



The Quest

Unitarian Church of Calgary
1703 1st Street, Calgary, AB, T2M 4P4
www.unitarianscalgary.org
403-276-2436



DECEMBER 2011

Unplug the Christmas Machine: Putting Love and Joy Back Into the Season

Join Rev Debra Faulk on December 10 from 1:00 to 4:30 for this experiential workshop designed to provide a tool to reduce stress during the holiday celebrations. Based on an extensive investigation of how North Americans celebrate Christmas, originally combined into a book titled *UNPLUG THE CHRISTMAS MACHINE: How To Have The Christmas You've Always Wanted* by Jo Robinson and Jean Staeheli. The revised edition is: *UNPLUG THE CHRISTMAS MACHINE: A Complete Guide to Putting Love & Joy Back Into the Season*.

The 4-part self-discovery process of the workshop involves:

- 1) **Inventory** to reflect on past celebrations.
- 2) **Values Exercise** participants rank ten common Christmas values. Provides insights as to what is most important to them about the celebration.
- 3) **Guided Fantasy** a chance to discover their ideal holiday.
- 4) **The Plan** combining the positive traditions already in place with insights from the workshop, written simple goals and objectives created a valuable tool to guide participants towards a more loving, spiritual Christmas celebration. Pre-register by Dec. 6: email adultprograms@unitarianscalgary.org, call the office or sign-up in Panabaker

Christmas Potluck Dinner

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. Doors open at 4:00 and the eating starts at 5:00 – Sunday, December 25. There will be great conversation and games for kids and adults. Please invite friends and family to join us for dinner.

Sign upsheets for the event will be posted in Wickenden Hall in December, or email Eric Leavitt at edleavitt@shaw.ca. The signup sheet has a space for you to indicate which dish you are bringing. This helps people know what things are still needed when they signup. Volunteers for setting up, making coffee, serving, and cleanup would be much appreciated. You can indicate your availability when you sign up for the dinner.

Hospitality Committee is still looking for a volunteer to host the dinner. If you are willing to host please let Eric Leavitt know at 403-278-1796 or email him at edleavitt@shaw.ca.

Christmas Fruit Cakes - a 50 Year Tradition

Nearly 50 years ago, Mary Smyth started baking her wonderful fruit cakes. She started a tradition in this church where members got together to prepare the cakes and then sell them as a means of raising funds to the work for our church. When Mary was no longer able to organize and do this project, others stepped forward and carried on.

We make the cakes with real butter and real fruit and the many hands that make the cakes add the spice of fellowship and shared efforts. We enjoy making them and we are sure you will love the tasty results.

Our cakes are \$30 each and make a perfect holiday gift. Our cakes have been selling so fast that we now only have Mary Smyth's dark cake available - a lovely combination of raisins, dates, figs, currants, candied fruit and walnuts (and contains no alcohol). To place an order call Jane Ebborn at 403-283-7162 or email jane.ebborn@shaw.ca. Cakes are available for pick up during coffee hour after church in December.

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Sunday services begin at 10:30 a.m. unless otherwise noted.

December 4 ~ ~ **Awaiting Possibility**

As we head into the cold and dark time of the year we enter a time of introspection, reflection and anticipation. Drawing on the Advent theme this service will explore the universal human experience of awaiting possibility.

Presenter: Rev Debra Faulk

Music: Jane Perry

Special Musical guests: Vocal Latitudes

December 6 (5:30 – 7 p.m.) ~ ~ **Blue Christmas**

The constant refrain of the joy of the Christmas season reminds many people of what they have lost or have never had. The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation, the loneliness of no longer having a beloved spouse to share each day, the loss of a dear family pet - all these can contribute to a feeling of being alone, of 'feeling blue' in the midst of the society around us which seems bent on 'being happy' and 'celebrating'. There are years when we hurt at Christmas time and can't get into the festivities others seem to be able to do.

It's at such times that we need to make the space and take the time to acknowledge our sadness and concern. We need to know that we are not alone. We will gather to share, remember and reflect. There will be a simple supper following the service.

Presenter: Rev Debra Faulk

Music: Jane Perry

December 11 ~ ~ **Christmas as We Know It: The Unitarian Contribution**

The current celebration of Christmas has an interesting history and Unitarians have made a significant contribution.

Presenter: Rev Debra Faulk

Music: Jane Perry and UCC Choir

December 18 ~ ~ **Christmas Traditions: Season of Love Mid-Winter Pageant**

Have you wondered why we decorate a tree at Christmas or why we celebrate on December 25 or... this morning explores where some of these Christmas traditions come from.

Presented by the Children and Youth with a number of surprise special guests!

