

September Newsletter

I've been focussed on happiness lately and felt such contentment in my heart. Each morning, as I awaken, I say, "Thank you for this day, God – and I choose happiness today." I feel a tingling of joy within and want to spend more time at play. It reminds me of little children and how filled with joy they are at the smallest things!

Last week, I read "Resignation from Adulthood" at the end of my talk. Several people asked me for it because it resonated with them. I'm reprinting it below. I don't know who wrote it but it's something I've long cherished!

RESIGNATION FROM ADULTHOOD

I am hereby officially tendering my resignation as an adult. I have decided I would like to accept the responsibilities of an 8 year-old again.

I want to go to McDonald's and think that it's a four star restaurant.

I want to sail sticks across a fresh

Mud puddle and make a sidewalk with rocks.

I want to think M&Ms are better than money because you can eat them.

I want to lie under a big oak tree and run a lemonade stand with my friends on a hot summer's day.

I want to return to a time when life was simple, when all you knew were colors, multiplication tables, and nursery rhymes, but that didn't bother you, because you didn't know what you didn't know and you didn't care. All you knew was to be happy because you were blissfully unaware of all the things that should make you worried or upset.

I want to think the world is fair. That everyone is honest and good.

I want to believe that anything is possible.

I want to be oblivious to the complexities of life and excited by the little things.

I want to live simple again.

I don't want my day to consist of computer crashes, mountains of paperwork, depressing news, how to survive more days in the month than there is money in the bank, doctor bills, gossip, illness, and loss of loved ones.

I want to believe in the power of smiles, hugs, a kind word, truth, justice, peace, dreams, the imagination, mankind, and making angels in the snow.

So . . . here's my chequebook and my car keys, my credit card bills and my RRSP statements. I am officially resigning from adulthood.

And if you want to discuss this further, you'll have to catch me first, cause.....

....."Tag! You're it."

AFFIRMATION FOR LIVING

Today I choose to remember happiness in my life; and in doing so, I choose happiness that comes to me by divine birthright as a precious child of God. I connect with my Source often throughout each day and the glory of Its Love, Joy and Peace descends upon me and fills me to capacity. Oh, life is so good!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Wow! Another month and another report to write. Where do the months fly?

August is another five Sunday month so we enjoyed a Pot Luck lunch on August 30th.

Rev. Carrie's Installation and our 25th Birthday Sunday are coming up fast. I am very excited about both events.

The Installation will be held on Friday September 11, 2015 at the Ambrosia Centre on Figard Street. It will be a spectacular event with a lot of music as well as the Installation Ceremony. There will be a lot of out of town Ministers and guests attending.

Put this date on your calendar and plan to attend.

I am honoured to be your President for this 25th Birthday Celebration (Sunday September 13th, 2015) as I was there at the very beginning. There have been many changes over the years but none as exciting as our affiliation with Centers for Spiritual Living International.

Also coming up is a wonderful concert to be held at our hall on Saturday October 3rd, 2015. The event is entitled Music of a Starry Night with Louise Eldridge and Friends. The tickets will be \$20.00 each and go on sale on September 13, 2015. Another date to put on your calendar.

Many thanks to Phyllis Comrie and her committee for their work in putting these events together. Also a huge thank you to Louise Eldridge for all her extra time involved in the many rehearsals involved to make these events happen.

We had three people commit to membership this past month: Sheila Chapman, Vikki Sweeney and Ina Kelson. This certainly shows growth.

Also we say goodbye to Norma Schmidt and wish her well on her move to Comox. Norma was one of our Charter Members 25 years ago. Norma you will be missed.

All is good.

Love and Blessings
Anne Millar

REV. CARRIE'S INSTALLATION

An important event in the life of our Centre takes place Friday, September 11th at the Ambrosia Centre, 638 Fisgard Street, at 7 p.m.

