



The Victoria Unitarian

Services in December

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

December 2 Faith and Hope for a Better World **Bruce Knotts**

Bruce will explore our Unitarian faith and how it guides and motivates his work at the United Nations. He will discuss the recent merger of the UU-UNO with the UUA, the agreement with the CUC and what it means for Canadians who care about their office at the United Nations. As well, Bruce will demonstrate how the UU-UNO is the premier faith-based office at UN HQ working on Human Rights, while at the same time doing significant work on peace, disarmament and climate change.

December 9 Living Our Mission: Growing in Spirit **Rev. Melora Lynngood**

On this first Sunday back from parental leave, Rev. Melora introduces the co-ministers' preaching theme for the year (through June 2013), "Living our Mission: Growing in Spirit." Our mission has four parts: growing in spirit, supporting one another in compassion, seeking enrichment through diversity, and healing our world. This year, we focus on growing in spirit, and look at how spiritual growth might ground, inspire, and inform our work on the other parts of our mission. This sermon will begin the conversation. See Rev. Shana's article on page 3 for more.

December 16 Intergenerational Holiday Pageant

Our Annual Winter Pageant--Rev. Shana Lynngood, Faye Mogensen, Amalia Schelhorn, Phil Hallman, Nancy Dobbs and children and Youth of FUCV-- How do we keep the holidays meaningful and spiritual when commercialism threatens to subsume all else? Join us as we explore compassion in the winter holiday season. What can we learn from the vision of our Unitarian Universalist ancestors, from one another and from other religions?

Dec 21 - 7:00pm Winter Solstice Service

Our annual winter celebration of the longest night of the year. We join together in hope and yearning for the coming light.

December 23 Present to Life **Rev. Shana Lynngood**

Often our lives are so full that we spend a great deal of time not paying attention to the moment we are living. We are focused on past regrets, mistakes, or nostalgia for what was, or we are looking ahead to what may be. Spiritual sages in many traditions (perhaps most especially Buddhism) advise that attentiveness to the present is a critical practice making the most of one's life. How do we soak in the present? This is the auction sermon requested by Mike and Lisa Greenly.

Dec 24 - 5:00pm Christmas Eve **Reverends Lynngood**

Come, celebrate the holiday season by reflecting on the Christian story of Jesus' birth and the ways in which we can hear this ancient story anew each December. This is a service for all ages--Bring the kids! The service will include lots of carols and the traditional candle lighting during "Silent Night." (See note on page 2 about what to bring).

December 30 Young Adult Issues: Different Like Me **Anna Isaacs**

Being different from others is something we all have in common. It can make us feel valued or isolated, truly whole or deeply divided. What does our being different together make possible?

 denotes Men's Choir

 Theme sermon: Living Our Mission, Growing in Spirit

 denotes Chalice Choir

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The deadline for submissions to the
January issue of the newsletter is **December 11**

CELEBRATING WARMTH IN WINTER

FAYE MOGENSEN

It's December - in many ways a month of opposites. We fill the great darkness with twinkling lights; we warm the chill air with our fires and our gatherings. As we ignore the stillness of nature and busy ourselves with the bustle of mid-winter activity, are we in opposition to nature?

Perhaps not. Perhaps we are meeting our most basic needs when we seem to defy what nature is doing in winter. Stillness is the breeding ground of both creativity and activity; darkness seems to beg for light; coldness wants warmth; and loneliness needs company.

This month, the church offers many ways to defy the "dark" in its deepest sense. From the Choir Concert on December 7 through to Christmas Eve, there are many opportunities to join together, with all the warmth that brings. Quite naturally, in our Unitarian Universalist congregation, some celebrations will be more traditional than others!

While Melora and Shana have been on parental leave, we've tried hard to remember the "tagline" in our Mission Statement that reads "Living with Compassion". Compassion is also the focus of our annual multi-generational Mid-Winter Pageant on December 16. Again, I've challenged my co-creators, Rev. Shana, Amalia Schelhorn, Marion Sollazzo, Nancy Dobbs and Phil Hallman, to paint our worship with dabs of colour from each of the five curricula that our children and youth groups are exploring. It's been a truly creative process with times of chaos that, like winter's dark, have been the breeding ground of new life.

This past month, pageant preparations were already well underway. The children and youth have created some unique props and, more important to me, they've been involved in reflecting on our "compassionate" tagline. We hope you'll be surprised and delighted by the music, movement and mixed media that they have helped create.

The Christmas Eve service will be another truly multi-generational gathering. Bundle up your families to enjoy an early evening of song and story, at 5pm on Monday December 24. The Solstice Service, at 7pm on December 21, will be a more contemplative time, one that children ages 10 and up might enjoy. Christmas Day will be a feast day, enjoyable for all ages and stages of life.

May the company of good friends warm you as the days grow colder!