Music: Jane Perry

Special music: Multigenerational Choir

December 21 (7 p.m.) ~ ~ **Solstice Celebration**

Come and celebrate the Winter Solstice with us, as we worship through a pagan circle, play, eat, drink, sing and dance on this, the longest night of the year. 7 pm in Panabaker Hall. Please bring a 4 foot length of Christmas ribbon, some living greenery and some Christmas goodies to share. A collection will be taken for Inn From the Cold. Questions: call Brandis at 403- 273-3798, brandis.purcell@shaw.ca or Brian at 403-475-8448

Presided by: Brandis Purcell and Brian Dorscht

December 24 (7 p.m.) ~ ~ **Oh Holy Night**

This Christmas Eve service of readings and music celebrates and recognizes that each night a child is born is a holy night.

Presenters: Rev Debra Faulk & Cathy Welburn

Music: Jane Perry and UCC Chorale Ensemble

December 25 ~ ~ **Christmas Wonder**

Christmas morning is a perfect time to wonder about Christmas in music, word, and image.

Presenters: Kichiji Kabayama and Friends

4-others: Project Ploughshares to aid with their work in PEACE education. Chosen by the Social Justice Committee.

Our nursery is staffed every Sunday from 10:20 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. for infants and children who require supervision during the service.

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REMINDER FOR ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRS

By now, all committees have likely had at least one meeting since summer – please remember to send a copy of any meeting minutes to Elsie Sinha-Roy, our Church Administrator – elsie@unitarians.org – which she keeps on file. Copies of any legal documents, grant applications, official correspondence, etc, should also be forwarded to Elsie.

If you need information re. past actions of the committee, minutes from the past 5 years for each committee are filed in the office. Older files are archived at the Glenbow Museum and can be accessed through the History and Archives Committee.

If you would like to refresh your memory about job descriptions for your committee, these are in the Church Handbook, also in the office.

DID YOU KNOW...?

-that the Canadian Unitarian Council was founded 50 years ago this year? The Canadian Unitarian and Universalist Historical Society has just published *Guarding Sacred Embers*, a series of essays on the history of Canadian congregations and characters (including a contribution from our own Helen Backhouse). The book, which is now available for loan from the church library, also contains some poems and readings. Check it out!

History and Archives Committee

Nomination for Harold and Marion Panabaker Award due January 6

Do you know someone who has made extraordinary services to our Church? The opportunity to recognize them through the Harold and Marion Panabaker Award is here. This award recognizes a person or persons who have provided services to our Church community. Some considerations for contributions include:

- benefits to the Church community
- personal sacrifice or effort involved in providing the service
- degree the service reflects the values esteemed by Unitarian Universalists in general

For more details about the Harold and Marion Panabaker award and to see the past award winners, see unitarians-calgary.org, Newsletters, etc. Scroll down to UCC documents.

Plans are in place to have the Award presented at the Second Sunday Supper February 12, so pencil this event in your calendar.

Deadline for submission is January 6, 2012. Submit to Wendy Benson, Board Secretary in writing or by email to secretary@unitarianscalgary.org

THE DIRT ON WORMS

Our Church backyard composting machines contain *Eisenia fetida*, better known as red wigglers. They do a great job decomposing organic matter and preparing it for the garden. However, because the worms will not survive the winter, we have rescued them with help from the RE and brought them indoors. The large plastic bin in the furnace room contains the worms and they are keen to receive coffee grounds and organic scraps from the kitchen. Take pity on them.

We need every human gift and cannot afford to neglect any gift because of artificial barriers of sex or race or class or national origin

~~Margaret Mead

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Debra's Deliberations

My deliberations this month require a dual focus. It is the last month of the year, a time of seasonal celebration that warrants some reflection. We are also moving forward through a transition, the pastoral to program transition, as a church community.



It was so exciting when Robert Latham led the transition workshop, October 29th, with more than 65 people attending. There was amazing energy, excitement and anticipation in the building. It was good to recognize that much of the work needed to create the infrastructure for successful transition to a program size church is already underway or has already been completed.

It is important as well to name and recognize the losses that will happen as a result of the transition, though for every loss there are far more benefits. One thing that is frequently mentioned is the potential loss of intimacy, no longer knowing everyone by name. While this may well be the case I would invite you to check-in with anyone in a Chalice Circle, the stitching group, the Young Adult group, the choirs, the book group, any committee or those participating in any function in the church and you will find people who feel connected.

Involvement is the anecdote for sustaining a sense of intimacy. It is also true that no one person will be able to participate in all of the programs. Instead the diversity that we can offer will mean that there is something for everyone. Then there is the great gift that new people bring, different perspectives, energy and excitement, renewed vitality and a deep gratitude for what our faith offers. This community, this faith is so worth sharing!

