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**Contact:**

**111 Superior St.  
Victoria, BC V8V 1T2  
250-382-5412  
<http://cotvictoria.ca>**

## **WE ARE THE BLESSING**

In December, the Church of Truth - Community of Conscious Living offers a series of services incorporating the insight and affirmation that WE are the blessing. To convey this insight we have used the rich symbolism of the body, with which we are blessed by Mother Earth.

On Dec. 2, the theme is Hear and Now (The Art of Listening). For a moment, a brief moment, imagine yourself deaf ..... Dancing Wolf notes, "Not only is sound all around us ... there is an inner chatter that can be deafening at times and yet when we ... listen deeply we are more often than not blessed with great gifts." The blessings of hearing are myriad. Through our ears we hear the other, the cries and sighs of nature, the songs of the spheres, the silence. Julia Menard, a professional mediator specializing in conflict transformation, will be our guest speaker. Ms. Menard will offer our community a workshop in February on Making Tough Conversations Great. This is a wonderful opportunity for the Community of Conscious Living to hear her speak.

On Dec. 9, hospital chaplain Peter Shurvin will offer us a hand blessing. For a moment, look at your hands, then imagine yourself without hands ..... Ordained in the Anglican Church, Peter's 20-year journey as a chaplain in the hospital system has allowed him to enjoy and learn from the numerous forms of expression by which humans approach the Great Spirit, in sickness, health and death. He blesses the hands that heal, comfort, work, connect and allow us to intimately interact with creation.

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The Lighthouse December 2012  
 A Newsletter for Friends of the Church  
 The Church of Truth - Community of Conscious Living

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 may 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.**

Sunday Service – 11:00 am  
 Working for you - Your Board of Directors

President	Patti Huot	250-385-0941
Past President	Esther Hart	250-896-5933
Vice President	Roland Guenther	778-433-4386
Treasurer	D. Joan Thomas	250-721-4054
Secretary	Cynthia Pattison	250-661-8687
Rentals	Esther Hart	250-896-5933
Outside Maintenance/SDC Liaison	Sanjara Omoniyi	778-433-4386
Inside Maintenance	Dancing Wolf	250-418-0694

Your Spiritual Directions Committee Members are:

Trish Coleman	250-721-1973
Stephen Graves	778-677-7597
Hendrik de Pagter	778-440-5234
Dancing Wolf	250-418-0694

Community Care Liaison – Lorna Rennie 361-2079  
 Newsletter—Deborah Hawkey Email [dbhawkey@gmail.com](mailto:dbhawkey@gmail.com)  
 Newsletter Submissions welcomed by the 21<sup>st</sup>. of each month  
 Linda Chan <http://cotvictoria.ca>

# Sunday Service Schedule for December 2012

## DECEMBER'S THEME: We Are The Blessing

- Dec 2**                    **Hear and Now (The Art of Listening)**  
Coordinator:        Dancing Wolf  
Moderator:         Bob Winkenhower  
Meditation:        Dancing Wolf  
Speaker:            Julie Menard  
Greeter:            Jack Hyatt  
Hugs:                Dancing Wolf
- Dec 9**                    **Blessing of the Hands**  
Coordinator:        Hendrik de Pagter  
Moderator:         Jack Hyatt  
Meditation:        Jennifer Sagar  
Hand Blessing:     Peter Shurvin  
Greeter:            Daniel Ouimet
- Dec 16**                 **Blessing of the Heart**  
Coordinator:        Sanjara Omoniyi  
Moderator:         Susan Blackwood  
Meditation:        Marie Logan  
Speaker:            Sanjara Omoniyi  
Greeter:            Bernadine Sperling
- Dec 23**                 **Blessing of Sight, Light and Insight**  
Coordinator:        Patricia Coleman  
Moderator:         Patricia Coleman  
Meditation:        Hold the Silence and Music  
Speaker:            Experiential Community Service, Music+++  
Greeters:           Stephen and Rebecca Kinsella & John  
                          Flowers
- Dec 30**                 **Blessing of the Feet**  
Coordinator:        Stephen Graves  
Moderator:         Junie Swadron  
Meditation:        (2 part) Stephen Graves  
Speaker:            Community Service  
Greeter:            Carol Bainbridge

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At the core of the month, Dec. 16, Sanjara Omoniyi will speak on the blessings of the heart. For a moment, struggle to imagine yourself without a heart. It is unthinkable for all but the sociopath. One of the blessings I experience as a congregant of this community of conscious living is a widespread and deep "heart-centredness" that does not disparage the intellect, but rather allows for a balance by restoring love and compassion at the core.

