

THE LIGHTHOUSE DECEMBER 2009



Inside:

**P2 Mission Statement
Board of Directors**

**P3 Sunday Service
Schedule
& Sunday Dec**

P4 Our Writer's Corner

**P5 Conflict Resolution
Report, Birthdays &
Licadho Canada**

P6 Inspirational Message

**P7 Walking the Talk
By Trish Coleman
Angels Needed**

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The Light in the Darkness

Every month the Spiritual Directions Committee meets to create the services for the following month. This is a joint effort and once the theme has been chosen individual members of the committee volunteer to coordinate a topic within the theme for the Sunday that suits them.

It has been miraculous the way things have come together over the last 7 months that this team has been following this format. I don't even remember anyone suggesting this format. It just evolved through inspiration. In fact, every month, this is what happens. Individuals share the inspiration that has come to them and then we talk it out until a theme and topics has blossomed completely. I've also been amazed at the speed with which this process has worked.

The last meeting was not quite the same. Here we were talking about the dark time of the year and the mystical experiences that are celebrated at this time in many cultures. We were using technology to have Nikki's presence at the meeting by phone. As it turned out, the phone became a talking stick as Nikki could only hear us when we were holding the phone.

We went round and round sharing ideas. We would think we had something nailed down and then something else would come up. We looked at each other bewildered. We were in the dark. Finally Carol said, "I think we're stuck in our heads. Would you be willing to do a HeartMath exercise?"

We did the exercise and as a result clarified our theme of "The Light in the Darkness". How can we maintain some light as we go into the darkest time of year?

Continued on page 3

The Lighthouse November 2009

**A Newsletter for Friends of the Church
The Church of Truth - Community of Conscious Living**

We are a supportive community of spiritual discovery that encourages and supports the concept that the responsibility to connect with Spirit or the Divine is ultimately that of the individual.

Through study and contemplation we can attune to Spirit or the Divine, giving us greater insight into our place in the structure of life as well as our interconnection with all things. We respect the inter-connectedness of all life. Moreover, in achieving a deeper attunement with Spirit we can be of greater service to our community and to our world.

We acknowledge and respect the contributions of all established religions.

Programs established or sanctioned by the Community respect each individual's path to spiritual growth.

“Within our Church community there exists a rich field of changing elements made up of the collective energies of our community. We strive to reflect the ecology of our community in ways which encourage exploration and respect for our diversity.”

We welcome all who want to share this sacred place, this adventure, this CELEBRATION

Sunday Service - 11 am Working for you - Your Board of Directors

President	Brian Martin	778-430-1872
Past President	Roy Leaman	778-430-1905
Treasurer/SDC Liaison	Esther Hart	294-6416
Secretary	Eleanor McKinnon	474-2715
Rentals	Patti Huot	385 0941
Inside Maintenance	Nathaniel Poole	984-4024
Outside Maintenance	Marie Logan	652 8586

Community Care Liaison – Lorna Rennie 361-2079

**Newsletter—Deborah Hawkey Email dbhawkey@gmail.com
Newsletter Submissions welcomed by the 15th of each month**

Spiritual Directions Committee

Brian Martin	778-430-1872
Cedona Holly	642-1060
Joyanna Wilkinson	361-3181
Esther Hart	294-6416
Nikki Menard	1-250-537-9380

Linda Chan <http://cot.rd123.ca/>

Rev. Joan Hopper Pastoral Care for free consultation call 250-384-3637

Sunday Service Schedule for December 2009

"The Light in the Darkness"

	Coordinators	Topic
December 6	Nikki Menard	The Light of Mystical Experiences
December 13	Carol Douglas	Bringing the Light into Birthing
December 20	Joyanna Wilkinson	The Light of Music with Patricia Coleman
December 27	Brian Martin and Cedona Holly	The Light of Humour

Continued from page 1

Nikki will share with us how mystical experiences shed light. Carol will share a story about bringing the light to the birthing process, Patricia Coleman will share the light of music and then the last Sunday, when the light is returning, Brian and Cedona will share the light of humour.

We hope you join us for this month of exploration and invite you to share with us what works for you and what you would like to see us add to the services.

Esther Hart
Board/SDC Liaison

Sunday December 20th, 2009

The coming of the Light through music and the spoken word embraces the magical, mystical aspect of religion. Earth-based faiths have always included rituals to mark the hope of the return of light. First there was dark and then came the rituals to drive back the dark, held around the winter solstice, the Northern Hemisphere's longest night that falls on Dec. 21.

