

Christ Church Unity
A member of the Association of
Unity Churches International
Affiliated with Unity, publisher of the
Daily Word

Christ Church Unity 60th Anniversary Year



January 2007

Our Vision Statement

Humanity awakens and transforms into its Divine Identity. Christ Church Unity is focal point of service to this vision.

Our Board of Trustees

Paula Bramwell, President
Bob Gajewski, Vice President
Leslie Wright, Treasurer
Marie Hedrick, Secretary
P.J. Trahan, Trustee
Trustee

Rev. Eleanor Celentani,
Spiritual Leader/Minister

Our Staff

Bernie Bowie, Newsletter Editor
Jane Faust, Accompanist
Anita Gaiteri, Custodian
Samuel Gaiteri, Custodial Aide
Eric Strader, Gardener
Thomas Warfield, Soloist

Our Ministry Team Coordinators

Prayer – Jane Faust
Ushers – Marie Hedrick
Greeters – Kat VanMeenen
Platform Assistants – Donna Ries
Bookstore – Paulie Gajewski
Social – Anita Gaiteri
Remembrance –
Circulation Day – Dorothea King
Audio – Chris Spridy & Bob Gajewski
Photographer – Mike Gacek
Librarian/Fun Club—Sylvia Barker
Youth Education Director and
Lead Teacher – Marna Rossi

Submission deadline for next issue:
January 19, 2007

Dear Family of God,

I wish you happiness and many bright blessings in this New Year of 2007! May only good things come your way: love, health, abundance, and perfect self-expression.

I thank you most sincerely for the loving cards and gifts I received from you at Christmas. I am deeply touched by your words of love and gratitude for me; thank you. It means a lot to have my efforts recognized and appreciated by you. Thank you for blessing me with your love and affirmation.

I also thank everyone in the congregation who contributed to making our Christmas season a beautiful and heartwarming time here at Christ Church. Our beautiful Christmas tree and decorations, our Christmas Reception, our performances by the choir and our resident musicians, our Christmas Prosperity Project, our lighted tree outside – all these made this a beautiful time and a rich time for all of us. Even the Christmas Rose bloomed in the garden. Thank you for your love, consciousness, substance and time. Thank you to Marna and our Sunday School assistants who took care of our children and taught them the spiritual meaning of this season. Thank you to our trustees, staff and volunteers who give generously of themselves; may you receive back abundantly for all you do!

In 2006 the Association of Unity Churches recognized the work of Marshall Rosenberg, Ph.d, by giving him their Light of God Expressing Award. His work on the topic of Non-Violent Communication has helped many groups resolve their differences. I am happy that this month we will be starting a new class here, based on this work, taught by Else Vella. The class will be called **“Positive Communication,”** and will be offered on Thursday evenings. (Please see the flyer on the back of the calendar.) I heartily endorse this class and urge you to consider attending, for it will help you to be more successful in all your relationships: personal, social and professional. This class would be an asset for anyone who is now or who may be called to be a future leader in our church.

Soon we will need the **names** of people who attended our church in the past, so we can invite them to our **Anniversary Banquet** in May. I know that sounds like a long time from now, but for planning purposes, it isn't. If you know of anyone who used to be part of our community, please write their names and any contact information you have on the yellow sheet on the front counter, or please call the church and leave a message. We will send them an invitation. Please save the date on your calendar, **May 6, 2007. This includes all the new people too! We want you there!**

We have a Unity hymn which says, “Wonderful, wonderful, fortunate you, This is the year that your dreams come true!” **Amen! May it be so for you and every one of us.** With love and a prayer,

Rev. Eleanor



Teachings in Truth

Imagine that a bright spiritual presence is inside your head, and It is looking out through your physical eyes. At this level of awareness, you can sense yourself as someone or something “beyond” your normal self, coming from the level of limitless Spirit rather than from the level of everyday earthly thinking. You can sense, know or feel that the characteristics and limitations of your physical body are not “true,” i.e. they are not ultimate reality. “You” at the level of Spirit are Real.

At this level of awareness, you do not see what is outside of you in your environment, for there is “nothing” there. You experience that the Light is inside you and that the Light that is You projects outward the blueprint for what you decide to create, and these creations appear as if they were a path before you.

At this point you also realize that the path in front of you, or “the future,” is not one path, but that there are many alternative futures. Your Light can spread out in many different directions (or desires/ intentions). The strength and power of your consciousness determines how many paths or intentions your Soul can manifest at once. There are no “bad” choices, since you are focused on Light.