If the eyes are the window of the soul, prepare yourself for another rich ceremony as coordinated and moderated by Trish Coleman on Dec. 23, with the theme being the Blessing of Sight, Light and Insight. The Advent candle of love, the Hanukkah menorah, the Christos light and the return of the sun will all shed their radiant blessings. "Do you see what I see?"

Finally, on Dec. 30, the feet that carry us through this glorious painful life, with or without complaint, that grounds us to Mother Earth, will be the subject, or metaphor, of our final encounter with the theme of blessing. "I had no shoes and complained, until I met a man who had no feet." For a moment, imagine yourself with no feet... Our soles have led us through this year and our souls will lead us, together in community, into the year of promise and great change which awaits us.

For me, that we are the blessing has been clearly manifest as my association with the Church of Truth deepens. A man blessed with a reasonable amount of good friends, I now have many more among the congregants. I am so blessed to be part of the Men's Circle that was birthed in January, loving the brothers who share their joy and pain, wisdom and honesty, practical and spiritual blessings. I am blessed that a Women's Circle is also active, strengthening those who hold up half the sky so that it won't fall on my head. We are blessed to have dedicated volunteers who ten months of the year, arrange to share this church's gift of sacred space and human resources on Oneness Wednesdays, the seductress that ensnared me in this community of conscious living. We are blessed in the consistent silent service congregants perform without anticipation of reward. We are blessed that their service is appreciated and recognized. We are blessed in the constant variegations of truth that manifest themselves in an ongoing crescendo of Oneness as we step forth and share from our hearts and our minds. We see the bonds strengthening, the love blossoming. We ARE the blessing. Come to church, look around, and feel it in your heart. We ARE the blessing.

Hendrik de Pagter SDC

This is a reprint of Bob Winkenhower's presentation from November 11, 2012

## **Peace and Remembrance**

Good Morning.....

For those who have experienced the horror of war, whether it be in killing, home invasion and/or having a loss of loved one, I can see where remembrance can be so important and to give thanks for the great sacrifices made and a healing process of the grief.

I want though to talk about the Peace aspect of our topic today and things that shape our attitudes.

I was born in San Antonio, Texas, a military city. It has three air forces bases, a military medical center and a huge army base, Ft. Sam Houston. Eisenhower was stationed there. I remember waving to the troop trains on my way to school. At that time, San Antonio practiced segregation, a mindset of my community. Schools were segregated, restaurants, movie houses, restrooms, even water fountains, one for white and one for "coloured".

Racism was ingrained in our vocabulary and speech. My family moved out to California when I was 13 and I experience the first awareness of my prejudiced when a Jewish friend my aged cut me down for my racial slur. That was the beginning of a gradual change and understanding of integration that began to change my values from this mindset of the South with its segregation.

Other values at that time included post-secondary education and for men most likely military courses or ROTC. I followed that course, graduating with a diploma from university and a commission in the Air Force. A year and a half later with thousands of dollars spent on my training, I was a navigator/bombardier - trained to fly in B-47 carrying a nuclear bomb. A shared military mindset didn't question what we were trained for nor the consequences of our actions. We were doing our duty for country-period. I think the closest thing I came to what I was involved in was a joke in one of the courses... that if we brought the critical masses together at the wrong time, there would be a "mushroom" in the bombay. We kind of smirked at the joke. I did my three years in the service and then spent a five months traveling on my own in Europe.

