



The Beacon

Beacon Unitarian Church

Volume 33, Number 6, June 2015

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.

Some connections are made slowly: under the ground like roots reaching to take hold. Some connections are made in the blink of an eye: like the love for a new child or a new bicycle. Communities are a web of connections made both fast and slow, that hold and sustain and nurture. This month we are taking care of our connections to each other, our own lives, our earth and all her creatures.

Sunday June 7, 10:30 a.m.

Sasamat Family Camp Service

Rev. Debra Thorne and Laura Redmond

Beside the lake and under the trees we will celebrate our connection to the earth and each other through story and singing and maybe even a little dancing. Join Unitarian families from across the Lower Mainland at Camp Sasamat. You are welcome to come up just for service, but consider joining the camp for the day (see website for brochure and pricing).

Directions to Camp Sasamat can be found in the brochure or at

<http://www.beaconunitarian.org/sasamat-driving.html>



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OR Sunday June 7, 10:30 a.m.

Connect Inspire Transform

(at Sapperton Hall)

Sue Sparlin

Beaconites selected these three words as representing the vision of our church. What do they mean to you? How do you connect with others? With yourself? With god? What inspires you? How do you inspire others? In what ways do you want to transform yourself, your community, your church, your world? Our challenge is to make these words live, to make them real, to turn them into action, and into story. Be prepared to talk and to listen, and perhaps to be inspired and transformed.

NOTE: There will be no Sunday school program or supervised nursery this Sunday. Children are welcome in church with parents (quiet activities will be available for use if desired, eg. colouring books and puzzles).

Sunday June 14, 10:30 a.m.

Critters and Humans

Beacon Youth Group and Rev.

Debra Thorne

The Beacon Youth Group shares their thoughts on life and growth and justice in a changing world. This is also our biannual Pet blessing service: you are invited to bring with you your beloved four legged critters (and no legged!). Or if your beloved animal companion has died in the past two years, bring a photo.

*Ice-cream Sunday and Mystery Pals revealed after the service. (You can't miss this one!)

Sunday June 21, 10:30 a.m.

Nurturing the Interdependent Web and Father's Day Picnic at Sapperton Park

Rev. Debra Thorne and Beacon's Board

Thank you is the only necessary prayer, said Meister Eckhart.

Gratitude expressed directly transforms our closed heart to open, our closed mind to open, and our closed world to an open and inclusive world. On this our final Sunday service of the regular 2014-15 church year, we celebrate our connections and share our gratitude for all that we have.

Join us after the service for a community picnic at Sapperton Park, one block north of Sapperton Hall. Hotdogs and condiments provided; please bring salad, fruit or dessert to share. You'll also need a lawn chair or blanket to sit on. And remember your reuseable dishes and cutlery!



Deadline for the June Beacon

May 15, 2015

Please send to:

Newsletter@BeaconUnitarian.org



From the Minister's Desk

Summer days are fast approaching and so too the ending of my third year with Beacon. It's a cliché to say that time goes fast... but sometimes the cliché is accurate! This past year the community embraced the notion of being a 'welcoming' community with willingness and dedicated work. You can see the fruits of our labour, with the welcoming of over a dozen new members this year, the expansion of the RE program to two classes, the depth of the sharing in the Soul Matters groups, the delightful Mystery Pals program and very successful Circle Dinners.

At the time of writing this I am in Ottawa at the Canadian Unitarian Council Conference and Business Meeting. Through my window I hear drumming that is coming from one of the morning spiritual practice sessions out on the lawn. The annual conference is an opportunity to meet with congregations from across Canada, to move our national community forward, to learn new skills and to celebrate our progressive presence in Canada. I'll be learning about a new curriculum designed to educate our congregations on the Truth and Reconciliation process, which I hope to offer next year. As a community that stands on principles of the inherent worth and dignity of each person, and of being part of the interdependent web of all life, there is a lot we can do as a national movement, as a congregation and as individuals to educate ourselves and to share with

Canadians important social justice issues in this election year.

Tonight, the last night of the conference, the 'hallowed earth' will be presented to myself and other representatives of the four Vancouver congregations, and we will invite all Unitarians to Vancouver for the 2016 Annual Conference and Meeting.

