



April 2009 Newsletter

North Shore Unitarian Church

...finding meaning together

A liberal religious community serving greater Vancouver from the North Shore

Sunday Morning Services Services start at 10:30 am

UPCOMING SERVICES

April 5 – Faith on Stage

Speaker: The Rev. Stephen Atkinson

Co-ordinator: Sara Robinson

Unitarian Universalists are ambivalent about the term 'faith' because it suggests that there is something beyond the reality which we know. If we look at the idea of 'stages of faith' perhaps 'faith' disappears as a problem. We also welcome New Members during this service.

April 12 – Easter Intergenerational Service

Speaker: The Rev. Stephen Atkinson

Co-ordinator: Vandy Savage

We celebrate Easter and other spring festivals with both stories and songs today.

April 19 – Coming of Age Service

Speakers: Members of our Coming of Age Class

Co-ordinator: Stephen Atkinson

Our congregation welcomes and celebrates this year's Coming of Age class into a deeper relationship with our church and with Unitarian Universalism. Class members share with us the personal credos they've developed, and we'll hear from their mentors and families about what these young people bring to life.

April 26 – Earth Day Service

Speaker: The Rev. Stephen Atkinson

Co-ordinator: Vandy Savage

As evidence mounts that Earth is changing more rapidly than ever, today we look at signs of hope amidst the disturbing trends so we can heighten our understanding of the importance of sustainability and reaffirm our commitment to this planet from which we all emerge.



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Mission Statement

The mission of our church is to provide an inclusive, caring community whose values and programs inspire and celebrate lifelong spiritual inquiry and growth, and whose actions further justice, peace, and environmental sustainability.



North Shore Unitarian Church

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From the Minister

REVEREND STEPHEN
ATKINSON



Recently, a number of adults attended an Open House put on by our Young Religious Unitarian Universalists group (YRUU), aka "Youth Group." It got me thinking.

First, the youth made an interesting choice: they chose to discuss a significant piece of business and not just to 'entertain' us guests. They showed us their 'stuff' and invited us to participate. On the Sundays when we have a congregational meeting after the service, we invite newcomers to stay and observe if they want. (I love this about our congregations – we're not secretive about our stuff.)

The youth of the British Columbia Region and the Pacific Northwest District are in the process of making a Covenant about how they will treat each other at conferences. How will each person be valued and respected? What will that look like? Our church has our own Covenant of Good Relations, and our youth can teach us actually to bring it out at every important meeting and read it again.

Our youth are very concerned that each person is allowed to be fully present; they have ways to ensure that the quiet ones can speak – that new people feel included – that long-term friendships don't crowd

out getting to know new people. They want each other to feel safe at their gatherings, free from ridicule, competition or unwanted pressure. Indeed, what they value most about their groups and conferences is just that: they can be themselves in ways that are often difficult or unwelcome at school, other activity groups and, sometimes, even at home.

The last activity at the Open House was a 'fishbowl': the adults discussed among themselves a question that the youth posed to them, while the youth watched silently, and then we switched places. The question the youth posed to us was whether we think YRUU is important to the church. We gave many reasons why it is important, and I found myself thinking something that I know is relevant to many adult members also.

Unitarian Universalists don't talk about saving souls because we don't believe that's necessary. Sometimes I hear a UU talk about how discovering our movement saved his or her life, but we don't often talk about that either.

What we frequently talk about is what I'm going to call 'saving character.' When we come here, many of us are delighted to find that we are accepted as we are, belief or lack of belief intact, challenged perhaps to be thought about but not to be replaced. Our voices are heard; our strengths appreciated; our faults tolerated – usually, at least. We can always do better, but we do this well, and it *saves* us.

Some come here buried under religious or social expectations and find that we can breathe and grow here. Some of us arrive lonely and feeling different from other people around us, and we find that difference here is lessened and even appreciated. Our characters

are freed; we can express ourselves and develop into the people we were born to be.

