



# The Victoria Unitarian

## Services in April

Worship Service and Children's Religious Education at 10:30am. Child-minding available 10am - noon.

**April 1**      **The Art of Disagreement in Beloved Community**    
**Rev. Melora Lynngood**

As you will recall, our preaching theme this church year is "purpose." In the mission statement the congregation wrote and voted to approve in January, we stated that part of our purpose is to live as "a welcoming community, energized by the diversity of beliefs, identity, and experience that each person brings." We strive to do more than sit side by side in silent tolerance; we seek to engage with our differences in a way that enriches each of our experiences. We have an opportunity to practise this as a congregation this month. The Arts and Aesthetics Team is asking the congregation to participate in a decision about which tapestry to hang on the front wall of our sanctuary (see page 15 for more information). People have strong and divergent feelings about each of the two possibilities. In this service, we consider how art affects each of our spirits in different ways, and how we might be energized by this diversity of experience. How we might use this decision-making process as an opportunity to practise living our mission?

**April 8**      **Easter Sunday**   
**Rev. Shana Lynngood**

This morning we'll explore the Christian high Holy Day of Easter through a Unitarian Universalist lens. What message does Jesus' resurrection offer us? What are the places of renewal and new life in our own daily living?



**April 15**      **Jesus the Man: an Interpretation of the New Testament**  
**by theologian Dr. Barbara Thiering.**  
**Presenters: Ruth Chudley, Christine Johnston, Pat Kinrade,**  
**Alastair Mont and Cody Walker**

This service was researched and presented 12 years ago, and lingered so in the memory of several members that we were asked to present it again. Several of the original cast are no longer with us in person so new faces have taken up the challenge to share Dr. Thiering's provocative ideas with the congregation.

**April 22**      **Earth Day**   
**Rev. Shana Lynngood, Louise Cole, Environmental Action Team**

This Sunday we will honor our connection to the Earth, and worry together over its continued degradation. We will focus primarily on Climate Change concerns. We'll have special music from Gary Threet, a jazz guitarist. We hope many of you will make a special effort to carpool this Sunday.

**April 29**      **A Morning of Poetry**   
**Anne Swannell**

Anne will talk a bit about poetry in general, after which members of the congregation will read poems they especially like. To be included as part of this event, please RSVP Anne by April 20 at [anneswannell@shaw.ca](mailto:anneswannell@shaw.ca) or phone her at 250-475-0820 by April 20. The Women=B9s Choir is preparing a special musical accompaniment.

 This sermon is a part of our preaching theme of the year: "Purpose".

 denotes Chalice Choir    denotes Men's Choir    denotes Women's Choir

## Inside this issue...

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The deadline for submissions to the  
**May** issue of the newsletter is **April 17**.

## CELEBRATING AN ACTIVE APRIL

FAYE MOGENSEN

April is a month of Sundays – five that is! But unlike the saying, that implies nothing will happen, we have lots on!

A very special all ages opportunity this month happens on April 1 from 12:30 to 3pm when everyone is invited to learn how nearby SNIDCEL (Tod Inlet) was used as grocery, hardware and drug store in the past. It's also an opportunity to "give back" to our neighbouring First Nations, by planting some native plants there. Please see the article by Sarah Versteegen who is coordinating the event, and RSVP to her ASAP.

Other specials this month include Easter activities, and youth involvement in the Earth Day Ser-

vice. On April 1, yU\*Uth will be in Washington at their Spring "Con" – three of our youth have been key organizers. *They thank all of you for your support at their February Coffee House. Some of the funds raised there will help pay their transportation costs (the rest goes to KIVA and the church.)*

The two OWL groups continue. Their curriculum is very intense and I marvel at the dedication of the facilitators. If you see Leslie O'Hagan, Kent Haden, Kimberly Bramadat, Ryan Kinrade, Laura Porcher or Gerry Brimacombe, please pat them on the back!

The Primary Group (ages 5-7) will carry on exploring "Intangible Gifts," while the Intermediate Group (ages 7-9) are now consider-

ing how ecological principles relate to UU principles. As well, the latter will take a turn in helping *Out of the Rain*, by preparing snacks for distribution to homeless youth. With the milder weather, both groups of children will go outside more often, for games or to offer service. *On a single Sunday last month, a very small group pulled out 400 Daphne plants, an invasive shrub that threatens to take over the understory of forests all over our area, including our own small forest here. They enjoyed themselves, and are keen to do more.*

Our month of Sundays is a weaving of an exploration of our principles with action. I look forward to seeing all of you!

Faye



**Do you have a friend in need ... of a ceremony?**

**A wedding, child dedication or memorial?**

Tell them about FUCV's

**Lay Chaplains**

**It's what we do!**

## Would You Like to be Part of the Poetry Service on April 29?

Anne Swannell is organizing a poetry service for April 29. If you have a favourite poem you'd like to read, please call her at 250-475-0820 or email [anneswannell@shaw.ca](mailto:anneswannell@shaw.ca) before April 15th.

You did it! This past fall, you discerned your purpose as a congregation, and this winter, you created and voted upon a lovely written version of it in the form of our new mission statement:

*Strengthened in spiritual growth, supported in community, energized by diversity, we strive to transform ourselves and our world through compassionate action.*

Now what? Now, we put our mission into action. We already do this in many ways. If you consider the four major pillars of our purpose, you can probably name at least three concrete things our congregation already does in each area toward personal and/or world transformation (Try it! Try naming three concrete things we do in each area.):

1. Spiritual growth
2. Being a welcoming, supportive community
3. Embracing and seeking enrichment through diversity
4. Helping to heal the world

Our mission is supposed to help us focus on our priorities. It is supposed to help us make decisions about investing our resources in the ministries we say matter most to our congregation.