I deeply thank you for all you have done in the past year to support the Beacon congregation. We could not be the vibrant, joyful and inspiring community that we are, without the hands-on support of every person. From greeting on a Sunday morning to deliberating on the Board, every Beaconite is needed, everyone is appreciated.

I leave you with this prayer: May our hearts and minds be opened to the power and the insight that weave together the scattered threads of our experience and help us remember the wholeness of which we are a part. May we experience the connectedness of a community that practices to live from a belief that everyone matters, everyone has a gift to share, everyone is needed to build a world of respect and love.

Our journey continues.
Warmly, Rev. Debra Thorne

Looking Ahead.....

Canadian Unitarian Council Annual Meeting 2016

One year from now, Unitarians from across Canada will be gathering in Vancouver for our annual weekend of workshops, banquets, trainings for Lay Chaplains and Religious Exploration teachers, inspirational speakers, exciting local entertainment, impressive choirs, and amazing worship services.

Beacon, South Fraser, North Shore and Vancouver Unitarian congregations will be hosting this-five day event. Rose Matovich and Debra Thorne are representing Beacon and they will be asking for your help sometime in the new church year. Stay Tuned.

Beacon Unitarian Church

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

Consulting Minister:

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, Audrey Taylor, Carol Woodworth

Trustees: Rob Warner, Bev Lock

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 Bitz

From your Board Executive



Your new Board of Directors met for our first time on May 5. It was great to welcome Bev Lock on to the Board. We are a small Board and thought that might mean shorter meetings, but not so. There was much to be done!

We spent considerable time discussing Beacon communications and how we will handle smooth communications without being able to assign a Board Liaison to each committee. Although this will be an on-going discussion, we do hope to re-invigorate the Coordinating Council and to meet with the Council quarterly. The Coordinating Council is made up of Board Members and a representative from each of the committees. The combined Calendaring and Coordinating Council meeting will be held on Saturday, June 13, at 2:00 p.m. The location will be the meeting room at Jean Donaldson's, 235 Guildford Way, Port Moody. Further details will be provided shortly to all committee heads, by e-mail. Committees, please mark this date on your calendars and appoint someone to attend.

Another note to committees – Budgets for 2016 – I know, 2016 is still half a year away, but it is not too soon to be thinking about and planning for our next year. Budget requests will be due to our new Treasurer, Carol Woodworth, by September 27.

The Personnel Committee, which is Terry McComas, Carol Woodworth and Audrey Taylor, will be meeting with each of contracted staff this month to review and renew contracts for the coming year. We are anticipating, and hoping, that all our staff will return in September, with new contracts.

We have hired a new bookkeeper. Her name is Sharon Wang. Sharon will meet with our current bookkeeper toward the end of May and will start her work with our books as of June 1. Welcome Sharon! And many thanks to Glen MacDermid, who has been our bookkeeper for the past two years.

Last, but far from least. We have set the date for our annual Leadership and Planning Day for September 5. Everyone in the congregation who is interested in planning for our church year, or even just in watching how we do the planning, is welcome to attend this ½ day session. Again, please mark your calendars. Time and place to be announced.

June should be a fun month, with Sasamat and the Father's Day picnic. Then we'll all be set for summer. Have a great one!

Our June Board meeting will be June 2 at 1 pm at Bev Lock's home. And we won't meet again until Aug. 11, again at 1 pm at Bev's. If you wish to attend a Board Meeting as an observer, please let Debra, or someone on the Board, know. Anyone is welcome.

Combined Calendaring & Coordinating Council meeting Saturday June 13, 2 pm at Jean Donaldson's

News Flash!

On May 31, Carol and Luc surprised the congregation by announcing in the Joys & Sorrows that they got married at their home in Pitt Meadows on May 24.

(They brought delicious cup cakes to mark the occasion at coffee hour after the service)



Beacon's Religious Education Corner

by Amber Strocel and Laura Redmond

We have really been enjoying this year in Beacon's RE program – we can't believe it's coming to an end so soon!

