



The Westwoodian

Connecting you to Westwood Unitarian Congregation

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 5 – A Journey of Service

Join Deidra Helmig, past Westwood lay chaplain, while she explores a journey: not the journey to becoming Westwood's lay chaplain, but the journey Deidra took during her time serving Westwood. The experiences she had during this journey certainly weren't the ones she had expected. A short ceremony celebrating our newly retired lay chaplains will also be a part of this service.

Speaker: Deidra Helmig

Service Leader: Anne Barker

Musician: Sheila Killoran

April 12 – Easter for Atheists

In a culture where Christian imagery is treated as the norm, but is not the theology of many citizens – what message does Easter offer to non-believers?

Speaker: Anne Barker

Musicians: Cheryl Michaels, Terry McDade



April 19 – Pews, Food, Housing and Citizenship

Pews, Food, Housing and Citizenship....how does this all connect to social justice work? Debbie Hubbard, Co-Chair for the Local Foods team for the Greater Edmonton Alliance and member of Trinity United Church, will be our guest speaker. Debbie will share her own experience and her congregation's experience in working on social justice issues through their membership in the Greater Edmonton Alliance.

The service will be followed by an information session on the Greater Edmonton Alliance. We encourage everyone to attend! Lunch will be provided by our Master Chef Miguel Ferrero!

Speaker: Debbie Hubbard

Service Leader: Kevin Fitzgerald

Musician: Harmonia

April 26 – The Mystery of Westwood's Youth: Solved

Ever wonder what Westwood's youth group does, why they are here, or who they are here? Today they will tell you about how they see themselves fitting into the Westwood community.

Speaker: Westwood yUUth

Service Leader: Westwood yUUth

Musician: Westwood yUUth

Barker Bits



If it's April ...

...it must be ordination month! and Easter! and spring break! and spring!

In preparation for this column, I found myself composing bunny poems (*'hare' just doesn't rhyme as well as 'bunny'*) in the park, while stomping through the ankle deep snow (*dog walking*), wondering when spring really will feel spring-like and when the snow will stop snowing. After excessive wielding of the words 'fluffy' and 'browning' and *'no – stop – don't chase that bunny!'* I abandoned all thoughts of poetry, realizing that I was at a loss for profound meaningful statements, and was now mired in the ridiculous.

Some days it is just too much, to be profound. Some days a mind is so full of ordinary thoughts – the weight of tasks and responsibilities, times when even pleasures can feel burdensome – and it is more important to simply get the job done than it is to be perfect. This is frequently my experience of Spring! The weather is warming and school/church years are ending and there is that burst of 'lets get it done' initiative ... that always seems to have a 'how are you going to get this all done?' shadow.

So here's to April – hopping with energy (*guess I wasn't quite done*) – and taking time to stop and reassess. Give yourself permission, in the midst of all that needs doing, to rest and re-evaluate. You are no good to anyone if you are run ragged – least of all yourself. So, while there are tasks and responsibilities, commitments and promises, remember to place yourself on the list. Schedule in some sunshine and some quiet – even if the bunnies are running wild all around you! Remember – the seasonal message of renewal always follows a period of rest.

In love,
Anne Barker

Upcoming Events

Service of Ordination for Anne Barker

Speaker: Reverend David Bumbaugh
of Meadville Lombard Theological School

2:00 pm Saturday April 18 2009

~

Reception to follow

Unitarian Congregation of Saskatoon
213 – 2nd Street East
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

For more information contact:
anne@westwoodunitarian.ca

Thinking about Chalice Circles...
but just not sure?
Interested in Unitarian Universalism?
Looking to meet people?
Tea with the minister?

How about trying ...

"Welcome Circles"

**A Drop-In Chalice Circle
at the Minister's House
All are Welcome**

7:00 to 9:00 pm
2nd and 4th Wednesday Evenings

April 8: 3rd Principle
April 22: 4th Principle

RSVP appreciated ... but not necessary
780-434-5819 or anne@westwoodunitarian.ca

Pathways to Spiritual Community Orientation to Westwood

Sunday, April 5, Noon to 3

Westwood congregation welcomes newcomers and visitors and aspires to new members and friends.

So you are invited to an orientation session, exploring your interests about the congregation and UU faith. It will be a lively time. How can it be else with some of our liveliest leaders - Board and Minister; Kids Programs and Social Justice - to introduce you to some of Westwood's core beliefs, programs and pursuits? And to learn some of your interests!

