

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



March 2007

## ***Our Vision Statement***

*Humanity awakens and transforms into its Divine Identity. Christ Church Unity is a 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

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

Submission deadline for next issue:  
March 16, 2007

Assembling date:  
March 22, 2007

Dear Children of God,

In the Christian tradition we are observing Lent this month, a time of spiritual preparation for the Easter experience. We are given this opportunity each year, to go deeper. Through reflection, prayer, purification and spiritual action, we open ourselves to the Spirit, to be cleansed, purified, expanded and made whole. Which of these things is calling you?

**Reflection and prayer** are essential to the Unity way of life. A Truth student is endeavoring to live *consciously*. Perhaps your Lenten practice will be to slow down, reduce your busy-ness, and give more time to listening to God within, and praying from your heart. This may mean evaluating your habitual routines, and seeing if you want to keep them, or if something better might be possible. Taking time for spiritual reading may be a real blessing to you. Our classes and meditations here are offered for the sole purpose of helping you become all you can be. Could you experiment with giving up one TV program or one "social obligation" a week and filling that time with a spiritual activity instead, and see what it feels like?

**Purification** is an important part of the spiritual life and is an ongoing process. Purification is practicing the Vacuum Law. Releasing negative thoughts and words, resentful attitudes, and victim consciousness is a powerful action. Giving up judgment and condemnation of others frees you to receive higher energy from your Spirit. Forgiving yourself for your personality flaws and past mistakes allows in the cleansing flood of Spirit Love, which lifts you into joy and gratitude.

By **spiritual action** I mean action in the material world for a spiritual purpose. It may be for your own healing, or for the healing of others. It may be cleaning your house or it may be bringing order to some other aspect of your life. It may be starting a new habit of giving, to train yourself into a higher self-concept. It may be serving instead of waiting to be served. Listening to your Inner Guide is the best foundation for choosing spiritual action. A great discipline is to "Follow your Spirit without hesitation."

Here at Christ Church we have our Annual Meeting this month with election of trustees, our annual St. Patrick's Day dinner, and many other activities. I will continue with the twelve powers by giving a lesson on the Power of Strength on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Wednesday meditation on March 21<sup>st</sup> will be attuned to the beginning of Spring. My prayer is that the Christ Spirit is powerful here, *raising the energy* of those who come and participate. **The quickening, enlivening action of Spirit is your Resurrection now, making you whole and free.**

Rev. Eleanor



# Teachings in Truth

This month we celebrate the actual anniversary date of the incorporation of Christ Church Unity – March 19, 1947. Having had an opportunity to look at copies of some of the original documents surrounding this, I have seen that the group that would become our church had different names at different times: Unity Church of Truth, Unity Center of Practical Christianity, and Christ Center Unity. It also met in different locations over the years. This shows us that spiritual ideas develop over time, both in concept and in material manifestation. Jesus referred to this when he used an analogy of an ear of corn growing: “first the blade of grass, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear” in a parable about the kingdom of God ( Mark: 4: 28).

Records from the Association of Unity Churches date the Unity work here in Rochester as beginning in 1930, under a minister who became well-known in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Raymond Charles Barker. We have a book by him in our bookstore. Later he worked with Ernest Holmes, the founder of the Church of Religious Science. I believe there may have been Truth students meeting to explore New Thought in Rochester even before that. After a few years Rev. Barker handed on the work to Mrs. Elise Rosenberg, whom we think of as our founding minister. For those of you who are new to Unity, you can see her portrait in the lobby, outside the door to the Sunday School room. She was ordained by Charles Fillmore, co-founder of the Unity movement. Eventually the group desired to incorporate so that they could buy property and own their own building.

The incorporation documents have signatures of three trustees, including Mrs. Rosenberg as one. The whole group was approximately 40-50 people, about half as large as our Sunday attendance. Reflecting on this reminded me of the famous quote from the anthropologist Margaret Mead: “Never doubt that a small band of committed people can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has.” Because those people were enthusiastic about the new understanding of Truth, and wanted to give of themselves to share it, our church took root and is here for you now. Your world has been changed because the vibration of Unity has touched you.

