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. THE WATER OF LIFE

Most of July is ruled by the water sign, Cancer, the crab whose planet is the changeable moon, and this month we explore the significance of water. Throughout the world, there is an increasing concern with water, as climate change brings dangerously drier conditions to many parts of our planet. Internally, water is often taken to symbolize the feeling function of the psyche, the workings of the heart. Since feelings, like the moon, are changeable, respect for feelings involves respect for change and mortality. And like water itself, feelings are not much respected in a world where the mind and the market are dominant.

To explore the significance of water, services this month will focus on its physical, emotional, spiritual and social dimensions. Water has a physical being, and a deep connection with human emotional life. Spiritually, water can be seen as a being with its own sacred personhood, and this respect needs also to be translated into social action on its behalf, raising a question that belongs to July, considered astrologically: how do we integrate idealistic vision with concrete action?

Submitted by Chris Bullock, SDC

The Lighthouse July 2016
A Newsletter for Friends of the Church

We are a spiritual community supporting each other in exploring our personal journeys regardless of spiritual path or belief. Our community is comprised of a rich field of individual and collective energies that is ever changing and evolving.

While we are accepting of diverse expressions of belief, we recognize the interconnectedness of all things and the power of love and appreciation. We hold reverence for all life.

We welcome those who wish to share their journey with us through their insights, reflections, experience and creative self-expression.

We are open to inspiration and recognize that our openness to others' ideas enhance our own awareness and expansion.

We meet our basic human need to socialize, bond, cooperate, celebrate and have fun, in a warm-hearted way, through a variety of events and activities.

We acknowledge our opportunity to be agents of change in the world and we encourage and support service to others through individual and group activity.

We share our sacred space with the larger community.

With gratitude, we live thoughtfully on the Earth with kindness and compassion for all.

We welcome you.

Church of Truth – Community of Conscious Living
Sunday Service – 11:00 am

Working for You
Your Board of Directors

President	Brian Martin	778-430-1872
Past President	Sanjara Omoniyi	250-900-0281
Vice President	Troi Leonard	250-532-3442
Inside Maintenance	Marvelous Trudeau	250-384-2563
Secretary	Michelle Pederson	778-350-7999
Treasurer	Ron Rayner	250-474-2715
Outside Maintenance	Deborah Hawkey	250-813-1747
SDC Liaison	Bill Israel	250-744-0590

Your Spiritual Directions Committee

Laurence Beal	250-380-6429
Chris Bullock	250-384-8241
Linda Chan	250-380-6383
Jennifer Sagar	778-440-5234
D. Joan Thomas	250-721-4054
Leonard Thornton	250-598-4303

Rentals Esther Hart 250-896-5933
Newsletter dbhawkey@gmail.com

Sunday Services in July

July 3: Water: the physical dimension

Moderator: Troi Leonard
Meditation: Pauline Karch
Speaker: Laurence Beal
Greeter: Daniel Ouimet
Coordinator: Jennifer Sagar

July 10: Water: the emotional dimension

Moderator: Marie Logan
Meditation: Laura Lane
Speaker: Sanjara Omoniyi
Greeter: Joyanna Wilkinson
Coordinator: Leonard Thornton

This Sunday we explore the relationships between human emotions and water. Since our bodies are composed of around 70% water and water receives, stores and transmits information, especially emotions, the way we deal with emotions not only affects the flow of energy through the chakras and meridians, but also the body fluids like blood and lymph. We use the expressions, blocked emotions, repressed or denied emotions and frozen emotions to describe how we deal or don't deal with emotional energies. Just like stagnant water can create grounds for disease, emotional issues can create dis-ease in the body and interfere with our ability to express and communicate. This week we will focus on developing a healthy emotional life and allow the waters of life to flow in through and around us and let ourselves grow into ever-expanding life expression!

