

## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

When you tap into the world's goodness and your own inner strength, you're never alone. And that makes all the difference.

After the bomb fell on Hiroshima, even greater panic swept the city when rumors spread that the cherry blossoms would never bloom again. The thought that nature's cycle had been destroyed added a sense of hopelessness to the devastation people were already suffering.

In times of trauma or loss or fear, we look to a world not defined by our pain in order to heal; we try to find a context of still-existing goodness. We turn to nature or relationships or a belief in God, seeking strength in our connection to what is unbroken. We look for affirmation that growth and restoration are possible.

Faith is the quality of the heart that impels us to seek what is constant and whole. The sense of connection can be found in vastly different ways: in classically religious pursuits or ones that are completely secular; in music or art, meditation or service to others; with groups in city rooms or in the forest on one's own.

We need faith because despite our desire for the centre of our lives to hold firm, we see that it never does. We're planning a career move, when suddenly illness threatens everything. We've settled comfortably into being alone, when we meet someone and fall in love. In life there is always change, and change can be uncomfortable, even terrifying.

We may try to deny the dynamic nature of change, telling ourselves, "I know it will all work out exactly the way I want it to." We may call this faith, but in fact it is no more than hope—a hope that is no longer energized and alive but has become fixed and brittle. And in reality, this hope is a subtle form of fear.

To be open to life, we need to first acknowledge what we cannot control. We can then begin to value—and trust in—our own inner strength and wisdom, which can remain unbroken no matter our circumstances. We can develop faith in a bigger picture of life, one that recognizes that whatever we face, we are held in a web of interconnection—we're not cut off and alone.

Conventional wisdom says the opposite of faith is doubt. But doubt, applied in the right way—as curiosity and willingness to question—can enrich and enliven our faith. I believe the true opposite of faith is the sundering of connection, the desolate certainty that the cherry trees will never bloom again. It is the experience of utter isolation, or despair.

In contrast, faith helps us approach life with a sense of possibility rather than foreboding or helplessness. It dares us to imagine what we might be capable of. It enables us to reach for what we don't yet know with a measure of courage. It gives us resilience in times of difficulty, and the ability to respond to challenges without feeling trapped. My own faith has taught me

that whatever disappointments I might meet, I can try again, trust again, and love again. And I DO know that the cherry blossoms will always bloom again!

In love,

Rev. Carrie

### **AFFIRMATION FOR MARCH**

***As Springtime fills the air, it signals the renewal of magical new beginnings in my life! I am filled with unlimited potential and with the Power of God, I blossom into the highest and best that I can be!***

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Hi Everyone

Time goes by so fast that I cannot believe it is time to write this months report.

Our Pot luck on January 31st was well received.

We held our AGM on Feb. 28th. Besides the regular committee reports we voted in four Board Members to serve for the next two years. Welcome Ina Kelson, Jeanne Rioux, Vikki Sweeney and Ernie Tadla.

I would like to thank our retiring Board Members, Michelle Marier, Dianne Moniz and Irene Parkinson for their contribution over the past two years.

Your Board for the coming year is:

Anne Millar: President

Phyllis Comrie: Vice President

Vikki Sweeney: Secretary

Jim Scott: Treasurer

Ina Kelson, Christine Rerrie, Jeanne Rioux and Ernie Tadla: Members at Large

There are exciting things happening in the next year so stay tuned.

I have enjoyed the past year as your President and look forward to the coming year. Thank you all for all your support.

Love and Blessings

Anne Millar

## **THE WRIGHTS ARE RETIRING**

**Pat (Alfke) and Tom Wright have announced their retirement from activities at our Centre. Pat has been our Treasurer/book-keeper and all-round volunteer for seven years and Tom has been the man overseeing our book table on Sundays.**

**We are forever grateful to you both for all you have given us and wish you well as you enjoy more free time together!**

**We're happy to hear that you won't be strangers and still plan to attend the Centre when you can.**

**Bless you both on your way. You are loved and respected.**

## **SPECIAL GUESTS**

**March 13<sup>th</sup> promises to be a really special Sunday. Andy Bryce returns from England and is teaming up with Vancouver's Nathen Aswell for a morning service and afternoon workshop. Any is one of only three EFT masters in North America and one of 13 world-wide, and Nathen is a wonderful composer/singer/musician and motivational speaker. This will be a great Sunday to bring your friends for a wonderful day of music, laughter and inspiration. The workshop fee is \$25.**

