



# The Victoria Unitarian

## Services in March

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

### March 2 Who Do You Say We Are? Rev. Melora Lynngood

Why do we call ourselves the "First Unitarian Church of Victoria?" What does that say to others about who we are? Does it accurately reflect who we wish to be? How do you feel about the word 'First' in our title? What would you think about adding "Universalist?" The word "church" is warm and inviting to some, off-putting to others. Can we open our minds and hearts to hearing what these words evoke in our fellow congregants?

We recently renewed our mission. The Innovation Team and the Board have been asking us to consider our congregation's vision. The time is ripe to consider our name as well. As Jesus, considering the impact of his ministry, asked his disciples, "Who do you say I am?" (*Mark 8:29*), we would do well to consider, "Who do we say we are?" Whether we ultimately change our name or not is less important than the reflection we do on who we are and who we wish to be as a community.

After this service, you are invited to attend one of our minister-facilitated **Listening Circles** in which you can share and listen to others reflect upon the words we use to name our congregation.  
12noon – 1pm,  
Farmhouse Common Room

### March 9 Where's the *I* in *We*? Rev. Shana Lynngood

N.B. —————>

You have likely heard the adage there's no *I* in team. In a community such as our church there are many *I*s in our *We*. How do we balance our personal opinions and hopes for the community of the whole with the collective desire of the community? When should I assert my *I*, and when might it be best to allow the *we* to lead?

**Timing Notes**  
1. Daylight Saving Time begins. Set your clocks forward one hour.  
2. On this Daylight Saving Sunday, to accommodate our guests from Salt Spring Island, worship will be at 11:30am (which will feel like 10:30am).

### March 16 A Morning of Ekphrastic Poetry Anne Swannell

Ekphrasis is a rhetorical device which approaches one medium in terms of another, so...in this case, poetry that helps us to experience works of art in a whole new way.

### March 21 Spring Equinox Service 7:00pm

Christine Petronis and her team will lead us in a ritual welcome to Spring. If you would like to participate in this service (e.g: doing a reading) please contact Christine at 778-265-1619.

Services — continued on next page

# Services in March—continued

## March 23 Living with Compassion: The Larger Circle † Rev. Shana Lynngood and Kristina Stevens



In this service, connected to our series on compassion, we will look at our ties to the Canadian Unitarian Council. How does our congregation support the larger web and well being of other Unitarian Universalist congregations across Canada? How might we draw inspiration and challenge from our history and the larger faith tradition of which we are a part?

## March 30 The Transforming Power of Ritual Amanda Tarling.

Meaningful rituals provide a conduit to deepen our connections and enrich us. They mark both the transient and permanent in the journey of our lives. Can we learn to shift the focus from our busy days by deepening our spiritual practice through ritual? As Unitarians, are we even comfortable talking about creating ritual? Amanda is passionate about this topic and will be giving a day-long workshop at the ACM in Montreal this spring.

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

## Inside this issue...

SElections .....	2
From Your Minister.....	3
Hot Off the Prez .....	4
Board Splinters .....	4
Green Corner.....	6
Around the Neighbourhood .....	7
Artist of the Month.....	16
Events Calendar .....	19-20

### Special Features

HOW 2014—Candidate Projects.....	8-11
Auction Fever.....	12-13

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The deadline for submissions to the April issue of the newsletter is **March 18**.

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## SELECTIONS

## FAYE MOGENSEN

### Springtime Wake Up Calls

The world of nature is waking up. March winds are like the “morning yawn” of spring! It’s a good time to reflect on how we want to wake up and stretch ourselves this year.

Perhaps it will be by taking time to enjoy the first blossoms of spring; perhaps by spending time with a new found friend; perhaps you’re full of artistic inspiration—be it drawing, dramatic storytelling or something else. The SEL-CY program hopes to support and encourage you in all the above.

New-found friends: On March 2 Buddies young and old will finally reveal their identities to one another at a potluck lunch in the Lion Hall. We’ll feast, play games and try our hand at a special art project. March 9 marks the first OWL “graduation” for the 12 tweens who have been getting to know one another more deeply as they’ve explored new ground. At the end of the month, they’ll resume their focus on the “Toolbox of Faith”.

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## SELECTIONS—continued

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Springtime blossoms: on March 9 and 30, the Intermediate Adventurers will be visited by Pat Johnston, an invasive plants specialist. They'll be sleuthing out non-native and native plants in our forest, and doing what they can to encourage the natives. The Primary Group's focus on "Creating Home" culminates with time spent at our labyrinth, and walking our forest paths to greet the spring.

Artistic inspirations: On March 16 and 23, we'll carry on our tradition of encouraging "Lismer's Prodigies" by offering visual art workshops. Mask-making is on the agenda – with diverse supplies and instructions. Our aim that they will become part of our Earth Month theme focus in April.

I am aiming "harvest" stories for Earth Month. Stay tuned for more information about a special story session that I hope to schedule in mid-March. Meanwhile, adults and children alike are encouraged to have a think: When have you been amazed by creation? When have you felt truly connected to the earth or the stars? When were you most nourished by the great outdoors? If you feel moved to share a story with me, please be in touch by March 12.

I hope spring wakes you up with energy and feelings of connection.

Warmly, Faye

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## FROM YOUR MINISTER

REV. MELORA LYNNGOOD

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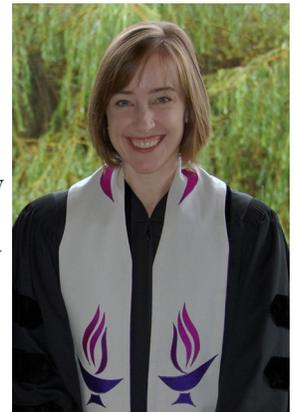
### What do Unitarian-Universalists believe?

