

The Quest



December 2015

Monthly Theme: **Wonder**

"As knowledge increases, wonder deepens." Charles Morgan



Gudt Yule! Joyous Solstice! Merry Christmas!

Glad Tidings to One and All!

It's the most Wonder-Full Time of the Year! The triumph of light over darkness, the days begin to grow longer as the sun begins his trip back to the Northern Hemisphere. Inside this month's Quest you'll find all you need to know to celebrate the season here at UCC!

There's so much going on; hold onto your Santa hat and enjoy the ride!



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Volunteer of the Month ~ Duff Bond!

Your Board of Trustees is pleased to recognize Duff Bond as December volunteer of the month.

It was Duff's dedication, efficiency and organizational skills that led to the new, comfortable chairs that we all enjoy in Panabaker Hall.

Jane Perry notes:

That we have new chairs at all is due to her leadership. She deserves all of the hundreds of "wow!" comments that the church has received about the chairs from congregants, resident choirs, and visitors alike.

In addition to chairing the New Chairs project Duff is involved in our church in numerous other ways.

Duff has been an active member of the Membership Committee for years, recording minutes, maintaining the listing of committee members on the Barker Room door, checking information in the Power Church database, and recently revising the Membership Handbook.

Duff has contributed to painting as needed at the church, particularly the exterior doors. A long time member of the Stewardship Committee, Duff has been involved in developing themes, working on supporting publications, and handling the countless details of who is canvassed and tracking the responses.

Duff has also served on the organization committee for the Spiritual Retreat for many years.

As a steadfast member of UUphonia, the church choir, in addition to attending rehearsals Duff heads up the preparation of food for sale at the annual Cabaret. She loves a challenge and is willing to take on projects with outcomes that directly benefit the church community.

Congratulations Duff and thanks for all you do!



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December Services *Song of the Month: # 238 Within the Shining of a Star*

December 6th -**Stars of Wonder**

We stare at the night sky, the myriad stars and wonder ... how did it all come to be? It is said we come from stardust. The star is a symbol found in many faiths – ever wonder about the wonder of stars?

Presenters: Rev Debra Faulk

Music: Jane Perry, Music Director with UUphonia

December 13th -**Spirit of the Christmas Tree**

The Spirit of the Christmas Tree incorporates the story of a little boy and his family as he learns that there are many different ways to look at something; a Unitarian Universalist telling of the Christian Story of Jesus' birth and LOTS of singing. All of the children and youth in the CYRE Program will be included in the pageant, and there will be 'pick-up' roles for any children who happen to come on the day of the pageant

Presenters: a cast of many

Music: Brian Dorscht, musical director with Jane Perry, UCC Choristers

** There will be a mitten tree collection – hats, scarves, mitten, gloves for Inn from the Cold.

December 17th 5:30 - **Wonder About Feeling Blue**

A special Blue Christmas service to honour the pain many feel around the holidays. The merriment of the Christmas season often reminds us of what we've lost or never had. This will be a quiet service of readings, reflections, and candle lighting, with room made to honour sorrows and pains in our lives. Rather than encouraging you to get happy or in the spirit of the season, we will honour how you are feeling in your heart, no matter what that may be. A light meal will follow the service

** A light soup and bread meal will follow the service.

December 20th - **Wonder Work**

Have you ever been blindsided by the wondrousness of life? Maybe a moment of pristine beauty, of human compassion, of tranquility amid chaos? In a world where it is easy to lose our balance, can we create the conditions to find those moments when we need them most? Time to do our Wonder Work.

Presenters: Sean Neil-Barron and Rev Debra Faulk

Service Leader: Danielle Webber

Music: Jane Perry, Music Director with UUphonia

December 21st 7:00 pm -

Honouring Solstice – The Shortest Day

On this the shortest day of the year, when the time of sunlight begins to lengthen again, we gather to celebrate the wonder of its return with pagan ritual, followed by a mummies play and wassail. Please join us one and all and bring a length of ribbon and some greenery and perhaps a few sweets to share.

Presiding: Brandis Purcell, Rev Debra Faulk and Danielle Webber

December 24th 7:00 pm - **The Eve of Wonder**

On this Christmas Eve we gather to celebrate the essence of this holiday of kindness, compassion, sharing and the recognition of every birth, every child, everyone as a holy birth. We will do this by singing and imagining the messages present in the Good King Wenceslas carol and of course the traditional interactive singing of 12 Days of Christmas and the candlelight Silent Night.

Presenters: Rev Debra Faulk

Music: Jane Perry, Music Director and musical guests

December 27 -

Fire Communion

One of the traditions of the Unitarian Church of Calgary as we enter the New Year is a Fire Communion. This ritual is a shared acknowledgement of the experiences and lessons of the past year and an opportunity to make intentional choices for the year to come. We do this with gratitude for what has been experienced and hope for the future. Come join us in the celebration.

Presenter: Mary Anna Louise Kovar





Debra's Deliberations

My December Deliberations are always an invitation to reflect on the year that is ending. This year the theme of wonder offers a frame for me to do so. I reflect with wonder on all that has been shared and done this past year, the deepening of relationships amongst us, the new faces and members and friends who find here a community of support and challenge, the incredible dedication of the many volunteers who make the Unitarian Church of Calgary the place it is.

The opening words for this month's Reflections lift up the fact that as Unitarians we place wonder front and center. The first of our six UU sources of wisdom, which accompany our seven principles, is "Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life." Notice the bigness of this. We are not being called to notice those few moments when we get lucky or when things go our way. The focus is on the forces upholding everything! We are always fortunate; that's the radical claim. That's the transcendent awareness that truly renews the spirit. It's all a wonder! Every last little part of this thing we call life! Feeling that is the goal. Albert Einstein expresses this best: "There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle."

