

TIDELINES

Cadboro Bay United Church

May 2011

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From a Minister's Desk

"Every religion is true one way or another. It is true when understood metaphorically. But when it gets stuck in its own metaphors, interpreting them as facts, then you are in trouble "

~ Joseph Campbell.

Easter has come and gone and now we are in the midst of talking about what it all means. Here at CBUC the phoenix rose on Easter as a metaphor of new life. We keep trying to look at the metaphors of our own Christian story through the lenses of other metaphors in order to shine new light upon our own tradition and to deepen its meaning. One of the quickest ways to stop the deepening of meaning or to impede the power of such metaphors is to fall into the trap that Joseph Campbell warns us about - Literalising them.

Over the centuries the teachings of the church about Jesus shifted from a focus on the pre-Easter Jesus and what he taught, how he lived and what he challenged people to be about. It shifted its focus to a post-Easter Jesus and a literalising of his Resurrection and a belief system that demanded that one believe in Jesus and accept him and his actions as the source of salvation. In this process of making the shift, belief in Jesus became more important than incorporating his teachings into ones life and way of living. Jesus' invitation to new life became an imperial command and ones hope of Eternal Life hinged on an acceptance of Jesus as ones Lord and Saviour. The remnants of this theology are still very much alive and well in much of Christendom.

Continued on Page 2

Minister's Message continued...

So closely tied did this belief system become to the notions of life after death and eternal life, that for many it became impossible to separate. Therefore, a belief in an afterlife was synonymous with a belief in God and God's plan of salvation through Jesus; tied up in that theology was a very limited understanding of God and a focus on God's judgment. Along with this theological paradigm came conditions for entry into eternal life and a shift to a heaven focused language. In this shift came another form of literalism in which the form and shape of life after death was described down to the details of gold paving the streets. In addition, a description of Hell began to emerge as a literal place people would go if they rejected the prescribed path to salvation.

For many people then, a rejection of this kind of literalism meant also a rejection of the notion of eternal life and a belief in God as well. An artificial debate emerged based on one, albeit dominant, belief system and a complete rejection of such - Atheism verse Christianity. The artificial terms of this debate still rage today as if all Christians prescribe to the above literal theological understandings of God, Jesus, Resurrection, Eternal Life and Salvation. It's time for us to see that the artificial black and white created here by some groups, is for most people a continuum of grey. Over the next number of weeks, we are going to be exploring the grey points of this continuum, what some of the history is of our understandings of heaven and hell and what science, religion and human experience have begun to hint at in regards to some possible understandings of life after death. I hope you will join me in this exploration as we move beyond literalism to instead understand the power of metaphor and its potential to enliven our living and our faith.

Signs of New Life - Sunday School for May

When a seed gives life it does so after it dies. We will follow the story of Jesus' resurrection by looking for signs in the garden, the compost, the dirt as well as in the head and the heart of each child.

Special open sessions will take us outside to get down and dirty in the church garden. Kids, you can come to Sunday School this month in grubby jeans and runners . . . and we'll provide the shovels. Join Jill, Simon, Anita and Ross with Signs of New Life.



Youth Group for May

Well, the year is slowly coming to an end for the University Students of UVic, so we say a big thanks to Luke for all his hard work as assistant youth leader over the past few months. Thank you! We also invite everyone to welcome Neil Surkan, a leader from Naramata Centre for many years, who will be filling the role for May and June.



Youth Group Plans for the month include:

Junior Youth!

May will be filled with lots of fun outdoor activities including biking the Galloping Goose, planting gardens, and doing a Cadboro Bay wide scavenger Hunt!

Dates:

Friday May 13th 6:30-8:30pm

Friday May 27th 6:30-8:30pm

Senior Youth will be having a trip up to Mt. Doug for a wide game at sunset, dress-up murder mystery dinner, as well as jam sessions in preparation for a Coffee House night in June!