Another issue that I have been approached about is the changing role of the minister in a larger congregation with more focus on being a public voice as well as quality and consistency of the Sunday morning experience. While this may mean I attend fewer meetings, currently averaging 5 to 7 per week, I will always be available whenever needed. It will mean strengthening the Caring Team to assure that the pastoral issues of all members are

addressed. Everyone, every member and friend, is a part of the Caring Team because we are a community built and strengthened by the relationships amongst us. My door, phone and e-mail are and will be always open. Connecting with people, deeply connecting, is one of my primary motivations to ministry.

This is an incredibly exciting time, a time to clarify and live into the greater purpose we have as a liberal religious community. We have so much to offer those yearning for a sense of belonging; those seeking an open environment to explore the big questions in life; those with a passion for justice and the longing to add their energy with others working for the greater good. It is time to let the city know that we are here!

The second focus that informs these deliberations is the approaching seasonal celebrations. I have been doing a lot of research about Christmas, its roots and origins, its evolution to what we now celebrate. It is interesting how very influential Unitarians and Universalists have been in its creation. The Puritans actually outlawed the celebration of Christmas in the 1600s, but Unitarians encouraged it being celebrated as a holiday.

Curious? Be sure to attend the service on December 11th and also the Pageant on December 18th. The Pageant is an original work authored by Shaun Pulsifer and myself. Shaun is the director, Jane and both choirs (Multigen & UCC Choir) add musical delight as well as the children and youth provided input of ideas as well as performance. This research and creativity have me embracing this season with newfound joy and excitement.

Namaste

Debra

<i>Monday: Day Off</i>	(403) 702-6486 (cell)
<i>Sermon Writing: Wednesday</i>	There will be no set office
<i>Office Hours:</i>	hours between Christmas and
Tuesday noon-4:00p.m.	New Year Day. Debra can be
Thursday 11:00a.m.-	reached on her cell phone.
7:00p.m.	
Other times by appointment	
Contact information	
<i>debra@unitarianscalgary.org</i>	
(403) 230-8938 (office)	

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SHAVINGS FROM THE BOARD

by Meredith Simon, UCC Board of Trustees president

Our congregational workshop with Rev. Robert Latham was a big success! Thanks to all who were able to attend and give their input to the questions of where we want to go as a congregation and how we should proceed to start getting there. The major consensus was that we need a new and current Mission Statement. The purpose of developing a Mission Statement is to articulate who we are and why we exist. When we know who we are, and have a sense of why we exist as a congregation, then we can go forward with direction. The Board will be establishing a Process Committee whose purpose is to oversee the development of the Mission Statement over the next 6 to 9 months. The application process is outlined elsewhere in this Quest and on the eNews. The Process Committee will be holding various types of gatherings to allow as much congregational input as

possible in the Mission Statement development. Be sure to have your input counted!

Canvass is well under way. If you haven't yet had a chance to share your generosity, please do so. The annual congregational meeting to approve next year's budget will be on Sunday December 4 after church. Please plan to attend.

Don't forget to order your Unitarian Christmas cakes! Choose from four delicious varieties (I like the Millennium the best!) and get your order in now to avoid disappointment!

Reminder: Unitarian Universalist Leadership (CUUL) School in Calgary in July 2012. A great and most worthwhile experience! See the CUC website for information. With our ongoing movement forward as a vibrant congregation we need more people with the kind of expertise that CUUL School will give you. Sign up! s for the Christmas season!

Upbeat News

by Jane Perry, UCC music director

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exaltation! December brings us the longest night of the year, followed by a festival of light and love. It is also the month in which choral singers and audiences can revel in the harmonious seasonal offerings! Join our church choirs and choral guests in December as they fill Panabaker Hall with the musical joy of Christmas.

Musical offerings in December worship services

Sun Dec 4: Vocal Latitudes Choir, conducted by Frank Rackow

Sun Dec 11: The Thursday-Night Choir

Sun Dec 18: Multigenerational Christmas Pageant, featuring the Thursday-Night Choir, the Multigenerational Choir, and some very fine soloists.

Sat Dec 24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, with music from the Thursday-Night Choir

Join the Multigenerational Choir in December!

We're gearing up for the December 18 Christmas Pageant --- come and sing with us! We will have a total of three Sunday-morning rehearsals together with Music Director Jane Perry.

Sunday, Dec. 4 (9:30am to 10am in Wickenden Hall)

Sunday, Dec. 11 (9:30am to 10am in Panabaker Hall)

Sunday, Dec. 18 (pageant dress rehearsal at 9am in Panabaker Hall, with narrators, actors and choirs)

Singers of all ages are welcome to join --- from 3 to 103! Bring your family, your friends, your church pals, and your local elf or reindeer. Let's have some fun singing together!