Our mission can also spurn us to go further, grow deeper. After all, we said our goal is transformation. Consider these questions:

- How might you live our mission in a way that deepens and enriches your life—in a way that leads to personal transformation?
- How might we as a congregation live our mission in a way that deepens and enriches Life—in a way that leads to communal transformation?

We are likely to begin engaging in these questions in earnest in the fall. 2012-2013 will be the year for Mission in Action.

How would you like us to go about this? Should we focus on one theme per year? One theme per quarter? Should we involve the whole congregation or just start with church leaders? What about the idea of focusing on the intersection between two areas (instead of one at a time)? (eg., What spiritual practices might give us the hope and strength we need in our social responsibility work? Or, How do we welcome and support and engage with one another across diversity (difference of age, race,

theology, etc.)?) What questions would you ask to get us excited about living our mission in a real day-to-day way, not just holding it up as an ideal that doesn't affect our daily lives? What stories or workshops or conversations or spiritual practices or experiential exercises might enrich our work? Remember the fun we had at the Saturday Mission Craft & Play workshop in November? What fun and inspiring things could we do at a Mission Action workshop next year?

In the next month, I'll be putting together a little team to guide us in this process—the Mission Action Team. Is there anyone you'd like to see on the team? Do you have any ideas for how you'd like the process to go? Let me know.

In the meantime, as a way to engage with Mission in Action right now, consider this: Which of those four ministries listed above calls to you, and what are you doing to answer the call? What would you like to do? In what ways have you been/might you be/transformed?

May we all continue to grow in spirit, live with compassion, and be inspired to serve. Blessed be.



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## Reprise Workshop: What is a “Good Death?”

Saturday, May 26th

TWO Sessions (Choose one): 9:30am - 12:30pm or 1:30 - 4:30pm

We had so many people on the waiting list when we did this workshop in February, that we're offering a reprise. Using readings, music, and meditation, Dr. Betty Donaldson invites people into an interesting and meaningful exploration of the concept of a “good death”. Participants will have an opportunity to share their experiences of being an observer of people who have had such passages; and will have a chance to consider what they might do to prepare for their own.

Suggested donation \$5. Sign up by contacting Margot Lods 250-920-3893 or [mlods@shaw.ca](mailto:mlods@shaw.ca)

As you read this article Liz and I will likely be in London, visiting our daughter Flora, son-in-law Alastair and brand-new grandson Fraser. And while we're there, as we usually do on a Sunday, we'll go to church.

We'll attend Newington Green Unitarian Church, within walking distance of where we stay in North London. Newington Green is not just any Unitarian church.

On Sunday morning we'll join the congregation in one of the oldest Unitarian churches in England and in the oldest non-conformist religious building in London.

While sitting in our pew—built and dedicated in 1708—I've reflected on the fact that, although I'm surrounded by bricks and mortar dating long before the founding of Canada, the congregation thrives in the present while celebrating the past and growing into the future.

Part of its past includes a friend of our church, the Reverend Philip Hewett who is another regular visitor to Newington Green Unitarian. In fact, he and Margaret were married here.

For more than 300 years a stalwart supporter of free thought, Newington Green Unitarian proudly states on its website that it's "a radically-inclusive community of faith." As an example, Newington Green church was the first religious institution in Britain

that voted not to conduct any legally registered marriage ceremonies until the country recognizes the right of every couple to wed. (Britain does not yet recognize equal marriage rights.)



The congregation's stand for equal rights reflects the church's past. Back in the 1700s the village of Newington Green and its Unitarian church attracted lively thinkers known for their dissenting opinions; favouring republicanism over monarchy, supporting the French and American revolutions, and championing, through church members such as Mary Wollstonecraft, the rights of women.

But the church has come close to an end a few times over the centuries as issues that gripped the congregations ebbed and flowed. A little over 10 years ago it had sunk to a desperate level, with a congregation of half a dozen elderly women barely keeping the spark alive.

But things have changed. Now it's one of Britain's fastest growing Unitarian churches. With vital leadership and a strong mission, Newington Green Unitarian has undergone a mighty rebirth. It's a living lesson of how we can rise to new heights with commitment to the community and a mission for the time.

It's a heartening story, since to me Newington Green Unitarian under the leadership of the Reverend Andrew Pakula is in some ways a twin of First Victoria—allowing for a few centuries. Its Sunday service, social outlook and friendly faces are familiar and welcoming to temporarily transplanted Victorians. Except for its old-fashioned boxed pews any of us here would feel right at home.

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## Covenant of Good Relations

**Question:** After the service one Sunday, a friend says to you, 'There are so many new faces here now and I don't know any of them' What can you say that would be helpful?

(see page 8 for answer)

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## UNSUNG HERO

For the 5th year, our church will be hosting the Unsung Heroes Award – a tribute to someone from the larger community who has made a difference. This year it is our honour to recognize Walter Adams. Walter has been a dedicated volunteer at Rainbow Kitchen for the past 7 ½ years. Now located in Esquimalt United Church, Rainbow Kitchen regularly serves about 125 people.



Walter arrives at the Kitchen about 8:30 a.m. each weekday to start cooking and stays until 2 or 3 p.m. The award dinner for 100 guests will be on Friday, April 27th at 6pm in the Church Sanctuary. The tickets are \$50 each (tax receipt is given for \$25) and all proceeds are given to the charity of the honouree's choice. This year Rainbow Kitchen will

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## LORNA ANTHONY

be receiving the cheque of nearly \$5,000. The dinner is funded by an anonymous donor in our congregation with the help of donations of baking and cooking from our members. If you would like to be part of this year's event by baking, cooking or helping to clean up, we would love to hear from you. It is always a fun evening as we host the friends, families and colleagues of the recipient. For more information on this outreach event, please contact Lorna Anthony at 250 592-4831 or [lrAnthony@shaw.ca](mailto:lrAnthony@shaw.ca)

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## CUC CORNER

This is the first of a series of regular communications from your CUC Board member to keep you apprised of what is happening at our national Unitarian organization. Just to remind you, the goal of the Canadian Unitarian Council is to “enhance, nurture and promote Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist religion in Canada”. This is the organization that we support to reach out to all Canadians who are on a spiritual search, by helping to make Unitarian values and thought available to them in all parts of the country.

