

November's Service Theme: Meaning

How do we live a meaningful Life? It's a deep and challenging question to pose. The question touches the very foundation of our lives: why we get up in the morning and whether or not we have the ability, the freedom, to make choices that shape our lives thereby creating a sense and purpose to our existence. You are invited to reflect this month on what do you give meaning to and how do you live a life of meaning and purpose?

First Nations and Pipelines

Karl Perrin and Holly Artzen
Europeans colonized this land. Elsewhere (e.g. India, Kenya) the colonizers vacated. But not here. As First Nations claim rights, and Canada says it supports their "free, prior, and informed consent" before corporate colonization is permitted, we must ask, "How did we get here?" and perhaps, "Are we colonizers, colonized, or both?"

Karl Perrin (born 1945) was raised in the First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Detroit. That church and its youth group launched him into the Civil Rights Movement and the Peace Corps. Landing in Vancouver in 1970 he was delighted to find a whole city that seemed kinda' Unitarian. Eventu-

ally he settled down in the Unitarian Church of Vancouver where he chaired the Environment Committee for 17 years. In Nov. 2014 he was arrested for crossing a police line, protesting Kinder Morgan TMX workers drilling in Burnaby Mountain.

Holly Arntzen is a singer/songwriter producer who has dedicated her musical life to nature and building common ground in communities for a green and peaceful future. She is a co-founder of the Artist Response Team (ART), a production house that specializes in music, ecology, education, entertainment and action. ART produces Voices of Nature, school music programs and concerts that feature giant throngs of children singing out for the Earth. Together with Kevin Wright she heads up The Wilds Band.

Remembering Risks Taken

Rev. Debra Thorne

In 1939, Waitstill and Martha Sharp, a Unitarian minister and his wife, agreed to live their principles by leaving their children behind with their congregation in Massachusetts and setting out to the front lines of World War II, to help save the lives of political dissidents and Jewish refugees. This is a remarkable story of a Unitarian couple's courageous work to rescue hundreds of people endangered by the Nazi occupation of Europe.

God Has No Religion
Rev. Debra Thorne
When we ask ultimate questions we get open ended answers.

Continued on page 2







Minister's Message



Rev. Debra Thorne

That is weighing on you? What gives you hope? Like many of you, I am feeling the deluge of challenging social, political and environmental events. If it were just one thing—one storm, one fire, one senseless death, one misunderstanding, one system of oppression, one unenlightened social policy, one thoughtless comment, or one insatiable greedy person—life would feel manageable. It seems like every day, concerning news reports are popping open and lighting up on our phones, tablets and televisions. It has become near impossible to avoid conversations and images of great suffering.

It raises the question, 'What is happening in the world?' and creates a feeling that we are powerless to stop or control the chaos around us. This is what is weighing on me. What is weighing on you?

In response to the onslaught of fear and pain what tools do we have to respond? I would respond in three ways. The first priority is our own selves—our caring compassionate hearts, that are pulled and stretched and eventually depleted, need to be comforted and rested. We cannot stay open hearted and in pain for great lengths of time without eventually damaging our health. So, I suggest a personal practice of rest: turning off media, going for a walk in nature, reading

an uplifting book, snuggling with a loved one (two-legged or fourlegged), sharing your thoughts in conversation with someone you trust. I suggest you are proactive in this self-compassion.

Secondly, I suggest you do one thing a day that you think makes this a better world, a world that you want to live in. Last month our theme was generosity and I heard many good ideas of generous, kind and compassionate actions that anyone could do. Smiling at a stranger. Being generous with one's attention, one's time. Making a commitment to walk lightly on the earth. Each choice we make reminds us that we have some power to influence our world.

Lastly, what gives you hope? I am moved by the courage of friends who do not walk away from difficult conversations. It gives me hope to hear how each of you are taking time to hear and understand each other in one of the small groups at Beacon. It gives me hope when 30 Beaconites turn up to learn about the painful and shameful history of First Nations and European Settlers, and then to commit to the further work of reconciliation. It gives me hope to be part of a movement that is thoughtful and caring, covenantal and forgiving.

May there be many conversations in the days to come about what is weighing on us and what gives us hope.