Wonder is also one of those English words that has multiple meanings, as a noun it offers a way to describes a sense of amazement or perhaps marvel or an object that elicits such a response. It can also be a verb that invites curious speculation. As I prepare for my first sabbatical, I find myself wondering about what insights and understanding will arise during this time and space away from each other. I know some of my focus will be reflecting on my six years with the congregation, our achievements and the work we have yet to accomplish. Most of my reflection will be on what might we do together going forward. I wonder what personal changes I need to make to be more effective, to keep the work we do together a growing, deepening and inspirational relationship for all of us.

The sabbatical of a minister also offers the congregation a chance for discernment and reflection about its ministry. I know you will welcome our sabbatical replacement minister, Rev Carly Gaylor, and find her a wonder and a delight!

May this season of wonder and joy bring the gift of connection and love to the lives of all of us, may we reach out to those we care most about and those who need our caring. May we remember always the message of peace that is celebrated at this at this time in the year and the words of Howard Thurman:

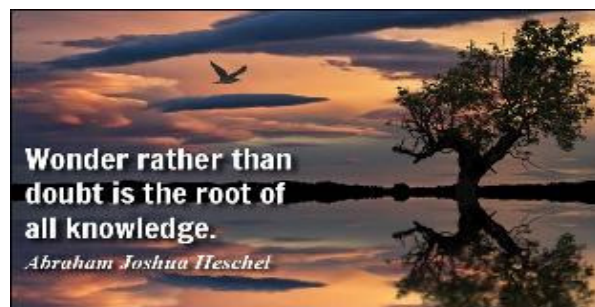
The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:

- to find the lost,
- to heal the broken
- to feed the hungry,
- to release the prisons,
- to rebuild the nations,
- to bring peace among the people,
- to make music in the heart.

Namaste, Debra



Debra's Office Hours

Office Hours: (403) 702-6486 (cell)
Tuesday: noon – 4p.m. (403) 230-8938 (office)
Thursday: 11a.m. – 7p.m. *Monday: Day Off*
(Drop-in Tea: 3 – 4 p.m.) *Wednesday: Writing: Day*
Other times please book
an appointment.

OUR HOME-SWEET-HOMES

For most of us, the only Calgary Unitarian church home we have known is at our current location. But did you know that Unitarians have met in at least 11 Calgary locations since 1909? The first meeting was held in the Arcade Theatre on 8 Avenue S.E., and in following years, other now-defunct theatres were used. Since that time, Calgary Unitarians have met in a variety of unlikely locations, including the Palliser Hotel, a lumber office and the Labour Temple (a union hall). In 1968, we purchased our current home, which was formerly Crescent Heights United Church. Our church president at the time was the recent recipient of the William Irvine Justice Award, Bill Wuttunee. With the loving care of many church members, our building has been maintained, renovated and modernized to meet our changing needs over the years.



Christmas Potluck Dinner – Dec 25

Tired of cooking a big turkey and then eating leftovers for two weeks after Christmas? Join in food and fellowship with members and friends for our annual potluck Christmas Dinner at the church on Christmas day. We will cook the turkey, those sharing the meal bring all the 'fixin's'. Doors open at 4:00 and the eating starts at 4:30. There will be great conversation and games for kids and adults. Please invite friends and family to join us for dinner.

Sign-sheets for the event will be posted in Wickenden Hall in December. This year's host is Liz Blackstock with assistance from Dean Kasner – all offers of support welcome!!

December 4Others - Inn from the Cold and the Interfaith Food Bank

The 4Others donations for December will be divided between Calgary's Inn from the Cold, emergency shelter for homeless families, and the Interfaith Food Bank, which delivers emergency food to those in need. If you would like to learn more about these important charities, see: <http://innfromthecold.org/> or <http://www.calgaryfoodbank.com/>

The amount collected on Christmas Eve will go to the Minister's Discretionary Fund.

Shavings from the Board

An important date in the church year is approaching. On **December 6th the Congregational Stewardship Meeting** will be held. At this meeting we will receive the report of this fall's Stewardship Campaign, vote on approving the Financial Statements for the 2014-15 fiscal year, consider changes to the church's bylaws, and vote on appointing a new Lay Chaplain. Please click on the link to view the amended bylaws: <http://unitarianscalgary.org/church-business/> (at the bottom of the page). Please plan to attend.

At its meeting on November 10th, the Board of Trustees of our church unanimously passed motions to create a Refugee Sponsorship Fund and to establish a Refugee Sponsorship Committee with co-chairs Marsha Haug and Leslie Buckle. This is an important Social Justice endeavour for our church, and I encourage the church's members and friends to participate.

Our outstanding Minister Rev. Debra Faulk has now been serving our congregation for over five years, having joined us in August 2010. Debra will be taking a well-deserved sabbatical from January – April 2016. This is an opportunity for reflection and renewal for both Debra and the congregation. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the brochure describing the sabbatical, and be sure to wish Debra well before she takes her leave. Debra's last day in the church will be January 3, 2016. ~ John "Mich" Michell, President of the Board of Trustees

Christmas Hampers

We will be collecting presents again this year! Presents will be collected for two families this year, as well we will be gathering woolen socks, hats, and gloves hygienic products and first aid supplies that can be handed out to people who come to the church for help this winter season. Please be sure to pay attention to eNews and Sunday announcements for details about what can be purchased and gathered.

If you would like to help with the coordination of gifts and organization of deliveries, please contact Danielle. Danielle@unitarianscalgary.org or 403-988-8490



UpBeat News with Jane Perry

Contact Music Director Jane Perry here: jane@unitarianscalgary.org

Our resident choirs and friends in concert! At these concerts, you will definitely know some of the people on stage. And remember: concert tickets make great holiday gifts, whether for your nearest and dearest or for yourself!

