



The Victoria Unitarian

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
Growing in Spirit, Living with Compassion, Inspired to Serve

SERVICES IN AUGUST

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

August 2 **The Hidden Multiverse** **Doug Seeley** (See Bio on page 2)

Scientists are discovering many planets circling other stars in our galaxy. Many seem very strange, and a few suggest the possibility of Earth-like planets. This search leads to the possible existence of more advanced civilizations throughout our Milky Way galaxy. Some scientists are considering the possibilities for the existence of hidden, parallel universes to ours in what is called, the Multiverse. This talk shifts the Multiverse discussion closer to home and within our everyday lives, by considering our own conscious universes. Doing this has important implications for how we can live together, and what an "advanced civilization" could actually mean.

August 9 **Mystery of the Megaliths:** **Ruth Welburn**

In 2012, Ruth Welburn embarked on a 7-week journey of self-discovery in Europe. The trip culminated in a visit to the Carnac Stones (sometimes referred to as the French Stone Henge) in northwest Brittany. Since her return, she has been haunted by the mystery of the site. After an exhaustive search into just who the people were who erected the site, amazingly the picture of a peaceful Neolithic civilization emerges. Can mankind exist without war? Did such a prehistoric culture indeed exist many thousands of years ago?

August 16 **Living Whole** **Rev. Shana Lynngood**

Someone recently told me that after reading the work of poet David Whyte they were convinced that rather than seeking balance in life (between work and play and family), the goal should be to live in a way that feels whole. What are our lives committed to? To whom to give our time and energies? How can we have a full sense of who we are show up in every facet of our lives?

August 23 **Intergenerational Blessing of the Animals** **Rev. Melora Lynngood**

Come one, come all! Come bipeds, come quadrupeds! Dogs, cats, gerbils, lizards, fish, teddy bears—all are welcome! In this service, we honour the gifts that animals bring to our lives. Bring your pets (appropriately leashed or caged), beloved stuffed animals, or mementos of your pets (e.g. If your cat would not enjoy such an outing, bring her photo and her favourite toy or collar.) There will also be a time to remember the pets we have lost; bring photos and mementos of any beloved animal companion you would like to remember with a candle lighting. This is a participatory service for all ages—kids are welcome to stay for the whole service.

August 30 **Q&A with Your Ministers!** **Reverends Shana and Melora Lynngood**

What do you wish you could ask the ministers? "What do you mean by 'spiritual?'" "Is Unitarian Universalism a Christian religion?" "What experiences in your childhood led you to choose ministry?" "If you had one year to live, what would you do?"

Your ministers welcome all sorts of questions – theological, ethical, personal, etc. You can direct your question to a particular minister or welcome a response from either. (Due to time restrictions, we will have to limit questions we both answer). Submit your questions at any time via email to rev.melora@gmail.com, or after August 11, via text or phone (250) 891-6331 (Rev. Shana's cell). Rev. Melora and Rev. Shana will do their best to answer as many as they can.

**Please submit all questions
BEFORE Monday, August 24.**

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The deadline for submissions to the
September issue of the newsletter is **August 18**.

BOARD BUSINESS

SUZANNE BEAUCHAMP

Meeting of July 6, 2015

- **Administrative Needs Task Force.** An informative meeting was held on June 21. This task force will be continuing with the purpose of solving identified problems. The task force will be looking for some new members.
- **Charitable Status Report.** The T3010 report has been sent to the Canada Revenue Agency with input from the SRC and treasury. We are advised that to keep our charitable status we cannot be partisan in our activities, particularly in our publications or verbal communications.
- **Newsletter.** This committee needs an additional person to assist with publication. Interest in looking at Publisher software would be helpful.
- **Montessori School.** During school hours any persons who are on the school grounds are asked to please check in with the Montessori School office.
- **Tsartlip Reserve Preschool.** There was a request from “I Carry Your Heart Day Care” for the church to provide charitable status for a donation from the United Way through Success by Six. This request was reluctantly denied.
- **Summer Supervision of Child Minders.** The Board Member on Duty will be the contact person during the service hours for the child minders in case of a problem.
- **Communication Enhancement.** As well as this new column there will be a short biography with pictures of all the board members published in the newsletter so the congregation can identify and learn a little about their elected members.
- **Purpose of the Church** - There will be a forum for discussion of the church purpose on September 27th. This will take the form of a panel.
- **Congregational Meeting.** A special meeting is called for November 22 in the Sanctuary.

