

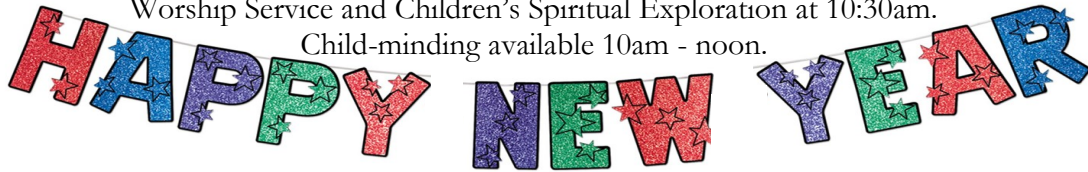


The Victoria Unitarian

Services in January

Worship Service and Children's Spiritual Exploration at 10:30am.

Child-minding available 10am - noon.



January 5 SPARK! Circus for Burmese Refugee Children
Karina Strong

Karina Strong is a long-time Unitarian, and the owner of Vesta Entertainment Circus, a fire and stilt performance troupe based in Nanaimo. Karina and her husband Kevin took their children (then three and eight) to Thailand for two months, with SPARK! Circus (a 100% volunteer organization through Performers Without Borders) teaching circus and performing spectacular fire shows in the Burmese refugee camps, orphanages, migrant schools and hospitals. Their mission to bring joy and laughter to these war-ravaged children is presented with video, poetry, and stories, and is illustrated by Kevin's stunning photography from the journey. Kevin and Karina will be available after the service for questions.

www.sparkcircus.org www.VestaEntertainment.ca

January 12 Living with Compassion across Diversity, †
Part I: Intercultural Competency
Reverend Melora Lynngood

This is part one of a three-part sermon series on 'Living with Compassion across Diversity.' Some older models of multi-cultural and anti-racism training were limited by their shame-based nature (eg., making white people or straight people or male people feel guilty for the privileges they gain in a racist, homophobic, sexist culture). Unitarian Universalist ministers have been learning about a new model—a model that looks at 'intercultural competency' and offers us a pathway toward greater understanding and meaningful connection across diversities of many kinds including theology, class, age, etc.

January 19 The Moments That Shape Us ♪
Reverend Shana Lynngood

Throughout the course of our lives we experience some pivotal experiences that have a profound impact on who we are. How do we fully integrate these life-altering experiences? How do we honor the ways in which we both shape and are shaped by experiences that come our way?

January 26 Living with Compassion across Diversity, † ♪
Part II: Your Conflict Style vs. My Conflict Style
Reverend Melora Lynngood

This is part two of a three-part sermon series on 'Living with Compassion across Diversity.' What happens when an Italian and a Brit argue with one another? In this sermon, we will look at the different conflict styles of different cultures—and how learning about the differences can help you better understand and communicate with those who have a conflict style that differs from your own.

Sneak peak: Part III of the three-part sermon series on 'Living with Compassion across Diversity' will be on February 16. It will focus on connection across racial and cultural diversity.

† This sermon is a part of our preaching theme of the year: "Living With Compassion"

♪ denotes Chalice Choir

Inside this issue...

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The deadline for submissions to the **February** issue is **January 14**.

SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION AND LEARNING FAYE MOGENSEN

SELebrating Generosity in January

As I think ahead to January, generosity is what comes to mind. It's the alliterative quality of the words that inspired me first, but the more I think about it, the more I want to write about it!

With a big smile, I am thinking of people like Amalia Schelhorn, Lillie Lentz, Bonnie McCallum, Kathy Gallegos and Nancy Dobbs, who devoted many hours to creating a memorable experience at the pageant. Several others contributed with the true spirit of generosity – Kristina, Kjerstin, Joyce, Lisa, Ryan, LeAnn, Marion, Johnny, Ross, Oz, Sarah, Pat, Kent, Andy and, of course, the children. All were important 'cogs in the pageant wheel' and I thank you!

When I consider generosity, I am also thinking back and looking ahead to the Sundays that people like Martha, Sandra, Nadia, LeAnn, Dave, Forrest, Ryan, Jon, Marion, Kellina, Fran, Kjerstin, Pauline, Laura, Leslie, Leslie, Gerry, Kent and Maegan devote to our children and youth. Each of you is a jewel that allows our children's program to sparkle and shine. This month, an important facet of the jewel will be re-polished as we launch the Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education program for children in grades five to seven.

Here in January, generosity also brings to mind those who like to weave words and enjoy a good mystery. I know many will want to sign up to be a Mystery Buddy! For those who haven't been part of the program before – this is an opportunity to get to know someone from another generation within our church by exchanging letters over the course of four Sundays, from February 2-23. You and your buddy write using a code name, slowly revealing clues about yourselves and, if you like, sharing information about the famous Unitarian whose name you are given. On March 2 at noon, your true identities will be revealed at the festive Mad Hatter Party. This year, we aim to give a "Palestinian Twist" to the program... stay tuned! Meanwhile adults and children, please let me know if you would like more information or to sign up. Kindness to a stranger is the ultimate act of generosity with the very palpable possible reward of new friendship.

I can't complete the topic of generosity without mention of our Sunday coffee makers and cake bakers. As Frank McCourt writes, "After a full belly all is poetry." My thanks to all of you!

I look forward to much poetry, and to seeing you all on the Sundays of January. We take a break from programming on January 5, but will dive back into activity on January 12.

Warmly, Faye

Church too noisy? Coffee hour overwhelming?

Which voice most resembles yours?

“I have a hard time hearing anyway, but in that coffee hour crowd, forget it! I wish I could go somewhere quiet to chat with folks after the service.”

“I’m an introvert. I find the crowded coffee hour overwhelming. I’d much rather talk with people one-on-one, or in a small group.”

“I hate small talk. I want to have meaningful conversations about things that matter.”

“The frenetic energy in the sanctuary before the service drives me nuts. I come on Sunday seeking a quiet contemplative space.”

“I love the energy in the sanctuary when it’s full, and I love chatting with folks at coffee hour!”



If your voice is the last one, I’m so glad you are finding what your spirit craves on Sundays! God/Goddess bless the extroverts!

