



The Victoria Unitarian

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

SERVICES IN JANUARY

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

Practices to Transform Ourselves and Our World

January's Theme

**YEARNING:
THE PRACTICE OF SEEKING DEPTH**



January 4 **Seeing with Fresh Eyes** **Dr. Paul Bramadat**

At the beginning of every new year, we are often told to look forward to a "new you". In this first service of 2015, we suggest instead looking at the world through new eyes now and then, searching out new perspectives, perhaps walking Robert Frost's "The road less travelled". What happens when you see old patterns in a new way? What about society itself seeing with fresh eyes? Less division, more inclusion perhaps? Dr Paul Bramadat, Director of the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society at UVic (and Reverend Jane's son) speaks today about "Secularism and its Discontents". What does it mean to say we live in a secular society, or that our political and legal systems are characterized by secularism? The answers are far less clear than many of us think. In this sermon, Paul will help us enter into these controversial questions through a reflection on recent public controversies.

January 11 **Yearning** **Reverend Melora Lynngood**

Worship Associate Installation Ceremony today!

What do you yearn for? Which yearnings have led to deeper, more fulfilling living and which have led you away from it? How do we lean into one and away from the other? When a deep yearning is unfulfilled, how do we heal and move on? These are just some of the questions we'll consider as we begin our exploration of this month's theme. See questions for pondering on page 3.

January 18 **Modern Mysticism** **Reverend Shana Lynngood**

As we continue our exploration of yearning we examine what it means to be one who actively seeks (and sometimes finds) direct connection with the Holy. When we hear the word mystic we often think of ancient sages of many traditions - Rumi, Teresa of Avila, Buddha--who speak with shocking clarity about connecting with Spirit or God. What does mysticism look like in the twenty-first century? Has it changed? Is communion with the Holy still worth seeking? Can we do so regardless of our theological perspective?

January 25 **The Yearning of the Social Activist** **Reverend Melora Lynngood**

Yearning is a familiar emotion for the social activist - yearning for peace, yearning for equity, yearning for a world community that lives in ways that will nurture and sustain our planet. In the face of war, poverty, climate change, and the destruction wrought by corporations, governments, and regular human beings, that yearning can be a cause of despair. What spiritual practices might help us change that yearning from despair to encouragement and motivation? This sermon is a prelude to a **workshop** Reverend Melora will lead on **Tuesday, January 27, "Spiritual Practices for the Social Activist."** (See page 4) All are welcome at both the worship service and the workshop

 denotes Chalice Choir

 denotes Women's Choir

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The deadline for submissions to the February issue of the newsletter is **January 20**.

SELECTIONS

FAYE MOGENSEN

SElections from the Children and Youth Programs

This month, in the Children's Wing, we launch the newly revised grades eight to nine version of "Our Whole Lives," the award-winning sexuality education program that has been a tradition of our faith for several decades. Doing so feels very much aligned with the church theme this month of "Yearning – the Practice of Seeking Depth". The curriculum has twenty-five well-planned lessons, which will be covered in fifteen sessions, and goes into far more depth than the sexuality education programs offered by schools. With a broad range of activities, it explores the physical, social, emotional and spiritual aspects of sexuality and helps participants clarify values and improve decision-making skills. Please spread the word (we are especially hoping that more boys sign up.) The course begins with concurrent parent and youth orientations/icebreakers after Community Dinner on Friday January 9. Registration will remain open until January 9 (unless it fills prior to that).

Like the Gauguin painting entitled "Where do we come from? Who are we? Where are we going?" and the words used in one of our UU chants, Reverend Shana and I hope to help deepen the understanding for all participants (including parents and children) of the philosophy, aims and expectations of involvement in our Spiritual Exploration and Learning program for children and youth. We feel there is value in having us all "on the same page" in terms of everything, from program philosophy to the group management that is necessary to keep the everyone running in the same direction on Sundays. We will be co-leading a special family time, in the Lion Hall, during the regular service on January 25 where we'll worship together, and later break off into age cohorts. If your child takes part in our program, or if you are a leader within the SEL-CY program, this is a session that's not to be missed!

Are you "Yearning" for more connection at the church? The Mystery Buddy program is an opportunity to meet someone from another generation within our church by exchanging letters on a weekly basis, from February 1-22. You and your buddy use a code name to slowly reveal clues about yourselves and, if you like, share what you find out about the famous Unitarian whose name you are given. New this year: you can use "snail mail" and/or "email" to exchange letters - you do NOT have to be at church every Sunday to participate – you need only be ready to write and receive letters. On March 1 at noon, your true identities will be revealed at the festive Mad Hatter Party. Please contact Anna at anna@victoriaunitarian.ca for more information, or to sign up.

I hope you will take advantage of one or more of these opportunities to deepen your involvement or understanding here at the church.

Warmly, Faye

Director of Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Children and Youth • 250-744-2695 • fayem@victoriaunitarian.ca

Easy Barn Dance Rehearsal Sunday, January 11 after church

For those who want to dance at the Burns Dinner on January 23 and want to polish up the moves; or for those who are sad to miss it but cannot help respond to lively dance music after sitting still at a service, please join us in Lion Hall soon after noon for forty-five minutes or so. Haymakers, Progressive Gordons and Strip the Willow. Lillie Lentz and Christine Johnston welcome you to join in whatever your skill.

This month, continuing our yearlong exploration of practices to transform self and our world, we consider, “Yearning: The Practice of Seeking Depth”.

Here are the questions for you to ponder. Read through them all and **find the one that ‘hooks’ you** the most. Then live with that question over the course of the month. Think about it, journal your responses, share your musings with friends and family.

If you sign up for a **Soul Matters** group (see below), come to the group ready to share your experience of living with the question you chose (or the question that chose you, as the case may be).



- What did you yearn for in your childhood? Was the yearning fulfilled or unfulfilled? Are any of your childhood yearnings with you still?
- What did you yearn for once you reached adulthood?
- What do you yearn for now?
- How do you recognize yearning? What does it feel like in your body?
- What do you do with your yearnings?
- Has yearning ever led you astray? What has your yearning done to your life and its horizons - broadened them or crippled them? Sometimes we try to feed our hungers or quench our thirst with the wrong thing. It takes time to learn what we truly yearn for. Where are you in this process of learning?
- What is the relationship between yearning and happiness in your life?
- Can you distinguish yearnings that come from within versus yearnings that are imposed from outside yourself? Which yearnings, if followed, might make your life more fulfilling, might help you live as the you that you long to be? Which yearnings torment you or prevent you from living the life you wish to live?
- Do you feel spiritual yearnings? What do they feel like?
- If you were to draw or paint or sculpt your yearnings, what would it look like?
- What yearning brings you to church?
- Have you ever felt a yearning to feel one with all that exists? Was that yearning fulfilled? For how long did it stay with you?
- Has yearning ever made you feel like a mystic? Does it have a dimension of “otherness” to it? How do you make sense of and articulate that for yourself? Do you need to articulate it? Or just listen to it more deeply, and let it more fully lead your life?
- How did you overcome a yearning denied? We’ve all yearned for something but seen it slip through our fingers or remain forever out of reach. The longing to have a child. The dream of starting our own business. A lover that didn’t love you back. How did you heal after a yearning denied? What are you doing to continue to heal?
- How has yearning affected your efforts toward social responsibility and eco-justice? Does it act as a motivation or an impediment?