Lightly and brightly, Faye

What to Bring to the Christmas Eve Service

On Christmas Eve, our kids will be collecting supplies to support three organizations that are helping those in our community without a home this winter – Out of the Rain Youth Shelter, The Dandelion Society and Our Place. The items needed are: dark coloured socks, mitts/gloves, toques or scarves. Travel size shampoo /soap/toothpaste, toothbrushes. Rain gear, waterproof footwear, sweaters, pants, (new) underwear, sleeping bags, blankets, and towels.

Back in the Swing of Things

It is good to be back. Much has happened in the months we have been away— for us and for you. The congregation lost two bright lights while we were on leave. We will all miss Dick and Senga dearly in the months and years ahead. Losses and changes in life always leave us looking hard once again at what matters most and adds meaning to our days.

We return bleary-eyed parents of an infant, and having had our hearts stretched by the challenges surrounding Demetrius' surgery. We are certainly not the same family we were before we left on leave, we knew that becoming a family of four would change us. What we didn't know is that we would go through a soul-challenging trial along the way. We have been changed and profoundly moved by our son's arrival.

Before we left we chose a theme for the church year (now through June 2013) that now feels even more fitting, and like we might well bring a different lens to it than we would have before. About a year ago we worked with you to fashion a mission statement. Without a sense of mission, why we are here and what we hope to be as a congregation, none of the decisions we make will feel aligned with a sense of purpose. And so last year we explored purpose as our theme. This year we hope to move forward with the mission statement, to make it come alive so that it doesn't become a lovely set of words on paper that don't mean much in practice. Our theme, then, is the first part of our mission statement: growing in spirit. We will explore how to live out the portion of our mission which reminds us that perhaps the primary reason we come to church is to grow in spirit. Whether you envision that growth as a honing of one's conscience, a savouring of existence, an expression of gratitude to the universe, or a delight in the power and possibility of human community--it is a capacity which involves lifelong learning. What contributes to the growth of your spirit? How can our congregational community offer sustenance to your spirit? How might you live with your sense of spirit or soul or meaning front and centre?

We were and continue to be deeply touched by all of the expressions of care and support for our family you have offered us over the last several months. We have been reminded by your cards and words, gifts and hugs of what it feels like to have one's spirit held in a circle of care. As we return to our ministry among you we look forward to exploring the spiritual resources and depth we can all share with one another as a community of faith.

**Mission of the First Unitarian Church of Victoria:**

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

Covenant of Good Relations Question

A friend of the church, who is considering joining, questions you how church members actively demonstrate living our seven principles. How could the Covenant of Good Relations help you answer this query?

For the answer, see page 54

Will our Growth come from the “nones?”

Nones is a favourite catchphrase among those studying religious trends in North America. The nones are the folk who, when asked to pick their religious affiliation, choose “none”.

They’re the fastest growing segment in Canada.

They’re also quite noticeable in the U.S. “The percentage of young people [in the U.S.] who claim no religious identity is skyrocketing,” says UUA president Reverend Peter Morales.

“The great irony here,” adds Morales, “is that these ‘nones’ are very much aligned with Unitarian Universalist values. They are accepting of ethnic and sexual diversity. They are open minded. They also seek spiritual community.”

In October a new survey in the U.S. by the Pew Research Centre’s Forum on Religion & Public Life found that many of that country’s forty-six million religiously unaffiliated adults are religious or spiritual in some way and “are about twice as likely to describe themselves as political liberals than as conservatives, and solid majorities support legal abortion (72%) and same-sex marriage (73%).”

Reginald W. Bibby, a research sociologist at the University of Lethbridge has been tracking religious trends in Canada for nearly 40 years. He says a growing number of people have decided to take a pass on organized religion. “There was much speculation in the 1980s and ‘90s about Boomers ‘returning to church’ as they got a bit older and began to have families of their own. We now know that the hype wasn’t warranted – at least not in Canada. As of 2005, when the Boomers were now between 40 and 60, their collective weekly attendance level had gone up very little.”

But these unaffiliated Boomers fit the Unitarian mould. As Bibby points out, Boomers represent a particularly important mind-shift from deference to discernment. “For Boomers, higher levels of individual freedom have included freedom of expression. Better informed than ever before, Boomers have led the way in people insisting that they have a voice in all realms of life.”

Bibby, in his latest book *A New Day: The Resilience & Restructuring of Religion in Canada*, says there is one interesting example of what can happen to church attendance. Both mainline Protestant -- such as United and Anglican -- and Roman Catholic have seen regular church attendance spiral down while evangelical churches remained steady. The reason, says Bibby, is that “mainline Protestants cut back on their Sunday School programs, while Roman Catholics, apart from their schools, failed to give high priority to children’s ministry. In contrast, evangelical groups continued to emphasize the importance of children and youth ministries. The overall result? As parents gave religious groups what they thought they were worth, large numbers of people – led by Mainline Protestants and Catholics – showed up for seasonal services and maybe on some other special occasions.”

Writes Bibby of his latest cross Canada survey: “I can say with authority that not a single person indicated that he or she was looking for ‘a good church’. On the contrary, the number one response (in the survey) was ministry.”