Suzanne Beauchamp, Board Reporter

Bio of Doug Seeley, Ph.D. (August 2 presenter)

Doug is a writer and a part-time Associate at Royal Roads University, teaching Systems Thinking for environmentalists. He is a Director of a high tech startup, InterDynamics Pty. Ltd. (some 23 years ago) which he conceived in Australia. Graduating from U of T in operations research, Doug had academic positions at UBC, SFU, University of South Australia, Royal Roads and the Canadian College of Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine, largely teaching Software Engineering. Although an atheist in his early years, Doug managed to sustain a deep and experiential interest in metaphysics, parapsychology and comparative mysticism. This talk integrates some of these threads of his life. Doug is married with 4 children.

A Journey with the Canada Revenue Agency (and other charitable organizations)

At our last Annual General Meeting on May 31 a number of questions were raised about maintaining our charitable status with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

Three years ago Parliament approved revisions to the Canada Revenue Agency Act that tightened some of the rules for registered charities. As with any change, some misunderstandings may result, leading to confusion and concern.

I would like to emphasize:

- The CRA is not out “to get us.” The revised act applies to all registered charities. Along with past-president Mike Graham, I attended a workshop with Imagine Canada (the lobby group for charities in Canada) and the main message was not to panic. Information is available—videos, written and web-based articles, the CRA itself and, of course, other charitable organizations.
- Second, we are conducting ourselves within the revised rules of the CRA. The legislation is relatively simple and straightforward and need not hinder our charitable goals. Bob Dobbs, our outgoing treasurer, and Roberta Clair, our newly elected treasurer, attended a Church Treasurers’ workshop that dealt with CRA issues and are up to speed on the changes.
- Third, the change in the Canada Revenue Agency Act provides an opportunity to update our own Statement of Purpose—who are we and what do we do. Board trustee John Worton is working on a new church purpose and a version was presented at the AGM for discussion. It will be voted upon again at a congregational meeting on Nov. 22.

Please note that upcoming forums or panels on the subject and wording will be posted in the E-Weekly. The Purpose, posted in our Constitution, can affect the reference used by the CRA if we were ever under their lens. It currently says: *The purposes of the Society are: a) to foster liberal religious attitudes and living through group study, worship, service work and recreation and, b) to further individual freedom of belief, the advancement of truth, the democratic progress in human relations, humanity undivided by nation, race, sexual orientation, or creed and allegiance to the cause of the united world community.*

Since we are a CRA-registered charity your donations are tax deductible. As a CRA-registered charity half of the GST that we pay on purchases is rebated and we are not required to pay assessment tax on our property, among other benefits.

In order to protect our charitable status, it is essential that we not conduct any “partisan political” activity (although we may conduct “political” non-partisan activities). As an example, we may not support, or criticize, any party or any candidate at any level of government.

It is also essential that we financially support only CRA-registered charities. As an example, proceeds from our share-the-plate donations must only go to CRA-registered charities.

We also may not devote more than 10% of our resources — money, volunteer and staff time, office supplies etc. — to “political” non-partisan activities (which can be, as an example, environmental issues.)

Our retired treasurer Bob Dobbs has filed our 2014 Registered Charity Information Return, and is reviewing our 2013 return, to ensure we meet the CRA rules. We have a CRA subcommittee, consisting of some Social Responsibility Coalition (SRC) folk and some board trustees, that have been meeting to help Bob complete the reporting. (Since he was treasurer for both years he will sign the declarations.) In the next few months we will also tally the number of volunteer hours in the church. We estimate we are well within the 10% political activity allowed, but a tally will assure that the resources we are reporting will be accurate for years to come.

SRC is part of our church so what they say counts as a church statement. In the past SRC has co-sponsored community events that, I believe, were with the understanding that this was not the same as the church involvement. As long as it is non-partisan this type of sponsorship it is OK, but it does count as part of the 10%.