It was there I got to thinking and experiencing the beauty of knowing other people and other cultures. After a year as a substitute teacher in London, I got married there and then came back to work on a California teaching credential. It was a paper I was doing on how school should be prepared in case of a nuclear attack that I realized the devastation of the more primitive atomic bomb used on

Hiroshima., called the “fat boy” August 6, 1945. In 9 seconds, 70,000 people were killed and the horror afterwards of radio activity and the slow and agonizing deaths of 100 thousands more to follow. The bomb was the equivalent of 13 kilotons of TNT. The bomb we were using in the B-47 in 1958 was 20 megatons. That’s 20 million tons of TNT and that started me thinking about “the hazards” of war and mass destruction. What did a nuclear war really mean??? A good possibility is total annihilation.

I started a 28 year career of teaching social studies in the public school system which included units on World War I and II. From my experience in traveling and a better awareness of different cultures, I started a World Friendship Club at school for students to know and write to other students in the world. The club stayed with me until my retirement 20 Years later. In my first year here in Victoria, I was team teaching at Belmont a unit on World War I. The topic was to speak on behalf of countries involved in the war. From research of a plethora of propaganda books published between 1910-14, I defended Germany and her need to go to war. This introduced me to the use of propaganda which was heavily used in both world wars in cartoons, movies, songs, posters, and literature. It was a well-developed art of influencing people to make war and to participate in war.

If you can influence people to war, you can also influence people to peace. I used an excerpt from Enrich Remarque’s book All Quiet on the Western Front with my students. It is written from the perception of a German soldier. In this excerpt, he is in a shell hole and a wounded French soldier falls into the crater. The German watches him slowly die. On searching the Frenchman’s body, the German sees the commonality and brother hood that could have been.

What do I see are the solutions for world peace? Like this church which has evolved over the years, so can world organizations. I would continue to develop a world order such as the League of Nations after WWI and its successor the UN, after World War II, with a world court and judicial system. Despite the extreme evilness of some people in history, Hitler, Stalin, Osama Bin Laden, I don’t believe in assassinations such as what happened to Bin Laden. I would rather they be arrested and brought before the world in court to be tried. Their actions publicized for the world to see and judge. This type of judicial justice in coordination with the UN, hopefully, will evolve.

Whether it be attitudes (mindsets of societies) concerning war, peace, racism, tar sands and pipelines, I believe that education should be our major hope and objective. Education’s primary objective is to search for the truth, incorporating the skills of inquiry and critical thinking so as to avoid being captured by pitfalls of propaganda. Included in this education would be an awareness of the precious commonalities among peoples of the world that should

be respected and lastly the protection of the environment to preserve this world for future generations.

As individuals we can support Peace through joining, volunteering or contributing financially to peace organizations. The internet lists a whole host of organizations whose objectives are for peace; few include World Federalist, Canadian Peace Alliance, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace

Reaching out to help others in the world would include: Canada Red Cross, Doctors without borders, Oxfam, Unicef and for the Environment-The David Suzuki Foundation.

In closing, I would like to read “A Prayer” by Alan Slifka, Chairman and cofounder of The Abraham Fund New York, an organization that brings peaceful coexistence to the Israeli and Arab world.

I pray for a world where all people learn to think of “I and Thou,” practice “existence and coexistence” and move through life individually and with others, woven together, separate yet interconnected, like the light and dark of the Tao.

I pray for a world where all children are taught about coexistence, cooperation, and community-building at an early age; that they learn tolerance and respect and can overcome the prejudice they learned from adults.

I pray for a world where difference, tradition, culture and spiritual roots are honored, where the goal of peaceful coexistence is as important as clean air, clean water and protecting all the species on earth.

I pray for a world where political leaders encourage respect for diversity instead of exploiting differences for political gain.

I pray for a world where leaders of all faiths denounce absolutism and fundamentalism, where respect and tolerance for all expressions of connectivity with God or the universal Spirit are understood as expressions of our shared desire to join with a Higher Power.

I pray for a planet where the oppression of minorities is universally condemned where we can all coexist rather than become extinct; a world where the ideals of coexistence and community-building become educational priorities and shared societal goals.

Submitted by Bob Winkenhower

# ONENESS WEDNESDAY IN DECEMBER

## DEATH CAFE

With Don & Elizabeth Morris  
**December 5 & 12**

Come initiate “free flowing conversation around “death” while comfortably seated at tables in an uplifting environment drinking ginger tea and eating potluck savory snacks or desserts. Relax into an open-hearted setting where our often hushed thoughts and feelings are most welcomed.