In the fishbowl, I said that, even if one youth is 'saved' in this way to become who they truly are and helped to find a place in the world, then youth group is deeply important. The fact is that many are, and this applies to all of us here, including me. The salvation we find here is the salvation of character. I thank all of you who save each other in this way.

OFFICE HOURS:
Thurs 5:30 to 7pm;
Fri 1 to 3pm;
Sat 1:30 to 3pm;
other times by appointment.

Don't forget... Sunday announcements can often be included on the yellow insert in the Order of Service if you send them to the Office by Thursday afternoon.



President's Message

SUE FORBES



Ministry Teams as spiritual practice

Several years ago Susan Mitchell, who now serves on your board, mentioned that participating in Discovery Circles was for her a "spiritual practice." It was an "ah ha" moment for me.

I hadn't thought much about spiritual practice until then, but her comment abruptly shifted my perspective, in a positive way. For me it transformed Discovery Circles from being just another discussion group into something more meaningful and purposeful. Indeed, something spiritual.

Taking something that others might see as ordinary or mundane, and transforming it into something special, just by changing the way one *thinks* about it, has been a common element in many spiritual traditions. The Shakers for example perceived even the everyday task of building functional furniture as a spiritual exercise.

I think the power entailed in such a shift of perspective is now being recognized in Unitarian Universalist circles as well. I noticed it when we were reviewing dozens of UU websites in preparation for updating our own.

The trend showed itself in the wholly different slant that many

churches put on organization and volunteerism. In a nutshell, they created a limited number of "Ministry Teams," each of which had a spiritual/service focus to it. Those teams carried on the key activities of the congregation.

The First San Diego church described it this way:

A Ministry Team is a collection of volunteers who work and play together in groups to heal our planet, create positive, progressive change, and live out our liberal religious values in meaningful community with one another. A Ministry Team is like a smaller "tribe" within a larger church village. All activity that goes on in the life of the church happens through the hearts, hands, and minds of the Ministry Teams.

I think the difference between San Diego's *modus operandi* and our own is subtle yet profound. The thrust of how they perceive church "work" is wholly different. Instead of committees and committee members working like dogs doing church work, people join Ministry Teams to practice their spirituality. Theirs is a practical form of spirituality, which fits well with our UU philosophy.

Appreciating this difference could have great promise for us at North Shore. Just imagine if every activity we undertook on behalf of the church represented a spiritual opportunity; if we could transform church "work" into "spiritual practice."

After all, we don't want people participating out of guilt, shame, duty or obligation. Rather we hope they experience the joy that comes from contributing to the well being of others. This need to contribute, and live "as if the details of existence matter," may be one of the most basic and powerful needs

we all have. It's key to making our lives more genuine and fulfilling.

I think that's why our "work" here at North Shore – work that inspires people to live lives of meaning and purpose – *is* so worthy. It was summed up nicely in a line we sang recently at church: "And know your work is worthy, and know your heart is true, and know that all you give away will come circling back to you."

May we all know that our work is worthy, and experience the joy that comes from contributing to the well being of others within, among and beyond this Beloved Community.

Sue Forbes, President

PS. I will be in Holland with Barrie and the rest of our family from April 6-27 for our son's wedding. Many thanks to John Biasucci and others whose extra efforts will enable me to focus on this family event.

Learn . . . to distinguish the Eternal Human

That walks about among the stones of fire in bliss & woe

Alternate! from those States or Worlds in which the Spirit travels:

This is the only means to Forgiveness . . .

- William Blake (from *Jerusalem*)



Bare Bones News from the Board

NSUC's official board meeting minutes are posted on the bulletin board. What follows is a bare bones summary of some issues we dealt with at our March meeting.

- We updated our Charitable Donations Policy, which once finalized will be added to the website under 'About Us' (where we've posted all current policies, bylaws, etc. on the web for easy access.)