We have a fantastic opportunity for someone who would like to help out with RE in an easy, low pressure way. Our petty cash handler Susan Tarras is resigning and we need someone else to step into this role. When a purchase is made for RE (typically 5-6 times per year) you collect it and reimburse us – it's that simple. Training is provided, and you get to stay in the loop on what's happening with the children and contribute to the church in a meaningful way. Just tell us how eager you are to lend a hand!

We had a great time at our intergenerational service on May 3, when we celebrated Beltane or May Day. Debra shared the story *The Goddess Blesses all Forms of Love* with the help of the children. The highlight was undoubtedly the May Pole. Dancing around it was a first for most of us, and something we will remember for some time to come.

We are working hard to build a more welcoming and functional space for the fall. With the growth of the RE program we have recognized a need to have classrooms as vibrant as the children. If you know of any place where we can find gently used or affordable classroom furniture, including shelving, dividers, mats for sitting on or anything else that might come in handy please let us know.

We are very much looking forward to Sasamat Family Camp from June 5-7, 2015. If you have any questions,

be in touch with Laura. It promises to be a lot of fun. And if you're not able to be there for the whole weekend, there is the option of joining us for the day. Email Laura for details.

We are also looking forward to the year-end picnic on June 21, 2015. We will be heading to Sapperton Park, just one block north of our meeting place. We'll gather on the park's west side, behind the playground, an area quite easily accessible from Sherbrooke St. (There is lane access as well [off E. Columbia and Sherbrooke] but parking may be prohibited, so check for signs). Sapperton Hall has loaned us 3 pop-up shelters, **but**

please bring your own:

- lawn chair or blanket
- some food or drink to share (see page 1)
- your own dishes and utensils

~ Amber and Laura



*Views of the
Maypole,
at the service
on May 3*

Beacon's Small Groups

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 Sally Frith 604-942-0751.

Book Club - meets the evening of the third Thursday of each month - next meeting June 18. May meeting was cancelled, so the book will be discussed in June: "*Painted Girls*" by Cathy Marie Buchanan. For more info about the book: <http://www.cathymariebuchanan.com/books/the-painted-girls> **This is an open group so please feel free to join us if a particular title interests you.** For meeting location and other information call Bev Lock at 604-525-6791.



Choir - Choir will meet again in the Fall. For info: call Charlene 604-464-3992.

Soul Matters groups meet once a month to explore the theme of the month. The next daytime group meets on Wed June 17 at 1 pm, and the evening group meets on Thurs June 18 at 7 pm. Send an email to minister@beaconunitarian.org

Humanist Group Meeting - May 31

Topic: Religion in Secular Society

A discussion facilitated by Rev. Debra Thorne

What does religion contribute to the secular society? Is there a role for Unitarian Humanists, in the support of religious freedom for all Canadians? What do you see as the challenges of secularism?

We are an open group and everyone is welcome.

Circle Dinners - a big success!

On May 23, many people enjoyed good food, good company and good conversation at our second round of circle dinners. These will continue again in the fall - each month a chance to get to know different folks.

Watch for dates of future Circle Dinners in your summer newsletter (ready at the end of June).

For more info or to sign up to be invited to future dinners, contact Donna (donna-h@telus.net) or Joan (joanmorris@telus.net). (You can also sign up at church.)



Worship Notes

Summer Services

Informal and interactive services are planned for July and August, Sundays at 11:00.

The Worship committee invites you to consider hosting one of these events. Hosting one is a chance to explore your own understanding, and give others a chance to explore theirs. Do not be shy! Hosting a summer service is definitely rewarding.

Three summer services have already been scheduled - it would be great to have at least one more service based on a Humanist or Philosophers' Cafe type topic, meditation, music, spoken word, favourite quotations, personal stories, or anything else that expands on a part of our usual services.

Briefly:

July 5 - Poetry! Prose! Music! Bring something that has influenced you, your own work or someone else's to The Astoria Retirement Home in Port Coquitlam.

August 16 - Rev. Debra Thorne will lead an outdoor service, location to be announced.

August 23 at Lundervilles' (Burnaby) prlunder@gmail.com we sing and play favourite hymns.

Further details available in the Summer newsletter. Please let Marilyn Medén at m.j.medén@telus.net, 604-469-6797, know if you would like to host one, or simply like more information.

