

# heartBeat

weekly  
news  
from



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April 10, 2011

## Saturday at Beach

### Building Partnerships Conference

**9am-2:30pm at Newtonbrook United Church** (53 Cummer Avenue)

Several members of Beach UC are attending this conference as part of learning more about possibilities for our wider ministries ventures. This conference will touch on the heart of our ministry as we consider the role of buildings in congregational ministry.

Visit: [www.buildingpartnerships.eventbrite.com](http://www.buildingpartnerships.eventbrite.com) for more information on the conference.

Contact Jane Dickson ([jane.dickson020@sympatico.ca](mailto:jane.dickson020@sympatico.ca)) if you are interested in joining others who are attending.

### Knitting for Shivering Children

**10:30am in the Parlour**

Please join us on April 9 for the last knitting circle before we hang our collection of vests in the sanctuary. They will be blessed on Mother's Day. We continue to welcome colourful donations from inside and outside the circle and our congregation. And a recent article about the group in the Mirror has led to more inquiries and donations of yarn. We're aiming for 450 vests this year that we can send overseas. They help prevent respiratory illnesses in children who live in hot countries that get cold at night. There's still time to knit a vest and we can supply needles and yarn to anyone who wants to drop in and pick them up. We're in The Spirit Space at 10:30 a.m. trying not to drop stitches as we drink coffee, eat goodies and chat. The contact for information is Pat Davies at 416-465-3081 or [patriciadavies@rogers.com](mailto:patriciadavies@rogers.com).

## Sunday at Beach

### *Last Sunday for our three-part Sunday Worship*

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 9:30  | <b><i>Be the Change</i></b> Family Ministries (All Ages Learning) |
| 10:30 | <b><i>Worship</i></b> Compassion-in-Action                        |
| 11:30 | <b><i>Cultivating Compassion</i></b> Conversations                |

## ***Worship & Learning for Lent***

**On Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup>** you are invited to engage in a dramatic interpretation of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem with Don Gray & Karen Dale. Rehearsals will be on Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am & at 9am prior to service on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Contact Don Gray 416-698-8287 and Karen Dale [karen@beachuc.com](mailto:karen@beachuc.com) to confirm your interest.

### ***Holy Week Journey from Death to Life***

Experience the total story central to our Christian faith through Holy Week

#### **April 17      Jesus' Entry into Jerusalem, 10:30am**

"Even the Rocks and the Stones . . ." The words of our faith are strewn with rocks . . . and just as Jesus himself brought stones to life on his triumphant ride into Jerusalem, this worship service will, most certainly, rock!

#### **April 21      Maundy Thursday, 7pm**

Young and older are welcome to gather in our worship space for a "disciple's supper." Just as Jesus gathered with his friends on the night before he died, we will gather and remember our friend and brother Jesus, in preparation for Good Friday.

#### **April 22      Good Friday, 7pm**

What's good about "Good" Friday? The exact origins of the name are uncertain; some argue it stems from the use of "good" as an adjective applied to the day, which is an Old English synonym for "holy." Others argue it is a corruption of the word "God," in the same way that "Good Bye" comes from the phrase "God be with ye." Whatever the origin of the name, we will join in gentle reflection to remember the crucifixion of Jesus in song, prayer, and poetry.

#### **April 23      Holy Saturday, 7pm**

The "Apostle's Creed," the earliest Christian statement says that Jesus was crucified and buried, and then he descended into hell, before he rose on the third day into heaven. In many traditions, a time of prayer vigil takes note of this descent into hell, as a time of staying with Jesus in his journey from dinner with his friends on Thursday to an Easter morning resurrection. At Beach we will join together for film and conversation. We will watch "Wit," a film based on the play starring Emma Thompson ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wit\\_\(film\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wit_(film))) and talk together.

#### **April 24      Easter Sunrise, 6:20am**

Join a crowd of early risers right on the beach—how appropriate! Let's greet the morning and the rising of the sun/son.

#### **April 24      Easter Communion, 10:30am**

"Jesus Christ is Risen Today" will ring out in voice and with brass ensemble as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and its meaning for our lives.