- We initiated a Strategic Fundraising Task Force. Beginning in the fall it will investigate how other churches raise funds for major or strategic purposes (such as an endowment fund or capital campaign), and make recommendations to the Board as to how we can improve our fundraising strategies to ensure a bright future.

- We reviewed our finances, which we hope will not be affected by the initial denial of our current grant application for lottery funds. Our application was denied due to a technical error on the part of the reviewer, but to correct it we need to go through a formal appeal process. We're hopeful the decision will be overturned, but it may be a couple of months before we know. In the interim, we'll continue as planned.

- We reviewed our sale status. Hynes's rezoning application continues to move slowly through the West Van planning process, but more slowly than we had hoped. As we thought might happen when in September we granted an extension of the rezoning deadline to June 30, 2009, a further extension of the deadline is likely to be needed. We'll keep you informed.

- We agreed to assign Montessori's lease to Mulgrave School. Montessori will dissolve its Society and donate its capital funds to Mulgrave School Society to build a new pre-school on Mulgrave's grounds. However, they wish to remain on our property until the end of October 09 (and possibly longer depending on the our sale status).

- We finished our review of the Human Resources Manual developed by the Personnel Committee. After a final proofing, it will fill a major gap in our employment practices policies.

- We pre-authorized our Social Responsibility Committee to march officially under our church banner in the April 4 Grand March for Housing. (A final decision on this was made at their March 22 meeting).

- We planned for our extra Board "mini-retreat" on March 25 where we'll be the first to see recommendations from our Purpose Task Force, and discuss how a new purpose might affect our overarching plans for the future.

- We briefly reviewed plans for the Annual General Meeting on May 24. We expect to vote on some substantive issues at the AGM, so I hope you can attend.

Sue Forbes, President



LAY CHAPLAIN NOTICE

As part of our outreach to the larger community, the North Shore Unitarian Church has several Lay Chaplains who perform rites of passage (weddings, memorials and naming ceremonies) for individuals who are not members or friends of the church, but nevertheless want a sacred service. They may, on occasion, also perform services for church members and friends where the minister is unavailable to perform such services. With the upcoming retirement of one of our lay chaplains, Wanda Morris, there is an opening for an individual who feels called to take on this role. Do you want to work with people to help them celebrate and mourn high and momentous occasions in their lives? Are you a strong writer and speaker who wants to share these skills with the larger community? Do you have the flexibility and time to create and perform a number of services (likely 6 – 10) every year?

If this is an opportunity you are interested in pursuing, please contact one of our Lay Chaplains (Beth McLin, Jasha Ramsay Latter or Wanda Morris) for further information about the role or the Chair of the Lay Chaplaincy Committee, Francis Gray for an application form. The successful candidate will be selected based on their completed application form and the results of their interview with a panel of Lay Chaplaincy Committee members. The successful candidate will then be required to complete Lay Chaplaincy training prior to their official appointment as Lay Chaplain.

The Rev. Stephen Atkinson

North Shore Unitarian Church

West Vancouver, BC

Adult Religious Education

End of Life Issues:

Following up on the End of Life series begun in March, we will offer a reprise of a popular class on planning a memorial service led by Wanda Morris, one of our lay chaplains. Here is Wanda's description of the class that will run from 7-9 p.m. on April 7 and 14.

Nothing in his life became him like the leaving it. (Macbeth)

While we probably don't want our death to be the high point of our life, a thoughtful memorial can comfort our loved ones at the time of our death and continue to touch them in the years that follow.

Preparing your own memorial service in advance is a gift you give others. Acknowledging your mortality and contemplating how you will be remembered is a gift you give yourself. While the focus of this course is on planning a personal memorial, the content and exercises will also be helpful to those who may be called on to plan a service for a family member or friend.

Open to all ages, this hands-on workshop will include practical information to help you with all aspects of this service (service options, timing, music, readings, eulogies, rituals, and aesthetics). The workshop will also include participant exercises and time for consultation and feedback. A fee for photocopied materials will be charged.