No commitment needed from you besides letting me know whether you can join us. Sign up poster on the back church notice board. An Email RSVP will help to organize lunch/childcare for you.

Cheers from Sara McEwan for Pathways
pathways@westwoodunitarian.ca

Next Spinning the Web Dinner

Saturday May 9, 2009

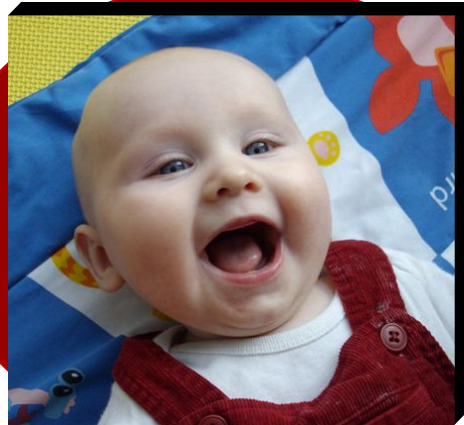
The next Spinning the Web dinner will be Saturday May 9, 2009. I want to offer the opportunity for someone to help me organize this one and then take over for me next year. Kath will stay on next year in her helper/ advisor role.

Spinning the web dinners are small group pot luck dinners in the homes of members and friends of Westwood. After dinner we pursue a planned topic, offering personal experiences or reactions to the topic. The 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.

A sign up sheet will be found on the bulletin board at the back of the church. This sheet will be taken down on May 3 and groups will be formed. The host of each group will contact its members with details.

Charleen Miles
spinningtheweb@westwoodunitarian.ca

What brings you joy?



UUGuys Seek Joy and Friendship

Sunday, April 5, 7 – 9 pm at the church

The UUGuys were discouraged after their February discussion of "my greatest challenges." The UUGuys are happier now after their March discussion of "my greatest joys."

As well as discussing sources, like nature and babies, we came up with ideas to promote joy because it can multiply like rabbits if we give it a chance. These include having a joy journal or a joy blog and recognizing that joy is all around but we have to be aware and ready for it. If you have ideas for practices to increase personal or collective joy, please send them to David Deephouse for compilation.

April's topic will be "Friendship," which we will discuss after the check-in. We will meet at the church on Sunday, April 5, from 7-9 p.m.

Newcomers are always welcome.

A special thank you to Miguel Ferrero, Manfred Kalk, and Dean Chan for preparing the delicious lunch on March 8 and to everyone who helped out in celebrating the stewardship of our Westwood community!

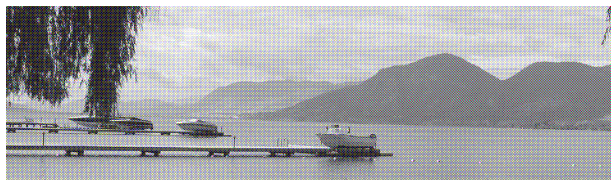
Save the date...

Edmonton Pride Parade

Saturday June 13, 2:00 – 3:00 pm

We hope to have a good turnout for the Edmonton Pride Parade on June 13th this year. The parade goes from 2 to 3 pm.

Plans are also in the making to again have a Westwood Information Booth at Churchill Square after the parade. Folks interested in working on the display for the booth should contact queer@westwoodunitarian.ca for more information.



Joyful and Liberating!

Eliot Institute offers a seven day, one-of-a-kind experience of play, community, and worship for the whole family in beautiful Naramata, on the shores of Lake Okanagan in British Columbia. This year's session runs June 27 - July 4, and will feature Rev. Amanda Aikman and Julia McKay as the theme speakers. Come join us!

Visit www.eliotinstitute.org or call 206-374-2497 to learn more.

Canadian Unitarian Council Annual Conference and Meeting



ANSWERING THE CALL
RÉPONDRE À L'APPEL

2009 CUC ACM • THUNDER BAY

May 15 - 18, 2009
Thunder Bay offers a
Giant Welcome



CU*UL SCHOOL Leadership School

Thursday, July 24
to
Sunday, July 27, 2008

University of British Columbia
Vancouver, BC

A learning community rooted in
Unitarian*Universalist values

For more information and to register for these events, see www.cuc.ca. Funds are available from Westwood to help cover the cost of attending. See Anne Barker or a board member for details.



