

# heartBeat

weekly  
news  
from



Visit our website [www.beachunitedchurch.com](http://www.beachunitedchurch.com)  
& subscribe to our weekly eSpirit message

February 13, 2011

## *Worship & Music, Learning & Growth*

### **Celebrating Epiphany**

**This Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup>**, 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.

**Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Congregational Meeting directly following worship.**

### **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!

## *Generous Giving: Open Hearts, Open Hands*

### **Reaching Beyond our Doors**

In 2006, 16 people from Gander United Church travelled to Guatemala to put into action God’s call to be people in partnership with others through the People in Partnership program. The 16 were from different walks and stages of life, and included four teenagers and three young adults. In the words of one teenager:

We spent two weeks in Guatemala. During the first week, we lived and worked at Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (Our Little Brothers and Sisters) orphanage. We helped children with their homework and with English, music, and recreational activities. The second week, we worked with the Safe Passage school—a program set up to combat poverty through education and opportunities. I was only 16 years old at the time; this experience drastically changed me. We had the opportunity to help children and families dealing with poverty, addiction, and lack of education. But we also received gifts: these children, who have nothing, showed us how to value love and how you can find happiness around you if you choose to see it.

Contributions we make to the Mission and Service Fund help support the People in Partnership programs, which enable the engagement of United Church courts and members in mission relationships.

**The Beach United Church office** will be closed on Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup> for “Family Day”.

## **Music**

*~faith expressions through music~*

### **Choral and Instrumental groups are 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...

Robert Friedman, author of *The Healing Power of the Drum*, says "In this world of technology, when everything is about speed and creating distance from each other, the drum is a way we as a society seem to be coming back home."

### **Taizé Community Vespers Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm**

"The tranquil evening service, a spiritual spa of sorts, gives people a chance to reflect, unwind and clear their minds." ~Abigail Johnson

Did you see the article about Beach United Church: *Local Church Offers Alternative Worship Options* published online at [insidetoronto.com](http://insidetoronto.com)? Check our website for the link.

### **Jazz Vespers Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-5:15 pm**

Featuring "A Lazy Afternoon" with Lara Solnicki (vocals) and Ted Quinlan (guitar) and Jon Maharaj (string bass).

## **Learning & Growth**

### **Beach United Church Lecture Series Tuesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> from 7pm - 9pm in the Parlour**

This week's topic is "Deism and Liberal Protestantism and Neo-Orthodoxy from Kierkegaard to Barth".

## **Service**

### **Translating our Faith into Action: Making a Difference for the Environment**

A Multi-Faith Retreat on Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup> from 2-5 pm at the Church of the Redeemer 162 Bloor St. W. Join in this multi-faith retreat exploring the spiritual resources that inspire us to protect the environment, and how to translate those resources into effective action in the public sphere. Register at [www.ucalgary.ca/oikos/Retreat/Toronto](http://www.ucalgary.ca/oikos/Retreat/Toronto).

### **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.

## **Community News**

### **Special Parenting Seminar**

"Understanding Why They Do the Things They Do" Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.paulrobertson.ca) or [www.todaysteens.ca](http://www.todaysteens.ca)

## ***Council Meeting Highlights, January 2011***

Council opened with members reflecting on and sharing what faith meant to them. We heard of bedrock, trust, magnet, and warm blankets among the many perspectives.

Karen Watson provided a brief update on the work of the HOME commission on two fronts, the design details with cost estimates, and the alternative location for our church during the construction time. Each of these aspects of their work is nearing completion, and news should be ready for the Annual Congregation Meeting coming soon.

Council was encouraged to bring forward ideas for forming stronger connections within the congregation, especially leading up to and during the construction time. These ideas will be reviewed and some decisions made for implementation at the February council meeting.

While a beginning has been made for allocating some of the Wider Ministries holdback from the west property sale proceeds, council was invited to develop expansion ideas for these basic concepts of solar pv installation and kitchen facilities with the renovated building. To justify spending these funds in these two areas to Presbytery, and more important to ourselves, there will need to be more comprehensive and better developed plans for the two concepts. These ideas will be reviewed and discussed more fully at the February meeting.

Council approved the implementation of a new position on Council, that of Environmental Stewardship coordinator. For an interim period, Corey Helm has agreed to fill this position. Congregation support for this change will be sought at the Annual Congregation meeting.

Discussion continued from the special council session on January 8 regarding the overall financial picture at BUC, with the HOME project underway, financially challenging years during the construction time, and the ever-challenging question of balancing the annual operating budget. While no final decisions have been made on these items yet, council is committed to finding the best balance between these three financial questions and our various financial support sources.

While final numbers for 2010 are not quite determined, Tom's best projection for the year-end position is a deficit of roughly \$20,000, better than the budget plan for the year by several thousand dollars.

Abigail closed the meeting and evening with a prayer for peaceful sleeps for all members of council, asking for relief for our tired and anxious brains and bodies while we recouped our energies and returned to our busy other responsibilities.



 *We're making waves in the Beach* 

140 wineva avenue toronto on m4e 2t4 416 691 8082 office@beachuc.com

[www.beachunitedchurch.com](http://www.beachunitedchurch.com)