“A soul that longs for something is a soul that is growing — one way or another, smaller or larger. What have your longings done to your life and its horizons — broadened them or crippled them?”

-Joan Chittister, The Psalms

Credit for these questions and materials with which we explore each month’s goes to the Soul Matters Program designed by Reverend Scott Taylor, with help from all his contributors, notably, this month, Reverend Karen Fraser Gütli in Saskatoon.

PROPERTY COUNCIL TOWN HALL **JOHN TIFFANY**

The Property Council will be hosting a "Town Hall" (forum) on the true costs of the long-term upkeep for our property (buildings & grounds). The forum will be held on **Sunday, January 11th, from 12:15-1:30pm** in the Farmhouse Common Room. The "Long-Term Costs" Team has written up a detailed 30-year cost analysis for all necessary replacements (ranging from heat pumps to windows to roofs to dishwashers to storm drains to lights to doors to flooring; etc.), which will help lead this discussion.

Make Meaningful Connections Talking About Things That Matter

“Soul Matters” Theme Groups

There are still a few spaces open in the minister-led program called “Soul Matters”. Each of the two small groups 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. Groups will run for six sessions, January-June.

Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 pm, January 20, February 17, March 24, April 28, May 26, June 16.
Sign up with **Reverend Melora** rev.melor@gmail.com (250)891-6330

Thursdays, 1:00-3:00 pm, January 29, February 26, March 26, April 23, May 28, June 18.
Sign up with **Reverend Shana** rev.shana@shaw.com (250)891-6331

Practices to Transform Ourselves and Our World	
Themes for 2014-2015 continued	
January	Yearning: the practice of seeking depth
February	Connection: the practice of experiencing our interdependence
March	Curiosity: the practice of collecting a variety of truths
April	Courage: the practice of walking alongside fear
May	Honesty: the practice of living one’s truth
June	Play: the practice of having fun

Space is limited—preference given to those who may be able to facilitate in the fall.

SOCIAL ACTIVISM AS SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

PHILIP SYMONS

Workshop with Reverend Melora

Reverend Melora will hold a workshop on social activism as spiritual practice on Tuesday January 27, 6:30-8:30pm in the Common Room (Farmhouse).

Many people in our church work for the social good. This workshop is intended for all “social activists” whether they are formal members of the Social Responsibility Coalition or not, in fact, particularly if they are not.

The early evening time is intended to help those with families get home at a reasonable hour. If you find you have little time for dinner, you can always grab a sandwich from the Red Barn across the road! The SRC will be providing cookies, cake, decaffeinated coffee and tea at the workshop.

This will be a pleasurable and interesting experience. Please come if you are able.

Music Notes

- On Friday, March 20, at 7 pm, there will be a choral concert in which the Chalice Choir will be joined by the **Sing Your Joy Young Adult Chorus and the Via Choralis Chamber Choir**.
- The Spring Concert will be held on May 1.
- Anyone interested in joining the new auditioned Chamber Choir at FUCV, please contact the Music Director. We are still looking for sopranos and tenors.

Neighborhood Groups or Birthday Calls?

For ministers, one of the heartaches of serving a congregation of 300 people is that we can never spend as much time as we would like to spend with each individual person. One of the ways, I (Reverend Melora) have tried to reduce this heartache is by trying to call people whose birthdays are listed in the newsletter on their birthdays. As you may have experienced, I seldom manage to make the call on the exact right day, but it does give me the chance to connect with many of you one-on-one in a way I wouldn't get to otherwise. (By the way, if you have never received a birthday phone call or email from me, contact the office and ask them to list your birthday in the newsletter—also, make sure your contact info is up to date in our directory.)

As you may have also noticed, Reverend Shana and I, who share one position (i.e., we each work half-time, not full-time), prioritize: worship preparation, teaching, pastoral care, staff supervision, lay leader support (working with the board, committees, and teams), and outreach; we have had to choose our attendance of church 'social events' carefully to maximize parishioner contact given the time constraints of our other work. As a general guideline, we tend to only attend events to which the whole congregation is invited – like the Auction, Souper lunches, Choir concerts, and the occasional Community Dinner (though we haven't been able to do those in a while, largely because our 2 year old doesn't do so well at evening events, which thankfully, will change with time.) Sadly, in the interest of time, we have had to pass up individual's birthday parties, anniversary celebrations, and such.

Recently, we have had a few requests to attend Neighbourhood Group gatherings, which we didn't feel we could fairly attend unless we visited each of the twelve groups.

So, we brought the quandary to our Committee on Ministry, and they suggested that we do an experiment. **For 2015, instead of ministers doing birthday calls, each of the twelve Neighbourhood Groups will have a gathering that will be attended by one of the ministers** (Reverend Melora or Reverend Shana). We'll ask you what you thought of the experiment at the end of the year – maybe we'll go back to birthday calls, maybe we'll alternate methods each year.

If you would like to discuss this experiment or the broader issue of how we allocate our work-time with either of us, feel free to call us. You can also contact any of the members of the Committee on Ministry, whose purpose is to help maximize the effectiveness of the professional ministry serving this congregation.

The members of the Committee on Ministry are:

Allan Dakin, Chair adakin9@gmail.com 250-744-1357
 Hanny Pannekoek hannyhugo@shaw.ca 250-385-2299
 Bob Thompson glenyst@telus.net 250-658-1484
 Penelope Hagan lonepeep@gmail.com 250-995-2997
 Kent Haden kent@hadensoftware.com 250-479-6563

The bottom line is that we care about you, and will always do our best to serve you and the mission of our congregation well. If you are ever in crisis or need pastoral care, please don't hesitate to call our cell phones. Reverend Melora (250) 891-6330. Reverend Shana (250) 891-6331.

SHARED MINISTRY REFLECTIONS

DIANA SMITH

We're asking people: What is your ministry?

“Your unique contribution to the earth and those who dwell upon it.”

Marion Sollazzo shares: I love children and youth! I have learned more from a preschooler's wonder than the teachings of any graduate school professor. During my late teens and early twenties I volunteered exclusively with children with a wide range of developmental differences. After training as a Speech-Language Pathologist I was privileged to be paid for having fun with children and their amazing families for over twenty years. For the last ten years I have managed early intervention services for children with special needs. Although I love working on improving the larger system of supports, I miss the kids. So, my “small m” ministry at First Unitarian is learning and teaching in the Sunday classes with the children and youth. On those rare days I attend service I'd love to hear about your ministry.



Join us at the Shared Ministry Roundtable – Third Sunday of the month. Join us for a pithy dialogue about what shared ministry IS for you and us. We will be at the roundtable in the sanctuary after service on January 18 to listen and learn.

The Shared Ministry Team: Leslie Gillett, Marion Sollazzo, Forrest Smith, Jane Wilson, Diana Smith.