If your voice is better represented by any of the first four, then I’d like to let you know that we hear you. And we are trying a few things that we hope will help you find what your spirit craves at church within our congregational life. **Tear off** (or print out) **the following information and post it on your fridge, or mark your calendars now.**

Pre-Service Choral Preludes

On Sunday mornings, after the Lion Bell is rung at 10:25, five minutes prior to the service, you are invited to join your fellow congregants in the sanctuary for a time of quiet centering, supported by the music of our Chalice Choir. Meditate, pray, or simply listen and BE... **January 19, January 26, February 9, February 23**

Circles of Connection

One-time small group gatherings, facilitated by Reverend Melora, in which participants share their experiences, struggles, and strategies around a common issue.

January 14, Tuesday, 6:30-8:30pm: Depression

Many in our congregation have struggled, or are struggling, with depression – mild chronic, bipolar, acute despair with suicidal thinking. Whatever your struggle, past or present, you are welcome.


February 6, Thursday, 10:30-11:30am: Caregivers

Whether you care for your adult child, your aging parent, your partner, or someone else, you are invited to share with others who also know the difficulties as well as the moments of grace one can experience when being in the role of caregiver.

March 4, Tuesday, 6:30- 8:00pm: Living Alone

If you live alone, whether by circumstance or choice, you are invited to share with others young and old, the joys as well as any difficulties you may experience in independent living. This may also serve as a way to network with others – joint outings or support systems may emerge.

...continued on next page.



**Hear Ye,
Hear Ye**

A CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING WILL BE HELD
ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 26
AT NOON IN THE
SANCTUARY.

THE 2014 ANNUAL BUDGET WILL BE PRESENTED FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY THE MEMBERS.

ALL MEMBERS ARE URGED TO ATTEND!

FROM YOUR MINISTER (continued from previous page)

Sign up for any of the above Circles of Connection by contacting me, Reverend Melora rev.melora@gmail.com or 250-891-6330. If you are interested in a particular topic, but cannot make the date it is offered, let me know. If we get a critical mass, I can run a second session at a different time.

Chalice Choir Sundays (twice/month through June), marked with a music note in the newsletter A chance to share with one another your reflections on the topic of the service in a facilitated small group. Sunday, 12 noon to 1pm, on the following dates:

February 16, Living with Compassion across Diversity, part III: Race and Culture

March 23, Living with Compassion in Society at large: Strengthening the Commonwealth

April 6, Living with Compassion for the Earth

May 4, Living with Compassion: The Practice of Loving Kindness

And **don't forget the many ongoing groups** in our church community: the Spirituality Group, the Parent's Group, Chalice Circles, Mindful Yarning, Circle Suppers, Tibetan Meditation, Neighbourhood Group Gatherings, Community Dinners, and so on. See our website or call the church office for more information <http://victoriaunitarian.ca/program/small-group-ministry/>. Introvert or extrovert, whether you come seeking contemplative quiet, social connection, or both, may each one of you find what your spirit craves within this church community. Let me know how it goes.

BOARD SPLINTERS FOR NOVEMBER

MIKE GRAHAM

Treasurer Bob Dobbs reported that the annual rent money has been received from the Montessori School.

The Board approved the establishment of "The Ruth Humphreys Innovations Fund" to be used for innovative projects outside the operating budget. The fund contains \$38,000 and will be used for grants of up to three years for projects that offer new methods for existing programs, or that experiment with new ideas, or that improve delivery of current programs and services. The Fund will be governed by five trustees, composed of two Board members and three elected members who reflect the diversity of the congregation. A minister will serve *ex officio*.

The Board plans to stage two forums after two Sunday services on January 5 and 19 on strategic directions. These forums will lead up the Sunday January 26 Congregational Meeting.

The Board appointed Leslie Gillett to do an audit of the Abuse Prevention Plan, to be completed before year end. The audit is being made at the request of the insurance company.

The Board is currently reviewing the twenty-two Revolving Funds within the church. Some are for in-house projects, such as the Table Fund, and others are outreach funds such as Food Bank and Lifeline. Some are seasonal funds like Child Haven and Healing Our World. Each Fund must have an individual that is responsible.

The Board welcomed nine new Members: Alan Baker, Nille Fibiger-Crossman, Charles Gee, Susan Bowers, Sylvia McDonald, Marcella Calberry, Angelina Templeton, Marian Foucault and Penny Pattison.

The Board also welcomed four new Friends: Nadia Cantera, Mary-Ellen Nicol, Bruce Barker Nicol and Mohammad Banaee.

The Board noted the deaths of two members, Ian MacPherson on November 16, 2013, and Laura Milne on October 19, 2013.

“What’s in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.” – Juliet

One of our members has raised the question of why we call ourselves a church. He comes from a non-church background. I find the question intriguing. Why indeed are we called the First Unitarian Church of Victoria?

Merriam-Webster defines church as “a building that is used for Christian religious services.” The Oxford dictionary says church is “a building used for public Christian worship.” How many of us here are Christians? Not many. Some – like me – aren’t even theists. (I love to tell people I am atheist who goes to church. And not only that, I was elected president.)

And why do we say we are the “first” church. Are there others in the wings?

A couple of lay chaplains met with mixed-background couples who were so uncomfortable with the word “church” that the couples declined to have the chaplains officiate at their weddings, even though they appreciated the type of weddings we provide.

I suggest we have a vote on a name change. After all, we voted to change the name of the boardroom.

Most of our fellow members are called churches or fellowships; but not all. We have the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa, First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto and the Grand River Unitarian Congregation. They all are prospering, as are we.

Which brings me to a second point of interest. Our numbers for Sunday services are growing. Those who study these things say that once a congregation reaches eighty per cent capacity in the sanctuary the number of participants begin to drop – a reasonable assumption since many people feel uncomfortable and overwhelmed in a tight space. Should we consider two services?

Perhaps we could start by moving our 10:30am. Sunday service to 11am. We could then prepare for a second service at 9 am. Before doing so, of course, we would have to determine how to clear the parking lot from the 9am. service so there is space available for the 11am. service. Or we could consider Sunday services at 10:30 am. and 7:00pm.; or, perhaps, Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning.

