



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.

May 3 – The Wonderful World of Whitman

Walt Whitman was beloved by many Unitarian friends in his day, and that love has never faltered. He sought to capture the essence of the spirit and spirituality of America: freedom. His energy found expression in a new form of poetry - free verse - that ranges across time, geography, religion, sexuality, philosophies and beliefs. Fabian Jennings and Robert Wiznura will share with you some of the best of Whitman's astounding poetry.

Speaker: Fabian Jennings & Robert Wiznura
Service Leader: Fabian Jennings & Robert Wiznura
Musician: Rebecca Patterson

May 10 – Seeing Beyond Ourselves

This Mother's Day, come enjoy a humorous reflection on the gifts children bring into our lives. There's nothing like parenting to shift a person's priorities!

There will be a new member recognition ceremony during the service.

Speaker: Rev. Anne Barker
Service Leader: Doug Ridgway
Musician: Havelock Thompson

May 17 – The Ethics and Culture of Tagging

In Ancient Rome, they called it "graffiti." The early Christians used to "tag" walls in Rome with the symbol of the fish. Today, boxcars,

abandoned buildings and barren walls bear the marks of "taggers." Is this renegade art or destructive vandalism? Alternate visions of beauty or symptoms of nihilistic anarchy? Is there such a thing as ethical tagging or even spiritual tagging? Come, join Westwood youth Nora Wiznura as she explains tagging culture and argues for its presence in our society.

Speaker: Nora Wiznura
Service Leader: Virginia Gillese & Robert Wiznura
Musician: Joel Crichton

May 24 – In Search of ... Priorities

In a world with so much attention and resource caught up in consumer culture and other distractions, common priorities are largely missing. The sixth Unitarian principle is "the goal of world community, with peace, liberty, and justice for all." Is that lofty idealism or is it really possible to have our principles become priorities?

Speaker: Dawn N.
Service Leader: Andrea Boyd
Musician: Harmonia

May 31 – Keeping Promises

We make promises all the time – some big, some small – all important ... or are they? This service reflects on the many challenges of "keeping promises."

Speaker: Rev. Anne Barker
Service Leader: Heather MacDonald
Musician: Joel Crichton



Anne's FAQs

This month I thought I would publish the answers to two of my 'most frequently asked questions'. I suspect there are more of you out there, wondering the same things, so here goes ...

FAQ #1: What is different, now that you are ordained?

Ordination is a rite of passage for Unitarian Universalist ministers – granted in our tradition by the authority of a congregation (the Unitarian Congregation of Saskatoon in my case ... my home church) and affirmed by the Professional Ministerial Fellowship.

The most noticeable difference is ... ordination grants me the right to use the word "Reverend" ... which makes me, in official speak: "*The Reverend Anne Barker*". I learned last month that, traditionally, 'Reverend' is not a title – and writing simply 'Reverend Barker' is apparently a grammatical travesty ... that 'Reverend' is technically an adjective and, to be correct, 'the Reverend' should be placed before full names only. (*Really! It is in the Unitarian Universalist Association Ordination Manual!*) 'Reverend' certainly enjoys a more casual, common usage these days – and in Canadian congregations, it often comes with just a first name chaser, like "Reverend Anne". Try it out sometime ... its sure to get a smile from me ;-)

FAQ #2: What is a 'call' – in minister talk (as opposed to a contract, or an interim ministry)?

When you 'call' a minister, the congregation is establishing an on-going covenantal relationship with that minister. The promise you make, each to the other, is to work together for the best interests of the congregation. Like any healthy, committed relationship, you negotiate ways of sharing responsibilities, promoting growth, improving communication and enhancing education. Assuming the best of one another, you celebrate your shared

successes and work to build capacity where there is room for improvement.

Unlike a time limited contract, a call has no 'end date' and continues at the pleasure of both the minister and the congregation. A contract ministry is confined to a specific set of dates – often used as a test year, to accomplish a specific purpose or range of goals. An 'interim ministry' generally occurs between called ministers, is negotiated to last one year, or two at most, and focuses primarily on maintenance, while the congregation searches for it's permanent minister. In extraordinary circumstances, an interim ministry is arranged with a 'specialist', to help resolve significant conflict or promote healing after a difficult experience like a church fire or the death of a beloved long-time minister.

A call is a commitment – for both congregation and minister – where the minister settles in to stay, taking a longer term view of the position. The *average* Unitarian 'call' lasts about seven years – with some lasting fewer and others lasting decades. The relationship continues for as long as both parties feel they are effectively serving the mission and the shared ministry of the congregation.

I am always happy to answer questions, and to meet with members and friends. Please, let me know if there is something on your mind....

In love,
The Newly Reverend Anne Barker

Thank you to everyone at Westwood –
From those who traveled,
(it was great to have you there,)
To those whose good wishes traveled with
us...
(we felt you there!)