The CUC Board, comprised of eight elected members from all regions of the country, met at the beginning of March. A major topic at this meeting was to ad-

just the 2012 budget to fit within our financial constraints, and to begin to formulate a sustainable budget for 2013. Staff were present to add their insights to our discussions. We are still working out the details, but we have come up with a plan for both this year and next which should continue to support our high priority work within spending limits. The four priority service areas are to provide:

- resources for religious exploration and spiritual growth,
- resources to nurture leadership,
- resources for social sustainability, and
- resources for multi-generational appeal and relevant life-stage ministries.

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## KRISTINA STEVENS

The Board meeting included discussion of the Spiritual Leadership Symposium, to be held May 18-20 in Ottawa. Those attending this gathering will have an opportunity to define and develop spiritual leadership that lives, out in the world, the values expressed by our seven principles, and to explore how spiritual leadership helps us discern meaning in our lives. For more information, go to the CUC website, [www.cuc.ca](http://www.cuc.ca), and click on ‘events’.

If you have questions about CUC activities, please let me know.

Yours in faith,  
Kristina Stevens.

The consequences of global warming are already with us: loss of Arctic and Antarctic sea ice, severe weather, ocean acidification, droughts, rising sea levels, water shortages, and environmentally-caused migrations in Africa. The projected sources of energy based on current planning show coal as still the leading source in 2035 (See bar graph). This means that warming will reach 4 to 6 degrees Celsius by 2100. Most humans will not survive such changes. Canada is a leading culprit in producing Greenhouse Gases (GHG), one of the highest per capita in the world.

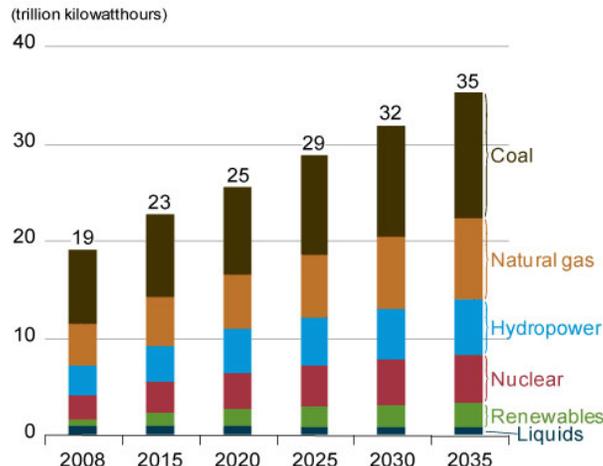
The tar sands and mining are leading culprits, but so are we. In BC 38% of GHG production comes from transportation, more than from any other source. We drive trucks, vans, SUVs, and family cars which produce most of the 38%. We at the First Uni-

tarian Church contribute by driving singly or in pairs to services. While we as Unitarians cannot alone force the shutdown of tar sands, coal plants, nuclear plants, or stop the Northern Enbridge Pipeline and Marine route through BC. We can reduce our contribution of GHG from our autos. Your Environmental Action Team seeks with this SRC Action of the Month, to support car-pooling, bike riding and alternative transportation modes. Join us in the effort.

Also, help us to celebrate the Earth by joining Earth Walk on Saturday, April 21st. Gather at the Legislature under the FUCV Social Responsibility Banner at

11:30am. The walk starts at noon and goes to Centennial Square where there will be food, enter-

Figure 17. World net electricity generation by fuel type, 2008-2035 (trillion kilowatthours)



tainment and information tables. Bob McDonald of CBC Quirks and Quarks and Janet Rodgers will be featured speakers. Let's show our support for the Earth with a big First Unitarian turnout. People will know that we care, it's inspirational and fun too!

## NEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON FIRST NATIONS

## LAURA DOYLE

The Social Responsibility Committee at our church has decided to re-form a sub-committee on First Nations Issues. Laura Doyle has volunteered to chair this committee. Anyone interested should speak with Laura at the SRC display in the foyer after Sunday service or give her a call at

778-426-0300.

Members and Friends interested in First Nations should be aware of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings on the effects of residential schools. These will be taking place locally April 13th and 14th at the Victoria Convention Centre. So far, the testi-

mony given at these hearings has been heartfelt--and important to listen to. Hearings are open to the public. If some of our members would like to attend, in support of our local First Nations neighbours, their support would be appreciated.

### We Care!

Care and Concern Committee for hospital and home visits, or just to talk...

Contacts: Daphne Dunbar at 250-381-7648 • Val Roberts at 250-477-7192

## Car Pooling for Earth Month

Canadians' reliance on the single occupancy vehicle (SOV) as their preferred choice of transportation continues to contribute to global warming. According to Environment Canada, overall transportation represents the largest single source of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions, **accounting for 27% of the total.** To review the causes and effects of Climate Change view the UVic Course at <http://www.youtube.com/PICSClimateInsights>

Carpooling is a simple way for individuals to take part in the climate change challenge while saving money, reducing congestion and conserving energy along the way. It benefits our health by reducing the pollution given off by our fellow motorists and us. On

the Sannich Peninsula, cars are one of the biggest sources of pollution.



"Anyone with a car."

*Commuters living near each other who share a common destination form the simplest and most common "carpool" arrangement. Carpooling is an ideal cost saving arrangement, particularly for those individuals that have limited access to public transit and few transportation options*

*available to them.*

The Environmental Action Team is promoting the use of car pooling by congregation members as one of our ways to help combat the ill effects cars have on our health and environment.