We also acknowledge with love all the other people who followed in the next sixty years (some of them are here now) who tended the flame of Truth in both lean times and prosperity. At one time the house which served as the church building burned down, and a new structure had to be built. The congregation decided to carry on, making a new physical home for the spiritual work to continue.

All this leads me to pose this question: what have the Unity teachings done for you, and what could you give to pass this on to others? Do you think that the Unity teachings and way of life are worth being handed on? Unity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century may unfold in different forms, but the loving Christ Presence remains at its heart. That Christ Heart beats through us, the Christ vision sees through our imagination, and the Hand of Christ reaches out with our hands. Thank you for being part of this unfolding story of Christ Church Unity.

Rev. Eleanor

# New This Month...



March 1  
7 PM Art Club

March 17  
9 AM-1PM Spruce Up Day

September 23  
Annual Picnic

March 3, 10 & 17  
12:30-1:30 PM New  
Membership Class

March 18  
Anniversary Banquet paid  
reservations open

March 11  
Annual Meeting immediately  
following the service. A light  
lunch will be available for  
purchase.

**Upcoming Events**  
April 29  
Historical Sunday

May 6  
Anniversary Banquet

March 16  
6 PM St. Patrick's Dinner.  
\$10/person

July 24  
Red Wings Baseball Game



CCU at night  
Photo by Mike Gacek



## Prayer

### March Affirmations From Silent Unity

#### Inner Peace

The peace of the Christ within quiets my soul.  
I am calm and serene.

#### Guidance

I live a life of wisdom and fulfillment as I follow the  
light of Spirit.

#### Healing

My mind and body are expressions of divine life.  
I radiate health.

#### Prosperity

God is blessing me with opportunities that abundantly  
enrich my life.

#### World Peace

God's peace within me flows forth from me as gentle  
words and peaceful actions.

### Prayer Ministry Strength

Strength, Great Strength Comes From Faith in God.  
As I let go and let God, I cast my burdens, which are  
too big for me alone to handle, on the Christ Spirit  
within, and *go Free*. I am so thankful that I am never  
alone. "Through God we have the strength and power  
to do what is ours to do.."

The Bible is full of powerful promises and affirmations  
about strength for us. "But they that wait upon the Lord  
shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with  
wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they  
shall walk, and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31)

"I can do all things through Christ which strengthens  
me." (Phillippians 4:13)

A well known quote by Ashley Hodgeson states that  
"strength and courage aren't always measured in med-  
als and victories. They are measured in the struggles  
they overcome. The strongest people aren't always the  
people who win, but the people who don't give up when  
they lose."

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:

- ◆ Bernie Bowie, Paulie Gajewski and Sue Giannovola for their valuable help in the office.
- ◆ Bill & Eileen Smith, Anita Gaiteri, Peela Hooke, Sara Katy Lim, Laura Sutton, Bernie Bowie, Eleanor Celentani, Katherine DaCosta and Chris Spridy for helping to get the newsletter out.
- ◆ Marilyn Wise, Daryl Brown, Kathy Vidas, Mary Jo TenEyck, Helen Lutz, Coby Nichols, Janet Collamer, Marty Roberts, our February ushers.
- ◆ Jane Faust, Jean Noce, Leslie Wright, Chris Spridy, Karen Sparka, Kathy Vidas our Prayer Team Members.
- ◆ Donna Ries, Paulie Gajewski, Sandy Hamilton, Kathy Vidas our Platform Assistants for February.
- ◆ Charlie Adams, Bill & Eileen Smith, Beverly Liederbach for the lovely flowers in the Sanctuary.
- ◆ David Mercer, Joan Yeager, Beverly Liederbach, Joanie Trahan for reading the Daily Word at Sunday Service.
- ◆ Barbara O'Hearne for the informative workshop on Strategic Planning she conducted.
- ◆ New Horizons and everyone who attended the session.
- ◆ Joan Yeager, Mike Gacek, Kathy Vidas, Bev Liederbach, Marie Hedrick, Karen R. Nelson, Dick & Mary Jo TenEyck for their hard work cleaning and organizing the basement and sanctuary storage areas.
- ◆ All our congregation members who contribute to our church through your presence, participation and offerings.

We are grateful to God for all the ways we have been enriched. As we give, we receive.