Sunday, November 29 at 3:00pm. **A World AIDS Day Concert**, to benefit Calgary's HIV Community Link. The performance features One Voice Chorus, Calgary Men's Chorus, and EnChor Chamber Choir. St. Stephen's Anglican Church (1121 14 Avenue SW.)

Saturday, December 5 at 2:00pm and 7:30pm. **Vocal Latitudes World Music Choir** presents its annual holiday concert, conducted by guest artistic director Lorna MacLachlan and featuring terrific instrumentalists. Unitarian Church of Calgary.

Saturday, December 5 at 7:30pm. **Calgary Renaissance Singers & Players present Byrd & Birds**, a concert featuring the music of William Byrd, songs about birds, and the phenomenal Calgary organist Chellan Hoffman. Conducted by Jane Perry. St. Stephen's Anglican Church (1121 14 Avenue SW.)

Sunday, December 6 at 6:00pm. **Classical Klezmer** features clarinetist/saxophonist Frank Rackow in a virtuosic program that covers traditional klezmer, jazz, and classical music. With pianist Jane Perry. Part of the Jewish Book Festival. Jewish Community Centre (1607 90 Ave SW.)

Saturday, December 12 at 7:30pm. **One Voice Chorus presents Within The Shining Of A Star**, a concert of gorgeous lullabies, Christmas favourites, and an all-out-gospel Hallelujah Chorus. Conducted by Jane Perry, with pianist Gavin Caldwell and guest drummer Holly Magnus. St. Stephen's Anglican Church (1121 14 Avenue SW.)

And looking ahead to the New Year....

Singing is good for you! Good for your brain, good for your cardiovascular system, good for your sense of social connection, and just plain good for your soul. Join a UCC choir in the new year! Contact Music Director Jane Perry for more information.

UUpHonia kicks off the new rehearsal year on Thursday, January 7 at 7:30pm in Panabaker Hall. We'll be preparing for our end-of-April Cabaret, and we invite new singers to join us --- no audition necessary!

Multigenerational Choir begins its next set of rehearsals on Sunday, January 10 at 9:30am in Panabaker Hall. No audition necessary, and everyone gets to sing the tune --- win-win!

Vocal Latitudes Winter Concert

The Vocal Latitudes world music choir invites all of its friends and supporters in the church to attend its eleventh annual winter concert

Hopeful Music from Around the World on Saturday December 5th at the church.



There will be two shows, at 2 pm and at 7:30 pm. Some tickets will be available at the door. Reserve your seat by emailing tickets@vocalatitudes.org. Come and join in the fun!





CYRE December 2015

*The kitchen corner in Room 1 got a much needed refresh by Docia Lynse in the last week of October.



*The **Great Worm Rescue** took place on a sunny, but chilly Nov. 8 morning. The worms were not moving a great deal. We think that they are happy to be in out of the cold in the furnace room for the winter!



*During the month of November the children's classes has been all about the **Integrity** Theme: the MAKs class came up with great ideas for fundraising around Refugee sponsorship; the children built a town called Integrityville; and the YAKs made personal shields to show their personal mottos: here are some young men letting us see their shields.....



*The Mid-Winter Pageant, **The Spirit of the Christmas Tree** will take place on Dec. 13. The children have been busy rehearsing and making costumes for the pageant. The big dress rehearsal will take place on Saturday, Dec. 12 at 10 am ending with a lunch. Every child and youth in the CYRE program will have part to play in the pageant and there will be "pick-up" roles for children who arrive on the day of the pageant, so be sure to invite your family and friends with children to join you on Dec. 13 and they'll be welcome to join the pageant.

*We are thrilled to have Greg O'Neil coming into the CYRE area do a children's concert on Dec. 20.

*There will be no CYRE programming on Dec. 27 but it will resume in the New Year on Jan. 3.

*Starting Jan. 10: **Elementary OWL Program (Our Whole Lives)** – a much-respected Life-Span human sexuality and health program aimed to support parents in their role as their children's primary sexuality educators.



Caring, Cooking, Connection

The Unitarian Church of Calgary in collaboration with Act III, a Carya Elder Friendly group in Winston Heights, was awarded a *Stepping Stones Grant* to help with the Caring Cooking Connection program. We come together as a caring community in the church kitchen and prepare nutritious home-cooked meals. A sense of community is built among the cooks while they prepare, cook, dine, package, freeze and share with those community members who would benefit from these meals at no charge to them. On Thursday evening, November 19, 27 members of the Siksika nation, the Unitarian church congregation, Act III and other community members gathered in the church kitchen to cook and share the food as well as a sense of community. The youth were paired with the older for a learning opportunity and afterwards in keeping with their culture they served their elders their meal; a wonderful tradition. The menu included meat and veggie chili, cream of mushroom soup, shepherd's pie, baked chicken and rice, mashed potatoes and baked fish and rice. After everyone ate, 38 meals were frozen for the wider community. The next CCC is planned for January 21, 2016, 4-7pm.



Please email Bev Webber (webberbev@gmail.com) if you would like more information or to attend.



Second Sunday Supper

December 13th Doors open at 4:00, Supper served at 5:00

Sign up sheet on Wickenden bulletin board or contact Bev at webberbev@gmail.com

Menu

Roast Beef, vegetarian lasagna, Yorkshire puddings, gravy, corn, salad, Canadian trifle.

Bring your choice of beverage. Coffee, tea and water will be available. If you've signed up and find you are unable to attend, please contact Bev Webber ASAP

Book Discussion

Sunday Evenings at 7:30 to 9:00 PM
Coffee, tea, and cookies will be available.

December 6 - Changelings by Cassy Welburn
Theme: Storytelling through poetry and story that explores the changes that alter our lives and how the storyteller in us makes sense of it all.
Presenter: Cassy Welburn, the author and UCC member

December 13 - 3-D Printing and Printers

by Doug Clark
Theme: A demonstration of new technology that is changing our world.
Presenter: Doug Clark



December 2015 Kudos!