Kindly bring savory snack or dessert to share with others. There will be musical interludes.

Info: Don Morris at 250-580-2121

**December 19**

**Winter Solstice 2012 – Celebrating the Birth of Our Universal Selves**

Winter Solstice is the season to celebrate the shift from darkness to light – the universal movement toward Light and Life, and for many cultures, the beginning of the festive season of Light. Solstice traditions remind us of our connection to far off heavenly bodies and the power those distant bodies have to influence our daily lives. Now, however, we live in a time when the human species has developed the capacity to powerfully influence our Earth home - for better or for worse.

In this shift year of 2012, we celebrate the winter solstice by celebrating the birth of our Universal Self – the awareness of our global interconnectedness with all life and the capacity to co-create an amazing life sustaining world. The choice of which path to go down and how to embrace the mystery of the future is for us to make.

Let us celebrate interconnection, oneness and possibility as we pass across the bridge of time to great consciousness and compassion for all life. Join us for Winter 2012 Solstice celebration.

Blessed Be.

**Church of Truth, Community of Conscious Living**  
**111 Superior Street (in James Bay)**  
**7 – 8:30 p.m.**

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

*We Celebrate with YOU!*

Dec. 15      Jack Hyatt  
Dec. 31      Sanjara Ominiya  
Dec. 31      Gordon Thurston



## UP CLOSE

with

Susan Blackwood

*We sleep, but the loom of life never stops, and the pattern which was weaving when the sun went down is weaving when it comes up in the morning. ---*  
Henry Ward Beecher

There are moments in my life when I know, moments of clarity, when I look back and can see every moment of my life's experience woven together. When I left high school, my first job was in a weaving arts studio. I taught myself how to spin raw wool into thin and thick knobby strands. I made wall hangings, ponchos and pillows. Since that first job, I see the world through the eyes of a weaver. Life is like a tapestry. The warp is the foundation, the constant that we built the picture on; the weft is the experiences that we weave in, that create the diversity, the uniqueness of the tapestry.

Colors and fibers each add a different quality. My father was a professor of microbiology and eventually became the dean of the college. I lived there as a child. It was like living in a walled fairyland. I was exposed to a variety of different cultures, as the college was opened to foreign students from all over the world. It was the beginning of a life long journey of intellectual enquiry and interest in different cultural rituals, beliefs and foods. Those early threads run through my life.

Life got busy. I have been a government clerk twice, run a family daycare, studied and became an alternative health practitioner, taught meditation classes, worked with a local psychologist on brain balancing. Concurrently I married, had two wonderful sons, divorced and was privileged to care for my parents at the end of their lives.

Two major back injuries changed the trajectory of my life. I was going in one direction and suddenly I was stopped in my tracks, laid out flat. The accidents happened 10 years apart. I spent hours, days, weeks and months house bound. I found myself turning inward, just spending time watching life move. These experiences changed how I saw and related to the world around me. Deep strong threads were connecting me to a source I had not known. I love silence, I love connecting to nature, to trees and oceans, I love listening to another's story and seeing their life unfold before me. It is magic.

My biggest pleasure is to create a space that allows expression. Over the past two years, I have certified as a Life Cycle Celebrant with the Celebrant Foundation and Institute. I have become a Reverend with CIMM and started a ceremonial business as a registered Officiant. I get to tell people's stories, find a poem that expresses love or loss, to create a ritual that affirms another's beliefs and values. It is amazing.

My story, my journey, my tapestry is full. I am blessed.

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## **KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY SAFE**

At a recent Sunday service, there was mention about our community being a safe place. Part of that safety comes from honesty and authenticity. Sometimes things happen that cause misunderstandings and hurt feelings. It is essential that we discuss these things with each other to clear them up.

Often, these are tough conversations, and yet, it is just such conversations that can result in a relationship being stronger than ever. Yet, we don't always know how to have these conversations, even with people we care deeply about. We can practice what we learn in our safe environment and take those skills into other areas of our lives.

To assist us with this, the board is proposing to present a workshop entitled "Making Tough Conversations Great" facilitated by Julia Menard. See the flyer for details.