With warm compassion for all of us,

-Rev. Debra Thorne

November Services (Cont'd)

Being naturally curious, human beings continue to want to know the meaning of everything, which has led to an explosion of scientific disciplines like astrophysics and molecular biology. We know so much and so little. How has the evolution of scientific knowledge impacted the meaning of God? How has religion responded to the need to evolve? Choir sings.

NOV 26

The Reason You Walk

Vrindy Spencer, Judith McLean, and Al Sather

On November 26th three Beacon speakers, Vrindy Spencer, Judith McLean, and Al Sather, will use the title of Wab Kinew's book *The Reason You Walk*, to explore what is important in their lives, what gets them up in the morning, and what keeps them going.

• The choir sings.



Call for interest in Lay Chaplaincy

To be present at the most transformative moments of a person's life; to help people create ceremonies to appropriately mark significant changes in their histories; to give families a framework for grieving, or welcoming a transition, or blessing a new home these are the opportunities of Lay Chaplaincy. The Canadian Unitarian Council has a fine program for vetting and training and helping members become and be lay chaplains. If this is something that calls to you or that you may consider, please have a conversation with Rev. Debra Thorne or Beacon's serving Lay Chaplain Marilyn Meden. We anticipate a start in the Spring of 2018.

Board Bitz

ctober was a very busy month. We started our eightsession Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Reflection Guide and as part of this program Beacon hosted the KAIROS Blanket Exercise on October 15th. It was attended by about 30 people with Rev. Meg Roberts and Tyler Vittie as facilitators and Métis Elder Aline LaFlamme as witness and leader of healing circle. This participatory workshop showed us how the colonization of the land we now know as British Columbia and Canada has impacted the people who lived here long before settlers arrived. It was both enlightening and very moving.

October was also Pledge Drive, with the last three services dedicated to pledging and supporting our Beacon community. The theme was Smooth Sailing for 2018. Beacon is completely self funded, so if you have not yet made your pledge, please consider giving generously to our remarkable community. Our treasurer, Carol Woodworth, along with Susan Tarras will now be finalizing the 2018 budget to bring to the congregation on December 3rd.

Also in October, the board started reviewing the Beacon constitution and bylaws to make sure that they are in line with the new BC Societies Act. Audrey Taylor, John Hagen and Reverend Debra have been working hard on this for over a year and have finally

brought their recommendations to the board. This work will be ongoing for the next few months as there is a lot to cover. In 2018, after all this work has been competed, the board will be bringing it to the congregation for final approval.

The new month starts out with a workshop for board members on November 4th at Carol Woodworth's home, where we will be bringing ideas on how we can become more effective board members. Some of us have been doing this for years while others are very new to being on a board. It should be very interesting for all involved.

Also, an account has been set up, so Settlement 2 is now able to accept donations to bring more members of the Al Rbaai family to Canada. To start off the fundraising there will be a Craft Fair and Bake Sale in the basement of Sapperton Hall from 12 pm to 2 pm on Sunday, November 26th. They are looking for donations of baking and crafts and will also accept selected used items. Please talk to Peggy Lunderville.

As always, many thanks to the dedicated volunteers who keep our community running smoothly. From the Music Committee, who are working hard at finding a new Choir Director, to the people that make our coffee hour happen. From the people who help set things up before the





David Kristjanson

Donna Hamilton

service and make the hall beautiful, to those who stack chairs and put things away after the service. We couldn't do it without you.

> — David Kristjanson and Donna Hamilton, Co-Presidents



OUR VISION

CONNECT

With Compassion & Respect

INSPIRE

Learning & Spiritual Growth

TRANSFORM

Through Joy & Justice

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to celebrate the worth and dignity of all people and to live in conscious relationship with the earth.

For inspiration, we draw on the world's great scientists, artists, humanists and theologians, as well as on our personal experiences.

So we are inspired to create greater equality, greater justice and greater hope for our world.



www.beaconunitarian.org info@beaconunitarian.org

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Lay Chaplain:

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Choir Director:

choirdirector@beaconunitarian.org

Board Executive:

Co-Presidents: David Kristjanson and Donna Hamilton; Treasurer: Carol Woodworth; Secretary: Gail Thomson; Members at Large: Helen McVey, John Hagen, Rob Warner, Dan Theal, Janet Pivnick, Michael Scales

Connections & Membership:

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Deadline for the December issue of *The Beacon*: November 15, 2017

Let's Connect!