In one way these are simply questions of logistics. But in another way, these time and service changes have a major impact on the whole underlying psychology of the congregation.

We’ve had a successful canvass, we are financially secure, we are active in the wider community, our children and youth programs are dynamic, our music program is better than ever, our Sunday services are vital and contemporary.

What’s wrong with this picture? Aren’t we a success? I leave you with this thought:

*“Success depends upon previous preparation, and without such preparation there is sure to be failure.”
– Confucius*

SRC HOW PROJECTS

ADRIAN FINE

The Time Has Come! Healing Our World (HOW) Needs to Hear of Your Project That Needs Funding

Our church’s Healing Our World (HOW) projects have built an impressive record over the past seven years. This congregation has supported eighteen projects. These projects have educated, protected, fed, employed and nurtured needy children and adults. But a HOW project always begins the same way—with an idea from you. Please think ways we can join together to make a difference in some corner of the world. An easy way to fill in application form can be found on our website. Go to <http://victoriaunitarian.ca/program/social-responsibility-committee/how/> or contact the HOW committee at how@victoriaunitarian.ca.

The deadline is February 2.

OUR NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR—NICK FAIRBANK

We proudly welcome our new music director Nicholas Fairbank. Nick lives a busy life, dividing his time among his various musical activities – composer, collaborative pianist, harpsichordist and organist, conductor, adjudicator, clinician, teacher and singer (as the baritone in the vocal ensemble Hexaphone).

Artistic Director of the Viva Youth Choirs, Director of Via Choralis Chamber choir, and Organ Instructor at the Victoria Conservatory of Music, Nick is also a member of the College of Examiners of the Royal Conservatory of Toronto. He serves as National President of the Royal Canadian College of Organists. As an organ recitalist he has performed across Canada, in Europe and in Mexico (at the 2011 Festival Internacional de Organo de Morelia).



His catalogue of compositions includes more than 80 works for voice, piano and organ solo, and for various choral and instrumental ensembles.

Vision and Strategic Priorities Forums

- Sunday, Jan. 5 at noon in the boardroom
- Sunday, Jan. 19 at 1 p.m. (after Souper Sunday) in the boardroom

You are invited to attend one of the board's Vision and Strategic Priorities Forums before the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 26.

Rev. Melora and Rev. Shana have been with us since September, 2010. Now in their fourth year, both feel it is time to explore a Vision for our future and to discuss some Strategic Priorities for the next few years. The ministers have identified five major areas of interest:

- Music and Worship
- Outreach
- Children/Youth/Adult Programming
- Social Responsibility
- Property

Are there some items within these areas that you believe require particular attention? As an example, the Board has identified two areas of action:

1) Adult Religious Education: The Board envisions more outreach with broader and deeper programs encompassing both our members and interested participants in the wider community. One suggestion is a weekly "ARE night" in which participants first enjoy potluck meal, then move on to workshops and circle groups. Programs can be taught from recognized U-U study guides by interested members (many of us have backgrounds in teaching). Occasional programs could also be presented in library and community centre rooms to reach out to the wider community.

2) Outreach - University of Victoria chaplain: Rev. Shana would be asked to adjust her schedule, freeing her to provide regular contacts with staff, students and faculty at UVic. As a UVic chaplain, Rev. Shana would have occasional use of the UVic chapel to present programs, such as jazz vespers, to the campus and wider communities.

The Congregational Meeting on Sunday, Jan. 26, can explore these and other issues raised at the two forums.

Agricultural Land Commission Threatened

According to a Globe and Mail article published on November 7, BC Agriculture Minister, Pat Pimm is preparing to ask cabinet to “modernize” the Agriculture Land Commission. According to confidential government documents obtained by the newspaper, the Agriculture Land Commission will be effectively dismantled and BC’s Oil and Gas Commission will assume new responsibility for land use decisions.

BC’s Agriculture Land Reserve (ALR) and the Commission (ALC) were established in 1974 as concerns grew that about six thousand hectares of prime agricultural land was being lost to development. Presently, about five hundred hectares are removed annually.

The ALC acts as an independent Crown agency overseeing and protecting about four million hectares of farmland, which they have done for forty years. Under the proposed plan that Minister Pimm is bringing to cabinet, the ALC would move to within the Ministry of Agriculture, apparently ending its autonomy from government. The message in the document to be presented is that the ALC mandate is too narrow to allow decisions that align with a priority for economic development.

Energy Minister, Bill Bennett, identified the ALR and ALC as targets in the government’s Core Review process, but states that it would not reduce the protection of BC farmland. However, it is not reassuring when secret documents proposing such a drastic change indicate otherwise. The Agricultural Land Commission is what is protecting us from runaway development. We need to tell government that we need strong protection of our farmland by the ALC as it stands now.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/sacrosanct-agricultural-land-commission-eyed-for-breakup/article15306864/>

Write to: AGR.Minister@gov.bc.ca Bill Bennett at bill.bennett.mla@leg.bc.ca Premier Clark at premier@gov.bc.ca NDP Agriculture critic Nicholas Simons at Nicholas.simons.mla@leg.bc.ca

Please consider signing this petition. <http://www.change.org/en-CA/petitions/premier-christy-clark-hands-off-bc-s-agricultural-landcommission>.

Spaghetti Night
Friday, January 10 at 6pm

First Community Dinner of 2014! Everyone is welcome at this multi generational event. An opportunity to meet new people or catch up with friends over a casual, fun, delicious meal.



At 6pm we gather in the Sanctuary for a joyful time together. Spaghetti will be served with a choice of two very yummy tomato sauces, meat or vegetarian, – plus garlic bread. Dinner is by donation, bring salad or dessert to share.

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

Pub Night

Pub night is held every second week, alternating Mondays and Wednesdays. The group is growing and different people show up each time. It's a relaxed evening of getting to know each other.



January dates are Monday, the 4th, and Wednesday, the 22nd at the Canoe Club, 450 Swift Street. Arrive between 7:30 and 8:30pm and stay as long as you wish. There’s lots of parking and it’s close to buses.