How do you answer that question? What do you know about Unitarianism? What do you know about Universalism? If someone were to ask you, "Is Unitarian Universalism a Christian religion?" what would you say?

Because we are 'a faith without a creed,' it can be hard to explain succinctly what Unitarian Universalism is. Often people define us by what we *don't* believe more than by what we *do* believe.

Some of our youth shared with us, in a service last spring, what they believed – they spoke about their theologies, their values, their experiences of feeling connected to something larger than themselves, what they name that something ('human community,' 'power of compassion,' 'Spirit of Life and Love.'). I wonder what the grown-ups think: What do YOU believe?

I invite you to have these conversations with me and with each other in a 6-week course called "**Articulating Your UU Faith.**" It's a fun interactive course that offers you the opportunity to deepen your understanding of your own faith (or beliefs or religion or spiritual orientation or 'way of being in the world') while making connections with others.



**Articulating Your UU Faith** — Tuesday evenings, 6:30-8:30pm in the Farmhouse Common Room

March 25   April 8   April 15   April 22   April 29   May 6

Sign up by contacting me at [rev.melora@gmail.com](mailto:rev.melora@gmail.com) or cell 250-891-6330. Hope you can join us! Rev. Melora



Revs. Shana and Melora will be away for a week of vacation with their children from March 10-March 17. Please contact them only in the case of a pastoral emergency.

Occasionally people ask me, with a worried tone, "How are we doing, anyway?" Certainly compared to the struggles that are plaguing many other religious institutions we are doing great. Attendance remains buoyant, involvement grows deeper.

One of the major differences between our religious structure and most of the others is that we are clearly in charge of our own destiny. The future, in so many ways, is up to us. No one sits in central authority, issuing dictates from afar.

We ended 2013 in the black -- by a healthy \$13,580. Our total income was \$410,415. To put it in perspective, five years ago our total income was \$339,106 -- in that five-year period we've had a 21 per cent increase in income.

Although we had a healthy positive balance at the end of the year, our objective is not to make a profit, as Finance Committee Chair Kristina Stevens has reminded us. The goal is to spend what we earn...we are not a profit-making business. If we concentrate on saving too much we end up neglecting our programs and our buildings.

And also, I believe that because we are in charge of our own religious destiny we are a more generous people. One example is the Sunday service open-plate collection. Half our Sunday offering goes to a charity chosen each month by the Social Responsibility Committee.

Five years ago the total Sunday offering for the year, when all the baskets had been passed and all the contributions counted, was nearly \$5,000. Last year our total open-plate collection had more than tripled. The startling increase over such a short period of time comes down to one word—generosity.

(Many other Unitarian congregations have carved their own path with similar share-the-plate plans. For example, to pick just a few, Bellevue East Shore Unitarian devotes the entire morning offering on every second Sunday of the month to a charitable cause; Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship turns over its collection one Sunday every month to charity; Olympia, WA Unitarian has a share-the-plate program similar to ours, and a portion of Vancouver Unitarian's plate collection goes to a special outreach fund.)

We do a lot more than share our Sunday collection. Healing Our World last year, as an example, raised \$14,000 to re-house 12 street people in Victoria, help 20 widows in Rwanda to refurbish their homes and to help provide computers for the Schizophrenic Society. Lifeline List, which aids individuals or single-parent families who need immediate financial assistance, is always over-subscribed by members who love to help.

Judging by these three examples – Share the Plate, Healing our World and the Lifeline List – and the many other projects that we support, we are doing great!

## January Board Splinters

- ◆ The Innovation Team has been invited to attend the February 20, board meeting to discuss vision and strategy.
- ◆ The board approved the 2014 budget for submission to the January 28 congregational meeting.
- ◆ The Committee on Ministry will attend the March 20, board meeting to discuss the allocation of ministerial resources.
- ◆ The board welcomed new members: Patricia Sue "Trish" Henry and Rebecca Faye "Becky" Denlinger.

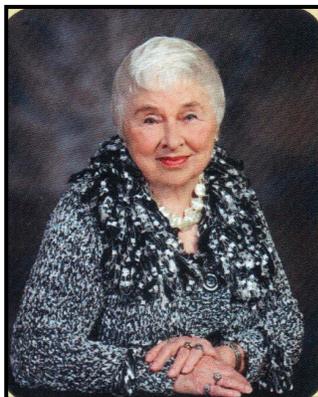
## January 26th Congregational Meeting Highlights

- Members unanimously welcomed Reverend Shana Lynngood back as part-time minister and will share a full-time position with Reverend Melora Lynngood.
- The 2014 budget was approved with the addition of one per cent of the 2013 pledged income (\$2,960) to be set aside for the Property Fund. Total income of the budget is estimated at \$422,225 and total expenses are \$424,270. Treasurer Bob Dobbs reported that 2013 Open Plate donations were nearly \$2,000 above the budget and the pledged donations about \$8,000 more than anticipated. The new General Fund balance should be in the neighbourhood of \$25,000.
- Mike Graham, Liz Graham, Forrest Smith, Kjerstin Mackie, Rev. Shana Lynngood and John Hopewell were elected as delegates to the May 18 - 20, 2014, CUC conference.
- Kjerstin Mackie was endorsed as a lay chaplain, effective February 9, 2014, for six years and the members re-affirmed the appointment of Joyce Murphy and Liz Graham, and thanked Fran Pardee for her six years' service as a lay chaplain.
- Members voted to approve the ongoing Healing Our World micro-loan program through Kiva.org and to review the program in five years.
- The Innovation Team announced its plans to convene a Congregational Gathering on Saturday, April 5, to discuss vision and strategies. The Innovation Team consists of Rev. Shana, Leslie Gillett, Jane Wilson, Forrest Smith, John Waters and Diana Smith and is focused on identifying and nurturing new leaders within the congregation.