Rob McMillan, Dick Wilson, Bob Pond, Jeff Gruttz, and Mich Michell for recent work around the church – putting up a screen in the boardroom, new paper towel dispensers in the lower floor washrooms, repairing the surveillance cameras, and readying the church for winter.

Second Sunday Supper – thanks to Rob McMillan for setting up the tables, Marie Patrel and Liz Webster for vegetarian entrees and to Carolyn Preston for assuming a leadership role for the November supper.

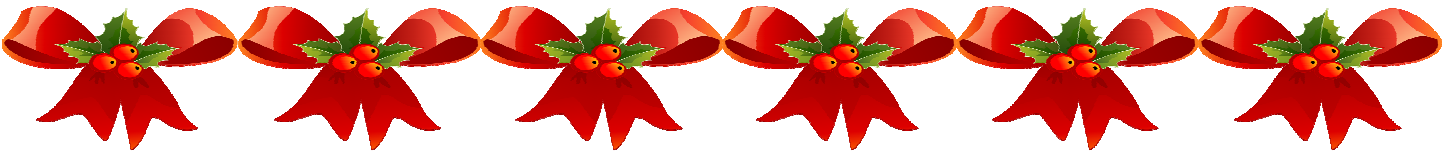
Ann Kyle and Eric Leavitt for installing the PayPal online donation button on the church website.

Gratitude to the organizers of the Coop card fundraising program - Lynn Nugent, Ev Dewar, Sheila Ward.

Jazz With Jane And Friends concert - thanks to the Music Committee (and their fearless leader Jamie Davison) as well as all of the cheerful volunteers who contributed to the positive energy of the evening.

Bill Wuttenee's memorial service – kudos to Bev Webber and her amazing kitchen team for creating enough food to feed the capacity crowd who came to honour Bill's memory and keep them talking and laughing together for a good long time after the service ended.

This is just a sampling of the many people who contribute in numerous ways to our community. When you catch someone in the act of kindness and service please share the info by emailing Kudos@unitarianscalgary.org.



Danielle's Reflections



Thinking about Integrity this past month has been discerning, and thought provoking. I spent a lot of time considering how integrity would play into my

ministry as I get ready to move on to the next stages of my journey. I also spent a lot of time contemplating what Integrity meant when connected to a church community. How can a church aspire to acting and being integral? How can the Unitarian Church of Calgary act with integrity? On October 29th I hosted a round table with members of our Church, and people from the surrounding community – we gathered to discover what each organization was doing, where we could help one another and possibilities to collaborate on new ideas or projects. Although a lot of ideas were discussed and a lot of dreams for the community were shared – there were two ideas that received a lot of enthusiasm. After sharing my journey about volunteering with the Siksika Family Services Office and telling the group

the youth group that is still running, which I helped initiate 2 years ago, one of the Case Workers from the Siksika Office talked about struggles that they are still having with their foster children. Several people suggested that we try to create a stronger network of resources for the Office to reach out to, and perhaps we could create a tutoring program, or a mentoring program. Another person mentioned that we could advertise the Siksika events in the community newsletters. Everyone was really thrilled about the possibilities of working together to support Siksika children and youth. The other idea for collaboration that was presented began from the conversation about our involvement in the Caring Cooking Connections. Members of our Church partnered with Carya and Act III to write a grant for this project, and we received money that allows us to gather and cook meals every 6-8 weeks. We cook lots of food, and lots of varieties so that when we have finished our community meal we have tonnes of left overs. These left overs are handed out to the people coming to the church looking for help, or sent to people who are in hospital. The group around our table thought it would be a great idea to host a lunch program with alternating sites, between churches in the neighbourhood, community associations, and other available sites. This way people in the community would know that any day of the week they could go for lunch and meet their neighbours. Someone suggested that we use vegetables from our community garden, who would also be happy to donate vegetables during harvest time to the Caring Coking Connections. All of these ideas reflect to me a community trying to live with integrity. To live fully into the idea of being a good neighbour, or to develop the community that one lives in – these are examples that I have seen of integrity this month. I am so looking forward to working on these projects. And can hardly await to see what Wonder will bring into my life.

Danielle

Danielle Webber is the
Unitarian Church of Calgary
Intern Minister. Email
danielle@unitarianscalgary.org

403-988-8490

Office Hours:
 Tuesdays from 12:00 - 5:00 pm
 Wednesdays 12:00 - 5:00 pm
 Thursdays 9:00 - 4:00 pm

Refugee Sponsorship Committee Update

Members of the congregation have been meeting over the past few weeks to explore the possibility of sponsoring an Iraqi or Syrian refugee family, and it is now official! At its November 10 meeting, the Board made the decision that we would proceed with sponsorship, formally established the Refugee Sponsorship Committee, and approved the creation of a Refugee Sponsorship Fund. This paves the way to preparing an application to sponsor a refugee family.

Through Tom Mirhady and his friend from the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, we have learned of a particular Iraqi family of five, now living in Turkey, of which the father is a cellist. We will work towards sponsoring this family; if for some reason we are unsuccessful, we will endeavor to sponsor another family.

The Committee now has about 30 members and is growing daily. We will be working through the Canadian Unitarian Council, who have already provided us with many resources. There are two major components to our work: sponsorship (i.e. fundraising, and making application for sponsorship), and settlement (once the family has arrived in Canada, providing volunteers to assist with the various aspects of making a life in Calgary).

We are now ready to start fundraising. Based on estimates from the CUC, our target is \$43,000 (although some of this can be met with in-kind donations). We will be accepting donations from people within as well as outside the church, and charitable receipts will be issued for donations. Also, we will be organizing a variety of fundraising events and activities. Here are some current projects:

Carolyn Preston has developed an exciting proposal for a fundraising dinner – A Night in Baghdad – which has been submitted to the Finance Committee for approval.

