



The Westwoodian

Connecting you to Westwood Unitarian Congregation

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 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.

January 4 – New Years Resolutions: Bah Humbug!

Please join us for our annual first service of the New Year, where we ponder the year past, and look towards the new one, without necessarily promising anybody anything! A truly guilt free beginning to your year. New and improved this year: SMOKE FREE! Come and witness the birth of a new ritual!

Service Leader: Mitch Waldon

Musician: Havelock Thompson



In Roman mythology, Janus was the god of gates, doors, doorways, beginnings, and endings. Janus symbolized change and transitions such as the progression of past to

future, of one condition to another, of one vision to another, and the growing up of young people. He also represented time because he could see into the past with one face and into the future with the other. (from Wikipedia)

This is the time we look ahead, and back. A time for reflection, as light slowly grows again here in the north. So here's a question: a year from now, what do you want to see, when you look back?

January 11 – Consumer or Citizen? How Our Spending Habits Shape Our City

Equality, justice and democracy are values we share and try to move our communities toward. Do we reflect these values in the way we spend our money or do our values as consumers trump our values as citizens? As citizens, we want to live in vibrant, prosperous and equitable communities. How do we influence this vision with our spending habits?

How do we ensure that our basic spending is helping to influence the type of community that we want to live in and not detracting from it?

Speaker: Jessie Radies

Service Leader: Kevin Fitzgerald

Musician: Harmonia

January 18 – Building Community

This service, which includes a New Member Recognition, reflects on our relationship to one another. Not family, not required, yet rich, compelling and worthy of commitment ... the gifts of community are explored.

Speaker: Anne Barker

Service Leader: Sara McEwan

Musician: Joel Crichton

January 25 – Ritual

Join us for an exploration of ritual and why they have no relevance in today's society...or do they? Be prepared to have your closest and most somber rituals torn down and then built back up piece by piece.

Speaker: Dean Chan

Service Leader: Christine Lesiak

Musician: Sheila Killoran

Barker Bits



On the Chinook-out...

Years ago, in Calgary, I experienced real winter for the first time. Originally a BC kid, I had been raised on rare wet sloppy snow that was only good for soaking mitts and making ice-balls. When those first Alberta fluffy flakes floated to earth I jumped up and down on the bed squealing “*Look at the snow! Look at the snow!*” (*I was 23 – and a good fluffy flake can still make me squeal!*)

That winter was full of magic and delight – the first big deep snowfall – the beautiful oil-slick shiny magpies that stayed despite the hard freeze – the sundogs and moon dogs and dancing northern lights. But nothing could have prepared me for that weather phenomenon beyond imagination – *a Chinook!* In my West Coast ignorance, I thought Chinook was a people, or a salmon, or even a helicopter ... nothing had prepared me for the Chinook Winds! Within hours, pavement emerged as weeks of hard packed ice and snow melted away, intersections were swamps of slurry, and university students were sunbathing in tiny swimsuits – loungers perched on snow-covered lawns and temperatures in the 20’s C.

At this writing, Edmonton is in a deep freeze. I know Chinook conditions are not ripe here, like in Calgary – but I have heard rumours of Chinook effects – promises of weather events that ease the sharp bite of winter and help us to remember that things will, eventually, be more comfortable again. I am on the look-out ... a ‘Chinook-out’ ... watching for signs ... willing to be generous with my interpretation of any promising breeze.

As a church community, our most important offerings to each other and to the broader public are the promising breezes we are able to generate. We cannot always completely melt the frozen challenges in peoples’ lives,

much as we would like to be the unfailing sun – but we *can* generate spiritual Chinook effects, moments of respite, a breathe of fresh air, the reminder of expected relief. Where there is cold and ice, where there is pain and loss, there is also – with time and support and love – there is also the promise of Spring. As we find ourselves immersed in Winter, let us make time to warm one another, and be reliably mischievous with our Chinook-like capacity for reassurance and renewal.

In warmth and love,
Anne Barker

Upcoming Events

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 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. The books will be available in advance. There will be a \$15.00 charge for the books. There is a limit of 12 registrants.

UUGuys

Sunday, January 11, 7 - 9 pm at the church

Westwood’s men’s group UUGuys will meet Sunday Jan. 11 (not Jan. 4) from 7-9 pm at the church. After our check-in, we will discuss “How I am changing the world.” Newcomers are always welcome.