So what does this mean for us? Many of the nones could be potential Unitarians. Can we attract them to our church? If so, how do we do it?

Even though we have a message that has an appeal to many, we’re shy about telling it. Let’s rethink our non-proselytizing stance so the nones can discover who we are.

Covenant of Good Relations Answer to the Question on Page 3

You could ask if she is familiar with the Covenant of Good Relations. You could explain how the Covenant helps us as a practical guide for applying our principles in our day-to-day relationships with each other.

On the recommendation of the Planned Giving Team:

- The Board voted to create and revise the church's structure for major funds.
- The Board voted to draw down and eliminate the mortgage reduction fund (which currently holds approximately \$1,500.)
- The Board voted to establish a new Operating Reserve Fund and to build that fund with planned gifts until it equals six months of operating expenses.
- The Board voted to establish a new Capital Reserve Fund which will accept planned gifts once the Operating Reserve Fund reaches its six-month goal. It can only be assessed with 75% approval at a congregational meeting.
- The Board voted to maintain the Endowment Fund to hold funds in perpetuity, which can be used in an emergency only if both the Operating Reserve Fund and Capital Reserve Fund are unable to cover an emergency requirement. Up to 10 per cent of the annual interest and dividends may be transferred to the operating budget.

The Board also voted to designate four special Sundays in the year to four specific causes: Child Haven, Canadian Unitarian Council, UU-United Nations Office and Partner Church. On each one these four Sundays one-half of the total collection, aside from members' monthly pledges, will go to one of these four causes.

The Board plans to meet with the board of Island Montessori, our daycare tenants, in the new year to discuss future plans, including a spring children's festival similar to last year's successful event.

Treasurer Bob Dobbs also reported to the Board that this year's revenues and expenses are on target.

CUC DELEGATES NEEDED

CHRISTINE JOHNSTON

The 2013 Annual Conference and Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council will be held in Calgary this coming May with the Annual Business meeting on Friday May 17.

Would you consider being a delegate to the meeting? Delegates are able to obtain a tax receipt for their expenses and our Church offers delegates a subsidy to assist in registration costs. Perhaps there will be an opportunity to car pool with other members of our congregation.

This year the business meeting will include resolutions resulting from the Active Democracy Study Group report – *Strengthening our Democratic Voices* – which you can read at <http://cuc.ca/wp-content/uploads//2012/04/Strengthening-Our-Democratic-Voices-Report-of-the-Active-Democracy-Study-Group-May-2012.pdf>. The resolutions will be available in January and there will be an opportunity to discuss them at a forum after the service on February 10.

If you have attended a CUC Annual Conference and Meeting in the past you already know the value and fun of connecting with colleagues from across Canada and of participating in the workshops offered. If you have not participated previously, 2013 is a good year to do it. It's not that far away and we can anticipate a rich and rewarding programme following the 2012 Symposium in Ottawa.

We are electing six delegates at our January AGM. Are you interested? If you have questions, ask me or Kristina Stevens, who is our Island rep on the CUC Board, or John Hopewell who has chaired the Democracy Study Group team. No experience is necessary, just interest and enthusiasm.

Denominational Affairs Coordinator, Christine Johnston.

Lynn Hunter went with the Canadian Association of Former Parliamentarians in a group of twenty-five, on a week long study tour of Turkey, meeting with the Canadian ambassador, former Turkish parliamentarians and seeing some wonderful historic sites like Cappadocia.

Elizabeth Hagmeier traveled in Europe with a friend, and **Mary Hummel** did a Road Scholar trip to Provence. **Earle Anthony** also did a Road Scholar tour, to China starting in Beijing travelling through Central China and ending up in Shanghai. He was there several times twenty years ago and was astonished by the tremendous improvements that have been made socially and economically, hundreds of millions of Chinese being lifted out of poverty. He found the air and water quality very poor and traffic chaotic, however, the hotels were excellent, food too, and the people very friendly and open.

In the summer of 2011 **Earle and Lorna Anthony** travelled for eight days in Newfoundland and the spent some time in St. John's. They had an interesting time gaining an appreciation of the life and hard work of the Newfoundlanders especially the fishermen. In Gander they heard stories of 9/11 and met a young woman who was the recipient of a university scholarship thanks to a group of Americans who had set it up as a tribute to those who took them into their homes. They enjoyed the magic of the grey whales playing with their boat in Bay Bulls.

That was last year. This summer many followed the example of Lorna and Earle and went to Newfoundland: namely **Suellen Guenther, Betty Sherwood, Bert MacBain, Bob Van Alstyne, Hanny Pannekoek and Hugo Sutmoller**. No, not all together.

