



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Canadian Memorial Church & Centre for Peace

Blessings to All this Holy-Day Season!

December 2011

Dear Friend,

The beauty of an evolutionary perspective is that this emergence of a new humanity, (our friend Barbara Marx Hubbard calls us homo universalis), is just getting underway. Far from ending with the baby Jesus, the promise is always in the process of being realized in, through, and as us. To take a fearless "adventory" is to ask ourselves if we are willing, with Mary, to step up and consciously utter the words that still today have the power to bring about a new order of love and compassion: "Let it be to me according to your word" - according to the promise of a better future that cannot be born without our willing and joyful consent.



[Taking A Fearless Adventory](#) by Bruce Sanguin
[The Advent of Evolutionary Christianity Blog](#)

Congregational Christmas Potluck and Christmas Carol Sing-Along

Sunday, Dec 11, following our Sunday service

Our annual Christmas Congregational potluck luncheon will take place THIS Sunday. Please bring your favourite sandwiches or squares (or other finger food) to the kitchen BEFORE the service. If you are willing to help before or after service, please contact Ruth Wilson, 604-737-8993.

After you've got your fill of yummy delights, come to the sanctuary to enjoy special soloists, mulled Christmas punch and the opportunity to play handbells and sing your favourite Christmas carols.

The afternoon promises to be a very special warm & friendly family event. Invite a guest or two for these wonderful holiday festivities!!

Christmas Services

Join us for these special Christmas services at Canadian Memorial!

Throughout the week heading into Christmas, Canadian Memorial will host a number of wonderful services to fill your heart and your soul this holiday season!



December 18, 10:30am Christmas Pageant Cantata

We are hosting our annual Christmas Pageant Cantata during our Sunday worship service on December 18. Come prepared to open your hearts and voices in reliving the Christmas story through play and amazing music.

Heart and Soul: Nourishment for the whole self

**Wednesday, December 14, 12:00-3:00pm
Great Hall, Centre for Peace**

Come gather at 12 noon with a bag lunch for a social time, after which Susan Du Moulin will offer a spiritual reflection on her life, followed by gentle exercise.

The program, "Christmas Music," begins at 1:30 pm. Linda Denham, Elizabeth Ward, and Dana Luccock will sing solos, duets, and trios, with the piano accompaniment of Jocelyn Pritchard, interspersed with readings. Elizabeth will also lead the group in carol singing, concluding with tea and cookies at 2:30pm.

Please join us for any or all parts of the afternoon. [Susan Du Moulin](#), 604-731-3101 ext 3.

In From the Cold

**Serving the Community this Holiday Season
THIS Friday, December 9th**

Join in serving a meal for our friends at First United Church on Hastings St. and Gore Ave. This month we will be serving a holiday meal of stew and apple pie. We will also give a pair of new socks to everyone who comes to dinner. To do this, we need to collect a minimum of 200 pairs of thick cotton socks in dark colours. Please bring a pair or two to the Centre for Peace before Friday morning, December 9, or with you when you come to serve at First United.

If you would like to come and serve, please arrive at 4:30pm if you'd like to help with set-up and 5:30pm if you are ready to serve food and clean-up. Questions? - contact [Anita Kilberg](#).

December 18, 2:00pm

Blue Christmas Service

in the Fireside Room with Susan DuMoulin

This personal candle-lighting service is intended for those who are hurting at this time of year: through grieving the loss of loved ones, relationships, jobs, health; through being weighed down by the unrealistic expectations of the season; and for those who may be hurting due to depression, injustice, poverty, homelessness, or violence. Please invite anyone who might benefit from this worship experience and the warm, welcoming tea immediately following the service, hosted by Lidja and Susan Cowan. Contact [Susan DuMoulin](#), Minister of Pastoral Care for details, 604-731-3101 ext 3

December 24, 7:00pm

Christmas Eve Family Service

Experience the mystery and magic of Christmas Eve during our beautiful Celebration Service with glorious music by our Chancel and Handbell Choirs and the Peace Center Brass Quartet. There will be a children's program (during the sermon), as well as childcare/nursery-care for all young children.

December 24, 11:00pm

Candlelight & Communion Service

As always, our 11pm service is sure to be a deep and rich experience celebrating the cosmic event of the birth of the Christ in our world. Don't miss this extraordinary service.

December 25, 10:30am Sunday Morning Communion Service

We'll enjoy communion together, and imagine together ways that Canadian Memorial can be the gift that never stops giving to our community and the world. Bring your Christmas imagination!

Service & Caroling with our Elders

Sunday, December 18, 3 pm

South Granville Park Lodge

Meet in the Centre for Peace by 2:30pm

Join Sheelah Megill and Sophia Ducey in sharing our hearts and carols in a time of celebration and service with our elders. We will be hosting a special service for the folks at South Granville Park Lodge, with candle lighting, Christmas readings, and carols. Let us know if you would like to read one of the readings, sing carols and hymns, or light a candle or two. Service will be followed by caroling with the residents.

If you would like to participate in the service and caroling on December 18, please gather in the Centre for Peace by 2:30 pm, and we will walk/drive over together (1645 W. 14th Ave). If you have questions or want to let us know you'll be joining us, please contact [Sophia Ducey](#), 778-316-4780.