November 19 Board Meeting Splinters

- ◆ Board members John Tiffany and Suzanne Beauchamp, along with health and safety coordinator Peter Hancock, will examine whether improvements are required to the buildings' fire and emergency equipment and will review current emergency procedures.
- ◆ President Shirley Travis reported that we have signed an agreement with the Saanich Emergency Program that will make our church buildings, staff, facilities and grounds a resource in case of a municipal emergency. The board of trustees has approved this as a good neighbour policy. Saanich representative Maegan Thompson (daughter of members Bob and Glenys Thompson) will help us in our preparations for an improved community safety program. Shirley reported that Saanich is flexible and considerate of our schedules, and will reimburse us if costs occur.
- ◆ Treasurer Bob Dobbs reported at the November Board meeting that he has examined current pledges and donations which suggest a significant amount of contribution shortfalls are due to relatively new members making modest pledges and not following up with donations.
- ◆ The Board appointed Betty Sherwood to conduct an annual audit of the Church's abuse prevention plan. The annual audit is required to ensure that we meet our insurance obligations.
- ◆ The Board voted to establish a Choices in Dying Fund, open to contributions from members and friends.
- ◆ The Board also voted to establish a Social Responsibility Coalition Fund to coordinate donations from Sunday's Share the Plate and other contributions.
- ◆ The Board welcomed new members Margaret (Maggie) Nixon, June Waters and Cedar Thokme, and new friends Daphne Horne and Cecil Bannister, and recorded the resignation of Virginia Smith.

December 17 Board Meeting Splinters

- ◆ The Board reviewed the proposed 2015 budget and voted that it be submitted for congregational approval at the Annual General Meeting, January 25. Details of the budget are included in this newsletter.
- ◆ The Board will notify Island Montessori House School that its rent will begin to include a Cost of Living increase, calculated each November and as agreed to in the lease. The monthly rent is currently \$25,000 per year. Previous increases calculated but not collected over the last four years, from the inception of the rental agreement, will be waived due to financial concerns of the school. Nominees for the Board will also commence negotiations regarding the existing loan.
- ◆ Treasurer Bob Dobbs reported that 2014 budget predictions remain close to the target. There had been a surge in expenditures in the first half of December – but with no corresponding increase in income. Expenditures and income are expected to be close to the projected 2014 budget deficit of \$2,860.
- ◆ The Board voted to establish a revolving fund account named the Jazz Vespers Fund (effective January 1, 2015) to receive advances from the Ruth Humphreys Innovation Fund and other donations to the Jazz Vespers program to pay related expenses. If the account becomes inactive any amounts remaining will be returned to the Ruth Humphreys Innovation Account.
- ◆ The Board approved the appointments of two new Lay Chaplains, Oceanna Hall and Anne Vaasjo for six-year terms.
- ◆ A Grace Mersereau Legacy Planning Group has been established by the Board. The planning group will include representatives from the Finance Committee, the Board and the Property Council to honour the wishes of the late Grace Mersereau.
- ◆ The Board welcomed new friends Ryan-James (Ryan) Adam, Sarah-Mae (Mae) Adam and noted the death of member Vaughn McMorland.

EAT presents "The Future of Transportation"

with Guy Dauncey and Christina Ianniciello

BCSEA in partnership with the Environmental Action Team

Monday, January 19, 2015 7:00 – 8:30pm at First Metropolitan United Church, 932 Balmoral Road, Victoria.

- We spend \$5 billion a year on imported refined petroleum products in B.C.
- Transportation accounts for almost 40% of greenhouse gas emissions in B.C.
- It also contributes to poor air quality and negative health impacts...but we can take action now for a zero-carbon transportation future.

Farrell and Penny Boyce

Farrell was born and raised in Vancouver BC. He studied engineering at the University of British Columbia and pursued post-graduate studies in Montreal and in Paris, France. He planned to return to British Columbia but was diverted to Hamilton, Ontario where he practised physical oceanography on large lakes.

Penny grew up in Montreal, moved to Vancouver as a teenager, and completed a degree in Zoology at UBC.

Farrell and Penny met on a ski trip in 1962 and were married in 1964. They lived in France for three years before settling down in Hamilton in 1968. Two children appeared in short order; Lyse in 1968 and Thomas in 1970. Life in Ontario was active with gardening, canoeing, sailing, camping and cross-country skiing. Music was a big part of it too, and led to membership and active involvement in the Hamilton Unitarian Church when an early version of Farrell's band, (Raspberry Jam) was invited to play at a service (1982). Penny joined the band and for the next decade Raspberry Jam played church basements and libraries throughout the "Golden Horseshoe".

Empty nesters in 1999 and with family responsibilities in Vancouver, Farrell and Penny moved back west. They were well familiar with Vancouver Island and after considerable research settled in North Saanich, one of the reasons being its proximity to a Unitarian church. On their first Sunday in their new home they attended the First Unitarian Church of Victoria where they were overheard singing by Wilma Neilson and frog-marched by Wilma to then music director Sally Murphy. They were at choir rehearsal the next week.

Penny has been involved with the FUCV choir ever since, assuming responsibilities of librarian following Ron Stirling's retirement ten years ago. She has served on the Music Committee, the Worship Committee; she has coordinated Sunday services and organized music for the summer services. She sings with the Pick Up Sticks and the Women's Choir and now and then as a duo with Farrell. Participating in the music ministry is important to her.

Farrell is a hands-on guy and not a particularly willing committee person. He values his association with the Unitarian Church for its opportunities for personal creativity. He has been a choir member (currently on sabbatical), and occasional "decorator", folky-jazzy musician, actor. His engineering skills and band experience have been useful in a rebuild of the church's sound system.

Church friends have this to say about Farrell and Penny.

"I have known Farrell for more than twelve years at First Unitarian. He is wonderful! His quiet ways of helping others and his great sense of humour are superb; he writes both silly and serious poems that help bring balance to all who read or hear them. His musical talents are constant and appreciated".

"Penny is the consummate behind-the-scenes worker. She sees something that needs doing and just goes ahead and does it! A real treat to work with. Love her sense of humour. Endless hours of work keeping the choir and its library in order. Inventive threats to the miscreants who misplace their music".

"Farrell and Penny have made a tremendous contribution to our Church with their musical talents. Penny has a beautiful, rich, low tenor voice and an ability to create her own harmonies. It is always a pleasure to collaborate with her in any capacity."

This spring, nourish and rejuvenate your spirit with other Unitarian Universalists!

Vancouver Island Unitarian**Spiritual Retreat****April 24-26, 2015**

At the beautiful

Cowichan Lake Outdoor Education & Conference Centre

(one hour and 30 minutes from Victoria; 1 hour from Nanaimo)

Save-the-date and watch for more details this winter.

For more info: Reverend Meg Roberts (mroberts@uuma.org) and Rosemary Morrison rsmrymorri-son@gmail.com)

Sponsored by the Vancouver Island Unitarian Committee which includes Unitarian Universalists from congregations in Comox, Nanaimo, Salt Spring Island, Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation in downtown Victoria, and our congregation, First Unitarian Church of Victoria.

Representatives from our congregation are: Martha McDougall, Pat Kinrade, Christine Johnston, and Reverend Melora.

UU CO-HOUSING: AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME?

Have you ever wondered how it would be to share common space with others who share your values—every day, not just on Sundays? Have you wondered who would be there for you if your partner/parents/kids /best friend weren't available for some reason? Have you ever had the slightly Utopian urge to plan and build a community? Would you like to downsize and live more lightly—and greenly—on the planet?

If so, then co-housing might just be for you (or, for UU)! Co-housing is a concept that's been around since the late 1960's in Denmark, and in North America since the early 80's. It refers to a style of living wherein the individual participants own their own living spaces, but come together in common spaces for social events, some meals, etc. Usually these common spaces are jointly-owned, and the management of the entire complex is run by the residents. The residents generally are united by some common statements of purpose and principles.

