

Christ Church Unity
A member of the Association of
Unity Churches International
Affiliated with Unity, 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 environ-
ment of spiritual freedom where all can
develop their spiritual potential for lives
overflowing with blessings.

Our Board of Trustees
Paula Bramwell, President
Bob Gajewski, Vice President
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Barbara Daly, Secretary
Cherie Charboneau, Trustee
P.J. Trahan, Trustee

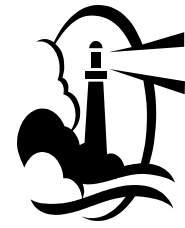
Rev. Eleanor Celentani,
Spiritual Leader/Minister

Our Staff
Bernie Bowie, Newsletter Editor
Jane Faust, Accompanist
Anita Gaiteri, Custodian
Samuel Gaiteri, Custodial Aide
Thomas Warfield, Soloist
Jonathan Wolfinger, Gardener

Our Ministry Team Coordinators
Prayer – Jane Faust
Ushers – Marie Hedrick
Greeters –
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:
April 20, 2006

Christ Church Unity Light Notes



April 2006

Dear Unity Family,

We continue to have much to be grateful for at Christ Church Unity; ours is a growing and unfolding church. For this we give credit to the Christ Spirit, and to you, through whom the Spirit works.

At our **Annual Meeting** on March 5th there were 53 voting members, the highest number in many years. We actually had to go and make more copies of documents and ballots during the meeting! We elected four new Board members, three of whom have been on the Board before. (After the meeting they elected their own officers.) Please see the masthead to the left with all their names. We have also expressed our thanks to the outgoing trustees, Mike Gacek, Les Collins and Marie Hedrick. I am grateful to all the trustees, past and present, for their willingness to serve.

At the Annual Meeting we also reaffirmed our desire to be a **tithing church**. The members gave general guidelines about how they would like our tithes distributed. In the week following that decision, our church received two gifts of **unexpected money**: one for over \$300 and one for over \$1100. At the Sunday Celebration on March 19th, during the blessing of the offering, I blessed the outgoing tithe checks as well. This is a practice which I intend to continue.

Also at the Annual Meeting P.J. Trahan used our new projection equipment to present a **Treasurer's Report** for 2005 and a budget proposal for 2006. Our **2005 income** was **30.1%** more than 2004. The members accepted the "**barebones**" **budget for 2006**, which **nevertheless calls for a 27.45% increase in income** over 2005. To my knowledge, this is the first time that the members here have voted on a budget. I thank PJ for all his work, and I thank the members for demonstrating so much prosperity. Please see the **current Treasurer's Report on page 4**.

A large crowd enjoyed a wonderful **St. Patrick's Day** dinner on March 17th. Everyone said that the meal was so delicious! And of course we liked all the decorations and prizes too. My thanks to Dorothea King and Anita Gaiteri and the Social Committee for all their skillful work to produce this event: Bernie Bowie, Sammy Gaiteri, Gina Maiuri, with help from Janet Collamer. Thank you for a warm, welcoming and fun evening!

Based on the date of incorporation of our church as "Christ Church Unity" on March 19th, 1947, **2007** will be **our 60th Anniversary**. (Previous Unity activity under different names went back to at least September 1940, and possibly earlier.) Help us plan our celebration to mark this very special occasion by signing up for the Anniversary Committee. I am also inviting participation in our expanded **Welcoming Ministry**, a plan to be ready for increased numbers of visitors and new people this year. Please see the flyer and sign-up sheets for both groups at the church. Thank you for your help.

I suggest that on **Easter Sunday** you come early and not miss the very beginning of the Celebration. Also there will be **special services on Thursday and Friday night** the week before Easter. Again this year the church will be grateful to receive any donations of **lilies for the Easter Celebration** (gifts or plants on loan – either would be great!)

I am blessing and blessing our Easter consciousness and manifestation with increase, increase, increase. ---Rev. Eleanor



Teachings in Truth



Dear Family of Unity,

As I am writing this it is the first day of Spring. In our church garden a few yellow crocuses are doing their best to stand up despite the cold and wind; the tulips and hyacinths are taller and bigger, but don't show any color yet. It is interesting to me that some of the smallest flowers come during the most adverse weather conditions. You would think it would be the larger, stronger ones that would be able to come alive in the lingering winter. This seems like a life lesson to me.