New Directory with a New Look

The big news this month is the arrival of the new Beacon Directory. The Connections Team, in particular Phil Campbell and Jean Donaldson, have put in many hours updating the listings and creating a new data base that will be much easier to keep up-to-date. The new format is compatible with the new data base and thus the "new look". We hope you are pleased with this latest edition and would appreciate any comments you have. Contact Jean Donaldson donaldsj@ telus.net or Joan Morris joanmorris@ telus.net with your feedback.

New to Beacon

A big welcome to the visitors who have come along to a recent Sunday service. Please consider attending the Getting to Know U gathering later this month. This is a wonderful opportunity for those of you new to the church to meet with our minister, Rev. Debra and a few Beacon

members. We take some time to get to know each other better and learn a bit about Unitarian and Beacon history. The Connections team is planning a Getting To Know U gathering November 17th at 7 pm. We will meet at Helen McVey's home in New westminster. Please contact Rev. Debra (minister@beaconunitarian.org) if you would like to come along.

Early in December we will have a new member joining ceremony. Stay posted to hear more about our new members to be.

Circle Dinners

Our next Circle Dinner will be held Saturday, November 18th. This is a super way to meet others in a casual, social setting where groups of 6–8 people meet in Beacon homes (up to 5 or 6 homes). You will probably get to know someone you haven't known well before and enjoy a scrumptious meal produced by all those attending. Here is a quote from a recent dinner:



"Our circle dinner—delicious food as well as thoughtful conversation. We enjoyed sharing the great tastes, our stories and our opinions on a variety of topics. Thanks everyone."

If you have attended a dinner before, you will receive an email invitation. You sign up for a dinner by responding to that email. If you haven't received an invitation, please email Donna Hamilton (donna-h@ telus.net) or call 604-944-3113. You will be sent details of your dinner, by your host, about 10 days before the dinner. If you would like to host this time, please let Donna know!

—Your Beacon Connections Team Phil Campbell, Jean Donaldson, Joyce Gudaitis, Joan Morris, Susan Tarras

Getting the word out...

s we progress further into our church year, I want to remind everyone about the process for getting your announcements out into the community.

There are four ways to get information into the Beacon community.

1. Beacon Newsletter

Articles, events, happenings need to be received by Laura Redmond on the 15th of the month for inclusion in the following month's newsletter.

2. Beacon This Week

Announcements can be emailed to Debra (minister@beaconunitarian.org) by Tuesday evening for

putting in Beacon This Week which is emailed out every Wednesday morning.

3. Order of Service

Announcements for Beacon Groups (i.e. Lunch Bunch, Humanist Group, Book Club) their meeting times and contact information can be sent to Debra by Thursday evening for inclusion in the Order of Service.

4. Announcements Sunday Morning Announcements not already in any of the above, or that have changed some necessary piece of information, or a timely important reminder for Beacon events, groups, and happenings are sent to Debra by Saturday morning. They need to be not more than three lines. Last minute changes can be brought to the church and written on the Announcement sheet at the Welcoming Table at the front entrance. This will be collected by the designated Board Member and read at the beginning of the Worship Service.

The Board member may edit the announcement if it is too long, or not Beacon related.

Thank you for helping to keep the information flowing!

—Rev. Debra, minister@beaconunitarian.org

Religious Explorations



Ashley Cole

ello Beacon community and welcome to November! What success we had in October! Thanks again to our volunteer teacher Amber for all her help and for Jane Shoemaker who led us in a presentation of her experience in Oaxaca, Mexico during the Day of the Dead festivities. Jane's presentation represents

the first 'Spirit Jam' workshop in which we are inviting folks who may not traditionally volunteer in RE (Sunday school), to share their skills, talents and passions with the children and youth at Beacon. It is only a one time commitment and it's a chance for folks of all ages to get to know each other better while learning! These 'jam' sessions can be anything: cooking, gardening, card decorating, dancing etc. Whatever you have to share we are willing to learn! Please feel free to contact me if you are interested, or have any questions!

