



The Beacon

Beacon Unitarian Church

Volume 32, Number 6, June 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.

This past year the Worship Committee has been exploring the idea of monthly themes for our Sunday Services. It has been our intention to deepen and focus your Sunday morning experience. We are interested in your feedback. We will be planning themes for next year at our Worship Workshop on May 31. So please let the Worship Committee Chair, Marilyn Medén, know your thoughts by then or **please** consider coming to the workshop.

Sunday June 1, 10:30 a.m.

Whole Wide World

Rebecca Burns & Rev. Debra Thorne

The work of love and justice is needed everywhere we look. We are indeed fortunate to be able to be part of the healing from destruction and suffering, both in Canada and abroad. Rebecca Burns, who has just returned from leading a group of Unitarians to Haiti to help in the reconstruction efforts after the devastation two years ago, will speak about her experience. Rev. Debra Thorne wonders how we can embrace our vision of joy and justice in our own backyard.

The Choir sings

Food Bank Sunday



**Deadline for the Summer Beacon
June 6, 2014**

Please send to:

Newsletter@BeaconUnitarian.org

Service at Camp Sasamat:

<http://sasamat.org/directions.html>

Sunday June 8, 10:30 a.m.

Readings and Song

The choir workshop participants will sing music they learned with Alison Nixon this weekend. There will be lots of upbeat, joyous celebration amid the beauty of Camp Sasamat. Come join us.



Service at Sapperton Hall

Sunday June 8, 10:30 a.m.

Minimal Church

Sue Sparlin

What makes church church for you? Do we need an order of service? Music? Candles? Chairs? This is an experimental Sunday service where we will make church using the minimal acceptable to get our result. An adventure in creative church-making that was inspired by my recent experiences at the Canadian Unitarian Council Conference in Montreal.

I'm bringing coffee because I don't think you can do church without coffee!! What will you bring?

Sunday June 15, 10:30 a.m.

Inspire - Connect - Transform

Rev. Debra Thorne

Beacon has refined the vision of our future direction as a spiritual community to three potent words.

We will **inspire**, we will **connect**, and we will **transform**. I hope you can feel the compelling power in this vision. As we complete the visioning process it is time to celebrate our work! Then ask ourselves how do we embody this vision?

The Choir Sings and the Good Times Band Plays

Beacon Family Picnic follows the service. Map & directions on page 8.



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From the Minister's Desk



"Connections are made slowly" is a line from a reading in our hymnal by Marge Piercy. It comes to mind as I think about the work being done at the national level of our Canadian Unitarian Council.

This past week in Montreal I have been making new and renewing connections with congregational leaders, ministers, children and youth through workshops, business meetings, singing and worship with Canadian Unitarians from across the country. The perennial theme of these events could be "connecting" as that is the purpose of coming together, but this year the CUC Board has begun work on a vision statement and implementation priorities for the future of the UU movement in Canada. Connect, connecting and connections has become part of that. (There are wonderful parallels with our Beacon mission statement, which makes me wonder if there might be awareness or an impulse rising to the surface of the problem many of us face in this society of "disconnection".)

Last fall the CUC Board and invited guests came together to begin a visioning process. Out of this process they created the following platforms: That the CUC movement in Canada be

- 1) Theologically Alive,
- 2) Spiritually Grounded,
- 3) Embodying our Principles,
- 4) Boldly Inclusive,
- 5) Beyond Congregations,
- 6) Deeply Connected and
- 7) Technologically Current.

Upon these platforms they built a draft mission statement, which reads: *The Canadian Unitarian Council increases love and justice by nurturing spiritual growth, encouraging social responsibility, and honouring our interdependence; it supports Unitarian Universalist Communities in Canada.*

This statement boils down to "**Increasing Love and Justice**". Another initiative at the gathering was the very visual sea of green t-shirts that read: **Open Minds / Helping**

Hands / Loving Hearts. All of these creative movements were boiling up from a crucial need to focus our limited resources, both human and financial, on the survival of our Unitarian movement across Canada. We need to clearly state who we are and why we exist in the Canadian landscape if we want to have a future.

There are parallels here between Beacon and the national Unitarian movement. We are small, our numbers are not growing enough, our limited energies are being used to maintain our infrastructure, we are beginning to educate ourselves and to use the expanding resources of technology, we know we have a dynamic, relevant faith that could meet the needs of a hurting, frustrated and scared world but we don't know how to get our message out there.