Sound System Orientation

Sunday, January 18, 12:15 - 12:45 pm

There will be an orientation on Westwood's sound system on Sunday, January 18th from 12:15 to 12:45 pm. This will cover the basics including: microphone set-up, adjusting volume levels, and using the digital audio recorder. For more info please talk with Manfred or Dawn, or email webmaster@westwoodunitarian.ca

Westwood Communications Meeting

Sunday, January 18, 1:00 pm

Westwood has a lot of levels of communications - bulletin boards, weekly announcements, the monthly newsletter, the website - to name a few. There are also opportunities for public service announcements, writing articles, developing media releases and publicity strategy. The budget is also an important consideration.

If your interest in communications is small or large, inside Westwood or out into the community, you are invited to join us! There will be a meeting on Sunday, January 18th at 1:00 pm.

Anyone interested in communications at Westwood is welcome and encouraged to attend. Some info and materials will be available in advance. Please let Keith Wiley know if you are interested and /or planning to be there.

Spinning the Web Dinners

Saturday, February 21, 2009

The next "Spinning the Web" dinners will be held on Sat Feb 21, 2009. The topic will be local food and we will eat dishes prepared from food grown in the area. Watch for more information in the announcements.

Simplicity Circle Gathering

January 25, 7:30-9:00 pm

The Story of Stuff – this 20 minute fact filled look at the underside of our production and consumption was featured at a simplicity circle event and a worship service last year. Some folks seek a focused conversation on the provocative themes the video raises. Note: you are encouraged to watch the video (www.thestoryofstuff.com) before we meet, and reflect on solutions that occur to you for discussion. We'll not watch the video that evening. Everyone is welcome. Contacts: Linda or Fabian Jennings, Sara McEwan.

Worship Visioning

Interested in worship at Westwood?
Thinking about Sunday Services?
Want to participate in a worship visioning event?

Noon – 4:00, Saturday January 24, 2009

Potluck lunch (soup & bread provided)
Followed by an opportunity to
Envision the Face of Worship

Please call Anne for more info and location

Leadership Summit

January 31, 2009, 9:00 – 1:00 pm

A leadership summit is scheduled for Saturday January 31, 2009. The Board of Trustees invites the Chair (or a representative) of each Committee, the Staff and the Stewardship Team to gather for an opportunity to explore our shared leadership of Westwood – and to plan for a united, inspired future. Our agenda runs from 9-12 Saturday morning, then we will share a catered lunch and unstructured conversation over the next hour, from noon-1:00 pm. Please mark your calendars ... and watch for invitations. Contact Mitch Waldon or Anne Barker for more information.

Invitation to Join a Chalice Circle in January

In January Westwood will continue 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.

In January the Monday Afternoon group will continue and may have room for one more person. It will begin on January 19th and meet every two weeks ending on May 4th. It meets from 1:30 to 3:30 pm. The evening group will begin in mid-January and is still negotiating on meeting either on Wednesday or Thursday evenings. It may have openings for 2 or 3 new members. We will organize a third group depending on the number of requests received.

There is a detailed brochure about Chalice Circles at Westwood at the Literature Table. Registration Forms can be found there, or you can click on the URL below and get an electronic copy.

<http://tinyurl.com/84eacw>

Completed Forms can be left in the Chalice Circle envelope on the Bulletin Board at the back of the church.

For more information contact Carl Ulrich culrich@incentre.net or Anastasia Sydor at u4ic_1@shaw.ca.

save the date...

Westwood musician's appreciation lunch and jam session

Sunday February 15, 2009, 12:30 pm

All Westwood musician, choir members, and youth musician will be invited

Watch for more announcements

Sponsored by the Worship Committee

Child Haven International 7th Annual Dinner & Silent Auction



6:00 to 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 for details of the remarkable Child Haven story.

Come, come, whoever you are.

Wanderer, worshipper, lover of leaving.

It doesn't matter.

Ours is not a caravan of despair.

Come, even if you have broken your vow a
thousand times.

Come, yet again come, come.

--Rumi

Are you curious about Unitarian Universalist beliefs?