Living Your Spiritual Gifts

Commissioning of Gifts

Nine members of the congregation took part in the Living Your spiritual Gifts process this fall and declared their spiritual gifts were commissioned to the ministries they discerned last Sunday, December 4th, 2011. Those



commissioned include Vanessa Evans, Toni Forbes, Aila Karpio, Karen Neufeld, Margit Ostermann, Sheila Smith, Alison Therriault, Linsy Rotar and Gail Storey. (photo)

StreetMeals

Serving the Community this Holiday Season

Saturday, December 17, 9:00am - 12:00 noon and 12:30pm Celebration Luncheon for Scholarship Recipients - In the Centre for Peace

The StreetMeals ministry is collecting toiletries for our annual Christmas gift bags. There will be a box for contributions marked "Streetmeals" in the office. Please drop by your donations by Saturday, December 17th.

AND, please join us at 9am as we assemble the Christmas gift bags for the Family Services Youth Programs, including Directions, Detox, and Safe House. We'll also be preparing sandwiches and chili.

At 12:30pm, there's a special Christmas luncheon in the Fireside room, to celebrate the accomplishments of our scholarship recipients. All are welcome. Sign-up in the office.

Donations to the StreetMeals Scholarship Fund support youth in post-secondary programs enabling them to pursue careers in youth services. For more information contact [Joanne Hausch](#), 604-224-7918.

JNAC Report

& Special Congregational Meeting

Mark Your Calendars!

After 12 intensive weeks of meetings, we on the Joint Needs Assessment Committee have concluded our work and prepared our report, which we'll share first with our ministry personnel and the Board.

Assuming Board approval at its December 15th meeting, you'll find the JNAC Report posted on the CMUC [website](#) and available in the office on Sunday, December 18th.

Special Congregation Meeting Sunday, January 8th after service in the Great Hall

We are planning to have a Special Congregational Meeting to ask for the Membership of CMUC for approval of the Joint Needs Assessment Committee Report. Presbytery rep Rev. David Ewart will chair the congregational meeting. Please take time in the three weeks following posting to review and discuss the Report with anyone you know (or don't know) on the JNA Committee. We're definitely upbeat about what's to come!

Your JNAC reps: Larry Butler, Nicole Bradbury, Colleen Cruickshank, Ann Golinsky, Kellie Lawson, Trevor Malkinson, Edith Matthews, Derek Nanson, Russ Quinn, Manfred Stenzel and Rev. Beth Hayward and Rev. David Ewart, our Vancouver Burrard Presbytery representatives

Stewardship 2012 - Planting the Seedlings of the Future

Pledge Forms and Weekly Offering Envelope Boxes Available Now!

Our hope is that you have received the Stewardship Booklet, letter and pledge form, and have found these materials helpful in prayerfully contemplating your commitment of heart and resources to Canadian Memorial for 2012. If you would like to download these materials to prepare for our pledge dedication on Sunday, December 11, please click on the link below. Copies will also be available on Sunday at the service.

Also, the 2012 weekly offering envelope boxes have been placed in the mailboxes at the back of the sanctuary. If you do not have a mailbox, you can pick up your envelopes in the office. If you have been using envelopes for contributions and no longer need them, please advise the office, so the number can be assigned to someone else.

Stewardship Booklet and Pledge Form

Simplicity Parenting

a local offering by one of our members

Join in a small group on how to integrate the practice of evolutionary Christian spirituality with the work of Simplicity Parenting. We will create space to become our Selves and to let our children do the same.

Free Intro Session: Saturday, Jan 7, 9:45am-12:15pm; followed by 7 sessions, every 3rd Saturday, 9:45am-12:15pm, Jan. 28 - mid June

\$150/person or \$240/couple

Contact [Karen Neufeld](#), Simplicity Parenting Group Leader, for more information, or see the CMUC bulletin on Sunday.

In Christ

Bruce Sanguin
Canadian Memorial Church and Center for Peace
email: bsanguin@telus.net
web: <http://www.canadianmemorial.org>

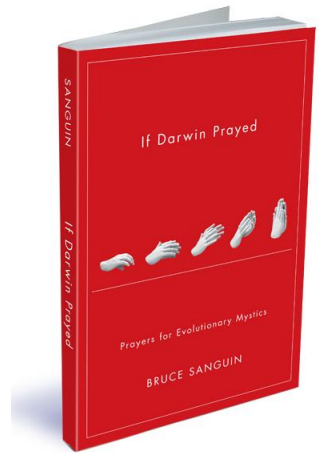
If Darwin Prayed by Bruce Sanguin

Get Your Copy Today!

Bruce's book, "IF DARWIN PRAYED: PRAYERS FOR EVOLUTIONARY MYSTICS" will be available for sale during our coffee time on all Sundays leading up to Christmas. These beautiful books make great holiday gifts! Special CMUC price - \$20.

(Bruce is tithing a portion of the proceeds to In From the Cold and Street Meals)

To Purchase Your Copy Today or sign up for Bruce's IDP blog



The Advent of Evo Christianity

Conversations at the Leading Edge of Faith

This Advent teleseminar series was recorded last year and features Michael Dowd and over 44 leaders at the nexus of science and religion, including Bruce Sanguin and others evolutionaries who exemplify by word and deed that Christianity can be strengthened and enriched by a science-honoring, evolutionary view of the world. You can download the audio files or transcripts [here](#).

There are also new Advent blog posts this year, including "Taking a Fearless Adventory" by Bruce Sanguin and beautiful Evolutionary Christianity calendars. [Check it out!](#)

For Advent Blogs and Evolutionary Calendar

Holiday Blessings!

Have a peaceful and joyous Christmas Season. May you have the full experience of the Christ this blessed season!