The seasons change, and since we're part of creation, these seasons move in us, and we move with it. The pagan roots of the Christian tradition were born with the winter solstice traditions. We celebrate the birth of a baby born in a manger to bring light to the world. We also are reminded of the miracle of oil lasting eight days – Hanukkah the Feast of Lights. It's all about hope. We also look for the return of light, which is symbolic of the return of love, enlightenment and new ways of seeing things.

That's what this holiday is all about: stepping into the light, and remembering that no amount of darkness can put out the light of even one candle.

The service will be filled with music, a few spoken words and candle lighting ritual

Thank-you from Joyana

Coordinated by Trish Coleman



Our Writer's Corner

AUTHORS' SELL-ABRATION AT THE CHURCH OF TRUTH – SUN. NOV. 15

Welcome one & all to our Authors' Celebration! A Sell-abration - (that's sell as in s-e-l-l), to honour 11 local authors here at the Church of Truth, Community of conscious living. I believe that today many of you in the audience who are writers - will leave inspired to believe that you too can become an author – and sooner than you thought! One of our visions for this event has been to go and, in the words of the grand author, Henry David Thoreau, “LIVE the life you have **imagined!**”



My name is Patricia Miller and I have a brief tale to tell you:

Once upon a time, not so far away, in a land of grand, Olympic stature named B.C., there ruled a mean-spirited, toothy-grinned leader. (More about this villain later.....)

B.C., or, as it came to be known, Brutish Campbellonia, was home to many impoverished artists & writers who slavishly toiled at their craft, with little, or no reward.

Alas and anon, when things could not have seemed more bleak for the artists, what did the nasty ruler of Brutish Campbellonia do? He decreed that his already-meagre arts' funding budget be slashed & burned! (A dastardly act to be sure.)

Alas & anon, the poor artists & writers became even more discouraged, devastated, disappointed, & destitute.

Ahhh, but as in all such sad tales, the forces of good **sprang** to the rescue of some of the beleaguered writers: a Fairy Godmother! A good Queen! A small Community of Conscious Living and, Tinkerbell!

The Fairy Godmother realized that by bringing the writers together and working collaboratively, their spirit and creativity would be nourished and of course, **their wishes would come true.**

The good Queen of Brutish Campbellonia had business acumen, loved a challenge and was a hot-damn with technology. The small but feisty Community of Consciousness was encouraging to the writers, leaderful and **knew how to lovingly resolve conflict.**

All that was remaining to create the happy ending we all envisioned, or, “To **really** live the life they had imagined!”, was Tinkerbell. So she lavishly sprinkled her Inspire-a-writer fairy glitter on all the hopeful writers

at the Community's free writing events
and....
Alas & anon....many of the writers of

Brutish Campbellonia transformed
themselves into successful **authors** and
lived **HEA, Happily Ever After.**

LICADHO CANADA

Here, here! my sentiments are all reflected in these beautiful responses. I feel so grateful that you all, recently strangers, were so warm in your embrace of myself and LICADHO Canada. This really means so much and came at the perfect time. For those of you who wanted to know, we raised \$277, 1 laptop, 2 digital cameras and 5 cell phones! Two women also offered me to different networks to connect with and one man (Doug) donated a suitcase full of clothes! Yes, a lot to be grateful and joyful about.



I'm sorry I wasn't able to come and look at the all the books as I had wanted to. (Stephanie and I were steadily busy responding to inquiries about Cambodia which was great!) I wish each of you success in launching your message into the world. I'd say you are all well on your way.

Please let me know if any of you would like to be on the LICADHO Canada mailing list, and I'll gladly add you to it and keep you posted.

A toast to all of you,
Lee



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We celebrate with you!

December 12 Joan Hopper
December 31 Gordon Thurston



There was an Indian wanted his sons to quickly. So he sent turn, to go and look great distance away.

Chief who had four sons. He learn not to judge things too them each on a quest, in at a pear tree that was a

The first son went in the winter, the second in the spring, the third in summer, and the youngest son in the fall.

When they had all gone and come back, he called them together to describe what they had seen.

The first son said that the tree was ugly, bent, and twisted.

The second son said no it was covered with green buds and full of promise.

The third son disagreed; he said it was laden with blossoms that smelled so sweet and looked so beautiful, it was the most graceful thing he had ever seen.