Jane Ebbert is going to be giving a ‘gift of a new life’ in lieu of a gift for a friend’s upcoming wedding, by making a donation to the Refugee Sponsorship Fund. Others may wish to apply this idea in lieu of Christmas, wedding or birthday presents for those who already have everything they need.

Jane Perry is full of ideas for not one but two World Music concerts! Stay tuned for more info on these as they develop.

The Committee will be providing regular updates on our activities and progress through the Quest and E News. **If you would like to be involved, you are most welcome to join the group. There are many opportunities for volunteers, no matter how much or how little time you have to offer.**

To contact the chair, email refugee@unitarianscalgary.org

To be on the e-mail list for refugee updates and meetings, email refugee-info@unitarianscalgary.org.

The team leaders are: Co-chairs: Marsha Haug and Leslie Buckle; Secretary: Wendy Benson; Treasurer Liaison: Ev Dewar
Member-at-large: Penny Clipperton

1st Friday Movies with Meaning* Pet Food Bank



Movies With Meaning December 4th Doors open at 7:00 Movie at 7:30 discussion to follow.

After George Bailey (James Stewart) wishes he had never been born, an angel (Henry Travers) is sent to earth to make George's wish come true. George starts to realize how many lives he has changed and impacted, and how they would be different if he was never there.

*Join us for a movie usually related to the theme of the month. Come early to get your popcorn (with real butter!) and stay after for discussion (optional).

Sometimes it's hard to make ends meet this festive season, let alone give our furkids the yummy food they need to thrive. Next time you're out shopping for your pet food, why not pick up an extra bag of cat or dog food and donate them? Any pet food not used by the UCC community will be donated to Alberta Animal Rescue Crew. There is a pet food box under the food bank table. If you have any questions please contact caring@unitarianscalgary.org Meow!



Reflect, Renew, Refresh-Sabbatical Update

A sabbatical offers our minister distance from the routines of her daily duties and obligations, time to reflect, and to engage in research, study and learning. A sabbatical offers our congregation a chance to refresh our sense of community of people each with some ministry to offer:

Rev. Debra will begin her sabbatical on January 1, 2016. There will be small, ritual transfer of ministerial responsibility with Rev. Carly on Sunday, January 3, 2016. Similarly we will welcome Rev. Debra back on Sunday, May 1. Our minister will not be in touch during her sabbatical. You are asked not to attempt to contact Rev. Debra. She may from time to time post her activities but otherwise there will be very limited contact.

Our multi-talented staff members, Shannon Mang, Director of Religious Education, Jane Perry, Music Director, Martha Mantikoski, Church Administrator, and Danielle Webber, Intern Minister will maintain their vital roles within the congregation.

Introducing our Sabbatical Support Minister During Rev. Debra's sabbatical our congregation will be served by Rev. Carly Gaylor. She is excited to be joining you in Calgary this winter!



In her words: *Just as Rev. Debra is taking a time to reflect and learn and renew, I hope our time together will provide opportunities for reflection, renewal, experimentation, and most of all play! A sabbatical of four months is a wonderful chance to try new things, learn from what works and what doesn't, and enjoy the process. I look forward to working and learning and playing with you!*

I am passionate about community-building, spiritual growth, and social justice. My experience as Executive Director of a faith-based non-profit and then as Assistant Minister for Outreach and Social Justice at the First Unitarian Church of Hamilton have helped me to understand these aspects of community from both non-profit and congregational perspectives. I also teach yoga and hope to lead some intergenerational yoga sessions while I'm with you.

I am happy that my partner, Curtis Murphy, will be joining me for this adventure.

What will Rev. Carly be responsible for during the Sabbatical Period? Rev. Carly has been hired to provide 30 hours per week of support so she will not be doing everything that Rev. Debra now does. Here are her major responsibilities while she is with us.

- ◆ She will lead a minimum of nine Sunday Services during the four months that she is with us.
- ◆ She will meet with the Church Services Committee, Music Director, etc. as required to plan for each service.
- ◆ Rev. Carly will attend Board Meetings and will meet with other committees such as Membership and Lay Chaplaincy.
- ◆ She will meet weekly with our staff.
- ◆ She will support the Caring Team in providing Pastoral Care as required.
- ◆ She will be available to provide rites of passage including possible memorial service leadership.
- ◆ Rev. Carly will mentor our Intern Minister, Danielle Webber.

What about conflicts or problems? As usual, the Committee on Shared Ministry is available to address conflicts that may arise between congregants or between a congregant and a staff member.

The Committee on Shared Ministry consists of: Marie Collins, Chair; Ann Kyle; Dean Kasner; Margaret McCrae; and Eric Leavitt.

What if I require some Pastoral Care? Pastoral care will continue to be provided by the Care and Concern Team who will work with Rev. Carly as needed. Rev. Carly is available for Rites of Passage as is our Chaplain, Carl Svoboda.

How can I learn more or help out? Ask Questions... anyone from the Sabbatical Support Team (Brandis Purcell, Charlene Hoepfner, or Eric Leavitt) will be happy to provide additional details about the Sabbatical and related activities. We have produced a brochure that will give more details about the Sabbatical; copies will be available at church. The Sabbatical Support Team will also meet regularly with Rev. Carly to provide support and feedback from the Congregation.