Come to a Q & A session
Sunday morning, February 1st, 2009, 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,
saraemc@telus.net

Westwood News

Worship Committee Now Scheduling Musicians

In January the worship committee will begin scheduling musicians for our Sunday morning service. We offer many thanks to Susan, who has been scheduling musicians for years. Two members of the worship committee will work on this project so there will be overlap if one is out of town. These two people are Melissa Henderson and Charleen Miles. We are in the process of contacting all the musicians on our list to tell them of the change and to get their comments. We are also planning a musician appreciation party for the beginning of February. If you want to get in touch with the music schedulers use this email address: musicschedule@westwoodunitarian.ca.

If you have any questions or comments for the worship committee in general use this email address: worship@westwoodunitarian.ca.



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.

La, La, La, La, *Gobble Gobble!*

Besides singing at two services in December, Westwood's choir Harmonia raised \$350 for the CBC Turkey Drive -- that's 14 turkeys for the Edmonton Food Bank. Thanks, Harmonia!



Earth-Centred Spirituality Group

A small group of people interested in exploring earth-centred spirituality have begun meeting together to plan celebrations. We are joining in community to share the ways that we find spiritual connection with nature and its cycles. We are new at this and would welcome other interested persons for planning, ideas and celebrations. We hope to have small celebrations in homes or outdoors and also lead an occasional service at Westwood. If you would like to connect with this group, contact Jen at earthcentred@westwoodunitarian.ca.

Westwoodian Inducted into the Royal Society of Canada

At a ceremony held Saturday, November 15, 2008 in Ottawa, Mel Tyree was inducted as a Fellow of the Division of Life Sciences of the Academy of Sciences of the Royal Society of Canada. Founded in 1882, the Royal Society of Canada is Canada's senior and most prestigious scholarly organization. Election to RSC is the highest honour a scholar can achieve in the Arts, Humanities and Sciences. Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada are elected to the Academies of RSC by their peers in recognition of outstanding scholarly, scientific and artistic achievement.

CONGRATULATIONS MEL!! We all know Mel and his wife Charleen Miles as designers, builders and owners of a zero energy home in upstate New York; this recent honour shows yet another facet of this talented man.

The short citation from the RSC website for Mel's induction reads:

"TYREE, Melvin - Department of Renewable Resources, University of Alberta.

Melvin Tyree is a biophysicist and tree physiologist whose extensive studies have provided insight into the fundamental nature of water and nutrient transport in trees. His studies address the long-standing question of how massive volumes of water can be lifted to the tree canopies in the boreal, temperate and tropical forests that provide the vital 'lungs' of our planet. He is recognized worldwide as an original, influential and highly cited scientist."

From the Worship Committee

Sunday Announcements

Thanks to everyone for your efforts these last few months in helping develop a policy regarding how announcements are handled during our worship services at Westwood. Our goal was to have all announcements sent to our church administrator to be printed in the order of service. Over the last few months we have tried out a couple of options to deal with those announcements that, for whatever reason, were not able to make it into the order of service. The first thing we tried was to have the service leader read out any announcements given to him/her at the beginning of the service; the other thing we tried was simply having a bulletin board available for those announcements that did not make it into the order of service.

From the feedback that we have collected we find that most people prefer...? We still don't know...we have received both positive and negative comments for both routes we attempted. And on top of that, some people told us that they miss the announcements, especially being able to put faces to the names of people giving the announcements.

So, we are going to try one more option...for the month of January we are going to allow announcements. BUT, they must be brief, they must be Westwood-related, and if you don't think it's necessary for your face to be connected to the announcement, please just put it in the order of service. As well, the announcements will take place at exactly 10:30am, before the prelude. Thank you to everyone that gave us their feedback, and to everyone for their patience as we have made a somewhat major change to our service.

Multifaith Celebrations

Westwoodians have always shown an interest in other religions and faiths from around the world. To foster this interest, once a month we are going to recognize a holiday or celebration from a different faith. If you have a specific celebration that you would like to have recognized as a song or a reading, please be in touch with the Worship Committee.

Thank You!

Write for Rights a Success Again!

Many thanks to the 20 energetic people who joined in the Amnesty International Write for Rights Writeathon at Westwood on December 7, 2008. Our combined efforts resulted in 87 letters being sent on 14 different appeal cases involving human rights. This exceeded Westwood's tally of 83 in 2007.

