



The Beacon

Beacon Unitarian Church

Volume 32, Number 2, February 2014

Sunday Worship Services and Religious Education Classes are held at the **Sapperton Pensioners' Hall, 318 Keary Street, New Westminster.** Services start at 10:30 a.m.

Justice and Change - When we respond to a call for justice we invite change into our lives: this is the service theme for February. Our speakers this month address international and local issues, from the personal, prophetic and political perspectives. - Rev. Debra Thorne

Sunday February 2, 10:30 a.m.

Kick at the Darkness: The prophetic life and work of Bruce Cockburn

Rev. Debra Thorne

The crisis in our times is the entrapment of our imaginations and thus the loss of our freedom to re- envision our world. Bruce Cockburn, poet, activist, described by U2's Bono as a postmodern psalmist, has been kicking at this darkness through his musical imagination for forty years. The Beacon Choir and special guests will offer us his music: Lovers in a Dangerous Time, Wondering Where the Lions Are, and All the Diamonds in the World.

 **Food Bank collection.**
Choir sings today.

Sunday February 9, 10:30 a.m.

"Justice & Transformation": consultative decision-making & moral-spiritual development

Harold Rosen

Harold invites us to view Justice as a process of universal participation. It emerges from respectful and mature consultation in ever-widening circles – beginning with individuals and families, and extending to nations and the world. We will deepen our exploration of Justice as a transformative process for humanity as a whole.

Harold Rosen is one of Beacon's former ministers (1987 – 92), now serving as a community interfaith educator in the Fraser Valley, and he is the author of "Founders of Faith: Parallel Lives of Divine Educators" and "Eye to the Ages: The Rise, Fall and Progressive Renewal of Civilization" (www.interfaitheducation.org).

Coordinator: Marilyn Medén



Deadline for the March Beacon
February 15, 2014
Please send to:
Newsletter@BeaconUnitarian.org

Sunday February 16, 10:30 a.m.

A Compelling Vision

Rev. Debra Thorne

From the international work of the ICUU (International Council of Unitarians and Universalists) to our local Beacon community the challenges of our changing world are demanding a re-envisioning of who we are and what our purpose is. Each of these communities will wither and die if they do not harness the will and the imagination to respond to the world today. This month Beacon will launch into the process of seeking and articulating its 'compelling vision'. (The ship is ready to sail!)

Sunday February 23 10:30 a.m.

The Art of Bridge-Building

Rev. Don Grayston

Building Bridges Vancouver is a public education program concerned with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Rev. Grayston is a passionate advocate for this program which combines dialogue and activism. He believes that this conflict has the same level of moral claim on us in our time as the civil rights movement in its time.

The Reverend Dr Don Grayston is an Anglican priest, and former director of the Jubilee Program in Spiritual Direction, of which Rev Thorne is an alumna. Several Beaconites have taken the courses he has offered through SFU Seniors Program.

buildingbridgesvancouver.wordpress.com

Coordinator: Rev. Debra Thorne

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From the Minister's Desk

At the time of writing this article I have just returned from a personal retreat. I have often thought over the past few years that I needed to make the time for a retreat from the world, in order to reconnect with my heart and soul, but there was never enough time! I had got myself caught in the momentum of a busy world where there is always more than enough to be done, and then some. I think what we could all benefit from is a little more spaciousness in our lives: time to breathe, time to meditate and pray, time to think, time to feel. Whether you think this foolish or unnecessary, I can only say to you that it has made all the difference. I know this because I am more present, more calm, and more grounded. I have more patience now, more ability to listen, and more capacity to hold lightly the stories of those who put their trust in me.

Now in the second year of ministry, I am deepening into the journey of my understanding of how and what it means to minister. Being your consulting minister has

included guiding a mission process, supporting restructuring of committees, introducing committee work as spiritual work, systems analysis, community outreach, pastoral visits and of course creating Sunday Services. Yet in and through all the 'things' I do to serve Beacon is a less concrete and more ineffable thing called 'ministry'. To nurture ministry in myself and in each of you requires, from time to time, getting away from the world of motion and sound, that I may begin to hear the whispers in the silence and the movements in the stillness, both for myself and for Beacon.

Sharing this ministry with you is a wonderful, rich adventure. You will see in this newsletter the details for the mission/vision process coming this month. This is an important journey for Beacon, and as Sue Sparlin says, we'll likely end with a great sigh of relief as we recognise together the ministry that is Beacon's to do and be in the world.

