

heartBeat

weekly
news
from



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May 8, 2011

Celebrating our Easter Sunday Ministries

May 8 *Let's Celebrate Reaching Out*

On this Mothers' Day, let's celebrate families by blessing the knitting ministry in our congregation. Multi-colour vests will festoon our worship space ready to be blessed on their way around the world to children in need of warmth and nurture.

After-Church-Church: Drumming with Soul

Right after church on May 8th we will set up a drum circle at the front of the sanctuary and explore the rhythm of the spirit. What to bring: your own drum/percussion instrument (or we have a few to borrow) and cushions if you wish to sit on the floor. Dancers and those with the gift of creative movement are most welcome - any ribbon dancers in the house?

May 15 *Let's Celebrate Diversity*

No longer can we assume a Christian imperialism in our neighbourhood, city, country, and world. God is calling us to a stronger relationship with people of many different faiths. As part of that relationship, we are participating in an East End Interfaith Worship Service "**A Place at the Table**" at Kew Gardens, 11:30am. We will join local Beach and East End 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 10:30am to pray and prepare to process to the Park meeting up with our friends and neighbours in our diverse community.

May 22 *Let's Celebrate Worship as Pastoral Care*

Our congregation will be worshiping in two different locations. One group of worship leaders will be at Main Street Terrace: Long Term Care by Revera, formerly Versacare, offering worship to residents, while another group will lead worship at Beach UC.

Worship Bits & Pieces

Lent/Holy Week/Easter Services Feedback

Our worship team would love to hear from you about your experience of services offered during Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. These services include the early morning Family Ministry sessions and the Compassion Conversation Circles following worship. Take a few minutes to respond by following this link to our 6 survey questions: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/CSXRDYT>. THANKS!

Reminder: We are all Greeters on Sunday mornings

Do you notice someone near you whom you don't know? Introduce yourself, welcome them. Perhaps they would like to share in coffee time with you after worship. Feel free to greet at the welcome table or on the steps. People comment on what a friendly church we have--don't be shy to say hi!

“Where, O Where Have Some Items Gone?” Some items have disappeared from our church building, such as a standing lamp, a basin and pitcher belonging to Abigail, casserole dishes, vases, and so on. Yes, we are taking inventory and putting some items up for sale through a carefully thoughtful process of decision-making. And yes, we are keeping some items to take with us to St Aidan’s during the interim build period. And yes, we are storing other items for when we move back to BUC. If anyone is interested in a particular item, please check with Abigail, Karen, or Jane Dickson (Chair of Council) before removing from the building. We need our stuff!

Council & HOMe

Council Contacts: Jane Dickson, Ron Fitton, Lee Muirhead

HOMe Contact: Karen Watson

Highlights of April Council

Continuing with our worship theme, Karen asked us to consider the importance of compassion in our daily life and many recounted acts of compassion recently experienced.

We were pleased to welcome Donna Braybrook from Neighbourhood Link (formerly Senior Link) to speak with us about their activities in the Beach community, as we consider ways we might build partnerships within the wider community. Neighbourhood Link is funded by all three levels of government and by United Way, as well as private fundraising. The focus of the Senior Services division is to keep seniors in their homes as long as possible. They provide transportation, housing assistance and social recreational programs. They partner with other healthcare providers. They are always looking for additional space at reasonable prices and are open to developing funding programs with other organizations. Donna identified supportive housing and assisted housing as particularly acute issues for seniors in this neighbourhood, many of whom are “house poor” and struggling to make ends meet. Neighbourhood Link also has a division which deals with Newcomers and Youth Outreach and one that is an Employment Centre.

Plans for implementing congregational connections were further discussed and agreed upon. As part of this plan members of Council will work with a partner to regularly contact a group from the congregation so that each church member can expect to establish an ongoing relationship resulting, hopefully, in stronger communication links.

Our Treasurer, Tom Steele, has been carefully monitoring our finances and updating our procedures to follow as we face new expenses involved in our upcoming move. Tom reminded us that without rental income, the projected deficit for the next two years is looking very realistic and the need for revenue generation is real also.

On Saturday, May 14 at 10am to noon there will be a Silent Auction for some of the excess furniture identified by our working committee. Several pianos, communion tables, chairs, pews, and other interesting and unique items were approved for sale with a **preview to be held on Saturday, May 7 at 10am (Inquiries: 416-920-0641 Cash Only)**

Because of the expensive cost of storage, we will have to cull more furniture for disposal prior to our move in the fall. When we move back into our renovated premises, we will need some replacement furniture.

Lots more discussion took place around issues such as pastoral care, possible grant applications, structural review of ministry and personnel and of Council... Expect more information soon.

Wider Ministries Conversation: Part Two

At our next conversation on **Monday, May 9 at 7pm** we will sort and sift ideas into concrete projects. Join Jim Winn, Jane Dickson, Corey Helm, Wendy Johnston, and Abigail Johnson and be part of our conversation.

