

CENTRE FOR SPIRITUAL LIVING VICTORIA

NEWSLETTER – May, 2015

A message from Rev. Carrie

Having moved to Victoria after a couple of years in Banff, I have been breathless at the spectacle of cherry blossoms and all the glory of nature this spring. The awakening, the rebirth of all that is around us is such a glorious reminder of the Power of God. How wonderful that we can have faith that spring will come again.

I once read that after the bomb fell on Hiroshima, even greater panic swept the city when rumours 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. Change is something we can count on.

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 separation 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.

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

And so it is!

AFFIRMATION FOR MAY

I live in eternal gratitude for all the wonders of the Universe which continuously bless me with an abundant, healthy, happy life. God is so good!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – ANNE MILLAR

Well it has been four months since we welcomed our new Minister. A lot has happened in that time, New Order of Service, official Affiliation with CSL, AGM and Official name change to Centre for Spiritual Living Victoria and all that entails.

Gradually things are coming together starting with changes to our Bank Account to reveal our new name.

In the next few months we will be working on changing our PR material. Thanks to Shannon Oatman and Rev. Carrie for doing a lot of work on the Website.

We are looking forward to the installations of Rev. Carrie and Rev. Joanna in the fall, together with the celebration of our 25th anniversary. The installations are scheduled for Friday, September 11th at the Gorge Golf Club. Drs. Kenn and Deborah Gordon will be among several ministers in attendance. Dr. Kenn is, of course, the Spiritual Director of Religious Science.

Our celebrations will continue September 12th with a concert at our Centre, and Sunday morning, Drs. Kenn and Deborah will be our guest speakers. It promises to be an inspiring weekend!

We have had several events in the past month, a very successful Goods and Services Auction and a potluck lunch. Several of our members went to Ladysmith to see Rev. Pat Zogar's Play. (This turned out to be an eventful excursion). We also had a No Host Meet and Greet for Rev. Carrie.

Fourteen members of the Congregation went to Quadra Island for the Circle of Love and had a great experience. Thanks to the Drivers for a safe journey.

In amongst all this Rev. Joanna wrote and passed her exam and has been in Golden Colorado for her ministerial panels. Congratulations Joanna.

All in all I feel that things are progressing and we look forward to good things happening. Each week brings new people to visit the Centre.

Love and Blessings
Anne Millar

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. Bring your treasures to share.

CLASSES

Rev. Carrie begins teaching a ten-week series of classes titled "Beyond Limits May 12th". The class will be presented Tuesday afternoon from 2-4:15 and Tuesday evenings from 7-9:15 p.m. This enables the greatest number of people to attend by choosing a time that works for them.

The 2 p.m. class will be held in a meeting room in the building where Phyllis Comrie lives in the James Bay area - 1002-250 Douglas and the evening class will be held at Lillian Slalina's home at 32, 4260 Burbank Crescent (just off McKenzie). This course takes the foundational principles and offers them in a new format – replacing the old Foundations curriculum.

It is the first in a number of classes that lead to Practitioner training, which allows individuals to become licensed to do Spiritual Mind Treatment/Affirmative Prayer professionally. However, the class is open to everyone. Most people don't wish to pursue the professional path but are most interested in deepening their knowledge of Science of Mind, its principles and learning how to apply them to their lives.

In this class, we learn how to use spiritual mind treatment to heal ourselves and our lives. We learn how our thinking creates form and how to change that thinking to create the life we want to live! We learn how the Creative Process works. We learn to uncover our hidden belief systems which sometimes limit us. We also learn how to release them if they no longer serve us. We cultivate loving belief systems about ourselves and our world and we engage in practical spirituality. It's not just a whimsical, mystical process - it's something we can use everyday in our lives.

The class is \$245 for the ten weeks or \$25.00 per week.

Class fees for ten weeks \$245 - cash, cheque or credit card. This may also be paid in weekly instalments of \$25 per week if that is your preference. (This is \$50 below the price applied by Head Office – and we will pay your accreditation fees of \$45 out of the registration fee).

Sign up sheets will be available in the social room or you can let Rev. Carrie know directly. Her email address has changed, so please email her at revcarrie@telus.net

No one will be turned away because of lack of resources. Please speak to Rev. Carrie if you need special consideration to take this class.

For those on the road to Practitioner studies, this will be the first course offered. But the path is the same for everyone until after the first two years.

REV. CARRIE'S TOPICS FOR MAY
Rev. Carrie's Theme for May
Cultivating a Rich Inner Life

Sunday Talk Titles:

May 3 – A Leap of Faith
May 10 – Mama Mia
May 17 – What Does Elvis Have to do with it?
May 24th – God Only Knows
May 31 – Rev. Joanna Drewry will be guest speaker

MUSIC, MUSIC, MUSIC!

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

And our heartfelt gratitude to Nelson Brunanski for taking over leadership of our chorus. They will make their first appearance May 3rd and will lead the congregational songs each Sunday. Rehearsals are Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m. at Rev. Carrie's home. Louise and Nelson are great together and the chorus is a great addition to our Sunday services.

If you'd like to join the chorus – Nelson is welcoming everyone who loves to sing! Talk to him Sunday – or email Rev. Carrie for directions to her place for rehearsal and just show up!!

Soloists for May

May Soloists:

May 03: Jenny Rhodes
May 10: Nelson Brunanski
May 17: Lillian Slanina
May 24: Jenny Rhodes
May 31: Darlene Haynes

Thank you so much to all of you for sharing your beautiful gifts with our community!

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. She would be happy to send a card.

Prayer Scarves: We are beginning a new tradition to provide prayer scarves or shawls to members of our congregation who have lingering illnesses. Irene Parkinson has created the first one and Rev. Carrie is attaching a prayer to it. 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.

SACRED SERVICE

There are many ways to give to our Centre and one that is really important is that of Sacred Service. That means being part of a group of wonderful people who volunteer in various capacities. There are all kinds of ways to serve, so if you feel called to be part of a great team, please speak with Jeanne Rioux or with Rev. Carrie.

Our intention is to have each new volunteer serve one Sunday each month for a three-month period to see how they enjoy the service and fellowship; and then to have the opportunity to switch to something else if they prefer.

Rev. Carrie will have a special tea at her new home once she settles in so that you can get to know one another!