A Choral Christmas! Come to the Second Sunday Supper on Sunday, December 11 and stay for the Thursday-Night Choir's first annual Christmas Concert! You will be treated to carols both familiar and brand-new, as well as a generous serving of our favourite spiritual music. The concert will include a musical offering from the Calgary Queer Choir, in their very first public performance! There will be instrumentalists, soloists, and an audience carol singalong! Supper starts at 5pm, and the concert begins as soon as the supper clean-up is done (6:30pm or shortly thereafter.) Admission to the concert is by a special sort of donation: please bring a can of food for the Food Bank. See you there!



Cultivating Loving Hearts and Open Minds~~~~~

Many of us have a lot of questions about Christmas and the traditions we share as North Americans. Some of us, as Unitarians from an early age, are confused by the different explanations imparted to us by the various religious traditions that make up our uniquely Canadian cultural mosaic.

To this day, a few of our questions remain unanswered. We may decide what the holiday means to us personally and in our individual families and have found meaning in these shared rituals. For some of us, however, there are so many things about this season that have meaning from another land, another time. Sometimes it is difficult to find something in this tradition that is more relevant to our own lives and we want to search for new ways to give meaning to Christmas rituals.

With all the questions about Christmas swirling around, Rev. Debra Faulk and youth advisor Shaun Pulsifer decided to write a Christmas Pageant about these questions. They set out to answer a few questions for those of us who want some clarity, but they also set out to engage all of us in a renewed sense of what the meaning of Christmas can be to all of us.

To begin with, the leaders of all the classrooms asked the children and youth what questions they have about Christmas. Over the last few weeks the children and youth have gladly shared what they wonder about. They gave us some great questions and their musings have formed the basis for the Christmas Pageant, Sunday, Dec 18! We hope everyone will come out that day and share in a wonderful romp through a few of the traditions and rituals that form our North American Christmas. We also hope it helps you come to an uplifting renewal of all that this Christmas holiday can be to you, your family and your friends.

What has been most fun for me these past weeks, is hearing the conversations that have happened in the classrooms. Along with the questions the children and youth gave for the pageant came some wonderfully creative and insightful answers. As Unitarian children and youth they are constantly encouraged to ask questions, to suggest answers and to decide for themselves what they think. They are helped to see our church and their individual rooms as safe places to explore their most pressing concerns. Over time, they come to know that when they have a question about something, they can engage someone in a discussion about it and eventually come to an understanding of what the question means to them personally. Then they begin to be able to answer it confidently from their own unique perspective. Having the ability to think for oneself is a skill many of us take for granted. For children and youth faced with constant peer pressure, this skill is one of the most valuable ones we can teach our kids.

The questions and answers below are a great example of the many strengths of Unitarianism, the ability to ask questions freely and to support others (by listening) so that everyone feels safe in exploring what is true and right in life for each person.

Why do we have a Christmas tree? Maybe, it's because there needs to be a place to put the presents when Santa comes.

How does Santa get small enough to be able to get down the chimney? Maybe he doesn't use the chimney; maybe he has a magic key that he uses to open all the doors.

Why do we decorate the tree? Well, of course, it's so that Santa can see where to put the presents when he finds our house. (Or) You know, it's not about the presents at all, it's about the birth of Jesus.

Why do we celebrate Christmas on Dec 25? I heard that

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~~~~~Children and Youth Religious Exploration

December 25 was not actually the day of Jesus' birth but that his birthday was earlier in December. What about December 21? Isn't that the day of the winter solstice? Why don't we celebrate Christmas then? But what about the people that want to keep celebrating Dec 25; then we'd have two holidays!

Is it ok to celebrate parts of other religions like Hanukkah, even though we are not Jewish? Of course it is, it's fun and it helps us learn about what other religions are all about!

Should Christmas be celebrated by people who don't believe in Jesus? Yes, Christmas is also about spending time with your family. Also, you don't have to believe in Jesus as a god to believe he was a good person who taught everyone about fairness.

And some questions without answers; sometimes more important questions:

Where does the word Christmas come from?

Why does feasting play a part in Christmas?

Why do we have to lie to children about Santa Claus?

There were other questions and other answers but because space is limited, these are only a few. If you'd like to hear more, or if you'd like to see what it's like to hang out and talk with our children and youth (e.g. wonderful!), please talk to me about visiting a classroom on Sunday morning!

I sincerely hope you have enjoyed a glimpse into the thoughts of our youngest and not so young at UCC! I also hope everyone will join us, Sunday Dec 18 at the annual Christmas Pageant! More details for parents will be sent out this week (roles available, costumes, and rehearsal times).