Generally, co-housing complexes contain twenty to thirty units, and can be either multi-generational or, more recently, seniors-oriented. Financing is done via the members, initially, and then via standard building and mortgage agreements with banks or credit unions. Although individual units may come in at slightly under market price, they generally reflect the market they are built in—but may have a number of amenities that new developments don't typically have, e.g. common space for worship and meals, for hobbies, and for gardening.

If you're interested in the co-housing concept, and would like to know more about it, there are some excellent online references, including: Wikipedia; The Canadian Co-housing Network www.cohousing.ca; and the Cohousing Network of the U.S. www.cohousing.org There's also an interesting article called "Cohousing; What's So U.U. About It?" at www.uuworld.org/2004/04/forum.html

If you feel ready to discuss the possibility of a co-housing group in Greater Victoria, founded on UU principles, then reply positively to lauradoyle@shaw.ca, and watch this newsletter for notice of upcoming meetings, probably on the third Saturday in January.

--Laura Doyle, Nellie Van Leeuwen, Marion Pape

ART IN THE SANCTUARY

BETTY SHERWOOD

Dennis Shields is a Victoria based artist; he was born in North Vancouver in 1950.

He received his formal education in Art at the Goetheum in Switzerland, which focused on colour and composition out of the characteristic laws of colour, which was based on the theories of J.W. Goethe and Rudolf Steiner.

Throughout four decades of professional practice, he has developed his own distinctive west coast style in painting. Dennis' work is process orientated. He says that colour is for him a living presence which permeates all facets of existence. Expressive colour harmony and balance are values that he strives to engender into his work. The layering and interaction of colour are entry ways into the living presence of the pictorial experience.

Dennis is a member of the Gage Artist Collective located at 2031 Oak Bay Avenue His work can be viewed there as part of a group exhibition this month. For more information contact info@gagegallery.ca

NOTABLE UNITARIAN FELIX LION

CHRISTINE JOHNSTON

Reverend Dr. Felix Lion (1914-2008) followed in his father's footsteps as a UU minister, engaging in forty-seven years of active ministry. He served in Massachusetts, NY State, Palo Alto (Cal.) and finally Victoria (1981-1986). Lion Hall is named after him and his much-loved wife Eva.

In addition to congregational service, Rev. Lion served his larger community on numerous boards, including the NAACP, and Palo Alto's Human Relations Commission, and Mental Health Association. He was a founding member and President for six years of the Vancouver Island Coalition for Human Rights and a member of the International Association for Religious Freedom. His Unitarian Universalist activities included a tenure as President of the UU Ministers Association (1979-1981), Secretary-Treasurer of the U Fellowship for Social Justice (1940-1949) President of the Pacific Coast Unitarian Council (1955-1958), and President of the Board of Starr King School for the Ministry (1971-1973) which gave him an Honorary Doctorate. Lion had a life-long dedication to social justice, and marched at Selma during the civil rights movement of the 1960's in Mississippi where he participated in voter registration activities with Dr. Martin Luther King and the folk singer-activist Pete Seeger.

Reverend Lion loved both music and gardening. He played trumpet all his life in jazz bands and orchestras wherever he lived, beginning as a teenager and continuing until he was ninety-two years old.





Hear ye! Hear ye!

Congregational meeting to adopt 2015 budget

(see proposed budget on next two pages)

and to conduct other business of the church.

Sunday, January 25, 2015 at 12:15pm

First Unitarian Church of Victoria
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, January 25, 2014 at 12:15pm

“A registered member may exercise rights of voice and vote at congregational meetings, and be nominated for elected office, sixty days after his/her application for membership has been processed by the Board”.

AGENDA

1. Call to order and confirmation of a quorum - Shirley Travis
2. Invocation - Reverend Lynngood
3. Approval of the agenda
4. Approval of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of May 25, 2014
5. a. Request for two volunteers to form a committee to review the minutes of this meeting within two weeks.
b. Motion to form the committee.
6. Motion by Suzanne Beauchamp; seconded by Martha McDougall:
That Article II, Section 9 of the Bylaws be amended to replace the title “Member Emeritus” with the title “Lifetime Member”. Section 9 will state: “The Board may grant a lifetime membership to a long-standing member of the church who is no longer able to participate fully in the life of the church. A Lifetime Member has all the privileges of membership but is not required to make an annual financial contribution”.
7. Motion by Chris Cook, seconded by Susan Layng:
That the congregation accept Oceanna Hall as a Lay Chaplain for up to a six year term.
8. Motion by Chris Cook, seconded by Susan Layng:
That the congregation accept Ann Vaasjo as a Lay Chaplain for up to a six years.
9. Treasurer’s interim report on Fiscal Year 2014 Bob Dobbs
10. Presentation of the proposed 2015 budget David Hoadley
(Note: As this is a deficit budget, the President intends to strike a Task Force to examine the church administrative needs and staffing costs).
11. Report from the Nominating Committee Diana Smith
12. Announcement of Canadian Unitarian Council delegates to Ottawa, May 15-17, 2015
13. Further announcements
14. Adjournment.

PROPOSED 2015 BUDGET

2014	2015
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2014	2015
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INCOME

ADMINISTRATION

Advertising & Publicity income	400	500
Copier income	30	30
Investment income	4,000	4,000
Miscellaneous income	0	0
Montessori Interest income	1,080	1,080
Spec Events Fundraising income	24,000	22,000
Sub-totals	29,510	27,610

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Hospitality income	2,400	2,200
Membership income		35
Fun & Fellowship income	5,000	5,500
Sub-totals	7,400	7,735

CONTRIBUTIONS

Open Plate	8,000	9,000
Pledged & Unpledged Income	308,900	310,000
Transfer to Property Fund	-2,960	0
Sub-totals	313,940	319,000

OUTREACH

Chaplains income	10,950	9,330
Sub-totals	10,950	9,330

PROPERTY

Arts & Aesthetics income	300	300
Audio-Visual income	0	350
Church Rental income	12,500	11,500
Gardens & Grounds income	2,000	2,800
House Rental income	12,915	13,115
Montessori Rental income	25,000	25,000
Snow Removal income	200	200
Waste Management income	450	450
Sub-totals	53,365	53,715

SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION

Library income	300	300
SEL-CY	400	500
SEL- Adults income	1,700	800
Music income	2,000	1,000
Sub-totals	4,400	2,600

INCOME TOTALS	419,565	419,990
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EXPENSES

ADMINISTRATION

Advertising & Publicity	50	50
Bank Charges		600
Board	100	100
Canvass	200	800
Computer Software & Tech. Support	2,800	1,800
Copier	6,500	4,700
Denominational Dues (CUC)	26,226	26,691
Hydro	12,200	12,500
Internet & Online	2,620	3,000
Mortgage Interest	9,050	9,029
Mortgage Principal	7,190	7,195
Office	3,200	3,000
Planned Giving	150	150
Postage	1,100	1,600
Property Insurance	9,000	9,000
Special Events Fundraising	2,000	1,400
Telephone	4,220	3,550
Sub-totals	86,606	85,165

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Care & Concern	100	100
Hospitality	1,400	1,400
Fun & Fellowship	3,300	3,300
Membership	300	400
Recognition & Awards	200	300
Sub-totals	5,300	5,500

OUTREACH

Chaplains	9,255	8,300
Denominational Affairs	1,300	1,200
Social Responsibility	1,200	1,232
Sub-totals	11,755	10,732