## ***Council & HOMe***

*Council Contacts: Jane Dickson, Ron Fitton, Lee Muirhead*

*HOMe Contact: Karen Watson*

### **Saturday Morning with AODA**

Even though it was an early start to our Saturday morning, Jane Dickson, Lee Muirhead, and Abigail Johnson headed off to our Toronto Southeast Presbytery office for a workshop on new Ontario accessibility legislation which is going to affect church buildings directly. The "Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities" Act has five parts: service to those who use our building, the actual building environment, employment standards, information, and communication/transportation. With reconstruction of our building in our immediate future, we have a great opportunity to make our building more accessible.

### **Update on "Invitation to a Wider Ministries Conversation"**

Last Tuesday evening, a group of 14 people met to talk about wider ministries. After reflecting on various models for what "wider" might mean, the 12 broke into 2 groups to brainstorm ideas. Pages of flipchart paper were used as ideas flowed. Meeting output has posted in the parlour on Sunday. Have a look. We left blank flip chart paper in the room; feel free to add your own ideas. New and intriguing ideas were drawn out such as social enterprise projects, Taizé Community Vespers as pastoral outreach to hospitals, and overseas Habitat builds for our young people. Another meeting is planned to sift and sort the ideas into concrete projects. Stay tuned.

## ***Music at BUC***

*~faith expressions through music~*

*Staff Contact: Douglas Brownlee*

### **A follow up from Douglas who was in Chicago last week**

*Music that Makes Community* was a three day conference that I attended dedicated to exploring a style of singing that transforms worship and more deeply forms Christian community. It was designed specifically for clergy, musicians, and lay people who want to learn how to lead music effectively without the use of hymnals or other printed materials. We were re-introduced to this important musical tradition and shown how it can both enhance existing music programs and aid the development of new ones within participants' churches. We have already been exploring this in a small way during Lent here at BUC in the singing of "Open My Heart" at the start of our Sunday worship. It was a great event and equally as wonderful was the chance to see a bit of this famous city.

### **Drumming with Soul**

Three exploratory events will be scheduled and coordinated with some members of the congregation and staff over the next few months. These three events will be: 1. Following a Thursday lunch program for guests that wish to participate. 2. Following a Sunday morning worship service. 3. A Wednesday evening specifically designed so we can invite the local neighborhood. A few volunteers have graciously offered to help out with getting this project underway but more are certainly welcome 'at the drum'. Contact Douglas: [music@beachuc.com](mailto:music@beachuc.com)

### **We hear you singing in church**

Would you consider singing with the BUC Choir for Easter? Brass quintet, joyful Easter music, fellowship with other folks who like to sing... no experience necessary. Rehearsal: Thursday, April 14 & 21 from 7:30-9pm. Singing: Easter Sunday April 24th.

**Taizé Community Vespers on the third Sunday of the month – Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 4pm**

## **Celebration Taizé Community Vespers Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8pm**

*"Saying Thanks to the Donaldson's"*

Andrew and Wendy are leaving soon for Switzerland. Andrew has accepted a music position with the World Council of Churches in Geneva. We are hosting a special Taizé Community Vespers and a reception to say thanks for their mentoring and unwavering dedication to our fledgling Taizé services. Andrew has played classical guitar and lute for every service except two since we started this new worship initiative last year. Everyone is welcome to this contemplative worship experience of music, candlelight and meditation.

## **Jazz Vespers**

Over 100 youth and people from the Beach community enjoyed the music of Malvern Dance Band at our last Jazz Vespers. The upbeat and energetic music was complemented with Mary Ann Bell's reading of poem/prayers about being the best we can be and the hazards of stereotyping youth and others. Many youth were featured and had opportunities to shine with their own unique improvisations. Thank you to Mike Falla, music teacher at Malvern Collegiate, for taking the time to be part of our service.

**Next Jazz Vespers on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm** "The Message in the Music" with Peggy Mahon on vocals, Dave Field on string bass and Danny McErlain on piano.