On April 21, we have invited two guests to discuss their participation in the organizations *Dying With Dignity* and the *Right to Die Society of Canada*. Jim Preece and Susan Brekelmans will share their perspectives with us beginning at

7 p.m. Here is the vision statement from the *Dying With Dignity* website:

Our vision is that all Canadians can live – and die – with dignity.

We define a dignified death as one that is consistent with an individual's personal beliefs, values and sense of integrity. This may vary considerably from person to person based on their circumstances. What is tolerable and meaningful for one individual may be unacceptable to another.

The only way that every person can be assured of this dignity is through legally protected choice."



Compassionate Communication

On April 1, Catherine Strickland will begin facilitating a new Compassionate Communication practice group for the NSUC community. It will meet every other week on Wednesday evenings between 6:30 and 8:30 pm. This practice group is for beginners and those who are familiar with Marshall Rosenberg's Nonviolent Communication model. This approach deepens our ability to embody our Unitarian principles through the four components of self-connection, self-empathy, expressing ourselves authentically and giving empathy to others. To register, please contact Cathy at: catherine@pacificvoice.ca or call 604-980-1239. The group will be limited to 10 people.

Author Talk

On Wednesday, April 29, we will host a talk and book-signing by author Douglas Todd, award-winning *Vancouver Sun* religion columnist, on his new book, *Cascadia: The Elusive Utopia—Exploring the Spirit*

of the Pacific Northwest. In this anthology, ". . . leading writers, historians, bioregionalists, pollsters, scholars, economists, philosophers, ecotheologians, literary analysts and poets explain how [our region] is nurturing a unique 'spirituality of place,' which could become a model for the planet." Many of us will recognize the names of George Bowering, Philip Resnick, and Sallie McFague among the contributors. The evening with Doug Todd begins at 7:30.

Please sign up on the church bulletin board so we may plan ahead for refreshments and photocopies. You may also call the church office to indicate your interest in one of the sessions. We ask for the courtesy of a phone call to the church if you realize you cannot attend after pre-registering.



CREATIVE CARDMAKING

April 19th, 1- 3pm

Come join other members for a few hours to help in making a collection of cards to be used by our Cares and Concerns Committee. These unique handmade cards, lovingly made by you, will be sent out to congregants for various thoughtful reasons over the year. All ages welcome and certainly no experience needed! Let the artist you enjoy playing with all kinds of goodies; paper, lace, paint, stickers, ribbon, felts, stencils, sparkles, and much more. Blank cards and envelopes provided along with refreshments and music. For more information call Liz Calvin or Jill Whitford. This will be a fun event... we look forward to your participation!

Children's Program

COORDINATOR: Lynn Sabourin



An enthusiastic audience was delighted by the performances at our annual Talent Show on Sunday, March 2. Aaron Roseland opened with his piano piece, *March Star*; Pat Meyer tickled our funny bones with her "tairy fale" a take-off of the Cinderella story; Anne Dyer's Hawaiian dance was beautiful and graceful; Miranda Roseland's lovely, clear voice was perfect for "Who Will Buy?" from *Oliver*; Sofia and David Osborne on violin and guitar, respectively, did a couple of fiddle tunes that had us tapping our feet; Mark Roseland sang his hilarious, original song "The Lament of the Third Molars" with Miranda and Aaron; and Blair Thompson mystified us with his entertaining magic tricks. What with the potluck that preceded the show, it was a fun and full evening.

Sadly, we are saying good-bye to Anne Mayall who has been with the church for over 27 years. To say she has made a difference is an understatement; as a part of a small group in the early 80's, she helped change the religious education program for children and "got them out of the basement" ideologically, if not physically, at first. More recently it was her energy and vision that started us on our wonderful pre-school

program, Spirit Play. Her support and contributions to the Youth Program will be greatly missed as well. We wish her well in her new home in Courtenay, where she will be when her first grandchild arrives in June.

