



Morning Messenger

Southminster-Steinhauer United Church
an Inclusive Spiritual Community Exploring an Expansive Christianity
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January 15, 2012

Welcome to Southminster-Steinhauer United Church

As you enter this gathering, we welcome you and hope that you will feel at home in this time and place.

- Washrooms are available in the hallway off the foyer across from the entrance to the kitchen.
- Infants and children up to 3 years of age inclusive are welcome to be cared for in the baby care room off the foyer, just outside the Large Hall doors. If you prefer, infants and toddlers are also welcome to remain with you in the Large Hall.
- There are Circle Groups for children pre-school through Grade 6 in the Small Hall. Jr. and Sr. high meet on the second and fourth Sundays of the month in the Youth Room on the lower level.
- Any of today's greeters will be pleased to answer your questions and assist you in any way. Please don't hesitate to let us know how we can help. We hope that you will find nurture for your spirit and companionship for your journey in this time we share together.

TODAY, Sunday, January 15

- Spiritual Gathering, Learning Circles, and Baby Care, 10:00 am
Theme: *Path of Wisdom: Earth*
- Seniors' Luncheon, 11:30 am, Large Hall
- Solar Electricity Presentation by Gordon Howell after lunch
- Ensemble Practice, 11:30 am, Music Room

THROUGH THE WEEK:

Monday, January 16

- Book Club, 1:00 pm, Small Hall

Tuesday, January 17

- Tuesday Connection (Women's Group), 9:15 am, Small Hall
- Food Bank, 5:30 pm, Foyer
- Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, Small Hall

Thursday, January 19

- Adult Choir, 7:15 pm, Large Hall

Saturday, January 20

- Silvertones Rehearsal, 10:00 am, Music Room

Sunday, January 21

- Spiritual Gathering, Learning Circles, and Baby Care, 10:00 am
Theme: *Path of Wisdom: Breath*
- FMSR Coordinator's Meeting, 11:30 am, Lounge

Make Tax Time Pay

We will again be offering a free tax preparation service for low income families during the months of March and April. We need volunteers to prepare taxes, act as greeters, give information on benefit programs they may qualify for and arrange appointments. Training will be available in the first part of February. If you would like to volunteer for any of these positions, please call the church office.

Mission and Service Fund Update

The Mission and Service Fund is the central fund for the United Church of Canada. All United Church programs and partnerships nationally and internationally depend on givings to M&S. The annual budget is a little over \$31,000,000. However, donations and congregational remittances to the end of December, 2011, were well below that objective. Anyone who is able is encouraged to make a special gift directly to M&S. This can be done through the website www.united-church.ca (go to quick links and click on "Donate"), by telephone, 1-800-465-3771, or by mail to United Church of Canada Philanthropy Unit, 3250 Bloor Street West, Suite 300, Toronto, M8X 2Y4.

Community Pictures on the Web

Southminster-Steinhauer United Church has been submitting pictures from church functions to the *Observer In-Contact Blog*. Pictures from our events therefore have been getting wider exposure via the Internet. In order to have our pictures on this blog, permission is needed from anyone who is in the pictures. If you DO NOT wish your picture to be submitted to the blog, please provide your name to the Church Office.

Appreciation Luncheon for Set-Up Teams February 5, 11:30 am, Large Hall

There will be an appreciation luncheon on February 5 following our spiritual gathering for all involved in our weekly set-up teams. All set-up teams please plan to attend.

Seniors' Luncheon This Sunday January 15, 11:30 am, Large Hall

All seniors are invited to share food and fellowship. Prepared lunch. Cost is \$5 per person. All are welcome to attend. There will be a special presentation by Gordon Howell on "Solar Electricity." (Please see following box for more information.)

Solar Electricity for Our Church?

Solar electricity deserves our consideration. The price of grid electricity has shot up and the cost of solar installations has come down. Is our church building able to accommodate a solar-electric system on it? Are we ready to have a solar-electric system on our church? What would it look like? What might it cost? What would it mean to have one? How much would it save on our electricity bills and our environmental footprint? What message would we give to be the 1st church in Edmonton, and the 2nd in greater Edmonton to have a solar-electric system? The Earth Charter Committee has asked **Gordon Howell**, an engineer and member of the Solar Society of Alberta, to talk with us about these issues after the Seniors' lunch on January 15. Please plan to attend this informative presentation.

Youth News

Next Youth Café will take place during our gathering on Sunday, January 22, at 10:00 am. Youth will continue watching and discussing the movie *Invictus*, the life and influences of Nelson Mandela and the themes of justice and inspiration.

Children's Circle Group Small-Group Leaders

Much gratitude to the many volunteers who have helped with small group leadership. If you would like to be part of our children's program (preschool-grade 6) as a small group leader in one month commitments March, April or May, please speak to Chris.

Second Sunday Brunch

Second Sunday Brunch will take place on January 29 as part of the celebration of the 13th Anniversary of SMSUC becoming an affirming ministry.

Exploring Our Faith

This is an opportunity for those who are considering formalizing their relationship with the congregation in membership. We will gather for three sessions to explore some of our understandings of the foundation and practice of the faith we share and the story of the United Church of Canada. Whether you are transferring your membership from another congregation, considering membership here or just curious, you are welcome to join us. Please sign the sheet in the foyer and indicate which of the available time slots DO NOT work for you. We look forward to exploring our faith together.