Julia's regular rate for a full-day workshop is \$195.00. If we have a minimum of 24 participants, we can offer the workshop to our community for \$50 per person. The proposed date for the workshop is February 16.

If you are committed to attending, please submit a cheque to any board member for \$50 post-dated to January 15. Indicate on the cheque that it is for the workshop. We need all commitments by December 15 to determine if the workshop will proceed.

**Saturday, February 16, 2013**

**9:00 a.m. — 3:30 p.m.**

**With facilitator Julia Menard**

### **About the Workshop:**

We can't escape tough conversations - whether it's telling a volunteer their performance is not up to snuff, a friend or colleague that their actions have adversely affected us, or a boss that we just can't juggle that "one more thing" anymore. There's a lot of risk involved in those conversations and how we deal with them can really land us in hot water. No wonder many of us would rather have a root canal than a tough conversation!

In this workshop, you will be invited to bring an upcoming tough conversation (if you have one) to a safe environment to identify what works and what doesn't. You will be given tools to help you prepare to engage in those tough conversations.

You will:

- \* Learn a framework to enhance any tough conversation
- \* Identify the best intentions you have for your tough conversation
- \* Uncover barriers which might be in your way of having a great conversation
- \* Apply behavioral language to frame your issues
- \* Clarify underlying needs
- \* Think through possible options and alternatives to agreement

### **About the Trainer:**



Facilitator Julia Menard started her career as a Coordinator of Volunteers, then as a consultant to other volunteer managers. Since 1993, she's mediated neighbourhood, civil claims and victim-offender disputes.

Julia now specializes in helping teams and managers engage workplace conflict constructively. Since 1998, Julia has been on faculty at the Centre for Conflict Resolution at the Justice Institute and has coached 100's of

people in engaging their tough conversations.

For more info on Julia, or to subscribe to her monthly e-newsletter on conflict resolution with self, others and our environment, check out her website at <http://www.juliamenard.com>.

**Cost: Regular price: \$195 plus GST. This special workshop price \$50.**

**To Register**

To confirm your space, submit a cheque to a board member post-dated to January 15, 2013 (by December 15, 2012).

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**Dear Church of Truth Members**

Do you like to be "the guide at the side" or "the sage on the stage"?

Do you relish challenging yourself & others to be open to change?

Do you take pleasure in encouraging & supporting people to share their story, their journey, their gifts?

Do you enjoy co-creating with others to offer inspiring events for our spiritual community?

Do you believe in networking & reaching out to a diverse cross-section of people in our city?

Then you might be "the one" or "the several" to take part in the exciting Oneness Wednesday challenge! As we all are aware, the time of "the great turning" is upon our world & I feel it is time for Wednesday evenings to also experience a rejuvenating transition in time for 2013.

After several years of loving stewardship of Oneness Wednesday, I am contentedly stepping aside in 2 months' time in order for some new facilitators to guide these important weekly community outreach offerings.

I will miss working alongside my dear friend, Linda Chan, terribly because it is her quiet vision & wisdom that created our first goals & the mission of Oneness Wednesdays & have continued to nurture them steadfastly through these past years. Fortunately for all of us, Linda is still willing to continue offering her networking & organizing skills to help guide Wednesdays into 2013. Bless you, Linda!

So, if you are interested in being involved in co-creating a new vision for Oneness Wednesdays, please submit your resume & a cover letter to the Board by Nov. 30. Just kidding! However, if you are interested in this exciting new opportunity to take a pro-active part in "the great turning" of Oneness Wednesdays or simply have some ideas to offer, please speak to Linda, myself or members of the Board.

I want to express my great gratitude to this sacred Community of Conscious Living for the trust, support, generosity of spirit and inspiration you have given me over the past several years!

Love, laughter & light,  
pat miller

**My Review of Truth and Reconciliation and Beyond**  
by Joyanna Wilkinson

As I walked home from the closing session of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in May I was very troubled, sad and angry about the shameful treatment of First Nations peoples by my ancestors and the generational separateness that still exists with our neighbors. I knew I needed to heal that within myself. The closing session of the commission was about where do we go from here? On my way home I was wondering where do I go from here. Thus arose the idea to get together and get to know each other for a better future. I had no idea how these evenings would unfold and certainly had no idea of the transformation for myself.