Many thanks to Bruce McWhirter, who not only helped Mitch Waldon install a new kitchen tap, but also helped to deal with the frozen pipes in the furnace room, and stuck around until the folks from Epcor could arrive to replace a frozen water meter. Thanks very much Bruce!

Winter Solstice Thank You!

By the time you read this newsletter our first Winter Solstice service at City Hall will be over. Westwoodians will once again have shown how they can get behind an idea and lift it to new heights! It has meant lots of change – letting go of some favorite traditions and beginning to create some new one that will allow us to reach out to more people. A huge thank you to my committee mates Leigh Bornn, Bette Yelich (Ilich), Melissa Henderson and Anne Barker; to Laura Manuel who designed our wonderful posters and printed the large ones; to Sara McEwan who spearheaded the publicity which reached out across the entire city; to Sara and Melissa who created our new Westwood display; to Dawn N. who provided helpful advice and kept our website (and others) up to date; to Gordon Ritchie for his participation again in the service; to Rebecca Patterson, Sheila Killoran and Harmonia for wonderful solstice music (and help with chairs, etc); to the service readers Kyle Waldon, Jen Pollock, Keith Wiley, Lindsay McWhirter; to candle lighter, Pam Brierley; to storyteller Anastasia Sydor; to Jacqueline Willette, Elaine Roberts and Cassie Aziz-Few for preparing 300 give-away packages; to Manfred Kalk for assistance with refreshment equipment; to the

Olympic synchronized chair team with Terry Anderson, Fons Schellekens, Bruce McPherson, Bruce McWhirter and others; to the Ushers/Greeters Lori Crozier, Linda Jennings, Cassie Aziz-Few, Bruce McPherson, Sherrill Johnson, Elaine Roberts, Trudy and others; to the refreshment crew, Karla Braun, Christine Watts, Ted Hogg, Lyndia Peters, Linnie Chamberlin and others; and the clean-up crew, Bruce McPherson, Fons Schellekens and Edda Loomes and others. My apologies for anyone I have missed - I am sure there will be some.

This event really shows our community in action and apart from the service itself is a big reason to celebrate. We will continue to build on this service and our first experience at City Hall so next year will be a little easier but just as much fun.

Lorian Kennedy, 2008 Winter Solstice Committee

Canadian Unitarian Bits

Who Are We? (Tell us your story...)

The CUC task force on National Identity is asking UUs across Canada, "Who Are We?", as we clarify our identity so that we can become better at living out who we say we are and at reaching out to others. As religious commentator Tom Harpur puts it, Canadian UUs have "a unique opportunity to fill the growing spiritual vacuum".

The task force is proposing spring workshops and Sunday services as opportunities for all congregations to participate.

Visit <http://canadian-unitarian-council.pbwiki.com/Our-National-Identity> and tell us your story about why you love being a UU, and how you came to this spiritual home; join in the discussion; and find other ways to engage in this exciting initiative.

Green Corner

Conserve Your Energy



Fact: Canada uses as much energy as the entire continent of Africa, which has 25 times the population.

With sobering statistics like these, it can be daunting to figure out where to start or how to make a difference. Here are a few tips you might not have heard before or might have slipped your mind:

Fill your freezer but not your fridge. A full freezer performs better than an empty one, but a fridge that's too full may not have enough air circulation to run efficiently. And if you're trying to decide whether it's time to replace your fridge, consider that a new refrigerator can use up to 40% less energy than one made before 1993.

Turn it down. Turn down your water heater to the hottest temperature you need. Or better yet, if it's time to replace your water heater, consider "tankless" or "on-demand" water heaters that heat water only as you need it. Or supplement your current hot water system with solar energy. Also, draining a pail of water from your natural gas water heater every three months removes some of the sediment that interferes with heat transfer.

Turn it off. Turn off lights when you don't need them. Contrary to popular opinion, it is more economical to turn lights on and off as you come and go, than to leave those lights on all the time.

Unplug appliances and other items when not in use, at least those you don't use very often, to avoid "electrical leak." A time-saving trick is to put these devices on a power bar, and turn off the switch before bed.

Turn off your computer monitor when not in use (or use the energy-saving mode). Or switch to a laptop.