PROPERTY

Archives & History	50	50
Arts & Aesthetics	650	700
Audio-Visual	750	1,000
Church Rental	2,000	1,000
Gardens & Grounds	2,200	2,800
Housekeeping	1,400	1,400
Maintenance	14,000	9,700
Propane	90	250
Snow Removal	400	400
Waste Management	1,100	1,100
Replacements (trsf. to Property Fund)		15,000
Sub-totals	22,640	33,400

SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION

Instrument Maintenance	300	300
Library	300	300
Music	1,470	1,500
SEL - Adults	2,115	500
SEL - Children	2,200	2,000
SEL - Youth	600	400
Teacher Training	800	800
Worship	2,800	2,600
Sub-totals	10,585	8,400

2014	2015
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PERSONNEL

Accompanists	8,500	7,000
Accountant	3,500	3,600
\$17/hr, 14hrs/wk, 43wks = \$10,234 salary. \$485.46 MSP. \$409.36 vac pay. (Request was for \$18/hr)		
Admin. Assistant Compensation	11,110	11,129
addit'l to cover Ch Adm absences	3,366	3,739
cov for 23 vac days is \$3,091; cov for 5 of the 24 sick days Karen allotted is \$595 . Based on 7hr days @ \$17		
Audio-Visual Tech		1,800
Bookkeeper Compensation	4,600	5,069
\$18/hr, 22hrs/month,12months = \$4752 salary. \$117 MSP. \$190 vac pay. Incr. from 20 hrs/mo. (Request was for \$19/hr)		
Child Minding	3,516	3,516
\$12/hr, 293hrs/yr. (Request was for \$12.50/hr)		
Church Admin. Compensation	49,114	49,147
\$48,283 salary (same as 2013). \$864 MSP. (Request was for adding 5% for retirement \$2414.15)		
Office Staff Training	300	300
Custodian	18,000	17,500
\$17/hr. \$17,500 covers 1029hours. 2014 allotted for 1056 hours. (Request was for \$18/hr, 1056 hours)		
Maintenance Contractor	1,600	1,580
\$17/hr. \$1581 covers 93 hours. (Request was for \$18/hour,93hrs)		
Ministers Compensation	89,558	91,894
77,886.80 sal + 11,670 pension + 1728MSP +609.20 taxable benefits. \$2,264.80 prev. COLAs added back to salary that were previously added to Professional Expenses.		
Ministers Prof. Expenses	11,116	11,116
Ministers Life and LTD Insurance	1,396	1,391
Music Director	18,000	18,000
Music Director Conf. Expenses	1,500	1,500
Payroll Expenses	14,075	13,061
Employer: CPP 4.95% on salary over \$3,500; EI 2.42% on total salary.		
SEL Director Compensation	31,465	31,510
\$29,184.46 sal +\$1157.76 MSP + 1167.38 vac pay (Request was for 449.54 increase for fair com + 5% retire)		
SEL Director Prof. Expenses	3,875	3,925
CUC 1850; LREDA conference 1900; LREDA dues 175		
SEL-CY Assistant	7,608	6,093
\$15.50/hr, 9hrs/wk, 42wks =5859 sal. \$234.36 vac pay. (Request was to maintain previous funding 7608+1840 for SELCY; would have funded Youth Advisor.		
COLA (all staff)		3,000
WorkSafe BC	600	650
Sub-totals	282,799	286,520
EXPENSE TOTALS	419,685	429,717
INCOME TOTALS	419,565	419,990
NET INCOME	-120	-9,727

CUC AGM in Ottawa (Algonquin College)

May 14-17

Six delegates are needed! Anyone interested in being a delegate please let Christine_Johnston@telus.net know as soon as you know you might be going and might be interested. We will select a team at the Congregational meeting at the end of January, plus a couple of alternates (as plans do change between Jan and May). These events are usually fun as well as enlightening. Delegates have to be there for the whole Friday and do receive a small bursary to help with costs. Theme: Seeking Justice in a Changing Land ~À la recherche de la justice sur une terre changeante". Ottawa First is noted for its active social justice program so there should be lots of stimulating ideas from them and from the Canadians for Social Justice Workshop and Annual Meeting held on the Monday.

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 Visitors' Table near the front of the sanctuary. Ask questions. Fill out a Visitor Welcome form on which 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. We share a light lunch, and childminding will be provided on request. **The next Orientation will be on February 1, 2015, 12noon – 1:00 pm.**



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 session will be informative and enjoyable, as we will be talking about things that matter in a small group setting with warm and interesting people. Lunch will be available and childminding will be provided on request. **The next Considering Membership will be on February 22, 2015, 12noon – 2pm.**

STEP FOUR: Application for Membership. Fill out the application found in the membership packet. Submit the application and a financial pledge or contribution to the church office. After the Board approves your application, you become a member. Voting privileges commence 60 days after Board approval and you will be recognized at the next New Member Ceremony.

To sign up for the **Orientation** or **Considering Membership** sessions, or if you have questions, please contact Rev. Melora at rev.melora@victoriaunitarian.ca or (250) 744-2601, voice mailbox #1 or Cell (250) 891-6330. Both these sessions will be held on Sundays, after the church service, in the building just to the north of the Sanctuary building, in the Farmhouse Common Room.

The date of the next New Member Ceremony will be announced soon.

Another event to watch for: Periodically Rev. Melora offers a two-part event called **Introduction to Unitarian Universalism** 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.

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

PLANNED GIVING TESTIMONIAL

ANONYMOUS DONOR

When I married two years ago everything changed, and it was time to rethink many things including a new Will which needed to reflect my current wishes about the distribution of my wealth when I died. Only you can decide what is important to you. For those who have a Will, is it up to date? Spouse, family and friends often come to mind, as well as charities and organizations that you strongly believe in. How do you proportion the amounts that each chosen name gets when you hope to live a lot longer and have no idea what the final amount will be? I was advised by my lawyer to allocate shares to each recipient, so that at probate it will be easy for the executor to allocate the money on a proportional basis so that there can be no disputes.

Have you also considered including the First Unitarian Church in your will?

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: Valerie Roberts reports their group is looking forward to an afternoon Christmas Tea on December 20 at the home of the Petches. Cadboro Bay will also be sorry to say goodbye to Marguerite Hobbs and Richard Parfett, who are moving to the James Bay NG in January.

Esquimalt: Convenor Betty Sherwood writes, "The Esquimalt Neighbourhood Group has planned a gathering at Betty Sherwood's for appetizers and desserts for December 19. At the date of writing, nineteen are planning to attend. We will also be joining with Gordon Head to offer a Souper Sunday to the church on January 18.

Fairfield: Herb Girard writes that ten of their members met on December 7 "at Penny Pattison's lovely home for fellowship, food, and our traditional re-gifting of books. Very interesting they were, too!". They then gave a cheer for Deanna Hutchings who moved into her new home on December 5. Their next NG get-together will be Sunday, April 26 at Herb and Phyllis Girard's.

Far Out: Oceanna Hall reports they are hoping to meet at the end of January, as soon as they decide on a venue.

Gordon Head: This group will be working closely with the Esquimalt NG to provide the Souper Lunch on January 18. Mary Cramer reports they are hoping to gather again in January or February.