Please indicate on the church Facebook page that you will be going or contact John Hopewell or Samantha Magnus so we'll know how many. But if you forget, come anyway.

Medical Aid for Palestinians

Many UUs praise Nelson Mandela and what he stood for. But do they agree with him when he said “Our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians”? Many UUs see the two Apartheid situations as very similar and are most concerned at the ongoing relentless struggle of the Palestinians for land, health, freedom, human rights and justice. There are twelve million Palestinians, most of whom have been displaced from their homes and many are official refugees living in squalor all over the region—in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan as well as Palestine. We need a Nelson Mandela there!

We know of two persons who are trying each in their own way. One is an Israeli (that several of us heard him speak in Victoria), Miko Peled. Despite being a son of one of the founders of Israel and having lost a niece to a suicide bomber, he is no longer a Zionist but works hard for the liberation of Palestinians. We highly recommend his book called *The General’s Son* (and there’s also a tape).

The other is a Palestinian, a Gaza doctor—Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish. He travelled daily through humiliating check points to work in Israel helping infertile Israeli women have babies. Three of his daughters and a niece were deliberately targeted by an Israeli shell and decapitated, yet he forgave and moved on. Finally he wanted his other children to know normal living so he accepted a job in Toronto where he now works. He wrote a powerful book titled “I Shall Not Hate.” We highly recommend both books. These two struggle to follow in the steps of Mandela along with many others on both sides who are willing to forgive in order to create a peaceful solution.

This month we have letters to sign—a handout written by Ed Daniel explaining the refugee situation; and the recent CUSJ Discussion paper. Share the Plate Donations will go to Medical Aid for Palestine, in support of particular emergency basic medications plus psychological counseling in Gaza and in Lebanon. In Gaza, attacks on farmers, fishermen, and civilians continue. Along with the ongoing blockade, there has been a devastating winter storm leading to flooding, adding to shortages of medicines, sewage in the streets and power outages. In Lebanon Palestinian refugees displaced from Syria are starving and shivering in the recent snow storms which destroyed their tents. Need examples are \$17 to treat severe blood loss in Gaza, and \$42 pays for a nurse for one day in Lebanon to support pregnant women and new born babies.

You can help.

Learning Circle Resumes

Our Learning Circle will be starting up again in the New Year on Tuesday, January 14 from 9:20 to 12:00 noon and thereafter until mid-May, mostly every second Tuesday. There are open positions left, but space is limited. The emphasis of our group is not so much our books, but in sharing the deep meanings that are evoked in a respectful and curious manner. This means remaining open to the big questions of life, such as what we really are, what is our individual roles in a vast cosmos, and how can we become more connected with each other.

In January, we start our 14th year with an interesting book with an odd title but juicy material, “Breaking the Habit of Being Yourself” by Joe Dispenza, author of *Evolve your Brain*. It could have been titled, “How to open and move out of the habitual limits your beliefs and identifications place around your life”. We welcome your queries about joining us, by e-mail or phone with Doug Seeley (daseeley@deepsynergy.com, 250 370-0221) or in-person at the church with Judy Gaylord or Christine Johnston.

HOW 2009 Micro-loan Project Update

When the HOW 2009 micro-loan project was voted in by the congregation part of the proposal was that, since the money was a series of loans, the congregation would revisit the project after five years. Five years have sped by and the HOW 2009 has been successful beyond our wildest dreams. The amazing thing about this project was the recycling effect. Money comes back each month and we lend it out again - using the same money over and over again.

Initial investment \$3800 (140 loans @ \$25 each = \$3500 plus \$300 donation to Kiva). As of December 1, 2013 the numbers are:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Total number of loans made: | 1189 |
| Total Amount Lent | \$29,850.00 |
| Total Amount Repaid | \$26,071.41 |
| Total Amount Lost | \$244.56 |
| Outstanding Portfolio | \$2,925.70 |
| Default Rate | 0.98% |

At the Congregational Meeting in late January the Social Responsibility Committee will put forward the following motion: *The Social Responsibility Committee seeks the approval of the congregation to continue reinvesting the HOW 2009 Micro-Loan Program through Kiva.org, in perpetuity.*

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

BERT MACBAIN

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 either or both of these events:

Orientation

Sunday, February 2, 12 noon – 1pm

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.

Considering Membership

Sunday, February 23, 12 noon – 2pm

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 event 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.

Light refreshments and childminding will be available for both events.

Both events will be held at church, in the boardroom, in the farmhouse just north of the main sanctuary building. To sign up or if you have questions, please contact Reverend Melora at rev.melora@victoriaunitarian.ca or (250) 744-2601, voice mailbox #1 or Cell (250) 891-6330.

We are so glad you have found us and we are looking forward to getting to know you.

Forty-eight hours and counting

I have never met Fred although I have talked to him on the phone twice. Soft voice, polite. But I know a little about him because one of our Lifeline List Project assessors, Margaret McKelvie, has visited him to confirm as best we can that his need is genuine.

In her report, she writes: “Today I visited Fred . . . in his room (on) Fort Street. The hallways of the hotel are clean and warm, and there is no odour. Fred is a short, portly man, somewhat unkempt, and balding. He was friendly, polite and open about his situation. His room is very sparsely furnished with a bed, bed linen, one chair, a very small TV and a refrigerator but no hot plate. Rent is \$420/month. He has lived here for three months. Prior to that he was at a Salvation Army hostel for a year followed by a month at Rock Bay Landing.

“He admits to falling behind on rent payment in the past but until now has always found friends and agencies who would lend him the money. He has a mother and a sister in Victoria but they cannot help him. If he does not find the rent money he will have to go back to Rock Bay Landing where he says he does not fit because he does not do drugs. At the moment he is eating at Our Place and a soup kitchen.

“Fred began working part-time at [a soup kitchen] in August 2013 and was laid off on October 15 because a new chef had overspent the budget for that quarter. He is on the list to be rehired. When he got the job in August, he cancelled his Welfare because he thought he would be earning over the limit. He receives \$180/month in CPP. Welfare pays him \$640/month. He reapplied last week but payment will not start again until January 2014. He could not get an interim loan. He says it is hard to get a job because of his age . . .