Dates:

Sunday May 15th 7-9pm

Sunday May 29th 7-9pm

Please contact alex@cadbayuc.org with any questions!

Peace in Israel/Palestine – May 1st



Tonight, May 1st, CBUC will host Chris & Susan Ferguson. The session begins at 6:30pm in the sanctuary and will feature the Ferguson's work through the United Church and Kairos on how change can come with new ideas.

Come and explore these ideas, some of which are contained in the Kairos document and interfaith dialogue in recent months since the last General Council in 2010.

Cadboro Bay United Church

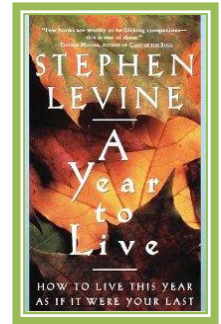
2625 Arbutus Rd

Victoria BC, V8N 1W4

office@cadbayuc.org www.cadbayuc.org 250-477-2715

A Year to Live – May 2nd, 9th, 23rd & 30th

This group and book by the same name, serves as a primer for those ready to review their life. It asks: What do I need to stay on my spiritual quest? How might I continue to show up for life? What fears have I yet to confront? What gratitude have I yet to express? Four weeks Monday 7PM beginning Monday May 2. Purchase your copy at Cadboro Bay books.



SATURDAY MAY 7TH

9am – 1pm

DECLUTTER, DECLUTTER, DECLUTTER

GIVE UP 10% OF "STUFF" FOR LENT!

We will need lots of folks to help so please keep that day free and sometime during the week before. ***Note:** *please no computer parts, blinds or fire screens.*

But we look forward to good quality used clothing for another successful boutique as well as all of those household, sporting goods, books, children's toys etc that garage sale attendees love.

Please do not bring your items to the church until the week before as we are already brimming over as it is.

Questions? Call Anne Churchill: 472-2666 or Eileen Campbell: 477-4221

Goodbye to Our Diaconal Student, with Blessings!



Barbara Hansen has been our diaconal student for two years and will move on in the fall to other learning experiences. As a member of Barbara's local committee, I have had the pleasure and honour of seeing Barbara grow in her calling and ministries. Barbara brings considerable gifts in leadership with children and youth and through her gifts of creativity. Meetings of the committee were worship-centered and always showed Barbara's great hospitality.

We will miss Barbara and what she has contributed to ministry at Cadboro Bay United Church during the last two years. We wish her well on the next leg of her learning journey. We will miss you Barbara, and hope you will share some of your learning with us over the next two years.

Make a Joyful Noise v5.0 – May 13th & 14th

Join us for a celebration of community through music, song and laughter!

Featuring the choirs of:

Cadboro Bay United

Oak Bay United

AND introducing:

[SING YOUR JOY!](#)



2 PERFORMANCES!

Friday, May 13, 2011: 7pm—Oak Bay United Church

Corner of Granite and Mitchell Streets, Victoria

Saturday, May 14, 2011: 7pm—Cadboro Bay United Church

2625 Arbutus Road, Victoria

General Admission \$10 / Families \$25

Information: www.cadbayuc.org 250.477.2715

The fifth edition of our fabulous “Make a Joyful Noise” concerts will happen twice, in two great venues. Choirs from both Oak Bay United and Cadboro Bay United will be joined by “Sing Your Joy” – an enthusiastic community of young people who’ve been meeting for the past few months to raise their voices in song, creating friendships and great harmonies together. Join us at either concert (Oak Bay May 13th or Cadboro Bay May 14th) to celebrate their first public performances!

A Day Apart – Joyful Hawaii

Thursday June 30th, 2011 – 9:30am – 7:30pm – Camp Pringle

“Wear something Hawaiian, it’s our theme!”

What to bring:

- 2 dozen cookies
- notebook & pen
- the schedule
- a donation for the Duncan Food Bank
- If you have any special dietary needs, please attach to the registration form.