Beacon is a little ahead of the national movement. We already have our vision statement and we have nearly completed the mission statement. The national Unitarian movement is moving forward in its conversation of who we are and why we exist as a liberal faith in Canada. I invite all of you to add your voice to this conversation. Now is not the time to move slowly in our connections. We need to send our connecting roots down deeply and broadly. In the near future I will be asking for your participation in creating a short video that we can send to other Unitarian congregations in Canada. We are all part of the whole!

Warmly, Debra

Postscript: It was announced at the ACM that Antonia Won, the Congregational Development person for the Western and B.C. Regions, is leaving her position to take up parish ministry in Bend, Oregon. (Many of us at Beacon will miss her expertise and support of congregational growth and leadership.)

For more understanding of the current visioning process and details on the priorities that the CUC Board is working from go to <http://cuc.ca/cuc-enews/> and open February 2014, there you will see a link to the document, "Canadian Unitarian Council: Turning Toward the Future". Or ask me for a copy.

Beacon Unitarian Church

#414, 552A Clarke Road Coquitlam, B.C. V3J 0A3
info@BeaconUnitarian.org

Consulting Minister 2013-2014:

Rev. Debra Thorne minister@BeaconUnitarian.org

Lay Chaplain: Marilyn Medén
 604-469-6797, m.j.medén@telus.net

Choir Director: Charlene Dubrule
 604-464-3992, char4myc@shaw.ca

Board Executive:

Terry McComas, Nancy Rupert, Audrey Taylor, Carol Woodworth

Trustees: Peggy Lunderville, Jane Shoemaker, Rob Warner

Connections & Membership Jean Donaldson 604-461-0056,
donaldsj@telus.net

Care & Concerns: Renée Spakowsky 604-463-8086

Beacon Editor: Donna Hamilton newsletter@BeaconUnitarian.org

Beacon Distribution: Tom & Uta Poiker

BeaconUnitarian.org



Board Bitez

From your Board Executive

New Board

Your new Board is excited to start collaborating! We have met twice in May, as we develop our new model for a shared Executive. At this point, we know that we will be rotating the chairperson each meeting and sharing many of the duties that were previously the responsibility of the President. Comox Valley Unitarian Fellowship also has a collaborative Executive, and we are consulting with them in order to make sure the transition happens as smoothly as possible.

You may be wondering who you should direct any communication to. We have a new email address that you can use (board@beaconunitarian.org), and you can contact any of the Executive (Terry, Nancy, Audrey and Carol) about Board issues and we will ensure your concerns or questions get forwarded to the right person.

Audrey Taylor will still be the Beacon Treasurer, as this is too complex a position to rotate or share.

Investment Policy

Beacon's ad hoc Financial Committee of Terry McComas, Jean Donaldson and Susan Tarras have created a new investment policy for Beacon. The Board will be following the committee's recommendations and will be meeting with Nick Cheng from Edward Jones to move \$180,000 from our Building Fund into GICs of between one- and five-year terms.

If you are interested in reading the new policy, it is available from the Board upon request.

Fall Youth Conference

As we did not pay a youth coordinator from April through June, the Board decided to reappportion the money we would have paid a coordinator to help some of our youth attend the Fall Regional Gathering in Victoria.

Booking Sapperton Hall

For any of the committees who may need to book Sapperton Hall, please be aware that Carol Woodworth is taking on this responsibility.

Committee Budget Information

If committees are interested in the current balance of their committee funds, please contact your committee liaison, and s/he will share the most recent month's financial report with you. As of May, the liaisons are as follows:

- Sapperton/Sasamat—Peggy
- Membership—Terry
- Music—Nancy
- RE—Rob
- Worship—Jane
- Stewardship—Carol

Social Media

Rev. Debra and Jane Shoemaker plan to attend a workshop on "Social Media for Churches and Charities" offered by Church Treasurers of Canada Inc. They are looking for a third person from the congregation to attend also. Using social media to its full capacity is one strategy that will likely become part of Beacon's upcoming growth plan, so if this is something that excites you, please contact Jane or Rev. Debra for information. The funding to attend this workshop will come from our donation that has been earmarked for a growth plan for Beacon.

Meetings are Open to All

Finally, we'd like to remind you that monthly Board meetings are open to everyone in our congregation. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, June 17th at 7 pm at the Lundervilles'.