“Impression: I suspect that Fred has lived on the margin for most of his life. He says he has always worked as a kitchen helper or labourer, and has worked at places like Spinnakers. I think there is another story here regarding inability to hold a job. His appearance does not help. The eviction notice states he must leave this small room on December 12 if rent is not paid. Fred is aware that any funds would be paid directly to his landlord. I am of two minds about Fred’s situation. He is a likeable person but I suspect he has a pattern of not managing his money well. I’ll leave the choice to help or not up to you folks.”

So, decision time. But who decides? I sit in a living room chair in the utter silence of an early morning, I close my eyes and imagine: It is a Sunday morning setting in the sanctuary and I am standing in front of all of you. “Here is what we know about Fred,” I say and I tell you what you have read above. “What should we do?” “Pay the rent,” you say loudly, in chorus. And so we do.

Now it is January. What will Fred do for rent this month? I don’t know. Is he back on welfare? I don’t know. Is there any quality to his life? I don’t know. What I do know for certain is that back in the dark days before Christmas, Fred was forty-eight hours from eviction and you said: pay the rent. The Lifeline List Project deals only with urgent needs of the present moment.

Don Vipond is the volunteer administrator of the Lifeline List Project. If you have comments or questions, please get in touch with him. Phone [250-652-5491](tel:250-652-5491) or email donandclare@shaw.ca

Covenant of Good Relations

Question

At a congregational meeting, you disagree strongly with someone on a particular issue. How could you handle this in a way that upholds the Covenant of Good Relations?

See Page 17 for the answer

CUC Delegates to Montreal?

We are seeking six delegates to represent First Victorian, May 16 -19, at the CUC Annual General Conference. An exciting and stimulating event, and financial benefits offered too. We like to choose delegates at FUCV congregational meeting in January so let me know if you are interested.

Christine.johnston@telus.net

What Shall We Call It? Vote online for a name for the former Board Room

Last month, one hundred votes were received from church members and friends choosing the top three favourite names for the formerly-known-Board-Room by taking a poll. The results are in and here they are:

- Common Room
- Farmhouse Room
- Farmhouse Common Room.

The Property Management Council would like your further input about renaming the Board Room by having you vote on-line for the final new name for the old Board Room. The poll, found on the Monkey Survey website, lists the three names the congregation voted for in November. You will be asked to tick your single favourite name. We will continue to keep the poll up and running until January 12. The weblink is:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KXZ53QN>

Please note that if you have in the past emailed Tiff about your choices, Tiff will not record your choices for this new and final poll. Instead, please go to the web link and vote. If for some reason the poll doesn't work for you, call or email John Tiffany (Tiff) at: [778-265-1210](tel:778-265-1210) or johntiffany0705@gmail.com and he will manually record your votes.

Thanks, Tiff

Has A Book Influenced Your Spirituality?

Did you have a particular book influence your spirituality? We would like to feature the stories of several of our members in a spring Sunday service. Would you like to contribute? Please submit your name to worship@victoriaunitarian.ca.

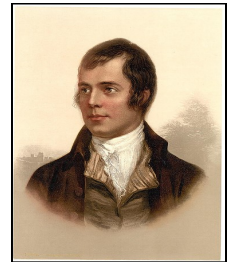
Do you have any other ideas for lay-led Worship services? We'd like to hear from you.



Rabbie Burns Night

January 24 is Rabbie Burns night at First Victoria and we are looking for our usual array of talent. So please let me know if you might perform a song, poem or give a short and witty toast/speech. Want to talk about the idea?

Speak to christine_johnston@teluts.net



All members, friends, and newcomers to the church can be part of the Neighbourhood Group where they live. Groups meet monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly, or occasionally. If your group is missing from this column, there was nothing to report this month. If you don't know which group you are in, please phone the church office.

Cadboro Bay: This NG partnered with Royal Oak West for the very successful Souper Lunch on November 17. Valerie reports that Cadboro Bay had a very nice afternoon tea in December at Chris and Shirley's, with a nice arrangement of goodies. They have found that a potluck tea is much easier to deal with than a full-blown dinner. They discussed a suggestion that everyone bring their own china and cutlery, but it was not unanimous that this was a good idea. The next get-together will be in the spring.

Esquimalt: Betty Sherwood writes, "On Friday, December 13, eleven of us met at Barbara Boyle and Alan Trumpour's for a delightful potluck dinner. It was a lovely start to the holiday season with Christmas lights and our friendly Neighbourhood Group around the table. We were happy to welcome Kobe ter Neuzen, who is new to the church."

Fairfield: On December 15, ten members of this group gathered for a fun afternoon at Forrest and Diana's for their Fairfield seasonal re-gifting.

Far Out: After providing the goodies for coffee time in December, Far Out is taking a rest until March, when they will gather for another happy hour event.

Gordon Head: Mary Cramer writes, "We had a potluck on November 16 at the Hvozanski's. Twenty folks attended, including Ross Beauchamp, our C&C Liaison. There was an abundance of great food and we had a chance to have some time together before the holiday rush began. Also, Ross had a chance to meet our group and share with us some information about the work of the Care and Concern Committee. We also signed and sent two cards to folks in our group who had recently been hospitalized."

Grand Central: Interim convenor, Paula Steele, hosted this NG for an afternoon event on November 16 featuring treats, crafts, board games and conversation. Members of the group also helped to provide meals for a member of their group who had been in hospital.

James Bay: Seven members gathered for a potluck lunch on December 13 at the home of new members Katherine Maas and Roberta Claire. Katherine said the smaller group made it possible to have more intimate conversation. In addition, Convenor Pat Kinrade reports, "We will be baking up a storm in January to supply goodies during coffee hour. We welcome the contributions of anyone who would like to help us supply the one hundred and twenty goodies we need for each Sunday. Please bring your goodies to the Lion Hall Kitchen on Sunday morning or label your donation and leave it in the freezer in the kitchen. Thanks in advance for helping us."