### Actions

1. The Environment Committee will be counting the number of cars in the parking lot on typical Sundays before the action and after to measure our success.

2. **Beginning Sunday, April 8,** anyone driving a car with **three or more people** will have priority parking spaces close to the church designated by signs. (not including handicapped spaces).

3. Car Pooling badges will be passed out at the SRC shelf in the foyer and collected after church. Raffles for prizes will take place each Sunday for car poolers.

4. **We ask everyone to contact their neighbor/acquaintances to try and consolidate driving plans using car pooling.**

5. April Share the Plate monies will go toward the purchase and installation of quality bicycle racks for the church grounds.

6. During Earth Month, we also encourage bikers to ride to church.

Environment Action Team

First Unitarian Church of Victoria  
**Spring Concert**  
Friday, May 4, 7:00pm

Children's Choir

Pick Up Sticks

Women's Choir

Jammers

You?

Youth Choir

Chalice Choir

Men's Choir

Special Guests

Refreshments

Admission by Donation

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# CHALICE LIGHTER FOR APRIL

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## Astrid Firley-Eaton

Astrid Firley-Eaton is familiar to us as a soprano singing in our choir, and she is well-known to many as a long-time member of our congregation. When she joined the church in 1982 there was no choir, but two years later she became one of its founders, recalling that it evolved from a group of music lovers who gathered with Louise Taylor to enjoy sing-songs. (Louise became our choir's first director.) Astrid was also a Board member in those early years.

Since then Astrid has served for many years as Chair of the Music Committee, and choir member Mike Graham speaks for many when he says that "she always sought solutions that worked best, never being swayed or sidelined by issues detracting from the Committee's vision, and with her leadership the choir continued to develop into a friendly supportive group held together with a strong, spiritual glue. She was, and still is, loyal to the Music Committee members, the music director, accompanists and the choir. One of Astrid's wonderful abilities is staying in touch with individuals within the church's musical and wider community, being aware of any difficulties or joys they may be experiencing. Astrid continues in her leadership role by positively supporting Shirley Travis, who assumed the Music Committee chair upon her retirement".

Astrid never received formal vocal training and to this day does not read music, but she did belong to the school choir while growing up near Bremen in Germany. Its director was enormously encouraging, believing that anyone could sing! In that spirit, over some 15 years the Music Committee has organized many workshops, including one on Gospel singing; these are fundraisers which also reach out to other groups such as the Gettin' Higher Choir.

Rumours abound regarding Astrid's culinary expertise and indeed, baking is a beloved hobby. But she insists that many talented bakers in the choir also conspire to produce those delectable confections served after concerts!

Astrid is a professional interior designer, with the Belfry Theatre, Abigail's Hotel and Victoria Surgery featuring examples of her work. In this capacity she has also served our church well, as liaison to the architect of our Sanctuary and in planning renovations of the Lion Hall and its deck. She also assisted the Montessori

School in planning its renovations and in finding good bargains in such items as flooring. And two church families availed themselves of her expertise in the re-invention of their kitchens!

When our Farm House was recently reorganized, Astrid was again asked to help, this time with the reallocation of precious space.

In yet another area Astrid has served us admirably, for she was part of the Ministerial Search Committee that found us our Reverends Melora and Shana. She is now serving on the Ministerial Committee. Says Forrest Smith, who served with her, "...she was fantastic: fully and enthusiastically committed to finding the best ministers for our congregation. Astrid was always eager to help, willingly accepted and delivered on any and all challenges with enthusiasm and excellence."

In view of all this, I was in no way surprised to learn that Astrid's favourite among UU Principles is "Acceptance of one another and encouragement of spiritual growth in our congregations!"

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## Covenant of Good Relations

### Answer to Question on page 4

The E-Weekly has been profiling our newer members each week but also I try to talk to one new person each Sunday. The Covenant of Good Relations suggests that 'I will welcome new members, friends and guests and commit to getting to know people in this religious community.'

# UU RidePartners

## Proposal for an Enhanced Service

Getting to our Unitarian Church on a Sunday can be a challenge if you don't own an automobile, or if you feel awkward about asking for a ride every Sunday. The **Care and Concern Committee** is evaluating a plan to improve service to our seniors and others in need of transportation. There are **three principles** underlying this proposal:

1. First Victoria Unitarian should be equally accessible for everyone who wants to be here, automobile owners and those without autos.
2. Because of its location beyond bus service, the church needs to take responsibility for arranging a reliable ride system. This principle is consistent with commitments made by the Board in the early 1990s when the church moved to its present location.
3. The onus should no longer be on those without automobiles to call on others for help week after week. This process can be embarrassing, even demeaning.

### Proposals for an Enhanced Service

1. We are looking at setting up a robust system that provides rides to church for all those who need them. The proposed **UU RidePartners** program would match drivers and passengers in ongoing partnerships that ensure rides every Sunday, available for riders to accept or decline.
2. We estimate such a system will require about 12-16 dedicated individuals/families, who believe that **“Charity Begins at Home”**, and are prepared to make a long term commitment to assist a fellow UU member get to church on Sunday. In the words of Rev.Melora:

**“This would be a significant and valuable contribution to the well-being of our church, for this act of hospitality is at the heart of our congregational mission- *transforming self and world through compassionate action*. It is this kind of action that makes us the welcoming *beloved community* we long to be.”**

3. We take as our model a number of successful ride sharing relationships already operating in the church. We observe that an enduring connection between driver and passenger leads to mutual understanding, loyalty, and predictable pickup routine. Depending on individual circumstances, a range of individual, team and backup driving arrangements are envisaged.
4. If response to this announcement is supportive, Neighbourhood Groups (NG) will be approached to assist in an initial needs assessment. Then, if warranted, a driver recruitment effort will follow. NG participation will be essential in geographically matching Ride Partners.
5. A **C&C** sub-committee ( Rev. Melora and Ross Beauchamp) met with Gloria Turner to learn from her experience managing the current ride system. Gloria's continuing contributions are much appreciated. At some point in the future, the new and the old will be integrated.