—Ashley Cole, Director of Religious Explorations sundayschool@beaconunitarian.org

CHALICE CHOIR ADVENT CONCERT: Sun. Dec. 3, 7:30 pm

Please join us for our annual Advent concert taking place at the Unitarian Church of Vancouver (Oak & 49th). This year, our concert is a tribute to St. Cecilia, the patron saint of music, who symbolizes the central role of music in our lives.

The concert will feature Gounod's St. Cecilia Mass. And of course, we will have other treats for you: seasonal offerings and a singalong, followed by a reception in Hewett Centre.





he Beacon Religious Exploration (RE) program is taking orders for the 2018 issue of The gift the Multifaith calendar. The that gives Multifaith Calendar offers twice... insight into the world's Order by major faiths—a window Dec. 3rd that gives not only accurate information on each of the major holidays and festivals, but detailed historical information of these faiths and their relationship in time.

Beautiful and varied artwork, on the theme of "The Power of Inspiration", illumines each month.

Calendars sell for **\$15.95**, with \$6/calendar going towards the RE social justice project. To order, please speak to, or email Laura Redmond (lauraredmond2@telus.net) by December 3th. Pick up your calendar on either Sunday, Dec. 10 or 17.

Makes a beautiful Christmas gift.

Beacon Programs

We invite you to explore these great ways to connect to the Beacon community and yourself!

Soul Matters Groups delve into the monthly sermon themes. Part personal sharing, part spiritual deepening, the groups meet monthly either at 1 pm on the 3rd Wednesday, or 7 pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Email minister@beaconunitarian.org for more information.

The Humanist Discussion Group

meets the last Sunday of the month at *The Astoria Retirement Home* (2245 Kelly Avenue, Port Coquitlam) to discuss a wide range of current topics. See the sidebar below for the November topic and time.

Join the Beacon Choir for musical fun and skill development. Rehearsals are every Tuesday at 7:30 pm at Miller Park School in Coquitlam. Contact choirdirector@beaconunitarian.org.

Lunch Bunch meets every Thursday at noon, year-round. Bring your own lunch and share in lively and topical conversation. Contact John Hagen 604-521-1335.

Book Club meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7 pm. For meeting location details contact John Hagen, ajhagen@telus.net.

Upcoming Books:

November: *The Sympathizer* by Viet Thanh Nguyen. This won 6 awards including the Pulitzer Prize.

December: A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles

Attend a Circle Dinner and connect with other Beaconites in a relaxed setting. For more information contact Donna Hamilton (donna-h@telus. net) or Joan Morris (joanmorris@telus.net). The next dinner will be Saturday, November 18th.

Attend a 'Getting to Know U'

session to meet other newcomers and deepen your knowledge of how Beacon functions and what Unitarianism is. Please contact Rev. Debra (minister@beaconunitarian.org) if you are interested in attending the next meeting. See the Let's Connect! article on page 7 for more information.

Youth Group: The Beacon Youth Group is reforming. If you would like information contact Ashley Cole downstairs most Sundays.

Humanist Group: Sunday, November 26, 7 pm

Claiming Our Intergenerational Place at the Fire – The Role of the Elder – as Sage



Art by Josephine Harrison

Let us look at the wisdom of inviting our young people—children, adolescents, and young adults—back into the circle to share the wisdom of our lives well-lived, and

learn of their lives, challenged by navigating a future we never dreamed of. Together, we could discover what it is that makes us come alive; what calls us to faith and hope for a brave, new world?

Joy Silver and North Shore Unitarian friend Dr. Maurice Gibbons will describe anthropologist, Margaret Mead's three cultural paradigms in terms of their teaching/learning relationships between the young and the old, and lead us in discussion.