Suellen did a twelve-day tour visiting the Northern Peninsula with a day in Labrador but her favourite day was the boat trip in Witless Bay Ecological Reserve to see the puffins. She loved watching them fly alongside the boat, looking like footballs, beating their wings hard, their orange beaks out in front and their orange feet sticking out behind. Highlights of her trip included learning about Dr. Grenfell's mission to the people of the northern Newfoundland and Labrador coasts, a boat trip in Gros Morne Park, seeing the thousands of puffins, and exploring the harbour and painted houses of old St. John's. She was especially impressed by the warmth and friendliness of people who have known more than their share of hardship, the beauty of the province, and the love Newfoundlanders have for their place on the planet .

Hugo and Hanny drove over 3,000 km, they enjoyed the driving with so little traffic. They loved seeing the little villages sprinkled along the natural harbours of the many coves. They walked on 500 million year old rock and were at the place where the oldest fossils of the world are exposed. They said that the exhibits in places of interest are very well done with inviting information and many visuals, they learned a lot and felt in awe of the forces of nature and the amazing shaping of our planet.

I have visited Newfoundland many times. Loved it, but what impressed me most was the icebergs, a wonderful sight but there weren't any this summer.

CANVASS REPORT**JOHN HOPEWELL**

Our sanctuary was packed on Generosity Sunday October 14th when we welcomed Revs. Shana and Melora, currently on parental leave, along with Athena and baby Demetrius Jazz Lynngood. What a great kick-off to our annual canvass. We celebrated with a lunch the following Sunday and pledges have been coming in ever since.



Many thanks to those who shared their talents to make the canvass possible. And special thanks to members and friends who responded so generously.

As of the bulletin deadline (November 13), our total was \$246,503. 172 pledge units received. There are approximately 32 pledges yet to be received. The average pledge to date is \$ 1,433.

Good News for Wild Salmon

In October the Cohen Commission released the Final Report after a three year inquiry into the decline of the Fraser River Sockeye. Alexandra Morton, Marine Biologist and well known Salmon Researcher and Advocate, interprets the recommendations from the Cohen Report as Good News for Salmon. She lists key points that are included in the recommendations:

- “Salmon farms have the potential to import exotic viruses and amplify endemic ones.
- There should be an immediate freeze on farm salmon production on the Fraser sockeye migration route.
- DFO should be relieved of their duty to promote salmon farms.
- Mitigation into the impact of salmon farms on wild salmon should not be delayed and should be carried out in the absence of absolute certainty.
- DFO must assess ALL research done on the impact of farm salmon on wild salmon and if found greater than minimal, the industry must be prohibited from operating on the Fraser sockeye migration route!
- Siting criteria has to be revised to include wild salmon migration routes.”

Regulations pertaining to wild salmon are now in the federal arena, but BC remains the landlord of the industry and still has the power to renew salmon farm leases. If BC offers long-term fish farm leases, Justice Cohen’s recommendations and our \$26 million investment will be wasted.

There is something that we can do! Alex Morton has created a petition in honour of Bruce Cohen’s work. You can sign it and then share it widely with your friends and e-mail network. It asks Premier Clark not to renew salmon farm leases to the sea floor of BC. Ms. Morton looks to us in celebration, hope and thanks to do our part. See www.change.org/NoSalmonFarmLeases.

We can also write to Stephen Harper, Office of the Prime Minister, 80 Wellington St., Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2 orpm@pm_gc.ca and Honourable Keith Ashfield, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, House of Commons, Parliament Buildings, Wellington St. Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6 or dfo-mpo.gc.ca to insist that all of Justice Cohen’s recommendations be implemented.



WINTER CONCERT

7:00pm, Friday, December 7 in the Sanctuary

Chalice Choir
Bell Choir
Women’s Choir
Men’s Choir
Jammers
Children’s Choir
Youth Choir
Special Soloists
Sing-along
Refreshments



**Admission
by donation, which
will be divided
equally between
the Food Bank
and the church.**

Everyone Welcome!

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY COMMITTEE

Action of the Month:

Out of the Rain Youth Shelter



For the month of December we will be raising awareness, funds and supplies for the Out of the Rain Youth Shelter. This 30 bed shelter provides help for some of Victoria's 250 homeless youth ages 15-25. Every Sunday from October 21st until April 14th our church will be providing a hot, protein rich main course, buns, fruit and cookies. In addition we will also be providing cookies, buns and fruit to augment the Monday meals.

Other items needed: *travel size toothpastes, soaps and shampoos *toothbrushes *dark coloured socks *mitts/gloves *dark coloured toques *\$5 Value Village gift cards *\$5 Tim Horton or MacDonald's gift cards.

**If you would like more information about this project please contact Lisa and Mike Greenly.
Thank you for your support.**

Share The Plate for December

On Sundays in December our collection basket revenue will be shared with the Out of the Rain Youth Shelter. Out of the Rain works to reduce the risks faced by homeless youth by supplying a warm, safe and dry environment for youth aged 15 to 25 from October to April.

Trained staff supervise the shelter each night. In addition to attending to the immediate needs of the youth and lending a friendly ear, these youth workers also aim to empower youth by providing support and referrals to community based programs

For more information: www.outoftherainvictoria.ca or talk to Lisa and Mike Greenly.