July 17: Water: the spiritual dimension

Moderator: Linda Chan
Meditation: Marilyn Smando
Speaker: Marilyn Smando
Greeter: Laurence Beal
Coordinator: Laurence Beal

Marilyn has been meditating with the Wed night "Meditation Circle" at the COT. With a personal spiritual experience with water and some insights with that and other collected thoughts on this watery view, Marilyn may bring us to new insights for ourselves.

July 24: Water: social issues.

Moderator: Hendrik de Pagter
Meditation: Jennifer Sagar
Speaker: Barbara Mitchell Pollock
Greeter: Elsie Mary Poliquin
Coordinator: Chris Bullock

About the Speaker: Barbara Mitchell Pollock has been a social activist since participating in street theatre against the Viet Nam War. She has been a board member with the Victoria Chapter of the Council of Canadians since her arrival 10 years ago, and is committed to working towards having safe, clean drinking water for all people, and having water protected and not privatized.

July 31 Water: Community Service (Please note different format)

Moderator: Pat Miller

Meditation Circle with Water Theme – Coordinated by Pat Miller and Members of the Oneness Wednesdays “Meditation Circle”

Offerings by Community Members including Laurie Beal, Troi Leonard, Louise Taylor, Brian Martin, Marilyn Smando, and Linda Chan

Greeter: Linda Chan

Coordinator: Linda Chan

At this Community Service, members of the Oneness Wednesday Meditation Circle share and open up our Meditation Experiences in relation to the theme of the month. Others offering currently TBA.

Oneness Wednesdays in July:

July 6, 13, 20 + 27, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (and beyond)

[We will continue our Meditation Circle throughout the Summer]

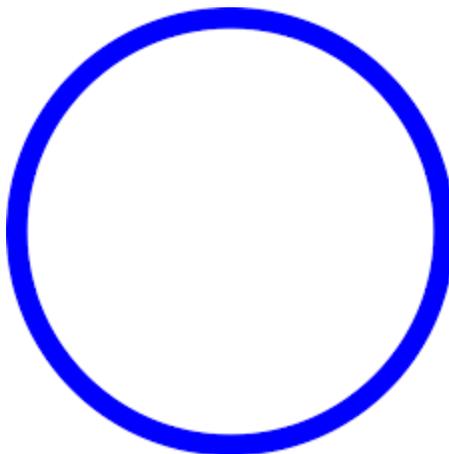
Everyone Welcome to Drop-In!

Free or by Donation

For more info: <http://cotvictoria.ca/oneness/> or Linda at [250-380-6383](tel:250-380-6383)



Circles by Greg Skala



Re-reading the four circle-themed essays in recent issues of *The Lighthouse* was an enriching pleasure. Now, responses have been requested, particularly with a view to how our Church of Truth Community of Conscious Living can benefit from the tools, metaphors, and lessons inherent in circles; and I do have a few thoughts I would like to share.

First, though a circle is widely considered to be the most perfect shape in nature or in imagination, I like to think of that as an ideal to be approached, without worrying about whether or not absolute perfection is ever realized. For example, though the ancient Greeks postulated that all heavenly bodies moved through the cosmos in perfect circles, the fact that they were later proved wrong or imprecise doesn't make the cosmos any less beautiful or magnificent to me. I remember from childhood how I enjoyed watching the cartoon movie *Donald in Mathmagic Land*, in one part of which the thoughts of Donald Duck were "pictured" as he was trying ever-so-earnestly to ponder a perfect circle. Viewers were meant to be amused by his lopsided or kinked circles, but I am sure we all knew both what the ideal was supposed to be like and also how our own human efforts to "get something just right" were also processes of hopeful approximation. Well, Donald's and our own best efforts should always be applauded and likewise, the heavenly orbs should, in my opinion, be admired for at least "aspiring" to settle into perfect orbits.