### Volunteer of the Month

The recipient of the "Frog Award" quietly shares her time and talents in numerous ways. She makes our new visitor packets, volunteers in the office, files for Eleanor, counts the Sunday offering, and serves on the New Horizons (the Strategic Planning Committee). She is assisting to organize packets for the annual meeting, attends classes, and without fail, greets everyone with genuine smiles and kind words. It's a delight to recognize Sue Giannovola as volunteer of the month.

Dick & Mary Jo TenEyck



### Financial Statement

*(the regular figures for January will be reported in next month's newsletter)*

In preparing the Treasurer's Report for the Annual Meeting on March 11, the following highlights have emerged regarding our 2006 financial results and our 2007 budget:

- Gratefully, our gross income for 2006 increased almost 40% over our income in 2005, driven by strong performances in such categories as Contributions, Classes, Parking and Space Rental;
- The income total for 2006 exceeded our budget projection by 13% - Thank you, God!
- We were able to meet our increased expenses (31% higher in 2006 than in 2005) comfortably;
- For 2007, the Financial Prosperity Team anticipates an increase in expenses of 36.6% over 2006 spending. This requires a corresponding increase in income of 17.5%;
- We have been delighted with the prosperity experienced throughout the last year as good has flowed into, through, and out of Christ Church Unity. We look forward to this trend continuing with the generous support and efforts of our congregation.

### Tithing Report

As determined at the March 2006 Annual Meeting, our tithe (10% of January's income) is being distributed as follows:  
 20% each to AUCI, Silent Unity & Unity Village  
 10% to Eastern Region AUC  
 30% to The Open Door Mission shelter in Rochester

Divine Love richly provides everything



# It's About Time...

Science says the "Big Bang" event was the beginning of time. If that is so, then what came before? Was there a reality when there was "no time" i.e., before time began?

Science defines time in terms of change. If there is a change between two events, then that difference can be expressed in terms of time. For example, while walking, each step can be assigned a "time". The reality is that there is only a sequence of steps and time is introduced as a way to help us make sense of things. For a two-foot step per second, we end up with two feet-per-second rate-of-change. Calculus defines this rate-of-change as a derivative, in which the interval of time is reduced to the vanishing point, or non-existence. This powerful concept has propelled science to an understanding of our universe.

However, early on, science concluded that a definite unit of time was needed. Experiments with all kinds of clocks were conducted. In the end, scientists decided to use the rotation of planet earth on its axis, relative to the sun, as the unit of time. One second of arc of at the earth's equator would henceforth be equal to one second of time. Neat, huh? Science has since refined the unit-of-time to be tied to the atomic properties of the element Cesium. So there it is, the official unit-of-time, the second!

Taking the lead from science, we can define time experientially or subjectively as sequence. We perceive events occurring

around us sequentially. Things that occur simultaneously are experienced as happening in the same sequence. This is how we humans order things so they make sense to us.

Human perception, however, can only process so much information. Anything in excess of this limit is simply ignored (not perceived). For example, it is reported that the Indians could not "see" Christopher Columbus' ships when he arrived in the new world, because it was outside of their experience. What we do perceive is not the "reality-out-there" but only what our senses report to our brain/mind about it. For example, what we perceive through our eyes is the reflection of light from a light source bouncing off of "something". What our brain/mind perceives is the reflected light and not the "something", for if we extinguish the light source, we perceive nothing. The "something" is the reality we are attempting to know that is so elusive and perplexing! What is this "REALITY"? I humbly offer the following mental experiment as a possibility.

Consider yourself to be a spiritual being. You are happy in the spiritual domain, but would like to experience the physical domain. How would you go about it? Well, it turns out that we humans have some experience in this area, by way of our space program. Say we wish to experience conditions on the planet Mars, for example. We design and build a space-

craft and program it to perform the tasks that will get us information we desire. We have a radio link with our probe (spacecraft) through which we can change its programming at any time we choose. The probe faithfully goes about its duties relying on its original memory plus what it learns about Mars over time.

The autonomous probe has no knowledge of its original memory nor of any changes to its program made from earth. All it knows is that it has information stored in memory that it can use to perform its duties. Where or how the information got there is a mystery to the probe. It is outside of its reality. The probe is also disconnected in time from its unknown human masters as well. It may be months or years between changes to its program. To the probe, its human masters are outside of the time that it knows.

