



Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation

The Capital Letter

VICTORIA, BC

2014



Capital Carolers singing for Bel Paul

The First of January is another day dawning, the sun rising as the sun always rises, the earth moving in its rhythms,

With or without our calendars to name a certain day as the day of new beginning, separating the old from the new.

Yet also we stand at a threshold, the new year sometimes truly new, still unformed, leaving a stunning power in our hands:

What shall we do with this great gift of Time, this year?

The new year can be new ground for the seeds of our dreams. Plant your dreams well. -Kathleen McTigue

All services are held Sundays at 10:00 a.m. at The James Bay New Horizons Centre, 234 Menzies Street, Victoria, BC. Child care is provided free of charge with our Children's program.

Sunday Services in January

January 5th Ben Dolf "Systems Thinking - A Holistic Approach To The Global Crisis" We humans are good systems thinkers - until we unlearn the skill in school. As a formal discipline, systems thinking emerged in the early 20th century. It was prompted by a desire to correct and complement the approach of traditional science, the intent being to focus on the whole, rather than parts. Systems thinking has become indispensable in many disciplines like geography, biology or even psychology. Ben Dolf will talk about his experience with systems thinking in facilitation and social development.

Children's Program



January 12th Graeme McCreath "The Politics of Blindness". In his book "The Politics of Blindness - from Charity to Parity", Graeme explains the reality of being a blind Canadian and solutions to promote people who are blind to full citizenship. Blind people should have R.E.A.L. meaning: R-respect, E-equal opportunity, A-assimilation and L-liberty .

Graeme was born in 1946, in Liverpool, England. Becoming blind at the age of 9 from glaucoma and unsuccessful surgery he attended residential schools for the blind and initially worked as a shorthand typist before going on to train as a physiotherapist. He moved to Canada in 1980 where he now lives with his wife, Christine and their three adult children. Graeme's message has always been to promote blindness as just an inconvenience not a tragedy .

Children's Program



January 19th Michèle Favarger "Don't Just Do Something, Stand There! How to Provide Support to People in Emotional Pain" When someone we love is in emotional pain, we want to fix their hurt, to make it go away, so they don't suffer. So we look for a solution, and among other things, we sympathize or we share stories of how we have suffered similarly.

There is another far more effective option. And what about people in our lives who might verbalize their disappointment regularly? Is there a way to support them that doesn't leave us drained? Come listen to Michele outline how we might respond differently, providing the support we yearn to offer.

Children's Program

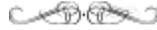




Board Notes

January 26th Amanda Tarling “Membership” What does it mean to be a member of this congregation. This service includes a New Members’ Service.

Children's Program



Board Report - Peter Scales - Chair of the Board

Happy New Year to all! Writing as chair of the board I can confidently say that Capital UU Congregation had a good 2013, and the prospects for 2014 are good.

Years ago we established ‘Forum’ on Sundays at 11:30 a.m. to discuss congregational business. Over the years Forum morphed into an opportunity for deeper conversation about the day’s sermon/homily topic. I enjoy a good Forum, in which questions are politely put to the morning’s speaker and the speaker is able to share more wisdom with us. Such question and answer sessions can be challenging but the circular seating promotes shared learning and clear and direct communication. I encourage you all to participate in Forum with open minds and hearts.

Our landlords at the New Horizons asked us to review the contents of our bulging file cabinet, with a view to reducing CUUC’s storage footprint in the hall. Rita, Jim and I spent two hours plowing through old files. We sent about 20 kg to recycling, including multiple decades-old copies of the UUA Directory, ancient order forms for stationery, and delightful but un-signed children’s artwork. We kept many gems, of course: minutes of the February 25, 1996 ‘Organising Meeting’, evaluation of the March 3, 1996 Worship Service, and the first General Meeting minutes from April 14, 1996 (the first events in Capital’s history). We found photo albums from early days of Capital, and letters from former CUUC treasurer Bruce Partridge that give us perspectives on the bequests we received years ago from Margaret Lovesy and Evelyn Buell.

In December 1996 the board of CUUC formed a Ministerial Relations Committee to plan the six-month internship of ministerial student Frances Deverell. In March 1997 a rep from the UUA (Boston) Extension Office was scheduled to come to Capital to discuss ministry options, but advice from the CUC (Toronto) made the prospect seem too rushed. A month later the congregation was still discussing what we wanted a part-time minister to do, in part because she wanted to set up a three-year relationship and Capital was not able to plan that far ahead. In October 1997 Capital’s membership agreed to work together with Beacon (Coquitlam) and South Fraser (Surrey) UU congregations for a “shared interim ministry” instead of Capital going alone into ministry. Finally on January 18, 1998 the congregation voted to “acquire” an interim minister from Sep 1998 to Aug 2000 at \$15,250/year, which was ¼-time; Beacon Unitarian paid the other ¾. The minister’s duties at Capital included “maintaining the normal responsibility of ministry, including the conducting of Sunday church services and counseling; assessing its strengths and limitations, developing goals and objectives, and agreeing on plans for reaching those goals; preach and teach the UU tradition; assist in organizational development; and provide pastoral care.” During these negotiations, CUUC member Evelyn Buell and her family donated \$5000 to Capital as a memorial to Frank Buell, the funds to be used “in connection with Capital’s first settled Minister.”

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News

Birthdays in January

Jan 11th Kimiko Hymans
Jan 12th Margot Garmsen
Jan 15th Alex Campbell
Jan 17th Brooke Taylor
Jan 23 Rustom Patel
 Rita Wittman

If your Birthday is missing
Please tell Amanda
250 382-6828

Board Report Continued from page 2

How did our first quarter-time ministry go? This is a tough read: in minutes of a May 1998 meeting it seems that a minister refused Capital's terms. Minutes of later meetings in 1998 no longer mention ministry at all. It would be many years before Capital contracted ¼-time professional ministry (Jen Devine), but that story is for a future edition of The Capital Letter.

Also in April 1998 an anonymous donor (later revealed as Margaret Lovesy) gave two gifts of \$5000 "to be used in ways that will most benefit Capital." \$2000 of that was directed toward children's religious education (CRE), to match a CUC grant of \$2000. A CRE organizer was hired but her duties quickly became not organizing but teaching. Then she got sick and resigned, and there were too few children to support a CRE program, so a person was hired to provide child care rather than education.

Now in 2014 Capital is pondering quarter-time ministry and the issue of small CRE. We need to put our best selves forward and consider these issues within our covenants, principles and budgets.

May the new year bring you health, peace, wisdom, and all the joys of life!

Peter Scales, chair of the board



After four years of being Capital's Equipment Manager Lenny Farr's last Sunday with us was December 8th. Lenny's dependability and hard work will be missed.

Luckily Adrienne Poirier, who currently runs the Children's Religious Education program, is also taking on the Equipment Manager position. Thank you Adrienne!

A big "thank you" to Lenny for coming in early on Sunday morning to train Adrienne after working at his new job in security until 3am!

Best wishes Lenny!



Christmas Eve Potluck at John and Sara's