Centuries ago, a Pope sent a servant to check out the great painter Giotto and to bring back proof that that artist was gifted enough for the Pope to hire for some great commemorative work. The story goes that the servant asked Giotto for some such evidence, perhaps expecting a framed painting to carry back to his master. Giotto, though, is said to have laughed and grabbed a discarded chunk of scrap wood from the floor on his studio and hastily painted what certainly appeared to be a perfect

circle onto it. When the servant carried that back with him and reported how effortlessly Giotto had accomplished the task, the Pope was thoroughly impressed. So am I, more by Giotto's chutzpah and willingness to just dare and to try his best than by the supposed perfection of his painting.

What I have shared so far has been related to the circle as a fixed form, and what an admirable form it is! It is a strong (consider trying to squeeze an egg) and an important (consider a multitude of our bodily cells) structural component. The earlier essays in *The Lighthouse*, though, inspired me also to think about circles that are actively in motion. For example, as several congregation members pointed out, circles depict cycles. What goes around comes around. Our quests to find paradise or a perfect teacher so often lead us back to our own homes and selves. Likewise, the cyclical and restorative powers inherent in circles of friends, talking circles, and even in hugs cannot be denied.

Circles can be active agents, too, in the sense of enabling linear motion. The wheel is often cited as the most important invention of humankind's history precisely because it eases progress in any direction. Additionally, circles can be symbols that convey important information. I myself have walked within crop circle formations on the plains of Wiltshire, England, and I very definitely felt I was being educated. Mandalas and Medicine Wheels, of course, speak in profound language, too.

To summarize: Our church can benefit from the tools and inspirations afforded us by circles as ideal forms (while accepting the "perfect imperfection" of our human efforts to realize ideals), circles as cycles, circles as dynamic and progressive engines of movement, and circles as powerful communicators.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Greg Skala

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
We Celebrate with YOU!



Katherine Muncaster	July 11
Robert Winkenhower	July 12
Elizabeth Morris	July 17
Victor Van Buskirk	July 25
Pierre Morais	July 26

High Five to The Church Of Truth-Community Of Conscious Living

Why do I keep coming back to the Church of Truth -Community of Conscious Living?

- * Because spiritual partnership is between equals,
- * For the purpose of spiritual growth.
- * Because you & and I are connected to consciousness,
- * The same as any religious leader that you have ever met,
Or ever read about. You have the same access to the same information they do.
- * Consciousness doesn't do hierarchy.
- * I understand, that I am worthy beyond description.
- * I understand, I am here to expand to the magnitude of who I really am.
So this is what I will manifest.
- * Inspirational people around me -- -who specialize in the impossible.
- * People who say "yes" to someone else, who says, "I think I can do this."
- * People who look everything in the eye, because,
Nothing is greater than we are and we are no greater than anything else.
- * People who claim, we are not part of that infinity, we are that infinity.
- * People who know the magnificent oak was once a little nut who held its
ground.

So here's to the people who come to the Church of Truth, Community of Conscious Living.

Here's to the crazy ones, the rebels, the ones who see things differently,

They're not fond of rules, and have no respect for status-quo.

They're round heads in square holes, because people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do.

Submitted by Marvelous Trudeau (2012)



A Big Shout-out to the Men's Group!
They raised almost \$1,400 at the
recent yard sale.
Thank you from the Board &
Membership

Member Services

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORY FOR CHURCH of TRUTH MEMBERS

NAME	SERVICE	CONTACT INFO
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Deborah Hawkey	Technical Writing	250-813-1747 writeitright@shaw.ca
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Sales & Marketing, Career Coaching, Websites, Desktop Publishing, Resumes & Cover Letters

Laura Lane	Celebration Pianist	250-893-9656
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Accompanist, Pianist, Singer. Available for Weddings, Celebrations of Life & Special Events "Comfort Zone" Band, Boomers, Folk, Light Rock music group.

Michelle Pedersen	Make-up Artist
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For make-up consults and pricing please email me at sweetpeamakeup@gmail.com

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Marvelous Trudeau, Escort	250-384-2563
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Will take people to 1st A.A. meeting