

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
Leslie Wright, Treasurer
Barbara Daly, Secretary
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Rev. Eleanor Celentani,
Spiritual Leader/Minister

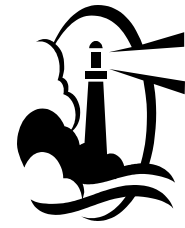
Our Staff
Bernie Bowie, Newsletter Editor
Jane Faust, Accompanist
Anita Gaiteri, Custodian
Samuel Gaiteri, Custodial Aide
Thomas Warfield, Soloist
Jonathan Wolfinger, Gardener

Our Ministry Team Coordinators
Prayer – Jane Faust
Ushers – Marie Hedrick
Greeters –
Platform Assistants – Donna Ries
Bookstore – Paulie Gajewski
Social – Anita Gaiteri
Remembrance – Kat VanMeenen
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:
May 19, 2006

Christ Church Unity

Light Notes



May 2006

Dear Unity Family,

Easter blessings to you! Our Easter celebration was joyous, with uplifting music from Thomas, our soloist, Jane, our pianist, and from our Unity choir. They sang with heart. Everyone was impressed with their beautiful sound, under the direction of Sharon Francis. It was a genuine pleasure for me to also have a trumpet soloist play two numbers for us on this special day; thank you to Ann Aquilina from Geneseo. And I am grateful to so many in our church who provided us with lovely Easter lilies and other spring flowers, which created a bright, happy setting for our service. Thank you to everyone who made it a beautiful day.

Our Easter attendance was very high – one count was 157 – and this was with 31 of our “regulars” absent. At the Fireside Chat on April 23rd, we discussed, among other topics, various ideas for dealing with our need for more parking on Sunday morning and the possibility of adding a second service sometime this year. Please note that **we do have permission** from the Red Cross to park in their lot on Sunday morning, **as long as** there is no event at the Auditorium Theater going on at that time.

My prayer is that we are led by Divine Wisdom to do the right thing at the right time, with happiness to follow. It will be important for the majority of us to be willing to consider new ways of doing things, in order for the Divine Ideas to have room to blossom. It will be fun to see what Spirit creates through us as the year unfolds.

Today I attended a meeting of the Greater Rochester Council of Churches and Mayor Robert Duffy. It was a friendly and constructive exchange of views on the subject of the problems facing our region and what faith-based organizations can do to help. The Mayor is very willing to hear our ideas, including what the faith communities see as areas where City Hall needs to change to serve citizens better. Space limitations prevent me from going into more detail here. Please see the article on page 8 about the “Clean Sweep” project and our part in it.

During the greeting in the service on April 23, someone said to me, “Eleanor, would you please remind the people about perfume? There is so much of it in the air here.” This is why I ask you to refrain.

A new Membership Class will be starting on Monday, May 1. Please sign up or call if you would like to attend (473-0145). There is a flyer on the back of the calendar in this newsletter.

Our garden is a particularly beautiful gift from God in the midst of the city. I am grateful to Jonathan Wolfinger for all he did to give us this spring show all around the building. Make sure you look!

With the Christ Love,
Rev. Eleanor

Teachings in

With the beauty of Spring all around us, it seemed appropriate to me to offer a few thoughts on this subject for our reflection.

The Random House Dictionary of the English Language defines “beauty” as: “the quality which is present in a thing or person giving intense pleasure or deep satisfaction to the mind. It arises from sensory manifestations (as shape, color, sound, etc), from a meaningful design or pattern, or from something else (as a personality in which high spiritual qualities are manifest.)” (1981 edition, page 131).

The metaphysical nature of this definition struck me – saying clearly that satisfaction is in the mind, and mentioning high spiritual qualities in a person as one thing that evokes this response.

