have contributed through Westwood's Membership Committee.

We were keen to collectively read and talk about some of the important ideas on leadership and development that we heard about in talks.

We all thought we needed to do more publicity about Westwood and Unitarianism, personally and collectively.

We talked about having Anne Barker, our new Minister, arriving soon and were happy to meet Saskatoon UUs who gave her rave reviews!

And we were grateful that Westwood can budget to help fund congregational members to attend CUC workshops since our CU\*UL experience was so exceptional.

In retrospect, I realize that I didn't talk much about Social Justice, an aspect of Unitarianism that drew me to my own congregation. But here at Westwood, passionate and dedicated volunteers keep us alert, active and engaged in various projects and activities. And as someone involved in social justice over the years, I welcomed the opportunity to extend interpersonal and collective abilities that will enhance whatever we do.

On Saturday morning, Rev. Stephen Atkinson of the North Shore Unitarian Church in Vancouver was our Minister in Residence and offered three presentations. He gave great advice on how to develop powerful services in a worship workshop and his own services illustrated some of his strategies to great effect. In his talk on theology, he described a focus on service as "applied religion." And he noted that in Unitarianism "Love is a founding motivation, not a search for salvation". He also gave wonderfully informative presentations on international and Canadian UU history that reminded us of stories we needed to know. And over lunch I learned he had formerly worked as a psychiatrist, an interesting preparation for his pastoral work, a different form of healing.

On several occasions, Stephen led us in wonderful worship services, including our final gathering, a contemplative and moving experience. One by one, everyone in the room addressed the person standing to the left in the circle. The room remained silent and attentive except for the muffled whispered personal blessing spoken into the ear of the person standing at one's side. There was a remarkable attentive silence as we passed along our own special message to a relative stranger or someone we had come to know in our small groups or meal-time conversations. After our productive days together, this tender leave-taking ritual gave us all time to consider how we matter to each other in a Unitarian community, one interconnected web of reinvigorated beings ready to contribute to our respective congregations across this country.

My admiration and respect for our community of talented and dedicated Unitarians expanded as my understanding of the meaning, guidance and comfort of Unitarianism grew larger, spiraling beyond my home congregation into ever-widening concentric circles of Western regional, national and international communities. And now that I've started on this path, I hope to follow up on this experience with some of the ongoing workshops available through CUC that prepare me as a participant and leader in my local congregation as well as for my work and home life where I can apply some of my newly earned skills in cooperative group work and leadership.

In writing this short essay, I feel myself drift towards unending superlatives. But superlative it was. By Sunday afternoon, my sense of myself as a Unitarian had deepened and become more intensely nuanced. Our shared affection for fellow participants created a fine network of new friendships and reminded me that in this kind of gathering--a spiritual summer camp for grownups--parting with sweet sorrow attends last good-byes.

## Board News

### Splinters From the Board

by Janice Williamson

#### Spring Board Retreat

At a very productive two-evening Board retreat in the spring facilitated by Rev. Wendy McNiven, we thanked the outgoing trustees: Allison Akgungor, Bonnie Stonehouse, David Jones and Manfred Falk. We also thanked and bid farewell to Wendy McNiven. We welcomed our new President Pamela Brierley and new Board Members Terry Anderson, Kevin Fitzgerald, Mitch Waldon (Vice President) and Janice Williamson, and those remaining on the Board: Dean Chan (Past President), David Deephouse (Treasurer) and Keith Wiley (Secretary). What follows emerged as topics of interest in our June, July and August meetings.

#### How is Westwood Westwood?

Interested in how Westwood Unitarian Congregation works? If you don't know about volunteer possibilities or are mystified by what they might involve, we've a great resource for you. Look no further than the "About Westwood" page of our website: <http://www.westwoodunitarian.ca/aboutWest.htm>. At the bottom of the page click on "[Westwood Organizational Guide](#)" and you will find yourself at a special Google Docs page designed by Allison Akgungor and Cheryl Michael. These linked pages outline everything from committees to policies to who does what when and where. And how!

#### Volunteering at Westwood as Shared Ministry

How might we kick start some of volunteer efforts? Service in Westwood can be seen as part of a shared ministry with all of our community sharing the fruits of our labour and gaining understanding, experience and friendship in the process.

Some in Westwood and at the CUC talk about how "Lifespan Learning" across our community needs to address all the ages and generations. What is your wish list for Lifespan Learning?

One area you might support is the Children's Religious Education program. We can organize your time to balance attending services with your service to the children's community so you won't feel overburdened. In our Board conversation and later in a discussion with Director of Children's Religious Education Kath Oltsher, it became clear our children's program needs more ongoing commitment by volunteers to provide a range of religious education across age groups. We're hoping to develop a program for some of pre-teen/junior youth children this year by making use of the wonderful UU curriculum already developed for us. But we need you to help make this happen.