Beaconites in the Spotlight

This is a column about performances, exhibits or awards which feature our Beacon friends, and it is up to you to send your notices to include in the Beacon! Please send to Newsletter@BeaconUnitarian.org by the 15 of the month.



*Recognizing and celebrating the spirit,
imagination, dedication and contribution
of British Columbians to their communities.*

Sandy Burpee works tirelessly to ensure that those in the Tri-Cities of Port Coquitlam, Coquitlam and Port Moody affected by homelessness and poverty are receiving the assistance they greatly need. He is their champion and through his leadership, identifying goals and finding solutions, he has made a tremendous difference. Food Bank Depot, Tri-Cities Housing Coalition, Homelessness Task Group, and Metro Vancouver Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness are examples of organizations which have benefitted from Sandy's commitment. Sandy is a one of a kind volunteer dedicated to the less fortunate in his community.



Out in Harmony - Vancouver's favourite Gay, Bi, Trans, Queer, Lesbian, & Friends choir,
directed by Nicola Hamilton

Do you know about **Out in Harmony's** June concert on June 27th? No? Well -- *Shhh... It's a Secret!*

Join us as we do our best to Razzle Dazzle you with some of our favourite songs about hiding and sharing secrets. Whether we are keeping them hidden, telling them to a special confidante, or shouting them to the world, having a secret is a powerful thing. Who knows what we might have in store for you? You'll have to come to the concert and find out for yourself! There will also be a 50-50 draw and a post-concert reception!

OUT IN HARMONY
Vancouver's Gay, Bi, Trans, Queer, Lesbian & Friends Choir

OUTINHARMONY.ORG

Shhh... It's a Secret!

27 JUNE 2015 | SATURDAY, 7:30 PM

Unitarian Church of Vancouver, 949 W 49th Ave.
WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE



Sharing the Plate 2014-15

NEW VIEW SOCIETY, Port Coquitlam

As the saying goes "Many hands make light work". This rang true on Saturday, May 9th when our staff and many volunteers gathered to serve over 130 folks at our Annual Community Breakfast. We were blessed with a beautiful day and were able to open our sunny patio to our guests. Afterwards many walked to downtown Poco to enjoy the May Day Parade.

Donna Bonertz wrapped up another "full" class of newly certified Mental Health First Aiders. The course will now break for the summer season with new session dates scheduled for Oct. 22/23rd. For a full description of this invaluable

training course please visit our website at www.newviewsociety.org.

Coming soon, *Kay's FUN'd* in honour of Kay Swalwell and her ongoing legacy with our Society. Kay has been such an integral part in supporting our members through social involvement and friendship. As one of our founders and a long time serving Board Member Kay continues to advocate and believe in the value of belonging. This new fund will be dedicated to providing our members with opportunities for "Social Experiences and Enrichment". We are very excited for this new endeavour as it will benefit our members in so many ways!

Climate Change Changes Me!

The "Climate Change Team" has completed a third series of "Climate Change Changes Me!", and team members are very pleased with the results!

The South Fraser Unitarian Congregation made contact with the United Churches of the White Rock area, and helped with the publicity for the series. Kathy Booth, of First United, recruited us for one of the programs offered in their "Community Builders" initiative in April.

We began the 4-session series with a discussion of the causes of Climate Change, Terry introduced participants to Thorium reactors, and we reviewed the other renewable energy sources. Marilyn facilitated a session on "Transportation", and guest David Steele, of EarthSave Canada, presented "Low Carbon Agriculture".

Our final evening focused on "Finding our Democratic Voice", with Teresa encouraging people to "Vote early & vote often!" Well, not really...

We really appreciate the time & space that was made available through the "Community Builders" program and we were made very welcome at First United.

And, yes, we are negotiating the fourth round of "Climate Change Changes Me!", times & location to be announced.

Climate Change Team:
Terry McComas, Marilyn Medén, Teresa Morton

26th Annual Unitarian-Universalist Men's Gathering October 2-4, 2015

Since 1990, men of varying backgrounds and beliefs have gathered for a weekend of respect, camaraderie, sharing, good times, music, humour, campfires, workshops and strongly connecting with real people. This event is a rare opportunity to reflect on your quality of life, work with and learn from other wise, witty and strong men, to discover more of yourself, and build relationships both new and old.