The Canadian Unitarian Council has also sent us guidelines for rentals/outsider donations and use of church property. This essentially says church members may receive no special treatment compared to the general public. Conversations are still happening with other large UU congregations about the donation policy. It is mutually beneficial to share each other’s rental policy and find a mutual approach for ministerial and chaplaincy rights of passage.

In discussing this with other leaders at the CUC annual conference in Ottawa, I noted that affiliations of our board trustee with other boards need to be reviewed. The nominating committee will also need to know affiliations of board members who serve on other bodies that are not charities.

Last month, the law firm Carters of Toronto was hired by CUC to help with a CRA audit of the CUC. We now have a Carters publication ‘separating fact from fiction; political activities revisited’.

All in all, we are farther ahead now than at the start of the year. Our Administrative Council is busy, plus we are grateful to more than a few for participating.

Sincerely, Shirley Travis, on behalf of your Board of Trustees

Make Meaningful Connections Talking About Things That Matter! “Soul Matters” Theme Groups Sign Up Now!

This Fall, we are launching new “Soul Matters” theme groups. Each group of eight to ten people will meet once a month to explore each month’s theme in-depth. Group members will be given thought provoking resources to explore and intriguing practices to try out in advance of each monthly meeting. Some groups will begin in September. At least one will launch in October. Both will go through June, making a total of nine to ten sessions.

Facilitators and times will be announced shortly, but for now, you can reserve a spot in the program by contacting Rev. Melora (email anytime rev.melora@gmail.com or text or phone after August 11 (250-891-6330).

Here is a preview of the themes--

Practices to Transform Ourselves and Our World	
Themes for 2015 - 2016	
September	Kinship: the practice of living a life of relatedness
October	Listening: the practice of opening oneself to the experience of others
November	Integrity: the practice of living authentically
December	Hope: the practice of leaning into the light
January	Stillness: the practice of dwelling in open moments
February	Reconciliation: the practice of healing broken relationship
March	Resilience: the practice of tapping into your inner strength
April	Imagination: the practice of playing with possibilities
May	Tradition: the practice of connecting with your roots
June	Identity: the practice of understanding the many facets of your being

Keep Piling Up Your Books For Our GIANT BOOK SALE!

Saturday, September 26

It's fruit season, so please save any low fruit boxes to help display the books.

Would you like to help? Contact Suellen Guenther, sguenther@shaw.ca or 250-727-0454

Do you have books to donate?

Please keep them until September. However, if you need to clear them out now, you may bring them to the church in boxes and put them in the storage space under the sanctuary.

Please do not donate textbooks, encyclopaedias, Reader's Digest Condensed books, computer books, or magazines. They don't sell. Please put them in your recycling.



Our book sale is a tradition, attracting buyers from all over Victoria. Don't miss it!

AT THE UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Pat Kinrade was our official delegate to the UUA General Assembly, the first full delegate in a long time. It was held close by in Portland so several church members attended as well as our ministers, along with 4500 others. Relaxing in the photo are four of those Canadians whom we know well: (left to right) Marion Pape, Sylvia Krogh (who sent the photo), Anna Isaacs, and Leslie Gillett. We hear it was an exciting week. (Presumably, Pat was off somewhere being a delegate).



Three out of four Unitarians prefer water*

* Photo caption provided by the editor without permission.

THE GRAPEVINE

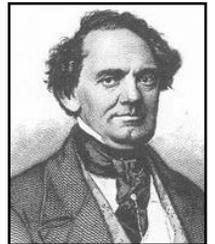
This May Katherine Jones ventured off into the desert on a magical, mystery tour of Morocco. Arriving in 47 degree heat, Katherine and her daughter, Susie, set out to explore the dizzying alleyways of Marrakech's medina, layered with exotic carpets, pierced metal lanterns, spices and leather goods by day—snake charmers, monkeys, fragrant clouds from food vendors and wailing street musicians by night.

The ambitious eight-day circle tour through dramatic sandcastle landscapes and date palm oases started in Marrakech with our Berber guide, Mouhammed, and included Tingher, Zagora, Ouarzazate and back to Marrakech. Our highlight was staying in a beautiful riad in Merzouga with a hilarious and spectacular camel ride over the Sahara desert with a lovely Italian couple we met.

