

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

Our Mission Statement:

Christ Church Unity is a warm, loving and vibrant spiritual center in the heart of Rochester. Recognizing our divine nature, we create a nurturing environment of spiritual freedom where all can develop their spiritual potential for lives overflowing with blessings.

Our Board of Trustees

Mike Gacek, President
Cheri Charboneau, Vice President
P.J. Trahan, Treasurer
Marie Hedrick, Secretary
Paula Bramwell, Trustee
Les Collins, Trustee

Rev. Eleanor Celentani,
Spiritual Leader/Minister

Our Staff

Bernie Bowie, Newsletter Editor
Jane Faust, Accompanist
Anita Gaiteri, Custodian
Samuel Gaiteri, Custodial Aide
Thomas Warfield, Soloist
Leslie Wright, Bookkeeper

Our Ministry Team Coordinators

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

Submission deadline for next issue:
March 16, 2006

Christ Church Unity Light Notes



March 2006

Dear Unity Family,

In the Prayer for our Church we have often asked for **"Divine Ideas of love, prosperity and service,"** and this prayer is certainly manifesting now. The energy of each of these three things is made visible. Sunday lessons on Divine Love have helped us hold a focus for this. Expressions of caring for church members in the hospital and recuperating at home have shown the feeling of love from many people. Love is doing its perfect work in moving through people to bring forth a higher level of harmony in their personal lives and careers, although sometimes this shows up as a crisis of some kind. The crisis then provokes the growth in consciousness and a higher level of life satisfaction finally results. To help people go through the experience of job loss I have started a **"Promotion Club"** here at Christ Church. I've called it that because in Unity, when a person experiences a job loss, we call it a "promotion from the Universe," because God has something better in mind for that person. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find more details about this group. An organizational meeting will be held on March 2 at 4 p.m., and more people are welcome to come.

Prosperity is unfolding for us in numerous ways. I am happy that we will be receiving more new members at **our Membership Sunday** service on March 5th. Our overall attendance is growing; some Sundays recently have been over 100 people, a large increase from one year ago. We have received large financial contributions in addition to regular, systematic offerings from our congregation; all these financial gifts really come from the One Source, and we are grateful for this support. New ideas for new activities bless us with an atmosphere of growth, stimulation and creativity. The **"Talent Bank"** is one such idea. The Board and I had discussed this a couple times during 2005, and now it will be coming into visibility through the offer of Janet Collamer to get it started. The talents themselves of our church community are part of our prosperity; we will now have a mechanism to recognize them and share them more effectively.

We also have many **volunteers** working at various places in our ministry; their gifts of time, energy and talent enrich us in many ways and are essential to the functioning of this ministry. Our Social Committee provided a lovely Valentine's Party for us last month, and a **St. Patrick's Day dinner** is planned for this month on Friday, March 17th. At our **Annual Meeting on March 5th** we have an opportunity to review the written reports of all our committees and ministries for the past year. You will see how much is done by people serving without fanfare. And a highlight of the meeting will be the **election of 4 trustees**, those volunteers who give so much behind the scenes for the welfare of our congregation.

Love, prosperity, and service: that's the ongoing story here at Christ Church Unity. The more you involve yourself, the more you receive. I bless you with the feeling of loving belonging and stimulating, joyful growth.

With Love,
Rev. Eleanor



Teachings in Truth

March 1 is Ash Wednesday this year, the day in Christianity when the season of Lent begins. Charles Fillmore wrote a book titled Keep a True Lent, which shows that he considered observance of this season to be in keeping with Unity consciousness. Traditionally, Lent is a time of preparation for the feast of Easter, and this is something we certainly can embrace.

Our church Vision Statement says, "Humanity awakens and transforms into its Divine Identity. Christ Church Unity is a focal point of service to this vision." I think this is **an excellent theme for Lent – awakening and transforming.**

Many of us learned in childhood that Lent is a time of penance, and that the purpose of the penance is to purify one's soul. Thus people "gave up" things for Lent – chocolate, candy, television (still not a bad idea!), and other pleasures.

In Unity we have a different version of the same principle: we strive to "give up" those things which pull our consciousness toward negative or unhealthy qualities of energy.

Thus, in Unity, we might say that for Lent we will give up one or more of the following: gossip; negative thinking about self or others; compulsive behavior in (e.g.) shopping and spending, time on computer, television watching, overeating, any **avoidance** behavior, i.e. procrastinating on what you know you should or need to do; the "poor me" attitude; laziness; cynicism, doubt, and worry.