While there is some Light on every path, it is helpful to choose **the Path of Most Light**. The Path of Most Light will be the intentions, actions and outcomes which reveal your innate Divinity with greatest joy and bliss. Interestingly, this will be fulfilling to your human nature as well. The Path of Most Light will reveal and develop your talents and thus enrich you and others. This Path will heal your heart and bring greater wellbeing to your physical body. (“The two shall become one.”) The Path of Most Light makes best use of your resources and therefore maximizes the effect of your energy and action.

I call forth the Path of Most Light for all individuals in our church, and for our church as a whole. An affirmation from Sanaya Roman which I like is, “**I always choose the Path of Most Light.**” This programs your mind to make wise choices and it strengthens your self-trust.

For our Strategic Planning Team I have suggested this prayer to begin:
In harmony and joy we are led to discover the Path of Most Light for Christ Church Unity.
Let us all affirm this to support them and ourselves.

“Let’s go forward in the Light, faces shining bright!” (from a Unity hymn)

With faith in you, Rev. Eleanor

New This Month...



January 7
12:45 PM Nominating Committee

of Non-Violent Communication. A class taught by Elsé Vella

January 27
1 PM "The Secret" Movie and discussion

January 11
5:30 PM Anniversary Committee

January 18
5:30 PM Planning/ Beautification Committee

January 14
12:45 PM Christmas Prosperity Project Committee meeting

January 19
10:30 AM Friday's Angels

January 21
12:45 PM Strategic Planning

January 18
7PM Process of Positive Communication. Based on Marshall Rosenberg's work

January 23
7 PM "The Secret" movie and discussion



The Holy Family in Our Sanctuary
Photo by Mike Gacek



Prayer

January Affirmations From Silent Unity

Inner Peace

In complete surrender, I rest in an awareness of divine peace and love.

Guidance

Through the gentle guidance of Spirit, I confidently follow new paths.

Healing

Centered in the healing presence of God, I radiate new life and vitality.

Prosperity

God's loving spirit prospers me. I enjoy the fullness of life.

Prayer Ministry

"The light that we want is not some thing that God has to give; it is God Himself. God does not give us life or love as a thing. God is life and light and love. More of Himself in our consciousness, then, is what we all want, no matter what other name we may give it." – H. Emily Cady, Lessons in Truth

For prayer requests or other messages to the prayer team call 473-0910 and press 4. Please let us know if you or a family member are ill or hospitalized so that we can pray with you.

Our Prosperity

This month we are grateful for:

- ◆ New Members: Loretta Callahan, Ann Robertson, Robyn Olson-Walsh and John Walsh. Welcome!
- ◆ The helpful hands with the newsletter: Dorothea King, Diana Robinson, Bev Bryant, Josephine Hendricks, John & Elsé Vella, Sylvia Barker, Katherine DaCosta, Eileen Smith, Vernice Warfield.
- ◆ Everyone who helped set up and clean up for the Christmas Reception and thank you to everyone who brought a dish to share. Special thanks to: Bernie Bowie, Daryl Brown, Donna Frary, Lisa Hotchkiss, Eric Strader, Sammy Gaiteri, Anita Gaiteri, Dorothea King.
- ◆ To the Christmas Prosperity Project Committee who wrapped and delivered 26 boxes of food and gifts for 29 children. Bill & Eileen Smith—chairs, Michele Benton, Jean Marie Bianco, Steve Bohn, Daryl Brown, Carol Cafalone, Sue Giannavola, Alicia Mercer, Dick TenEyck. Thank you to all who gave food and gifts.
- ◆ The beautiful performance by the Choir and Bell Choir, directed by Thomas Warfield and support by Jane Faust.
- ◆ Sanctuary and Lobby flowers donated by Dick & Mary Jo TenEyck, Bev Liederbach, Beverly Markham, and Jeanne Gagne.
- ◆ Mike Gacek's photography work for our website et al.

Volunteer of the Month

Angels come in many forms, some with wings and a halo and some with a soft voice and gentle smile. Like most angels, this gentle soul works quietly, spreading joy in whatever she does. Whether it is providing heartfelt cards for our troops, making golden angels for children in need of a Christmas surprise, or baking cookies for families she has never met, she exemplifies what an angel on earth truly is. We are so pleased to name our very own angel as volunteer of the month, Alicia Mercer.