Naturally, I wanted to include First Nations people in our circle and tried everything I could think of to have them join us. In the process I realized that it was us, the descendants of the colonizers, that needed to grow and share. Why would any First Nations people respond to an invitation from a completely unknown entity?

I was not aware that it is customary to offer an honorarium when inviting a First Nations person to participate. Woops! Oneness Wednesdays are completely voluntary so I may have inadvertently insulted somebody. I always knew that all was in Divine Order, in spite of my plans. On some evenings we were honored to have some people showing their art work. To facilitate more conversations, we initiated “snack lucks” and ginger tea each evening. This came about when I realized that due to the format of Oneness Wednesdays, everything is voluntary, I could not offer an honorarium to a native woman who was willing to help with some food preparation, which I felt was important when inviting First Nations people to join us.

Spirit was certainly guiding me, as the circles unfolded in ways I could never have planned. I learned a great deal, with the help of some First Nations people I encountered, about some varied customs and traditions within different nations. Most of all, I learned about resilience.

Every evening we acknowledged, with gratitude, that we were meeting on the unceded territory of the Lekwungen people.

Oct.1 was our opening circle. Frank Smoke of the Ojibway Nation led us in a prayer and smudging. With the talking stick we shared what brought us to the circle. Isabel O'Kanese, a native seer, shared about the process of decolonization and honored us with her song. Bernard Louie honored us by drumming us in and sharing his song. Gloria Cardinal, from the Cree Nation, and other native people of my acquaintance, also joined us in the circle.

Oct 10: Dr. Roland Guenther honored us with some traditional ceremony that he was gifted with during the 3 years he lived with the Bloods in Alberta and the half a year with the Huichol people in the Sierra Nevada Occidental of Mexico in the province of Nayarit.

Oct 17: Monique gray Smith, author of FAITH, HOPE AND EMPATHY, shared her presentation that covers First Nations history through a lens of resiliency with the 4 key elements that foster resiliency with indigenous children and families. We were very fortunate to have such a succinct overview from a person very respected in the community.

Oct 24: Susan Langois and Sandra Pelkey: Speaking about their sons, similarities and differences. Sandra's son was brought up on a reserve in a family living the generational damage of residential Schools. Susan's son, a Metis, grew up in a white environment. Susan and Sandra shared some great insights and Sandra showed us her great strength especially when speaking about an experience at a Band Council meeting.

Oct.31: On this last Wednesday about Truth and Reconciliation and Beyond we had a closing circle reflecting on our insights from the previous evenings where we had a glimpse of the history of the Indian Act and of the devastating effect of the residential schools on the lives of First Nations peoples and the continuing residual damage. We have heard stories of Caucasians living with native people and shared in talking circles and smudging ceremonies.

Roland Guenther and Sonjara Omoniyi led us in a ceremony of apology. For me, this was a transformational experience. I knew I needed to forgive myself and my ancestors for the atrocities inflicted on the First nations people. I closed my eyes and saw myself on my knees with arms raised asking for forgiveness. I saw myself as a First Nations woman. I knew that Spirit was with me and that forgiveness was there. I am most grateful for this transition. I am still experiencing a big learning curve and I apologize if I have expressed myself in any way that is offensive to First Nations people.

All monetary donations were given to a fund administered by Gloria Cardinal, a Cree woman and Aboriginal education assistant in View Royal, to provide healthy snacks for some of the aboriginal students who are less fortunate than some of the other students.

I am very grateful to the church for supporting my journey.

All my relations. (A term I am honored to use at Restorative Justice circles.)

Hych'ka, Joyanna

### **Catch a Flash of Christmas Future** by Rev Chad O'Shea

Picture every last person on the planet celebrating the sacred nature of the whole creation, including themselves.

Picture every heart serene and peaceful.

Every eye sparkling with the radiance of the wakened state.

Nobody is cold and hungry.

Nobody's naked or homeless.

Health care and nurturing work is available to everyone.

War, crime, terrorism, all forms of violence and abuse have succumbed to the planetary embrace of an enlightened code of conscious conduct and are no longer options in the arena of human affairs.