Grand Central: Patty Disbrow writes, "We in the Grand Central NG are getting together on December 16 to decorate gingerbread cookies. Sam is once again offering her space for the event ~ There will also be a potluck supper.

James Bay: Pat Kinrade writes, "We will have a luncheon pot-luck at the home of Daphne Dunbar on December 15. Our lunch-time gatherings make it easier for those who do not drive at night to attend neighbourhood get-togethers. Our next potluck will be in February unless someone volunteers to host in January." James Bay also kept us in goodies for after church coffee time in December.

Nearby: Nancy Dobbs writes, "In the New Year, Nearby Neighborhood Group will be co-hosting Souper Sunday with Far Out on February 22. Our next potluck will most likely be in March and cohosted by Jane Bramadat and Sylvia MacDonald."

Oak Bay: Here is the latest from convenor, Karla Thomson, "The Oak Bay group met for a finger food lunch at Marya and Philip's. There were over twenty able to come and a good time was enjoyed by all. We had a fun gift exchange and stories told of a memorable past Christmas. There were new folks who attended and cards wishing members good health. Among the new members were a mother and daughter, Margo and Suzanne Garmsen.

We will certainly miss Marya and Philip who will be moving to a new neighbourhood group in the New Year. Their willingness to host and Marya's wonderful baking will be impossible to beat. A huge thank you goes out to both of them for all the help, love and caring they gave to whoever needed it. Now we all look forward to the new year and our next potluck on February 21 at the Young's. Also we will be starting to plan some delicious soups for the March Souper Sunday.

Royal Oak East: Hanny Pannekoek writes, "Royal Oak East met on Saturday, November 29. It was our last gathering of this year. Instead of our usual potluck, we had appetizers and dessert. We sat around and as we got up to help ourselves to some more food it created the opportunity to sit and talk with different people, which made it the more social. We also shared quotes which had a special meaning for us or had motivated us or inspired us. It was very interesting to hear the many quotes and it gave us some new insights about each other. We decided to continue to have four meetings in 2015. For March we will meet on a Saturday from 16.00 till 19.00, with appetizers and dessert, and for the June and September gathering we will go back to having potluck on a Tuesday starting at 17.00 and ending at 21.00. Namely, the general feeling was that in June and September it is longer light so we can start and end later."

Royal Oak West: Fran Hancock reports, "Royal Oak West has had two kind invitations from members to have a potluck dinner. One is from Isabelle Grenon and Francois Duruisseau who have offered their home to host a gathering in February and

Royal Oak West: Fran Hancock reports, "Royal Oak West has had two kind invitations from members to have a potluck dinner. One is from Isabelle Grenon and Francois Duruisseau who have offered their home to host a gathering in February, and From Sandy and Denis Jaques for a later time. Details will be forthcoming in the New Year." Royal Oak West members are now strapping on their aprons to provide coffee-time treats in January.

Western: This group met in November at the home of Susan Lean and John Dalgety. They will meet again for a potluck in January, probably on the third Saturday.

This group works with books that bridge science and spirit, as well as important titles in spiritual poetry and psychology, on various Tuesday mornings from 9:15 until 12 noon (in the Library). It is led by Doug Seeley with assistance from other participants (group size limited to fourteen), and has been running regularly for fourteen years. The Learning Circle is an opportunity to explore what is deeply meaningful for each of us regarding the big questions of life, “Who am I?”, “What is the meaning of a human life?”, “Is the Cosmos alive?”, and “How do we face upheaval in our world?”.

New and previous participants are all welcome. The Learning Circle will be recommencing on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 and continuing every second Tuesday thereafter, unless re-scheduled. The book we will use is *Rational Mysticism (Dispatches from the Border Between Science & Spirituality)* by John Horgan (2003), and for poetry, *Gitanjali* by Rabindranath Tagore .

For more information contact Doug Seeley at radahtara@gmail.com .

RIDESHARE RE-VISITED**MARION PAPE AND REESE WILLIS**

We are pleased to announce that the Environmental Action Team has joined up with the Quest Youth group for this year's RideShare initiative. At this critical time for our environment, it is more important than ever to be aware of our ecological footprint and tread as lightly as possible. As a church community, one of the biggest contributions to our footprint is our reliance on fossil fuels for transportation. Luckily, there are many simple choices each of us can make that, combined, will have a great impact. We would like our RideShare 2015 initiative to be a simple, positive and fun chance for us all to practise working as a community to benefit the earth.

To start things off, we will be hosting the Bean Jar Game in the months of January and February. There will be a big jar in the Sanctuary and anyone who walks, bikes, or shares a ride to church will be invited to place beans in the jar. The greener the method of transportation, the more beans will go in the jar. Our neighbourhood groups have been arranged into teams of three, and each team will have their own colour of bean. At the end of February, the beans will be counted, and the team with the most beans will win... a lot of beans! And lots of kudos, of course.

The teams will also be working all together: if we can fill up the jar, the Social Responsibility Coalition will donate \$100 to the Pull-Together Campaign, which supports legal challenges to pipelines in BC on behalf of First Nations.

We know that the RideShare driver is a critical component to the success of this endeavour and have been thinking of ways of supporting drivers in terms of their time and costs. If you are willing, we suggest a toonie a ride would serve as an acknowledgement of our goodwill towards drivers.

We welcome your feedback (email Marion Pape at marionpape@shaw.ca or speak to her at church) and look forward to a successful RideShare program! Stay tuned for e-weekly and newsletter articles with ideas for how we can work together to become a greener community.

SRC NEEDS YOUR HELP**DON VIPOND**

Wanted – volunteer for a modest but crucial task

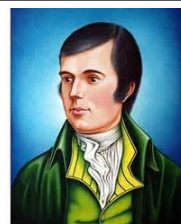
Our congregation regularly donates clothing (sweaters, socks, towels, coats and such) to help the people living on the streets. These goods pile up at the Social Responsibility Coalition shelf, near the main doors. What we urgently need is someone who lives downtown and who would be willing to occasionally drop off these goods at Our Place (in the 900-block Pandora) and at an office in the same block which holds donations for the Dandelion Society.

If you could take this on for half a year or maybe a year, you would be rendering an important service. Please contact Don or Clare Vipond (250-652-5491 or donandclare@shaw.ca. Thank you

About contributions to the food bank: If you would like to help your local food bank, you could do so by making out a cheque to First Unitarian Church of Victoria with food bank” written on the memo line. Please do not bring non-perishable food items to the church as they present a delivery problem. Most grocery stores have a large bin for food banks in which you can place food items of non-perishable food:

Rabbie Burns Dinner

Rabbie Burns Dinner is planned for Friday, January 23. If anyone is keen to sing, dance, play, recite please contact [Christine Johnston@telus.net](mailto:Christine_Johnston@telus.net) soon.



The Anglican Hospital in Gaza

Friends of Sabeel is the intriguing title of this Canadian Charity. Sabeel means “the Way” or “Spring of Water”. This organization is part of the Near East Cultural and Educational Foundation of Canada and is affiliated with KAIROS (the ecumenical Christian social justice coalition of which First Victoria has long been a local member) and affiliated with the Anglican Diocese in Jerusalem. Their goal is peace and justice in the Holy Land. Their Canadian director is the Reverend Robert Assaly, an Anglican Minister in Montreal, who has a special interest in helping the Al Ahli Arab Anglican Hospital in Gaza. He once worked in Jerusalem and Gaza, and he reassures us our money would go only to this highly respected hospital which is supported by Anglicans from all around the world.