The Bible also closely relates God with beauty, as in the following passages:

Perfect in beauty, God shines forth. (Psalm 50:2)

He has made everything beautiful in its time. (Ecclesiastes 3:11)

How lovely is thy dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! (Psalm 84:1)

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me and sent me to preach good tidings to the meek; to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and release to prisoners; to give the mourners of Zion beauty instead of ashes, perfume instead of mourning, a cloak of beauty instead of the spirit of heaviness . . . (Isaiah 61:1,3)

What would be you synonyms for “beauty”? What are the things which give you intense pleasure or deep satisfaction to your mind? Pondering these might lead you to a new or deeper understanding of what God, or the experience of God, would be for you.

“Whatever is true, whatever is honest, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good report; if there is any virtue and if there is any praise, think about these things.” (Philippians 4: 8)

We remember the principle that we become what we think about, “we combine with what we notice.” Therefore, it is wisdom to develop a wide-awake mind that sees beauty in as many forms as possible. The contemplation of beauty produces healing, wholeness, and inner peace.

The Source of all Beauty created you. Therefore you are One with the essence of all beauty.

Let us pray: “O Great Spirit, beauty before me, beauty behind me, beauty above me, beauty below me. I am walking a beauty path, walking a beauty path.” (from a Native American prayer)

Beautiful blessings, Rev. Eleanor

New This Month...



May 1, 15, 22

New Member class—see flyer on back of calendar.

May 19

10:30 AM—Noon
One-Winged Angels.

Save the Date

June 3

Metaphysical Movie
"Little Buddha"

May 4 & 18

5:30—6:45 PM Promotion
Club.

June 10

Foot Reflexology Class

May 6

5 PM "What the Bleep Do
We Know?"

June 17

Circulation Day

May 13

10 AM—2 PM *Discover Your
Soul Purpose*. A workshop
presented by Rev. Steve
D' Annunzio.

June 21

Summer Solstice Meditation



Prayer

May Affirmations From Silent Unity

Inner Peace

I am serene as I rest in the stillness of
God's perfect peace.

Guidance

The light of God within illumines the path before me.
My way is clear.

Healing

My mind and body express the radiant life of God.
I am whole.

Prosperity

I am open to a rich flow of divine ideas that prosper
my life.

Prayer Ministry

Come visit our prayer room. This is a place of peaceful energy. To get there, take the back door out of the sanctuary to the Sunday school and turn left into the side room. The prayer room is the second room. Like a secret garden it is nestled away from the rest of the church, a lovely sanctuary for the soul. A twelve powered picture of Jesus hangs on the wall. A beautiful new rug in soothing colors was purchased due to a generous gift. Stained glass sun catchers, candles, silver candelabras and angels all help to create a prayerful ambiance.

A member of the prayer team is available after church in the prayer room every Sunday to help you connect your energy with the Divine.


Stop by and see us—come in for prayer.
You are always welcome.

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 April Daily Word readers: Kathy Vidas, Kat Van Meenen, Bev Liederbach, Bernie Bowie.
- ◆ April newsletter help: Rev. Eleanor, Sue Giannavola, Chris Spridy, Anita Gaiteri, Laura Sutton, Deb Laino, Kat Van Meenen.
- ◆ Beautiful flower arrangements from Bill & Eileen Smith, Paulie Gajewski, Deb Laino.
- ◆ Everyone who supported the Library Book sale.
- ◆ The helping hands of those who participated in Spruce Up day: Janet Collamer, Bev Liederbach, Anita Gaiteri, Jonathan Wolfinger, Joan Yaeger, Mike Gacek.
- ◆ Abundant Easter flower donations from Rein Brucker, Debra & John Culligan, Leslie Wright, Donna Ries, MaryJo & Dick TenEyck, Jonathan Wolfinger, Ann & Fred Lawrence and anonymous donors.
- ◆ Extra parking income through the service of Bernie Hyman, Jim and Bob & Charlie Adams.



Volunteer of the Month

The frog has enjoyed her stay on the piano. In fact she informed me that she would love to stay on the piano for another month. So we decided that the recipient of the frog should be someone who could keep her there. For those of us fortunate enough to attend the beautiful Jason & DeMarco/Thomas Warfield concert last May, we know how fortunate we were to receive such a gift. A lot of preparation went into this concert plus a generous donation was made to our roof fund.