PATHWAYS TO SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY

Food for Thought on Starving & Nourishing the Spirit as Westwoodians

The following article is reprinted from the UU World Magazine, Fall 2007 edition. I'd enjoy hearing your comments and reflections on this article.

Regards from Sara McEwan
for Pathways to Spiritual Community
pathways@westwoodunitarian.ca

Confessions of a Prodigal Volunteer by Elizabeth Weber

As is true for so many Unitarian Universalists, my first encounter with the concept of inherent worth and dignity offered an exhilarating contrast to my childhood faith, which taught me I was unworthy of God's love. I abandoned Roman Catholicism upon leaving home for college, feeling guilty yet giddy with relief. Twenty-five years later, as I resigned my job to join my partner Ken in his retirement, I joined the UU fellowship located a magnetic half-mile from our home. Embarking on retirement and my new religion with equal parts enthusiasm and naïveté, I soon realized I needed to work--to stimulate my intellect, to cultivate connections, to find purpose. Put another way I needed something to do.

Unitarian Universalism obligingly filled the void, and myriad volunteer opportunities soon drew this introvert from her shell. By my fifth year I'd put my whole self in, racking up a resume of leadership roles and committee posts within, then beyond, the walls of my congregation. The work was novel, varied, rewarding. It changed me in ways I liked. It offered me much more than "something to do".

Unitarian Universalism cultivated in me a more expansive view of my place in the world. It encouraged me to relinquish the illusion of safety for new ventures. I credit it with giving me the courage last spring to act on Kevin's desire to move 2,000 miles closer to his grown children and grandchildren. We had played major roles in leading our congregation

through a multiyear planning process, capital campaign and building addition. Finally, it was finished imbuing our relocation decision with a satisfying sense of completion

In my case, however, this milestone was muddied by a sense of depletion. Following the building project, my service to my congregation and community had grown tedious, increasingly burdensome. Instead of enlivening me, it made me cranky. Decisions I disagreed with, grew harder to accept. I was doing less than I once had, but enjoying it far less than before. I'd eased up, but apparently too late.

I knew I'd erred in gravitating towards roles that though worthwhile, didn't feed my spirit. I'd come to care too much about the work for a mishmash of reasons -- ego certainly and strong convictions based on a by-now prodigious institutional memory. A sense of earned power -- that occupational hazard of intense volunteer commitment -- also tethered me. And if I set the work down, I feared it might lie there for a good long while (horrors!) before others picked it up.

Meanwhile, believing it was my responsibility to reinvest the social capital I'd amassed as a lay leader, I recruited others relentlessly - to help with the canvass, to serve on committee x or y. Even then I couldn't rest, for how hypocritical it would be to enlist others, only to dust off my hands and resign from the finance committee!

Where I'd once lauded UUism as the antithesis of my childhood religion, I now saw parallels in my reactions to the two. My new faith had exhorted me to do good works as Catholicism had. But drawn evermore into volunteer roles at church and beyond, my sense of mission was subsumed by minutiae as dutiful old habits held sway. I pondered budget numbers as if they were mysteries of the Rosary. Committee meetings seemed as mandatory as Mass once had. (Afterward I typed minutes like a dutiful penance.) I was burying my talents and

expending my energy, not in true ministry, but in what a friend called "administrivia".

A year before we moved, my survival instincts belated kicked in, with mixed results. Weary and protective of my free time, I avoided the very groups that might have nourished my spirit and balanced my involvement. Abandoning my "volunteer obligations" (although I wryly noted the paradox therein) remained unthinkable -- until the stronger magnetic pull of family half a continent away served to end my self-imposed servitude.

My farewells to my fellowship were genuinely fond and sad. But when at last I took my whole self out to race the moving van cross-country, I realized I felt much as I had on leaving Catholicism behind decades earlier. It shocked me to think I'd let my commitment to Unitarian Universalism devolve into a rerun of that old defection.

Once settled again, I began rebuilding my life balancing Marge Piercy's summons to be of use with Mary Oliver's reassurance that I do not have to be good--at least not all the time.

Reflecting on my decade as a UU, I recalled that in my early days, I'd seen members work hard, then disappear. I hadn't understood why they had left. In my new found zeal, I'd been certain I would never burn out.