Adult Religious Exploration Programming News

Theme Based Listening Circles (TLCs): These small groups meet once a month to listen to each others' experiences around the theme of the month. December's theme is Wonder and the January theme is Resilience. Visit the church website or pick up a copy of *Reflections* for the readings and suggestions for engaging in the monthly theme. Groups meet the 4th Wednesday 1:00 - 3:00, 4th Friday 10:00 - 12:00 and 4th Sunday noon - 2:00. **Registration for TLCs is ongoing. Contact tlc@unitarianscalgary.org.**

This Year's Themes

September	Promise	February	Reconciliation
October	Grace	March	Renewal
November	Integrity	April	Revelation
December	Wonder	May	Tradition
January	Resilience	June	Revelry

UPCOMING PROGRAMS IN THE NEW YEAR:

Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Reflection Guide: This will be a Six Week Course offered in February and March that will offer participants the opportunity to "learn the truth about colonization, Indian Residential Schools and their impacts both past and current." Please look for more details in upcoming Quests, or contact Danielle with any questions.

Get Living: Matters of Death and Life: This six week program will focus on coming to terms with our individual understanding and fears around our own death and the societal, cultural, and religious attitudes influencing them. As part of this program we will explore preparing ourselves for death, the physical process of dying and attempt to identify our beliefs, fears and the burdens we carry as we face the inevitability of dying. We plan to talk, write, draw, drum, sing and laugh as we get living in the face of death!

Facilitators: Lynn Nugent, Marsha Read, Heather Johnstone Dates: Wednesday 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. February 17 – March 16, 2016. Registration required.

\$10,000, EARNING \$1000 FOR THE CHURCH! HOLIDAY SEASON IS UPON US! REMEMBER TO ORDER YOUR CO-OP GIFT CARDS!

Calgary Co-op Liquor Store gift cards are a great way to support our church and purchase supplies for holiday entertaining. Both the regular store gift cards and the liquor store gift cards make great holiday presents for folks on your list! Co-op stores outside of Calgary honour them as well. You can also use them for yourself to purchase food for festive occasions or libations for entertaining. **You must purchase a separate liquor card for use in the Co-op Liquor Store. The regular gift card cannot be used to purchase alcohol.** The church receives receive 5% for orders with a total less than \$5000, 7% when we have gift card orders that total \$5000 - \$9999 and 10.5% for orders \$10,000 or more.

If you have not purchased a gift card before, here is how to do it:

On the first Sunday of each month (December 6), bring cash or a cheque to church, payable to the Unitarian Church of Calgary. A table will be set up in Wickenden Hall and you may place your order there, either before or after the service. If you are not going to be at church on the first Sunday of the month and we don't already have post-dated cheques from you, please leave your cheque in Coop Card/Fruit Cake Cheques mail slot in the church office.

The cards will be distributed on the second Sunday, (December 13). If you are unable to pick up your card on that day, you can collect it on the next Sunday. That's how easy it is!

Any questions? Contact: Ev Dewar ev.dewar@kogawa.com Sheila Ward sggward@shaw.ca Lynn Nugent at lnugent@shaw.ca

Service Auction Team

The Gala 2016 service auction “**Woodstock Revisited**” will be February 27th.

Team needs some key volunteers to help with the auction itself, managing the services offered, doing the computer support work (PowerPoint, tracking the bidders), auctioneers, publicity ...

We also need everyone to think about what you might offer as a service – do you have a cabin you might offer for a week or week-end; paint a room; knitting; dog-sitting; baking; computer support; financial planning; talent to offer; yard work; a hobby to share; a dinner party (ethnic or themed ...); a games night or murder mystery ... be creative (example Chocolate 3 Ways – mole chicken, chocolate fondue and a screening of the movie Chocolat).

This is one of our major FUNdraisers and your opportunity to fill your social calendar. Questions, thoughts and offers to auction@unitarianscalgary.org

A Christmas Carol



Sunday December 13th 2:00pm in Panabaker Hall, Unitarian Church of Calgary

Calgary storyteller Steven Méthot, accompanied by:

harpist Natalie Manzer,

harpist and fiddler Michael Pollock,

flutist Karen Pollock

*and with the assistance of the Ghost of Christmas Past,
will recreate one of Dickens' stories.*

*This is not a reading, but a dramatic recreation,
storytelling in a one-person play.*

Join us to share in the magic and mystery of 'A Christmas Carol'

Hear the story as Dickens would have told it!

Proceeds will support our Refugee Family Project



Information Centre Kiosk / Job Jar

Many years ago Alan Jessop, a true renaissance man (musician, craftsman, poet, and carpenter) created the wonderful movable kiosk that was home to our name tags. Changes to logistics (Barker Room smaller with the building of an accessible washroom on the main level, more curious fingers of children and increased rentals) have led us to re-purpose the nametag stand to an Info Kiosk. Thank you Alan for the gift of your fine craftsmanship, not once, but twice (so far)! The four sides will feature: 1) Care & Concern 2) Social Action 3) Communication (Quest, Reflections, Calendar) 4) Job Jar (volunteer opportunities)

Beloved Community – Welcoming & Deepening Relationships - On one side you will find the Beloved Community information – what is happening with our members and friends. Here will be the Caring Cards (with permission), Compassion Exchange info.

Beloved Community - Grow in Wisdom - What is happening about the building, the weekly news and calendar as well as posters for upcoming events

Social Action Info ~ Act for a Just and Sustainable World - On this side you will find information about current social justice events and activities within and beyond the congregation. If there is a letter writing campaign or petition to sign information will be here. Justice activities supported by UCC have a place! If you have an event of interest, please post here!!

Job Jar - The Job Jar will contain tasks, both great and small, that are looking for volunteers to complete. There will be a list on the Job Jar side of the Information Centre Kiosk in Wickenden Hall, as well as on the Church website. The form is available on the Job Jar side of the Information Centre Kiosk in Wickenden and on the Church website. Your task will then be added to the Job Jar list by the Volunteer Coordinator.

How to access the Job Jar: Folks with a task – Fill out the form with a description of the task, including approximate time required to complete and date by which it should be completed. Include a contact person. The form is available on the Job Jar side of the Information Centre Kiosk in Wickenden and on the Church website. Your task will then be added to the Job Jar list by the Volunteer Coordinator.

