

Growing
Together



Reaching Out

Morning Messenger
Southminster-Steinhauer United Church
an Affirming Congregation within the United Church of Canada
10740-19 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T6J 6W9
Phone: 435-2028 Fax: 435-2058
email: info@smsuc.com website: www.smsuc.com

Epiphany 7

February 19, 2006

Welcome One and All!

TODAY:

- Gospel Worship Service: In Celebration of Black History Month, Small Hall Event & Baby Care, 10:00 am
- "A Taste of Creole, Reggae & Soul", 11:30 am, Large Hall
- Grief Group #3, 7:00 pm, Lounge

THROUGH THE WEEK:

Monday (Family Day)

- Church office will be closed.
- Book Club, 1:00 pm, Lounge
- Children's' Choir, 4:00 pm, Small Hall
- Living The Questions, 7:00 pm, Small Hall

Tuesday

- Tuesday Connection, 9:15 am, Small Hall
- Board Executive Meeting, 7:15 pm, Lounge

Thursday

- Canadian Girls in Training (CGIT), 7:00 pm, Lounge
- Adult Choir, 7:15 pm, Large Hall

Friday

- Youth Choir, 5:00 pm, Small Hall (Malice in the Palace)

Sunday, February 26, Transfiguration

- Worship Service, Learning Circles & Baby Care, 10:00 am, Large Hall
Worship Leaders: Tuesday Connection
- Grief Group #3, 7:00 pm, Lounge
- Awaken to Insights Through Mandala, 7:00 pm, Small Hall

Sunday, March 5, Lent 1

- Men's Breakfast Fellowship, 7:30 am, Small Hall
- Worship: 'Get on Board'
Musical Offering by Children's Choir, Baby Care
- Connector Meeting (Congregational Care), 11:30 am, Large Hall
- Lenten Stone Soup, 'Water Issues In Canada', 11:30 am, Small Hall
- Film Series, 'Reel Faith', 6:00 pm, Small Hall

Heartbeats

Please remember Wendy Adams in your thoughts and prayers as she recovers from surgery.

Mardi Gras Pancake Supper And Family Dance Tuesday, Feb. 28, 6:00 pm, Large Hall Suggested Donation \$2.00

On the night before Lent begins we invite one and all, older, younger and in-between to enjoy a supper of pancakes, bacon and sausage as we engage the ancient Lenten practice of using up all the oil and fat in the house! Following supper is a dance for the whole family. We know it is a school night so we won't keep you up late. Sign up on the sheet in the foyer as soon as possible.

"Stone Soup Sunday's Series" Sunday, March 5 – Water Issues in Canada Sunday, March 12 – Aboriginal Peoples' Water Rights in the Global Context Sunday, March 26 – Water Issues in the Global Context Sunday, April 2 – What We Can Do: Strategies for Action

Please sign up for donations of soup, bread, or cheese on the sheet in the foyer.

"REEL FAITH" Sunday, March 5, Compassion Sunday, March 12, Crisis/Conflict Sunday, March 19, Community 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

On the first three Sunday evenings in Lent, we will explore the theme: "JOURNEY TO THE SACRED".

Each evening will start with a film and be followed by a facilitated discussion (popcorn included!).

Facilitators: Lori Stewart and Jack Jervis are long-time movie buffs, who for the past decade, have led film courses in various venues including Naramata Centre. Both Lori and Jack are active members of Knox-Met United Church.

Morning Messenger Deadline?

The deadline for announcements in the Morning Messenger is now set for Wednesday at noon. We are requesting that all submissions be written, dated, and indicating how long you wish the announcement to appear. Thank you for your help.

"Living The Questions"

Monday, February 20

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm, Small Hall

This week's topic: "A Kingdom Without Walls"

Our winter series continues with this last week. You are welcome to join us.

Spiritual Explorations Series Awaken to Insights Through Mandala Sunday, Feb. 26, 7:00 pm, Small Hall

The word 'Mandala' is Sanskrit for sacred or healing circle and we invite you to come and experience this "art making," self-exploratory session. In fact an "empty" mind is preferable. You will enter a safe, non-judgmental environment and awaken to deep insights about yourself. You will learn how to relate to your art through a technique that invites "image dialogues". Please bring a couple of sizes of paper plates, colouring pencils or crayons, paper, a pencil sharpener and a reading that speaks deeply to your spirit. No experience is necessary.