### **YOUR FEEDBACK IS REQUESTED.**

What do you think of these ideas? Do you see yourself participating in the **RidePartners** program? Can a drive sharing tradition take root in this church? Your feedback will be most appreciated. “Ross Beauchamp” [beau77w@yahoo.com](mailto:beau77w@yahoo.com), or phone: 778-433-2829.

The cedar tree has been revered for its spiritual significance for thousands of years all over the world. The familiar aromatic wood and fragrant leaves have been used to purify and consecrate people, their possessions and their space.

Its spiritual properties are supposed to promote peaceful thoughts and help interpret messages from the inner self.

The yellow cedar in British Columbia is not a true cedar but its spirit is considered very ancient and wise by the elders of the Pacific Northwest, saying that all ceremonies must be entered into with a good heart so that we can pray, sing and walk in a sacred

manner, and be helped by the spirits to enter the sacred realm.

Every fourth Sunday, I do the flower arrangement for the front of the Unitarian Sanctuary.



So, every fourth Saturday, I find some cedar trees on Willis Point where I live. When I cut the branches I thank the tree telling it that its leaves will be useful to us. I find a few flowers to add, from a market garden or our own UU garden.

Some people have asked me why I always use cedar and suggested that I share the reason with everyone.

Our Native elders have taught us that, before a person can be healed or heal another, one must be cleansed of any bad feelings,

negative thoughts, bad spirits or negative energy - cleansed both physically and spiritually. This helps the healing to come through in a clear way, without being distorted or sidetracked by negative "stuff" in either the healer or the client.

Native people throughout the world use herbs to accomplish this. One common ceremony is to burn certain herbs, take the smoke in one's hands and rub or brush it over the body. Today this is commonly called "smudging." In Western North America the three plants most frequently used in smudging are sage, cedar, and sweetgrass. Maybe I will use these plants in arrangements in the future.

## Are You New to Our Church? Welcome!!

If you have recently started attending worship and/or events at the First Unitarian Church of Victoria, welcome!! We are so glad you are here! If you would like to know more about our church and our faith tradition, you are invited to attend any or all of these events:

### Orientation

**Date:** Sunday, April 22, 12 noon–1pm

**Location:** Fireside Room.

Whether you just walked in the door or have been coming several months, the orientation will give you basic information about our congregation and ways to make connections in our church community.

***A light lunch and childminding will be provided.***

### Considering Membership

**Date:** Tuesday, May 1, 7:00pm–9:00pm

**Location:** 1651 Barksdale Drive. Call Helen at 250-477-2189 for directions.

A gathering designed to give you the information you need in order to determine whether you would like to officially become a member of our church. Whether you join right away, not yet, or not at all, the evening promises to be informative and enjoyable, as we will be talking about things that matter in a small group setting with warm and interesting people. ***Childminding can be provided upon request.***

To sign up or if you have questions, please contact Rev. Melora at [rev.melora@victoriaunitarian.ca](mailto:rev.melora@victoriaunitarian.ca) or Cell 250-891-6330. We are so glad you have found us and we are looking forward to getting to know you.

## SERVICE AUCTION 2012

**MARCH 30, 2012**  
**SILENT AUCTION— 6:00PM**  
**LIVE AUCTION — 7:00PM**  
**First Unitarian Church of Victoria**

*What's Happening?*



- ⇒ Activities for the Kids
- ⇒ Awesome Silent Auction
- ⇒ Cake Walk
- ⇒ Complimentary Snacks
- ⇒ Cash Bar
- ⇒ Amazing array of services offered by members of our church in support of church ministries! Donors and winning bidders enjoy opportunities to share time and talent with each other!
- ⇒ EVERYBODY WINS!!!

**PAYMENT BY CASH OR CHEQUE**

## Spaghetti Night

Friday, April 13th at 6pm

Everyone is welcome !

Spaghetti Night is a multi generational event. An opportunity to meet new people or catch up with friends over a casual, fun, delicious meal.

Spaghetti is served with a choice of two very yummy tomato sauces, meat or vegetarian, – plus garlic bread.

Dinner is by donation.

Please bring a salad or dessert to share.



To help with clean-up please bring your own plate and dessert bowl.  
A rinsing station will be provided.

## Via Choralis Chamber Choir performing “Seven Ages of Song”

under the direction of Nicholas Fairbank

with accompanist Braden Young

Two performances:

**Saturday, April 21, 7:30pm at**

First Unitarian Church of Victoria, 5575 West Saanich Rd.

**Sunday, April 22, 2:30pm at**

St. Elizabeth's Church, 10030 3rd. Street, Sidney

Featured in the program will be **Edward Elgar's** "From The Bavarian Highlands" and compositions by two young Victoria composers, **Nathan Friedman** and **Rowan Hensley**, winners of the recent choirs composition competition.

Tickets: \$15 regular & \$8 students, available at Tanner's Books, from choir members, and at the door.

**Cadboro Bay.** Just back from Mexico, convenor Val Roberts reports that John will be hosting a birthday dinner for her on Thursday, March 15. It's a busy week, because their NG gathers on Sunday, March 18th at Earle & Lorna Anthony's. We'll look forward to hearing about it in the May newsletter. A small group from the NG is also meeting in March with Chris & Shirley to help with plans for their May wedding. This may be the first NG involved with a wedding in many years. Cadboro Bay will also be our intrepid bakers for the after-church coffee time in April.

**Far Out.** Convenor Barbara Nyland reports, "Our Far Out group last met at the Humphreys' for a potluck on February 25. It was a most congenial evening, with a total of 13, including one visitor who is interested in further involvement in the church. We will meet again in May at the Jordan's."