With warmth and gratitude

Rev. Debra Thorne

You're Invited!

The North Shore Unitarian Church will ordain Samaya Oakley on Saturday, March 29 at 2:30 pm at St. David's United Church in West Vancouver, BC.

Ordaining Samaya is a joyous honour and a sacred responsibility for the North Shore Unitarian Church which has supported her in this path and watched her grow for over fifteen years. Please plan on attending on Saturday, March 29 at 2:30 pm at St. David's United Church! More information about Samaya's ordination can be found at <http://northshoreunitarians.ca/ordination/>



Beacon Unitarian Church

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President's Ponderings

I am so excited about the upcoming Mission/Vision/Purpose workshops we will be undertaking at Beacon. When we have discovered/identified/named our collective purpose, we will be able to

focus our energies so much more effectively. I can hardly contain myself.

It is so remarkable that we have accomplished all that we have by trusting in one another and making the best possible decisions we can make at the time we are making them. But to have a plan, to have a goal, a purpose... What shall we make of ourselves?

I am pleased that Rev. Debra Thorne will be guiding us through this process. She has a tremendous capacity for deep listening and for returning us to our highest and best selves.

2014 will be a turning point for us. I believe we shall not be steering a course that is vastly different or unrecognizable. I believe the end of this process will rather be a collective sigh of relief. Ahh. That's it. That's who we are. That's where we're going. Let's get on it. In the words of the hymn "and we know we will".

Sue Sparlin
President, Beacon Board of Trustees

Board Bitz can be found on pages 5 & 6



Welcome Aboard the Beacon Cruise Line Congregational Dinner and Entertainment

Saturday, February 15th 4:30-9:00 pm
Sapperton Pensioners Hall Downstairs

Tickets \$25 per adult or \$15 plus a potluck dish to share

Kids \$5 each (age 6-16)

No host bar: wine and beer

Doors open at 4:30

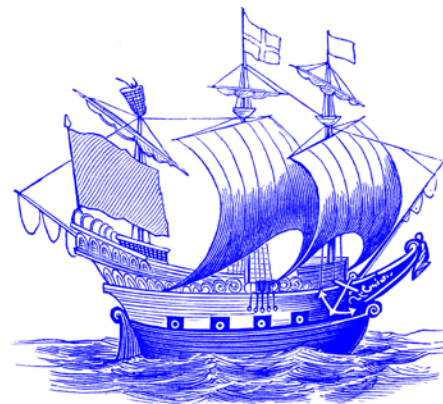
Appetizers and drinks: 5:00-5:45

Seating: 5:45-6:00

Dinner: 6:00-7:30

Entertainment: 7:30-8:30

Clean up: 8:30-9:00



Tickets can be bought at church or reserve by email info@beaconunitarian.org

Sign up for tickets and tasks at church.

Get on board the Beacon cruise party!!

Formal attire: gloves, hats, jackets, ties, long gowns (have fun)

This is a fundraiser for the work of the church. A number of free tickets are available on request.

Beacon's Religious Education Corner

by Amber Strocel

Beacon's mission statement says that our church embraces diversity, and works together in a spirit of respect, safety and openness. In other words, our community seeks to be a welcoming and inclusive space. It's important to us that our religious education program reflects that. To help the children learn about embracing diversity and treating each other with respect, this winter we will be learning to identify and understand our emotions.

To help children learn to recognize and respond to their emotions, we will be reading a book called *Happy, Sad, & Everything in Between*. We will also use our theatre curriculum to role-play common situations that children may encounter in their daily

lives. Our goal is that our church school will be a place where children can learn to respond with empathy, and where everyone feels welcome.

Our next playlet is called "Los Mariachis Mexicanos", based on the familiar folk tale "The Brentown Musicians". In addition to working on skills like speaking slowly and clearly, and projecting, we're focusing on identifying the emotions experienced by the characters in the playlet.

We are also hoping to work on some puppet shows later on in the season, as a fun way to enrich our theatre curriculum and explore our feelings.

~ Amber and Laura

Sharing the Plate 2014-2015

Time to start thinking of our next Sharing the Plate recipient. If you have a favourite charity you would like to nominate, pick up a form at church or on our website. The work of the charity must reflect one or more of our UU principles.

If you would be willing to serve on the STP Review committee, please contact Sue Sparlin. The committee selects two or three of the charities to be voted on at the AGM in April. Selection must be completed by March 15th.