Following our time in Morocco, we spent another week in and around London, taking in some fantastic shows (Gypsy at the glamorous Savoy), the London Eye, Lord Leighton House (worth a visit), Stonehenge and The Wallace Collection to name a few sights.

NOTABLE UUS

Phineas Taylor Barnum (1810-1891) was a prominent American Universalist, the most influential American showman of the nineteenth century, and the founder of the first financially successful museum in America in New York City.



He wrote a booklet "Why I am a Universalist" in which he told how his Universalist grandfather rescued him from a local Calvinist church. Later he became a church trustee, donated generously to several worthy causes, and enjoyed speaking from the pulpit.

By 1870 Barnum was preparing a traveling show that featured a menagerie, caravan, hippodrome, and circus. Its first performance was in Brooklyn before 10,000 people. This evolved into his first two-ring circus, the "Great Traveling World's Fair." A decade later this had become the Barnum and Bailey Circus, "The Greatest Show on Earth," with its remarkable star the great elephant Jumbo.

—Christine Johnston

ARTIST OF THE MONTH (FRANCES BASKERVILLE)

Artist Statement: *"I paint the figure because I am fascinated by human energy. Whether it takes the form of physical movement, as in dance, or the form of emotional or spiritual intensity, I try to capture particular moments. I am interested in the ways that people experience struggle and freedom. My figures are striving ...often for something they cannot reach or can reach only momentarily. Moments of release are short-lived but beautiful."*

Frances is a graduate of English, Language and Literature at the University of Toronto and has a Masters degree from the University of Western Ontario. After careers in education, librarianship and public service management, she entered art school and has committed herself to art since graduation from the Victoria College of Art in 2000. Her work highlights the human form in large, emotionally-charged acrylic canvases. Figures are powerful but vulnerable. Heavily textured surfaces of canvas, cardboard, burlap and paint reflect the multilayered nature of reality and the precariousness of the human condition.

A recipient of the Herbert Siebner Practising Artist Award, Frances has had solo shows in Victoria, Sidney, Parksville, Port Moody, Vancouver, and Portland, Oregon. Her work has been exhibited at Arthur Leggett Fine Art in Toronto, THEWORKS Festival of Art in Edmonton, the BC Festival of the Arts, the Campbell River Art Gallery, and the Maple Ridge and Burnaby art galleries. In Victoria her work has been exhibited at Madrona Gallery, Fran Willis Gallery, Martin Batchelor Gallery, the Gallery at the MacPherson, the Arts Council of Greater Victoria, the Rogueart Gallery, the May Ip-Lam Art Gallery, the Sooke and Sidney Fine Arts Shows and the Maltwood Gallery at the University of Victoria. Among her many commissions is a 10 foot square mural for the City of Victoria beautification project at Royal Athletic Park. In August 2010 her installation "In the moment" a 13 panel mural based on the theme "multiculturalism and community" was inaugurated at the Gordon Head Recreation Centre. In September 2015 her latest work will be on display at the Martin Batchelor Gallery.

Frances is represented by the Madrona Gallery in Victoria



Dancing at Willows Beach

What's in this backpack? Self-esteem



Remember when you were 7 or 9 or 11 years old, how acutely embarrassing life could occasionally be? Those times where something made you stand out from all your friends? When your so-called friends looked at you and snickered. Children are so sensitive to mockery. They remember those bad moments for years and years. It colors how they live.

The back-to-school backpack project is intended to forestall some of those dreaded occasions, like arriving for the first day of school next month with empty hands—when everyone around you has a backpack load of school supplies. You knew you should bring those things, the teacher said so, but with two other kids and half-time work in your family, your parents simply couldn't afford to buy the classroom supplies you needed. After rent and food, an extra \$40 or \$50 was just not available.

Surrounded by Cedar Child and Family Services, run by and for First Nations people living off reserve, provides services rooted in cultural values and beliefs, to restore and enhance the strength and resiliency in the urban Aboriginal community. Each year at this time it conducts the back-to-school backpack project, intended to provide those empty-handed kids with just what the school system ordered, but wouldn't pay for.

In the month of August for the past eight years, this church community has helped fill backpacks with school supplies for those First Nations children needing them. We have been junior partners with Surrounded by Cedar. Over those years we have provided more than 400 backpacks bulging with what kids needed on that first day back in class (see shelf display).