In our two Spirit Play classes, our 3-6 year olds have had stories connected to our Unitarian Universalist faith. They heard the story of Francis David who convinced King Sigismund of Transylvania to grant religious freedom in his kingdom and established Unitarianism there. John Murray's sailing adventure brought Universalism to North America from England, where he preached about a loving God in a little chapel built by a farmer, Thomas Potter in 1770; it still stands today. The tale of Jon Hus is the story of how our Flaming Chalice came to be the symbol of our faith. They also heard a dramatic story of how the symbol of the chalice was used by the Unitarian Service Committee during the Second World War to identify aid trucks.

The Primary and Middle classes are experiencing the Spirit of Adventure curriculum: their first unit used the theme of sports to explore our Unitarian values. They looked at the good and bad in sports and how important it is to make responsible decisions so that the positive benefits of sport can flourish. The unit that followed concerned medicine. The children heard the story of Elizabeth Blackwell, a Unitarian who was the first woman to graduate from a North American medical school and Emily Stowe, who was inspired by her and became the first woman doctor in Canada. The story of Unitarian, Albert Schweitzer, the doctor who built a special hospital in Lambarene, Gabon, inspired us with his "reverence for life" belief, that guided his life and work.

The Intermediate class in the Amazing Grace program have been exploring good and bad and the concepts of heaven and hell. They discussed the Golden Rule and its form in all the major world religions and their experiences of vice and virtue. The next unit will be examining our Unitarian Universalist faith and how to use our principles in deciding what is right and what is wrong.



SECRET BUDDIES PROGRAM

This is an opportunity for adults and children 5 years and over to get to know one another and have a little fun, too. It's easy to do. Sign up is on Sunday, April 19 and 26. Forms will be on the bulletin board in the Rod Stewart building. Starting on Sunday May 3, there will be "mailbags" with the child's name on the bulletin board. This is the mail drop for both child and adult. Secret Buddies exchange letters, jokes, puzzles, drawings, baby pictures, book and movie recommendations etc. -anything that will help adult and child get to know each other. Identities will be revealed at a potluck supper on May 31 at 5-7 pm. For more info call Lynn Sabourin 604-926-1621.

Youth Program

COORDINATOR: Samaya Oakley



What I Believe....

The Coming of Age program is wrapping up this month. Since the start of the church year, we've had 4 youth go through a series of activities both in their mentor/protégé relationships and as a large group with some youth from the Vancouver church. They lived through the Wizard of Oz retreat where they had an opportunity to walk through the poppy fields, find their allies and move off into uncharted territory. They've served at a soup kitchens, looked at reasons to be an active participant in the neighbourhood they live in, and very shortly will be writing the first of many credos in their life.

I say the first of many credos that one will write in a lifetime, because in many circles of life around me right now, folks are taking this time to take stock in what they believe in. Folks taking our minister's Building Your Own Theology course are writing credos right now. I have to write a 10-page credo statement as one of my final papers in my Constructive Theology class. When we take time to taking stock in what we believe spiritually we are setting aside space as an important marker in life. It requires careful thought and consideration to write a credo statement and there are so many ways in which to do it. Most write

credos as a result of being in a class –the result of a longer process.

Our Coming of Age class will be writing their credo statements in response to four questions: 1) what is my responsibility towards others; 2) what makes something "right or wrong"; 3) what belief system do I hold; and, 4) how I can make a difference in the world. The program finishes with two celebratory occasions. The first will be held on Wednesday, April 15th at 6:00 pm over a potluck dinner. Mentors have an opportunity to introduce their protégé to those gathered. The protégé has the opportunity to read their credo statement. The parents are then given space to give a charge for their child as they enter into adolescence. It's one of the few times that a parent gets to speak publicly about their youth. On Sunday, April 19th, the congregation is then given the opportunity to hear a thumbnail version of what happened the previous Wednesday at the potluck.