We also need to breathe new life into the Hospitality Committee that provides us with weekly service on Sunday mornings or we risk wearing out those members who've contributed so much over the years.

Do you have experience or an interest in learning about communications and publicity? Westwood could use and nurture your expertise.

We're thinking of renaming the Buildings and Grounds Committee Chair (with our tongue firmly in cheek) as "Master/Mistress of the Material World." Do you have organizational skills? In the past, we've found Westwoodians who are skilled at building and fixing, but coordinating our activities is an area we require assistance. If you are keen to collaborate on tending to our beloved building, see one of the Board members to volunteer.

Watch for regular ongoing conversations about volunteer activities that will help maintain our healthy congregation. Ask Board Members during Coffee Hour about what makes Westwood tick and meet others to chat about their work. See if you can find a place to hang your hat and make a difference to our community.

#### Accessibility of the Sanctuary

The ongoing (...never-ending) discussion about the inadequacies of our building for persons unable to climb our stairs with ease will be discussed at our September Board meeting. Let one of our Board members know

your thoughts. For years, we've been complaining about this issue and imagining that moving to a larger building designed to be accessible to all will solve our problem.

However in our present building, we urgently need to reconstruct the east wooden steps and one suggestion is to make them into a ramp. This doesn't solve the problem of no washroom in the main floor of the building or no elevator to the basement washrooms, but at least the room would be accessible to all. The cost differential between stairs and ramp would not be a problem. Let us know what you think.

### **Honouring our Legacy and Rededicating our Basement Rooms**

At our last meeting we discussed a proposal that we rename our newly renovated basement spaces. The larger classroom would become "The Legacy Room" in order to honour all those who have donated to our congregation in significant ways. The Westwood Legacy plaque that Sara had made up for our anniversary celebrations will be hung outside this room. The new room that is used for the nursery on Sundays would be called the "Kids' Den." We'll be voting on this proposal at our next meeting, so if you have any concerns or celebrations to share, please contact the board. Both rooms will be rededicated on September 21 after the service.

### **Remembering Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church in Knoxville**

An armed man entered this church during a youth theatrical presentation. Motivated in part by homophobia and a hatred of liberalism, he killed two people and wounded five others before being disarmed by five people attending the performance. At our meeting we voted to donate our September 21 service offering to the Knoxville Relief Fund. For a moving response to this tragedy, read Vancouver Unitarian Church member Sara Robinson's essay "Madmen and Martyrs" at <http://www.ourfuture.org/blog-entry/madmen-and-martyrs-unitarian-take-knoxville>.

### **Westwood, Leadership and Outreach**

Pam Brierley, Anastasia Sydor, and Janice Williamson returned recently from "CU\*UL School," a four-day Canadian Unitarian

leadership workshop in Vancouver. Renewed and excited, they are keen to explore some of what they learned in Westwood. We also met Saskatoon friends of our new Minister Anne Barker. Their affection and admiration made us ever glad to find her here at Westwood.

**Are you interested in attending the UU Fall Regional Conference in Calgary, October 17-19?** More information can be found here: <http://www.cuc.ca/calendar.htm>



## **CUC News**

### **An Important Announcement from the CUC Board**

The Board of Trustees of the Canadian Unitarian Council announces that it has accepted with regret Mary Bennett's resignation as Executive Director, effective September 17, 2008.

We are deeply grateful to Mary for her leadership over these eight years of the organization's rebirth and redevelopment. She has built a lasting legacy, and we wish her all the very best as she moves on to new opportunities.

Linda Thomson, our Associate Executive Director, will assure the continuity of executive leadership as we enter this transition period. Known to many of you in her role as Director of Regional Services – East, for some time Linda has also worked alongside Mary in the Associate role and is well-prepared to move us forward. The CUC is fortunate, and the Board is very pleased, to have Linda's leadership at this time of change.

Jean Pfeiderer, President, for the Board of Trustees ([jeanp@cuc.ca](mailto:jeanp@cuc.ca))

## Message from Mary

August 21, 2008

Dear Unitarians and UUs – friends, volunteers, staff and all,

This letter is to let you know that I am leaving the CUC employ. It has been a unique, challenging and often richly rewarding experience to serve as the CUC's executive director during this chapter of our history.

The CUC board is now considering new strategic directions and I believe it is best that a new executive director provide leadership during this next chapter.