**Gordon Head.** This group provided the tasty treats at coffee time during March. They have a venue for their May gathering, but are hoping to find a date and place to come together before May.

**Central.** Nine members of this group, including one child, gathered at convenor Linda Nicholson-Brown's home on March 3 for a potluck and a brainstorming session about ideas for gatherings. A hike and a work party were suggested, and, not surprisingly for a group of Unitarians, the idea of discussing a topic generated the most enthusiasm. The group has decided to meet four times a year. This was the winter meeting, and Sandra Jacobsen will host the spring event. Rowena & John hope to plan something outdoors for the summer gathering. In April, Central will be hauling out their soup pots to help the Western NG cook for the Souper Sunday lunch on April 15th.

**James Bay.** This group have their soup pots on for the Souper Sunday lunch they will put on with Royal Oak East on March 18. On Tuesday, March 6th, seven of them gathered for lunch at Ellen Gabelmann's, where the conversation turned to the James Bay campaign against cruise ships and moved on to federal politics. This group plans to meet again for lunch on Tuesday, May 8th, at Christine and Mel Johnston's home.

**Esquimalt.** Convenor Betty Sherwood writes, "Esquimalt Neighbourhood Group met at the party room in Barbara Boyle's condo. Fifteen of us shared a delicious potluck dinner and then planned the next three potlucks which include a lunch and a picnic. Lillie and Stephen invited us to be the refreshment committee for their wedding in August." Wedding bells twice in one year for our NGs! Maybe it's catching.

**Nearby.** Members of this group gathered in the Lion Hall March 7th over refreshments and brainstormed ideas for the kinds of gatherings they want to have. They settled on going to Butchart Gardens together on April 29 for their next event. There are advantages to having friends in high places in your group! Brad and Madelaine Clarke both work at Butchart Gardens and can arrange reduced prices for this excursion.

**Fairfield.** Sunday, April 1, will see the Fairfield group gathering at 6pm in the Garry Oak Room at Fairfield Community Place for a potluck supper and games. Sounds perfect for April Fools' Day!

**Oak Bay.** Karla and Jim are away, so Marya Nijland and Philip Symons organized and hosted a Green Mystery Potluck on Saturday, March 17th. In honour of St. Patrick's Day, guests brought green food and the recipe to share. It was a mystery meal because Marya did not want to know ahead of time what people would be bringing. Guests also brought musical instruments and songbooks, and there were Irish songs in the sing-along. A great time was had by all.

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## AROUND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD cont'd.)

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**Royal Oak East.** Hanny Pannekoek writes, "The Royal Oak East NG, together with the James Bay NG have been busy preparing for the Souper Sunday lunch on March 18. As the convenor and co-ordinator of this event, I am so impressed with the quick and generous response of the members of both groups. It takes a bit of time and effort to get everything in place, but I can honestly say that my task was made so much easier, and indeed pleasant, by the wonderful co-operation I have received.

"We have two new members in our NG, Helga and Naida. Because our potluck gathering was still quite a while away and Naida would be away for that event, I invited them to come and have tea in our home. Our two Care and Concern Contact persons, Maryellen and Elaine, and our convenor's back-up person, Phyllis, were able to join us. It was appreciated by all of us and an enjoyable way to get acquainted."

**Royal Oak West.** Fran Hancock reports that Sandy and Dennis Jaques, newcomers to the Royal Oak West NG, have kindly offered to host a potluck lunch after church on Sunday, March 25th. The Jaques lived in Zambia for three years when their two daughters were young. They are used to having grandchildren around and are described as very "kid friendly". It is wonderful to hear of newcomers to our church being so involved in their neighbourhood group!

**Western.** Susan and John are back from Mexico, so Susan has this group hopping again. They will meet for a potluck on March 17th at Oz Tilson's home and again in April at Mac Elrod's. They will also be tying on their aprons and working with the Central NG to host the Souper Sunday lunch on April 15th.

## April Fools All Ages Opportunity

While First Nations expect tricks from raven or coyote, planting native plants on April Fool's Day near Tod Inlet will keep everyone alert to chicanery from many fronts. Join us for the fun and bring the whole family. When John Elliott was asked to speak at the March 4 service, he was asked if an honorarium was in order. He replied that it would be better for us to give something back to the land. Those who heard him speak will know that the place near Tod Inlet known as SNIDCEL (pronounced sngheet kwith) in the SENCOTEN language is particularly special to the WSANEC people. SNIDCEL means Place of the Blue Grouse.

The time arranged for First Unitarian Church of Victoria members to learn how SNIDCEL was used as grocery, hardware and drug store in the past as well as plant some native plants is April 1 from 12:30 to 3pm. Meet at the yellow service gate located on Wallace Drive just south (toward FUCV) of Benvenuto Ave. If you're going to be late or need access due to a disability, please call in advance to get some directions.

Tod Inlet is part of Gowlland Tod Provincial Park. From the gates, there is about a 15-minute walk into the Park. The planting will be part of ongoing native plant restoration undertaken by SeaChange Marine Conservation Society in coordination with BC Parks. Snacks provided. Dress for the weather and the task.

Please confirm your participation ASAP by contacting church member Sarah Verstegen at The SeaChange Marine Conservation Society telephone is 250-652-1662 or email [sverstegen@shaw.ca](mailto:sverstegen@shaw.ca)

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## USC's Work in Nepal

Bruce Cockburn made a DVD with USC, and Christine Johnston has a copy for anyone interested in viewing it. Gorgeous scenery as those of you who attended the recent Sunday Service would know.

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February 16, February 16, February 18, March 5, March 9, and March 10. Those are the dates of our most recent calls for help from people phoning the church office. Steady traffic. Urgent traffic.