As you are reading this, I invite you to think of what message you want to let our coming of age youth know about how we, as a congregation, feel about their involvement. We are in relationship with the youth in our congregation. Youth need to know that there is a larger community of caring adults that are interested in their well-being. We, in turn, are given the opportunity to see the world through fresh eyes.

Our Whole Lives

The Junior High Curriculum is offered to our Grade 8's and 9's in our congregation every two years. This comprehensive, values-based sexuality curricula engages our children and youth on a developmentally appropriate level, giving them the information and skills needed to make decisions that

are in line with a person's values and not societal norms.

Thanks to Guy Wassick, one group has just completed the Junior High Curriculum for our Grade 8's and 9's. Over the 27 sessions these youth examined issues such as gender roles, sexualization, healthy and unhealthy relationships, abstinence, contraception, pregnancy, and abortion to name a few. We invited in a panel of gay, lesbian and transgender individuals so the youth could hear their coming out story. Our Whole Lives is a program that holds the parents as the primary sexuality educator in a child's or youth's lives. One of the ways our congregation supports this is by closing each program with a final session with the parents. For this age group, we play a game of sexual healthy jeopardy pitting the parents against the youth in a game of jeopardy based on questions from the curricula. I think this is the first year I can remember when the parents won over the youth by 400 points.

Blair Thompson and I have just started another program in the Our Whole Lives family. Five kindergarten and Grade One participants will be meeting on Tuesday nights for the next 8 weeks. We'll be spending time looking at our wonderful bodies, families, how babies are born and family celebrations. Activities are done through a series of games, crafts – and of course the all important snacks!

If you are intrigued about the Our Whole Lives and are wondering how you might be able to support this ministry within our congregation, please contact Samaya Oakley at 604-985-5620. We need coordinators and facilitators.

Social Responsibility

(Continued)

Next Meeting: Potential new members, or the merely curious, always welcome. Next meeting: Sunday, April 19, 12:15-1:30, Sanctuary. If you wish to arrange transportation, please contact Linda Vance, 604-921-4688.

Sunday Outreach for April

Queen Mary School, North Vancouver: Each Sunday, the collection plate serves as our opportunity to support specific, worthwhile causes. We have been supporting the Queen Mary School for many years, formerly with a special collection. Many students are new immigrants, and nearly half are ESL (English Second Language). Our contributions have served to subsidize equipment for special needs students, subsidize program costs for low-income families, help students go to summer camp, and purchase library books for the reading program. In other words, we provide a discretionary fund for wherever funds are most needed.

March Outreach, WISH Drop-in Centre:

Our collections totaled \$1502.46, and the Pat Meyer Quilt Raffle has raised an additional \$715 so far. It is heartwarming to note that in hard economic times, generosity to the most vulnerable has not wavered.

Collection Bins:

We continue to collect for the Lookout North Shore Homeless Shelter. They request hotel toiletries, which are easy to distribute nightly. Particularly needed now: gently used, clean men's clothing (including socks and underwear), coats, boots, gloves, and blankets. Spring is still quite cold, so warm is still appreciated. Please be **targeted** in your donations

Habitat for Humanity: Church Build Day. Our next build day is Saturday, **May 2**. Please mark your calendar and look for the signup sheets in April. For more information, please contact Marian Goddard.

Vancouver Grand March against Homelessness, Saturday, April 4: more details as they become available. Please check your order of service and the Social Responsibility bulletin board.

Upcoming Events

Pysanky!

Egg Decorating workshop



Sunday, April 5, 1-4pm In the church basement

Come and learn how to decorate eggs in the traditional way of Eastern Europe. Our guest, Lin Guenther, will help you create your own authentically decorated eggs. She'll also explain the history and symbols of this great Easter tradition.

All supplies and eggs included

\$10/person*

* The workshop is very flexible and will be geared to the participant's skill level. Small people may need more assistance and would have more fun with an adult's help.

Questions? Please contact Denise Gilbert at dgyodels@telus.net or Lynn Sabourin. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the downstairs hallway.