Sponsored by Victoria Presbyterial United Church Women

Registration deadline is June 15th, camp fee is \$20/person and includes 2 meals.

Registration forms available in the office.

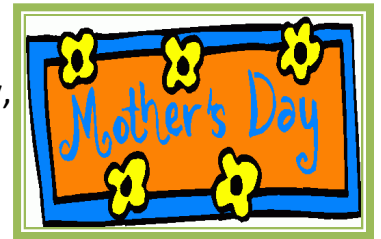
CBUC Family Retreat – June 3-5



Join us for our 7th annual Church family retreat in the serene outdoor setting of Camp Pringle on Shawnigan Lake. This is an intergenerational weekend that brings together families of all configurations. Our theme this year is “The Amazing Race”, with activities planned to engage all ages throughout the weekend. We are excited to be staying in the newly renovated facilities at Camp Pringle for the first time this year. Cost for the weekend is \$55 per person or \$160 per family. A day rate is available for those wishing to attend only on Saturday or on Sunday (\$35). For more information, brochures are available at the church. You can register online at www.cadbayuc.org or by contacting Diana Wakelin at Wakelins@shaw.ca. We hope you will join us! Last year, we came close to a full house, so please register early to avoid disappointment.

Music for May

Rheana Slack, who plays violin for weekly services (in between classes and exams at UVic) will be off on an exciting adventure this September – she is heading to the University of Aberystwyth in Wales, studying Law, Criminology, International Politics, and History. You have a final opportunity to wish her well on May 14th – Rheana will be accompanying the CBUC choir during our “Make a Joyful Noise” concerts, and she is also a member of “Sing Your Joy”. With the UVic academic year ending, Rheana will be based at home in Qualicum Beach until her flight to Wales. Thank you, Rheana, for being part of our community and sharing your musical gifts with us!



On Mother’s Day, May 8th, we have another musical treat for you. Katherine Charlesworth, a talented young coloratura soprano, will be our guest. Katherine recently won 5 awards (intermediate classes) at the Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival, including most promising and outstanding singer, and the right to compete at the provincial music festival later this summer. Katherine is heading to the San Francisco Conservatory of Music in the fall to study with Jane Randolph, working towards her Bachelor of Music in classical voice. This is your chance to say “I heard her before she was famous”, because this young singer is definitely going places.

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CBUC Family Picnic – June 12th, 2011



This year's Church Family Picnic is set for Sunday, June 12th. Following worship there will be a BBQ lunch of hot dogs, watermelon and ice cream. We will be offering face painting, bubbles, sidewalk chalk, golf, and of course, the tug-of-war outside on the lawn. We hope you will join us as we celebrate the close of the Sunday School year.

A few volunteers to help with set up and clean up for the picnic would be greatly appreciated!! If you can help, please contact Diana Wakelin at Wakelins@Shaw.ca

Get Connected: Join CBUC's on-line Outreach Community!

If you're a person who would appreciate more information and analysis about the most critical issues of our time-

If you're looking for local events that will help you connect with others who are trying to walk the path of justice and peace-

If you want to participate in on-line actions designed to produce change and transformation- then [click here](#) or email Meghan at meghan@cadbayuc.org and let her know you're interested in joining this new on-line community at CBUC.

Once you've subscribed, you will receive approximately 2 or 3 articles/actions/event notices a week about all kinds of outreaching issues.