What kind of help? Jennie is one example. Our assessor's report explains:

"Met Jennie yesterday at her apartment, a studio intended for one person; Jennie says she likes it a lot. Her 19-year-old daughter and her daughter's boyfriend, aged 20, sleep in her bed and Jennie sleeps on the chesterfield.

"This couple and their baby have been living in Nanoose Bay...(they) are seeking housing and employment in Victoria and have no resources, so are staying with Jennie. She says they are all

getting along alright after two weeks but now there is no food. She is on a disability pension for dyslexia and foetal alcohol syndrome, and there is no cheque till the end of the month. She had no dish soap, bleach, toilet paper, sugar, tea, coffee, cereal or tinned food and the fridge was bare. She has been to the Mustard Seed and cannot go again this month. Another food bank only allows three visits per year and she has used them. The Disability Resource Centre no longer issues bus tickets so Jennie has to buy them or walk.

"We drove to the Fairway Market and Jennie bought fresh fruit and vegetables, milk, meat, bread, toilet paper and cleaning supplies among other things. She kept thanking me and the church for

letting her get healthy food. She knows what this is as she grew up on Salt Spring Island where her parents had a garden and an apple orchard and her mother and grandmother made wholesome meals and taught her to do the same. The only luxury was Neapolitan ice cream that I insisted she buy. Total bill was \$229.86. Despite her problems, this lady has a positive attitude and derives comfort from her Shaker beliefs and the love she shares with her family."

One of our 80 sponsors covered that bill. That's the church's Lifeline List Project at work. Interested in taking part? Questions or comments? Contact Don Vipond at 250-652-5491.

## Advance Care Planning Information Session

**Presenter: Deanna Hutchings, RN, MN, Clinical Nurse Specialist, End of Life Care**

Advance Care Planning is an important element in End of life Care. But it's not limited to persons at end of life. All persons need to think about Advance Care Planning. It applies to everyone.

Advance care planning allows you to have a say in the health care you will receive if/when you cannot speak for yourself.

This presentation will inform you about Representation Agreements, Advance Directives and health care consent decisions in BC that reflect the changes in legislation that came into force on September 1, 2011. As the Speak Up National Campaign states:

It's about conversations.

It's about decisions.

It's how we care for one another.

Come to learn more about Advance Care Planning on Sunday, April 15 at 12:30pm in the Fireside Room.

Diana M. Smith, M.A., CMC

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ph. 250 595-2538 or 250 595-2880. Skype: dsmith1175

diana@ecosolcan.com web: www.ecosolcan.com



## Contact Changes



### New Addresses

Laura Doyle & Nellie Van Leeuwen  
7180 Hagan Road  
Brentwood Bay, BC V8M 1C2  
778-426-0300  
(same emails)  
Nearby NG

Gita John-Iyam  
7220 East Saanich Road  
Saanichton, BC V8M 1Y4  
(same phone and email)  
Nearby NG

Jackie Bennett  
212 - 225 Menzies Street  
Victoria, BC V8V 2G6  
(same phone and email)  
James Bay NG

### New Phone Number

Alex van Borek is back!  
New phone: 778-425-2500  
Western NG

### New Email

Sandy Emerson  
sew03@shaw.ca  
Central NG

Dee Heston  
dheston@telus.net  
Central NG

## New Members

Suzanne Beauchamp  
5427 Alderley Road  
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Bob Thompson  
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250-658-1484  
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Royal Oak East NG

Glenys Thompson  
370 - 4488 Chatterton Way  
Victoria, BC V8X 5H7  
gethompson@shaw.ca  
250-658-1484  
Royal Oak East NG

## ICUUW Conference in Romania

The second ICUUW conference is planned for this October 4-7 in Marosvasarhely in Transylvania, Romania, near the Partner Church of First Victoria.

The International Convocation of UU Women has an American President (Barbara Beach) who attended our CUC ACM last May in Toronto. Dr Kathy Matsui of Japan and Barbara are speakers but it is the wonderful mix that makes it so exciting. Many European, especially Romanian and Hungarian women, as well as several from US and Japan will attend, and there will be interesting pre and post tours including Budapest and Vienna.

The theme is "Keeping your balance in a changing world".  
[www.uupcc.org/trips.html](http://www.uupcc.org/trips.html)

Christine Johnston,  
FUCV Partner Church Team

## Choir Notes



April 1: Chalice Choir meets at 10  
April 8: Men's Choir meets at 10  
April 22: Chalice Choir meets at 10  
April 29: Women's Choir meets at 10

## Board Members on Duty for April



April 1	Allan Dakin
April 8	Bob Dobbs
April 15	Mike Graham
April 22	Hugo Suttmoller
April 29	Forrest Smith

## First Unitarian Church of Victoria

5575 West Saanich Road • Victoria BC • V9E 2G1

Phone: 250-744-2665

churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca • www.victoriaunitarian.ca

Office hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00am - noon and 1-4pm • Sunday 9am-1pm (closed during service)

### Co-Ministers

Reverend Melora Lynngood  
Office phone: 250-744-2601  
rev.melora@victoriaunitarian.ca

• Reverend Shana Lynngood  
Office phone: 250-744-2601  
rev.shana@victoriaunitarian.ca

### Minister Emerita

Reverend Jane Bramadat  
250-652-1274

### Lay Chaplains

Fran Pardee 778-440-3098  
Joyce Murphy 250-598-1506  
Liz Graham 250-384-4351  
laychaplains@victoriaunitarian.ca

### Director of Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Children and Youth

Faye Mogensen 250-744-2695  
ccre@victoriaunitarian.ca

### Director of Music

Phil Hallman  
music@victoriaunitarian.ca

### Church Administrator

Karen Uldall-Ekman  
churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca

### Board of Trustees

#### Officers

President	Mike Graham	250-384-4351
Past President	Suellen Guenther	250-727-0454
Vice-President	Hugo Sutmoller	250-385-2299
Treasurer	Bob Dobbs	250-652-5438
Secretary	Jennifer Young	250-598-0020