Come outside and play!

Unitarian Family Camp June 6-8, 2014

Set in the natural splendor of Port Moody's Belcarra Regional Park, the camp offers swimming, boating, hiking, climbing, children's programming, a workshop for youth/adults, campfires and other fun communal events.

Heated cabins with electricity. Meals provided.

Note: you do not need children to attend Family Camp!

Early bird registration deadline: Sun. March 23

Early bird rates: Adults: \$130; Children: \$123.

Register early, save, and help out the planning committee!

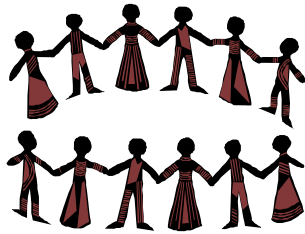
Download a brochure/registration form at www.beaconunitarian.org/sasamat.html

or

Talk with Peggy Lunderville or Laura Redmond for more information.

Affinity Groups

Beacon's "Affinity Groups" include several small groups which are always equally welcoming to newcomers and seasoned Beaconites. So, if you'd like to meet with Beaconites in a warm and supportive environment, check out our small groups.



Lunch Bunch - meets every Thursday at noon; for information contact Ivy Hubbard 604-527-9990.

Choir - Tuesday rehearsals, 7:30 - 9:15 p.m. at Miller Park School. New members most welcome. For more choir info: call Charlene 604-464-3992.

Humanist Group Meeting is on Jan. 26, 7.30 pm at Astoria House, Port Coquitlam.

Presenter Luc Beaudoin's title is: *To lead a good life, how should we relate to our affect*

Description: Affect is the construction of value (goals, norms and attitudes). How should we relate to our affect in order to lead a good life? We will consider the book *The Happiness Trap* by Russ Harris and content from the service of January 19 (sermon by Luc Beaudoin on emotion).

We are an open group and you are welcome. Contact is Anita Hagen 604-521-1335 ajhagen@telus.net

Will you please be a "10:15 Greeter"

Who is a 10.15 greeter, you may ask?

- You are a regular churchgoer, maybe a choir member, and you can be at the greeter table 15 minutes before the service.
- You like to work with people, and a short volunteer task, once a month, is appealing.
- You join the other greeter at 10:15 and as soon as the service is over, you help put everything away (25 minutes in all).
- And you will enjoy yourself.

Our Volunteer Coordinator, Anita, would love to hear from you!!

Anita Hagen 604-521-1335 ajhagen@telus.net

Share Food Bank Project @ Beacon

Sunday, Feb. 2 is Beacon's first 2014 collection for the SHARE Food Bank. In the two weeks before Christmas, SHARE gave out nearly 1,200 food hampers, 325 of them at the depot where Beacon volunteers work. SHARE also provided 1100 children, from babies to 16 years, with toys and gifts.

Each Food Bank day, Beacon volunteers give out food hampers, plus bread, fruit and vegetables and baby supplies to over 100 households. Please be as generous as you can with your monthly gift of money and food. And if you have time to volunteer, once every second Wednesday, you are needed.

John and Anita Hagen, Food Bank volunteers

Board Bitz

By Sue Sparlin (continued on next page)

Financial Reviewer:

We are pleased to report that the Board has appointed Nick Cheng as our Financial Reviewer for the 2013 fiscal year. Nick is a licensed Financial Advisor with Edward Jones in New Westminster. He has a PhD from Cornell University and was named the Business Person of the Year in New Westminster in 2008. We are honoured that he has offered to be our Financial Reviewer for 2013. Nick is passionate about helping local charities maximize their financial resources and has advised many seniors on planning their estates. Beacon has an account with Edward Jones that allows our members to transfer their investments to Beacon and thus save a big chunk of taxes. (For more information

on this, see our Treasurer, Audrey Taylor). Nick will be reporting to the AGM after reviewing our financial processes and records.

Nominations:

The Nominating Committee may be contacting you to ask you to serve on the Board of Trustees or on the Nominating Committee. We will be looking for a new President this year, as I will be ending the four years of elected service in April. I encourage you to say yes. Service on the Board has been one of the most significant spiritual growth opportunities I have had the privilege to experience. This is a great way to serve your faith community and to foster your spiritual growth in the process.