Resources:

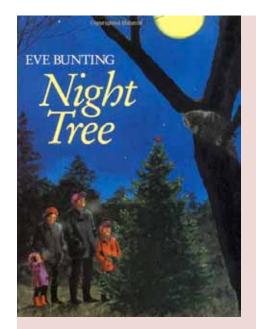
- https://glennbergerblog.wordpress.com/2009/10/21/abook-review-the-making-of-an-elder-culture-by-theodore
- Claiming Your Place at the Fire, RichardJ. Leider and David A. Shapiro, (2004)
- Evolutionary Parenting by David Marshak (2016)
- Culture and Commitment by Margaret Mead

Beacon Writers' Group

NEW DAY AND TIME FOR NOVEMBER: Thursday, Nov. 23 and 7 pm

"Writing itself can serve as spiritual practice, both playful and prayerful". (Jonathan Callard) If you are drawn to writing as a way to explore the questions that move within you, the moments that fill you with awe, or the circumstances that lead you to contemplation, consider joining the Beacon Writers Group. It doesn't matter what genre you prefer, or even if you consider yourself a writer at all. We simply use writing as a tool to go within, focusing on Beacon's theme of the month, to explore topics of meaning and inspiration. We then share the thoughts that arise through the writing practice. All welcome. **Please note:** We are working to find a meeting time that works with the Beacon calendar and people's schedules. In November, please join us Thursday, November 23, 7:00 p.m.at Janet's home. If you are interested in the writers' group but this time doesn't work for you, please let us know. Contact Janet Pivnick at jpivnick@gmail.com for more information.

Upcoming Events





Night Tree Party & Advent Wreath Social

Date: Saturday, December 2, 2017

Time: 5:30-8:00 pm

Place: Home of Peggy Lunderville (Close to Gaglardi exit on Hwy. 1)

Phone: 604-522-3001

Bring: A contribution of food for the potluck dinner. Warm clothing and a flashlight for decorating an outdoor tree.

Who: All welcome, all ages.

RSVP: Peggy Lunderville, 604-522-3001 or prlunder@gmail.com. If you forget to RSVP, please come anyhow!

Christmas gifts for our feathered and furry friends

"Night Tree" is a story by Eve Bunting that tells of a family's annual Christmas tradition of making edible ornaments for neighbourhood wildlife, and using them to decorate a tree in the forest. At our party, you can string cranberries and popcorn on thread, or add peanut butter and seeds to pinecones. After, we'll go outside and hang our ornaments on a tree and sing carols in the moonlight.

Advent Wreath

Join us in making an advent wreath out of cedar boughs and candles. The advent wreath becomes an important part of the Sunday morning services in December. We may sing a few carols. Please plan on joining us for this special celebration!

Soup Lunches: Oct. 29 & Nov.12

Soup lunches take place after the Sunday service in the downstairs hall. Please join us.



The Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch is an informal weekly gathering of people who like friendly conversation along with their lunch. Meeting every Thursday at noon, participants bring a brown-bag lunch and the host provides tea. If your work schedule allows it, drop in! New people are always encouraged. The host for the week is either in the Sunday order of service or announced at the end of the service.



Recent Events Photo Gallery

The KAIROS Blanket Exercise Workshop





On October 14th, over thirty Beaconites and friends attended the KAI-ROS Blanket Exer-

cise workshop, an interactive learning experience that covers over 500 years of Indigenous Rights history in a one and a half hour participatory workshop.

Blanket Exercise participants take on the roles of Indigenous peoples in Canada. Standing on blankets that represent the land, they walk through pre-contact, treaty-making, colonization and resistance stages of Indigenous history.

Our grateful thanks to Métis Elder Aline LaFlamme, Tyler Vittie and Rev. Meg Roberts for leading this workshop.

The Nelson Unitarian Inaugural Membership Ceremony



This picture shows the 'Laying on of Hands' in the Membership Ceremony, when the new members and friends of NUSC were blessed by all present.

n October 22, The Nelson Unitarian Spiritual Centre held it's inaugural membership ceremony. Beacon has been mentoring the development of this new Unitarian congregation for over a year. Rev. Debra was present at the ceremony to add her blessing to this newest member of the Canadian Unitarian Council. Welcome!



Here you see from left to right: Anne Farrell-Webb (NUSC President), Michael Dailly (Secretary and Nelson City Councillor), Rev. Debra Thorne, Joan Carolyn (CUC Regional Development Staff), and Milton Orris (CUC Board Member).