## After-Service Conversation Circles

A chance to share with one another your reflections on the topic of the service in a facilitated small group. Sunday, 12noon to 1pm, on the following dates:

- 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



### Planned Giving Donna Greenberg

"Fifteen years ago after having participated in the excitement and comradeship of raising funds for construction of the sanctuary, I decided with all my heart to leave a gift in my will to this church, where I had found comfort and acceptance."

There are several plans to increase coal exports from Vancouver's Harbors. In January 2013, Neptune Bulk Terminals got a permit to hike its export of thermal coal, used in steel making, to 18.5 million tonnes per year from 8.5 million tonnes per year. Fraser Surrey Docks has applied to build a terminal to export up to 4 million tonnes per year of thermal coal, used to produce electricity. Also Delta Westshore Terminals announced in February plans to increase its thermal coal capacity to 33 million tonnes per year. Much of the increased thermal coal for export will be mined in the USA and exported to Asia, especially China and India. Further, Lafarge Canada, in collaboration with Fraser Surrey Docks is proposing to build coal-handling facilities within its existing terminal operations that would allow the direct transfer of thermal coal from trains originating in the United States to barges, which would transport the coal up the Strait of Georgia to Lafarge's Texada quarry for transshipment to Asia. Lafarge plans to expand the area that is used to stockpile and transship coal so it can handle 800,000 tonnes annually. The Provincial Mines Minister, Bill Bennett, suggested in January that coal was just another commodity, and nothing special had to be done to examine the requests.

Export of thermal coal for electricity generation is export of both carbon for global warming and export of pollution. Thermal coal contains the most carbon of any fuel, around 2,000 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> for every megawatt-hour generated<sup>1</sup>. On burning, it releases sulfur dioxide and the toxins mercury, arsenic and selenium. The worst effect is particulate pollution, a mixture of soot, smoke, and tiny particles formed in the atmosphere from sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) and ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>). Fine particles originate primarily from combustion sources such as power plants. They are sometimes referred to as PM<sub>2.5</sub> (particulate matter smaller than 2.5 microns in diameter - less than one-hundredth of the width of a human hair). They are a major cause of respiratory diseases and death. In October 2013 the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer said both air pollution and "particulate matter" would now be classified among its Group 1 human carcinogens. They cited data indicating that in 2010, over 220,000 deaths from lung cancer worldwide resulted from air pollution, noting there was also convincing evidence it increases the risk of bladder cancer<sup>2</sup>.

Then there is the problem of spills of coal going past Vancouver Island. Coal dust contains high levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) which are recognized as dangerous carcinogens. These substances can bioaccumulate in the food chain, from herring to salmon to orcas and beyond. Studies on the effects of PAHs in the freshwater and marine environment show that PAHs are particularly harmful to herring embryos, resulting in skeletal defects, impaired swimming and death. A 2002 study noted that PAHs adversely affect the immune systems of salmon<sup>3</sup>. Herring and salmon are of course critical to the food chain in the Fraser River and the Pacific coast generally.

So the question remains, Should British Columbia allow increased export of coal from its harbors and aid global warming and pollution?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coal>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Particulates\\_and\\_coal](http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Particulates_and_coal)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.fraserriverkeeper.ca/fraser-docks-coal-proposal-harmful-to-herring-endangered-sturgeon-orca/>

## January Share the Plate Update

The objective of the Share the Plate in January was to support organizations offering medical aid to Palestinian refugees. Doctors Without Borders does not allow donors to earmark donations to a specific region—instead they set priorities for where money is to be spent. Since the congregation was asked to support specifically medical aid to Palestinian refugees the Share the Plate funds for all of January will be given to the Canadian registered charity Medical Aid to the Palestine. More information about this organization and the work they do see [www.mapcan.org](http://www.mapcan.org).

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## AROUND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

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*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:** Chris Cook writes, "Cadboro Bay Group are looking forward to meeting on March 9th at 5pm, at Lorna and Earl Anthony's for a potluck supper. We are going to talk about a group offering for the auction of "Beer and Bocci Ball". The Petch's will then host the NG summer gathering." They are also rallying their members to provide coffee hour goodies for the five Sundays in March.

**Esquimalt:** Betty Sherwood writes, "In February we gathered at my house for another potluck feast: good food, good company, good fun. And June Waters told us about a new initiative by the Environmental Action Team called Car Sharing, to help reduce the number of one-occupant cars driving to church on Sundays—a bonus to us and to the environment."

**Fairfield:** Nanw reports that this group gathered "at the Fairfield Community Hall on January 27 from 7:00 to 9:00pm. There were six of us and we discussed the 'with compassion' sermons the two Sundays before. We got to know each other a little better and it was enjoyable. Another gathering at the same place is planned for February 24." A few members from Fairfield also helped Gordon Head with the Souper Lunch on February 2.

**Far Out:** This group will be gathering February 15 for happy hours at the home of Ted Humphreys. During the gathering they will also make plans for the Souper Lunch they are hosting on March 9, assisted by the Grand Central NG.

**Gordon Head:** Mary Cramer organized Gordon Head for the Feb. 2nd Souper, with some assistance from Fairfield. Mary reports that they fed 109 people, who donated \$579 to the church. She was especially grateful to two new members in their group, Oona and Todd, "who helped all the way through." Now Mary says "we are hoping to treat **ourselves** to a potluck in March".

**Grand Central:** In the absence of convenor, Linda Nicholson-Brown, members of this group, under the guidance of Barb Nyland from Far Out, will be helping to host the Souper Lunch on March 9.

**James Bay:** Pat Kinrade writes, "James Bay Neighbourhood Group looks forward to Spring, and a Saturday noon potluck on March 8 at my home. Call 250-361-4336 for directions."