#### Council Representatives

Administration	vacant	
Congregational Life	Anna Isaacs	250-472-0117
Outreach	Philip Symons	250-592-6484
Property Management	Allan Dakin	250-744-1357
Spiritual Development	Forrest Smith	250-595-2538

## Events Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Location
4/1	8:30am to 1:00pm	Senior OWL	Sunflower Room
	11:30am to 12:30pm	HOW Voting	Lion Hall
	11:30am to 12:15pm	After-Auction Sale	Sanctuary
	12:00pm to 1:30pm	Garden & Grounds Committee	Library
	12:00pm to 2:00pm	Care & Concern Workshop	Fireside Room
4/2	-----		
4/3	-----		
4/4	11:30am to 1:00pm	Staff Meeting	Library
	1:00pm to 2:30pm	Executive Meeting	Library
4/5	7:30pm to 9:30pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
4/6	-----		
4/7	12:45pm to 2:30pm	Meditation	Fireside Room

**Continued on next page...**

## Events Calendar (continued from previous page)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
4/8	11:30am to 12:30pm	After Auction Sale	Lion Hall
	12:00pm to 12:30pm	Youth Choir	Piano room
	12:15pm to 1:15pm	Foundation Meeting	Fireside Room
4/9	7:00pm to 9:00pm	Awakening Joy Support Group	Lion Hall
4/10	1:00pm to 3:00pm	Covenant Group	Library
	1:30pm to 4:00pm	Food Prep/Sandy Merriman House	Kitchen Sanctuary
	7:00pm to 9:00pm	Social Responsibility Committee	Library
4/11	6:00pm to 9:00pm	Board Meeting	Lion Hall
4/12	7:30pm to 9:30pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
4/13	1:00pm to 3:30pm	Jammers Practice Resumes	Sanctuary
	4:00pm to 10:00pm	OWL	Sunflower Room
	6:00pm to 9:00pm	Spaghetti Night	Sanctuary
	7:00pm to 9:00pm	OWL Parents	Big Sky Room
4/14	12:45pm to 2:30pm	Meditation	Fireside Room
4/15	8:30am to 1:00pm	Senior OWL	Sunflower Room
	9:00am to 10:00am	Library Committee	Library
	10:30am to 11:30am	Parents Meeting	Library
	11:30am to 1:00pm	Bake/Plant Sale	Lion Hall
	11:30am to 1:00pm	Souper Sunday Lunch	Sanctuary (+1 more)
	12:00pm to 1:00pm	Library Committee	Library
	12:30pm to 2:00pm	Covenant Group: Parents	Piano room
	12:30pm to 1:30pm	Advanced Care Planning	Fireside Room
4/16	7:00pm to 9:00pm	Awakening Joy Support Group	Lion Hall
4/17	Newsletter Deadline for May edition		
	9:30am to 12:00pm	Learning Circle	Library
	12:30pm to 2:00pm	Committee on Ministry	Minister's Office
	2:30pm to 4:30pm	Worship Committee	Library
4/18	1:00pm to 3:00pm	Care & Concern Committee	Board Room
	1:00pm to 3:00pm	Finance Committee	Library
4/19	7:30pm to 9:30pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
4/20	-----		
4/21	8:00am to 4:00pm	Handbell Workshop	Sanctuary
	12:45pm to 2:30pm	Meditation	Fireside Room
	6:00pm to 10:00pm	Rental: Via Choralis Concert	Sanctuary
4/22	8:30am to 1:00pm	Senior OWL	Sunflower Room
	12:00pm to 1:15pm	Financial Discussion	Lion Hall
	12:00pm to 2:00pm	Orientation	Fireside Room
4/23	-----		
4/24	1:00pm to 3:00pm	Covenant Group	Library
4/25	-----		
4/26	7:30pm to 9:30pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
4/27	6:00pm to 9:00pm	Unsung Hero Banquet	Sanctuary & Lion Hall
4/28	12:45pm to 2:30pm	Meditation	Fireside Room
4/29	8:30am to 1:00pm	Senior OWL	Sunflower Room
	11:45am to 1:00pm	Listening Circle: Tapestries	Sanctuary
4/30	-----		

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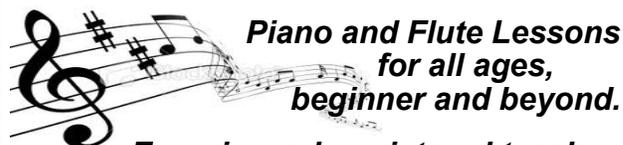
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For those without e-mail, copy may be  
left at the church office. All copy is  
subject to editing.

Information for the calendar can be  
sent to [calendar@victoriaunitarian.ca](mailto:calendar@victoriaunitarian.ca)  
or left at the church office.

Feedback is welcomed.

### Staff

Bob Dobbs (editor); Doreen Burgess  
and Myra Rippon (proof-readers); and  
Karen Uldall-Ekman (production,  
distribution and paid advertisements).

## April Birthdays

- 1 Rob English
- 2 Ross Beauchamp
- 5 Earle Anthony
- 6 Lindsay Bagshaw
- 9 Martha McDougall
- 14 Jan Thomson
- 15 Ryan Guenther,  
Nokuthula (Tuli) Porcher
- 16 Michael Fibiger-Crossman
- 17 Suzanne Beauchamp
- 18 Joyce Berry
- 19 Nille Fibiger-Crossman,  
Sue Thorne
- 21 Barbara Nyland
- 23 Hugh Mackie
- 24 Barbara Boyle
- 25 Leslie O'Hagan, Chris Mion
- 28 LeAnn Andersen and Jamie Van Gessel