News from the Canadian Unitarian Council

Tips for intentionally Inclusive Congregations: Part 1

Talk With Someone You Don't Know During Coffee Hour

It is tempting to talk to those you already know during coffee hour, but each member of a congregation can be encouraged to welcome and engage with people they don't know.

Make a Point of Learning Something of a Visitor's Story

Rather than worry about 'selling' your congregation, consider this an opportunity to make a connection with someone you don't know.

Remember That Just Because You Don't Know Someone – They Aren't Necessarily New

In all but the smallest congregations, it is possible for us to not know when someone is new and when they are not. Assuming someone you don't know, but who may have been coming for a while, is new, can be interpreted as, "I don't think you are important enough to notice".

Consider Yourself an Incognito Greeter

Even if you aren't in the official greeter role, please consider yourself one of the stealth greeters, taking the time and making the effort to say hello to people you don't know, offer hymn books to someone who seems to be missing one, etc. The hospitality shown by people other than greeters IS noticed.

Be a Pew Buddy

Before you rush to your usual seat, have a look around the room. Is there anyone there that seems new, or who has a visitor's name tag on. Why not sit beside them and make a point of saying hello, of welcoming them, and checking that they have an order of

service and hymn books. Knowing that someone can help them navigate the experience is important to visitors.

Ask Someone to Join In

If you are thinking of joining an adult program or attending a congregational meal, why not make a point of inviting someone who you don't know well, or someone who you know is new, to join along with you? Having a buddy to attend activities with can make the experience more enjoyable.

Take Note

Have a look around the congregation when you attend services and activities. Ask yourself, "Is there someone I haven't seen in a while?" Consider sending a quick email or making a phone call to let them know you are missing them and to ask how they are doing. Sometimes people drift and get out of the habit of attending because they don't think anyone notices.

It Takes More Than a Ramp

Many congregations are beginning to think about the barriers to participation that make it difficult for those with disabilities to participate in congregational life. But, if your congregation has installed a ramp and thought they'd done what was needed you may need to think again. Our language, our lighting, our sound systems, our programs can all send the message that 'you are welcome here' or 'this congregation isn't for you'. Which message do you want to send? Our colleagues at the United Church of Canada have material that will help you consider ways to be more accessible. The link to their material is at: accessiblechurch.ca

Take a Seat

Most of us find a 'spot' which feels comfortably familiar, when we attend services. Most of us return to it, week after week. But, before you become too attached to 'your' spot, think about where it is. Is it at the end of a row? If so, guests will have to step past you. Is your 'spot' at the back of the room? If so you are taking up the easy to find spots that guests look for. Consider your how your seating choices affect visitors.

Seen, Heard AND Welcomed

It is common to hear, "I wish we had more young families in the congregation". The idea of providing young adults and their children with a church community is a worthy one and it does, at times, seem elusive. Does your congregation have a childfriendly culture or does it send the unspoken 'no kids here' message. Children that feel welcomed by: child friendly content, activity packs that will allow for some quiet play, adults who take the time to get to know them, smiles and people who are genuinely grateful for the restlessness of children, are more likely to want to come to church, to understand it as something they want to do. In turn, these children are more likely going to grow up as regular attenders. This is a good time of year to ask yourself, "Are we really as welcoming to young families as we tell ourselves we are?" You might find a few ideas to help you here: http://crossleadership.com/isyours-a-kid-friendly-church/

(Excerpted from: http://cuc.ca/congregational-life/tips-for-intentionally-inclusive-congregations/)



Sunday, November 26, 2017 12:00 to 2:00 pm 318 Keary Street, New West

Funds raised will go to the "Settlement 2" fund to bring four additional members of the Al Rbaai family to New Westminster.

We are looking for donations of baking and crafts.
Selected used items also accepted.
Entertainment welcome.

We suggest that crafters donate 15% of sales. Bakers will be reimbursed for their ingredients if requested.

Please contact Peggy Lunderville by Nov. 15th with your sale ideas and items (604-812-5939).

Holiday Photographs

At the sale, Susan Millar and Deepak Sahasrabudhe will be taking pictures for anyone wanting prints, cards, or digital images of themselves and family for Christmas/Holiday distribution. By donation.