Want to learn more about these and other tips? Check out these websites:

davidsuzuki.org
energy.gov.on.ca

Board News

Splinters from the Board

The Westwood Board members gathered on December 8th and everyone is already eagerly looking forward to our Winter Solstice event. We had a big collective SIGH of RELIEF that the City Hall location is a go.

Upcoming Leadership Summit

Keeping track of all the many projects and energy in our congregation is exciting and keeping coordinated can be a challenge. So at least once a year we have a significant gathering to talk about how all our activities are happily co-existing. It's usually been called the "council of chairs" meeting, but we thought a Leadership Summit sounded somehow sexier and probably more accurately describes the active group of people who will be coming. The summit will be on January 31 and we hope to have a chairperson or representative from each committee. Anne Barker and Mitch Waldon are coordinating the event and promise a pleasing experience. We will have lunch for everyone, so it'll be pretty good.

Locks to be Re-Keyed

January 31, the same day, would be a good time to turn over a new key for our building, the Board decided. We are going to spend up to \$400 to re-key our locks and cut 50 new DO NOT COPY keys. So that no one who needs in gets left out in the cold, this gives lots of notice for board members, committee chairs and others who need keys to get one in advance of the fateful January 31 day. The Board decided we needed to re-key just so we could keep track of the keys to the building.

Everyone getting a key will normally make a \$20 deposit, which can be waived if need be. We adopted our shiny new "official key policy" with the deposit to help us keep track of all our keys, which has been a bit of an issue in the past.

Stewardship

The Board also gets reports on many aspects of the congregation's doings and we heard that a written reminder that had gone out on Canvass pledges has had good success with more pledges coming in.

It's almost time to start the new church fundraising exercise and Kevin Fitzgerald, our loyal past canvass chair reported that the new Stewardship Team is getting organized with some new ideas. Several board members will also be joining the Stewardship Team to help out. A new wrinkle is getting Westwood on pre-authorized Withdrawal, the painless way to make a monthly contribution. The monthly fee for the service is only \$50 and Kevin is working to make this an easy option for us all.

Treasurer Position Available

David Deephouse, our long-standing treasurer is leaving the Board after this year (sigh). He's agreed to help find a replacement however, and is on the Nominating Committee, Dennis Foth is also helping out on the committee that is seeking out eager people to help in a Board role. The Board is also approaching people about taking up the third position on the committee. The job of finding and encouraging people to take on Board roles is essential.

Two New Members

We also were pleased to welcome two new members to the congregation. Andrea Boyd and Jennifer Pollock have both joined. Welcome Andrea and Jennifer, the ceremony with the congregation will happen sometime soon.

A Final Reminder

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 January 12 at 7:00 pm.**

Treasurer's Notes



January heralds the beginning of our budgetary planning for the next church year, which runs from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. I will ask all committee chairs to tell me how much they want to spend next year and for what purpose. The board and Susan our administrator will also make estimates for other church expenses, such as utilities and internet service. I will compile these budget requests into a grand total for Canvass Sunday, March 8. This grand total helps us determine our goal for pledges during canvass. When canvass is concluded, we will compare the amount pledged to the total requested and then prepare a final budget for consideration at the Annual General Meeting. Susan will put a budget request form and actual expenses for the last 17 months in the Congregational mailboxes of committee chairs. We will also send electronic copies of the budget request form. Please plan a meeting in January to discuss your needs and wants and send me a completed form by **Sunday February 1**. If you chair a committee but do not receive a form, please contact Susan or me.

Planning our expenses and funding them are two important ways in which we help Westwood be a thriving, inclusive and diverse religious community. Have a joyful year.

David Deephouse, Treasurer

*Keep knocking, and the joy
inside*

*Will eventually open a window
And look out to see who's there*

--Rumi

Enduring Value

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your generous support of the last two years canvass campaigns. As the Canvass Chair, I can honestly state that you have helped make this process exciting, rewarding and fun for me.

The 2009/2010 canvass campaign will be a period of transition. We are shifting from a "canvass" focus to a "stewardship" theme. Next year's Stewardship campaign will be co-ordinated by Allison Akgungor and Gord Grant. Manfred Kalk and I will also form part of the Stewardship team. Of course, the Stewardship process does not belong to Allison and Gord, it belongs to all Westwoodians! As this year's process unfolds, we will be very interested in hearing what the term "stewardship" means to you.