World Day of Prayer Friday, March 3, 1:30 pm St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Church 210 Haddow Close

This year's service was prepared by the women of South Africa. All are welcome.

CGIT Is Here!

All girls in grades 7-11 are welcome. This new chapter of Canadian Girls in Training has begun in our lounge on Thursdays at 7:00 pm. It's not too late for you to come and join this group. Contact the church office.

Vigils To Stop Privatization of Medicare Thursday, Feb. 23, 12:15 noon Alberta Legislature

(To coincide with the opening of the Alberta Legislature)

There will be speakers and music. We will continue to meet on the following successive Monday evenings and Wednesdays at noon while the Legislature sits (not March 27 & 29).

Please see our church bulletin board for complete details.

Calling Connectors and Contacts Care Group Connections Program Sunday, Mar. 5, 11:30 am, Large Hall

The Congregational Care Committee requests all Connectors and Contacts to attend a short information session after church on Sunday, Mar. 5 at the front of the large hall. We will highlight changes to the Connectors' Network, review expectations for phone contacts and distribute Care Group lists. If you cannot attend, contact the church office.

Sacred Story Festival 2006 Saturday, Feb. 25, 7:30 pm

John L. Haar Theatre,

MacEwan College, 10045 - 155 Street

Malice in the Palace - a musical story of Esther, a heroine of both Christian and Jewish scriptures, performed by the children and youth of Southminster-Steinhauer United Church.

Tickets: \$11 Adult/\$8 Child & Senior

Men's Breakfast Fellowship Sunday, Mar. 5, 7:30 am, Small Hall Chefs du Jour: Bill Robertson and Craig Wallace

AN AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

Southminster-Steinhauer is an Affirming Congregation, a designation that signals our commitment to be a Christian community that is inclusive of all people, including lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, their families and friends.

For more information, please call Charles Bidwell, 436-8774, or Mieke Wharton, 435-1219.

On the second Sunday of the month, a special opportunity for fellowship is offered, referred to as the "Second Sunday Brunch." All are welcome.

Social Justice Institute 2006

Friday, Mar. 31, 7:30 pm, Kings University College

Topic: "Let Justice Flow Like Water"

& Saturday, Apr. 1, 9:00 am, Trinity Lutheran Church

Topic: "Let Water Flow With Justice"

Conference cost \$15 or \$5 for Friday, Mar. 31 evening only/\$10 for Saturday, Apr. 1 (includes lunch)

Pre-registration is not required, but is appreciated so that we may accommodate everyone for lunch. To pre-register, or for more information, contact Joyce at 467-2833 or jzutter@telus.net.

YOSS News

Tuesday, Feb. 28, 6:00 pm, Pancake Supper & Family Dance - help prepare!

Friday, Mar. 10-12, Junior High Rally, Cochrane United Church

SSUC February Music Schedules

Men's Chorus

Sunday, Feb. 19 - Gospel Service,

Music: Glory Bound and Wade in the Water

Silvertones

Sunday, Feb. 19 - Gospel Service (We sing)

Children's Choir

Mondays, 5:00 - 6:00 pm - Small Hall

We are preparing a short musical about Noah to be offered on Sunday, March 5.

Youth Choir

Fridays, 5:30 - 7:00 pm - Small Hall

These practices will be for the month of February.

Set-up Teams

Feb. 26 (Team 6)

Mar. 5/12 (Team 7)

**Advance Notice of
Spring "Garage Sale"
Saturday, May 6**

It's not too soon to save your good recyclables for our spring fund raiser! Items can be brought for storage to the lower level of the church any weekday morning.