**Nearby:** This NG worked very closely with Oak Bay to serve the Souper Lunch on January 19, where they served 106 people and took in \$612.35 for the church. Nancy Dobbs reports that they are now planning a picnic in Centennial Park on February 16th, rain or shine. They will bring their own lunches and meet after church to eat, talk, and walk. Children and dogs are especially invited to this beautiful wooded park and playground.

**Oak Bay:** Karla Thomson writes, "The OBNG has been very busy with the Souper Sunday on January 19. Everyone who could, gave it their all, and we felt that it was a big success. Now we are getting ready to have a group potluck on February 15. As this is the day after Valentine's Day, everyone has been asked to wear something red. We are experimenting this time by having a real "pot luck". No one knows what anyone else is bringing. As our group is getting bigger and still getting to know each other's names, all will be wearing name tags. This is a big help for most of us. Jim and I are hosting this time."

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## AROUND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD—continued

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**Royal Oak East:** This group will have their first meeting in 2014 on March 11. When Hanny and Hugo get back to town, they will firm up details of the location. Royal Oak East meets four times a year.

**Royal Oak West:** Fran Hancock writes, " Martha McDougall and Al Hoffman have kindly offered to host a Neighbourhood Group potluck on Saturday, March 15 at 5:30pm at their home on Parkside Street, across from Copley Park. Everyone is welcome, as the area is children friendly. At our January potluck, volunteers offered services for the upcoming auction on March 28, so we are looking forward to collaborating on fun-filled projects." They are also hoping to have a presentation on transportation by a member of the Environmental Action Team. Members of Royal Oak West were the busy bakers for coffee time in February.

**Western:** This group gathered in January at Oz Tilson's. They will skip their February potluck, because so many of their members are out of town. Plans will be circulated for the March potluck when Susan and John return.

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## CANDIDATE HOW PROJECTS FOR 2014

## OVERVIEW

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### HOW 2014 PROJECTS FOR YOUR VOTE

Adrian Fine, HOW Chair

I am pleased to announce the projects that the congregation will vote on in March. They are, in random order:

**PROJECT A - Batteries for Tanzanians - Anne Percival - \$5,250**

**PROJECT B - Multipurpose room for Jamaican school - Fran Pardee - \$800**

**PROJECT C - Classroom and more teachers for India - Don Vipond - \$3,800**

Project details are provided in the following pages.

#### Project Presentations

1. The SRC shelf will have the project posters and printed material available from March 2 until the final vote on March 16.
2. The three applicants will be at their posters on March 9 and March 16 to answer any of your questions.
3. The HOW Committee will address the congregation at the service on March 9.

#### Voting Procedure

1. Voting is open to members, friends and youth of our church
2. Voting will be held after the services on March 9 and March 16 in the Lion Hall
3. Those unable to vote on site can do so by email ([how@victoriaunitarian.ca](mailto:how@victoriaunitarian.ca)) up to noon on March 16.
4. The ballot will ask you to prioritize the three projects in the order that you would like to see them funded.

#### Results

The results will be announced at the service on March 23 and posted in the church newsletter. Please note that full details of the entire HOW projects support program are given on the Church website. Should you have any issues you would like to discuss about this process, contact [how@victoriaunitarian.ca](mailto:how@victoriaunitarian.ca).



**USING SOLAR ENERGY TO LIGHT UP THE LIVES OF DESTITUTE TANZANIAN FAMILIES.**

**Anne Percival for Pamoja Tunaweza Women's Centre (PTWC), Moshi, Tanzania.**

**Project Overview**

The poorest women in up to 30 villages without electricity in rural areas around Moshi will receive solar units (lights/batteries) which will provide both clean lighting and a means to earn an income. They will be trained to manage a small business using their batteries to recharge the cell phones of other villagers for a fee.

To ensure the project is sustainable, the women will be required to repay the purchase costs of the solar units over time allowing additional units to be purchased for destitute women in other villages off the electric grid.

PTWC will select women on the basis of need/aptitude. Only one woman per village will be selected unless it is determined that a village can support more than one recharging business.



**Project Benefits**

In addition to providing solar light, business training and income for up to 30 destitute families in up to 30 rural villages, this project will provide other villagers with access to reliable, inexpensive, nearby source of energy for recharging cell phones.

In many of these villages, a power source will enable villagers to acquire cell phones for the first time. For other villagers, it will save days-long walks to the closest energy source.

A UN study shows that cell phone technology creates a wealth of micro-enterprises, providing employment to those with little education and few other opportunities (e.g., selling airtime on the street and refurbishing hand sets). This project has the potential to create additional job opportunities within each selected village.

Clean energy solar lights will reduce the many eye problems associated with kerosene lights.

**Background Information**

Extreme poverty is directly related to lack of access to electricity. Tanzania, one of the poorest countries in Africa, also has one of the lowest rates of rural access to electricity (2%).

75% of the population are covered by cell phone networks but further growth in rural areas is limited due to lack of access to reliable sources of energy for recharging batteries.

**Registered Charitable Organization and Partnering Organization**

**Pamoja Tunaweza Women's Centre (PTWC)** is a long established **Canadian** organization in Moshi, Tanzania, providing health services, micro-financing, business training and support to high-risk women suffering from poverty, gender violence and HIV/AIDS.

**Star EcoWorks**, the **Canadian** manufacturer, as a partner of PTWC, **has agreed to donate a solar unit for every unit we purchase; many of the units are built by volunteers.**

**Budget**

This application is for the purchase of 15 units plus maintenance of 30 (including 15 donated units). The detailed budget is given below. Should HOW have a shortfall in funds, the minimum budget to initiate this project is \$3500 (purchase 10 + 10 donated + maintenance of 20 units).