VOLUNTEER USHERS NEEDED

KATHRYN HARWOOD

I am looking for more Usher volunteers. It's an easy job but requires getting here a bit earlier.

Ushers are essential to our UU services. They distribute the books, hand out the orders of service, help people to their seats and pass the \$\$\$ baskets.

I started organizing ushers back in September with a list of those who volunteer to do this. It hasn't been a difficult job for me because everyone has been so helpful.

My list of volunteers has diminished mainly due to health issues, job changes or moving on to another volunteer job. And we're coming up to a busy season.

Please email me with your contact info and available dates.

Kathryn (k7harwood@gmail.com 250-516-5980)



HAIR SERVICES! UPDATE FROM THE SRC

CHRISTINE JOHNSTON

Our two young Palestinian refugees are most enterprising. They want to work as well as study English. They have joined an interesting team at Ethno Concepts where the focus is Male as well as Female. It is located downtown near the top tourist spots and is a very jazzy store with lots of hip additions. An experience!

NEW MEMBERS

BETTY SHERWOOD

Glenys and Bob Thompson

Bob and Glenys were both born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba and have been married for forty-four years. As the family grew, Glenys was a stay-at-home mom, busy with their three daughters. The girls are now married and we are fortunate to enjoy five grandchildren. Two live in Victoria and accompany us to FUCV. We visit Calgary as often as possible to keep current with the younger three and Skype often. Over the course of time, we have lived in all four western provinces. We are both retired, Bob from the farm implement industry and Glenys from contract administration, most recently with the Vancouver Island Health Authority.



We have enjoyed the church and the congregation, and felt very welcomed by our Neighbourhood Group.

CUC CORNER

KRISTINA STEVENS

Your Canadian Unitarian Council Board of Trustees met early in November at the Ecological Retreat Centre outside Toronto, along with CUC staff members. Here is a brief CUC update:

Arrangements have been made to allow the CUC to respond more quickly to national issues. The presidents of the CUC (Gary Groot, Saskatoon) and of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada (Rev. Julie Stoneberg, Peterborough) work with Vyda Ng, the CUC's Interim Executive Director, to articulate a position on the issue. Over the past two months letters have been sent to the federal government concerning the Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement as well as the cancellation of contracts for non-Christian prison chaplains. Go to the CUC website (cuc.ca) for more details.

The Active Democracy report and recommendations were discussed at regional fall gatherings in western, central and eastern Canada. Go to the CUC website (cuc.ca) and click on the Governance heading for further information. The focus now is on turning the recommendations into resolutions for the Annual Conference and Meeting in May. Note that some of the changes would require more engagement from CUC member congregations to work well, and there may also be financial implications. There will be a forum for discussion of these resolutions in February at our church.

There are two Board members from BC, two from the Western region, two from Ontario and two from the Eastern region. Each member reported on the status of the member congregations they represent. A number of congregations had received effective support from CUC staff since the last meeting in May. There seems to be an increase in congregations' committing to part-time consulting ministers, and CUC staff helps with this process. For example Antonia Won helped the Comox Valley Unitarian Fellowship here on the Island find a quarter-time consulting minister.

The May Annual Conference and Meeting will be in Calgary at the Radisson Hotel near the airport. The theme will be "Diversity: Creating a Shared Understanding." We are hoping to arrange a bus from Vancouver, to make it more affordable to attend. More on this soon.

As your representative on the Board, I would be happy to discuss any questions or thoughts you have about the CUC. My email is kristinastevens@shaw.ca, or telephone 250-595-5949.

Kristina Stevens
Treasurer, Canadian Unitarian Council



Wow, I can't believe that December is already here. The music program's winter concert is fast approaching. Join us on Dec 7th at 7:00pm to hear our Chalice Choir, Men's and Women's Choirs, Handbell Choir, Children and Youth Choirs, Jammers, and special soloists. I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday season.



Choir Dates

Dec 2	Men's choir meets at 10:00am
Dec 7	All choirs meet at 6:00pm Concert at 7:00pm
Dec 9	Chalice Choir meets at 10:00am
Dec 16	Chalice Choir meets at 10:00am



Fiesta Night

Friday, December 14 at 6pm. Everyone is welcome! Please join us

We will be serving tacos, chilli and much more! Vegetarian options will be available.

Fiesta Night is a multi-generational event and an opportunity to meet new people or catch up with friends over a casual, fun, delicious meal.

Dinner is by donation. Please bring a dessert to share. To help with clean-up please **bring your own plate and dessert bowl**. A rinsing station will be provided.

Film at Fiesta Night

“On the Line” will be shown after dinner at Fiesta Night, December 14th. This film follows the journey of filmmaker, Frank Wolf and friend, Todd McGowan on the 1,170 km proposed route of Enbridge’s Northern Gateway Pipeline. It brings into focus what the people and the landscapes have at risk.