Bill & Eileen Smith

Divine Love richly provides everything



From the Minister

Growth Means Change

We have been divinely blessed with growth in numbers in 2006, and this has brought about new projects and groups, new talents uncovered and new ideas brought forward. This creates a stimulating environment where energy is moving, and this is good. (I can personally testify that I have heard many more ideas than we have been able to act on thus far!) Each center of activity then creates more centers of activity, and the spiral increases in size. In this situation, managing our information flow effectively becomes more and more important.

Right now we disseminate information about church activities by word of mouth, e-mail, Sunday bulletin, monthly newsletter, flyers and website. We also call special attention to certain announcements by having them spoken from the platform during Sunday Service.

In order to support the centeredness and spiritual focus of our Sunday Service, I wish to limit the number of spoken announcements at that time. Therefore I am introducing some new guidelines for announcements, starting in January.

1. All announcements must be cleared with me ahead of time (not with the platform assistant), by Friday at the latest, not on Sunday morning.
2. Thursday noon is the deadline to have announcements printed in the Sunday bulletin.
3. My goal is that, as a rule, we do not have "last minute announcements."
4. Priority will be given to activities of our own church.

In order to implement the above, staff and volunteers will need to "think ahead" of what you need to communicate and when. This is a must when there is so much going on. Inevitably there will be rare exceptions. I myself

may forget things (it has already happened) but I hope that that will be rare. I welcome and look forward to your joining me in this intent that we go up to a higher plane of consciousness and manifestation. Thank you.



Highlights from the Board

Four new members were accepted into Membership on Sunday, December 10th. Our membership is growing steadily. The possibility was discussed of having a couple of the Board trustees teach the third and final segment of the membership class next year.

Bob Murray, Board trustee, resigned from the Board for personal reasons. We thank him for the great contribution that he made while he served on the Board. His position will not be filled until our Annual Meeting in March 2007.

The Christmas prosperity project was a great success under the great organizational skill of Bill and Eileen Smith. There was a tremendous outpouring of help from the congregation for people in need. The beautifully wrapped presents were blessed at the December

17th service, before they were delivered to the families. There are other future projects in the planning stages.

The Strategic Planning Orientation held on December 7th to discuss information, strategy and guidelines was successful. Great interest in "Strategic Team Building" was generated from the good attendance from the congregation. The next step will be the January 21st meeting of the interested people to actually form the Strategic Planning Team.

Rev. Eleanor has contacted Barbara O'Hearne, Church Management Consultant at AUC, to invite her to do a workshop in February. The Strategic Planning Team would greatly benefit from her perspective.

The Board has completed the year-end favorable performance review for Rev.

Eleanor and will complete her contract the first week in January.

Our very capable part-time secretary, Bernie Bowie, has resigned for a full-time job. We thank her for the great job she did reorganizing the files in the office among many other things. She will be greatly missed. The church is in the process of filling her position. In the meantime volunteers have offered to help out in the office.

Bob Gajewski, coordinator for the renovating of the sanctuary, reported that the electricians will start installing the fixtures on January 8, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Hedrick



People In Action

Youth Education



In January, Wendy Smith will be working with the children on a special Qi Gong lesson called Animal Frolics. We are always looking for helpers who would like to share their talents with the children; if you are interested, please contact Marna.

families in our congregation and others. Not wanting the rewards of joy and love the committee received to end, we have chosen to continue throughout 2007 with other prosperity projects. A short meeting will be held after service on January 14 at 12:45 PM. We will be discussing the Christmas Project as well as ideas for 2007. **Anyone interested in joining the committee is invited to attend.**

in serving. The Nominating Committee asks all to read and pray on the following affirmation:

*The Christ is the Head of this church.
The Christ Mind guides the election process here.*

*Divine Love irresistibly draws to us those people who are chosen by Divine Wisdom to serve as Trustees, who are qualified, willing and available.
We are grateful.*

Christmas Prosperity Project 2006



CCU's Christmas Prosperity Project culminated its Holiday Projects on December 16 with a gift wrapping party. Twenty-six boxes of food, bags of fresh fruit, and gifts for 29 children were wrapped and placed under the tree in the Sanctuary for blessing and delivery to

Nominating Committee

The 2007 Annual Meeting will be held on March 11, 2007, and the election for members of the Board of Trustees will take place at that time. The Christ Church Unity Nominating Committee is in the process of nominating people to fill vacating positions on the Board. We are contacting people to see if they are interested

Love and blessings,
Kathy Vidas, Chair,
Rev. Eleanor Celentani
Anita Gaiteri, Delegate
Marie Hedrick, Board Liaison

The song of my heart prepares me to give and receive the

Ways to Get Involved



Friday's Angels will meet Friday, January 19 at 10:30 AM. The group will continue discussing the tape "The Bible Comes Alive," a dialogue between Unity Minister Sig Paulson and Rocco Errico (disciple of Aramaic Scholar George Lamsa) on metaphysical interpretation of the Bible. Afterwards the group will go to lunch.