Our family has recently lost a significant portion of our retirement savings with the collapse of global stock markets. More than ever before, we are scrutinizing our spending decisions and asking a few simple questions. Will this product or service add value to our lives? Is it an investment that will have enduring value?

Our family recently purchased a dining room table and chairs. After a lot of deliberation, we decided to spend more money and buy a high quality hardwood set. We simply felt that a high quality set would provide enduring value. We would enjoy using it every day and it would last for many years.

Most of us would agree that Westwood adds value to our life and this is why we choose to be Stewards in the form of a Member or Friend. Our family chooses to look at our financial investment in Westwood as one that passes the test – it represents a high quality product or service, it adds value to our lives and it will last a long time. In short, like the dining room table and chairs, it has enduring value.

Kevin Fitzgerald

What Does Stewardship Mean to You?

*Stewardship means different things to different people. The Stewardship Team invites you to send in your own definitions of Stewardship. This column is your space to help us describe in the coming months: **what are we here for at Westwood?** Send in your contributions to westwooduunewsletter@yahoo.ca with "stewardship" in the subject line.*

According to Wikipedia, stewardship is personal responsibility for taking care of another person's property or financial affairs or in religious orders taking care of finances.

Historically, stewardship was the responsibility given to household servants to bring food and drinks to a castle dining hall.

The term was then expanded to indicate a household employee's responsibility for managing household or domestic affairs. Stewardship later became the responsibility for taking care of passengers' domestic needs on a ship, train and airplane, or managing the service provided to diners in a restaurant.

The term continues to be used in these specific ways, but it is also used in a more general way to refer to a **responsibility to take care of something one does not own.**

Isn't it interesting how historically the word has evolved from a servant looking after property with a financial connection, serving a master as it were? I bolded the last phrase regarding "stewardship's" contemporary general meaning. I feel it applies the most to us at Westwood.....to look after the vision of our congregation (the non-material aspects that are founded in the financial details of our operation and actions and words). It is sort of like parenting, or environmentalism, or good citizenship -- we do not materially own the objects of our focus and efforts, yet we deeply and morally commit to and serve them. Perhaps this is ownership at the deepest level?

Gord Grant, Stewardship Team Co-Chair

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 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. (Remember, you haven't got it booked until you have confirmation from Susan.) Thank you.

Want to spread the word about an event, fundraiser, activity, etc.?

If you have an announcement to share, whenever possible, please send it into the office to be included in the print version. The deadline is **Friday at 9 a.m.** Please send via e-mail to info@westwoodunitarian.ca or call the office. Our time together on Sundays is short and precious. Thank you for helping keep the timelines for Sunday services on track!

Westwood's Yahoo Discussion Group

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

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

Westwood's Website

www.westwoodunitarian.ca

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

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

Canadian Unitarian Council



The Canadian Unitarian Council connects, nurtures and empowers

Canadian Unitarians and Universalists and their congregations, and fosters the growth and outreach of the Unitarian Universalist movement in Canada. See what's happening with the CUC at www.cuc.ca.

Newsletter Policies

Deadline: 15th of the month

The Westwoodian is published monthly, with the exception of the July and August issues which are combined. The deadline for contributions is the 15th of the month.

Members and friends are invited to submit articles of interest to the congregation. Contributions can be e-mailed to westwooduunewsletter@yahoo.ca.

Help Westwood save money and trees by receiving your copy of *The Westwoodian* electronically. If you would like to join (or remove yourself from) our mailing list, please e-mail us.

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

Who to Contact

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Website www.westwoodunitarian.ca
E-mail..... 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..... 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
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Trustees..... Kevin Fitzgerald
Janice Williamson
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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
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

January 11
UUGuys, 7:00 pm

January 12
Board meeting, 7:00 pm

January 15
February newsletter deadline

January 18
Sound system orientation, 12:15
Communications meeting, 1:00

January 24
Worship visioning, 12:00 pm

January 25
Simplicity Circle, 7:30 pm

January 31
Leadership summit, 9:00 am

February 1
New2UU session, after service
Budget request forms due

February 15
Musician appreciation lunch & jam session

February 18
1st book discussion group, 7:30 pm

February 21
Spinning the Web dinners

March 1
Endowment Fund applications due

March 14
Child Haven dinner