AROUND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD (cont'd.)

Nearby: Nancy Dobbs writes, "About twenty members of the Nearby Neighborhood Group gathered at the home of Laura Doyle and Nellie Van Leeuwen in November for an informal potluck dinner. A highlight of the evening was watching two children who hadn't known each other, laughing and playing together. Sadly, shortly after hosting our gathering, Laura broke her hip. She is now home recovering and we wish her all the best in her healing. Looking ahead, Brad and Madeleine Clarke will be hosting their annual popular potluck tapas drop in for the NG on Saturday, January 25."

Nancy adds, "Please join Nearby and Oak Bay Neighborhood Groups after church on January 19 for a Souper Lunch."

Oak Bay: Karla Thomson writes, "The latest news from Oak Bay is that we had a wonderful Xmas pot luck on WEDNESDAY evening, December 11, at the Young's. Yes, a Wednesday and it worked! There were twenty-four attending for a huge dinner and then a gift exchange of something used or written or home-made, plus a great carol sing with Braden playing the piano. No one could ask for a more successful gathering at this time of year.

Now we are about to get into full gear for the "Souper" Sunday on January 19, teaming up with the Nearby Neighbourhood group."

Royal Oak East: Hanny Pannekoek writes, "The Royal Oak East Neighbourhood Group had its fourth and last potluck gathering of this year on November 26. As always we had a good turn out, enjoyed great food and each other's company. We decided to stay with four meetings a year: March, June September and November. Our Care and Concern Liaison, Ross Beauchamp, will be away for two months and Mariko Matsmoto has kindly agreed to take his place during his absence. Our Care and Concern contact, Elaine Dakin, had taken the initiative to ask us to fill in the emergency form for our church; many forms were collected.

At our last gathering we agreed to have four people take about ten minutes each to tell us about themselves as a way to get to know each other in a more personal and deeper way. The four who did it this time told us about their lives in a very lovely and personal way indeed. We so appreciated this kind of sharing, so four others will take their turn at our next meeting."

Royal Oak West: Fran Hancock reports that the Souper Lunch on November 17, co-hosted with Cadboro Bay, was a huge success. Over one hundred and ten people were served, bringing in more than \$600 for the church. Fortunately, they had prepared extra food! That evening, Fran's husband, Peter, remarked that he liked going to church because it made him feel so good afterwards. Fran writes, "That's how I felt when I remembered the myriad of faces that made this event so successful."

Looking ahead, Fran notes that Lesley Duthie, Kent Haden, and their daughter Marina have graciously offered to host a Royal Oak West potluck on Saturday, January 18, at 5:30pm in their child-friendly home.

Western: Ten people met at Mac Elrod's on November 23 for the monthly potluck. The group generally meets on the third Saturday of the month, except in December and the summer. They like to eat by 5:00pm to accommodate families with children and they find the early time allows them to attend concerts or other events in the evening, if they wish.

CUSJ was proud to release our discussion paper on peace between Israel and Palestine in November. We hope that you will use it to have discussions in your congregations. We believe it is no longer acceptable to sit by silently because we don't have the solutions at hand, while generation after generation of Palestinian children grow up in something between a prison and a militarized zone. We need to learn how to put pressure on both Israel and Palestine to come to a better resolution than the current *status quo*.

The month of September we worked with ClimateFast to put pressure on all governments to move urgently toward renewable energy. Activists in Vancouver are working to stop pipelines and the export of coal. Activists in New Brunswick are working to stop natural gas fracking. Activists in Toronto are fighting Line 9, and in Ottawa we oppose the Energy East pipeline, both of which will take Alberta bitumen for export. On a more positive note, we work toward the dream of a largely renewable energy economy. ClimateFast will be fasting on the first day of every month until we see our country moving in this direction. We do this in sympathy with Yeb Saño, chief negotiator for the Philippines at the Climate negotiations in Warsaw, who foresees many more climate catastrophes if we fail to take action. Visit our Climate Change, Energy and Action pages to learn more at <http://www.cusj.org>.

One action we can all take, as congregations and as individuals, is to join the divestment movement from fossil fuels. 350.org believes we can reduce the moral legitimacy of big oil by refusing to profit from fossil fuels. Here in Ottawa and around the country I continue to hear of congregations connecting with First Nations, working towards reconciliation. We support you. Let's continue to work towards justice, economic stability, and respect for our First Nations brothers and sisters, and their right to free and prior consent to development happening in their territory. And take note: the 2015 election may come as soon as early May 2014. It's time to be working to set the agenda for that election if we want to see serious social and economic policy changes.

Thanks for all the wonderful work all of you do. You inspire me.

In Faith,
Reverend Frances Deverell
President, Canadian Unitarians For Social Justice,
president@cusj.org

"Charity depends on the vicissitudes of whim and personal wealth; justice depends on commitment instead of circumstance. Faith-based charity provides crumbs from the table; faith-based justice offers a place at the table." ~ Bill Moyers



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

A wedding, child dedication or memorial?

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Email: laychaplains@victoriaunitarian.ca

Christmas Bake Sale Thank You!

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Christmas Bake Sale. We were very successful, making \$381.00 for the church.

-Suzanne Beauchamp



Afternoon Tea

In late November the Western Communities Care and Concern persons held an afternoon tea for members who do not get to Church. The tea was at Whitney's and Susan Lean helped with sandwiches and serving the tea.



The accompanying photo is of Ron and Wilma Neilson enjoying tea.



Choir Notes

- Jan. 2 Choir practice starts up again.
- Jan. 19 Chalice Choir meets at 10am.
- Jan. 26 Chalice Choir meets at 10am.

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
or your Neighbourhood Group Care & Concern person

Announcing Ideas For An Innovation Fund—Honouring the Life of Ruth Humphreys

A very generous gift to honor the life and contribution of Ruth Humphreys has been offered by Ted Humphreys. Its purpose is to enhance the program opportunities and operational needs of this spiritual community.