After our move I saw that hubris for what it was. Declaring myself an Emily Dickinson-style Nobody, I let my unstructured days wash over me: no budgets, no meetings, no minutes to type -- just hours to recharge and reflect. Slowly from silence, clarity emerged: I was ready to put down roots again. I listened a little longer, but I knew just where to plant them.

I was fortunate that circumstances conspired to save me from myself. Unlike many "church ladies" (or men) who unwittingly overinvolve themselves, my perspective was restored by an abrupt and absolute physical relocation. It granted me the spiritual detachment I needed to recall precisely why I embraced this religion ten years ago - and to understand how I got lost along the way.

I brought some life-long self abnegating behaviours to my new faith, Unitarian Universalism never made me feel unworthy. If anything it swamped me with a sense of my value and potential.

At my new fellowship, I began by confiding to my new minister, my need to go slowly. On Sundays, I hearkened to sermons that emphasized the importance of finding one's own true calling, beyond any organization's internal needs. When asked to help with sundry small tasks, I hesitated, then said yes, and found I enjoyed renewing old proficiencies while meeting new friends. Later, when offered a larger role, I responded, simply but sincerely, "Not yet." (Watching a talented, more energetic member quickly fill that spot, I felt grateful to her - and humbled by all I had learned.)

I'm savouring the sweetness of a fresh start and the prospect of growing into a spiritual community. Best of all, I've learned that while I'm not indispensable to any congregation, Unitarian Universalism will always be indispensable to me.

Westwood News

*Westwood Unitarian Congregation
is pleased to announce the hiring of
our new office administrator:
Suzanne Grant*

The hiring team received 40 applications for the position, only one from an inside candidate. We narrowed interviews to 4 qualified people who were specifically seeking part-time work -- and were delighted with the caliber of applicants we met. Faced with a strong competition, we chose Suzanne. We were impressed with her calm and gentle manner, her strong skill set and natural aptitude for learning, her excellent references and her commitments to both family and church. (*You may recognize Suzanne from her excellent work as the current Westwoodian Newsletter editor!*)

Welcome Suzanne!

*Your hiring team,
Colette Orioux, Terry Anderson & Anne Barker*

Shuffling the Decks

Your leaders for Library, Social Action and Visitors have created some space for literature for Westwoodians.

The wooden literature holder has moved on top of the library cabinet at the back of the church. Brochures and pamphlets on Westwood programs and services can be added there. A brochure/pamphlet rack and holders have been added to the social justice notice board in the back corner, meant for information left by speakers and social justice materials.

This leaves the Visitor information table devoted to introductory items meant for guests. Please do your part and keep the newcomers table clear of other materials. Please don't use it as your child's play area or leave personal items.

Thanks for your consideration from your de-clutter team Sara, Marg, Edda and Grant



Lay Chaplain Positions Open

There are many rewards in being a Lay Chaplain. Have you been thinking about becoming a Lay Chaplain? The Lay Chaplaincy Committee invites you to apply for this position which serves Westwood and our community through providing services to mark momentous occasions in peoples' lives. If you are interested, please submit a current resume, and letter of interest to the Lay Chaplaincy Committee by **April 15**. Email this to: sburwash@ualberta.ca or via mail to the Westwood Office.

Both of our recently "retired" Lay Chaplains (Ros McCue and Deidra Helmig) have indicated they'd be happy to chat with anyone who is interested in becoming a Lay Chaplain. Please contact them if you'd like to have a better feel for the work.

Susan Burwash
Chair, Lay Chaplaincy Committee

Social Justice at Westwood

A Decision for Westwood: Should We Join the Greater Edmonton Alliance?

The Social Justice Committee would like Westwood members to consider having Westwood join the Greater Edmonton Alliance (GEA). This is a big decision. The yearly dues are \$1500 (about \$15/member), and by joining, Westwood would be one of about 35 organizations who's name would be behind the methods and activities of GEA.

Is this alliance worth joining?

We want the members of Westwood to take the time to learn enough about this organization to make a wise decision about it. When members are ready we will take it to a congregational meeting. To facilitate this, on the April 19th service the speaker will be a member of Trinity United Church which was GEA's first member in 2006. After the service an organizer from GEA will conduct a workshop or informational session on GEA in which you will have the opportunity to ask questions about it.