Could it be that our bodies are probes designed and built by our unknown higher spiritual Selves to probe the physical domain in a fashion analogous to the Mars probe? Our higher spiritual Selves would be outside of time as we perceive it. Any changes made to our program by our higher Self, or Divine Identity, would be mysterious indeed! Could this be our unknown REALITY?

Blessings,  
Perlis J. Trahan

## Highlights from the Board

The prosperity project team under the leadership of Bill and Eileen Smith continued with a Valentine project for our troops, especially those in hospitals.

Our new Strategic Planning Group has a new name "**New Horizons**" with Eileen Smith as the Chairperson and Sue Giannavola & Donna Ries as the recorders. The new team will play an important part in our church moving forward process. To give the new team and other interested church leaders strategic insights, Barbara O'Hearne, Church Management Consultant at AUCI conducted a workshop on Sunday afternoon, February 11, 2007,

after the service.

The different topics to be included in the March 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting were discussed and finalized.

A policy on how to respond to transients off the street asking the church for assistance was discussed. It was agreed to discourage giving money. Instead, we should offer food and a list of places that offer appropriate services for them.

The Finance Prosperity Ministry Team submitted their 2007 budget. Last year's income increase was about 30% over the previous year. To keep in tune with our expenses submitted in the 2007 budget,

church income needs to increase 17%.

A Board retreat has been planned for the end of March. The idea for the retreat is for board members to go into a different environment to talk about ideas concerning the church and the Board.

New membership classes will be conducted in March.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marie Hedrick



# People In Action

## Youth Education



We are always looking for helpers who would like to share their talents with the children; if you are interested, please contact Marna.

Giannavola, Marie Hedrick and Paula Bramwell. Due to by-law interpretation and Paula's generous time commitments in the past as a Board member, she is only able to serve 2 years. Therefore, if she is elected to a 3 year term, someone from the congregation would be appointed to fill her third year.

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

Love and blessings,  
Kathy Vidas, Chair

## Nominating Committee

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, 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 three seats available. Two of the seats are 3 year terms and one is a one year term.

The known Board candidates are Sue

You can read about these candidates 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*

## Spruce Up Day



We will gather on March 17 to share in working together.

Come when you can between 9 AM and 1 PM. This is a good opportunity to help one

time if you usually don't volunteer. Please sign up at the front counter. Thank you!

## God provides me with stepping-stones that are divine op-

## Ways to Get Involved



Friday's Angels will be taking a short hiatus. Meetings will resume after Easter.

## Promotion Club

The spiritual support group for people seeking new employment will meet March 7 at 5:30 PM. Please call Rev. Eleanor for more information. New people are welcome.

Prosperity Project 2007 is planning another mailing to our servicemen and women in Iraq, for Easter. Donations of Easter cards, letters, candy (non-chocolate) and other snacks and cookies (home baked are especially enjoyed) are needed. Items such as baby wipes and powder, toothpaste, deodorant, & eye drops are also needed. A box will be in the lobby through April 1st for you donations.

## Palm Sunday Pageant



A pageant is being planned for Palm Sunday, April 1. All are welcome; a sign up sheet is on the front counter. Any interested children may sign up in the Sunday School. For more information see

Marna, Jane or Anita.



## Come Make A Joyful Noise

Easter and spring are right around the corner and so is the Easter Choir! The first rehearsal was Feb. 25 and there will be no rehearsal Mar. 4. The remaining rehearsals will be every Sunday beginning Mar. 11 at 9:30 AM. Thomas Warfield will lead the choir.

## New Horizons

The Strategic Planning Team met on Feb. 4 & 18 to begin working on a plan that will address the present and future needs and goals of CCU. A twelve month projection was made to accomplish this process.

Barbara O'Hearne, Church Management Consultant with the Association of Unity Churches International, held an afternoon workshop on Feb. 11 for the New Horizons Team, Board Members, Ministry Team Coordinators and anyone from the church who was interested.

The New Horizons Team consists of Eileen Smith (chair), Sue Giannavola & Donna Ries (recorders), Sylvia Barker, Mike Gacek, Anita Gaiteri, Josephine Hendricks, Dorothea King, Maryanna Mueller, Arnie Pegish, Diana Robinson, Marna Rossi, Bill Smith, Karen Sparka, Chris Spridy, PJ & Joanie Trahan, Marillyn Wise, Leslie Wright Coby Nichols, Paula Bramwell and Rev. Eleanor Celentani.