...the service of Ordination was
A gift in so many ways,
And your love and support
Made it even more special!

Thank you again,
Anne Barker

Upcoming Events

UUGuys

Sunday, May 3, 7 – 9 pm at the church

UUGuys, Westwood's Men's Group, will meet Sunday, May 3, from 7-9 p.m. at the church. After our check-in, we will discuss our monthly topic (to be determined). Newcomers are always welcome.

The next Social Justice meeting will be on **Wednesday May 6th at 7:15 pm** at Edda Loomes' place. Anyone interested in social justice is welcome.

Next Spinning the Web Dinner

Saturday May 9, 2009

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.

Many thanks to Virginia Gillese who has offered to organize Spinning the Web dinners next year along with Kath Oltsher.

Charleen Miles
cpmiles@telus.net

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 in the making to have a Westwood Information Booth again at Churchill Square after the parade. See p. 5 for more information about the parade and the huge rainbow banner.

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

May 13: *cancelled* – CUC AGM
May 27: 5th Principle

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

Want to Help with Summer Solstice?

Anne & Lori are planning the
Summer Solstice Service

This year Summer Solstice
will be the
Sunday Morning Service

10:30 am
Sunday June 21 2009

We are hoping to sing and dance
in Ellingson Park
(*weather permitting ...*
... so say your prayers now!)

and

to follow up with a BBQ
in the Church Yard

Got thoughts? Wanna help?
Call 780-434-5819

Net Culture: Opportunities and Threats at Westwood – An Intergenerational Learn Fest!

Social software and other network applications promise to create a new means to find kindred souls, work with, learn and enjoy each other and perhaps even to nourish and develop our spiritual natures. But does this online culture threaten or support our current place-based community? Will these new tools help us organize and enrich Westwood community, our turn is into stay-at-home screen heads? A challenge these sessions help us overcome is that many members of our community have not experienced nor been exposed to these online tools and environments.

First Session Date: Wednesday, May 13, 7:00 - 8:30 pm – Upstairs at Westwood

In the first session Westwood Youth overview the net tools that they use in their personal, educational and social environments. What challenges have they faced in developing a productive and non exploitive online culture? For many adults this culture is at best obscure and often invisible. What lessons have our youth learned about communication and life on the Net? In this first session, Westwood Youth guide us through their experience of online life.

Second Session Date: Wednesday, May 20, 7:00 - 8:30 pm – Upstairs at Westwood

In the second session we explore the environments and tools of social connectivity through a guided tour of some of the most popular social software and Web 2.0 applications. In particular, we look at the way other Unitarians are using the Net and ask which of these tools may offer substantial benefit to our Westwood community. Hopefully, through exposure and discussion we create a supportive online communication infrastructure to benefit our interconnected web of life and help us to avoid embarrassing, insulting or compromising each other!

Facilitator: Terry Anderson

Terry works as a university professor and holds the Canada Research Chair in Distance Education at Athabasca University. This session updates his 1999 service presentation at Westwood – titled “The Soul in CyberSpace”

These sessions are sponsored by the Westwood Youth Group and the Adult Education Committee – don't miss 'em!

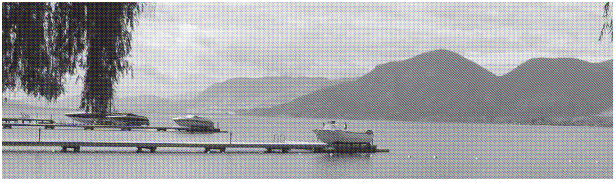


CU*UL SCHOOL
Leadership School

Thursday, July 23 – to Sunday, July 26, 2009
Winnipeg (University of Manitoba)

- Networking
- Congregational Leadership skills & training
- Opportunities for personal spiritual reflection
- Group Learning
- Worship
- Small Group Ministry
- New Ideas & Best Practices

See www.cuc.ca for more information.



Eliot Institute Camp – Naramata

June 27 – July 4

Deans Sonya Wachowski and Carla Mandy look forward to leading first time campers and returnees in a week's adventure at Eliot at Naramata 09. Come for the sun, the fun, the music, the fellowship and worship experiences, the wonderful food, and the beautiful Okanagan Lake. This year's theme speaker promises an uplifting camp experience through the theme "Full-Spectrum Joyfulness!" Learn and practice seven joyfulness themes -- become skilled at raising your spirits and mood in almost any circumstances. They are fun to do, easy to remember, playful, and meaningful. We'll use art, movement, discussion, and music to explore these themes and adapt them to our own daily lives and individual needs. Led by Rev. Amanda Aikman, author of forthcoming book, and Julia McKay, musician and Interplay facilitator.

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

Westwood News

Huge Rainbow Banner for the Pride Parade



How many Unitarians does it take to carry a 125 foot banner?