Solar units (lights and batteries) (15 x \$250/unit)	\$ 3,750
Maintenance and program admin*costs per <b>purchased</b> solar unit (15 x \$50)	750
Maintenance and program admin*costs per <b>donated</b> solar unit (15 x \$50)	<u>750</u>
<b>Total costs</b>	<b>\$ 5,250</b>

\*These costs include maintenance/repair of solar units, business training costs for participants, and transportation costs to villages outside Moshi to collect loan repayments. The costs cover one full year.

For further details, contact [anne\\_percival@yahoo.ca](mailto:anne_percival@yahoo.ca)

**A MULTIPURPOSE ROOM IN A JAMAICAN SCHOOL**

Fran Pardee

**Background**

When I visited Jamaica in 2013, I was struck by the level of poverty and despair in the rural community that my brother, John Sutton, lives in. I thought of HOW and asked him to consider a project that our church might become involved in. John immediately thought of the Drapers Basic School, which is one of the few 'bright lights' in the village. Like preschools in Canada, it serves children 3-5-years-old, and its enrolment has grown from 14 to 36 in the last few years. The principal, Norene Pollock, started as an assistant teacher there in 1992 and became the principal in 1993. The school moved to its current location in 2010, a dilapidated two-room house but a big improvement over its previous space. Working together with members of the community, Norene transformed the building into a school. John has long admired Norene's dedication to the village's young children and worked with her to pull together this HOW application, deciding which of the school's many needs to address first.



Our thinking is to start small by building much needed office space. Currently there is no private space for parents and teachers to meet, nowhere to store supplies, nowhere to keep children's health and family information, nowhere for staff to plan lessons or hold staff meetings. At the same time as an office is being built, Drapers Basic School will be building a relationship with FUCV, and our hope is that more ambitious projects, like additional classroom space and a library, could be considered by HOW in the future.

**Budget**

A 10 ft. x 10 ft. office will cost **\$800** for building supplies; volunteers have agreed to supply the labour. My brother, an excellent photographer, can keep us up-to-date with photographs as the building progresses.

If approved, funding to the Drapers Basic School will be through the Project for the Advancement of Childhood Education (P.A.C.E.) Canada. This registered charitable organization, begun in 1987, adopts early childhood institutions in Jamaica and provides practical assistance to create positive learning environments for pre-school children.

For further information, contact [fpardee@shaw.ca](mailto:fpardee@shaw.ca)

**SCHOOLING FOR CHILDREN IN SLUMS OF PUNE, INDIA.**

Don and Clare Vipond

This HOW project is about helping children who live in the slums of India to have a much better chance in life.

Emmanuel Public School is a non-denominational, charitable school for children living in the slums of Pune, 220 kilometres southeast of Mumbai. Pune district has a population of 9.5 million and a density of 600 people per square kilometre. The school has been operating for five years and has about 300 pupils.

What happens there? The children are fed, clothed, and taught not only academic subjects but also values as well as basic hygiene, basic manners and basic



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life skills. And that to date has shown impressive results—a healthy transformation in the children, growing confidence, academic learning and improved health...with this added bonus: the children take what they learn home and bring about changes in their parents’ hygiene and life skills.

Extra curricular activities include dance, art, crafts, sports, choir, instrumental music training, social and public places awareness. The children also get a wholesome and nutritious meal every day, regular sessions on hygiene, moral values, social conduct, value of relationships and interpersonal skills and a regular medical checkup.

This school is run by Bakhtawar Singh and his family through a registered charitable trust. They are devoted to transforming the lives of these children who otherwise would have no education, meager meals, and would likely be engaged in child labour. Without this charitable school, most of the children would never break the cycle of poverty. Worse, many poor children could fall prey to societal menaces such as gambling, alcoholism and prostitution. The school is currently funded solely from individual donations. There is no government or corporate funding.

The school has an urgent need to rent three more classrooms. These classes currently sit outside, not suitable when it rains or on very hot days. (All other classes use rented indoor space.) Rent for one class for one year is \$1,400. Currently there are nine teachers and some volunteers. The school urgently needs six additional paid teachers. Funds needed to pay one teacher for one year: \$800. **Cost of this HOW project is \$3,800, covering the rent for one new classroom for a year and three new teachers’ salaries for one year.**

The idea for this HOW project originated with Suresh Basrur, well known to a number of people in our church because he attends our Spirituality Group meetings when he can. Dr. Basrur is a retired scientist and engineer, with a career in new technology development. He has personally visited Care Foundation’s Emmanuel Public School in Pune and has spent time getting to know the founders and details about the charity. He has our absolute trust.

## 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**

### Covenant of Good Relations

#### Question

In a small group discussion about our Visioning Process, another person expresses a suggestion which runs contrary to your own. How can the Covenant of Good Relations help you to handle this disagreement?

See page 18 for answer

### Mother’s Day Regifting Sale

#### Sunday, May 4th

Nellie Van Leeuwen will hold a one-Sunday-only re-gifting sale the week before Mother's Day before and after the service.

She would appreciate receiving any old and interesting or nearly new items that you may like to contribute...things that your mother might like! If this sale is a success, look for a similar one before Father's Day in June.



## Live Auction Sampler

Stay tuned for the final list in the e-weekly before the auction  
or available in print at the auction.