Beacon's Religious Education Corner

by Laura Redmond

In late April and early May the children worked hard, rehearsing for the Choir Concert on May 4. We enjoyed working with Charlene and her helper Rebecca as we prepared our pieces for the concert. Of course, we also enjoyed performing, playing along and making frog masks to wear as part of the show.



Now that the concert is behind us, we're working hard on our final playlet. We'll be performing *Beauty and the Beast* using puppets during the Story for All Ages on June 15. The children themselves requested the puppets, and we enjoy the opportunities they provide for everyone to have a turn playing popular parts. We're also enjoying exploring this traditional and much-loved fairy tale from a new angle, as we focus on the emotions of the characters involved.

As the church year slowly draws to a close, we're also looking forward to the Year-End Picnic. It's happening following the June 15 service at Queen's Park in New Westminster. The RE program will be providing hot dogs and veggie dogs. We're asking you to bring some potluck items to share, as well as water to drink and dishes and cutlery to use. If we all bring our own reusables, we can not only enjoy our time together, we can reduce the amount of waste we produce. (See page 8 for further info and maps)

~ Amber and Laura

Mission/Vision News

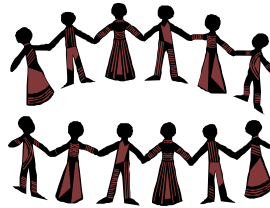
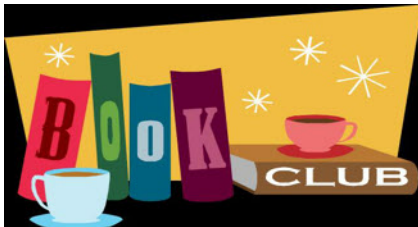
Your **Mission/Vision** team is sending heaps of gratitude out to everyone who is engaged in this process! We are thrilled - challenged but thrilled - with the enthusiasm and the amount of feedback we have received from you. On June 15th we will present you with another draft. It would be great if we got it right this time, but if not, we'll keep working until we have something that the membership can feel good about adopting. If you have more feedback or suggestions, just give or send them to Rev. Debra minister@BeaconUnitarian.org.

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.

Book Club - Next meeting is 7 p.m., Friday June 20, at Bev Lock's in New Westminster. Love books? Come join us. The book to read for June is *In One Person*, by John Irving. For more info call Bev Lock 604-525-6791.



Choir - Last rehearsal for the season, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. June 3, at Miller Park School. For more choir info: call Charlene 604-464-3992.



Humanist Group Meeting -

The next meeting is on May 25th, 7:30 p.m. at Astoria House, Port Coquitlam. Role playing will illustrate Restorative Justice, and its possibilities will be discussed. Please contact Marilyn Medén m.j.meden@telus.net for more information or to volunteer to bring a snack.



Worship Planning Workshop for 2014-2015

Saturday May 31 - 10 am to 3 pm

Location: Hamiltons' in Coquitlam, 604-944-3113

Pot-Luck Lunch at 12 noon

Do you have an idea for a worship service? Is there a theme that you'd like to suggest? Would you like to try a new form, or new practice, or new style of music in the Sunday worship services next year?

If your answer is 'Yes!' to any of these questions then please come to this worship planning workshop. This is the planning session when the Worship Team brainstorms themes for the upcoming church year. It is fun and creative and an opportunity to shape our spiritual life together.

Interested? Talk to Debra minister@BeaconUnitarian.org or Marilyn Medén m.j.meden@telus.net.

Beacon Worship Services in the summer

Beacon services continue in the summer. They are less formal and are held in private homes or public spaces. Usually there is some refreshment, and always a very cooperative community spirit. We have had services emphasizing music, poetry, and meditation. What about exploring a specific religious denomination, "ethical eating", the meaning of Unitarian hymns, or practicing the UU principles in personal or political life? Any Unitarian ideas you'd like to talk about? The topic can be pretty much up to the person doing the planning.

The worship services committee can find a venue, and help prepare a service. If this interests you, please contact Marilyn Medén, m.j.meden@telus.net 604 469 6797.

Report from the Canadian Unitarian Council Annual General Meeting in Montreal

Your two delegates to the CUC, Sue Sparlin and Rev. Debra Thorne, attended and voted on your behalf at the AGM on May 16. The resolution on Pervasive Surveillance was passed overwhelmingly, with an amendment that clarified the final wording a bit. The final version will be sent to you by email when we get it. Beacon will sponsor a letter-writing potluck as our part of the action plan to this resolution.