If this sounds like a good investment to you, please make your donation cheque payable to First Unitarian Church of Victoria and on the memo line write "backpack." Drop it in the collection basket on Sundays or mail it to the church treasurer. Thank you.

—Don Vipond

Non-violent Conflict Resolution Skills for the Children and Youth of Bethlehem, Palestine

Sarah and Ali are two of the traumatized children who have lived all their lives in a refugee camp and have had difficulty sleeping, learning or playing freely.

When they moved to camp Aida beside Bethlehem, someone told their mother about Wi'am Centre non-sectarian summer camp where they could feel unafraid and safe as well as learn how to get along with different people without violence, people who practised a different religion. Since they had little money it seemed too good to be true that some kind person donated funds for them to attend.

Learning these skills has opened a door of hope and laughter but they will not be able to continue practising these new communication skills this winter unless folks like us donate to help.

In the photos, Sarah is in girls group and Ali is in boys group, playing at camp.



Our congregation voted in March on the order in which we wanted to fund three HOW projects this year. Each project asked for about \$5,000. The first and second projects have been fully funded. This project finished third but it's still a winner. Please help to give these young people the skills to bring peace at last to this troubled land. Make your cheque payable to First Unitarian Church of Victoria and on the memo line write HOW. Drop it in the Sunday collection basket or mail to the treasurer at the church office. Thank you.

CHLD HAVEN COMMITTEE

Several of you not only donated to Child Haven this spring but also to their Earthquake fund where the donations were doubled by our federal government. There are a lot of pictures and comments on the Nepali earthquake on their Website. but particularly on www.facebook.com/childhaveninternational posted by Robin Cappuccino who recently visited with his mother Bonnie. CHI joined forces with the Nepali Women's Foundation and a local hospital to help those afflicted. Three children whose parents were killed have been placed in the Kathmandu Home.

EAT RECOMMENDS...

The Environmental Action Team recommends this video for an uplifting song about healthy choices. Ensure that you and your health professional are partners in determining the medicines you take and the medical tests you undergo. View 'Choosing Wisely' – 4 ½ minutes
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FqQ-JuRDkl8&feature=youtu.be> Choose wisely not to expose yourself to unnecessary excessive drugs, chemicals, radiation, etc. in all of the environment in and around you.

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.

Please note that some of the Neighbourhood Groups are less active in the summer.

Cadboro Bay: Chris Cook writes, "On July 4, Cadboro Bay NG put on a beer, bocce and burger fundraiser for the Service Auction. Sixteen guests came and enjoyed a very competitive game under the scrutiny of the umpires, Earle Anthony and his helper Barry Wiebe. The NG bought the beer and provided lots of food, and stepped up to help with all the jobs involved in putting on the event. Great fun was had by all."

Esquimalt: Pat McMahon sends this message, "Esquimalt NG is looking forward to meeting for a potluck supper at Gloria and John Hopewell's on August 7."

Fairfield: Herb Girard sends out this plea: "The Fairfield Neighbourhood Group has been without a convenor for the past couple of years. If you are interested, please call Herb Girard at 250-388-9551 or email at hcgirard@uniserve.com." In spite of this difficulty, members of the Fairfield group have been providing treats for coffee time in July.

Grand Central: We are pleased to welcome new convenor, Marya Nyland. Marya is busy organizing Grand Central to provide treats for coffee time in August. She reports they are saying a sad goodbye to Paula and Zak, who are moving to Esquimalt, and welcoming Victoria Barr, David Hoadley and family. They have just moved to Grand Central from the Nearby NG.

James Bay: Lynn Hunter writes, "The James Bay Neighbourhood Group will be gathering at the home of Daphne Dunbar for a potluck lunch on August 31 for fellowship and good food."

Nearby: Nancy Dobbs sends this advance news, "No activities are planned at this time for the summer with Nearby. Mark your calendars for a Souper on September 27. Nearby will be co-hosting the Souper with the Western NG. It will be a treat to work with Susan Lean, our "queen of the kitchen."