Gaza was already suffering from a severe, eight year long embargo but last summer it was heavily bombed and shelled with schools and hospitals destroyed, 96,000 homes damaged and over 2,000 people killed mostly women and children. Many others were seriously injured often with burns. It is estimated 25,000 children were traumatized. The Al Ahli Arab Anglican Hospital in Gaza is noted for its children’s unit where burns, malnutrition and underdevelopment (the latter resulting from the embargo) are their specialty.

Another project of **Friends of Sabeel** is “Witness” tours in the West Bank of Palestine and this December it included one Victoria Quaker Linda Taffs who is well known and admired by several church members. She is willing to share her experiences with us on February 1 after the Sunday service.

SRC ISSUE OF THE MONTH**CHRISTINE JOHNSTON**

Peace and Justice in Palestine and Israel Projects -(visit the SRC table)

Our SR team is exploring various projects, one is supporting two Orthodox Jewish professors in Jerusalem, long well known in IARF circles, who do Encounter dialogue groups in Israel between Jews, Christians and Moslems.

Another is the work of Friends of Sabeel, most of the Canadian Christian churches and Kairos who feel that the way to push for a just peace is a) dialogue; b) non-violent resistance; and c) to do what worked in South Africa i.e. support a Boycott, Divestment and Sanction of companies which profit from injustice, i.e. the illegal Occupation of Palestine. What do you think?

The companies listed include: 1) SodaStream, sold by London Drugs, manufactured in an illegal settlement in the West Bank. 2) Coca Cola, which has large manufacturing and distributing centres in the West Bank. 3) Ahava, manufacturer of cosmetic items using raw materials stolen from the West Bank Dead Sea + Estee Lauder and L’Oreal. 4) Chapters Books whose profits help hire mercenary soldiers. 5) G4S large security company which runs Israel prisons, notorious for torture of prisoners, including children. 6) Caterpillar, manufacturer of weaponized bulldozers used to destroy Palestinian homes and buildings. 7) Pampers, Sara Lee, Nestle, Intel and Morocco Oil are also listed as profiting from the Occupation. 8) Grocery products such as dates, hummus, wines, etc, identified by the 729 mark of origin (see <http://www.inminds.com/boycott-settlements.html> for a complete list)

Further information on this and on the Christian Zionist conference in Abbotsford in April is available at the SRC table. Another connected project is offering some support to the work of UU members Galina Coffey-Lewis and Adrian Fine in bringing a Syrian refugee family to reunite with family members in Victoria.

Submitted by Christine Johnston and Refugee and Middle East team of the SRC.

HOW NEEDS YOUR PROJECT IDEAS**LESLIE GILLETT**

Since its inception in 2006, there have been twenty-one Healing Our World (HOW) projects. The generous individual donations from this congregation add up to more than \$126,000. Our compassion in action has educated, protected, fed, employed and nurtured hundreds of needy children and adults.

Now is the time to put forward project ideas for the 2015 HOW. Please think of a way we can join together to make a difference in our world. Projects must be sponsored by a congregational member or friend and be a registered Canadian charity or a project of a Canadian charity.

For more information and an application form, please visit our website at HOW@victoriaunitarian.ca or contact HOW members Ruth Pozer-Telford, Don and Clare Vipond or Leslie Gillett. Paper application forms will also be available at the office. **Deadline is February 15, 2015**

Your Urgent Assistance Required for Impoverished Beekeepers in Rwanda

A group of thirty subsistence farmers in Rwanda, with the help of our BC-based charity, have made a dent into the wall of their destitution and lack of opportunity by beekeeping over the past four years. Unusually wet weather this year, combined with lack of on-site advanced beekeeping experience, has resulted in significant colony loss. **They have asked for help!** Without it, they may lose more colonies and, in the process, may forfeit their hard-won momentum out of poverty, with long term consequences to themselves and their families.

Barry Denluck, master beekeeper from Victoria, has volunteered to travel to Rwanda in early 2015 with Project Director, John Jordan (also from Victoria), to help develop methods to overcome these challenges. Significant costs will be incurred, including new hives, protective gear and a honey extractor to both counter the impact of weather and to increase productivity, in order to enhance the collective's commercial viability and sustainability.

These farmers have virtually no other means of earning income. Your donation (tax deductible) is guaranteed to make a difference to people's lives.

Thanking you in anticipation, Adrian Fine

Go to InnovativeCommunities.org. Click on 'donate to ICO' and select the fund Rwanda

Help for a Syrian Refugee Family to Get to Canada

"My parents tell me again and again that 'everything will get better when we get to Canada'. I ask again and again how much longer we have to wait. My father says that lots of people in a place called Victoria have to give lots of money to pay for us. 'It will be another two years. That's not too long is it?'. I want to tell him that it is far too long. We have already spent over a year as refugees in Turkey, the first year is a horribly overcrowded and smelly camp. Now in Istanbul, it's a little better but I miss our home and my friends. My two younger sisters are too young to know that we will never go home. Every time we walk by a pharmacy, my father stares and looks sad. He had to leave his own pharmacy behind in Syria. Life at the moment is not good and it makes me sad".

This eight-year-old girl (with these sentiments, not exact words), her sisters, father (pharmacist) and mother (engineer) are among the millions of Syrian refugees waiting to restart their lives. They will never return to their, now destroyed, homeland. They are fortunate to have relatives (father's sister and family) living in Victoria. **With your support, their future can be guaranteed.**

Should you seek further information about donating, please go to our [giving page](#) (you may have to right-click and then click on 'open link in new window').

--Thank you, Adrian Fine

Take A Mindful Journey with UUs

Take a Mindful Journey with UUs to the Hill Towns of Italy, July 26 to August 4, 2015. Experience the enchanting hill towns of Tuscany and Umbria, view the awesome landscapes, admire the incredible art, taste the wine, enjoy fresh pasta, and all the delights this area of Italy offers us. Spend three nights in Florence, and three each in the hill towns of Siena and Assisi, staying in charming accommodation. We'll explore Cortona, made famous by the movie "Under the Tuscan Sun," and have lunch in a typical osteria. The Renaissance architecture designed by a humanist Pope in Pienza will be a treat. We hope to meditate to Gregorian chanting at the Abby St. Antimo that dates from the twelfth century. The hill towns of San Gimignano, Montalcino, Montefalco, Bevagna, and Spoleto are also on our itinerary. We'll learn each town's stories from its art, food, and inhabitants. Because we are booking small monastery guest house accommodation, we need to make deposits by February 1, 2015. Please see the Itinerary and costs at <http://nuuc.ca/spiritual-growth/spiritual-practice/mindful-journeys/> Or email Beverlz@me.com for more information. Neighbourhood UU Congregation, Toronto



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

First Unitarian Church of Victoria

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 churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca • www.victoriaunitarian.ca
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Ministers

Reverend Melora Lynngood
 Cell phone: 250-891-6330
 rev.melora@victoriaunitarian.ca

Reverend Shana Lynngood
 Cell phone: 250-891-6331
 rev.shana@victoriaunitarian.ca

Minister Emerita

Reverend Jane Bramadat
 250-652-1272

Lay Chaplains

Liz Graham 250-384-4351

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

Joyce Murphy 250-598-1506

Director of Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Children and Youth

Faye Mogensen 250-744-2695
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Director of Music