Sandy Cooper, Director of Children & Youth Religious Exploration

Christmas renews our youth by stirring our wonder. The capacity for wonder has been called our most pregnant human faculty, for in it are born our art, our science, our religion.

~~~Ralph W. Sockman

Sandy Cooper, Director of Children & Youth Religious Exploration

Office Hours:

Wednesday 9:00a.m.-3:00p.m.

Thursday 1:00p.m.-8:00p.m.

Friday 9:00a.m.-3:00p.m.

Contact information:

[sandy@unitarianscalgary.org](mailto:sandy@unitarianscalgary.org)

Office: (403) 230-4146

## Congregational Budget Meeting – December 4

The agenda for the annual budget meeting is given below. At this meeting the congregation will set the operating budget for 2012 (Jan 1 – Dec 31). Please plan on attending; quorum is approximately 50 people. Without quorum we cannot approve the budget.

The Justice Committee will also be proposing a motion in support of the Occupy Calgary movement. As explained below this motion will require a 2/3 majority of members present at the meeting to pass.

Childcare will be provided during the meeting. There will also be a light lunch available for everyone.

### CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING 12:00 p.m. December 4, 2011 Panabaker Hall

#### Agenda

1. Opening Words and Chalice Lighting by our Minister, Debra Faulk
2. Declaration of a Quorum
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Outline of Meeting Procedures by the Chair
5. Motion to approve the Minutes of the May 2011, Annual General Meeting
6. Canvass 2011 Report by Canvass Committee
7. Presentation of the 2012 Budget by the Treasurer
8. Motion to approve the 2012 Budget by the Treasurer
9. The Unitarian Church of Calgary supports the Occupy Calgary movement in their efforts to improve democracy\*
10. Adjournment

\*As per our by-laws issuing public statements on behalf of the church requires a 2/3 majority vote at a duly called meeting.

Additionally here is our policy on taking public stands (this was passed at a previous Annual General Meeting):

#### **POLICY ON USE OF THE CHURCH BANNER, AND ON TAKING PUBLIC STANDS ON BEHALF OF THE CHURCH**

In keeping with the principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association, and in order to facilitate timely responses to social issues, committees of the Church may take public stands in their own (committee) names on issues of their choosing, through such means as;

- carrying banners or signs with their committees name on it (e.g., "Social Justice Committee, Unitarian Church of Calgary")
- writing letters or speaking to the media in the name of their committee.

Committees taking such actions are asked to inform the Board of Trustees and/or the Minister of their intent or actions at the earliest opportunity, so that appropriate support, follow-up, and co-ordination of efforts may be provided. Should a member or group of members wish a stand to be taken in the name of the Church as a whole (including actions such as carrying the Church banner in public meetings or demonstrations), congregational approval will still be required.

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## Welcome New Members!

The Membership Committee would like to introduce the following new members of the church. Please extend a warm welcome to them when you see them.

### Trish Robbins



Trish has been coming to this church on and off for several years, with her wife, Sheila Ward. In fact, Trish and Sheila were married here in this church. She really likes our community, and loves Debra as our minister. She is looking forward to making deeper connections with other members of the congregation. Some of Trish's interests are Yoga, meditation, singing in the choir, gardening in the church community garden, and learning about healthy diet including raw vegan food.

### Don and Joan Brown



Don and Joan have been coming to our services for about a year. Joan comes from a Unitarian family and lately became acquainted with this church through the Internet. Joan jumped into church activities by offering to cater Debra's installation, and we all appreciated the fabulous food. Joan and Don lived for many years in the North, where Don was a pilot. They are looking for fellowship within our community. Don is interested in sports and Joan enjoys cooking and movies.

### Sheri-Lyn Verbicki



Sheri-Lyn has been attending our church for almost two years. She came seeking a community, and is hoping to develop more friendships here. Since she has no family in Calgary, she has been enjoying the Second Sunday Suppers and Thanksgiving dinner. Other interests include her dog (Thomas), dancing of all kinds, going out to plays, and generally being active.

## Join us for Second Sunday Supper

Doors open at 4:00

Supper at 5:00

We will be serving:

Roast Ham w/ glaze

Roast Potato

Variety of Salads and Desserts.

The Choir will entertain us after the supper and clean up is done.

Please sign up on sheet in Wickenden Hall or

Call Bev at 403-283-0311

*When all is said and done, the real citadel of strength of any community is in the hearts and minds and desires of those who dwell there.*

~~Everett Dirksen

Join the needlecraft circle drop-in every 2nd Tuesday at 10 a.m., Every 4th Tuesday at 10 a.m., and every 4th Tuesday at 7 p.m.

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## INVITATION TO BE PART OF THE MISSION PROCESS COORDINATING TEAM

We are creating a Mission Process Team for the clarification and articulation of the mission/purpose of the Unitarian Church of Calgary!