# Living~Giving~Learning

## Unity March Birthdays

David Mercer	March 3	Marie Hedrick	March 23
Jonathan Wolfinger	March 6	Om Greg Howard	March 23
Paula Bramwell	March 8	Carlene McIntosh	March 23
Leslie Wright	March 9	Joanie Trahan	March 25
Sue Giannavola	March 10	Emily Carpenter	March 26
P. J. Trahan	March 10	Carl J. Conde	March 26
Diane A. Ellis	March 11	Amy Toric	March 27
David Mryglod	March 13	James H. Hable	March 28
Wendy Low	March 14	Rev. Eleanor Celentani	March 30
Norman O. Dinolfo	March 15	Margaret (Peggy) Harvey	March 31
Jeanne Gagne	March 16		

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 March 3, 2007.

**A Course in Miracles (ACIM) class**, led by Dijana Winter, meets on Tuesdays, 7-8:30 PM. For information call 585-703-1914. \$13/session –Couples \$22/session.

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.

**Positive Communication**, facilitated by Else Vella, meets on Thursdays, 7-8:30 PM. Love offering.

## Office Hours



Our office is being staffed by volunteers Tuesday and Thursday, 1:30—3:30 PM and Wednesday and Friday, 1—3 PM. If you call at another time, please leave a message and your call will be returned.

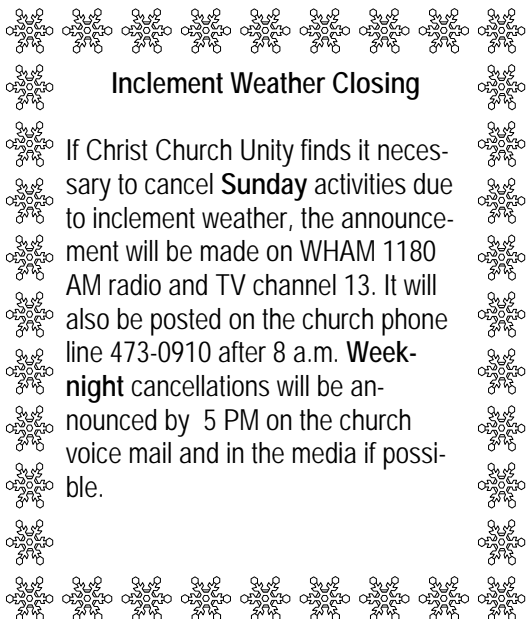
## Anniversary News



Invitations to our 60th Anniversary Banquet on May 6 will be mailed in early March. The Anniversary Committee will begin taking paid reservations in late March. Watch for a poster in the lobby.

Because we want to include everyone who truly would like to be there, we are stepping out in faith and making the banquet available for a love offering. The church's cost is \$17.50/person; so you can give that, or whatever feels comfortable for you. If you are able to give more, your extra gift will help cover the cost which the church will incur for those who cannot afford the whole price. Reservations are requested by Easter Monday, April 9. At this time we have a limit of 200 seats.

There will also be a special 'historical' Sunday Service the week before on April 29, when we will present some of the history of our center and use worship elements from the early days of Unity: songs, affirmations, reading from the Daily Word, etc. We hope it will be inspiring to touch in with the spirit of early Unity. This will be followed by other special attractions: a display from the photo archives, and a special Anniversary Cake reception. See you there!



## 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 PM on the church voice mail and in the media if possible.



Thank you for making our Sunday Service fragrance-free.

The voice mail schedule of activities has been discontinued due to lack of use. Event information is on the newsletter calendar and the website. Current information is also listed in the Sunday bulletin.

Christ Church Unity  
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Phone: 585-473-0910  
Fax: 585-271-1297  
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Website: [www.unityrochester.org](http://www.unityrochester.org)

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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

*An Irish Blessing*  
*May the road rise up to meet you,*  
*May the wind be always at your back.*  
*May the sun shine warm on your face, the rains fall softly on*  
*your fields.*  
*And until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm*  
*of His hand.*