BIDNITE AUCTION

BOMBAY BAZAAR 2009

For those new to us, this auction is our main fund-raiser for the church on the first Friday of May every Spring. The items are services offered by members of the congregation which are bid on, with the funds going to support the church. Socials and fun are never too far away. Fill your year at our

Bombay Bazaar!

Date: May 1st Friday

Time: 5:30 Sign-in
6:00 Dinner
7:00 Auction commences

Cost: \$10:00 for Dinner and Paddle. Dessert is served during a break in the auction.

Are You Ready?

The church has some wonderful people helping to put our Fund-raising evening together. Greg Huynh, who has agreed to be our auctioneer, would like to ask if anyone else has always wanted to be the Bidnite auctioneer. He is willing to pass over the baton. Here is your chance. Call me if this is your wish. If not, Greg will do it. Also, there are telephoners out there who will be calling you.

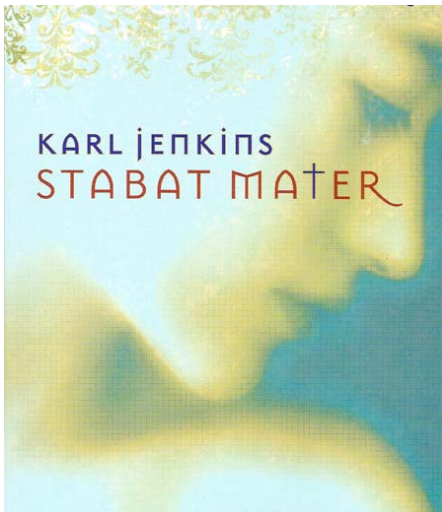
Be ready! **The cut-off date for offers is April 15th** so that you can get your bidnite sheet the week-end of April 18th. As there will be NO Silent Auction; any item like a picture or a piece of pottery can be put in as an Auction item. So send your offers in soon, to me or Debbie Leslie or into the Bidnite Box at the church. Thank you Church Friends.

- Your Bidnite Chair, Joanna Vaughan

Bulletin Board

Great Music - Great Cause

May 30th at St. Andrew's Wesley Church



Our choir under the direction and inspiration of Alison Nixon is the catalyst bringing together another 100 plus voices from choirs around the lower mainland to sing for a great cause. Along with raising funds for our church the concert is in support the **Cottage Farm Society**. The aim of the CFS is to raise funds to develop a residential therapeutic community designed to fill a gap in the continuum of care for people with mental health disorders. The farm would provide a sense of meaning and purpose to its clients along with treatment and care. A brochure outlining the Cottage Farm project is available at the church.

Karl Jenkins, the composer of "The Armed Man" previously performed by our choir, has also composed the "Stabat Mater". The concert will include other music pieces, and guest speakers, singers and musicians.

For The Love Of Music

Rachelle Lee

Do you love being exposed to new music? Do you enjoy meeting new people and learning about their world? Do you like to bring new experiences to your friends and family? Then being a host to house concerts may be a great experience for you. While living in Calgary, we were a host family to a series of house concerts organized by Home Routes (www.homeroutes.ca) and it was one of the most rewarding experiences our family and friends have had together.

With support from groups like the CBC and Canada Council for the Arts, Home Routes has run two years of successful home-concert circuits in the three Prairie Provinces. Twelve families are needed, close to the Lower Mainland (including the Sunshine Coast, Bowen Island, and possibly Vancouver Island), to bring a concert series to BC. So far, there are 5 host families signed-up.

Here's how it works, in a nutshell. If your home were a house concert location, you would be making a commitment to host one concert per month from September to November, and again from January to March, 6 in total. You'd gather between 25-40 of your friends and family as you are able, and collect a ticket fee of \$15, which goes directly to the musician. Your home would be one of 12 house concerts the musician plays on their two-week tour. You also get a chance to get to know the artist as they need you to host them overnight.