The Innovation Fund, at First Unitarian Church of Victoria, will provide a means by which opportunities and new ideas may emerge as fresh (new, original, improved) programs and services that add value to congregational life (strengthen spiritual growth, support community, diversity, transforming our ourselves and our world through compassionate action). The focus of this fund is to support innovation for: Children/Youth, Adult Spiritual Development, Outreach, Music, Membership Development and Worship.

Applications will be received from groups and committees, beginning in February, 2014, consistent with the strategic annual priorities endorsed by the congregation. The Innovation Fund will provide time-limited grants to projects, of up to \$10,000 per year that:

- Apply new and different methods to existing programs,
- Scale up successful and innovative programs and services,
- ‘Beta-test’ or experiment with new ideas,
- Collaborative approaches to address an issue or opportunity,
- Improve the delivery of current programs and services.

The Fund will be governed by five trustees, comprising two FUCV Board members, plus three elected members who reflect the diversity of the congregation. A minister will serve *ex officio*.

Projects may be one-time expenses or initiatives needing funding for up to three years. Sustaining funding requirements will be a consideration in the selection process. Application forms will be available from the Church office by late January. Begin now to consider your hopes and wishes

What is Innovation?

In May 2013, you, the Congregation, approved the creation of a Leadership Development’ team, now re-named the Innovation Team, to focus energies on the nominating function, to help create the conditions where leaders flourish, and to catalyze innovation at First Unitarian Church of Victoria.

We envision a place where we individually contribute uniquely and fully to what the community needs with:

- A shared perspective of the future...our vision, our calling,
- Deep connections that inspire and engage us,
- Insights that transform the limiting, recurring patterns that hold us back,
- Actions that serve to carry us forward,
- Our best selves and gifts being fully expressed.
- Bring knowledge, ingenuity, creativity and commitment to do the work.
- Build on strengths and passion.
- Be willing to take a chance, some risk, experiment, and focus on the opportunity.

At the January 26, 2014 congregational meeting, we will report on what we have learned in the past few months of listening and asking. Innovation is a nebulous, hard-to-define term...in a nutshell it is new, fresh ideas, processes or methods. This is my perspective on what ‘catalyzing innovation’ means, how we focus our attention.

What are the sources of opportunity at First Unitarian? Successes/failures? Structural/process needs? Changes in demographics, meaning, and perception? Three conditions support successful change=innovation:

Innovation is simple, focused, starts small, and meets a real, current need.

Birthdays in January

- 1 Sonya Ignatieff, Jackie Bennett, Jan Li
- 2 Patricia Disbrow
- 3 Betty Sherwood
- 4 Elaine Hanson, Phyllis Aherne
- 5 Cecil Bannister, Emil Mogensen
- 7 Alastair Mont, Dennis Jaques
- 8 Christine Johnston
- 9 Philip Symons
- 11 Pat McMahan
- 13 Heather Sutherland
- 16 Jane Wilson
- 17 Laura Milne
- 18 Fran Pardee
- 20 Lynn Beak, Erin Gogal, Lynn Hunter, Tracy Sitter
- 21 Nellie Van Leeuwen, Bob Thompson
- 23 Ruth Miller
- 24 Gerry Brimacombe, Lillie Lentz, Elliot Ziegler
- 26 Remi Odense, David Person
- 29 Mike Graham



Is your birthday missing? We strive to print the birthdays of everyone who has joined our congregation as a Member or as a Friend, but the information in our database is incomplete. If you should be on this list and you are not, please contact the church office with the date of your birth at churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca or **250-744-2665**. Happy Birthday, and thanks for sharing the gift of you with our congregation! *-Reverend Melora*

Covenant of Good Relations

Answer to Question on Page 10

The Covenant of Good Relations says: 'I appreciate that I am a member of a religious community that makes decisions through a democratic process. As a responsible citizen in this community, I will actively participate in the process and will respect the outcomes of the collective wisdom.'

Correction

The Covenant of Good Relations Answer in the December newsletter referred to "the Conflict Resolution Team". The term "conflict resolution" is outdated and has not been formally used at the church for several years. There is no Conflict Resolution Team at the church. The correct term for the service available to individuals and groups is Dispute Management Resources (functioning within the Administration Council) as identified in the church directories these past years. The contact person is Cameron Egyeda; phone 250-382-9896.

Environmental Action Team

The EAT recommends this entertaining video to promote our efforts for carpooling to church! Car Pooling for the Light Hearted. One minute and eleven seconds.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J-VNwyP1pNo>

New Members



Susan Bowers
304 - 1505 Church Avenue
Victoria V8P 2G7
778-433-4586

Marcy Calberry
2529 Prior Street
Victoria V8T 3X5
778-350-4122

Marian Foucault
406 - 1049 Southgate Street
Victoria V8V 2Z1
778-678-9077

Charles Gee
201 - 7143 W. Saanich Road
Brentwood Bay V8M 1P7
250-544-0100

Mary-Ellen Nicol
5489 Parker Avenue
Victoria V8V 2N2
250-590-4107

Angelina Templeton
3028 Millgrove Street
Victoria V9A 1X5
250-595-1511

New Friend

Sylvia McDonald
6849 Jedora Drive
Victoria V8M 1A6
250-652-1255

Mohammad Banaee
206-1335 Bear Mountain Pkwy
Langford V8B 6T9
250-818-9947

Contact Changes

New Phone Number

Braden Young
250-893-4880
(Please use this cell number rather than the family home number).

New Email

Jane Bramadat
janebramatat1@gmail.com

Dee Heston
dheston1@shaw.ca

Marguerite Hobbs
mwhobbs@shaw.ca

Board Members on Duty

January 5 Lynn Hunter
January 12 Shirley Travis
January 19 Jennifer Young
January 26 Bob Dobbs

Legacy Circle Celebration

Twenty-five members of our Legacy Circle attended a celebration at the home of Frances and Peter Hancock on the afternoon of November 20. Over delicious donated refreshments, attendees chatted and remembered donors of past bequests named on the new plaque, which will hang in the Church hallway. Later everyone gathered around to hear Reverend Shana sing and she and President Mike Graham express appreciation for naming the Church or Foundation for a future gift.