Contacts: Anne McCracken and Cliff Cunningham

Restless Churches ... Restless People

Reginald W. Bibby Workshop

Friday, Mar. 31, 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Saturday, Apr. 1 - 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

McDougall United Church, 10025 - 101 Street

Reginald W. Bibby, Ph.D is with the Department of Sociology, University of Lethbridge. Bibby shows that increasing numbers of Canadian adults and youth not only are in touch with God, but also are open to greater involvement in the churches. Bibby presents key findings about recent religious developments in Canada, reflects on what these findings mean, acknowledges a number of significant hurdles that have to be cleared, and offers concrete thoughts and tangible responses on how religious groups can reach Canadians reconnecting with their very own people. Deadline for advance registrations is March 25.

Cost: \$35 Individual (advance), \$30 per person for group of three or more (advance) or \$40 at the door per person.

For more information please call 428-1818.

Come to the Banquet

A Feast For Your Body and Soul

Friday, Feb. 24, 6:00 pm, Mill Woods United

15 Grand Meadow Crescent (38 Ave. & 62 St.)

Join Christopher Levan for a meal that takes you back into first century Palestine.

\$30 per person/\$70 for families of three or more

For more information contact Rev. Dale Irving at 463-2202 or pick up a flyer on the table in the foyer.

Annual Meeting

CGIT Board of Edmonton Society Camp Wohelo

Monday, Feb. 27, 7:00 pm

Southminster-Steinhauer United Church

Call Danette at 462-6332 if you require more information.

A Golden Opportunity

To steal Cliff Cunningham's approach, an opportunity has opened up that you won't want to pass up! Property Management Committee has an opening for a chair-elect who will take over as chair in 2007. You need not submit a resume, and you will not have to undergo an interview. But you will get to be part of a great team, and you will make a real contribution to your church. So let your intention be known immediately before someone else snatches this plum of a job. You are needed! Contact the church office.

After The Service

There has been a question from set-up teams as to whether the chairs should be taken up after the Sunday service. Property Management Committee recommends that normal practice should be to take the chairs up so the floor can be cleaned on Monday mornings. If there is a need for the chairs between Sunday and 'cleaning day', please inform the set-up team of the day, Ross Campbell or Jim Robertson.

A Possible Alarming Incident

While picking up garbage on Saturday, Feb.4, two empty small boxes of matches were found under the natural gas meter. One box had been ignited and was charred; and there were burned matches as well as one live one in the immediate vicinity. It seems doubtful that smokers would have left these items in this location and manner. The incident has been reported to City Police and they asked us to be watchful and to report to them immediately if we observe anything suspicious. Please keep your eyes open for unusual activities and items on our property. We need more eyes covering more area and more time.

**Recommended Reading
Available In Our Own Library!**

Water Bugs & Dragonflies: Explaining Death to Young Children by Doris Stickney

Coming Out Young and Faithful: (Youth/Young Adult) by Leanne Tigert

Where Is God When It Hurts? by Philip Yancey

Constantine's Sword: The Church and the Jews by James Carroll

**Bissell Centre Food Bank
In Desperate Need of Food Items**

The list includes: chunky soups (except mushroom), other soups (except tomato), canned vegetables, tomato paste, salmon, flour, sardines, canned pasta, meat spreads, pancake and muffin mix, coffee, dry cereals. We could also use grocery style bags with handles to pack the food items for individuals. Items can be dropped off at the church office any weekday morning from 9:00 am till noon or any Sunday morning in the church foyer. Please contact the office for more information.

Wanted/Needed!

We need an additional bookcase for our library. We have been given a large number of books causing us to run out of shelf space. We are seeking a brown bookcase to compliment the existing cases that are in the lounge. Please contact the office at 435-2028.

**Imagine: Weekend Retreat
For Gays And Lesbians
May 19 - 22, Naramata Centre**

Join us on this long weekend retreat, a time for gay, lesbian, transgendered and bi-sexual men and women to come together in community. Imagine time for rest, relaxation and celebrating our diversity and common stories! We are planning a gentle weekend with a variety of optional workshops, good conversation, singing and dancing, engaging worship, great food, country walks, winery and garden tours. Let us know if you would like to bring your children and we will arrange for care. Further details are available at <http://tinyurl.com/alw35>. If anyone is interested in sharing travel please contact the church office.

Outside Bookings

Wed., Feb. 22 - Edmonton Newcomers, 7:00 pm, Small Hall

Sat., Feb. 25 - Private Booking, 11:30 am, Small Hall