Rev. Dr. Kenn Gordon, the Spiritual Director of Centres for Spiritual Living worldwide, will officially install Rev. Carrie as our Senior Minister. Among the ministers participating in the ceremony are Rev. Darlene Chase, Carrie's first teacher; Rev. Terry Shea, her ministerial teacher; Rev. Dr. Deborah Gordon, a long-time friend; and our own Rev. Joanna Drewry. It will be an inspiring evening and one filled with beautiful music, thanks to the hard work of our beloved music director, Louise Eldridge. In addition to the Songbirds Choir, soloists include, Elizabeth Adams, Darlene Haynes, Lillian Slalina, Jenny Rhodes, Merissa Cox and Alf Small.

Refreshments will be served after the ceremony.

There is free parking after 6 p.m. in the parkade directly across from the Ambrosia Centre.

Everyone is welcome to attend and bring friends. It's going to be an amazing night for our Centre!

Promotion of Events

A cork board has been set up near the book table where congregants may post promotional flyers/cards for events or services they offer. These will no longer be announced during our services. Feel free to put your card or flyer on the board – and to remove it when it is no longer timely!

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS

We are richly blessed with guest speakers in September!

At our birthday Sunday, September 13th, Rev. Drs. Kenn and Deborah Gordon, who will be participating in Rev. Carrie's installation, will be our guest speakers. Dr. Kenn is the Spiritual Director of Centres for Spiritual Living Worldwide and he and Dr. Deborah are Senior Ministers at the Centre for Spiritual Living Kelowna.

Both have inspiring messages for the world and for our future! This is a wonderful time to bring special friends to our Centre to learn more about our movement!

Our special guest speaker we had scheduled for August 30th has had to postpone his trip to Canada because the Canadian Embassy had failed to process his Visa and he had to reapply.

The good news is that Maasai Elder and warrior, Clamian Kitesho, is still coming to Victoria and will now be our guest speaker Sunday, September 20th. Mark this date on your calendar and bring your friends along!

Clamian will talk about his journey from extreme poverty to being a successful business owner who now supports his beloved community.

Two members of our congregation, Kressa Sisu and Sharon Menard are responsible for bringing Clamian to Canada. Both women work very hard to support the Massai people and each has taken a beautiful little girl out of an orphanage and has placed them in boarding schools where they have a chance to create a better life for themselves and to give back to their people. Kudos to you both Kressa and Sharon! You are inspiring!

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Prayer

The essence of our teaching is Spiritual Mind Treatment/Affirmative Prayer. Our prayer team has begun to do treatment, one on one, each Sunday immediately following the service.

Revs Carrie, Joanna, Blenda and Raymond, and Practitioner Jennifer, are all available for prayer following Sunday services. Spiritual counselling may be arranged if a person so wishes.

Rev. Carrie says, “We are a Centre that prays with and for its people. We want those who wish to experience prayer on a Sunday to have the option to do so. What is typically a fee based service that includes spiritual counselling but there is no charge on Sundays.

REV. CARRIE’S THEME FOR SEPTEMBER

I’m Choosin’ Heaven Today

Here’s our schedule for September

September 6 – Happy Already – Rev. Carrie
September 13 – Special Guests – Rev. Dr. Kenn Gordon and Rev. Dr. Deborah Gordon
September 20 – Clamian Kitesho – Maasai Elder – Tanzania, Africa
September 27 – Travelin’ Light – Rev. Carrie

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 High Spirits Chorus. Nelson returns from holidays September 13th. Together, he and Louise are bringing a whole new energy to our Centre! Louise and Nelson are great together and the chorus is a wonderful addition to our Sunday services. Some of our professional singers have joined in on Sundays, creating a terrific sound! And there is room for more to join. You don’t have to have had musical training. You just need to love to sing! Speak to Nelson on any Sunday if you’d like to join in! Or email revcarrie@telus.net and she’ll pass it along.

Soloists for August

Sept. 06: Elizabeth Adams
Sept. 13: Birthday Party: Elizabeth Adams, Darlene Haynes and Lillian Slalina
Sept. 20: Darlene Haynes
Sept. 27: Jenny Rhodes

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 so that you can get to know one another!

ONGOING EVENTS

Amazing Grays: Bi-monthly meetings are suspended for the summer.

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.