Promotion Club

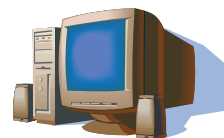
The spiritual support group for people seeking new employment will meet January 10 at 5:30 PM. Please call Rev. Eleanor for more information. New people are welcome.

"The Secret" Revealed



"The Secret" is a 90-minute feature film on the subject of how our mind creates.

It blends professional-quality production values with short messages by various teachers in the field of spiritual development. We will offer two showings of this film along with opportunity to discuss it afterwards, on Tuesday, **Jan. 23 at 7:00 p.m.** and Saturday, **January 27 at 1:00 p.m.** Paulie Gajewski is very excited about this film and will lead the discussion. This event is given on a love offering basis and would be a very good opportunity to introduce new people to the concepts of New Thought. Please sign up at the church, or call or email us if you would like to attend. Friends and family are welcome. Paulie recommends bringing a notebook.



Support Christ Church Unity every time you search the Internet... Search the web with www.goodsearch.com

Type Christ Church Unity into the "I support" box and click on "verify." One cent from advertisers will go to CCU for each search. Like Charles Fillmore, we bless each penny.

In December, we received a check for \$8.69 from goodsearch.

Directory Update



The newly updated directory is available. It is located on the table near the nametags. Thank you, Marie.

Living~Giving~Learning

Unity January Birthdays

| | | | |
|---------------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Carol Gombrone | January 3 | Kimberly Crawford | January 15 |
| Sara Katherine Howard-Lim | January 5 | Katherine Vidas | January 16 |
| Joseph Langen | January 6 | Lona Mrygold | January 24 |
| Sue Finear | January 8 | Beverly Liederbach | January 26 |
| Elinore Crandall | January 9 | Renee England | January 26 |
| Dijana Winter | January 9 | Pamela Cornish | January 28 |
| Sara Young Gale | January 30 | Paulette Elberti | January 29 |
| | | Deborah Kozarski | January 30 |
| | | Margaret (Peggy) Harvey | January 31 |

We love you.
We bless you.
We behold the Christ in you.
Make a wish!



On-Going Events

Every Saturday the **David Hawkins Book Discussion** group will meet from 10 AM-Noon. The next discussion is January 6, 2007.

Food and toiletry items for **Dimitri House** can be placed in the box under the reception desk at any time. Items are delivered by Chris Spridy the first Sunday of the month.

A Course in Miracles (ACIM) class, led by Dijana Winter, meets on Tuesdays, 7-8:30 PM. For information call 585-703-1914. Love offering.



Thank You to our 2006 Volunteers of the Month

| | |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| February | Janet Collamer |
| March | Josephine Hendricks |
| April | Jane Faust |
| May | Thomas Warfield |
| June | Amy Spence |
| July | Daryl Brown |
| August | Kat VanMeenen |
| September | P.J. Trahan |
| October | Les Collins |
| November | Jeanne Gagne & Bev Marknam |
| December | Bill & Eileen Smith |

We Behold the Christ in You

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Inclement Weather Closing

If Christ Church Unity finds it necessary to cancel **Sunday** activities due to inclement weather, the announcement will be made on WHAM 1180 AM radio and TV channel 13. It will also be posted on the church phone line 473-0910 after 8 a.m. **Week-night** cancellations will be announced by 5 p.m. on the church voice mail and in the media if possible.

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Office Hours

Bernie Bowie has left her job here in the church office to accept full-time employment at the Red Cross. We thank Bernie for her dedicated service and wish her happiness in her new position. We ask the congregation to be patient as we go through a transition time to finding new office help. If you need to call the church, please leave a message and your call will be returned.

Reminder: the **schedule of activities** for CCU is available by calling the church at 473-0910 and pressing 3 on the voice mail options.

Thank you for making our
Sunday Service fragrance-free.

Christ Church Unity
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Dial – A – Prayer 865-8683 Ext. PRAY (7729)
Two—minute recorded prayer message

If you no longer wish to receive this
newsletter, please check this box and return this
sheet to us.

Sent with love to:

Sunday Celebration – 11:00 a.m.

Practical Christianity for the 21st Century

*In Harmony and Joy
we are led to discover
the Path of Most Light
for Christ Church Unity.
Thank you, God.*