In Unity we can also observe Lent, as other Christian churches do, by putting **in** to our lives the qualities and behaviors which can take us higher. So we might resolve to meditate or pray so many minutes per day; exercise in some fashion so many times per week; read a spiritual book; do one good deed per day for someone else; say affirmations out loud for 15 minutes per day; give volunteer service somewhere (church?) where it is needed and appreciated; take a class at Unity. There are so many things we can do to uplift our consciousness - it's just a question of wanting to, and making time to do it. What about giving a ride to someone who cannot drive to church? How about making a phone call to a family member you haven't spoken to in a while?

Jesus gave us a lesson which I find very inspiring and challenging, and it fits this Lenten focus: "If thine eye be single, thy whole being shall be full of Light." In Unity, the "single eye" means to see with one point of concentration – the Good. It means to see without the belief in two powers (good and evil). When we see in this unified way, our whole being receives the benefit of Love, Life, Substance, and Intelligence. As we prepare for Easter, we let go of those things which draw our eye away from the Good, and we put more attention on those things which concentrate Good in our mind. This is a holy and **life-giving** discipline. Eventually we see the results of it: we have awakened and transformed.

During my Sunday lessons in March I will expound further on these thoughts, and I would like to **invite you to come to meditation on Wednesday evening, March 1, at 7:00 p.m. I will devote meditation that night to the theme of beginning a holy season in your soul, and awakening to the Light.**

Rev. Eleanor

New This Month...



March 5

CCU Annual Meeting, following the service. Please plan to attend.

Support group led by Jane Faust. Topic—continuing balancing of the charkas. Newcomers welcome.

continues in March at 7 PM, new students welcome.

March 17

6:30 PM St. Patrick's Dinner
\$12 Adults/\$6 children
Tickets on sale Feb. 26—
March 12.

March 25

Metaphysical movie—"The Day the Earth Stood Still" a 1951 sci-fi thriller.

Save the Dates

April 1

Unity's World Healing Day with laughter and fun. See www.planetaryplay.org. Contact Sylvia Barker if you would like to help plan this.

March 18

12:30-2 PM Prayer
Enrichment Class

March 26

Music Sunday—the entire service will be presented by several musicians.

March 24

10:30 One Winged Angels

Wednesday Evening Meditation and Prosperity class



Prayer

March Affirmations From Silent Unity

Inner Peace

In the silence of my soul, I experience the Christ Presence of peace.

Guidance

As a channel of divine wisdom, I am guided to my highest good.

Healing

Nourished by the healing presence of the Christ within, I am healed.

Prosperity

The Christ Love blesses me in all matters.
I am prospered.

Prayer Ministry

For prayer requests or other messages to the prayer team call 473-0910 and press 4.

Prayer for Our Church

Infinite Spirit

Open the way for abundant blessings for Christ Church Unity. Fill our minds with Your Love and Wisdom; fill our actions with Creative Power. Send forth now from all points in the Universe all the good we deserve as Children of God. We are open and receptive now to Your Divine Ideas of love, prosperity, and service.

Thank You God.

Amen.

Our Prosperity

We give thanks for the rich blessings of Spirit in our life and the world:

- ◆ Our February Daily Word readers: Cherie Charboneau, Bev Liederbach, Joanie Trahan.
- ◆ Everyone who helped with the February newsletter: Rev. Eleanor, Sue Giannavola, Chris Spridy, Elizabeth Crawford, James Iacutone, Dorothea King, Peela Hooke, Josephine Hendricks.
- ◆ Dorothea and the Social Committee helpers who treated us to a wonderful chocolate treat in honor of Valentine's Day.
- ◆ The example of Carol Gomborone, Anita Gaiteri, Bob Gajewski, Jeannette Bowman and Donna Frary who have accepted Divine Healing during a health challenge.
- ◆ All of our volunteers who serve lovingly and efficiently, including our trustees: Mike, P.J., Cheri, Marie, Les and Paula.
- ◆ Beautiful flower arrangements from Bev Liederbach, Bill & Eileen Smith and the Ten Eycks.
- ◆ Our new members: Peter Gagliano, Gina Maiuri, Rick Orlando.

Volunteer of the Month

The frog hops on over to Josephine Hendricks this month. Although Josephine has a warm and welcoming personality, I am not sure how well she likes frogs! Nevertheless, Josephine you deserve recognition. Josephine attends service regularly and participates in classes. She recently donated a beautiful leather loveseat which is now in our lobby. At Christmas time, Josephine helped decorate the Sanctuary along with other volunteers and helped prepare the Manger scene. She participates on Spruce Up days, volunteers during Circulation day and helps with the newsletter. She is soft spoken, works quietly and accomplishes much. We are grateful to you Josephine, for all you do and for just being you.

Janet Collamer

A complete Treasurer's Report for 2005 will be given at the Annual Meeting, along with the 2006 budget.