We'll find out on Saturday, June 13th at Edmonton's annual Pride parade.

Westwood has arranged to borrow a 125 foot long section of the Pride Rainbow Project banner. It will be a wonderful visual in the parade, and we hope to attract attention to Unitarians long time support for people in the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer communities. It also looks to be fun and we hope people will join in!

The Pride Rainbow Project was started in 2003 by five youth at the Unitarian Church of Calgary. They created a 500 foot rainbow banner to make a bold statement about equal marriage for same sex partners in Canada. The banner now has a diverse mandate that continues to be very relevant today: To support equal treatment and equal opportunity for people who are often marginalized or discriminated against based on their sexual orientation, gender expression and/or identity; through use of the banner as a rallying point. See more online about the Pride Rainbow Project: www.priderainbowproject.com.

The parade is on **June 13th**. It begins at **2:00 pm** and travels to Churchill Square where there will be presentations, displays, entertainment and refreshments.

We need people.

Please watch for the sign up sheets...

- to help carry the banner (125 feet long x 5 feet wide)
- to staff the display booth at Churchill Square (one hour shifts from 3 to 8 pm).
- advance help is appreciated to prepare the display, literature and media releases.

Any questions? Please ask Carl Ulrich, Janice Williamson, Lori Crozier or Dawn N. or send e-mail to: queer@westwoodunitarian.ca.

Hymnals Missing in Action

Have you got one of Westwood's hymnals at home and just keep forgetting to bring it back to the church? While many of us have our own hymnals, often others borrow one of the church's copies. We have been short of hymnals during several services over the last few months. Before we consider purchasing additional copies it would be great to see if any of our "wandering" ones come home.

Green Corner

Being Water-Wise Around the House

By Cassie Aziz-Few
Brought to you by the Social Justice Committee

You might think that here in Canada we have plenty of water so it doesn't matter much if we waste it or pollute it with toxic chemicals. In fact, in many areas water tables are falling, rainfall is scarce and wells often run dry. In addition, many aboriginal communities do not have access to clean, safe water for drinking or washing, resulting in diarrhoeal diseases and rashes, even increases in cancer frequencies. We can play our part in water conservation by reducing our consumption and re-using our water when possible. We can also become aware of local, national and international environmental and political issues around water supplies and advocate for its status as a human right...after all, as water-based life-forms we need water quite as much as we need air to breathe!

What can I do?

Fitting a low-flow showerhead is easy to do, and turning off the water while applying soap in the shower, (or while brushing teeth,) as well as shortening total shower time will help a lot. Keeping the temperature not too hot will actually help many dry skin conditions. (Also, is there a certain someone you could share a shower with??)

Did you know that using a high-efficiency dishwasher uses less water than hand-washing? Also, low flush toilets make a sensible investment over the long haul, and certainly should be in use in high traffic public places. (I have recently seen a 1.4 litre/6L option!) Imagine the savings in not flushing all that drinking quality water straight down the drain!

In the garden, you could use "grey water" left over from washing (use eco-friendly soap or detergents!) on your lawn or beds and remember a deep watering once a week (only 1 inch!) is better than "little and often" or you could use a rain barrel and watering can instead.

Board News

Splinters from the Board

AGM June 7

At the board meeting on April 13, the Board began considerations for the congregation's annual general meeting coming up after the service on Sunday, June 7th (which happens to be full moon). Top on our agenda will be calling Anne Barker to be our settled minister for the congregation and approving our contract with her. We will also, of course, be electing new Board members, reviewing our budget and any other needed business.

Basement Partitions for CRE

Brenda Niska-Aro came from the Children's Religious Education committee to talk about a plan to assist with the youth and intermediate young people's sessions which are somewhat crowded in the main room of the basement on Sundays. CRE suggested some kind of portable division for the room, to allow both groups of young people to meet with a bit of their own space. The Board agreed with their concept and approved up to \$500 from the Building and Grounds budget to buy office dividers to partition the room for the Sunday mornings.

Giant Pride Rainbow Banner

Dawn N. came to talk about details for the upcoming Pride Parade on June 13th, including bringing in the amazing 125 foot Unitarian Rainbow banner for the occasion.

CUC Conference Delegates

We chose two delegates, Linda Jennings and Lorian Kennedy, to go to the Canadian Unitarian Council annual conference in Thunder Bay on behalf of Westwood. We noted that there still is funding to send delegates to CU*UL School, July 23 to 26th in Winnipeg. Sending Westwoodians to these events helps develop leadership in our congregation.

Long-Range Planning Committee

The Board also voted to revive the Westwood Long-Range Planning committee which has been inactive for over a year. We have completed our last five year plan, the main feature of which was to hire a minister! It's time again to look forward to the new future. The Board agreed to have the terms of reference, and hopefully a chairperson, ready by the time of the annual meeting.