As overwhelmingly decided during the congregational workshop with Rev. Robert Latham on October 29, we are moving ahead to clarify our purpose and then to develop a new Mission Statement that articulates this purpose. This is a crucial next step in our exciting transition towards a Program-style church. The mission statement will express who we are and why we exist. It will be a statement of our purpose as a congregation. It is central to knowing where we are going; without it we are like a ship without a rudder.

We need a Process Committee to oversee this effort. The committee will consist of 5 church members who are interested and willing to spend up to 10 hours per month over the next 6 to 9 months. We encourage any church members who are thinking of applying to read the Addendum V, pp. 212 – 243, in Robert Latham's book, *Moving On from Church Folly Lane*, for more explanation of the Mission Statement development process. Copies of this section of the book can be found in the library.

To apply, please send a letter to Meredith Simon, church Board president, at [president@unitarianscalgary.org](mailto:president@unitarianscalgary.org), or place it in the president's mailbox in the church office. In 500 words or less, tell us: 1) why the Unitarian Church of Calgary is important to you, 2) why you are interested in being a part of the Process Team, and 3) what qualities you would bring to the team.

**The deadline for application is January 2, 2012.**

*Thank you,*

*Your Board*

*Unitarian Church of Calgary*

## CALGARY CO-OP GIFT CARDS – PLANNING FOR THE DECEMBER HOLIDAY SEASON

Christmas, Hanukkah, Winter Solstice... whether you celebrate one or all three of these holidays, you will need additional groceries over the December holiday season. Plan to add a little extra to your Co-op gift card order for December. Something else to consider – purchasing a Co-op Liquor Store card to purchase the wine, beer, or other spirits for celebrating the holidays. The church will receive 5% of the dollar value for all your liquor purchases, as it does for your gas and grocery purchases. However, **you must purchase a separate card for use in the Co-op Liquor Store. The regular gift card cannot be used to purchase alcohol.**

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

1. On the **first Sunday of each month (the date for December will be Sunday December 4)**, bring 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.
2. If you are not going to be at church on the first Sunday of the month and we don't have post-dated cheques from you, please leave your cheque in John Michell's mail slot in the church office.
3. The cards will be distributed on the next Sunday, December 11.

That's how easy it is! This is an important fund raiser for the church (October's purchases netted \$402 for the church), and it's easy to take part.

Any questions? Contact Lynn Nugent at [lnugent@shaw.ca](mailto:lnugent@shaw.ca) 403-247-2064 or John Michell at [jmichell@prairiesky.ab.ca](mailto:jmichell@prairiesky.ab.ca) 403-244-9392.

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## Our Annual Spiritual Retreat to be held in February

Mark your calendars now for the Unitarian Church of Calgary Spiritual Retreat, which will be held the family day long weekend, February 17 to 19 (Friday supper through Sunday lunch). This is a program for adults and youth (16 and over) together. The theme is "Finding Spirit in Everyday Life".

If you're interested in a gentle, restful weekend in fellowship with a group of Unitarians, getting to know them (and perhaps yourself) a little better, this may be for you. Some people have said that the retreat has helped them to feel at home when they were new to this church. Consider being good to yourself for a weekend, coming to Kamp Kiwanis with us for two days of activities (all optional), reflection, good food, and good company.

The cost for the weekend, which covers program, accommodation and all meals:

Adults: Early registration, on or before Jan 15: \$140

Registration on Jan 16 or later: \$160

Students & Youth (age 16 to 20): \$75

Final deadline for registration is Feb 5.

Watch for our display at coffee hour for more details and registration forms. Your retreat committee is Katherine Maas, Mary-Anna Louise Kovar, Roberta Clair, Carl Svoboda, Sarah Knowling, and Duff Bond. If you have questions, email to [retreat@unitarianscalgary.org](mailto:retreat@unitarianscalgary.org).

## Building Your Own Theology

*starting January 25, 2012 (Wednesday evenings)*

Kathryn Burwash, Martin Watson & Ev Dewar will co-facilitate this popular course, "Building Your Own Theology" with guest appearances by the Rev. Debra Faulk. This course enables individuals to better understand and define their own beliefs. As a non-dogmatic community of faith, Unitarians are responsible for defining their own beliefs "in a free and responsible search for truth and meaning" (our fourth principle). This can be both liberating and overwhelming. Come, share your journey and organize your beliefs in a supportive, non-judgmental group. The course consists of 8 weeks of structured presentation with interactive group exercises, followed by an hour of homework (reading and personal reflection) in your own time. By the end of the course participants will better understand how various aspects of "theology" and life experience have created their own Credo (a statement of personal belief). The cost is \$22.00 for the course workbook. If cost is a problem, arrangements can be made to borrow the book. A minimum of 8 people is needed to hold the course.

Sign-up on the Church Activities board in Wickenden Hall or contact: Kathryn Burwash ([chatty.kathy@telus.net](mailto:chatty.kathy@telus.net)) or Ev Dewar ([evdewar@kogawa.com](mailto:evdewar@kogawa.com) or 403-473-0143)

*Fruitful discourse in science or theology requires us to believe that within the contexts of normal discourse there are some true statements.*