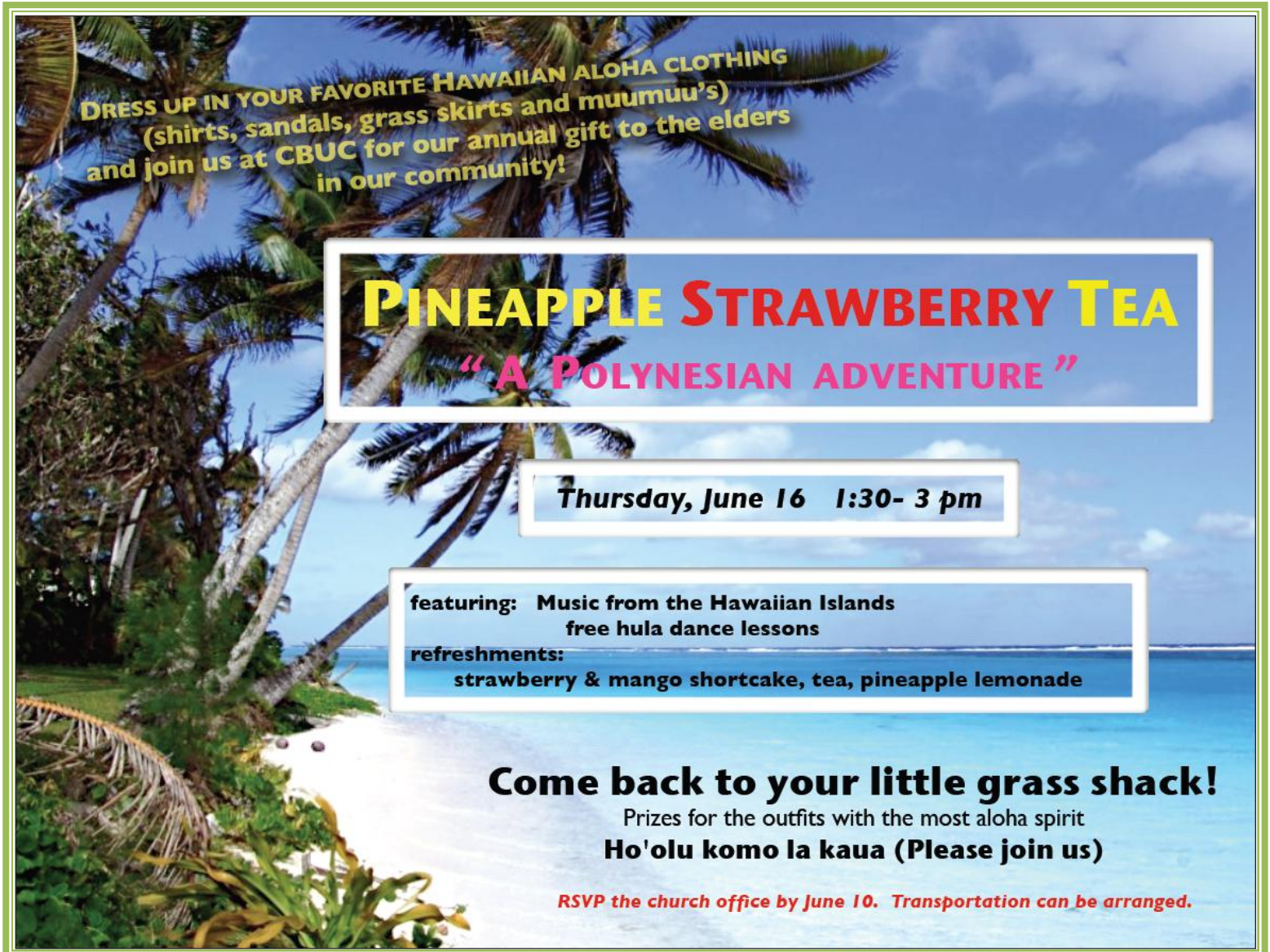
Another way we walk the talk at CBUC!

Goal Reached!

At the beginning of Lent Cadboro Bay Outreach Committee accepted the challenge to be part of a program initiated by some of our partners. The Victoria Native Friendship Society; The Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness; and the Burnside Gorge Centre wanted to create Family Packs. These Packs are a sign of hope that our community cares and believes in dignity for all.