Oak Bay: Karla Thomson writes, "The OBNG has recently had a fun evening at Tiff and Jan Li's. The evening was so nice that we spent the entire time outside. The food was mainly recipes that our mothers used to make and we had many laughs discussing what kind of cooks our mothers were. Our next gathering is in August at Liz and Mike Graham's and, as usual, our monthly lunch is coming up very soon. All seems well, no illness or accidents to report. Here's hoping everyone has a safe and happy summer."

Royal Oak East: Hanny Pannekoek looks ahead to September, "Our next gathering will be on Tuesday, September 8 at 5:30pm, and will be a potluck. We do not know where yet."

Royal Oak West: Fran Hancock sends out this request, "Dolores Appleton, our NG Care and Concern coordinator, has been keeping in contact with several of our older members. Please let me know if there are others in our NG who may welcome a phone call or visit." Members of Royal Oak West contributed funds for the Brewery

Spruce up the Building/Property Day

Saturday, September 12, 9am-2pm

ALL INVITED

All members and friends of FUCV are invited to an annual cleaning-up of various parts of our buildings (our third annual cleaning). Work that needs to be done include:

- Outside and inside washing of windows that are easily reached (not the tall or awkward ones, as we hire people to do those). Also the outside and inside office windows.
- Clearing out the storage rooms, especially under the Sanctuary and Lion Hall.
- Dusting off tops of shelves, ledges, baseboards, lights, etc.
- Checking out all of the chairs, to make sure they're in good shape for us to sit on.
- Cleaning out window wells in the Lion Hall kitchen.
- Paint touch-ups.
- Mopping/cleaning all bathroom floors, walls, sinks and toilets.
- Cleaning out floor vents.
- Vacuuming carpets (please bring extra vacuums).

Suggestions? Please feel free to contact me with more ideas at johntiffany0705@gmail.com.

We will need some volunteers to set up the coffee/tea ahead of time. We also need some baked goodies to be provided by volunteers, to keep the work gang refreshed. Plus we need lots of rags for cleaning and four vacuums.

Any people/committees with items stored in any of the basement storage areas are asked to go label those items for what they want kept before September 9 (so we can quickly toss out unwanted stuff on the actual day and not wait around to see what's what in these areas).

This is an important opportunity to take care of a number of items that are just too much for the Building Maintenance Committee to take care of themselves. The more hands on deck the more we can do! Hope to see as many of you as possible. Feel free to come by for only one hour, as a lot can get done in that time with a bunch of us.

Property Management Council Chair
John Tiffany (Tiff)

We Care!

Care and Concern Committee

for hospital and home visits, or just to talk...

Daphne Dunbar at 250-381-7648

Val Roberts at 250-477-7192

or your Neighbourhood Group Care & Concern person

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



BOARD MEMBERS ON DUTY



August 4

August 11

August 18

August 25

August 30

Lorna Anthony

John Worton

Roberta Clair

Marion Sollazzo

Jane Wilson

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

Oceanna Hall 250-886-1077

laychaplains@victoriaunitarian.ca
Kjerstin Mackie 250-598-5975

Anne Vaasjo 250-385-1603

Director of Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Children and Youth

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

Children's Program Assistant

Anna Isaacs

Director of Music

Nick Fairbank
music@victoriaunitarian.ca

Church Administrator

Karen Uldall-Ekman
churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca

Assistant Church Administrator

Sarah Versteegen

Board of Trustees

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Vice-President	Lorna Anthony	250-592-4831
Treasurer	Roberta Clair	250-532-1973
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Council Representatives

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Outreach	Jim Jordan	250-654-0672
Property Management	John Tiffany	778-432-0881
Spiritual Development	Marion Sollazzo	250-721-1741

Contact Changes

New Email

Dolores Appleton
dolovic825@telus.net

Andrew Lee
andrew.lee@firley.ca

Paula Steele
pksteele21@gmail.com

Bob Van Alstyne
vana@shaw.ca



New Address and Phone Number

Victoria Barr and David Hoadley
1763 Emerson Street
Victoria, BC V8R 2C2
[250-595-7111](tel:250-595-7111)



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250 208 2954

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Victoria, BC V8N 3M5

JuneFukushima.com



The First Unitarian Church of Victoria
5575 West Saanich Road
Victoria, BC V9E 2G1

Phone: 250-744-2665
E-mail: churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca
www.victoriaunitarian.ca

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Feedback is welcomed.

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