Board Bitz, continued

By Sue Sparlin

Lay Chaplaincy Fees:

The CUC has increased the fee it charges member churches for each service performed by a Lay Chaplain, effective Jan 1 2014. In the view of this change, and so as to not change our 2014 budget projections, the Board moved, seconded and passed the following:

Resolved: that the Board approve an increase effective immediately of \$25 to the fees for Lay Chaplaincy services at Beacon: \$5 of that increase to go to the CUC, \$10 to Beacon and \$10 to the Lay Chaplain. This will effectively raise our rates from \$250 to \$275 for weddings and memorials.

Worship Committee re Guest Musicians:

The Worship Committee asked for clarification regarding guest musicians. The Board affirmed that, other than the budget item for guest pianists, there is no money for guest musicians. The Music Committee is responsible for guest pianists. However, in order to offer guest musicians an opportunity to financially benefit from performing at Beacon, the Board accepted the Worship Committee's recommendation and moved, seconded and passed the following:

Resolved: that Beacon invite visiting musicians to sell their cds or other promotional materials downstairs after the service and that they retain all proceeds thereof.

Sapperton Hall Rental:

The rates for the hall rental will be going up by \$5 per hour for the upstairs hall and \$5 per hour for the downstairs hall. This will increase our budget projections for hall rental. Sue has been fielding all Beacon requests for Hall rental. Prior to this announcement of fee increases she has been booking space from the moment we step foot in the building to the moment we leave. From now on she will take advantage of the one free half hour for set up and one free half hour for clean up for each instance of rental so that our total annual budget projections do not have to change. The new rates are \$50 per hour for the upstairs hall and \$40 per hour for the downstairs hall.

SHARE Food Bank donations:

John and Anita Hagen asked the Board to consider a change in the way we do the Food Bank donations. The Board considered this request and approved the following:

1. That a collection be available at the door on Food Bank Sunday, with some motivational effort to encourage lots of coins.
2. That information about tax receipted donations to the Food Bank be updated. Cheques should be payable to SHARE and not go through the Beacon accounts.
3. That the food basket be continued for non-perishable food donations.
4. That the idea of sharing food be promoted in the Beacon newsletter and at Sunday Services.
5. That the Food Bank "treasurers" be encouraged to set an achievable annual cash target for Beacon's food bank donations and report the multiplier purchasing power of our collective cash donations back to the congregation. This is not, however, to be considered a Beacon commitment but rather a goal for those charged with handling the Food Bank donations.

It should be noted that there are at least nine Beaconites, including John and Anita, who volunteer their time at the Food Bank once or twice a month to help sort and pack food and be welcoming representatives of our congregation. We thank them for their service.

Stewardship Committee Chair Appointed:

In consideration of Sue's leaving the Board in April, and in the light of the recent Stewardship Workshop that was attended by five Beacon members, the Board moved, seconded, and passed the following:

Resolved: that the Board support the creation of a Stewardship Committee, and that Sue Sparlin be appointed to chair that committee, effective immediately.

The Stewardship Committee will operate year round and will promote stewardship within and without our church community. More about this later. See Sue for more information about the committee.

Our next Board Meeting is Wednesday, February 12th at Lundervilles. Members are welcome to attend as observers.

Report from our 2012-2013 Sharing the Plate Recipient
This is what our donation has been able to help with.



BROUGHT
TO YOU BY



PADS

January 2014

Merlot

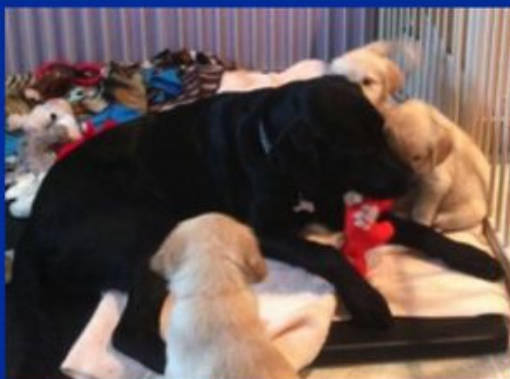
(wine litter)