- 5 Kitty Kare visits -- in-home care for your feline family members while you are away. Donated by Marcy Calberry of <http://www.harbourhounds.com>
- Salmon BBQ for 8 hosted by Lynn Hunter and Don Armstrong on June 13.
- Custom Quilted Table Runner (approx 48" -52" x 18") created by Pat Kinrade.
- Handyman Services from Andy Lee.
- History Tour of Victoria presented by Peter Scales, MA.
- Summer's Bounty with Music and Song: August 1-- seven course dinner and wine for 12 with musical performances by Braden and Hillary Young. Hosted by the Youngs and Kristina Stevens.
- 5 Adventure Walks (one hour minimum) for a Small Dog. Donated by Marcy Calberry of <http://www.harbourhounds.com>
- Authentic Japanese Sukiyaki dinner for 6 offered by Mariko Matsumoto.
- Picnic at China Beach in July or August for 10 people. Offered by Suellen Guenther.
- Vancouver B&B. Accommodation for two people for two nights, including a simple healthy breakfast, on a mutually-agreed-upon date any time during the year.
- Tour of the Air Traffic Control Tower at the Victoria International Airport. Donated by Mike and Lisa Greenly.
- Lunch for Gardeners. Come for lunch and a tour through a country garden @ Astrid's on Sept. 6. (Max. 7) Donated by Astrid Firley-Eaton.
- Weekend Pet/House-sit: We will provide a two night home and pet sitter while you are away. Donated by Marcy Calberry of <http://www.harbourhounds.com>
- Huckleberry House Vacation Retreat: Two nights for two couples in beautiful Huckleberry House, located south of Port Townsend in the Chimicum Valley. Offered by Quimper UU Fellowship. \$390 value.
- Sermon of your choice presented by our ministers.
- Early summer BBQ, with strawberry shortcake and, of course, a sing-song. Date to be determined in late June or early July. Max. 8. Bob & Nancy Dobbs.



## Path To Membership



**Are you new to our Church?**

**Have you just discovered our church or are you a Unitarian from elsewhere?**

**Would you like to know more?**

We know it can be daunting to get to know people when everyone seems to already know everyone. And we know it can be hard to get to know us in the coffee hour. So, if you **would** like to get to know us better, we hope the steps below will help.

**STEP ONE: Drop by the Visitor Table** near the front of the sanctuary. Ask questions. Fill out a Visitor Welcome form where you can indicate if you would like to receive the monthly newsletter, weekly electronic mini-newsletter, be connected to your Neighbourhood Group, or have your own name tag.

**STEP TWO: Church Orientation.** A gathering for all newcomers, whether you have just walked through the door or been coming for several months and want to know more about us, whether you eventually become a member, or choose to be a friend of the church. The Orientation provides basic information about our congregation and ways to make connections. **Next Orientation: Sunday, April 6, 12 noon – 1pm.** We will share light refreshments, and childminding will be provided.

**STEP THREE: Considering Membership session.** This will help you determine whether you would like to officially become a member of our church. Whether you join right away, not yet, or not at all, the evening will be informative and enjoyable, as we will be talking about things that matter in a small group setting with warm and interesting people. **Next Considering Membership session: Sunday, Apr. 27, noon-2pm**

To sign up for the **Orientation or Considering Membership** sessions, or if you have questions, please contact Rev. Melora at [rev.melora@victoriaunitarian.ca](mailto:rev.melora@victoriaunitarian.ca) or (250) 744-2601, voice mailbox #1 or Cell (250) 891-6330. Both of these sessions will be held in the Farmhouse Common Room in the building just north of the sanctuary. We are so glad you have found us and we are looking forward to getting to know you.

**Next New Member Ceremony: June 1.**

### **Another event to watch for:**

Periodically Rev. Melora offers a two-part event called **UU 101** which is designed to give more in-depth information about UUism. Whether you are not yet a member, a new member or have been a member for a long time, if you wish to know more about our denomination, this is for you.

## Land, Sea and Sky

On April 4th, 7:30pm, our sanctuary will be the site of a unique and exciting concert to kick-off the Environmental Action Team's "Earth Month" celebration.

Eight pieces, written by local composers, each with an environmental theme, will make up the programme for the evening and each of those pieces will be dedicated to a local environmental group. To introduce each piece, the composer or one of the performers, will tell the audience about the organization receiving the dedication.

The composers involved are Diane Berry, Sylvia Rickard, Leila Lustig, Josh Layne and Lynne Penhale. The musicians are the Vis-a-Vis Saxophone Quartet, Paula Kiffner on cello, Gord Clements on clarinet, Josh Layne on harp, Diane Berry on flute, soprano Marnie Setka-Mooney and mezzo-soprano Kathryn Whitney, with special guest artists, the St. Mary's Children's Choir.

Some of the environmental organizations being celebrated are the Victoria Natural History Society, the Rocky Point Bird Observatory, the Dogwood Initiative, the Georgia Strait Alliance with others still to be confirmed.

Tickets are \$20 and available at the door, from the church office, after church on March 30th or by calling Diane at 250-472-2590.

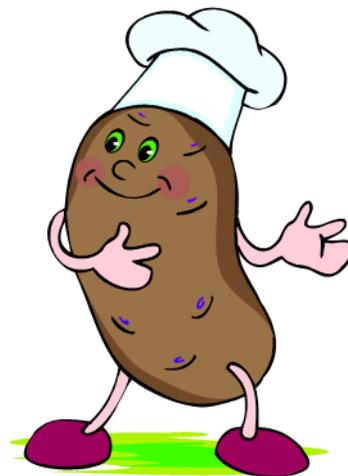
Come and enjoy an evening of music in celebration of the land, sea and sky we all share.

(Co-sponsored by Red Door Studio and the Association of Canadian Women Composers)

### You are invited to **The Community Dinner** Friday – March 14th at 6:00pm

This month is Baked Potato Night. Big fluffy baked potatoes with tons of toppings to choose from – including vegetarian and gluten free options. Everyone is welcome!! Please join us!! Dinner is by donation. Please bring a dessert, salad or drink to share. ***To help with clean-up please bring your own plate and dessert bowl. A rinsing station will be provided.***

What is the Community Dinner? It is our once-a-month dinner gathering on the 2nd Friday of the month – September to June. This is a very popular multi-generational event offering a great opportunity to meet new people or catch up with friends over a casual, fun, delicious meal.