Why we are interested:

It is a Social Justice organization. The dues paying members go through a process each year to determine what is important to them, and out of that comes the issues that GEA focuses on. As was said in the February Issue of the newsletter, current issues are affordable housing, senior and long-term care, saving local farm land, and creating sustainable jobs to reduce our carbon footprint. Members often choose to focus on just one of the current issues.

In a world where corporations have a very strong voice, citizens need to be well organized and focus their energies to effect real change and uphold democracy. Members take advantage of the experience, knowledge and coordination efforts of GEA to accomplish this.

GEA encourages and teaches leadership and organizational skills that are not only used in GEA activities but also strengthen their

member-organizations. GEA uses a set of principles and methods that have been developed over 50 years of experience. By participating in GEA's issues, members are exposed to new ideas (intentionally through workshops and experientially) on how to conduct meetings and other communication and leadership skills. It also has a method of finding new leaders.

GEA increases the profile of its member groups and provides experiences with other organizations. If we join GEA we will be exposed to other churches, unions, and non-profit organizations. We will hear about their experiences, and they will hear about ours. Our name will be "out there". It will be on GEA's webpage and pamphlets, it will become known by the active people of other organizations.

For more information on GEA, please see their website www.greateredmontonalliance.com.

Please plan to attend the service on April 19th at 10:30 and/or the workshop from 12:00 to 1:30. To further entice you, Miguel will be making one of his wonderful lunches for this event.

Christine Watts
On behalf of the Social Justice Committee

Making Westwood Eco-friendly

Last fall our successful Local Fixin's supper raised money to pay for an Eco-audit and to implement the recommendations that might come out of it. Subsequently, we were advised that the cost of an audit would probably exceed any grant that we might get to improve our facility. So, we created a home-grown Eco-Audit Task Force made up of Christine Watts, Oscar Zawalsky, Deidra Helmig, Trudy Grienaar, Lindsay McWhirter, Bruce MacPherson, Mel Tyree and Edda Loomes. They met twice and generated a long list of things we could do to make our building more energy efficient and eco-friendly. Some of them cost money and some of them don't. They are going to refine the list so we can get your approval for the ones that cost money and get on with the job. We will keep you posted.

Social Justice Committee

Green Corner



Avoid the Invasion of the Bags

By Christine Watts
Brought to you by the Social Justice Committee

I like to use the plastic bags from the grocery store for garbage, however, it's quite the battle to prevent a plethora of new bags from invading my home. Even when I try as hard as I can to keep them away, my drawers overflow with them. If I am having a good day and remember to bring my used or reusable bags to the cashier, I still haven't won the battle. Even when I say in a commanding voice "no bag please" I will see my 4 litre plastic milk jug or other items being plopped into more virgin plastic. I often have to reach over and recover the items myself and repeat firmly, "no bag please".

Grocery bags are not the only bags that invade my home. There are also tear-off bags provided at the produce area. Instead of using these, I like to put my lettuce directly into used grocery bags, (so much easier than trying to stuff it into those small clear bags) or I bring used tear-off bags to use again for produce. Those waxy bought-cookie bags I use for lunches or broken glass or used light bulbs. I try not to get the bags mixed up!

Tip: To make it easy to have a bag wherever you go Earth General Store sells nylon bags that are easy to slip into a small pocket.

The next Social Justice meeting will be on **Thursday April 2nd at 7:15 pm** at Edda Loomes' place. Anyone interested in social justice is welcome.

POISED: A Poem for a Northern Vernal Equinox

We are balanced between day and night.
Our land is balanced between rest and growth.
Poised --

Sap begins to thaw,
preparing for its upward journey
in trees
Spruce, Maple, Aspen,
poised --
to push the buds to leaves.

Hares, now snow white
poised --
to show us the first brown hairs.

Our ears are to the sky
poised --
waiting for the honking,
of geese returning.

Our eyes look to the woods
poised --
whoever sees the first Robin gets a prize!

Knobs of rhubarb, emerging,
Poised --
Then spreading to become rhubarb pies.

Bedding plants in windows, poised to go out.
Betting pools formed to predict when ice goes out.
Fishers planning to catch their first trout.
Wishers hoping spring dreams come true.
Everyone poised to put away winter shoes.
Black skies are balanced with blue.

Here we are balanced between future and past;
let us help make changes that last.

Here we are balanced between dark and light;
let us remember to do what's right.