Volunteers – Choose your task from the list on the Job Jar side of the Information Centre Kiosk in Wickenden or from the Church website. Then fill out the form of your chosen task with your name and contact information. This information will go to the Volunteer Coordinator. Should you require further information about your task you can contact the name on the form or the Volunteer Coordinator. ~ Meredith Simon Volunteer Coordinator jobjar@unitarianscalgary.org

The Wonder of Darkness and Light ~ For some of us, The Light as a symbol can represent the light of reason, by which we find our way in life. We honor reason in our tradition, and rebel against any faith system that demands we put aside our need for things to make sense. For others, The Light can represent the light of Spirit that ebbs and flows inside us as we feel sometimes drained and dusty; and other times energetic, enthusiastic, and supple. Some times in our lives are spirited times and others are dispirited times. As we contemplate the meanings of the dark times and the light times, the earth-based traditions would caution us against using The Dark as a symbol for all that is negative. We use “darkness” to speak as if it would be best to have no darkness at all, to have light all the time; that would be awful. There is a season for dark and a season for light; a reason for both.

Is it possible then that there is a time to feel energetic and time to feel drained in the rhythm of life? A time to let life and energy flow outward from you, and a time for it to flow inward? Maybe the ebb and flow of Spirit is a rhythm that is good to feel. Maybe in our growing into wholeness there is a time to feel dusty and dry, “hard as iron” like the winter ground, and stony as winter water. Maybe instead of worrying and suffering over those feelings we could settle into them, knowing that there is a time for cold and a time for warmth, a time to be energetic and a time to rest, a time to grow and a time to stay where you are, a time for the light of reason and a time for other ways of knowing. Maybe we could walk in beauty and balance more easily if we could welcome the dark time, trusting that when it reaches its full strength, things will begin their tilt back in the other direction. Nothing stays the same in the flow of things. All things seek their balance and their rhythm. The wheel will always turn. The light will always be reborn. This is the wonder of Darkness and Light. ~ Adapted from words by Meg Barnhouse



Many Thanks to All the Fruitcake Helpers & Purchasers - \$2965.41 Raised!

Thanks to the help of many dicers, choppers, bakers and wrappers, we had another very successful fruitcake operation this fall, raising \$2965.41 for our operations budget. And a big thank you to all the loyal purchasers and promoters of our cakes. Your support is so appreciated.

Everyone who has ordered and paid for their cakes can pick them up after church on November 29th, December 6th and December 13th. If you need to make special pick-up arrangements, please contact Jane at jane.ebberrn@gmail.com or at 403-283-7162.

We are very grateful to Mary Jane Hussey who yet again, baked all the light fruitcakes at her home while our baking team baked 110 chocolate, millennium and dark cakes at the church. The church certainly smelled gorgeous for 6 days of baking!

This tradition of baking fruitcakes to raise money for the church began nearly 40 years ago in 1978. It was started by Mary Smyth and then continued by Mary Jane Hussey before she passed the torch a few years ago to Jane and Joan. This is a wonderful tradition that provides lovely times of socializing and community, (and at times a wee bit of stress), as we get together to prepare, bake and wrap our cakes. Here is a fun picture of our "slicing and dicing" team in action. Please consider joining us next fall when we put out the requests for volunteers.

I hope all purchasers are enjoying their cakes as much as I am enjoying mine. Please pass on feedback about these cakes to us - love to have your comments to improve for next year. ~ Jane Ebberrn and Joan Brown



Fun with Fruitcake- Prior to an infamous joke ("The worst Christmas gift is fruitcake," cracked Johnny Carson on the Tonight Show. "There is only one fruitcake in the entire world, and people keep sending it to each other, year after year.") fruitcake was actually a very popular holiday tradition! It dates (pun intended) back to Roman times, when it was an easy food stuff to store for troops on the march. More recently, Prince William and Kate Middleton had a fruitcake as their wedding cake; it's a long-standing wedding tradition in the British Isles. Fruitcake is very popular in the southern United States and here at UCC, too. Done properly (and by that, I mean as done by Jane and Joan), fruitcake is a marvellous tradition that deserves more respect than it gets. Enjoy yours with a cup of hot, black tea or coffee; or perhaps a thin slice of cheddar. No matter how you slice it, it's a rare treat!

Panabaker Award – Nominations Needed!

On January 10, 2016 the Unitarian Church of Calgary will present the Panabaker Award to honour someone in the congregation for extraordinary services provided to the Church community.

In order to do this we need your nominations. You will find the guidelines for nominations on our website on the Church Business page.

Look for *Congregational Awards - Panabaker Award*. As well as new nominations, we welcome resubmission of previous nominations, as there have been times when we have had more than one deserving candidate and only one award. To see who has already received the award check the lists (Panabaker Award and Extraordinary Service award) at the end of the Panabaker Award page.