Church Office Hours

The church office will be open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm this week. The office will be open at other times, but please call before you come to make sure the office is staffed.

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.

On the 2nd Sunday of the month, a special opportunity for fellowship is offered, referred to as the **"Second Sunday Brunch."** All are welcome. For more information, please call the church office at (780) 435-2028.

Outreach Needs

There are families in need of boys' boots and shoes sized 13 to 3, boys' winter clothes sized 7-10, and girls' winter clothes, size 3. Winter coats, mitts, and hats for girls ages 1-3 are also needed.

Update ~ Operation Friendship Christmas Luncheon Created Lots of Christmas Cheer!

Thank you to so many in our congregation who helped make our December 16 Christmas Luncheon in the inner city a special celebration. About 200 seniors came as our guests! Thank you to those who helped to prepare and serve our 19 casseroles, to those who brought the may oranges and varieties of pickles, and to those who gave money for dessert. A sincere thank you to the Youth Emergency Shelter for phoning to offer us some of their delicious cakes. We left Operation Friendship well stocked with extra food for the Christmas season. Thanks also to Sandra Lockhart who volunteered to lead the gathering in singing Christmas carols. We sang joyfully and all looked enthusiastic and bright in the red and green colours of the season. Many seniors expressed their gratitude! It was a bonding time for all!

Outside Bookings at Southminster-Steinhauer

Monday, January 16

➤ Tai Chi Society, Beginners Class, 7:00 pm, Large Hall

Friday, January 20

➤ AA Meeting, 8:00 pm, Small Hall

Winter Is Coming!

Interested in a Winter Get-Away?

There is still room on the Rostad Tour to Costa Rica, February 21-March 7. Contact the church office.

No Longer Receiving the *Morning Messenger*?

If you were receiving an email version of the *Morning Messenger* which has somehow mysteriously stopped arriving, please contact the church office to get your name back on the list. We apologize for some technical difficulties with our listserve.

Missed a Reflection? Want to Hear One Again?

Visit our website www.smsuc.com and click on 'Sunday Spiritual Gatherings,' then on 'Reflections.' You can also find the *Morning Messenger* on our website.

Taoist Tai Chi Society Classes at SMSUC

Southminster-Steinhauer is a new southside site for the Taoist Tai Chi Society's classes. A Beginners Class started Monday, January 9, 7:00-9:00 pm. Registration is \$20. Monthly Society dues are \$45 for adults and \$30 for seniors. For more information, see the website: western.canada.taoist.org.

WEBINAR: Continuing Education Opportunity

"Emerging Church: A Model for Change & a Map for Renewal"

Four Evenings with Bruce Sanguin

January 31, February 7, 14, 21

Tuesdays, 8:00-9:30 pm (EST)

All you need is a computer with an internet connection and a telephone. Cost: \$80 per person or \$200 or a group of 3 or more from the same congregation. For more information, please see www.united-in-learning.com/sanguin.

Celebrate Black History Month with this WEBINAR

"Sankofa: The Histories and Heritages of Black People in the United Church of Canada"

Four Evenings with Adele Halliday

February 6, 13, 20, 27

Mondays, 8:00-9:30 (EST)

Cost: Free! Sign up as individuals or in groups. For more information, please see www.united-in-learning.com/blackhistory.

Southminster-Steinhauer Food Bank

Sign-up sheets are available in the foyer to indicate your commitment to help with the Food Bank. Thank you for your support. For more information, call the church office (780-435-2028). **Please donate your clean egg cartons and plastic grocery bags. These can be left at the church with the Food Bank boxes.**

Annual Reports Due January 27

A reminder to all committees that annual reports are due on Friday, January 27. Please email reports to info@smsuc.com.

Watch for Start Up of New Movie Club in January!

Details for the first meeting of our new "Movie Club" will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

New Year's Resolutions?

Join Our SMSUC Yoga Class! Drop-Ins Welcome!

Yoga class was off to a great start with 22 attendees! Join us on Wednesday evenings, January 11-February 29, at 7:00 pm in the Lower Level Hall. Only \$5 per class or pay what you can!

Do You Love to Sing?

If one of your new year's resolutions is to get involved, Thursday evenings might be the place for you to plug in! Join the adult choir and meet new friends. If you are interested, please email Pam (pjpatten@shaw.ca).

Our seniors' choir, *The Silvertones*, might be the place for you too. New members are always welcome. Rehearsals begin at 10:00 am on January 21, February 4 and 18, Music Room, Lower Level.

You Can Do Something to End Hunger

NAIT recently joined a SIFE Hunger Project, *Let's Can Hunger*, and created this impactful *Hand Over Hunger* video to raise awareness and spur individuals to take small actions.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tIrFZywT6QI&feature=share>

Opportunities for Young Adults at Naramata Centre

Your Voice, Your Power, Your Gifts: Young Adult Leadership Program runs from February 5-25. Please apply by January 18. Summer Staff applications are now available online. Applications are due February 17. For more information about either of these opportunities, please visit www.naramatacentre.net.

No Scented Products Please



In order to honour our commitment to inclusivity and to provide a safe environment for all, the Board is requesting that we refrain from the use of scented products to create a scent-free space for all of us to gather safely at the church.

Hearing Enhancement Devices Available



If a hearing enhancement device would be helpful to you, please request one from the sound technician before the service begins. These devices amplify the sound that is coming through our microphones.

Large Print Orders of Service

The order of service is available every week in large print. Please see an usher for a copy.