Nick Fairbank
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Church Administrator

Karen Uldall-Ekman
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Assistant Church Administrator

Sarah Versteegen

Board of Trustees

Officers

President	Shirley Travis	778-433-2063
Past President	Mike Graham	250-384-4351
Vice-President	Linda Nicholson-Brown	250-857-1860
Treasurer	Bob Dobbs	250-652-5438
Secretary	Jennifer Young	250-370-5106

Council Representatives

Administration	John Worton	250-220-6258
Congregational Life	Suzanne Beauchamp	778-433-2829
Outreach	Susan Layng	250-370-2247
Property Management	John Tiffany	778-432-0881
Spiritual Development	John Hopewell	250-721-3920

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Date	Time	Event	Location
Jan. 1	NEW YEAR'S DAY		
Jan. 4	10:30am to 11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
Jan. 9	6:00pm to 10:00pm	Community Dinner	Sanctuary
Jan. 11	10:30am to 11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
	12:15pm to 2:00pm	Town Hall Property meeting	Common Room
Jan. 18	10:30am to 11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
	11:15am to 1:00pm	Souper Lunch	Sanctuary
Jan. 23	5:00pm to 10:00pm	Burns Night	Sanctuary
Jan. 25	10:30am to 11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
	Noon to 2:00pm	Congregational Meeting	Sanctuary

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

NEW MEMBERS

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 Oak Bay NG

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 Oak Bay NG

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 Oak Bay NG

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 Oak Bay NG

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 Far Out NG

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 Far Out NG

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 Oak Bay NG

June Waters
 507-103 Gorge Road. East
 Saanich, BC V9A 6Z2
 778-432-0112
 june_wtrs@yahoo.ca
 Esquimalt NG

NEW FRIENDS



Ryan & Mae Adam
 2730C Phillips Road
 Sooke, BC V9Z OY3
 250-589-8169
 adam.ryanjames@gmail.com
 sarahmae.adam@gmail.com

Bruce Edwards
 12 - 4291 Quadra Street
 Victoria, BC V8X 1L5
 250-592-8016
 bruce_edwards@shaw.ca
 Royal Oak East NG

Sandra Haywood
 1568 Oakcrest Drive
 Victoria, BC V8P 1K6
 250-598-4457
 sdhaywood@shaw.ca
 Grand Central NG

Ray Travers
 1709 Carnegie Crescent
 Victoria, BC V8N 1P2
 Gordon Head NG

DECEASED

Vaughn McColl McMorland.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 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 McMahon
- 13 Heather Sutherland
- 16 Jane Wilson
- 17 Ellen Carey
- 18 Fran Pardee
- 19 Tim Hall
- 20 Lynn Beak, Lynn Hunter, Tracy Sitter
- 21 Nellie Van Leeuwen, Bob Thompson, Amy Anderson
- 23 Ruth Miller
- 24 Gerry Brimacombe, Lillie Lentz, Elliot Ziegler
- 25 Cavina Thokme
- 26 Remi Odense, David Person
- 28 Becky Denlinger
- 29 Mike Graham



ADDRESS CHANGE

Shirley d'Estrube
 Berwick House
 4062 Shelbourne Street
 Victoria, BC V8N 3E6
 250-853-5470.
 (Shirley no longer uses email).

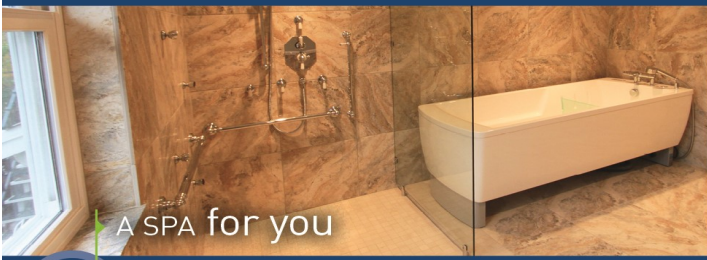
EMAIL CHANGE

Leslie Gillette's e-mail for church business:
 leslieucv@gmail.com

BOARD MEMBERS ON DUTY

Jan 4 Susan Layng
 Jan 11 Linda Nicholson-Brown
 Jan 18 John Tiffany
 Jan 25 Shirley Travis

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- ◆ Other driving services—Evening outings? Medical appointments? A scenic drive with someone with whom to enjoy the ride?

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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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THE VICTORIA UNITARIAN

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

The **deadline** for submissions to
the **February** issue is **January 20**.
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 Events Highlights 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).



Community Dinner **Friday, January 9 at 6pm**

First Community Dinner of 2015! 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 6:00 pm we gather in the Sanctuary for a joyful time
together. Spaghetti will 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.*

**Join in the fun of Valentine card making for the
Out of the Rain Youth Shelter!**

HAPPY NEW YEAR

PROPOSED 2015 BUDGET

2014	2015
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2014	2015
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INCOME

ADMINISTRATION

Advertising & Publicity income	400	500
Copier income	30	30
Investment income	4,000	4,000
Miscellaneous income	0	0
Montessori Interest income	1,080	1,080
Spec Events Fundraising income	24,000	22,000
Sub-totals	29,510	27,610

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Hospitality income	2,400	2,200
Membership income		35
Fun & Fellowship income	5,000	5,500
Sub-totals	7,400	7,735

CONTRIBUTIONS

Open Plate	8,000	9,000
Pledged & Unpledged Income	308,900	310,000
Transfer to Property Fund	-2,960	0
Sub-totals	313,940	319,000

OUTREACH

Chaplains income	10,950	9,330
Sub-totals	10,950	9,330

PROPERTY

Arts & Aesthetics income	300	300
Audio-Visual income	0	350
Church Rental income	12,500	11,500
Gardens & Grounds income	2,000	2,800
House Rental income	12,915	13,115
Montessori Rental income	25,000	25,000
Snow Removal income	200	200
Waste Management income	450	450
Sub-totals	53,365	53,715

SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION

Library income	300	300
SEL-CY	400	500
SEL- Adults income	1,700	800
Music income	2,000	1,000
Sub-totals	4,400	2,600

INCOME TOTALS	419,565	419,990
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EXPENSES

ADMINISTRATION

Advertising & Publicity	50	50
Bank Charges		600
Board	100	100
Canvass	200	800
Computer Software & Tech.	2,800	1,800
Copier	6,500	4,700
Denominational Dues	26,226	26,691
Hydro	12,200	12,500
Internet & Online	2,620	3,000
Mortgage Interest	9,050	9,029
Mortgage Principal	7,190	7,195
Office	3,200	3,000
Planned Giving	150	150
Postage	1,100	1,600
Property Insurance	9,000	9,000
Special Events Fundrais-	2,000	1,400
Telephone	4,220	3,550
Sub-totals	86,606	85,165

OUTREACH

Chaplains	9,255	8,300
Denominational Affairs	1,300	1,200
Social Responsibility	1,200	1,232
Sub-totals	11,755	10,732

PROPERTY

Archives & History	50	50
Arts & Aesthetics	650	700
Audio-Visual	750	1,000
Church Rental	2,000	1,000
Gardens & Grounds	2,200	2,800
Housekeeping	1,400	1,400
Maintenance	14,000	9,700
Propane	90	250
Snow Removal	400	400
Waste Management	1,100	1,100
Replacements (trsf. to Property Fund)		15,000
Sub-totals	22,640	33,400