Job One during my time with CUC has been to support creation of and then implement the "new CUC". Those early years were full of big changes, new initiatives and shifts in staff and volunteer roles. With Director of Lifespan Learning, Sylvia Bass West, and Directors of Regional Services, Linda Thomson and Sara McEwan and then Laura McNaughton, we have built the volunteer systems and connections to fulfill the Of Regions and RNGs implementation task force report. Phil Strapp has been my "rock" progressively taking on more and more responsibility and remaining calm, cool and collected at all times.

Along the way, I have met many, many of you and that has been the real pleasure of this role. Thank you to all who volunteered in so many ways your considerable talents to the CUC. I leave cherishing many fond memories from planned and spontaneous moments of connection.

All the best to you all.

Take care,  
Mary Bennett  
mary@cuc.ca

## Recovering from Violence in UU Sanctuary in Knoxville, Tennessee

The summer of 2008 saw violence in a Unitarian Universalist sanctuary.

During the Sunday morning service at Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church (TVUUC) on July 27, a man walked into the church with a shotgun and opened fire. Two people died and seven more were injured. Needless to say, everyone present was traumatized by this attack.

Half of the victims were members from Westside Unitarian Universalist Church (WUUC), visiting to support the children who were performing a musical "Annie, Jr." that day. Both congregations are continuing to recover from the violent incident.

Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, TVUUC's worship service reclaimed, rededicated and re-consecrated their sanctuary - renewing their covenant "to dwell together in peace" and "to seek the truth in love."

In this time of tragedy, Westwood sends our love and hope for healing to the loved ones of Greg McKendry and Linda Kraeger, both UUs, who died in the incident, to the people who were injured, and to the communities of Knoxville and area.

We also extend our thoughts of hope to the gunman; that his troubled soul may one day find peace. We also consider the impact on his family, friends and community, sending our care and compassion in these difficult times.

Westwood's Sunday worship service on September 21st will explore the Knoxville tragedy and the aftermath for Unitarian Universalists. The offertory will be contributed to the Knoxville Relief Fund, established Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) in the United States. The Knoxville Relief Fund is mandated to bring ministry, spiritual care, and practical financial assistance to those affected by the tragedy in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Further information, links to Unitarian Universalist sites, and assorted media coverage is on Westwood's web site.  
<http://www.westwoodunitarian.ca/tvuuc.htm>

## 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](mailto: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](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

### Board of Trustees 2008-2009

President..... Pamela Brierley  
Vice-President..... Mitch Waldon  
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Secretary..... Keith Wiley  
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Lay Chaplains..... Deidra Helmig  
Ros McCue  
Library..... Margaret Harris  
Membership..... Sara McEwan  
Music..... Rebecca Patterson  
Newsletter..... Gord Grant  
Suzanne Grant  
[westwoodunewsletter@yahoo.ca](mailto:westwoodunewsletter@yahoo.ca)  
Pastoral Care..... Ros McCue  
Social Justice..... Edda Loomes  
Bill Woolverton  
Sunday Hospitality  
Coordinator..... Manfred Kalk  
Webmaster..... [webmaster@westwoodunitarian.ca](mailto:webmaster@westwoodunitarian.ca)  
Worship Services..... Deidra Helmig

## Mark Your Calendar

### September 7

UUGuys, 7:00 pm

### September 8

Order your local foods basket

### September 10

Adult programming meeting, 7:30 pm

### September 15

Deadline for October newsletter

### September 21

Rededication of new rooms

### September 25

Social justice meeting, 7:30 pm

### October 1

Vests and toques to be collected for Peru



## Office Hours for Minister Anne Barker

Appointments/visits can be made Wednesdays from 9:00 – 11:00 am at the church, other meeting times can happen by arrangement. Temporary contact info: [annebarker@sasktel.net](mailto:annebarker@sasktel.net)

# Westwood Unitarian Congregation

## Chalice Circle Registration

Fall Sessions beginning in September 2008

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to join a Chalice Circle Group

The best times for me would be:

(Check as many as would work for you)

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Monday	_____	_____	_____
Tuesday	_____	_____	_____
Wednesday	_____	_____	_____
Thursday	_____	_____	_____
Friday	_____	_____	_____

Other times: \_\_\_\_\_

Some groups choose to meet at different homes.

It is not expected that everyone must host a Circle in their home.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am willing to host a Circle at my home occasionally.

\_\_\_\_\_ I prefer to meet at the church

\_\_\_\_\_ I require transportation to attend a Chalice Circle

For more information contact:

Carl Ulrich at [culrich@incentre.net](mailto:culrich@incentre.net)

or

Anastasia Sydor at [u4ic\\_1@shaw.ca](mailto:u4ic_1@shaw.ca).

**Please put the completed registration form  
in the envelope on the back bulletin board.**