The Legacy Circle currently has thirty-five members. It is open to all members and friends who have planned for a gift to the Church or Foundation upon their death. For more information contact John Hopewell or Frances Hancock or check the Church website at <http://victoriaunitarian.ca/member-information/information-for-members/planned-giving/>



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 9:30am - 4:30pm • Sunday 9:00am-1:00pm

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
250-652-1272

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
FayeM@victoriaunitarian.ca

Director of Music

Nick Fairbank
music@victoriaunitarian.ca

Church Administrator

Karen Uldall-Ekman
churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca

Assistant Church Administrator

Sarah Versteegen

Board of Trustees

Officers

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| President | Mike Graham | 250-384-4351 |
| Vice-President | Linda Nicholson-Brown | 250-474-7182 |
| Treasurer | Bob Dobbs | 250-652-5438 |
| Secretary | Jennifer Young | 250-370-5106 |

Council Representatives

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Administration | Lynn Hunter | 250-220-2240 |
| Congregational Life | Shirley Travis | 250-386-3455 |
| Outreach | vacant | |
| Property Management | John Tiffany | 778-265-1210 |
| Spiritual Development | John Hopewell | 250-721-3920 |


Events Calendar — January 2014

| Date | Time | Event | Location |
|------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| 1/1 | NEW YEAR'S DAY 7:00 to 9:00am | Meditation (early session) | Sunflower Room |
| 1/2 | 7:30 to 9:30pm | Music Program | Sanctuary |
| 1/3 | 7:15 to 9:30pm | Mindful Yarning | Offsite location |
| 1/4 | 12:45 to 2:30pm | Meditation | Sunflower Room |
| 1/5 | 10:30 to 11:30am | SUNDAY SERVICE | |
| | Noon to 1pm | Innovation Forum | Board Room |
| | Noon to 1:30pm | Neighbourhood Convenors | Library |
| 1/6 | ----- | | |
| 1/7 | ----- | | |
| 1/8 | Noon to 2pm | Care & Concern | Board Room |
| 1/9 | 7:30 to 9:30pm | Music Program | Sanctuary |
| | 6:30 to 7:30pm | Music Committee Meeting | Library |
| 1/10 | 6 to 10pm | Community Dinner | Sanctuary |
| 1/11 | 12:45 to 2:30pm | Meditation | Sunflower Room |
| 1/12 | 10:30 to 11:30am | SUNDAY SERVICE | |
| | Noon to 1pm | Innovation Forum | Board Room |

Continued on next page...

Events Calendar (continued from previous page)

| Date | Time | Event | Location |
|------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1/12 | Noon to 1pm | Diversity Group | Chaplains Room |
| | Noon to 1pm | Finance Forum | Sanctuary |
| | Noon to 1pm | Environment meeting | Library |
| 1/13 | ----- | | |
| 1/14 | FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER: deadline today | | |
| | 9:30am to Noon | Learning Circle | Library |
| | Noon to 2pm | Care & Concern | Board Room |
| | 3 to 5pm | Social Responsibility Committee | Board Room |
| 1/15 | 10 to 11:30am | Library Team meeting | Library |
| | 6:30 to 8:30pm | SELCY meeting | Board Room |
| 1/16 | 11:30am to 2pm | Board Meeting | Board Room |
| | 7:30 to 9:30pm | Music Program | Sanctuary |
| 1/17 | 7:15 to 9:30pm | Mindful Yarning | Offsite location |
| 1/18 | 12:45 to 2:30pm | Meditation | Sunflower Room |
| 1/19 | 10:30 to 11:30am | SUNDAY SERVICE | |
| | 10:30 to 11:45am | Parents' Group | Board Room |
| | 11:30 to 2pm | Souper Sunday | Sanctuary |
| | Noon to 1pm | Innovation Forum | Fireside Room |
| | 12:15 to 2pm | Membership Team Huddle | Library |
| 1/20 | ----- | | |
| 1/21 | 12:30 to 2pm | Committee on Ministry | Library |
| | 2:30 to 4pm | Worship Committee | Board Room |
| 1/22 | ----- | | |
| 1/23 | 7:30 to 9:30pm | Music Program | Sanctuary |
| 1/24 | 5 to 10pm | Burns Night Dinner | Sanctuary |
| 1/25 | 12:45 to 2:30pm | Meditation | Sunflower Room |
| 1/26 | 10:30 to 11:30am | SUNDAY SERVICE | |
| | 10:30 to 11:30am | Youth Worship | Lion Hall |
| | Noon to 2:30pm | Congregational Meeting | Sanctuary |
| 1/27 | ----- | | |
| 1/28 | 9:30am to Noon | Learning Circle | Library |
| 1/29 | ----- | | |
| 1/30 | 7:30 to 9:30pm | Music Program | Sanctuary |
| 1/31 | ----- | | |



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Postage paid at Victoria, BC
5575 West Saanich Road
Canadian Publications Mail
Sales Product Agreement No. 40010260



THE VICTORIA UNITARIAN

is the monthly publication of the First Unitarian Church of Victoria.

The **deadline** for submissions to the **February** issue is **January 14**.

Copy should be sent to newsletter@victoriaunitarian.ca.

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

Information for the Events Calendar should be sent to calendar@victoriaunitarian.ca or left at the church office.

Feedback is welcomed.

Staff

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



2014 Generosity Campaign Report

The total pledges of \$295,892 for 2014 represent a strong and ongoing commitment to our community. There were 210 pledges (some from individuals and some from families) with an average increase of 4.3 per cent. The Generosity Team has heard from just about everyone (whether pledging in talent, time, or treasure). If for some reason you have not yet made a 2014 pledge and wish to do so, pledge forms are available in the office at any time. Or you may email Bob Dobbs at treasurer@victoriaunitarian.ca and tell him in confidence how much you plan to contribute in 2014.

For those interested in the numbers, 110 of us increased our pledges, 55 of us kept them the same and 23 of us had to decrease our pledges for the year. Of the total, 93 pledge units joined the "5% Club" by increasing their pledge by five percent or more over the previous year.

A hearty thank-you to the whole congregation from Reverend Shana Lynngood and the 2014 Generosity Team.