We agreed to do our share by setting the target of 400 pairs of new socks for families. Partners in the Jewish community committed to provide men's socks so we focused on women's and children's socks. We are happy to announce that 487 pairs of socks were delivered. Special thanks go to Karen McIvor who not only counted but sorted. The project would not have been possible without the movement of God's Spirit among us. Why? The number of socks doubled in the last week of the campaign. Thank you to all who participated for your compassion and generosity.





DRESS UP IN YOUR FAVORITE HAWAIIAN ALOHA CLOTHING
(shirts, sandals, grass skirts and muumuu's)
and join us at CBUC for our annual gift to the elders
in our community!

PINEAPPLE STRAWBERRY TEA
"A POLYNESIAN ADVENTURE"

Thursday, June 16 1:30- 3 pm

featuring: Music from the Hawaiian Islands
free hula dance lessons

refreshments:
strawberry & mango shortcake, tea, pineapple lemonade

Come back to your little grass shack!
Prizes for the outfits with the most aloha spirit
Ho'olu komo la kaua (Please join us)

RSVP the church office by June 10. Transportation can be arranged.

Summer Sunday School

We are pleased to have Catherine Landells returning to be the leader and coordinator of our summer children's program here at Cadboro Bay. Many of our children and parents will remember Catherine from last year. She has been away throughout the year studying at Queens University, but is returning home for the summer and we are extremely excited to have her leading our children's program which will start on June 20th. We have yet to choose a theme for the summer months for either worship or for the children's program. If you have an idea or a focus you think might be fun to explore during this time period, please speak with Mark either by phone or by email.



10% Challenge News



In the Spirit of the Lenten season, the Outreach Committee invited the community to participate in a 10% Challenge – to reduce some energy-expensive habit or increase some energy-saving practice by 10% for the duration of the season. More than twenty people signed up for the challenge!

Challengers met for fellowship midway through the six-week project and shared some of the efforts, difficulties and inspiration they had encountered. Most people had taken on some practical and concrete action for the challenge, but some people had brought Spirit directly into their Lenten challenge by taking the opportunity to pray for change, or by consciously seeking the positive aspects of environmentalism and practicing more gratitude. Everyone agreed that having a goal and being part of a supportive group had helped them to take this step on their personal journey, given the lack of support for these values and practices in the larger culture.

We hope you'll enjoy the slideshow we have compiled and perhaps be inspired to think of ways to take your environmental efforts just one step further. Please join us at our post-Challenge celebration and for future discussion groups on how we can work together to protect the Earth.

We are compiling a photo record of the many creative ways that members of CBUC are saving energy or reducing consumption. This slideshow is very much a work in progress. We hope it will inspire you and your family to think of ways to take your environmental efforts just one step further. If you have a photo of something you've done in your home or in your life to reduce your consumption of the Earth's resources, we'd love to add it to our community's photo record. Please contact Susan Draper if you have something to contribute.

Everyone who is interested in the critical issue of global warming is welcome to join us at our post-Challenge celebration after the service on May 22nd, as well as at future discussion groups on how we can work together to protect the Earth.

Nametag Alert!

Many of us at CBUC are wearing nametags that have a strong magnet on the back (to protect clothing). We have just learned that these are not recommended for those who have pacemakers or other similar monitors. It is very easy to have the magnet replaced with a pin, so if you have a pacemaker, please inform Bonnie Hetherington, or anyone from the pastoral care committee, and we will have it done for you.

For those of you who do not yet have a nametag, they can be ordered by contacting Meghan in the office. They cost \$10 for one with a pin and \$13 for one with a magnet. (Of course there is HST on top of that). It is very helpful for those who are new to the congregation to see the nametags – and to wear them. So, let's remember to put ours on next Sunday!