Nominations may be e-mailed to president@unitarianscalgary.org or placed in the President's mailbox in the Church Office. Nominations must be received by November 30th to be considered.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		11:00 AM-B-Staff meeting 01:00 PM-P-Piano lessons 07:00 PM-P - Vocal Lat. rehearsal	10:00 AM-P/B/W -Holiday decorations 12:00 PM-B-Stewardship 05:00 PM-W-CYPT 06:00 PM-P-BarberEllas 07:15 PM-P-CRSP	10:30 AM-P-Klezmer rehearsal 07:00 PM-P - UUPhonia rehearsal	05:00 PM-W-Movies with Meaning 07:00 PM-P-Vocal Latitudes	10:00 AM-W-CYPT 12:00 PM-P - Vocal Latitudes Rehearsal 06:30 PM-W - Contra dance
08:00 AM-P/W/K Worship Service 11:30 AM-B-Ushers 12:00 PM-P-Stewardship AGM 03:00 PM-W-Sargent recital 07:30 PM-W-Book Discussion	01:00 PM-P-Piano lessons 02:00 PM-B-Nominating Committee 06:30 PM-W/K-Sangha Soup 07:00 PM-P - OVC Rehearsal	08:00 AM-K-Salazar Cooking 09:30 AM-P-Chamber music rehearsal 11:00 AM-B-Staff meeting 01:00 PM-P-Piano lessons 05:30 PM-4 - Board Meeting 07:00 PM-P - Vocal Lat. rehearsal 07:00 PM-W - Needlecrafters	08:30 AM-K-Salazar Cooking 10:00 AM-W-Needlecrafters 12:00 PM-B-Stewardship 05:00 PM-W-CYPT 06:00 PM-P-BarberEllas 07:00 PM-B - Ragging Grannies 07:15 PM-4 - AJC 07:15 PM-P-CRSP	06:00 PM-W-CYPT Improv Finale 07:00 PM-P - UUPhonia rehearsal	05:30 PM-W - Chautauqua show	12:00 AM-W-CYPT 10:00 AM-P-Pagent rehearsal 12:00 PM-K - 2nd Sunday prep 06:00 PM-P-Cantares Christ. concert 06:30 PM-W-Council of Canadians
08:00 AM-P/W/K Worship Service 11:30 AM-B-Ushers 12:00 PM-W/K - 2nd Sunday Supper 12:00 PM-P-A Christmas Carol 12:30 PM-1-Choir rehearsal 07:30 PM-P-Book Discussion	01:00 PM-P-Piano lessons 06:30 PM-W/K-Sangha Soup 07:00 PM-P - OVC Rehearsal 07:30 PM-1 - Laughter Yoga	11:00 AM-B-Staff meeting 01:00 PM-P-Piano lessons 07:00 PM-PWKB - V. Lat concert	05:00 PM-W-CYPT 06:00 PM-W-Barberellas 06:00 PM-P-BarberEllas 07:15 PM-P-CRSP	03:00 PM-K-Blue Christmas 05:30 PM-P/W/K-Blue Christmas 07:00 PM-W-UUPhonia holiday party	18	09:00 AM-P/W/K/B- Spiritual Retreat 10:00 AM-1-CYPT 06:00 PM-W/K - GAIA
08:00 AM-P/W/K Worship Service 11:30 AM-B-Ushers 02:00 PM-P/W/K - Piano Recital	06:00 PM-P/W/K-Solstice Celebration 06:30 PM-W/K-Sangha Soup	11:00 AM-B-Staff meeting 02:30 PM-B-Caring committee	07:00 PM-B - Ragging Grannies 07:15 PM-P-CRSP	24 Eve of Wonder 7:00 pm 	25	26
08:00 AM-P/W/K Worship Service 11:30 AM-B-Ushers	06:30 PM-W/K-Sangha Soup	11:00 AM-B-Staff meeting	06:00 PM-1 - JMC 07:00 PM-B - Ragging Grannies 07:15 PM-P-CRSP	06:30 PM-W - Contra Dance		

How to Reach UCC Staff

Minister

Rev. Debra Faulk

debra@unitarianscalgary.org

403-230-8938 (office)

403-702-6486 (cell)

Student Minister

Danielle Webber

danielle@unitarianscalgary.orgDirector of Religious Exploration /
Youth Program Coordinator

Shannon Mang

dre@unitarianscalgary.org

403-230-4146

Music Director

Jane Perry music@unitarianscalgary.org

Church Administrator

Martha Mantikoski

office@unitarianscalgary.org

403-276-2436

Monday to Friday 9am to Noon

**Lay Chaplain: Carl Svoboda**

Our Lay Chaplain are trained to perform rites of passage, such as weddings, funerals/memorial services, child dedications, etc. He is available to provide such services for a fee to the wider community. (Services for Unitarian Church of Calgary members are provided by the minister.) Our lay chaplain can be contacted by calling the church at 403-276-2436 or via email,

laychaplains@unitarianscalgary.org.

The Caring Team

The Caring Team provides support to the members, friends, and families of the congregation. If life has you stressed because of illness, hospitalization, moving, we can help. If you have something to be celebrated, such as a graduation, marriage or new child, we are there with you. We are all part of the Caring Team! Need support, have a concern, or want to be of service? Contact caring@unitarianscalgary.org

MONTHLY CO-OP GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER

Each month we will take Co-op Gift Card orders on the first Sunday. Bring cash or a cheque to church unless we already have your post-dated cheques. Cheques are payable to the Unitarian Church of Calgary. A table will be set up in Wickenden Hall place your order there before or after the service. The cards will be distributed following Sunday.

Please continue to support this valuable fund raiser for our church!

Contact: Ev Dewar ev.dewar@kogawa.com or

Sheila Ward sggward@shaw.ca

Publishing the Quest

The UCC Quest is published 11 times per year by the Unitarian Church of Calgary. Electronic copies are available at www.unitarianscalgary.org/newsletter/. Submissions of articles, photographs, and event announcements are encouraged. Questions about the Quest, please email, quest@unitarianscalgary.org. ***The Quest Deadline is the 15th of every month except for July.***

ENEWS

The ENEWS is normally published via email once a week on Wednesday. Material for the ENEWS must be submitted by Tuesday midnight. If you would like to receive the ENEWS, please email enews@unitarianscalgary.org

Booking Rooms

As our Church gets busier it is important that if rooms are needed they are booked in advance. Space can be reserved either by filling out the online booking form found here <http://unitarianscalgary.org/calendar/#form> or by contacting the Church Administrator at 403-276-2436 or

To learn more about the Unitarian Church of Calgary, use our QR Code.