Birthday: January 30, 2013

Dam/Sire: Paige/Bufett

Raisers: Tara Dong & Susan Woodward

Sponsor: Beacon Unitarian Church



Merlot takes a break with some brand new PADS puppies, the Australian Litter

Merlot has really matured this month, she lives with two other dogs (a former PADS dog Maisie and a wee Sheltie named Chai) -- whenever the doorbell rings they have to go to landing on the stairs and wait nicely while people come and go. At Christmas Tara (Merlot's puppy-raiser) was so busy with her guests that she forgot to release the dogs. A few minutes later Maisie and Chai forgot that they were supposed to be waiting on the stairs, and came down without being released. But the youngest of the bunch, sweet Merlot had stayed patiently waiting right where she'd been told! Merlot has also been very busy with a LOT of brand new PADS pups in her house recently, in October the "Australian" Litter (of 7 of Golden Retrievers) were there for 2 weeks and then for Christmas the "Hunger Games" litter (of 7 Labrador Retrievers) came to stay until they go to puppy-raisers in January - Merlot loves the puppies and often will ask to go in and play (or cuddle) with them. She's also been very good about teaching them nice Assistance Dog manners, like not jumping up and playing gently with each other!

Thank you for your contribution. With your help, we are able to change lives.

www.PADS.ca

9048 Stormont Ave, Burnaby, BC V3N 4G6 T 604.527.0556 F 604.527.0558 E info@pads.ca

Mission/Vision Team News

You will recall, dear reader, that we left our two valiant shipmates from the Good Ship Beacon at the hostelry known as the Briny Deep, where they had imbibed not only a generous measure of rum but also a modicum of sage advice from an experienced nautical adventurer, to wit, Captain Jack Sparrow. Now we rejoin them as they mull over the importance of what they have heard.

Old Salt: Shiver me timbers! That was a fateful meeting – almost as though it was meant to be.

Salty Jr: Right you are. Now we do have a clearer idea of where we need to go, and what we need to do.

Old Salt: Yes, that Jack Sparrow –

Salty Jr: That's Captain Jack Sparrow.

Old Salt: Yes, well, he certainly sounded like he knew what he was talking about.

Salty Jr: Blister me barnacles! I liked the bit about having courage when sailing in uncharted seas and confronting our fears while we learn more about what we're seeking.

Old Salt: And I thought the best part was about listening to each other, negotiating and preserving right relations, while keeping our eyes on the challenge and the goal.

Salty Jr: And don't forget to check the horizon and look for shoals and unfavourable currents...

Old Salt: Well, we've certainly got enough to get started, but we need a captain and crew. Jack Sparrow has –

Salty Jr: That's Captain Jack Sparrow, to you.

Old Salt: Oh, right, sorry. Anyway, we need a leader who's not as whimsical as Captain Jack, but someone who's as well versed in sailing lore, who can help us find our way through these uncharted waters.

Old Salt: Someone who's upright, forthright –

Salty Jr: But not uptight

Old Salt: Right, but with a good head on their shoulders, and a good nautical bent –

Salty Jr: No, not bent – we want someone who's upright – downright upright.

Old Salt: Right, but with a good sense of direction.

Salty Jr: We want a captain for the good ship Beacon –

Old Salt: And a right good captain, too.

Salty Jr: In fact, the very model of a modern Unitarian.

Old Salt: But then we need a crew, too. Who else can we encourage to join us?

We invite other seafarers with a generosity of spirit, an enquiring mind, and a consideration for the worth and dignity of other seafarers – even pirates – and a thirst for right living, on a voyage of fulfilment and discovery. People who want to make a difference in the world.

Salty Jr: People who need –

Old Salt: People??

Salty Jr: No, people who want to have a clear sense of identity – people who want to know where they're going and why.

Old Salt: Well, we're ready to weigh the anchor! Hoist the top-gallant sail! Call the watch! Who's ready to join us on this great adventure, as we sail off in search of our vision, and our new mission? Who will join us?

So now it seems that the Good Ship Beacon is all set to accept its stalwart captain and crew, and soon will be ready to sail on the great voyage of discovery. Where will the voyage take them? How soon will they get to their destination? For the answers to these and other compelling questions, join us as we embark on the quest for a vision, and a mission. Stay tuned for progress reports in future issues of this newsletter. (see invitation on page 9)



Visioning our future: Towards a new Beacon mission statement

You're invited to help craft a new vision/mission statement for Beacon. It's been many years since the present one was written, the congregation has changed substantially in that time, and we now have a new minister, too. Starting in February we will all have an opportunity to share in the creation of a new statement, one that will guide us into the future. In Debra's words, the aim is to "create a compelling vision, one that will fuel our evolution and invigorate our future".

You're invited to think about what you would like Beacon's vision statement to be (the vision is what you want to achieve), and the mission statement (how we get to the vision). Everything the church does will be guided by our mission statement, so it's important that everyone has an opportunity to shape that statement. Now's your chance!