Here we are balanced between the light and dark;
let's not forget to frolic in the park.

Our land is balanced between growth and rest;
let us pledge to be our best.

Our land is balanced between rest and growth;
let us contemplate a solemn oath.

© David L. Deephouse, 2009

I appreciate the support of the Westwood Unitarian
Earth Centred Spirituality Group. Please contact me
if you wish to reproduce this work.

*Presented by David L. Deephouse at the
Vernal Equinox Service, Westwood Unitarian
Congregation, March 15 2009.*

New Office Hours in April

Office hours during April will be from
9:30 am – noon, Tuesdays and Fridays.
It will take some time to adjust to the new role
and find a schedule that works best, so please
bear with me in the coming months, as there
may be changes. I look forward to working with
all of you!

Suzanne Grant

Thanks to Spinning the Web Dinner Hosts

The February 21 Spinning the Web dinners
attracted 19 participants. A special thanks to
the hosts: Edda Loomes, Christine Watts,
Anne Barker and Lori Crozier.

The topic was local foods, and we all brought
food to share that was at least partly local.
Some were able to include ingredients that
came from their gardens or fruit trees.

Examples of things that were discussed: the
cost to society for poor health that occurs with
poor food, hidden costs in fast foods and large
commercial farms, preserving land near city to
grow food, and the need to be more self-
sufficient. Community gardens were discussed
as well as CSA's and farmers' markets. Some
felt that there should be more farmers'
markets, a permanent indoor home for the
downtown farmers market, and more hours
(another day) for the Strathcona market.
Sharing CSA's was suggested. Perhaps
Westwoodians could invest in a clump of
shares.

Some were interested in doing more
preserving, possibly in the form of bees.
Others would like to see a local canning
business. The hope that local farmers would
become more diversified was expressed.
Some of the crops of interest were lentils,
beans, split peas and quinoa. One suggestion
was a local foods section in grocery stores.

Thanks again to all who made this and
enjoyable and stimulating evening.

Charleen Miles

Board News

Splinters from the Board

By Keith Wiley, Board Secretary

At our March meeting, Westwood Board took some time to consider how we are doing generally. In a short evaluative exercise, we talked about our SUCCESSES, our GROWING EDGES, the few items in the WE BLEW IT category, and even added an IDEAS column for the future.

Successes

We patted our own backs for smooth-running meetings and keeping our own Board process covenant. We were also pleased about the congregation's growth, the success of the tremendous Winter Solstice service, the active youth group, and the bits of progress we have made in policy clarification.

Growing Edges

We noted that, after many years of forward-looking planning, this year we have no long-range visioning process as one of our GROWING EDGES to keep in mind. We also think our communication inside our congregation needs more attention and that our use of email and email lists is an EDGE to keep working on.

We Blew It

In the WE BLEW IT category we put our misstep on keeping some of the Solstice proceeds, which congregation members were quick to re-direct us on. ("Good save.") We also mishandled a concern that loyal Oscar would not be able to shovel walks, and perhaps made it look as though we didn't want to continue his great efforts in keeping our building accessible. Oops, we really do appreciate all of Oscar's efforts. We also haven't been particularly successful at keeping a rein on the length of our own Board meetings.

Ideas

The session also generated a number of ideas we will consider to improve aspects of Board work. For example, we thought it might be reasonable to explain the "pink name tags" to members of the congregation who don't know how some people get so singled out.

Stewardship

The Stewardship campaign was kicked off grandly on March 8, thanks to the Chefs and all the people who pitched in. Thanks also to the great contributions of the Stewardship Team: Gord Grant, Allison Akgungor, Manfred Kalk, and Kevin Fitzgerald. Kevin has successfully set us on the path to contribution through pre-authorized monthly withdrawals, which can really smooth some of our administration.

Office Administrator Search

Anne Barker, Terry Anderson and Colette Orioux have kindly taken on the job of searching for a new administrator and did the interviews on March 14th. They moved fast, and we are glad they did. Susan Kraft is staying on extra long with us, to allow for some really important overlap time with our new administrator. We approved a two-week salary overlap to help brief our new person and smooth the transition.

Committee on Ministry

Anne Barker reported that the Committee on Ministry is moving along, although a third member from the congregation hasn't been finally determined yet. The committee is working first on how the congregation can respond in a united way to conflict or difficult issues.