The Resolution on Human Rights in Israel and Palestine was “postponed indefinitely”. The motion to postpone was proposed by your delegate, Sue Sparlin, in consultation with and with advice from the President of the CUC Board and two other delegates (Rev. Debra Thorne and Rev. Steven Epperson). It was passed by a large margin and allowed for the original resolution to disappear from the agenda without requiring the delegates to vote either for it or against it.

Thank you to the Beacon Board for supporting my attendance at not only the AGM but also the conference. I am very excited about sharing what I learned there in the upcoming months.

Sue Sparlin, Beacon delegate to the CUC AGM 2014

Link to information about the Robert's Rules of Order on Postponing a motion indefinitely:

<http://www.dummies.com/how-to/content/roberts-rules-for-postponing-a-motion-indefinitely.html>

Sharing the Plate 2014

by Gurinder Mann



CERA Society Report

The past year has proved to be a very successful year for CERA. It is gratifying to see that the organization, which was established fifteen years ago, has grown, expanded, and proven its capability in demonstrating the effectiveness of restorative justice. CERA has most certainly attained its aim of promoting restorative justice and its values in society's justice system.

While the police agencies remain staunch supporters of CERA, and are ensuring that cases referred are steady, CERA is pleased that referrals are progressively increasing from other sources as well, such as victim services, community policing, and businesses; this plays a fundamental role in spreading the values of restorative justice in the community.

In addition to establishing a number of referral sources, CERA is proud to serve the community in addressing diverse types of crimes and offences. Offences for which a restorative justice approach has been chosen include theft, mischief, assault, break and enter, and possession of drugs. Furthermore, CERA is

working effectively with police in addressing neighbourhood and family disputes, ensuring such situations don't escalate and neighbourhoods remain safe and peaceful.

CERA is particularly pleased with the developing relationship with School District 40. With so many issues requiring attention at schools, such as bullying, CERA is working hard with the District in promoting safe school settings. CERA has participated in conducting a workshop for teachers on Professional Day, to increase their knowledge of restorative justice.

Relationships with the six municipalities CERA serves remains strong, our operations continue to be efficient, and the organisation is attracting new referral sources. We are glad that the Society is fulfilling its mandate and playing an important role in helping to repair harm that occurs and building healthy communities.

CERA is honoured and privileged that **Beacon Unitarian Church** chose the Society as the past year's 'Sharing the Plate' recipient. This generous donation is greatly appreciated!

June 2014

Sun May 25	Humanist Group meets, 7:30 pm
Sat May 31	Worship Planning 10 - 3 @Hamiltons)
Sun June 1	<i>Whole Wide World</i> with Rev. Debra Thorne & Rebecca Burns (Food Bank collection)
Tues June 3	Last choir rehearsal of the season
Fri June 6	Newsletter Deadline for summer issue - send to newsletter@BeaconUnitarian.org
Fri June 6 - 8	Camp Sasamat weekend
Sun June 8	Worship 10:30 @ Sapperton Hall with Sue Sparlin OR @ Camp Sasamat with choral workshop participants
Sun June 15	<i>Inspire - Connect - Transform</i> with Rev. Debra Thorne, Choir & Good Times Band Last service of the season followed by annual church picnic, see page 8 for details and maps
Wed June 17	Board Meeting 7:00 pm @Lundervilles
Every Thursday at noon -	Lunch Bunch, see page 5 for contact info
Wed June 11, 25	Food Bank @Como Lake United
Sundays at 10:30	Worship Service at Sapperton Hall (until June 15)

OUT IN HARMONY PRESENTS

Feel the Beat

Nicola Hamilton
DIRECTOR

Dan Lauterbach
ACCOMPANIST

Timothy Van Cleave
WITH SPECIAL GUEST PERCUSSIONIST

14 JUNE 2014
Saturday, 7:30 pm
Unitarian Church of Vancouver,
949 W 49th Ave.
WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE

Tickets \$15, \$10 concession
Available at Little Sister's,
from choir members, and
at the door. No one is turned
away for lack of funds.

