

heartBeat

weekly
news
from



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February 6, 2011

This Weekend

Saturday at 4:30pm Jazz Vespers

Joe Sealy on piano and Paul Novotny on string bass, featuring Excerpts from "Africville Suite".

Sunday at 10:30am Worship

As we continue celebrating epiphany, we welcome guest speaker, Olivia Upshur, who will be sharing her experience in Honduras. In our ancient story, the writer of Matthew, brings us Jesus' challenging question - "Is it more important to follow the rules or to care for one another?"

Sunday at 6:00pm Eat, Pray and Skate!

Join us at Kew Gardens Ice Rink. Eat cookies and drink hot chocolate. **Pray** with candles on the ice. **Skate** and have fun together. Contact Hastings Withers 416-691-1657 or Karen Dale karen@beachuc.com.

Please Note: I'm away for a final week of holiday in sunny Cuba, Feb 4-11. My prayers will be winging your way as you embrace snow and I contemplate sand and sea. See you when I get back.
~Abigail

Worship & Music, Learning & Growth

Celebrating Epiphany

Sunday, February 13th, our staff team member, Kwasi Kissi, will reflect on Matthew, chapter 13 as we look at ancient and present-day parables and hear about our Interfaith Lunch Program.

Further Reflections

After reflecting in worship a few weeks ago about the possibility of moving toward a "world theology," one that embraces more than simply our own parochial denomination or faith, congregation member Richard Underwood offers a resource for further conversation. Robert Wright, author of *The Evolution of God* <http://evolutionofgod.net/> offers compelling arguments for an evolution of our theological outlook that is not just a present-day notion but one embedded in the history of Christianity. An article that encapsulates Wright's thoughts can be found at: <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2009/04/one-world-under-god/7335/3/#>
Thanks Richard!

Beach United Church Lecture Series

Tuesday, February 8th from 7pm - 9pm in the Parlour.

This week's topic is "From Puritans to Revivalists and Perfection, Holiness, and Pentecostalism".

Generous Giving: Open Hearts, Open Hands

Reaching Beyond our Doors

The United Church of Canada, through the Mission and Service Fund supports partnerships within Honduras, the poorest country in the Americas - with an illiteracy rate of 25%, an unemployment rate hovering at 30%, and more than half the population living below the poverty line, it is difficult for Hondurans to even imagine a better life, much less create one.

Many children literally live "on the streets." In the face of desperate poverty ... where over half the population lives on two dollars a day, children who should be in school are on the streets. The families they come from can no longer feed, clothe, or educate them. Their homes, little more than cardboard and tin pieced together, offer no space, no running water, and little hope of a future. Sniffing glue relieves their hunger pangs, while simultaneously destroying brain cells. Begging and stealing become the means to survive. Teenage gangs offer a sense of belonging. This is childhood for many in Honduras. This is the face of poverty

The mission of El Hogar Projects is to provide a loving home and education in a Christian environment for abandoned, orphaned and hopelessly poor children, enabling them to fulfill their ultimate potential as productive human beings in Honduras. Although El Hogar is not supported by the wider church, it is supported by members of Beach United Church--Ross, Olivia and Sarah Upshur & Kim Echlin.

Music at Beach United Church

~faith expressions through music~

More than just about notes on a page!

"It's not just a rehearsal; it is a time to be with friends. When we ring through (with our handbells) a brand new piece for the first time it feels pretty good that we can sight read so well. I get to sing my faith and express my spirituality in a way that I feel deep down."

Check our website to see how you can become musically involved at BUC.

Drumming with Soul: An alternative spiritual expression? Stay tuned...

"A drum circle is any group of people playing (usually) hand-drums and percussion in a circle. They are distinct from a drumming group or troupe in that the drum circle is an end in itself rather than preparation for a performance. They can range in size from a handful of players to circles with thousands of participants. In 1991, during testimony before the United States Senate Special Committee on Aging, Grateful Dead drummer Mickey Hart stated: "Typically, people gather to drum in drum "circles" with others from the surrounding community. The drum circle offers equality because there is no head or tail. It includes people of all ages. The main objective is to share rhythm and get in tune with each other and themselves; to form a group consciousness; to entrain and resonate. By entrainment, I mean that a new voice, a collective voice, emerges from the group as they drum together." (Wikipedia)

Taizé Community Vespers

Sunday, February 27th at 4pm. To read a recent internet write-up, visit our website at:
http://www.beachunitedchurch.com/Article.aspx?site_id=10457&article_id=240035

Congregational Development

BUC Speaker's Series

Wednesday, February 9th at 7:30pm with guest speaker James Fitzgerald, author of "What Disturbs Our Blood", a deeply personal journey about the legacy of mental illness. James is on the shortlist for the BC National Award for Non-Fiction and has won the 2010 Writers' Trust of Canada prize for Non-fiction. 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)

Service

Keep more children warm

Last year, our Knitting for Shivering Children group decorated the sanctuary with 375 pneumonia vests for blessing on Mother's Day. We're aiming for 450 this year. Want to knit one vest to help us reach our goal? We're meeting on February 12th from 10:30 am to noon in the Spirit Space. Please join us, if only for a few minutes. Pick up some yarn, 4 mm needles if you need them, and our simple pattern. One vest takes only a little time to knit and you can watch your favourite TV program while you help keep one child warm. Attention male knitters: we know you are out there and you don't have to sit in a knitting circle to participate. You can watch the game and contribute independently. Coffee and goodies available while you pick out your yarn. Any questions? Phone or email Pat Davies: 416-465-3081 or patriciadavies@rogers.com

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 this month. 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. Please bring soap and deodorant to add to the suitcases for transport to Honduras with Olivia and family.

Food Bank donations

The Food Bank at Calvary Baptist Church is open 6 hours a week and they need food for local families and singles. Items such as pasta, rice, dried soups, canned tuna and salmon, dried milk, shampoo, toothpaste and diapers are really appreciated. The donation box is located in the Narthex at church.

Beach United Church News

A Note of Thanks from the Richards Family

To everyone who knew and loved Ross, my heartfelt thanks for your love and support at this sad time. My family and I are overwhelmed by your expressions of sympathy and we will always remember the many people whose lives he touched. Thank you for your beautiful cards which comfort us at this time. ~*Sheila, Jane, and Gail*

Community Events

Are you a Senior?

Not able to get out of the house due to the weather? Senior Link (Neighbourhood Link Support Services) has a program for you. Wednesdays & Fridays there is a get-together at Main and Kingston Road for toast and coffee in the morning, exercises, and word games. At 12:30pm, there is a full lunch supplied by a local restaurant followed by board games, quizzes or musical entertainment. Two-way transportation can be provided in one of their mini vans. For more information call Ellen White or Susan Dowling at 416-698-5908.

Special Parenting Seminar

"Understanding Why They Do the Things They Do" Friday, February 25th from 7:30 - 9:30 pm Sponsored by Youth Unlimited (Toronto YFC) At The Meeting House 2700 Bristol Circle, Oakville. Do you know a teen who has trouble making good decisions? A young person struggling with their faith? The seminar focuses on brain development and why our kids do the things they do. With Guest Speaker: Paul Robertson, Youth Culture Specialist with Youth Unlimited \$10 per person \$15 per couple if registered before February 25 and \$15 per person and \$20 per couple at the door. Call 416-383-1229 Ext. 307 to register. Visit: www.paulrobertson.ca or www.todaysteens.ca



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