## Rebranding and New Logo for the UUA

President Rev. Peter Morales announces the new logo of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). He says, "The dramatic shifts in today's religious landscape demanded that UUA leadership take an in-depth look at our strategic communications and how effectively our voice is breaking through the competing noise of our high-tech society... Today, I am excited to share with you one of the tools in an ongoing process of improved communication strategies, the UUA's new logo."

(reprinted from [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org))



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## ARTIST FOR MARCH

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The art in the Sanctuary for this month is by Sandra Levy. Sandra, originally from Montreal, studied art at Concordia University, Ecole des Beaux Arts de Montreal, and at Arizona State University. She has done graduate work in both fine arts and biology.

She has exhibited her artwork, in Montreal, Joliette, Drummondville and Quebec City; in Ottawa, Tempe, Arizona, and in Victoria where she now lives.

She has works in private collections in the Liberal Arts College of Concordia University, in the Qu'appelle House, the official residence of the Canadian Government Representative in Tokyo, and in the Rental Gallery of the Art Gallery of Victoria. Her works have been shown in Victoria art galleries, such as The Gallery at Matick's Farm, She Said Gallery, The Village Gallery and Xchanges Gallery.

### Depression and Anxiety Support Circle

Some of us at FUCV are starting a peer-facilitated support group for individuals who struggle with depression, anxiety, and bipolar disorder. We wish to offer you a vacation from the seemingly uncaring everyday world, in the company of people who suffer in a similar way to you and, like you, are on the journey to recovery.

Recent research on medication, therapy, and support, suggests that attending a support group can be the most helpful component of a healing process. In any case, we hope you'll find it the most rewarding!

The group will meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, starting on February 26th, 7:00-8:30pm, in the church Library. Group membership and all information shared during meetings will remain strictly confidential. Meetings will be informal, hoping to foster a great deal of warmth and humour wherever it can be found during our 90 minutes together.

For more information, or to put your name on our email list, please contact John Tiffany at: johntiffany0705@gmail.com or 778-265-1210, or Dar Gareau-Levy at: darlevy@gmail.com or 250-384-7229.

*A burden shared is a burden lightened.* Whether your struggle is situational or ongoing, we extend a heart-felt welcome to anyone who would like to join us.



### Coming in April: Social Responsibility Action of the Month

A RideShare program is sponsored by the Environmental Action Team. Connect with friends, make new ones, help the environment and have fun by sharing rides to church for the month of April. More in April newsletter.

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# FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA FOUNDATION

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## Call for Grant Proposals

The First Unitarian Church of Victoria Foundation was established to promote the principles and values of our Church. Currently the Foundation has contributions invested with the Victoria Foundation totaling approximately \$63,000. Income from approximately \$34,000 of these funds is dedicated to supporting First Nations post-secondary education through the Church. Income from the approximately \$28,000, is directed by request of the donor to support the music program and/or social responsibility programs of the Church.

The Foundation board recommended to the annual meeting in June, 2013, that the Church fund 1) the second year of a three-year commitment to provide a bursary of \$500 each at Camosun College, for First Nations students; and 2) the third year of a three-year commitment to provide a bursary of \$500 each with income from the First Nations fund. The board approved the granting of \$850 from the Music and Social Action Fund.

In 2013 the Foundation funded two \$500 bursaries for First Nations students attending Camosun College and granted \$850 to the Church Audio-Visual Fund to upgrade the sanctuary sound system.

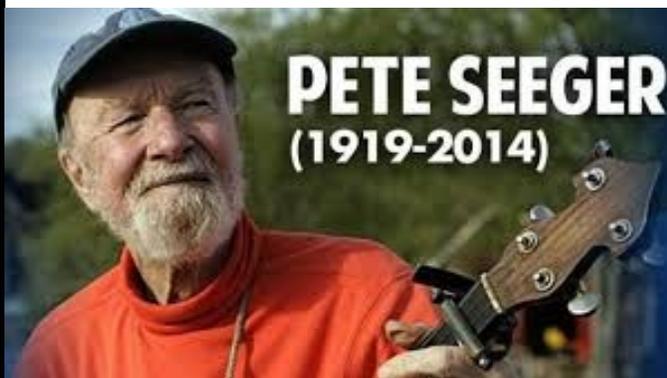
This year we anticipate around \$1200 will be available to fund two ongoing First Nations bursaries at Camosun College from the First Nations Fund.

The Foundation is currently seeking proposals from Church groups who need a grant of up to \$1,000 to fund church music or social action programmes. Applications must be for enhanced activities not normally supported by the Church budget and must cover costs not yet incurred.

An application form is available at the Church office or from the church website under FUCV Foundation.

The deadline for submission is March 31, 2014 and funding will be approved in June at the Foundation annual meeting.

### Notable Unitarians



Pete Seeger is fondly remembered this month by millions for his role in collecting and writing folk songs and as a catalyst for social change. He fought for many causes: civil rights, disarmament, the environment, freedom of speech, and on and on. He was courageous in challenging the House Anti-American Activities Committee. He sang at many events from labour rallies to President Obama's Inauguration. And he was a Unitarian.

### Circles of Connection

#### Living Alone

Tuesday, March 4, 6:30-8:00pm  
in the Farmhouse Common Room

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.

**Sign up** by contacting Rev. Melora at [rev.melora@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## Contact Changes



Penny Pattison  
2-1968 Fairfield Road  
Victoria, BC V8S 1H4



Johanna Billung-Meyer  
johanna6@shaw.ca  
Lynn Beak  
343 beak@gmail.com



Terry Czyz  
778-440-2227  
(Terry's number was  
listed incorrectly in the  
January newsletter.  
Our apologies).