Also, the night before music Sunday, this month's recipient stayed up late to tape together a basketful of plastic eggs so we would all have instruments. It is with much love that the frog and I choose Thomas Warfield.

With Love,
Frogette and Jane

Easter comes to each of us in different ways, on different levels. Easter to me this year has been a transforming time, time of transition. During this time of changing, I will be letting go of some commitments and community time to make way for other directions. I have acquired a mentor to further my heart's desire of learning more about my art. In this process, she made it clear that I don't have that much longer to produce art and in discussion of some of my "blocks," it was obvious that I needed, with working full time, one day a weekend to practice my craft. Through much struggle, I have decided, with Reverend Eleanor helping in this process, to set aside my duties to the board and Sunday services for a while to see if this will further where I feel I need to go. This is done with the knowledge that I will buy the CD's of the service to listen to during the week and that I will continue my tithe to the spiritual source that feeds my soul. But what sacrifice! I will miss the hugs, the contact of this wonderful community, the looks into each other's eyes that help us to know the "face of God." I don't know what the worth of this is to me unless I try.

But that is an "Easter." Sacrifice that is a loving, positive giving up for a transition into something else. Mind you, I am not going out to paint another Sistine Chapel ceiling. All I wish to do for now is explore my talent to see if it heals through its images. To have worked with Paula, Bob, Leslie, PJ and Barb, and Reverend Eleanor has been such a pleasure as well as really feeling a part of this spiritual community. Having the experience of also knowing Mike, Marie and Les through last year's meetings have only given me the best examples of those who lovingly care for this church. My prayers are that one of you will want to also know what it is to be a part of the continuing metamorphosis and growth that this community is on the constant verge of being. What a great time to be a part of this process.

Many thanks, prayers and love to all,
Cheri Charboneau



Board News

Well here it is one year later and I am back on the Board of Trustees. Something I have given a lot of thought and prayer about. One year ago I was sure that I would not be interested in serving in that capacity again. However after a year away from the responsibilities of being a Trustee, I felt I was ready to take on the challenge with a renewed energy. The three years I was on the Board and served as President for two of them were not without some struggles. When I reflect back on where we were then and where CCU is now, it is quite obvious that we have come a long way since then.

To me May is the month that signifies the beginning of major changes in nature as I look at all the trees coming into bloom, the daffodils smiling in the sunshine and the lawns turning a lush green. I can feel the positive changes that CCU is going through. Fresh new faces on the Board, new faces almost every Sunday, I can feel the positive energy that is building as we progress through this time of change and growth.

Our recent Music Sunday certainly demonstrated to me the renewed energy that our congregation is experiencing. We can listen to the music on a CD or Tape, but it is not the same as being there and personally experiencing that day. What awesome musical talent we have.

I will be forever grateful that Unity came into my life a few years ago. It was a niece from Florida that introduced me to Unity and its wonderful ways of feeding me spiritually. Once I attended a Sunday Service here at CCU, I was hooked forever and have rarely missed a Sunday Service since. When I am away from the Rochester area, I generally attend a Unity Service wherever I am.

As nature goes through its changes from Winter to Summer I see CCU running parallel to Mother Nature at this time. What a beautiful sight it is to see our growth over the last year. I find it exciting and challenging to be an integral part of that growth.

Bob Gajewski



Highlights from the Board Meeting

Leslie Wright, Treasurer, reported that CCU has received 2.5% more in contributions than we anticipated for this point in the year. Much of this overflow of blessings has come from love offerings given at classes. The board directed \$436, that is, 3% of our 10% monthly tithe, to the Open Door Mission.

There are many current activities and committees at Christ Church Unity. To keep up with what's happening and support these activities, mem-

bers of the board will act as liaisons to CCU's more than 15 committees and activities. Committee and activity leaders can expect a call from their board liaison in the near future.

The board has begun to address the wonderful challenge of meeting the demand for parking and seating space, given the participant growth at Sunday Service. We'll keep you posted!