Please join us on October 2-4, 2015 at Sasamat Outdoor Centre, a 40 minute drive from downtown Vancouver. Costs start at \$115 for first time attendees. We feature a sliding scale from \$135 to \$180.

The weekend includes lodging and food at a great facility, located on an uninhabited lake, reserved solely for our group.

For answers to all your questions, and to register, please go to our website at www.heyuu.ca. Feel free to contact the men who are doing the pre-work for this shared event admin@heyuu.ca

The weekend includes lodging and food at a great facility from Friday evening Oct 2 to Sunday afternoon Oct 4.

New Beaconites

Membership in our church is both simple and difficult. It is simple because all that is required is to sign our membership book. It is difficult because that simple act carries with it complex meaning. That act means one has made a decision to join a community searching for truth with no promise of success. You are joining that search. This simple act means that you have joined with a people who strive to live in loving and respectful relationship with each other. This church holds no set creed upon which everyone agrees. What we do affirm is that we must be respectful and accepting of each other in our varied understandings of the religious life and that we must take responsibility, personally and corporately, for the world we live in and the life we lead.

Each new face and each new voice that joins with us brings joys and sorrows, skills and abilities, thoughts and beliefs. Each time a new person is added to this body, we are changed. Growth is more than numerical. With every new member, new adherent, new friend, we become a new congregation. This church changes as new individuals join us.

On May 31, the following people were welcomed as new members:

Colin Burdall:

I was born in South East London and left for Canada when I was 17 1/2 years old to be with my older sister in Sault St Marie. In 1969 I moved to Vancouver and have lived in the area ever since. I've been around and done a lot; I've worked a variety of jobs over the years, from sales, taxi driver, security guard, and until I retired I was superintendent of several commercial buildings. My wife of 23 years, passed away in 2011. We had no children, but I have 4 grand children from my wife's first marriage. I am now fully retired, living on my own, and active in the Maple Ridge community, serving on the Board of Directors for the Senior Citizens Centre. I am pleased to have found the Beacon community through Renée Spakowsky, my scrabble partner at the Seniors' Centre.

Elizabeth Campbell:

I joined the Unitarian Fellowship of Saskatoon in 1985. My husband and I moved to Vancouver in 1995 to be closer to our children and joined the Vancouver church in 1996. We have since both retired, downsized and moved to Port Moody almost three years ago. We are now moving our membership to Beacon. I was a therapist and labour mediator having spent most of my career working with Employee Assistant Programs for companies and public services. In 2006 I retired to do my son's books for his new restaurant in Vancouver. I retired again and moved to Port Moody. I am looking forward to meeting the rest of the congregation and being involved with the activities.

Phil Campbell:

I have been a Unitarian for thirty years: the first ten at the Unitarian Congregation of Saskatoon and the last twenty at the Unitarian Church of Vancouver. Professionally I was a Clinical Counsellor and mediator until forced to go on the inactive list a few years ago due to ill health. My wife Elizabeth and I moved to Port Moody almost three years ago and we have found it very difficult to maintain a connection to our church community in Vancouver. I believe that community is one of the most important purposes for religion and so, despite the fact that I will miss my old church, I look forward to becoming a part of the Beacon community.

Joyce Gudaitis:

I was born in Ohio but have lived in the Vancouver area since 1969 and became a Canadian citizen in the 70s. I have a degree in chemistry and have worked as a scientist, teacher and most recently owned and operated a small software company with my husband, who passed away in 2012. I am now happily retired. I have 3 grownup children and 4 grandchildren who all live nearby. I'm a board member at Step By Step Child Development Society and an executive member of the Coquitlam-Maillardville NDP riding association and my latest passion, besides travelling, is taking Art History classes at Capilano University.

Debra has a helper giving out the roses to the new Beaconites.



New Member Welcome (cont'd)

Caelin King:

Caelin King is an elementary school teacher in the Surrey School District. She makes her home in New Westminster with her husband Eric, daughter Maeve, and two giant fluffy cats, Thomas and Muon. Caelin loves to knit, bake, and go on hikes with her family. She is looking forward to calling Beacon her church home, because of its open and accepting atmosphere.