The Earth Mother is considered sacred

Voluntary simplicity is the dominant lifestyle.

All children and elders are respected and cherished and cared for with impeccable integrity. The role of parenting is honoured as the planet's most important human activity.

Gender equality is taken for granted. Sexual preferences are taken for granted.

The New World is discovering all the ways of being that extend love to the world, while discarding all the ways that do not. As your creative life force liberates, you may be inspired to sing, dance, write, make art or otherwise celebrate. Don't let your day job get in the way.

Submitted by Trish Coleman

### **Christmas 2010 Corinthians 13 Style — Author Unknown —**

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home, and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata, but do not focus on the Spirit of Christmas, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails. Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust ... but giving the gift of love will endure.

Submitted by Trish Coleman

### **Stephen & Rebecca's Wedding** by Lorna Rennie

November 11, 2012 was a memorable day for me for two reasons. For the first time in many years, I did not attend a Remembrance Day Service at the Cenotaph. And also for the first time I attended a wedding, in our church no less! I was honoured to be present at the wedding of Stephen Kinsella and Rebecca Broome, now Mr. and Mrs. Kinsella.

Especially touching was seeing Trish and Stephen walking down the aisle together, Stephen looking so handsome and Trish radiating beauty. Rebecca, looking equally radiant, entered with her father and joined Stephen where the ceremony began, officiated by our own Susan Blackwood. I had never seen the ceremony they chose, which involved both mothers placing and exchanging the wedding rings in a Celtic ritual I believe it was called. Gabriel was also a participant as the ring bearer. It was all very moving as were the words exchanged by Rebecca and Stephen before they were declared husband and wife.

Since I'm sure I wasn't the only one whispering "I wonder if that's Rebecca's brother, sister, etc." before the service, it was great to hear Rebecca say some of the family members were meeting for the first time that day so they were going to introduce each family to their new spouse and indirectly to all of us. The room was heavily loaded by the bride's family and the love and respect shown for Rebecca from all these people, a lot of whom had travelled from the Interior, was remarkable. It was also wonderful for Stephen and Trish and David to have Cathy and Andrew from Ontario among their family.

People were invited to tell stories or in other ways entertain everyone and it was a real tribute to Stephen to hear from one of Rebecca's sisters that she had known Stephen long before that day. This was because Rebecca had described to her, over the years, the man she would fall in love with and marry.

Between Rebecca and her family and the catering company, Little Piggy, guests were treated to drinks and the most delectable food. Much dancing broke out later, thanks to the music of Dancing Wolf and I think it's safe to say a fabulous time was had by all. Many long-lasting blessings are heaped upon the lovely couple for their new life together!

Lorna Rennie  
November 25, 2012



# CHRISTMAS POT LUCK



There is a sign-up list available each Sunday for the Turkey Feast held at the Church on Christmas day, **Tuesday December 25**. The church is providing a locally grown, free range turkey; the rest of the meal is pot-luck.

In-gathering begins at 4p.m. Open to members and friends of our church community and their partners, relatives and friends.

## Repeat the Soundings joy!

Seasonal Concert

Sunday Dec 2 - 2:30 pm St. Mary's Anglican Church

Saturday December 8 – 8:00 pm

Oak Bay United Church

Tickets at Larsen Music or Brian Martin

Regular \$20.00 Seniors, Students, Unwaged \$15.00



This list is provided for information only. The Church of Truth – Community of Conscious Living, is not responsible for services received.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORY

NAME	SERVICE	CONTACT INFO
Susan Blackwood	<b>Ceremonies</b>	250-889-5335 <a href="http://www.ceremoniesbydesign.ca">www.ceremoniesbydesign.ca</a>
	Weddings, Funerals, Celebrations of Life, Divorce, Retirement, Baby Nameings	
Renn Butler	<b>Consultations/Workshops</b>	<a href="mailto:rennbutler@shaw.ca">rennbutler@shaw.ca</a>
	Archetypal Astrology Consultations, Holotropic Breathwork Workshops	
Lynn Goodcare	<b>Life and Love Coach</b>	250-642-2882 <a href="http://www.openingtolovenow.com">www.openingtolovenow.com</a>