You too have the inner strength to persevere and keep your head up during challenging times. Remember, you are never alone. The Christ Power within you is your ability to overcome. Christ in you is your Strength and your Life. Christ is your ability to begin again.

Soon we will enter into the great feast of Easter. This Christian holy day commemorates the victory of Jesus Christ over death and *your victory over anything that seems like death*. The way to this victory is clear. Florence Scovel Shinn, author of The Game of Life, wrote that "Christianity is founded on forgiveness and an empty tomb." It is by forgiveness that you are set free from all that has hurt you or sapped your life force. This is why Jesus said from the cross, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." By forgiveness you release and then you are free.

In Unity we look at the cross as the instrument of "crossing out" negativity. The cross marks the place where you decree that evil has no lasting power; only the Good is true. We say, there is no power in evil; there is only power in God. *You are the only one who can prove this in your own life*. Unity is here to support you in knowing this and to encourage you when the way seems difficult. We are here to celebrate your joyful victories too.

I hope to see many of you here during our Holy Week activities, and on Easter Sunday. For those of you who are geographically at a distance or unable to travel, know that our consciousness reaches out and enfolds you with Love and Oneness. Thank you all for being the sacred Substance in which God's Easter takes place.

Namaste,

Rev. Eleanor

New This Month...



April 6

5:30—6:45 PM Promotion Club

April 20

5:30—6:45 PM Promotion Club

April 30

12:45—1:30 PM Prayer Partners meeting

April 8

Noon—2 PM Spruce Up Day
1 PM Board Meeting

April 23

Rev. Eleanor's Fireside Chat After the service. Presentation of survey results

Save The Date

May 11

Newcomers' Supper

April 13

7—8 PM Holy Thursday Spiritual Communion Meditation

April 27

5:30-7 PM Welcoming Ministry Convocation

April 14

7—8 PM Good Friday Service and Flower Ceremony

April 29

10 AM—4 PM *Discover Your Soul Purpose*. A workshop presented by Rev. Steve D' Annunzio



Prayer

April Affirmations From Silent Unity

Inner Peace

The Christ of my being is a sanctuary of peace.
I am centered and calm.

Guidance

I rise to new heights of understanding through the Christ Spirit within me.

Healing

I am renewed through the Christ within. I express health and vitality in mind and body.

Prosperity

The Christ in me is the wisdom of my soul that enriches my thoughts and my life.

Prayer Ministry

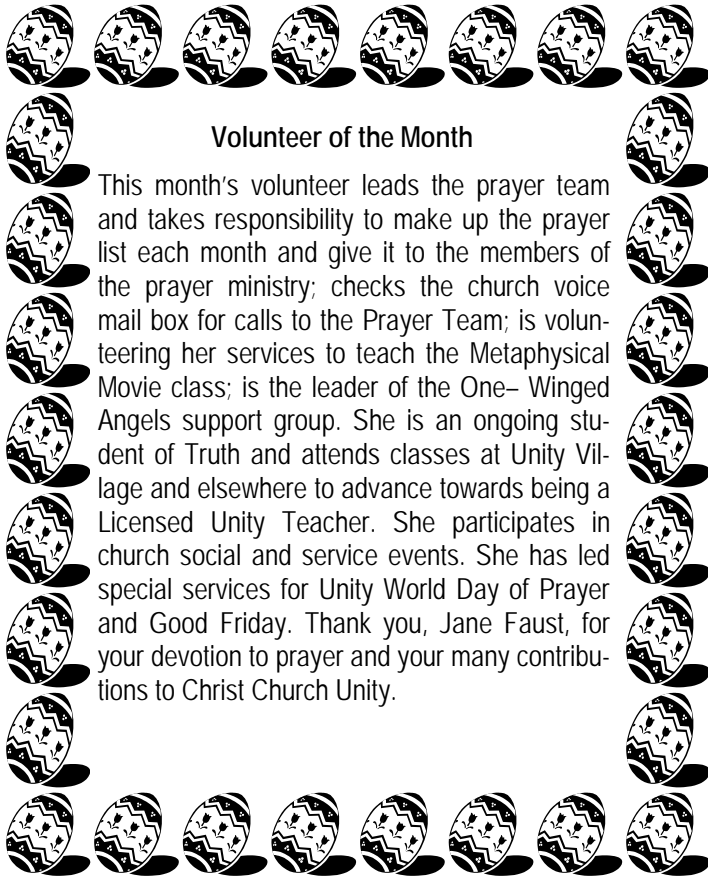
In our recent church survey, twenty people said they would be interested in having a **prayer partner**. To set this in motion Rev. Eleanor will conduct a **special class** and organizational meeting on **Sunday, April 30, from 12:45 to 1:30 p.m.** Members of our CCU Prayer Ministry who have experienced praying with a partner will also be there to share their insights. **All are welcome** to come and explore this opportunity; you do not have to commit to being a prayer partner in order to attend this session. Please sign up at the front counter or call 473-0145 to facilitate our planning. Thank you.