Helen McVey:

I grew up on a dairy farm 30 K south of Ottawa. I began my business career as a clerk, then attended business college. I worked in secretarial and worked my way up to middle management. While in Montreal I studied general arts courses at Sir George Williams University at night school.

In 1988 I became legally blind. I have a lot of vision but I am unable to read or drive a car. The good news is that the situation is stable. I never married and have no children and I am probably one of the most independent creatures you might ever meet. I moved to New Westminster very recently from the Comox Valley where I was an active member of the Comox Unitarian Fellowship.

Arlette Stewart:

Arlette and her two children, Forrest and Danielle, are delighted to officially become members in a community that has felt like home from the first moment they walked in the door. Having grown up in a loving Catholic family, Arlette finds that Beacon provides a safe and nourishing place to learn and grow. The family enjoy picnics, road trips, potlucks, and spending time with family and friends.

AJ Vittie:

AJ doesn't really know who she is, but hopes to discover more daily with the help of her loving partner, Tyler, and beautiful children Bobby and Emily. In the meantime, here are some interesting facts that might give you more insight: She cannot clean the house without completely re-organizing and moving furniture; She loves to paint and draw and write children's books but has not found the time to do any of those things recently; she works many weekends in collaboration with her siblings to provide a future home for her mother. She holds degrees in both Fine Arts, and Education. She currently works as an English teacher at Dr. Charles Best Secondary.

Tyler Vittie:

Tyler is a vitality seeker, a father of 2, a devoted husband, and someone who is incapable of settling for the mundane (a cross-Canada cyclist, world traveller, and Ironman competitor). Growth, learning and being challenged by how to be loving in himself, while at the same time striving for being better and having greater understanding, is an elusive balance. Tyler holds a degree in Biology from UBC, has emigrated from Ontario, and is now coordinating a residential mental health program in New Westminster.

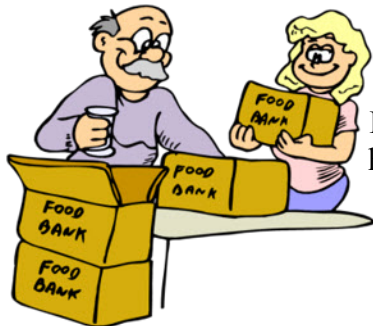


Front Row, L to R: Colin Burdall, Phil Campbell, Helen McVey, Elizabeth Campbell, Audrey Taylor (representing the Board)

Back Row, L to R: Tyler Vittie, Terry McComas (representing the Board), AJ Vittie (in middle), Arlette Stewart, Caelin King.

Missing: Joyce Gudaitis

Share Food Bank Project @Beacon



Thank you, Beacon members, for your commitment and your generosity. Over the past church year, our congregation has donated \$1502. to SHARE Food Bank. Calculating the multiplier effect of dollar donations, we have helped make a difference for families in need.

May 3 was our last formal collection until October.

PROUD TO SUPPORT



Beacon Calendar for June 2015

Tuesday, June 2	Board Mtg, 1:00
Friday, June 5	Worship Committee, 9:15 - 11:30
Friday June 5 - Sunday June 7	Sasamat Family Camp
Sunday, June 7	Sasamat Family Camp Service Rev. Debra Thorne and Laura Redmond. OR
Sunday June 7	Connect - Inspire - Transform (at Sapperton) Sue Sparlin
Saturday, June 13	Youth Group, 5 pm
Sunday, June 14	<i>Critters and Humans</i> , Rev. Debra Thorne, Beacon Youth Group
Monday, June 15	Newsletter Deadline
Wednesday, June 17	Soul Matters Group One 1 - 3
Thursday, June 18	Soul Matters Group Two 7 - 9
Thursday, June 18	Connections Mtg, 1:00; Book Club 7 - 9
Saturday, June 13	Coordinating Council mtg, 2:00
Sunday, June 21	<i>Nurturing the Interdependent Web</i> Rev Debra Thorne & Beacon Board , followed by <i>Fathers' Day Picnic</i> at Sapperton Park

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

Wednesdays June 10, 24 - Beacon's days at Foodbank @ Como Lake United

For a full calendar of Beacon activities, go to our web-site <http://www.beaconunitarian.org/calendar.html>