## ***Service***

*Council Contacts: Rosalie Bradley & Corey Helm*

## **Reaching Beyond our Doors: Mission and Service Fund**

The Surplus People Project (SPP), formed in 1985 in South Africa, supports South Africans working for land, water, and agricultural reform to improve the standard of living in impoverished rural communities. The SPP works with farmers on a wide range of projects: making land and resources accessible; building rural organizations and networks; making sure farmers have secure long-term tenure; and supporting initiatives that are ecologically friendly.

SPP also offers support to tenant farmers, who are vulnerable to eviction and displacement. SPP is working to train small-scale farmers in techniques that are financially sustainable and ecologically sound. They are also working with women on leadership development, so women can have more of a voice in making community decisions. BUC contributions to our United Church Mission & Service Fund support the work of the Surplus People Project.

## **Green Awakening Network Event**

On March 26, BUC attended its second "Green Choices for Faith Communities" workshop, a joint Green Awakening Network (GAN)-Greening Sacred Spaces (GSS) initiative in partnership with Toronto United Church Council. Jane Dickson, Carolyn Glasgow, and Karen Dale attended on behalf of BUC along with over 100 participants from various faith communities from across Southern Ontario. We learned about best practices, policies, retrofit options and City of Toronto incentives when greening our faith buildings, we networked about how to respond to climate change, shared greening stories and discussed solar power, food ministries, community gardening and sustainable living engagement. Speakers were inspiring as they talked about how to promote change in our community and our church buildings! GAN is a network of United Churches and other faith communities in Toronto responding to the challenge of climate change by encouraging lifestyle changes and by reducing the carbon footprint of church buildings. Our own Corey Helm is the GAN Network Coordinator. We're available to share information so feel free to ask us questions; Jane (416-969-9642), Carolyn (416-704-3681) or Karen at (416-691-8082, ext. 26).



*Participants of the Green Choices for Faith Communities Forum gather to share a message of hopeful action on climate change and our collective responsibility to take care of the Earth.*

The Green Choices Forum, held in Toronto on March 26 and March 27, 2011, featured workshops on faith buildings, community projects, advocacy, and spirituality, as well as an interfaith breakfast and worship service. The Forum highlighted the urgent need for humanity to take care of creation and the integral role of faith communities in this endeavour. Participants included representatives from a variety of faiths, including Christian, Jewish, and Muslim traditions. The Green Choices Forum was organized by the Green Awakening Network ([www.greenawakeningnetwork.ca](http://www.greenawakeningnetwork.ca)) and Greening Sacred Spaces ([www.faith-commongood.net](http://www.faith-commongood.net)).

### ***Learning & Growth***

*Council Contact: Wendy Johnston*

#### **Joseph Campbell Lecture Series on Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> in the Parlour from 7-9pm**

*The Message of the Myth* from the PBS series *The Power of Myth* featuring Bill Moyers interviewing Joseph Campbell, who explains how the World's Myths operate in helping humanity formulate a view of themselves and the world. Info: Dick Allan at 416 698-8614.

#### **Observer Subscriptions**

It is time to renew or begin a new subscription to The United Church Observer. Cost is \$20. Please make **cheque payable to Beach United Church and give to Margaret Burley or place on the Offering Plate**. Renewal deadline is May 15<sup>th</sup>. If you require further information please contact Margaret at 416-699-1368.

### ***Congregational Development***

*Council Contact: Mary Anne Lemm*

#### ***Speaker's Series***

##### **Nobody's Child became Somebody's Child**

Many thanks to Don Gray who hosted his video "Nobody's Child" last Wednesday evening. In revealing this poignant story, Don gave dignity to 100,000 children and brought to life an important part of Canadian history. Applause rang out as the video ended and orphan's who had been nobody's children became somebody's child in our hearts. We collected a free will offering that goes toward our Interfaith Lunch Program.

### ***The Day the Falls Stood Still on May 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm***

Join us for a reading by Cathy Marie Buchanan from her New York Times bestseller. Visit: [www.harpercollins.ca/books/Day-Falls-Stood-Still-Cathy-Marie-Buchanan/?isbn=9781554683277](http://www.harpercollins.ca/books/Day-Falls-Stood-Still-Cathy-Marie-Buchanan/?isbn=9781554683277)  
Steeped in the intriguing history of Niagara Falls in 1915, the dawn of the hydroelectric power era in Niagara Falls. This is an epic love story as rich, spellbinding and majestic as the falls themselves.