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

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

- ◆ Our March Daily Word readers: Sylvia Barker, Paulie Gajewski, Joanie Trahan, Steve D'Annunzio, Thomas Warfield, Rein Brucker.
- ◆ Everyone who helped with the March newsletter: Rev. Eleanor, Sue Giannavola, Chris Spridy, Jane Faust, Carmela Laino, Bill & Eileen Smith, Hallie Sawyers.
- ◆ Dorothea, Anita and the Social Committee helpers who put on a wonderful spread for the annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner.
- ◆ Beautiful flower arrangements from Bev Liederbach, Bill & Eileen Smith, Paulie Gajewski.
- ◆ Those who have donated books and tapes to our library.
- ◆ A benefactor who is going to pay for 6 months of advertising for CCU.
- ◆ Bernie Hyman and Bob & Charlie Adams for parking cars during the Lion King and other Auditorium events.
- ◆ The generosity of several people who offered to donate their dinner tickets for others when they could not attend on March 17.
- ◆ A \$500 contribution from our bookstore.
- ◆ The delicious soup provided for the Annual Meeting by Anita & Sammy Gaiteri.
- ◆ Extensive grounds maintenance over the last several months donated by Jonathan Wolfinger.



Volunteer of the Month

This month's volunteer leads the prayer team and takes responsibility to make up the prayer list each month and give it to the members of the prayer ministry; checks the church voice mail box for calls to the Prayer Team; is volunteering her services to teach the Metaphysical Movie class; is the leader of the One- Winged Angels support group. She is an ongoing student of Truth and attends classes at Unity Village and elsewhere to advance towards being a Licensed Unity Teacher. She participates in church social and service events. She has led special services for Unity World Day of Prayer and Good Friday. Thank you, Jane Faust, for your devotion to prayer and your many contributions to Christ Church Unity.

Divine Love richly provides everything now.



Board News

God is our Source. The greatest thing we can do to increase our abundance is to work on our relationship with God. This is a world of ups and downs, of successes and failures. It is a world of loss and gain, of change. God has shown us the path to take. We just need to follow that path.

God is our Source. Catherine Ponder said "Prayer is the most effective method of renewal and transformation, because in prayer humankind associates with God and not with the problem."

God is our Source. We practice each day to put our lives into the care of God by making it a habit each morning and evening to experience the power of prayer.

God is our Source. Experience the power of prayer and pray in a quiet place now, or use the Unity 5-Step Prayer Process to pray at a more convenient time. Blessings await you!

Unity's 5-Step Prayer Process

God is our Source. Prayer is connecting with God. In prayer, you create a sacred space in which you commune with God. Use the following 5-Step Prayer Process to deepen your connection with God, to heighten your awareness of God within you. Experience the power of prayer.

1) **Relax:** Set aside time each day for prayer. Begin your quiet time by relaxing your body and opening your mind to an awareness of God. Breathe deeply, knowing that you are in the presence of God and the presence of God is within you. Let go of your concerns and know that all is well.

2) **Concentrate:** As you close your eyes and release any thought of the world around you, begin to think about God ... about God's presence in your life. Focus your mind on a single thought or idea or scripture that resonates with you. Repeat this idea over and over, either silently or aloud until it becomes your only thought.

3) **Meditate:** Allow this focused state of mind to move you into a deeper awareness of God. "Be still, and know that I am God." Be still as you connect

with this divine presence within you.

4) **Realize:** From the depth of your being, know that you are one with God. This knowing, this realization as you experience God's holy presence is "silent soul communion." In this receptive state of mind and heart, listen for the inspiration of God, the answers to your prayers.

5) **Give Thanks:** Let gratitude be your heart's joyous response to this experience of communion with God and with God's infinite goodness. Give thanks for blessings to come, ready to receive your good.