The last son disagreed with all of them; he said it was ripe and drooping with fruit, full of life and fulfillment.

The Chief then explained to his sons that they were all right, because they had each seen but only one season in the tree's life.

He told them that you cannot judge a tree, or a person, by only one season, and that the essence of who they are and the pleasure, joy, and love that come from that life can only be measured at the end, when all the seasons are up.

If you give up when it's winter, you will miss the promise of your spring, the beauty of your summer and fulfillment of your fall.

Walking the Talk

By Trish Coleman

'Walk the Talk' Sort of like 'Practice what you preach' Or 'the Proof of the pudding is in the eating' or ??????

Joyanna asked me to be moderator on October 25th.

I really wanted to but I think I have a "be still" angel that is keeping me home.

This time with gout 'ouch' ---Not much walking going on here.

But

The request to be moderator certainly sent me on a visionary trip.

What is the 'talk'?

I see many in our community practicing community service, living positively, helping others, forgiving themselves and others, living in the Now moment and on and on it goes.

I also know there are times when this isn't so - someone really bugs you but you get over it more quickly and you don't put it into words or actions.

I know that sometimes we just don't feel like helping out but either we do it anyway or allow ourselves not to do whatever it is without guilt.

I feel preaching does not do it for me anymore. I find people who want to help others through telling them where they are 'wrong' or what they 'should' or 'ought' to do don't cut it with me. I have a hard time with 'coaches' etc.

One of the reasons I left the so called organized religion was to escape being preached to.

BUT

Tell me your story --please

Tell me what has worked for you-- yes

Tell me what hasn't worked for you --OK

The few times my 'Be still' angel has let me go to a service I hear the speakers doing just that and I am grateful.

So what is my 'talk' at the present time?

2 things come to mind that have helped me for years and which I try to aspire to in my day to day life the first is -----

The Love Project Principles

by Diane Pike and Arlene Lorraine

Have no expectations but rather have abundant expectancy

Be the change you want to see happen rather than trying to change anyone else

Perceive problems as opportunities

Receive all persons as beautiful exactly as they are including you

Provide others with opportunities to give

Create your own reality consciously rather than living as if you have no control over your life

In every given moment we have the opportunity to make a choice.

The second one is -----

Love without truth is sentimentality

Truth without love is brutality

We need both Love and Truth

The newest 'talk' I try to 'walk' is Live in the 'NOW'. Do I walk the talk all the time - no - but I know that I am walking a bit better all the time (spiritually and hopefully soon physically). And last but not least it all 'just is' Whomever or whatever created this amazing universe and a tiny seed, or a drop of water, and you and me, has it all in hand and it is good.



ANGELS NEEDED

We are looking for volunteers to assist with preparing coffee/tea Sunday mornings before the service and/or helping with clean-up afterwards. The morning duties involve arriving at church about 10:30am to start the coffee urn and ginger tea, set up the tea service cart (with cups, saucers, spoons, sugar), put the snacks on a plate etc. The clean-up involves putting dishes in the dishwasher, washing the coffee urn and teapots and general tidy up in the kitchen.

It seems to work best if a volunteer can assume the job for a month at a time although any assistance would be much appreciated. If you are able to help or would like more information about the job please feel free to talk with Tracy or Lorna at church.

Tracy

**Report on the November 9 meeting to create
a conflict resolution process for the
Church of Truth – Community of Conscious Living community**

14 present

Norm Smookler Facilitating & taking notes

Topic—Conflict Resolution Process for Church community

Used talking stick for first round--opening comments from everyone

Everyone fully participated during the time

Consensus for Conflict Resolution process:

- 1) Encourage those having a conflict to get together on their own to attempt a resolution

- 2) If this doesn't work then involve 1 or 2 other members of church--one for each person if desired. Norm strongly recommended that these other members have received short training (perhaps 3 hours) in very basic communication and conflict resolution skills. They could be called "Mentors"; "Communication Mentors"; "Problem Solving Mentors"; "Resolution Mentors" or something else. A list of those who have taken the course would be available and listed in the newsletter.

- 3) If this doesn't work then a circle with a talking stick can be convened which includes more people from the list of trained people.

- 4) If this doesn't work then an outside facilitator/mediator can be brought in and the church board will determine on a case-by-case basis whether or not to cover the cost of this.

There was a discussion about offering a conflict resolution retreat for all those members of our community interested in participating.