## **KOSMIC KIDS**

**Our Kosmic Kids program has been launched and we are thrilled to have Jessica Lucas lead our children's program. Jessica has a wonderful consciousness and is steeped in our teaching! Rev. Blenda Pilon has joined the Kosmic Kids Team and will lend her gentle wisdom and love to the children!**

**If you have children or grandchildren – or even neighbours children who would enjoy this program, do bring them along Sundays for 11 o'clock. The Kosmic Kids meet down in the social room while our service is conducted upstairs.**

## CIRCLE OF LOVE GATHERING – OCTOBER 16-21

Our Centre will be hosting its own Circle of Love Gathering October 16-21 at the Kingfisher Resort and Spa near Courtney.

This is going to be a stellar event! Karen Drucker, the first lady of New Thought music will be the headline artist and speaker. Hollywood actor turned singer and CSL minister, Rev. Jonathan Zenz will also be speaking and performing.

The fabulous Lisa Ferarro will be music director and will partner in song with Erika Lockett.

Rev. Dr. Kathy Hearn, the former head of United Centers for Spiritual Living, will be a keynote speaker, together with Dr. David Leonard and others to be announced.

Early bird registration will begin in a couple of months with a fee of \$450. The Kingfisher is \$99 per night for a double room. We are waiting to learn the price of a meal package.

Space is limited, so we have a sign up sheet in our social room. Put your name on the list if you intend to attend and we'll be certain you have a room. Please note if you will be sharing a room. (Two people sharing a room comes to \$49.50 per night plus tax). In addition to being a big fundraiser for our Centre, it will be a fabulous event! It will bring back memories of Asilomar on a smaller scale for those who attended those events!!

You can also email [revcarrie@telus.net](mailto:revcarrie@telus.net) to reserve a spot!

## TROWARD CLASS

Rev. Carrie will begin a Brunch with Troward Class Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 – 2:30 in the Polynesian Room at 250 Douglas Street. The class runs eight weeks, culminating May 14. There will be no class April 9<sup>th</sup>.

This class is a prerequisite for Practitioner Training, although anyone who has taken Foundations or Beyond Limits is free to join. Troward's influence on the teachings of Ernest Holmes is reflected in all of Dr. Holmes' books. It's a class for those who wish to truly deepen their spiritual connection.

Course fee is \$250. A payment schedule may be arranged. Credit cards accepted.

Rev. Carrie will bring a main dish and serve tea and coffee. Everyone is invited to bring a contribution to the brunch! Troward itself will give us plenty to chew on! There is a sign-up sheet in the social room - or email [revcarrie@telus.net](mailto:revcarrie@telus.net).

### BEYOND LIMITS

*If there is a sufficient number of registrants, Rev. Carrie will again teach Beyond Limits – a great opportunity for newcomers to enrich their New Thought experience. You will learn how to do your own Spiritual Mind Treatment – as well as to get a great grounding in our teaching.*

### TALK TITLES FOR MARCH

March 6 – Reawakening to Your Spiritual Magnificence

March 13 – Andy Bryce and Nathen Aswell – Topic to be announced

March 20 - Path to a Richer Life

March 27<sup>th</sup> – Reaching for a Higher Altitude

### SOLOISTS FOR MARCH

March 06: Darlene Haynes

March 13: Nathan Aswell

March 20: Merissa Cox

March 27: Elizabeth Adams

Thanks to all you talented people for your very special gifts – and to Louise Eldridge, our music director.

*Nelson Brunanski is back from Cuba to lead our chorus from March 13<sup>th</sup> onward.*

### TREASURE TABLE

*Our Treasure Table will offer items for sale on the second Sunday of each month. Bring your treasures along to share. It's a great place to shop!*

## **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 CSL Victoria receives 5% of everything you spend!

**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](mailto:j.hillier@shaw.ca). She would be happy to send a card.

**Prayer Scarves:** We provide prayer scarves or shawls to members of our congregation who have lingering illnesses or challenges. Irene Parkinson and Bonnie Youngman have created several of these and they are so appreciated by those who have received them! Rev. Carrie attaches prayers to the scarves before gifting them. If you know of someone with a serious illness who would benefit from one of these gifts, please contact Jeni or Rev. Carrie.

**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.

## **ONGOING EVENTS**

**Amazing Grays:** This women's spiritual discussion group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month. For information, please contact Christine Rerrie at [crerrie@shaw.ca](mailto:crerrie@shaw.ca)