



Morning Messenger
Southminster-Steinhauer United Church
an Affirming Congregation within the United Church of Canada
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Transfiguration Sunday

February 26, 2006

Welcome One and All!

TODAY:

- 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

THROUGH THE WEEK:

Monday (Family Day)

- Parents' Morning Out, 9:30a.m. in the Lounge
- United Church meeting, 12—4 p.m. in the Lounge
- Children's Choir practice in the Small hall
- Camp Wohelo meetin in the Small Hall
- Living The Questions, 7:00 pm, Small Hall

Tuesday

- Tuesday Connection, 9:15 am, Small Hall
- United Church Meeting, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Lounge

Wednesday

- Sacred Circle Dance, 7:30 p.m. in the Large Hall

Thursday

- Adult Choir, 7:15 pm, Large Hall

Saturday

- Silver Tones Practice 10 a.m.-12 noon Large 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

Sunday, March 12, Lent 2

- Worship Service with Communion, Learning Circles, & Baby Care, 10.a.m., Large Hall
- Combined 2nd Sunday Brunch and Lenten Stone Soup Lunch theme: "Water of Life", 11:30
- Film Series 6p.m., in the Small Hall
- Grief Group #1, 7p.m. in the Lounge

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
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.

Pastoral Care

Nancy returns to her office on Sunday, March 5th. During her absence please contact Rev. Dale Irving of Millwoods United Church At 463-2202 for pastoral care in the event of a death or serious illness in your family.

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.

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.

Family Needs

We have contact with a family that is in urgent need of kitchen chairs, a double bed, and girl's clothing size 5—6. If you can help them by donating these items, please call Carol Allen or the church office for more information.

Thank you

We warmly thank the Tuesday Connections (Women's Study Group) for planning and leading our worship service today. We appreciate your leadership.

Door Keys

Whenever keys are mentioned during announcements, a "titter" goes through the congregation! Please note that there are 25 GM and 22 M1 keys that allow access to the main entrance and much of the church. Currently, approximately 30 of those keys are in circulation.

We are not only concerned about access to the church but also that all key holders keep the security information confidential and know the protocol to follow if the alarm should sound.

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, please phone Winnie King.

"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.

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

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, grocery style bags with handles to pack the food items for individuals. We are also in **urgent** need of fresh fruits and vegetables. These will be picked up on the first Sunday of the month; non perishable 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. The Bissell Centre would like to extend a heartfelt thanks for all the generous offerings they have received to date. Please contact the office for more information.

Set-up Teams

Mar. 5/12 Jo Nicholas/Ann Didluck (Team 7)

Mar. 19th Jim and Wendy Spiers (Team 5)

**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.

Furnace, Fans and Close-Down Procedure

Our mechanical contractors recommend the following use of furnace fans:

- When an area is occupied, the furnace fan should be "on" to keep the temperature more uniform.

- When leaving the area, the fan should be turned to "auto" to save power.

Lift the thermostat cover to locate the fan "key". Depress the key to show "on" or "auto".

Annual Meeting

CGIT Board of Edmonton Society Camp Wohelo

Monday, Feb. 27, 7:00 pm

Southminster-Steinhauer United Church

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 Jim Robertson.

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 by the Moppets or Janitorial service.. 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!

Books of Blessing & how to write them by Ruth Burgess

Hide and Seek With God [for children] by Mary Ann Moore

Rabbi Jesus: An Intimate Biography by Bruce Chilton

Culture of Peace: God's Vision for the Church

by Kreider & Widjaja

Missing Tape

The tape of the February 12th service is missing. If you have borrowed it, could you please let Iris Stanley know. She needs to copy it for those who cannot attend church.

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 Betty Kellner.

Outside Bookings

Mon., Feb 27-United Church 12—4p.m., Lounge

Tues., Feb. 28— United Church 9a.m.-3p.m. Lounge

Silvertones Practice

Saturday, March 4th 10—12 noon

Sunday, march 19th—following luncheon

Saturday, April 1st—10—12 noon