~~Kenneth L. Pike

## Justice Committee motion at the Dec. 4 congregational meeting to support Occupy Calgary's efforts to improve democracy

At a Justice Circle gathering on Nov. 13, the eleven participants, mostly members of the Justice Committee, voted with one abstention to ask the church to support Occupy Calgary "in their efforts to improve democracy." The qualifier is intended to say that UCC doesn't necessarily support every move made by every participant in the movement.

The media seem to seize upon every misstep or questionable statement by any occupier for a story. In contrast, the experience of the members of our congregation who have been to the camp and talked with occupiers is that they are for the most part thoughtful, articulate, insightful people who want a better world than current economic and government structures are providing for us and future generations.

The occupiers' preference not to elect leaders or spokespersons in favour of encouraging egalitarian discourse accounts for the general impression that they have no clear agreed-upon focus. In response to this criticism they say, "This is not a protest. This is a process."

The Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice support the Occupy Movement ([www.cusj.org](http://www.cusj.org) <<http://www.cusj.org>> ). The Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada issued a letter on October 21 supporting the movement [www.uumoc.ca](http://www.uumoc.ca) . The President and Executive Director of the Canadian Unitarian Council voiced their support in CUC's November eNews, [www.cuc.ca](http://www.cuc.ca).

Surely, the Unitarian Church of Calgary will do no less. This is not about tents at the Olympic Plaza; it is about economic justice and democracy.

What can we do to support? Not money (except as individuals). The church can donate only to organizations registered as charities. The occupiers say they could use warm blankets, socks and mittens. They want us to foster dialogue about the Big Issues. Unitarians are good at that. We can declare our support now and find ways to express it as the dialogue continues.

A group of Unitarians from UCC does one-Monday-morning-a-month cleanup at **Inn from the Cold** at Knox United Church, 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 4<sup>th</sup> Street. It's easy, worthwhile and friendly volunteering. Contact Bob McPherson, 403- 283-9349 for information.

Our next committee meeting will be in the Boardroom on Wednesday, December 14, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. Contact Susan Stratton 403-289-7179 for info.

## Turn of the Wheel: Half-Day Spiritual Retreat

Join us for the quarterly "Turn of the Wheel Spiritual Retreat" marking the transition from Fall to Winter, Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We will take time to reflect individually on the four areas of our lives: physical, emotional, mental, spiritual. We will spend time on each aspect, looking back over the past season and consider how we are doing in that area, and then make concrete plans on what we plan to do in the next season. Most of the time will be spent in individual reflection. This time is a gift to yourself. Sign-up on the Church Activities board in Wickenden Hall, or contact the facilitators: Marie Collins 403-286-3723 or Ev Dewar 403-473-0143 (email [ev.dewar@kogawa.com](mailto:ev.dewar@kogawa.com)).

December 2011

# The Quest

## How to Reach UCC Staff

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Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to noon

(except statutory holidays)

Deadline for Announcements in the Order of Service: Thursday by 10 a.m. Send to [elsie@unitarianscalgary.org](mailto:elsie@unitarianscalgary.org) or call 403-276-2436.

## 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/index.php?pr=newsletter\\_ect](http://www.unitarianscalgary.org/index.php?pr=newsletter_ect).

Submissions of articles, photographs, and event announcements are encouraged. If you have any questions about the Quest, please contact the editor, Rebekah Mobley-Kasner, 403-284-0346 or by email, [quest@unitarianscalgary.org](mailto:quest@unitarianscalgary.org)

### Future Quest Deadlines:

December 2011— November 20

January 2011— December 18

February 2011— January 15

**March 2011— February 19**

**April 2011— March 18**

### ENEWS

The ENEWS is normally published via email once a week on Wednesday mornings. Material for the ENEWS should be submitted by the previous evening. If you would like to receive the ENEWS, please email [enews@unitarianscalgary.org](mailto:enews@unitarianscalgary.org)

## Lay Chaplains: **Carl Svoboda and Kathryn Burwash**

Our Lay Chaplains are trained to perform rites of passages, such as weddings, funerals/memorial services, child dedications, etc. They are 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 chaplains can be contacted by calling the church at the 403-276-2436 or via email, [laychaplains@unitarianscalgary.org](mailto:laychaplains@unitarianscalgary.org).

## Music At UCC

Jane Perry is our Music Director, as well as church Choir Director. In this capacity, she works with the Minister to enhance our Sunday Services through music, including vocal and instrumental live music offerings. If you have suggestions for live music from groups or artists, please contact Jane, [music@unitarianscalgary.org](mailto:music@unitarianscalgary.org).

## The Caring Team

The Caring Team is in the business of providing 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 that needs to be celebrated such as a graduation, marriage or new child, we are there with you. Contact Carolyn Preston, John Backhouse or Bev Webber by emailing [caring@unitarianscalgary.org](mailto:caring@unitarianscalgary.org)