MYSTERY IN THE ARCHIVES

Contributions of photos and materials keep appearing mysteriously in the Archives office. Your Archives team is asking that when you have something to contribute, it would help us a lot to know where the material came from, what it is and why it is coming to us. A case in point is a stack of notebooks full of historical data. If you could just leave a note, we would really appreciate it.

Thanks from Alison, Nanw and Louise

WREATH MAKING TO DECORATE THE SANCTUARY BETTY SHERWOOD

Join us Saturday, December 15 at 3pm. We will have wreath frames, greenery and decorations. Bring your pruning shears and, if you wish, gloves. By 5pm we will have glorious wreaths decorating the sanctuary for the Christmas season. I will make tea, coffee and homemade muffins to sustain us while we work. Donations of holly, cedar, fir etc. would be wildly appreciated! Contact me 250-382-4656.

GIANT CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE DECEMBER 2

This year we are holding our big bake sale early, so you can stock up on delicious edibles for the Joyful Season in time! Please donate your favourite homemade items—shortbread, your incomparable fudge Bill, pies, tarts, cookies, desserts, those spiced nuts Suellen, a carrot cake Suzanne? Bring your offerings to Suzanne Beauchamp who is in charge, before the service to the Lion Hall. Then after the service, come back and buy!

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON DECEMBER 8

This year's Christmas Luncheon will be held on Saturday, December 8 at 12:00. This is your chance to pay back your friends and family with a lovely, home-cooked lunch—and all the money goes to our beloved church.

The Menu includes: Green Salad, Home-baked Buns with Butter, Cranberry-Mushroom Chicken (or a Vegan entrée), Potatoes, Baked Squash/Yam/Carrot casserole, Peas with Almonds, and, for dessert, Stuffed Baked Apple with Ice Cream and Shortbread Cookies, Tea and Coffee.

Get your tickets (only \$20/adults and youth, \$10 for kids under 12, and kids under 5 are free) in the Lion Hall after services up through December 2, or call Nelly at 778-426-0300 or email her at nellyavan@yahoo.ca before December 7.

CHRISTMAS RE-GIFTING SALE

DECEMBER 9 AND 16

It's time again to clean out the corners and donate treasures to the Re-Gifting Sales, which will take place on December 9 and December 16, before and after the Sunday service. Items for re-gifting are those that are close to new or old and interesting. All monies earned will go to the Property Fund. Bring items for donation to the church office and Nellie will pick them up there. Any questions, call Nellie Van Leeuwen at [778 426-0300](tel:7784260300).

Thanks, Laura and Nellie!

SALE OF JAM, JELLY, JUICE

DECEMBER 9

Mado and Brad Clarke and their helpers have been pressing juice from the apple trees and grape vines on our Church property.

Come to their table in the Lion Hall December 9 and choose or order the juices they have bottled and the jellies they have prepared. They'd make most welcome Christmas gifts!



Cadboro Bay

This group will celebrate the season with a Christmas potluck dinner at the Ten Mile Point home of Chris Cook and Shirley Travis in early December. In the meantime, Chris and Shirley are soaking up the sun in Florida.

Esquimalt

Betty Sherwood writes, "In early November our group came in out of the rain to a cosy gathering at Betty Sherwood's house. Tables were set for twenty-four; however by 6:00pm the number had dropped to eighteen. Our group is growing and has the potential of having thirty-three at a potluck. Laughter, great food, a celebration of Gloria Turner's seventieth with cake and sparklers, were memories that lingered after.

December will be a 'cookie exchange tea' at Fran's. There was an enthusiastic sign up for the next Souper Sunday and a discussion about how to solve the problem of 'the few' (often Susan) doing labour intensive work in the kitchen after events at the church. Our recommendations will be passed on. You gotta love this community!"

Fairfield

The Fairfield Neighbourhood Group's next gathering will be at Lynn Beak's on December 2 from 4:30 to 6:30pm.

Far Out

This group worked with the Esquimalt group to provide the delicious food for the Souper Lunch after the very moving Remembrance Day service on November 11th. Barbara Nyland writes, "The Souper is over, a very happy event for both guests and workers! Many thanks to all who contributed food and time so generously – and many thanks to all the people who did not belong to the Far Outs or the Esquimalt Group but who helped anyway. We brought in \$413.05 (who is responsible for that \$ 0.05?) and sold 79 tickets.

On December 1st, in the afternoon, the Far Outs will be meeting for two happy hours at the home of new member Phyllis Aherne."

Gordon Head

Mary Cramer reports that Gordon Head is still resting, after their very busy fall.

Grand Central

Linda Nicholson-Brown writes that Grand Central was planning to meet at the home of Sylvia Krogh and Alan Boyle, but because they may not be back in Victoria from Alberta in time, the group will now gather at Sandra Jacobsen's for a December 1 potluck.

James Bay

Pat Kinrade reports that James Bay NG will have a potluck lunch at the home of Daphne Dunbar's on Wednesday November 14. They will also be helping with the memorial service reception for a friend of the church, Gerry Pollock, husband of new member Jeri Dause.

