

Centre for Spiritual Living Newsletter – March 2015

A Message from Rev. Carrie

Most of you are aware I've just returned from a ministers' conference in Las Vegas. Rather than having a focus on inspirational talks that uplifted us and spiritually renewed us, this event presented very practical sessions based upon a centre's prosperity; social media and volunteerism, as well as incorporating CSL's international business meetings into the program. Nevertheless, it was rich and full. The Keynote speaker who really captured my attention was Cliff Christopher, an expert in church prosperity and the author of several books that deal with the issues of the financial health of churches and centres.

His presentation was called Rich Church-Poor Church and he spent three impactful hours comparing the two. Space doesn't permit me to do justice to this topic but I will give you a taste of it here and will strive to incorporate some of the things learned in future talks and also into the way we tell our story to our present congregation and to those who come. I couldn't help but think, however, that what applies to churches also applies to individuals. Are we thriving or just surviving?

Cliff emphasized that prosperous churches constantly focus on their mission and vision. Do we have a mission and vision for our own lives? Poor churches focus upon what they need. Do we do this in our own lives?

Rich churches talk about how they are changing lives. Transforming lives is their business. Poor churches talk about the consistent need for more money.

In rich churches, the minister knows how much money, to the penny, each person gives and shares the stories of life transformations with the congregants. In poor churches, the minister doesn't know who gives what. This differentiates them from every other non-profit. And non-profits are receiving much more than churches are these days because they let people know what they are doing to transform lives. Cliff talked about a church that hired him to help with a capital campaign. It needed to raise \$4 million for an addition to its building. A long-time congregant gave \$300,000 to the campaign. A week later, this same congregant's photo was in the newspaper with the Chancellor of a local University. It showed him presenting a cheque for \$6 million to an arts program at a University because the Chancellor took him to lunch once a month for a year, always telling him how art could change the lives of young people. He wasn't getting a message about transforming lives from his church.

In our own lives, do we know where we receive our spiritual food and gifts? Are we consciously aware of how we make a difference or how others make a difference in our lives? Do we know our true Source? Do we reinforce our own personal missions each day? Do we move them forward by volunteering and tithing, in addition to doing work we love, knowing that these gifts help to change the world but also that they truly come back to us?

Rich churches make newcomers feel truly welcome and embraced. They make sure they are introduced to others and that people want to know them. In poor churches, people coming through the door don't feel special. They feel like they do in any other church.

In a rich church, the minister talks about money as a positive thing. In poor churches, ministers don't talk about money at all.

Rich churches do not grease a squeaky wheel. Poor churches spend an inordinate amount of time trying to appease "Aunt Harriett" who always has something to complain about.

Can we see comparisons in our personal lives? This gives you a taste of an important part of the conference and for our Centre to consider. I'll send a longer report to our Board of Trustees but more than anything, within a few months, I am knowing you will SEE the differences for yourselves and will be as excited about them as I am!

Meanwhile, I bless you all and may your lives be overflowing with abundance.

In love,

Rev. Carrie

AFFIRMATION FOR MARCH

I create beautiful miracles daily through my conscious awareness that God is the Infinite Power and Presence in my life; and as I align with Spirit, my deepest desires manifest with great ease!

ELECTION RESULTS!

Anne Millar, who was a founding member of our Centre 25 years ago, was elected President of our Board of Trustees Sunday, February 22nd at a special board meeting following our AGM. Newly-elected Trustee Jim Scott is our Vice President; and Dianne Moniz fills the spot as secretary.

A HUGE thank you to Bonnie Youngman who has done an amazing job as President these past two years. We are so grateful for her leadership during this time of great change.

Phyllis Comrie and Christine Rerrie were also elected.

We gratefully acknowledge the contribution made by Gwyneth Hart who has retired from the board but continues to lovingly serve us in so many ways. Our other members continue to serve.

WITH ENORMOUS GRATITUDE!