Here's an outline of the planned sequence of events, which is designed to lead up to the adoption of a new statement in mid-May. It won't be all work –there will be skits, singing (and possibly even dancing), eating together, and other fun things happening. Don't miss it!

Mission/Vision Calendar of events

Saturday, February 22 *All-community workshop, 10 am – 3 pm, at Sapperton.* A day of creative exploration and blue-sky thinking to inspire our hearts and imaginations to reach for a compelling future. This will be a potluck BYOS (bring your own sandwich, plus something to share).

February 24 – March 16 *Small group dessert parties, in homes.* In these small groups (of 6-8 people, as in the Dialogues with Debra), everyone has a chance to share and discuss their vision for Beacon.

Monday, March 17 *Wordsmithing begins* Our wordsmiths start their work by gathering everyone's statements and melding them into a statement for the whole church community.

Sunday, April 6 *First draft of mission statement presented to congregation.* The new mission statement, created from the combined words of everyone who participated, to be presented in first draft form.

April 7 – May 10 *Community discussion and re-crafting of statement.* During this time, everyone will have a chance to review, discuss and comment on the statement. The wordsmiths will gather all the comments and suggestions for change, and will then craft a final version for presentation to the congregation on May 11.

Sunday, May 11 *Presentation of final statement to the congregation.* At this congregational meeting, the new statement, if approved, will become Beacon's official mission statement.

Further details about the February 22 workshop will be coming soon. You will be able to sign up for the small groups after both the February 22 workshop and the Sunday service on February 23.



Two invitations from North Shore Unitarian Church (NSUC)

1) On Friday, March 14th, 2014, (7:15 - 9 pm) a documentary film "Beyond the Medical Model" will be shown at NSUC. (370 Mathers Ave, North Vancouver). This is an exploration of the new and innovative approaches to the services to people with mental illness.

2) A workshop on Advanced Care Planning, led by Dying with Dignity, will be held at the NSUC in April or early May. Further information to come as it is available.

The Wider UU World

Travel with UUs

Take a Mindful Journey with UUs to Jerusalem to experience a city that captivates the imagination of billions of people, and is home to a mosaic of cultures and beliefs. We'll also go to Jordan and restore our bodies and souls at the Dead Sea, and walk through the awesome pathways of Petra. Join Rev. Wayne Walder in October/November, 2014. Email beverlz@me.com

Beverly Carr
Neighbourhood UU Congregation in Toronto

Dear Poets

We're gearing up for the ACM issue of The Canadian Unitarian, due out end-February. The theme of the issue is the same as that of the ACM: Building Beloved Community.

This is a call for poetry on this topic. Please could you send up to three poems to poetry@cuc.ca. The deadline is Friday, February 1.

Thank you!
Janet Vickers
Poetry Editor

The Beacon Calendar

February 2014

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday, Feb 2 | <i>Kick at the Darkness: The prophetic life and work of Bruce Cockburn</i> with Rev. Debra Thorne (choir)
Includes first Food Bank Collection of 2014 |
| Friday, Feb 7 | Worship Committee meeting, 9:15 @Sally's |
| Sunday, Feb 9 | <i>"Justice & Transformation": consultative decision-making & moral-spiritual development</i> with Harold Rosen |
| Wednesday Feb 12 | Board Meeting 7:30 pm @Lundervilles |
| Friday, Feb 14 | Youth Group meets, 7 pm |
| Saturday, Feb 15 | Beacon Cruise Line Congregational Dinner
Deadline for February newsletter |
| Sunday, Feb 16 | <i>A Compelling Vision</i> with Rev. Debra Thorne |
| Saturday, Feb 22 | All-community workshop, 10 am – 3 pm, at Sapperton |
| Sunday, Feb 23 | <i>The Art of Bridge-Building</i> with Rev. Don Grayston
And sign up for small group dessert parties (Sat & Sun) |
| Monday, Feb 24 | Start of small group dessert parties |

Every Thursday at noon - Lunch Bunch, see page 5 for contact info

Every Tuesday at 7:30 - Choir, see page 5 for contact info

Every Sunday at 10:30 - Worship Service at Sapperton Hall

Wednesdays Feb 5 and 19 - Food Bank @Como Lake United

Looking Ahead

Save the dates!

March 29 - Samaya Oakley's ordination by NSUC (see p 2)

April 27 - Beacon AGM

May 4 - Beacon Choir Concert

June 6 - 8 - Sasamat Family Camp