Nearby

Jean Simpson writes, "The NNG are having a potluck dinner and boundary discussion on November 17 at the home of Laura Doyle and Nellie Van Leeuwen. Our big news is that Kimberly Bramadat has asked the NNG to assist with her wedding plans and hosting at her wedding on March 23, 2013. There has been resounding support."

Oak Bay

Karla Thomson writes, "The Oak Bay group have been busy baking in November for the goodies with coffee on Sundays after the service. This group is lucky to have some amazing bakers and several members willing to do this. Then on December 1, Jim and I are hosting the Oak Bay group for a potluck which will include a gift exchange of a "favourite" book or CD.

I would like to say that our last potluck at Marya and Phillip's was fun with those over fifty sharing photos taken of themselves fifty years ago. There was everything from baby photos, teenagers and even a wedding photo, all fifty years old. More than a few were quite hard to identify but we had lots of fun trying."

AROUND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD cont'd.)

Royal Oak East

Hanny Pannekoek writes, "The Royal Oak East Neighbourhood Group had their fourth and last potluck gathering of this year. A few members were out of town but the rest of us came, as usual, in good spirits, all set for an enjoyable evening with each other. We always end the evening in a large circle.

We agreed to continue to meet four times in the year and we set the dates. The main topic of discussion was how our buddy system was working out. This was only started in early September, so not every 'pair' had gotten together yet. The group decision was that we would like to go ahead and try this out, that we will do this for six months as agreed, and evaluate at that time if that is long enough to make a meaningful connection, keeping in mind that the idea is that we rotate and create the opportunity to get paired up with other member-buddies."

Royal Oak West

Fran Hancock reports that Royal Oak West is looking forward to another fun-filled gathering when they go to the home of Sandy and Dennis Jaques for a potluck at 6:00pm on November 24th. Fran adds that their home is very children friendly and they make people feel right at home.

Western

Sixteen people gathered at Mac Elrod's on October 27 for an enjoyable afternoon. The group included three children, two people from Esquimalt, and four were Mac's new neighbours. The November potluck will be on the 17th at John and Susan's.

In addition, Western will be getting our their baking pans to provide treats for the after-church social time in December.

Birthdays in December

- 1 Mike Greenly
- 2 Dean Henderson
- 4 Daphne Horne, Victoria Barr
- 5 Dawn Fizzard
- 6 Michael Eckford, Edie Taylor
- 7 John Dalgety, Slaine Sutherland, Liz Graham
- 8 Diana Smith
- 9 Ron Neilson, Laura Doyle, Forrest Brown Kilgour
- 10 Nancy Dobbs, Kathryn Harwood, Finlay (Finn) Taylor
- 11 Lesley Duthie
- 12 Dorothy Jones, Ellen Gabelmann
- 15 Rowena Locklin
- 17 Penny Boyce
- 18 Jim Jordan
- 20 Rosemary Harrison
- 21 Gloria Hopewell
- 21 Lisa Hitch, Paula Steele
- 22 Archie McGugan, Edo Nyland, Hugo Sutmoller
- 25 Katherine Dillistone
- 27 Christina Harris
- 28 Aaron Brimacombe
- 30 Deanna Hutchings



New Members

Wally du Temple (rejoined) FarOut NG
Michael Ramsey
Nearby NG (with Kimberly Bramadat)
Glenys and Bob Thompson
Royal Oak East NG

New Friend

John Bollen
Grand Central NG

ABOUT OUR SPEAKERS

Bruce Knotts (December 2: Faith and Hope for a Better World)

We are honoured to have Bruce Knotts, Director of the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO) in New York City visit us.

Bruce was an American Peace Corps Volunteer in Ethiopia from 1972-75. He worked at the World Bank in Somalia before joining the United States Diplomatic Service in 1984, with diplomatic assignments in Greece, Zambia, India, Pakistan, Kenya, Sudan, Cote d'Ivoire and in Gambia, where he was the Deputy Chief of Mission.

Bruce gained experience with the UN system when he was the Regional Refugee Coordinator for West Africa from 2000-2003. He served on the Board of GLIFAA (Gays and Lesbians in Foreign Affairs Agencies) from 2004-07 where he succeeded in changing the USA's vote at the UN, granting consultative status to LGBTQ NGOs.

Bruce has headed the UU-UNO since 2008 where he serves as chair of the NGO Committee on Human Rights, chair of the Faith and Ethics Network for the International Criminal Court, and vice-chair of the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security.

He serves on both the Climate Change Working Group and the UN Security Council Working Group and heads the only faith-based sexual orientation/gender identity advocacy program at UN HQ.

Bruce has a Canadian mother, has visited Canada, including B.C., many times and in 2006 he married Isaac Humphrie in Vancouver, followed by a honeymoon in Victoria.



Anna Isaacs (December 30: Different Like Me)

Anna Isaacs is nearing a decade as a fervent UU and is rapidly approaching retirement from young adult status. She is a dual citizen as a member of our church and sits on our board, and also a member of the small lay-led Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation downtown.