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*Join us for a celebration of community
through music, song and laughter!*

*Featuring the choirs of:
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AND introducing:



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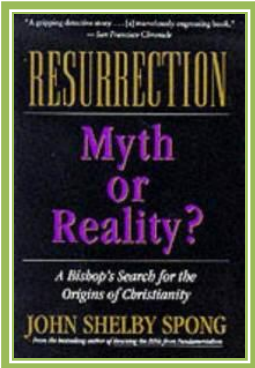
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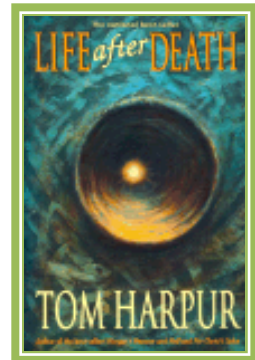
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Library News for May

Life after death; now there's a theme! A theme surrounded by mystery and questions. We are just starting to expand this subject area as books on this topic are read and then donated to us! John Shelby Spong's **Resurrection: Myth or Reality** offers a provocative and inspirational view of what may have happened on the first Easter through a non-literal perspective. In **Life After Death** Tom Harpur searches with an open mind, not for proof, but for evidence, within science, psychology, the Bible, the tenets of world religions, and the extraordinary experiences of ordinary people. The evidence points to his conclusion that, "Death is very much like birth. It is the traumatic but essential passage into a new phase of life."



In Sunday School Ross will use the metaphors from nature that highlight the cycles of life. Nature is full of these symbols and one book titled simply **From** by Beverly Beckmann illustrates many of them. Another book **Thank God for Circles** by Joanne Marxhausen uses lines and circles to explore abstract ideas such as life and death, time and eternity and how they relate to our physical being. Stories that point to these transitions, such as when seeds and bulbs disintegrate into the soil to allow for the tender new shoots to emerge or when old trees serve as a nursery logs for seedling trees, allow concrete ways to approach the topic. They allow children to imagine the mysterious energy, the 'life force', continuing even though they can't grasp it with any of their physical senses. Maybe we should just read their books and fall into the mystery, too.



Other titles relating to this theme, for both adults and children, are displayed on the shelf just outside the library. **Note:** There are a number of books that have been signed out for awhile - if you are finished with them please return. Remember, if you find any books particularly intriguing share with others or write an article for the Tidelines. Conversely if you find one that is beyond its time let the library committee know. Thanks and Happy Spring!!!

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Why Centering Prayer Matters

A response is naturally emerging from the climate change crisis surrounding all of us. “I think I need to deepen my connection with the divine” said Ted, a climatologist friend. Similar statements of intuition occur frequently. The pull people feel is based in the genetic code of our evolutionary ancestors. We are hard wired to contemplate.

The contemplative tradition in Christianity is something that churches like ours are re-discovering. Centering Prayer is one name of many spiritual practices that are designed reveal a simple way to rest with the divine . . . with God. There is a group that meets here each Wednesday at 4:30 PM in the youth room for 45 minutes of Centering Prayer . . . and it may just help you respond to your need.

We are grateful that while Barbara Hansen is moving on to other field placement opportunities, she is anchoring this practice each Wednesday. Speak to Barbara if you are interested bmhansen@telus.net

Council Update for May

Spring is here (at least that is what my calendar implies), so I’m just going to go ahead and believe it regardless of what I see out my window on any given day. And with spring comes the desire to get rid of the old and engage in new and exciting activities. Luckily the garage sale is now upon us, so getting rid of the old will not be a difficult task.

As for new activity, council is in full swing. CBUC council has decided to support a bus advertisement that was a creation of the Communication Committee. For an entire month there will be one bus (it will drive varied routes throughout the city) that will display an advertisement promoting CBUC's open-mindedness by advocating for diversity. The advertisement is positive and appealing (thanks to Marilyn Poutanen who designed it), and will let the community of Greater Victoria get to know us a bit better. And it will cost less than a large one day newspaper advertisement! We’ll let you know when it’s making its way through the city, so you can watch for it. The whole concept is new for Cadboro Bay United, and I think it is an exciting way to promote what we stand for and invite folks to join us. Check it out on our website. Go Cadboro Bay United!



See you in church,
D’Arcy Wingrove
Chair of Council