Highlights from the Board Meeting

The treasurer presented and explained the various sections of the proposed 2006 budget that the Finance Committee prepared. One more meeting with the Finance Committee should finalize the budget.

There was discussion about the logistics of presenting the various topics at the upcoming Annual Meeting on March 5, 2006. We will utilize our very useful new projection equipment to show members the highlights of what we did in 2005 and what we project into 2006. Our treasurer will explain high-

lights of the 2006 budget.

Whether CCU should continue tithing a set percentage is an ongoing question. The Board has discussed this topic regularly and would like input from church membership at the Annual Meeting.

Rev. Eleanor presented a draft of a proposed church survey to the Board.

The new membership classes that Rev. Eleanor started in early February are going

well. Our membership is continuing to increase.

Our new church website, www.unityrochester.org, is now complete and available on the World Wide Web.

The various church functions will be included on our website too.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Hedrick, Secretary

Divine Love richly provides everything now.



Board News

The following thoughts are reflections of mine on the completion of my first year as a member of the Board of Trustees. I realize that many of our members' interaction with our Church is mainly on Sundays for Sunday Service and possibly one or more of the classes and discussion groups held on a regular basis. Their interaction is from the receiving end of services that our Church provides.

The purpose of this article is to look at our Church from the operational or delivering end, the service provider's perspective, the part that is, for the most part, invisible or that metaphorically is part of the iceberg that is below the surface. The perspective thus revealed is from my vantage point and must not be taken as representative of the entire Board of Trustees. This is one of the purposes of this section of our newsletter, to present views of the workings of the Board of Trustees from the individual Board member's point of view. You probably have noticed that the authors of this article are different each month. That is very deliberate, in that it follows a rotation pattern until all Trustees have written one article at which time the cycle is repeated.

My first responsibility after being elected Trustee was that of Vice President. I felt comfortable with this position since the VP's duties are minimal, giving one the freedom to select causes that one can be fully committed to and passionate about. For me that was the Vision Committee. The Trustees and Reverend Eleanor felt the need for a new vision statement as well as a mission statement for our Church.

So, I set out to recruit a talented group of individual members who were both willing and able to do the job. If you recall I asked for volun-

teers for this committee at one or more Sunday Services. Eventually, a group of twelve members plus Rev. Eleanor committed to be on the committee. The committee chose Barbara Daly to be its chairperson. The committee first met on June 13, 2005. Finally, on Sept. 26, 2005 they agreed upon the Vision and Mission Statements that we currently enjoy. Our Vision and Mission statements are now being used on our Newsletter, Web Page and other documents for the Church. I wish to thank the members of the committee and especially chairperson Barbara Daly for an exemplary performance. For many of you the members of this important committee remain a mystery. I now wish to acknowledge each member individually for doing such a great job. That committees' members are: Anita Gaiteri, Barbara Daly, Dijana Winter, Dorothea King, Rev. Eleanor Celentani, Karen Sparka, Les Collins, Marilyn Wise, Mike Gacek, Perlis J. Trahan, Reinhart Brucker, Stan Marshall and Sylvia Barker. For a job well done, I salute you all!

My second project as a Trustee was not one I felt passionate about, but it was a fit with my experience as a former real estate broker. This was the job of negotiating a new contract with School of the Arts for a parking lease for their employees. It was decided to open the bidding for the available spaces by inviting the Red Cross to bid. The Trustees elected to accept the higher offer of the Red Cross, which provided income for twelve months, rather than the 10 months required by School of the Arts.

My third project as Trustee involved drawing up a loan agreement for the roof loan. This required approval by the entire Board of Trustees as well as the Lender, who chooses to remain anonymous.

All good things come to an end they say, and so they did for me. Our then Treasurer resigned the post

at the May 22, 2005 Board of Trustees meeting, leaving the Church without a Treasurer. The Trustees struggled with this vacancy for about two months, during which time Mike Gacek tried desperately to work out some compromise to entice someone (me, I know he was looking at me all the time he was making his pleas) to take the job. So I am now your Treasurer and up to my eyebrows in alligators, that is, trying to make sense of our finances and getting things on a professional level with the transparency that is worthy of our organization. I must admit to making some progress, but a lot remains to be done. In my defense, I have been on the job only seven months, without any training for the Church's particular setup (non-profit corporation), having to learn the job by on-the-job training. You will have the opportunity to grade my performance at the annual membership meeting, where I will present the Treasurer's report and a 2006 budget proposal for your approval.

I hope the above reflections give you a glimpse of what your Board of Trustees do in your behalf. I have left out the many mundane things that Trustees do and, there are six of us, so this is just the tip of the iceberg!