God is our source. Whether you're seeking peace, healing, prosperity, forgiveness, or another need, we invite you to experience prayer. Use prayers and affirmations to deepen your awareness of God. God is our source.

Blessings,
Paula



Highlights from the Board Meeting

Following up on the Annual Meeting, the Board discussed tithing amounts and processes. The board voted to approve the breakdown of the 10% CCU tithe as follows:

- 2% AUC International, 2% Silent Unity
- 2% Unity Headquarters, 1% Eastern Region, 3% Charities at the Board's discretion

At each monthly Board Meeting, the Board will determine where to donate the discretionary 3% earmarked for a charity. Leslie Wright, treasurer, will report the monthly

tithe amount and receiver(s) in the financial statement published in the newsletter.

The Board discussed the Annual Meeting and what could improve next year's Annual Meeting and its outcomes. The Board agreed to begin planning for the 2007 Annual Meeting in September 2006.

Signs of prosperity: Sylvia Barker is organizing a CCU used book sale, given that the donation of used books has

been just great. Rev. Eleanor is working with Janet Collamer on a CCU Talent Bank listing our members' special talents. Finally, thanks to a \$1100 donation from a member, the Planning Committee is finalizing two slides about CCU for display at all the Little Theater shows during the next six months. Spring is on its way!

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Daly, Secretary

People In Action

Youth Education



Our children are excited and busy learning rhythms and practicing with our new percussion instruments, thanks to our music teacher, Elizabeth. Marna Rossi will be attending the Eastern Regional Conference this month. We are always looking for helpers and people who would like to share their talents with the children; if you are interested, please contact Marna.

60th Anniversary Celebration!

Next year we will be celebrating the **60th Anniversary** of Christ Church Unity. Rev. Eleanor has a few ideas for the celebration and she invites you to join in the dialogue to create a plan which will be joyful and prosperous for the whole church. The Planning Committee has already given some suggestions too. Please sign up if you would like to help. A specific meeting date will be announced after Easter. Thank you!

Welcoming Ministry

Do you remember what it was like for you when you first came here? Who reached out to you and helped you to feel accepted and wanted? Now you can pass on the favor to another. Rev. Eleanor is requesting more help from the congregation to reach out to present and future newcomers. A detailed flyer on the front counter gives more information about the goals and needs of this project. If Spirit is drawing you to help in opening doors for others here, you are invited to a **Welcoming Ministry Convocation** on Thursday, **April 27, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.** Please sign up by **April 23**. For any questions, please call the minister at 473-0145. "Do not forget to welcome strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it." (Hebrews 13: 2)

As I take action, God's universe supports me with new opportunities.

Ways to Get Involved

Library Notes



If you would like a receipt for your library donations, please see Sylvia Barker in the library after Sunday Services.

The library has videos, audio tapes and CD's by famous authors such as: Wayne Dyer, Deepak Chopra, Napoleon Hill, Ernest Holmes, Carol Parrish, Elie Wiesel, Gary Zukav, Robert Schuller, Vincent Peale, and Edgar Cayce. Look for a book sale in April.

Metaphysical Movies Class



The Metaphysical Movie class will meet May 6 and June 3. Following the films 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.

Discovering Your Soul Purpose

Rev. Steve D'Annunzio will present a workshop on "Discovering Your Soul Purpose" on April 29 from 10 AM—4 PM. Cost is \$50 for early bird registration and \$75 after the early bird deadline. Participants should bring their own lunch. This will be a highly experiential workshop.



Spruce Up Day

Come help spruce up the church and get the grounds ready for spring. Saturday, April 8, Noon—2 PM

Promotion Club

A spiritual support group for people seeking new employment will meet April 6 & 20 from 5:30—6:45 PM. Love offerings are gratefully accepted. Please call Rev. Eleanor for more information.



The next meeting of The **One-Winged Angels** support group led by Jane Faust will be announced. Please call the church information line. 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 April 1, 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. You may also call for prayer at any time. She is available for spiritual counseling by appointment. Please call 585-473-0145. Love offerings for counseling are gratefully accepted.

Rev. Eleanor can also perform weddings, memorials, christenings, baptisms, and home blessings. Please call if you have a need.

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.

"Lion King" Parking

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 and for the safety of everyone, please do not cut ahead of other cars in line.

Divine Love harmonizes the weather and all is well.

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Sent with love to:

Sunday Celebration – 11:00 a.m.

Practical Christianity for the 21st Century

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