### **Cooking with Soul**

Chocolate & Tea! On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, guest pastry chef Laura Bryan, professor at George Brown College and tea sommelier, showed us how to make velvety smooth chocolate mousse for 100 people! We also made a nutrition-packed vegetable barley soup. The lunch program guests were in for a real treat last Tuesday! Laura also shared some of her knowledge about tea. Check out the blog for recipes and info about where to buy chocolate and tea in bulk: [www.cookingwithsoul.tumblr.com](http://www.cookingwithsoul.tumblr.com).  
Next Cooking with Soul session: Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> with Swiss Chef Thomas Muller. Menu TBA.

### **OUR OWN CHURCH VIDEO!**

On Sunday, May 1, right after the morning service, everyone is invited to enjoy your drinks and treats while watching the first 'Director's Cut' of our Beach United Church Video! See what (and who) Don Gray's camera has been 'seeing' over these past couple of months. The final video will be 'Chapter One' in an ongoing Website series of shorter glimpses into the vibrant life and times of our church . . . as well as a memorable archive of a 'bricks & mortar' home which will soon be re-born. It's about 40 minutes long, and we'd very much like you to stay for the whole thing. We'll even serve popcorn. And we guarantee that you'll be entertained, surprised and proud of what you see.

## ***Congregational News***

David Watson, former minister at Kew Beach, has recently been hospitalized for surgery. Although Ann reports that he is progressing well, it has been challenging. She is expecting that he will be home this weekend; however, recovery will take several weeks and will involve additional treatment.

## ***In the Community***

### **Canada Sings!/Chantons Canada! Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> from 7-8pm**

Toronto-Riverdale Neighbourhood Singalongs at St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church Hall (203 River Street). "We Want to Sing With You Guests" The William Graham Singers, William Graham, Music Director. All ages welcome. Free. Contact 416-778-0796 [info@canadasings.ca](mailto:info@canadasings.ca) / [www.canadasings.ca](http://www.canadasings.ca).

### **CRC Walk in the Park on Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>**

The Christian Resource Centre (<http://www.tcrc.ca/index.cfm/10315/about-us>) which is part of our United Church family, invites members of Beach United Church to a one-hour tour of Regent Park. See first-hand the massive changes in the community and learn how the CRC is responding to these changes. Free to everyone, the tour begins at 1pm at the southeast corner of Parliament & Gerrard. No need to register. Just show up and bring your walking shoes! Interested in going with someone, contact Abigail [abigail@beachuc.com](mailto:abigail@beachuc.com)

### **All Candidates Meeting**

On **Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 7-9pm** join us in the sanctuary for an All Candidates Meeting co-sponsored by Neighbourhood Link Support Services and Beach United Church. Let's learn more about our future leaders and share our questions and our thoughts with those preparing to represent this community in decision-making.

# ***Upcoming Worship Schedule***

*Pop these dates into your calendars*

## **May 1**

Karen Rodman, a member who is engaging in a ministry discernment process, will be preaching.

## **May 15**

Beaches Interfaith Worship at Kew Gardens, 11:30am. We will join local congregations and worship centers for an outdoor community worship. Guest speaker, Lori Stahlbrand, from Local Foods Plus will offer us 'food' for thought as we give thanks for the blessing of food and call each other to compassionate giving to those who hunger. We will gather at Beach UC at 10:30 to pray and prepare to process to the Park.

## **May 22**

Our congregation will be worshipping in two different locations. One group of worship leaders will be at Versacare offering worship to residents while another group will lead worship at Beach UC.

## **June 5**

Join the party as we celebrate Pentecost, the birthday of our church. And of course, there will be cake.

## **June 12**

***Hymnfest Sunday & Pot Luck Lunch*** Singing our Songs and Funding our Future. Starting on May 1<sup>st</sup>, cast your ballot for your favourite hymns and join a festival of hymn singing. Let's raise our voices to blow the cobwebs off the rafters and make a joyful sound to God.



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