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HARVEST AND THE SOUL’S JOURNEY:

Part 2

This month we continue to explore the idea that harvest is not a single event but a journey with dark and light sides, and physical, emotional and spiritual aspects. If September is traditionally the month when the gathering in of harvest begins, October is the month where this gathering is completed, and thoughts turn to assessing the harvest and deciding how to store its fruits for the winter. Part of assessing the harvest, is the experience of gratitude, evident in the celebration of Thanksgiving. In Thanksgiving dark and light can mingle; we may be grateful even for the gifts our life problems give us. The coexistence of dark and light reminds us this is the month where the astrological sign of Libra is mainly dominant. Libra is the sign of balance, the quest for fairness and the importance of relationships. Libra is followed by Scorpio and Thanksgiving is followed by Halloween, a festival celebrating the loosening the boundaries of the self, and of the division between the worlds of the living and the dead.

Submitted by Chris Bullock, for SDC.

The Lighthouse October 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 SERVICE SCHEDULE

Theme: Harvest & the Soul's Journey

October 2

Balancing Light & Dark

Moderator: Leonard Thornton
Meditation: Ocian Flo ...crystal bowls*
Speaker: Lorraine Jasmin
Greeter: Peggy Muncaster
Coordinator: Leonard Thornton

October 9

Thanksgiving Pearls: Giving Thanks for our Problems

Moderator: Diana Kuch
Meditation: Jennifer Sagar
Speaker: Junie Swadron
Coordinator & Greeter: Laurence Beal

October 16

Good Communication in Relationships

Moderator: Jennifer Hastie
Meditation: Ariel Lade
Speaker: Renee Lindstrom
Greeter: Bill Israel
Coordinator: Chris Bullock

October 23

Mystery Session

Moderator: Moneca Gabriel
Meditation: Eleanor McKinnon
Speaker: Joy Emmanuel
Greeter: Jennifer Sagar
Coordinator: Jennifer Sagar assisted by D. Joan Thomas

October 30

Community Service

A Feast in preparation for All Hallows E'en (HALLOWEEN), All Saints Day and the Advent of the Day of the Dead.

Description of Services

Balancing Light and Dark

In our world of time and space, the fundamental duality of light and dark enables virtually all of our experience. A simple change in the tilt of the earth's axis relative to the sun creates tremendous changes in our experience of light and dark, heat and cold and much more. At the all-important human thought and feeling level, where our experience is essentially created, light corresponds to love and dark to fear. As we move through the seasons of earth and the seasons of our lives, our journey is primarily about balancing these two polarities, the one on the outer physical level and the other on the inner spiritual level. Our fundamental challenge on all levels from physical to spiritual is the achieving of balance in how we choose to live and recognizing that our greatest problems/challenges can also be our greatest gifts. In doing so we can enjoy the harvest and ultimately experience the purpose of it all...to follow our bliss and enjoy ever greater happiness, freedom, peace and joy!

Ocian Flo will also be playing the bowls for 10 minutes before the service starts and will be coordinating with Brian and Jennifer, as she would like accompaniment on drums.

Lorraine Jasmin has been a professional counselor for 21 years and has worked in counseling settings for over sixty years, having a life-long interest in people's emotional well-being. In her life and work, Lorraine values confidentiality, discretion, ethics and diplomacy. Lorraine also enjoys sophisticated humor, although her first love has always been dogs, especially German shepherds and wolves and they genuinely return the affection given.

October 9: Thanksgiving Pearls: Giving Thanks for our Problems

This day we may reflect upon our hard won realizations which set us ever more free, and give wholehearted thanks for the challenges in which the pearls of realization were formed. Says Diana, "I'm all in. Comedy celebrates imperfection." Says Junie, "I'm all over it, Laurence ... thanks for opportunity to share with the community 😊"

Oct 16: Good Communication in Relationships

October 16 lies under the sign of Libra, the sign emphasizing relationship, and this service focuses on the role of good communication as part of harvest. How can we speak and listen so that relationships can have qualities like balance, fairness and honesty?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
We Celebrate with YOU!