One final comment, from one who has been very involved with the Board of Trustees: I feel compelled to single out the most stalwart person of the 2005 Board. That is none other than Mike Gacek. He is leaving the Board and will be sorely missed. He has performed the equivalent of a full-time job and then some, for this Church. His dedication is par excellence! His devotion to his duties unshakeable, and his love for us, the members of this Church, shines through in all his actions. I know of no finer gift, than the gift of one's time, talent and action. Mike, I salute you!

My best regards to all,
Perlis J. Trahan

People In Action

Youth Education



We are happy with our new curriculum, Celebrating Our God Self. It is Bible-based and created by Unity. The theme for the first four lessons is uniqueness and connection with God. Unit 2 is about loving and Unit 3 is about compassion. It has many options for group activities. Our Qi Gong lesson with Wendy Smith went very well and we will be doing more of it. We are always looking for new teachers.

Nominating Committee Report

On March 5th, Christ Church Unity will hold its Annual Meeting. One of the agenda items of the meeting is to elect new members to fill the seats of the departing Trustees.

This year we have four seats available. Marie Hedrick and Paula Bramwell each have an expiring three-year term. Mike Gacek is resigning, leaving one remaining year on that position's term. Les Collins was appointed to fill a vacancy that has one year remaining on the term and needs to be voted on.

The known Board candidates are Paula Bramwell, Barbara Daly, Bob Gajewski, and Leslie Wright. You can read about them in this newsletter and on the bulletin board at the church. As is noted in our

by-laws, Board of Trustee candidates may also be nominated from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

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 on the Board, who are qualified, willing and available.

We are grateful.

Love and blessings,
Kathy Vidas

I am divinely guided to the best of choices for the good of all.

Ways to Get Involved

Fun Club News

The Fun Club has been very busy— some of the things they have done in last month: dinner and the movie "Indigo Children," Peruvian Jazz at the University of Rochester, Symphony Pops concert at the Eastman Theater, the movie "Big Mama's House II," and fellowship with dinner and games at Emanuel Baptist Church. The Fun Club is not just for singles—it is for people who want fun and fellowship. For information, complete the interest indicator or see Sylvia Barker.

Metaphysical Movies Class



The next movie of the Metaphysical Movie class will be "The Day the Earth Stood Still," a sci-fi thriller, **Saturday, March 25, 2006, at 5 p.m.** The movie runs 92 minutes and following the film there will be group discussion led by Jane Faust, who is facilitating this series of classes. The text for the class, Reel Spirit, by Raymond Teague, is available in our bookstore. The cost of the class is a love offering. Future titles include: "What the Bleep Do we Know?" and one other to be announced.

Easter Choir



The CCU choir will begin rehearsals for Easter on Sunday, March 19th, at 9:30 AM. Sharon Francis will be choir director for this performance. Please sign up at the front counter if you would like to participate.

Talent Bank

Watch for more information on this new project, led by Janet Collamer. There is a sign-up sheet for volunteers to help get the Talent Bank started.



The **One-Winged Angels** support group led by Jane Faust will meet Friday, March 24, 2006 at 10:30 AM. The subject will be continuing of Balancing the Chakras. The group will adjourn to lunch afterwards. Newcomers are welcome.

Living~Giving~Learning

On-Going Events

Every Saturday the **David Hawkins Book Discussion** group will meet from 10 AM-Noon. The next discussion is March 4, 2006

The **metaphysical discussion group** will be in recess until spring. Questions? Contact the church office.

A Course in Miracles class, Tuesdays, 7-8:30 PM. Led by Dijana Winter. For information call 585-703-1914. Love offering. Class meets in the Sunday

Office Hours

Our church office is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays, but you can leave a message at any time by calling 585-473-0910.

Rev. Eleanor's normal work days are Wednesday through Sunday. She is available for spiritual counseling by appointment. Please call 585-473-0145. You may also call for prayer at any time. Love offerings for counseling are gratefully accepted.

School room.

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



Thank you for making our Sunday Service fragrance-free.

Rev. Eleanor

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

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. **Weeknight** cancellations will be announced by 5 p.m. on the church voice mail and in the media if possible.

Parking Reminder for Classes

Sometimes church events and Auditorium Theater events take place simultaneously. Nevertheless, students who are coming to CCU for classes never pay a fee for parking. If you see people collecting money when you enter the parking lot for a class, just tell him you are there for a class and you will not be charged. Please follow their instructions about where to park.

Christ Church Unity
55 Prince Street
Rochester, NY 14607-1025

Phone: 585-473-0910
Fax: 585-271-1297
Email: unityroc@frontiernet.net
Website: www.unityrochester.org

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newsletter, please check this box and return this
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Sent with love to:

Sunday Service – 11:00 a.m.

Practical Christianity for the 21st Century



*An Irish Blessing
May your blessings outnumber
the shamrocks that grow,
And may trouble avoid you
Wherever you go.*