## March Birthdays

- 1 John Tiffany
- 3 Wally du Temple, Eleanor Lloyd
- 4 Kathy Gallegos
- 5 John Hopewell
- 6 Caroline Startin
- 9 Ella Small, Danielle Walker
- 12 Emerald Pringle
- 14 Isabel Jones
- 15 Sandra Jacobsen
- 18 Kjerstin Mackie
- 19 Roger Sandford
- 20 Phyllis Girard, Margot Lods
- 21 Michael Ramsey
- 22 Alastair Dillistone, Bill Gaylord
- 23 Mac Elrod
- 26 Gwen Buttemer, Joyce Murphy, Shirley Travis, Don Lloyd
- 27 John Hall, Athena Lynngood
- 29 Curran Dobbs



## Covenant of Good Relations

### Answer to Question on page 11

The Covenant of Good Relations says: "We are committed to improving the quality of our lives by supporting one another's self development and spiritual growth. We will use the Covenant as a guide for how to voice such differences with respect, compassion, and a consideration for the good of the whole."

## Board Members on Duty



March 2	Lynn Hunter
March 9	Lynn Hunter
March 16	John Tiffany
March 23	Jen Young
March 30	Bob Dobbs



### 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](mailto:laychaplains@victoriaunitarian.ca)

## 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

Liz Graham 250-384-4351  
 Kjerstin Mackie 250-598-5975  
 Joyce Murphy 250-598-1506  
 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

## March Events Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Location
3/1	12:45-2:30pm	Meditation	Sunflower Room
3/2	10:30-11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	
	9:30am-noon	OWL meeting	Farmhouse Common Room
	noon-1:00pm	Listening Circle: The Name of our Congregation	Farmhouse Common Room
	noon-2:00pm	Secret Buddy	Lion Hall
	noon-1:30pm	Environment meeting	Library
3/3	7:30-9:30pm	Pub Night	Offsite location
3/4	6:30-8:00pm	Circles of Connection: 'Living Alone'	Farmhouse Common Room
3/5	noon-2:00pm	Care and Concern	Farmhouse Common Room
	5:00-9:00pm	Innovation Team	Farmhouse Common Room
3/6	6:00-8:30pm	SELCY meeting	Library
	7:30-9:30pm	Music Program	Sanctuary
3/7	7:15-9:30pm	Mindful Yarning	Offsite location
3/8	12:45-2:30pm	Meditation	Sunflower Room
3/9	<b>*11:30am-12:30pm</b>	<b>SUNDAY SERVICE (Note: later start time)</b>	
	11:30am-1:00pm	OWL meeting	Farmhouse Common Room
	noon-1:30pm	Diversity Group	Chaplains Room
	12:30pm-3:00pm	Souper Sunday	Sanctuary
	1:00pm-2:30pm	Atheists, Humanists, Agnostics	Library
	1:15pm-2:45pm	Care & Concern Workshop	Farmhouse Common Room

Continued on next page...

## March Events Calendar (continued from previous page)

Date	Time	Event	Location
3/10			
3/11	9:30am-noon	Learning Circle	Library
	10:00am-4:00pm	Sandy Merriman cooking	Kitchen Sanctuary
	1:30-3:30pm	Social Responsibility Committee	Farmhouse Common Room
3/12	7:00-8:30pm	Depression & Anxiety Support Circle	Library
3/13	7:30-9:30pm	Music Program	Sanctuary
3/14	6:00-10:00pm	Community Dinner	Sanctuary
3/15	12:45-2:30pm	Meditation	Sunflower Room
3/16	10:30-11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	
	10:30am-noon	Youth workshop	Lion Hall
	10:30-11:45am	Parents' Group	Farmhouse Common Room
	11:45am-1:30pm	Planned Giving Seminar	Farmhouse Common Room
3/17			
3/18	12:30-2:00pm	Committee on Ministry	Library
	2:30-4:00pm	Worship Committee	Farmhouse Common Room
3/19	6:30-8:30pm	SELCY meeting	Farmhouse Common Room
3/20	11:00am-2:00pm	Board Meeting	Farmhouse Common Room
	7:30-9:30pm	Music Program	Sanctuary
3/21	7:00-8:00pm	Equinox service	Sanctuary
	7:15-9:30pm	Mindful Yarning	Offsite location
3/22	12:45-2:30pm	Meditation	Sunflower Room
3/23	10:30-11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	
	10:30am-noon	YOUth Worship	Lion Hall
	11:30am-1:15pm	After Service Conversations	Library
	11:45am-1:15pm	After Service Conversations	Farmhouse Common Room
	noon-1:00pm	Listening Circle, The Name of Our Congregation	Lion Hall
3/24			
3/25	9:30am-noon	Learning Circle	Library
	6:30-8:30pm	Articulating your UU Faith	Farmhouse Common Room
3/26	7:00-8:30pm	Depression & Anxiety Support Circle	Library
3/27	7:30-9:30pm	Music Program	Sanctuary
3/28	9:00-10:30pm	Service Auction	Sanctuary
3/29	12:45-2:30pm	Meditation	Sunflower Room
3/30	10:30-11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
3/31			



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mwashford@gmail.com • nandobbs@shaw.ca

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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 **April** issue is **March 18.**

Copy should be sent to [newsletter@victoriaunitarian.ca](mailto: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](mailto: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).

## Heeding Our Call: What Calls to You? What Action Will You Take?

What might your 'calling' be in this spiritual community? What's the inner urge, impulse or inclination *you* have at this time? Each and every person has an opportunity and invitation to respond, to serve, to be a leader. Look for the straw hats in the next months. Meet the expanded 'nominating' committee. Talk with them about what calls to you. Seek them out, email or call: Jane Wilson; Diana Smith; Leslie Gillett; Forrest Smith. Check the church website for more details and perspectives on what is involved.