New Staff Supervision Policy

As a Board we set a new policy that our Minister will be responsible for direct supervision of our other church staff. This will help to maintain consistency for people working for our congregation. We will work on a comprehensive supervision policy to

delineate the Minister's role, the Board's role and the staff's roles, to make it clear and function smoothly.

Recruiting Next Year's Board Members

David Deephouse reports that the nominating committee still is beginning its work on recruiting new members for next year's Board. We especially note we will be needing a new Treasurer as David is leaving the post after four stalwart years.

Money-Handling Policy

Before he leaves David wants to put in place a money-handling policy to make it clear how the nitty gritty of Westwood's finances goes. One particular note is stale receipts. It has come up several times that people have waited a long time to turn in expense receipts, even pushing the costs into the following year, which plays a bit of havoc with our budgeting.

Conference Travel Funds Available

In the money-spending department, we wanted to let everyone know that we still have budget money available to help send Westwood people both to Canadian Unitarian Council Annual Conference and Meeting in Thunder Bay May 15 to 18, 2009 and to the CUC CUUL School. We generally pay delegates' registration costs, but can cover some of the expenses as well, depending on how many Westwoodians want to go. Everyone interested in representing Westwood at these events should contact our minister, Anne Barker, or one of the Board members to get their name on the list.

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 April 13 at 7:00 pm**.

Treasurer's Notes



Buying things for Westwood?

Are you buying things for Westwood - things like food, office supplies, toilet paper? Please remember the following to make it easier for everyone to get money to you quickly.

When buying, get separate receipts

When you buy Westwood items together with personal items, you may make more work for yourself and you certainly make more work for the office administrator and the two people who sign reimbursement cheques. You have to mark the items, and the other three people have to verify the totals. Moreover, the administrator has to calculate the GST on the purchase because we get a refund from the federal government. So, when you buy things for Westwood, please remember to buy Westwood items separately from personal items.

Submit your receipts ASAP

Westwood does not want you to wait before submitting your receipts. We do not get a clear picture of our financial position if you don't get the receipts in quickly. This is especially important in June because our fiscal year ends June 30. The Board of Trustees will be developing a policy about the last date for which you can submit receipts for reimbursement. So please, submit your receipts pronto!

Cash your cheques quickly

Westwood wants you to get your money back in your hands. We do not get a clear picture of our financial position if you don't cash or deposit your cheques. This is especially important in June because our fiscal year ends June 30. The Board of Trustees developed a stale-dated cheque policy last year which says that cheques do expire. In sum, please turn our cheques into your money!

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 – choir@westwoodunitarian.ca

Have musical talents?

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

Need to book a room at Westwood?

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

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.

Who to Contact

Office

11135-65 Avenue T6H 1W3
Phone..... 780-434-5819
Fax..... 780-436-5816
Website www.westwoodunitarian.ca
E-mail..... info@westwoodunitarian.ca

Administrator..... Suzanne Grant
Office hours..... Tues and Fri, 9:30am– noon

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

Minister..... Anne Barker
Phone..... 434-5819 ext#1
E-mail..... 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... buildingandgrounds@westwoodunitarian.ca
Care & Connections.. Virginia Gillese
Chalice Circles..... Carl Ulrich
Anastasia Sydor
Children's Program... Kath Oltsher & Kathy Lightfoot
Choir..... Rebecca Patterson
Lay Chaplains..... *positions open*
Committee Chair: Susan Burwash
(492-8854; sburwash@ualberta.ca)
Library..... Margaret Harris
Membership..... Sara McEwan
Newsletter..... Suzanne & Gord Grant
westwooduunewsletter@yahoo.ca
Social Justice..... Edda Loomes
Bill Woolverton
Sunday Hospitality... Manfred Kalk
Webmaster..... webmaster@westwoodunitarian.ca
Worship Services..... Deidra Helmig

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

Mark Your Calendar

April 2

Social Justice meeting, 7:15 pm

April 5

Orientation to Westwood, 12:00 pm
UUGuys, 7:00 pm

April 8

Welcome Circle, 7:00 pm

April 13

Board meeting, 7:00 pm

April 15

Newsletter deadline for May edition

April 18

Ordination of Anne Barker, 2:00 pm

April 22

Welcome Circle, 7:00 pm

May 9

Spinning the Web Dinner

June 13

Edmonton Pride Parade, 2:00 pm