# The Quest

[www.unitarianscalgary.org](http://www.unitarianscalgary.org)
**Dec 2011 (Mountain Time - Edmonton)**
**Unitarian Church of Calgary Calendar v3**

| Mon                                                | Tue                                                                                                       | Wed                                       | Thu                                                                              | Fri                              | Sat                                                           | Sun                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 28                                                 | 29                                                                                                        | 30                                        | 1                                                                                | 2                                | 3                                                             | 4                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                                                    |                                                                                                           |                                           | 5:30pm - 4-Church<br>6pm - W- CYPT<br>7pm - P- Choir<br>7:30pm - 4-ManKind       | 3pm - 4-Membership               | 12pm - B-Physical<br>7:30pm - W - Contra                      | 9:30am - P-Vocal<br>9:30am - W-Multi-<br>10:30am - P -<br>11:30am - W/K -<br>12pm - 1-Pageant<br>12pm - P- Cong                                                                          |
| 5                                                  | 6                                                                                                         | 7                                         | 8                                                                                | 9                                | 10                                                            | 11                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 6pm - W/K-<br>7pm - B-Green<br>7:30pm - P- Queer   | 9am - W/K- Bev<br>2pm - P-Piano<br>5:30pm - P-Blue<br>6:30pm - W/K-Coffee<br>7pm - P-Vocel                | 6pm - W - CYPT<br>7pm - P -Apostolic      | 5:30pm - B - Srtaff<br>6:30pm - W - CYPT<br>7pm - P- Choir<br>7:30pm - 4-ManKind | 9am - 7-Chalice                  | 1pm - W - Unplug<br>7:30pm - W - Contra                       | 9am - B-Adult Study<br>9:30am - P-<br>10:30am - P -<br>11:30am - W/K -<br>12pm - 4-ARE<br>12pm - B-Hist &<br>2pm - P-Young<br>4pm - W/K/BR/-2nd<br>6pm - 1 - GAIA SF<br>6:30pm - P-Choir |
| 12                                                 | 13                                                                                                        | 14                                        | 15                                                                               | 16                               | 17                                                            | 18                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 6pm - W/K-<br>7pm - 7-Chalice<br>7:30pm - P- Queer | 10am - W -<br>2pm - P-Piano<br>7pm - 4 - Grannies<br>7pm - B-Board<br>7pm - P-Vocel<br>7:30pm - W-Council | 5:30pm - B - Social<br>7pm - 1 - Canadian | 4:30pm - 4 - CYRE<br>4:30pm - K -<br>6:30pm - W - CYPT<br>7pm - P- Choir         | 6pm - B-Young                    | 9:30am - W/K/P/BR/G<br>1pm - P-Pageant<br>2pm - W/K/BR - GAIA | 9am - P-Pageant<br>10:30am - P -<br>11:30am - W/K -<br>12pm - 1/4- Parent<br>12pm - P - Forum                                                                                            |
| 19                                                 | 20                                                                                                        | 21                                        | 22                                                                               | 23                               | 24                                                            | 25                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 6pm - W/K-                                         | 2pm - P-Piano<br>7pm - B - Retreat<br>7pm - P- Vocal<br>7:30pm - W - Council                              | 7pm - P/W- Solstice                       | 7pm - B- Caring<br>7pm - P- Choir<br>7:30pm - 4-ManKind                          | 9am - 7-Chalice                  | 7pm - P-Xmas Eve                                              | 10:30am - P -<br>11:30am - W/K -<br>5pm - W/K/BR-                                                                                                                                        |
| 26                                                 | 27                                                                                                        | 28                                        | 29                                                                               | 30                               | 31                                                            | 1                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 6pm - W/K-<br>7pm - 7-Chalice                      | 10am - W -<br>7pm - B- Grannies<br>7pm - W -                                                              |                                           | 7pm - P- Choir                                                                   | 6pm - 1-Young<br>7pm - 4 - Youth |                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                          |

“Visit [unitarianscalgary.org](http://unitarianscalgary.org) and select *Church Calendar* to see up-to-date event additions and changes.