I encourage you to check-out the Home Routes website and also spread word of the opportunity to people you know who love music. If you decide you are interested, **please contact:**
Tim Osmond at Home Routes (Toll Free: 1-866-925-6889 ext. 204)

Volunteer Spotlight

Each month we feature a different volunteer opportunity.

Care and Concerns Committee:

If you enjoy being of help to other people, we are looking for 1 or 2 new Care and Concerns volunteers. Through cards, phone calls or shorts visits, you would keep in touch with members who are ill or cannot attend church activities, possibly arranging for someone to deliver home-cooked food. Once a month, these volunteers meet to review what's needed. This is heart-to-heart work and may be just what you're looking for as a new way to be of help. For more information, please contact volunteer coordinator John Duffy at 604-980-1239.

Directory Updates

APRIL

Anne Mayall has moved to Courtenay:
607A Pidcock Ave.,
Courtenay, BC V9N 3E4
Phone: 250-871-1026
email annemayall@shaw.ca
(unchanged)

Florence Moore has moved to Sidney:
Norgarden Apts. #104
2300 Henry Ave.,
Sidney, BC V8L 2B2
Phone: 250-655-3455

Bel Izat new email address:
belizat@shaw.ca

Notices & Events

Artarians

April brings an eclectic selection of paintings in various mediums and styles. Marguerite Mahy will be exhibiting some of her recent work and brings with her some fellow artists who paint together in a studio group on a regular basis. They are all members of the North Shore Artists Guild whose work has been juried and exhibited in art shows on the North Shore.

The Artarians are a group of North Shore Artists. Their biographies can be found in the Foyer of the church. We are an active, fun committee who is always looking for new members. If you are interested please contact Jilly Watson at 604-947-9604 or jilly.watson@shaw.ca.

Book Club

The Book Club will meet on Thursday, April 16, from ten until noon in the Fireside room. Anyone who has read *Wildwood: A Journey Through Trees* by Roger Deakin and wishes to discuss is welcome to attend. For further information phone Blanche Howard at 604-980-8265.

Cares and Concerns

Even as independent-minded Unitarians there are times in life when it's okay to need help. If you, or someone you know, is shut-in, ill, facing loss, crisis or other stress, Care and Concerns is available to help with a call or visit, a meal or drive, or other resources. (Please receive permission to call on behalf of someone else.) We are Mary Segal 604-987-9676, Jill Chilton 604-929-5829, Dianne Mylrea 604-980-6908, Vicki Cowan (rides to Church) 604-987-7959, and Candace Parker (food) 604-984-2503.

Cronies

We met recently and decided to share feelings about the nature of the SOUL. It was a good exercise, quite different from the usual fare of current affairs, strange happenings, helpful hints and the ironies of growing older. If you're ever free on a 2nd or 4th Thursday at 12:30 do join us in the Fireside Room for an hour or two. It's good fun. Bring your lunch; we make tea.

Liz Smily would like to send thanks to her church friends for their visits at the hospital and at home, and for the gifties and goodies all very much appreciated

Library News – Read On

We have ten new books in our collection as follows.

For children:

- "The Lonely Moose" by J. Segal, sponsored by Doris Noel
- "One Beetle to Many" by K. Lasky, sponsored by The Cronies
- "What Darwin Saw" by R. Schanzer, sponsored by G. Forgonson
- "Love Splat" by R. Scotton, donated by G. Forgonson
- "Someone for Mr. Sussman" by P. Polacco, donated by G. Forgonson
- "Waiting for Mum" by H. Lunn, donated by C. Elrod
- "For the Love of Autumn" by P. Polacco, donated by G. Forgonson

For adults:

- "Black Mass" by J. Gray, donated by N. Elrod
- "The Change Artist" by C. Rieger, donated by L. McGregor
- "A Complaint Free World" by W. Bowen, donated by J. and G. Ramsay-Latter

We thank our many sponsors and donors. Parents: please encourage your children and youth to use our library!

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