Visit OUTINHARMONY.ORG
for more information

Out in Harmony

Out in Harmony's got rhythm, and we'll be Shakin' our Groove Thing while exploring some Fascinating Rhythms at our upcoming concert, **Feel The Beat**, on Saturday June 14th. From heartbeats to footsteps, from moontides to seasons, from circadian rhythms to the circles of the stars... rhythms permeate our lives. Come join us for our toe-tappingest concert ever, and get your rhythm on with us as we boogie, handjive, sway, disco, clap, stomp, and sing our way through an amazing evening of music that celebrates rhythm.

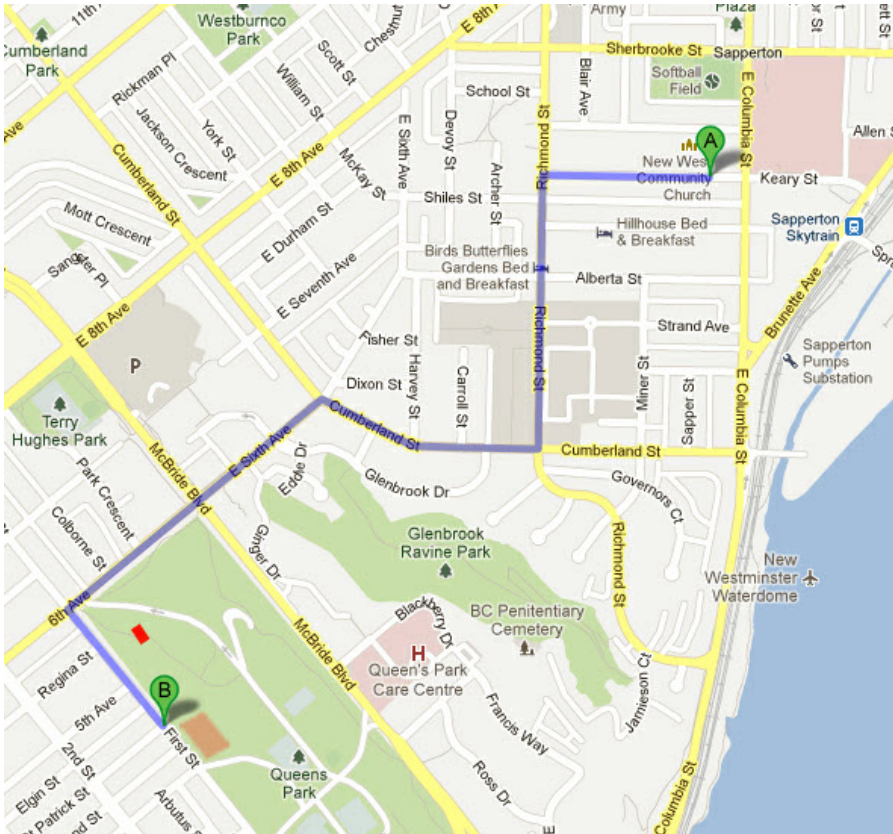
As always, keeping our concerts accessible in all ways is a priority for us, so our ticket prices remain only \$15, or we also have \$10 concession tickets available for anybody who needs it. Children 12 and under are admitted free. Please note also we are always looking for volunteers, which will get you into the concert for free.

To volunteer at the concert, please contact denise.garzon@gov.bc.ca by Tuesday June 3, 2014.

(Concert will be at Unitarian Church of Vancouver, 49th and Oak, on Saturday, June 14, 7:30 pm)

Fathers' Day Potluck Picnic

On Sunday, June 15th, after the service, you are invited to attend our annual church picnic. This year our picnic is being held in beautiful Queen's Park. We have booked a shelter (for your comfort—rain or shine). Please bring some food or drink to share. Hot dogs will be provided. There is a spray park so consider bringing your bathing suits if the weather is hot! Hope you can come.



Directions from Sapperton Hall:
1. Head west (up hill) on Keary St toward Richmond St

2. Turn left onto Richmond St

3. Turn right onto Cumberland St

4. Take the 3rd left onto 6th Ave, Continue east on 6th Ave.

5. Turn left onto First St. Parking lot access on left at 4th Ave.

6. After parking, walk north on the foot path, past the playground to the picnic shelters (5 minutes). We have Picnic Shelter #2, the smaller one. **(If walking is a problem, then you can drive into the park at the 3rd Ave. entrance, and find the road between the Arena and the green turf soccer field. Drive north past the Centennial lodge entrance and look for parking in the curved area of the road, just before the park exit.)**