New Photocopier for Office

Suzanne Grant, our new administrator was also warmly welcomed by the Board to her first meeting. Suzanne already brought some concrete suggestions that the Board adopted. One of these is selecting some new office machines, photocopier and fax, for the office. Suzanne's plate is quite full already, so the Board is putting out an invitation to anyone in the congregation who has a technical bent and would like to help Suzanne in selecting new equipment to please come forward and contact David Deephouse or Pam Brierley.

Membership

The Board was also pleased to admit and warmly welcome two new members, Susan Junas and Dona-Kaitlen Beitel. We also affirmed Janice Bell's request to move to Friend status from member.

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 May 11 at 7:00 pm.**

Help!

Can you help Westwood select and purchase a new photocopier and fax machine?

Contact Suzanne Grant, our administrator, or David Deephouse or Pam Brierley if you can help.

Treasurer's Notes



***The budget is coming!
The budget is coming!***

Our stewardship canvass is nearly complete. On behalf of everyone who benefits from Westwood, I extend my deepest thanks to you who will have pledged support by the end of canvass. Also, I would like to thank each and every canvasser for taking the time to talk with members and friends of Westwood and to the Stewardship Team.

The money coming from canvass needs to be allocated to people, programs, and places (i.e., our budgeted expenses). After receiving the final canvass pledge, the board will compare this number to the total spending requests from Westwood committees. If projected expenses are larger than what we expect to receive, then your board of trustees will have to make difficult decisions at its May 11 board meeting. It may seek to balance our budget in a number of ways, including reducing all programs by a constant percentage, scrutinizing and reducing individual committee requests, or deferring major spending initiatives. The board may also choose to approve a budget deficit as it did last year.

We will send you our proposed budget for next year before the Annual General Meeting, which will be held on June 7. If you have any questions about it, please contact me or any member of the board or bring your questions to the meeting.

David Deephouse, Treasurer

P.S. Don't forget to submit your receipts and cash Westwood cheques!

Westwood's Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 7th, after the service

On the agenda:

- Calling Anne Barker as our settled minister
- Electing new Board of Trustees members
- Review of Budget

... and, no doubt, more...

Mother: A Cradle to Hold Me

It is true
I was created in you.
It is also true
That you were created for me.
I owned your voice.
It was shaped and tuned to soothe me.
Your arms were molded
Into a cradle to hold me, to rock me.
The scent of your body was the air
Perfumed for me to breathe.

Mother,
During those early, dearest days
I did not dream that you had
A larger life which included me,
Among your other concerns,
For I had a life
Which was only you.

Time passed steadily and drew us apart.
I was unwilling.
I feared if I let you go
You would leave me eternally.
You smiled at my fears, saying
I could not stay in your lap forever
That one day you would have to stand

And where would I be?
You smiled again.
I did not.
Without warning you left me,
But you returned immediately.
You left again and returned,
I admit, quickly.
But relief did not rest with me easily.
You left again, but again returned.
You left again, but again returned.
Each time you reentered my world
You brought assurance.
Slowly I gained confidence.

You thought you knew me,
But I did know you,
You thought you were watching me,
But I did hold you securely in my sight,
Recording every movement,
Memorizing you smiles, tracing your frowns.
In your absence
I rehearsed you,
The way you had of singing
On a breeze,
While a sob lay
At the root of your song.

The way you posed your head
So that the light could caress your face
When you put your fingers on my hand
And your hand on my arm,
I was blessed with a sense of health,
Of strength and very good fortune.

You were always
The heart of happiness to me,
Bringing nougats of glee,
Sweets of open laughter.

I loved you even during the years
When you knew nothing
And I knew everything, I loved you still.
Condescendingly of course,
From my high perch
Of teenage wisdom.
I spoke sharply to you, often
Because you were slow to understand.
I grew older and
Was stunned to find
How much knowledge you had gleaned.
And so quickly.

Mother, I have learned enough now
To know I have learned nearly nothing.
On this day
When mothers are being honored,
Let me thank you
That my selfishness, ignorance, and mockery
Did not bring you to
Discard me like a broken doll
Which had lost its favor.

I thank you that
You still find something in me
To cherish, to admire, and to love.

I thank you, Mother.
I love you.

--Maya Angelou



May 10 is Mothers' Day

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

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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..... Rev. 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
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
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
westwoodunewsletter@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

May 3
UUGuys, 7:00 pm

May 6
Social Justice meeting, 7:15 pm

May 9
Spinning the Web Dinner

May 11
Board meeting, 7:00 pm

May 13
Net Culture, 7:00 pm

May 15
Deadline for June newsletter

May 20
Net Culture, 7:00 pm

May 27
Welcome Circle, 7:00 pm

June 7
Westwood's Annual General Meeting

June 13
Edmonton Pride Parade, 2:00 pm

