

heartBeat

weekly
news
from



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January 9, 2011

Happy New Year & Happy Epiphany !!

Worship & Music, Learning & Growth

A New Year—A New Season

We will continue with our advent format, beginning worship as a whole community then divide into *Genesis & Revelation* groups to explore our ancient texts from a present-day perspective. Throughout January and February we will look at the gospel of Matthew in our *Season of Epiphany*. What's 'epiphany' you wonder? 'Epiphany' means "revealing." Tradition tells us that Wise Ones or Magi and shepherds followed the light of a star to find infant Jesus "revealed" to the entire world. Epiphany lasts until Lent which this year begins in March. Through worship, music, learning, and growth, let's explore Jesus' revealed life and ministry and in so doing, reveal our own life and ministry.

January 9

Baptism of Jesus

Isaiah 42:1-9 and Matthew 3:13-17

Generous Giving: Open Hearts, Open Hands

Where do we get money to support our ministry?

Beach United Church is a group of gifted, generous people who seek to live beliefs and values in everything they do and particularly in congregational life through volunteering, leading, praying, worshiping, teaching, learning, and more. Congregational life is supported by a building that offers space and staff that offers time in administration and ministry of programs. **All** building and program costs are paid for by generous congregation members. Such generous giving comes from hearts open to putting God's spirit into action and matching that openness with open hands. Consider increasing your weekly giving to BUC in 2011.

Reaching Beyond our Doors

Contributions beyond our own needs get taken for granted because giving is such a regular part of our ministry. Did you know that 10% of all offerings and all rental income goes to the Mission and Service (M&S) Fund of the United Church? M&S provides key support for the **immediate** regional, national, and global needs of our wider church and world. For instance, M&S supports the Hope Centre in Welland, Ontario. Founded in 1974, the Hope Centre was created to assist people who were falling through the social-welfare net. The Hope Centre offers: literacy and basic skills programs, adult drop-in centre, Koats for Kids winter-clothing bank, financial-relief program for parents of sick children, Jump Start—a program that helps kids take part in sports and other recreational activities, a seven-unit emergency hostel where men and women can find shelter and meals, a housing-referral service, a program to help families get aid to pay their rent or utility bills, and a lunch program. Your contributions make a difference.

Highlights of Council Meeting: December 2010

Council reviewed a proposal from a council committee for a decision-making process about **possible uses of the south portion of our Beach East property**. Giving significant time to this decision and ensuring that both the process and the final decisions are embedded in our Ministry in Progress mission statement is important. Consequently, Council approved this proposal which will require several months into 2011 to complete. One important step in the process is a community consultation which will provide valuable community connections.

A draft **2011 budget** was considered, recognizing that several amounts are not yet known. Most significant of these is the cost of BUC accommodation during the construction years 2011 and 2012, especially if we decide to rent outside space. These numbers are in development by the HOME commission.

The **HOME presentation** on December 5 of design considerations for the renovation was reviewed, and the HOME commission requested that Council provide a final **total budget amount** for this project. Council committed to a special session early in January to address, in conjunction with consideration of our operating budget for the next two years as well as BUC's ability to find balanced budgets in the years after construction.

Council also approved 1) change of status of some congregants to inactive, reflecting their inability or choice at this time not to participate in the church, 2) receipt of the organ fund into the church accounts, from which organ maintenance costs are paid, 3) instituting a new council position called Income Stewardship, with an accompanying team of helpers, to manage the income portions of our operating account, and 4) an application by BUC to the Ontario FIT program for solar electricity generation and sale, as well as applications to a variety of organizations and corporations that provide funding in loans and grants for energy conservation and generation. These applications will not bind or oblige BUC at this time.

To read the full Minutes, visit: <http://www.beachunitedchurch.com/Content/10457/237016.pdf>

Music at BUC

Rehearsals

Began for Col Canto this past Wednesday. Rehearsals for The BUC Handbell Choir and The BUC Choir will begin this Thursday January 13th. See our website for details & times.

Taizé Community Vespers

Sunday, January 30th at 4pm *"Taizé... a beautiful orchestration of senses stirring, not shaking you, to a spiritually meditative experience. Try it... it was good for me."* Kwasi

Drumming with Soul

Investigation and research is underway to bring about some opportunities to explore the concept of a drum circle here at BUC. If you have an interest or wish more information about this unique kind of ministry please contact Douglas Brownlee.

Congregational Development

Beach United Men/AOTS

Our annual membership drive has begun: Be a Beach United Man/AOTS. Speak to Harry Wolfrain, Ross Richards, or Brian Bell. What does the club do? We're busy people, so we don't have regular meetings; we do, however, support BUC activities and fellowship with our men. Pick up the pamphlet "YOU WERE ASKING ABOUT AOTS" at the back of the Sanctuary. **Note:** AOTS means *As One That Serves* referring to a biblical text.

BUC Speaker's Series

We kick off the year on Wednesday, January 19th at 7:30pm with Guest Alanna Mitchell, author of the international bestselling novel *Sea Sick*. Discover the latest on the state of our oceans. Visit: [http://www.beachunitedchurch.com/10457/ministry/ministry_id/222411/Speaker s Series](http://www.beachunitedchurch.com/10457/ministry/ministry_id/222411/Speaker_s_Series)

Cooking with Soul

The 2011 Season starts on Saturday, January 29th from 9am - 12noon. Menu to be announced soon!

Learning & Growth

BUC Lecture Series

Resumes this Tuesday, January 11th from 7pm – 9pm in the Parlour. The topic is “**Luther and the Protestant Theology and Calvin and the Reformed Theology**”.

Service

A Green Light in the Darkness: Family Eco-Concert

At Eastminster United Church on Saturday, January 15th from 2pm - 4pm. Remy Roddin, renowned Yukon musician and eco-educator, will entertain guests of all ages with his upbeat, environmentally-themed music and with images from his recent trips to the Arctic and Antarctica. The message is from the heart: protect the poles, protect the earth. The fantastic Eastminster choir will also entertain and the event have MC Alanna Mitchell, author of the international bestseller, *Sea Sick*. Tickets: \$5 child, \$10 adult, \$20 family. For info/tickets contact Jim Patterson 647-274 1891 or jim@tucc.ca. Visit: <http://www.tucc.ca/churchdevelopment/green-events.html>

A call for donations of old suitcases!

Ross Upshur and Kim Echlin are travelling with daughters Sara and Olivia to El Hogar orphanage in Honduras to work in February. Our volunteer group is looking for donations of suitcases to carry donations to the orphanage. If you have one you can donate, any vintage or size is fine, please call Kim at 416-698-5480 and she will pick them up. Many thanks.

Good news, knitters (including beginners)

We have received a large donation of lovely yarn from Robyn Stremmer that is perfect for pneumonia vests. It will be available at our meeting on January 15th at 10:30 am in the Spirit Space. Can we beat the record 375 vests we delivered last year to Canadian Food for Children? They send them to vulnerable children in hot countries where the temperature drops at night. Our veteran knitters will help those who are unsure of their skills. Phone or email Pat Davies for further information at 416-465-3081 or patriciadavies@rogers.com.

Thanks . . .

Thanks to everyone who decorated our BUC Christmas tree during our season of Advent and Christmas. Sadly our tree has come down ready for recycling. All the decorations are laid out on a bench in our worship ready for picking and packing away. Life moves on from one season to another.

Thanks to everyone who shared their gift of music during the Christmas Season.

Marion Filshill would like to say a big Thank You for all the kind wishes and cards during these past difficult two weeks.



 *We're making waves in the Beach* 

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