We are so very grateful to Cathy Fletcher for her service in leading the affiliation process with CSL (which is nearly completed) and which resulted in our hiring our new minister, Rev. Carrie. No one realized what a Herculean task it would be and we all express our deepest appreciation to Cathy for going the distance! We also deeply appreciate Rev. Joanna Drewry's service to us this past year. What began as a three-month process ended up being a year-long and Joanna rose beautifully to the occasion, leading us with Principle and grace through the duration. ***WELL DONE YOU TWO!!***

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

First I would like to thank the new Board Members for electing me as your President for the next year. It is a great honour to be President as we go into our 25th year as a Centre. As many of you know I was one on the Founding Members so it is doubly Special for me. I have big shoes to fill as Bonnie Youngman was a fabulous President.

The Past Year has been a very busy and exciting one for the Centre. We now have our New Minister, Rev. Carrie Hunter, and our Affiliation is almost complete. Carrie is doing an excellent job and I am looking forward to working with her.

It is wonderful to finally have our new name, Centre for Spiritual Living Victoria. There is still a lot of work to do to finally get all our ducks in order.

Your New Board will be holding a planning meeting on March 7th to set up our special functions and social events. If you have any suggestions for us please see Rev. Carrie or one of the Board Members. Also there is a Suggestion Box on the back table every Sunday so please feel free to write out your suggestions. It would be very helpful if you signed your name so we know who you are.

Thank you all for being a part of our wonderful new adventure.

Love and Blessings

Anne Millar

EVENTS

The Goods and Services Auction will be held March 8th. Tom Wright will be Auctioneer and Bonnie Youngman will assist.

Please have your auction items to the Centre this Sunday, March 1st. And invite some friends along to enjoy this fundraiser March 8th!

ONGOING EVENTS

Amazing Grays This women's spiritual discussion group meets on the 2nd Friday of each month. Please call Doreen Maxwell (250-383-7374) for more information.

Treasure Table This is a PLC fund raising event. Please bring your unwanted treasures for others to buy and cherish! Takes place the 2nd Sunday of each month, **except March**. Bring your treasures to share.

CLASSES

Rev. Carrie has delayed beginning classes until April. March 31st, she is moving her household from Banff to take up permanent residency in Victoria.

So far, she has had five requests from individuals wishing to **do Practitioner Studies**. She will be teaching that stream of classes in addition to others. If you are interested in **becoming a Practitioner**, please let her know.

A questionnaire requesting congregants to check classes in which they would have the greatest interest will be circulated in March.

Classes are accredited by head office of CSL. There may be some non-credit, special interest classes *provided, according to the demand*.

REV. CARRIE'S TOPICS FOR MARCH

March 1 - The Miracle Maker in You

March 8 - Keys to the Magic

March 15 - The Miracle Zone

March 22 - Pocketful of Miracles

March 29 – Living on Purpose – Rev. Joanna

MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC!

KUDOS to Louise Eldridge for her dedicated leadership in our music program. With changes in music, she is going the distance to rehearse with our soloists to introduce new music on Sundays!

We are also thrilled to have Angie McNabb share her talents as a choral director by creating a "CHORUS" for our Centre. Lillian Slanina is supporting Angie with this endeavour and the chorus is in rehearsal, preparing to bring New Thought songs to our congregation sometime in April! Stay tuned - er - tuned!

Soloists for March

March 1 - Jenny Rhodes
March 8 - Lillian Slanina
March 15 - Bert Johnston (Irish Music for St.
Patrick's Day
March 22: Darlene Haynes
March 29; Elizabeth Adams

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Co-op Number: Don't forget to use Michelle Marier's Co-op number when getting gas as the rebate is coming back to the Center. **29857**

Thrifty Foods Gift Cards: A wonderful way to support the financial health of our Centre is to use a Thrifty's Food Card. We have lots of them! Please see Pat Alfke Wright if you don't yet have one. When you load up your card and use it to buy groceries, the Positive Living Centre receives 5% of everything you spend! We have reached nearly 50 per cent of our goal and have some six weeks to go. **WE CAN DO IT!!! PICK UP YOUR CARD THIS SUNDAY!!!**

Pastoral Care Cards: Do you know someone in our congregation who is ill or in need of a pick me up? Contact Jeni Hillier at 250 598-8802 or j.hillier@shaw.ca. She would be happy to send a card.

Please note: From time to time we will take pictures or videos of people at services or events to put on our Website or Facebook. Please let us know if you do not want to be included in this.