UU Tours

The Canadian UUs led by the Rev. Wayne Walder also plan an international tour. This time to ARGENTINA from February 23 - March 3 (more on the Neighbourhood UU website).

The UU Partner Church Council based in Mass, USA has also planned four tours.

- Golden Triangle, NE INDIA and Khasi Hills February 27- March 13, \$2,790.
- PHILIPPINES, March 15-24, \$1800
- TRANSYLVANIA on a budget, May 11-23, \$1,140
- UU Festival CHOIR TRANSYLVANIA, July 8-20, \$1,675 (already half-full and led by the choir director of First Concord. Pre- and post-festival tours are also planned in Vienna and Bucharest.

More details on the Web or from Christine Johnston.

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

First Unitarian Church of Victoria

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Board of Trustees

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Property Management	Allan Dakin	250-744-1357
Spiritual Development	Forrest Smith	250-595-2538



New Email

Ted Humphreys: ruthlongvu@telus.net

Board Members on Duty



Dec. 2	Mike Graham
Dec. 9	Jennifer Young
Dec. 16	Forrest Smith
Dec. 23	Lynn Hunter
Dec. 30	Allan Dakin



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!

Email: laychaplains@victoriaunitarian.ca

Events Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Location
12/1	12:45pm to 2:30pm	Meditation	Sunflower Room
	6:00pm to 8:00pm	Grand Central NG Potluck	Offsite location
12/2	9:00am to 1:00pm	Giant Bake Sale	Lion Hall
	10:30am to 11:30am	Sunday Service	
12/4	9:30am to 12:00pm	Learning Circle	Library
12/6	10:00am to 11:30am	Planned Giving	Library
	7:00pm to 9:30pm	Choir practice	Sanctuary
12/7	7:00pm to 8:45pm	Christmas Concert	Sanctuary
	7:15pm to 9:30pm	Mindful Yarning	Offsite location
12/8	12:00pm to 2:00pm	Christmas Lunch	Sanctuary or Lion Hall
	12:45pm to 2:30pm	Meditation	Sunflower Room
12/9	9:30am to 1:00pm	Christmas Fair & Boutique	Lion Hall
	10:30am to 11:30am	Sunday Service	
	10:30am to 11:30am	Parents Group	Library
	12:00pm to 1:00pm	Executive meeting	Chaplains Room
12/11	JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE TODAY (for submissions)		
	12:30pm to 2:00pm	Committee on Ministry	Library
	1:30pm to 4:00pm	Food Prep/Sandy Merriman House	Kitchen Sanctuary
	5:00pm to 9:00pm	Social Responsibility Committee	Lion Hall
12/12	10:00am to 11:00am	Library Team	Library
	6:00pm to 9:30pm	Board Meeting	Lion Hall
12/13	7:00pm to 9:30pm	Choir practice	Sanctuary
12/14	6:00pm to 9:00pm	Fiesta Night	Sanctuary (+2 more)
	6:00pm to 9:30pm	Youth Group Gathering	Fireside Room
12/15	(not sure of times)	Pageant Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	12:45pm to 2:30pm	Meditation	Sunflower Room
12/16	10:30am to 11:30am	Sunday Service	
	10:30am to 11:30am	Pageant	Sanctuary
12/18	2:30pm to 4:30pm	Worship Committee	Library
12/19	1:00pm to 3:00pm	Care & Concern	Library
12/20	-----		
12/21	7:15pm to 9:30pm	Mindful Yarning	Offsite location
	7:00pm to 8:00pm	Solstice Service	Sanctuary
12/22	12:45pm to 2:30pm	Meditation	Sunflower Room
12/23	10:30am to 11:30am	Sunday Service	
12/24	5:00pm to 6:00pm	Family Christmas Eve Service	Sanctuary
12/25	CHRISTMAS DAY		
	1:00pm to 4:00pm	Christmas Day Family Potluck Dinner	Lion Hall
		All are welcome!	
12/26	12:00am	BOXING DAY	
12/29	12:45pm to 2:30pm	Meditation	Sunflower Room
12/30	10:30am to 11:30am	Sunday Service	
12/31	-----		

DOES YOUR HOME NEED..

- Renovation work?
- Carpentry?
- Paint?
- General repairs?



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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 or left at the church office.

Feedback is welcomed.

Staff

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

BY ORDER OF THE TREASURER...

- PLEASE ensure that your 2012 pledge payments are made before the end of the year.
- PLEASE ensure that any contribution that you want reflected on your 2012 tax receipt, including advance payments of your 2013 pledge, is received in the office by the end of the day December 31.
- PLEASE submit your expense claims as soon as possible, preferably well before the end of the year.
- PLEASE submit any invoices for payment as soon as they are received.
- PLEASE submit requisitions to pay accompanists, child minders, *et al.* as soon as possible.



Bob Dobbs. Treasurer

Merry 
Christmas 