John Hutton	October 08
Bernadine Sperling	October 10
Chris Bullock	October 12
Greg Skala	October 16
Rennie, Lorna	October 26

Dear Friends and Members of the Church of Truth:

I prepare this letter as a simple way of "Thanking you" for the sensitive gift of Card and Video which Brian Martin, your President, himself so graciously, and with such warmth of heart, presented to me in person, at my front door, in celebration of my 90th Birthday. I was surprised, delighted, honoured, and deeply touched by the gesture and the kindness it expressed.

I am glad to see that the building is still used, well cared for, even loved it seems. Ms. Marion Ewart, whose generous donation (I have more to tell of this at a later time) made it possible for us to build, would indeed be especially delighted to see her vision being fulfilled in the way that the present Church Board is operating the building as a Centre for Conscious Living open to all related activities in the James Bay community.

You already know the story of the geometry that grew from 'point' to 'line' to 'circle' to 'cross' to 'concept' - an evolving process of intuitive progression leading from idea to drawn plan. But of course, the floor plan drawn on paper, was not the building in which you now sit, and for which you generously credit me.

While I am deeply touched by your warmly expressed appreciation for the work I did, I am embarrassed to have become the focus of attention when others were instrumental in making my drawings stand up. Without their skill there could not have been a building; and my first impulse, in thanking you, is to give credit to all who opened the way for it to happen. In particular are the following:

1 - Richard John DiCastrì for his Founding spiritual vision;

2 - Ms. Marion Ewart for her generous donation covering 90% of the cost of land and building;

3 - Mr. Jan Paddinge who arranged for this gift given by Ms. Ewart; and was actively involved on-site every day consulting with builders during construction.

4 - Mr. Peter Neijmeir, Architect, who slavishly copied by drawings, pro bono, added the Structural detailing, obtained the stamp of a Structural Engineer; applied for the Building Permit, recommended the builder; and was on-site to supervise construction when necessary.

5. The professional builders, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, glaziers who with training, brain, and muscle, translated my drawings into actual structure which, nail by nail, metamorphosized into the finished building that stands today.

So we see that the building which house the Church of Truth is the flower of an evolutionary process involving many beyond just me. If the history is to be remembered, recognition for the "Church" (not the building) must be given to Richard DiCatri who founded it; while recognition for Building (not the Church) must be given to Marion Ewart who made the building possible, giving a home to the Church - theirs is the Legacy.

However, I know full well that the life of the building will be sustained only by the life of those who continue to occupy it, so that recognition for the Life of the Church and building must be given to all who, though every tough challenge and evolutionary change, remain the Sustaining Membership.

My hope is that whatever spirit fills its sanctuary will continue to live within its geometry, embracing all, and drawing all to its centre.

Meanwhile, for me, if I am to be remembered for anything at all, it is only for the design that gives a home to the indwelling Spirit. A legacy? Perhaps.

This is the story from generation to generation: we claim much, but own nothing, yet are we part of everything, an embodiment of the inexorable force of Life that, through our brief window of consciousness, we experience as evolution.

I thank you once more for the kindness that you all bestowed on me. I shall treasure the Birthday Card carrying so many signatures; and I shall not forget the love for Church and Life which you expressed from your hearts in the Video. My Friend Frank, who, I now know, had a hand in this, has watched the Video; his comment was "What lovely friends you have!" Thank you everyone - thank you from this old heart. It is the warm hearts of people like you that keeps my old 1926 model still ticking!

John Clinton Cawood
Victoria, 9/4/2016

"If-" contains a multitude of characteristics deemed essential to being a whole person.....This poem was recited by members of our community at Sunday Service on Sunday, September 18th and was part of the presentation given by Bill Israel who was spoke on the topic "Soul's Journey".