Music at BUC

~faith expressions through music~
Staff Contact: Douglas Brownlee

Curious about Drumming Mentioned In The Bible? Here are a few examples:

"Begin the music, strike the tambourine (drum)..." Psalm 81:2

"Let them praise God with dancing and make music to The Creator with tambourine (drum) and harp." Psalm 149:3

"Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister took a tambourine (drum) in her hand, and all the women followed her, with tambourines and dancing." Exodus 15:20

Drumming our Way over to Kew Gardens on May 15th

Bring your djembe and join the procession as we head over the Multi-Faith Service next week.

Service

Council Contacts: Rosalie Bradley & Corey Helm

Reaching Beyond our Doors

BUC contributes to our United Church Mission & Service Fund and therefore supports overseas personnel. For instance, Kristine Greenaway, overseas personnel with the World Alliance of Reformed Churches in Switzerland. Talking about her experiences, she writes:

In most areas of the country, the snow is gone and tender shoots are springing up. No doubt about it: spring is on the way.

Olav Tvelt, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, uses the term "ecumenical winter" to describe the season the ecumenical world has been in for some time. However, there are promising signs that something new is emerging and that our ideas may soon bear fruit.

I witnessed signs of an ecumenical spring during a visit to Taipei, Taiwan. A group of people working in ecumenical communication were invited by the Council of World Mission to plan ways of pooling resources to make the voices of the worldwide church better heard. The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan is doing inspiring work with the country's indigenous peoples. They have an initiative to link urban congregations with congregations of indigenous people who have recently migrated to the city in search of work and better education.

These partnerships in mission would have two congregations sharing one roof: the indigenous peoples could offer their witness of faith and rich cultural heritage while the urban congregation could offer spiritual and financial resources. In this way the two may learn from one another. This partnership is a sign of new life.

Together, we carry out the work of our United Church.

Daily Bread Food Donations

There is still a great need for food donations. Please bring to the church anytime and drop off in the donation box located in the Narthex. Monetary donations can also be made at www.dailybread.ca

An XCHANGE board

Throwing something out that may be useful to our lunch patrons? Have garage sale stuff, dishes, clothes, shoes, blankets etc.? Please email kwasi@beachuc.com

Learning & Growth

Council Contact: Wendy Johnston

Joseph Campbell Lecture Series on Tuesday, May 10 in the Parlour from 7-9pm

All are welcome to join in viewing and discussing "Masks of Eternity", the last in the PBS series *The Power of Myth* featuring Bill Moyers interviewing Joseph Campbell.

BUC Park Clean-Up Sunday, May 15 after the service in the park, two groups will do a "Park Clean-Up". One group on foot to do clean up nearby, and the other will be by bike going further away to find some SERIOUSLY MUCKY places!

Observer Subscriptions Renewal deadline is May 15

Please make your \$20 cheque payable to Beach United Church and give to Margaret Burley or place on the Offering Plate.

Congregational Development

Council Contact: Mary Anne Lemm

Knitting for Shivering Children

We will be decorating the sanctuary starting at **10am on Saturday, May 7** and finishing by noon. Please deliver any vests you are still working on by **Friday, May 6 to the office or on Saturday, May 7 to the Sanctuary by 10am**. Then come to worship on Sunday to see your creative, caring efforts displayed and blessed.

Speaker's Series: *The Day the Falls Stood Still* on May 11 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

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.

Women's Spring Circle Saturday May 28 from 9am to 12noon

"Sisters in Faith - the Muslim Perspective" with speaker Barbara Siddiqui accompanied by Karen Teasdale, both from the National Muslim Christian Liaison Committee. Registration, coffee & muffins at 8:30am in the Parlour. Enjoy stories, songs, discussion, togetherness - there is no charge. For information call Jean 416-694-5969 or Shirley 416-690-7100.

Community Events

Canada Sings! Toronto-Riverdale Neighbourhood Singalongs Tuesday May 10 from 7-8pm at the Riverdale Collegiate Institute Auditorium (1094 Gerrard St. E.) All Ages Welcome. FREE (donations welcome) Info: 416-778-0796 info@canadasings.ca or www.canadasings.ca

Environment and Climate in Peril: How People of Faith Will Care and Advocate for Creation Wednesday, May 11 at 6:30pm at Seeley Hall (6 Hoskin Ave. Trinity College, University of Toronto) The Anglican Church of Canada, the United Church of Canada, and the Presbyterian Church in Canada are leading the way on climate change action. Join us for a roundtable discussion with Rev. Dr. Herb Gale, Archbishop Colin Johnson, and Moderator Mardi Tindal on their churches' commitments and plans to protect creation. Space is limited – please register for free at: www.environmentinperil.eventbrite.com Donations welcome at the door.

Movie at the Fox Theatre Sunday, May 15 at 3pm, 4pm & 5pm

"Why did baby die?" Mothering children living with the loss, love and continuing presence of a baby sibling captures the profound impact children have on a mother's grief after the loss of her baby. In this research-based documentary mothers also tell how young children respond to the loss of their baby sibling. Tickets \$25~proceeds to the Bereaved Families of Ontario.



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