If --- by Rudyard Kipling

**If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:**

**If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;
If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,**

And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

**If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;**

**If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'**

**If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute**

**With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And—which is more—you'll be a whole person, my child !**

Submitted by Linda Chan

**HEY EVERYONE!
COME ONE & ALL to my BOOK LAUNCH
SUNDAY OCT 16th—2 pm
CHURCH OF TRUTH, 111 Superior Street
CATS, SPATS & HISSY FITS: CONFESSIONS OF A CAT LOVER
By ELLA BROWN**

Laugh and cry (but mostly laugh-out-loud) as you read this delightful and touching memoir of a cat lover. This book is full of surprises; real life true confessions interspersed with hilarious fantasy sequences.

Ella raises some thought provoking questions. For example:

- Can a kitten have a near death experience?

- What is the relationship between cats and aliens?

- Are cats smarter than psychologists?

- Are cats telepathic?

Want to know more?

CHRISTMAS is just around the corner! This book would make an ideal gift for the cat lover(s) in your life. Or for anyone who loves to laugh.

Cost: one book \$19.99

Christmas Special: Two for \$34.99

Enjoy tea, coffee and goodies

I'll need to know how many are coming—**RSVP to ellabee999@gmail.com.**

SECRETARY WANTED

The Board cordially invites you to join our responsive team and contribute your consummate secretarial skills in service to our wonderful community.

Training and assistance will be provided to ease your way into the process.

Please contact any Board member or myself to embrace this opportunity.

Brian Martin, President

ANNUAL CHURCH CLEAN-UP



Join your community at the annual
inside-outside church clean-up on
Saturday October 15
TIME: 9 AM – 3PM

Homemade soup & rustic bread will be
served for lunch.

A Big Thank You From Deb

I would like to thank everyone for their cards, calls and visits during my recent stay in the hospital. Your kindness was very much appreciated. It's great to be part of such a supportive community.

Submitted by Deborah Hawkey

Talk Given by Sue Clough

On Sept 11th, Sue Clough was our guest speaker at Sunday Service. She spoke eloquently on the topic "Harvest and the Human Journey". The following is an excerpt from her talk:

Today is Sept. 11 and I'd like to use two events that happened on this date, though several years apart to illustrate the choices that a crisis offers us. One global, one individual.

The terrible events on this day in 2001 in New York were a tragedy that shook the whole world and the way Americans knew themselves...shook them to the core. Those planes generated fear and lots of anger. Symbolically, their container broke and offered them an opportunity to question their communal values, the new world that was emerging, the role of the USA in it, the use of power, how they use their

resources, attitudes,...a very wide and long list. It was a huge and very dramatic wake up call for the nation.

But, for many, that invitation to reflection was squandered as fear and \$ took over resulting in the increase of all things protectionist, the creation of Homeland Security and many quasi-military security agencies, increased military spending, all leading to increased fear. Many of these programs were enforced around the world and we all feel the effects of it. Not a search for deeper meaning, nor for understanding, but defensiveness was the norm. No wisdom was gained...only an increase of hate and fear. Opportunity lost.

A more individual tragedy happened on this same date, Sept. 11, but many years later. A house had been built on a large property, a home created, 4 children thrived as they grew into adulthood, the home was filled with lots of music, dance and creativity. It was a life lived large, energetically, actively and noisily. Gardens yielded abundant fruit harvested for preserves, and veggies for canning and freezing. This was a good and full life, a fine example of living the tasks of the 1st half of life.

Then, on one Sept. 11, the family got shaken when this full-of-life home burned to the ground with nothing left but the ashes of their lives...only shards of plates here, a book cover there, a tarnished piece of a silver spoon. The container for their lives literally went up in flames and smoke. No one was injured, but what was the meaning of this tremendous loss? The cause of the fire is not important but the response of the family is. The father of the family saw it as an opportunity for a new beginning. For him, in the sadness and loss he saw a radical invitation to become unstuck, freeing him from the work of tending a large house and property and to move on in his life. Not easy and not everyone in the family were so accepting of moving on. He saw it as being freed up to create a different kind of life, though not even knowing what that would look like. He let go of the past, trusted and embraced a new life. He 'chose life so that he and his descendants may live.'

Two very different events and two very different choices in response.

Submitted by Linda Chan