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Daly, Secretary



Committees at Christ Church

We think of our church committees as ministries because through them we serve the Divine Plan. New people are always welcome to join, contribute and help manifest our Vision. Please contact the following people for more information:

Planning Church Events—Bob Gajewski

- Beautification (building & grounds)—Joan Yaeger
- Financial Prosperity (of the church) - Leslie Wright
- 60th Anniversary—Rev. Eleanor
- Welcoming—Rev. Eleanor
- Bookstore—Paulie Gajewski
- Circulation Day—Dorothea King

Today is a new day filled with

People In Action

Youth Education



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 in the Sunday bulletin. 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. For any questions, please call Rev. Eleanor at 473-0145. "Do not forget to welcome strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it." (Hebrews 13: 2)

My prayer supports my action and my action supports my

Ways to Get Involved

Promotion Club

A spiritual support group for people seeking new employment will meet May 4 & 18 from 5:30—6:45 PM. New participants are welcome. Love offerings are gratefully accepted. Please call Rev. Eleanor for more information.

Metaphysical Movies Class



The Metaphysical Movie class will meet May 6 to view "What the Bleep Do We Know?" and June 3 to view "Little Buddha" on the new big screen in the sanctuary. Following the films there will be group discussion led by Jane Faust. Showtime is 5 PM. To help facilitate handouts, please sign up at the front counter. The cost of the class is a love offering.

Rochester's "Clean Sweep"

Our church has been invited to participate in Mayor Robert Duffy's program to beautify Rochester. Volunteers from the city and suburbs are working on this. On Saturday, May 20, 9 AM-1 PM, rain or shine we are invited with other community members to pitch in. Youth ages 12-17 must be accompanied by an adult; no children under 12. A sign up sheet is on the front counter with more information. We must RSVP to the city by May 13th. This is a valuable way to show community support and work together with our neighbors to clean up our neighborhood. Let's have Christ Church Unity come out in force! For more information contact Joan Yaeger.



The next meeting of The **One-Winged Angels** support group led by Jane Faust will be May 19th at 10:30 AM. The continuing topic will be balancing the Chakras. The group will adjourn to lunch afterwards. Newcomers are welcome.

Discovering Your Soul Purpose

Rev. Steve D'Annunzio will present a workshop on "Discovering Your Soul Purpose" on May 13 from 10 AM—2 PM. Cost is \$75. Participants should bring their own snack for the break. This will be a highly experiential workshop. A flyer is available in the church lobby.



Liv-

Unity May Birthdays

Joseph Carlino	May 1
Beverly Markham	May 4
Lorraine Gunning	May 6
Chris Spridy	May 9
Deborah Cooper	May 9
Dennis Lutz	May 12
Mary Adams	May 17
Sharon Van Niel	May 18
Mary Jo Ten Eyck	May 19
Jeanette Bowman	May 21

Eric Higgins	May 26 (3 yrs)
Debra Culligan	May 26
Anna Mary Chase	May 28
Kathy Golden	May 28
Robert Nobles	May 28



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 May 6, 2006.

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 School room.

Food and toiletry items for **Dimitri House** can be placed in the box under

Fun Club

The Fun Club extends an open invitation to anyone who would like to go to the movie "The DaVinci Code" and have dinner and discussion afterward. Maryanna Mueller is coordinating this outing to take place in late May. Contact her at 248-2652 or email maryannam_2000@yahoo.com.

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.

the reception desk at any time. Items will be delivered the first Sunday of the month.



Association of Unity Churches Special Feature Website of the Week

In response to popular request, your Association of Unity Churches has established a special recognition for member ministry websites. We will feature a different website each week on our website <http://www.unity.org/websiteofweek>, with previously featured sites in the archive. There will be voting for a quarterly winner from the featured sites during that quarter. Yearly voting will select among the quarterly winners for an annual award to be presented at the June convention

"The Site of the Week for April 3 is [Christ Church Unity, Rochester, NY, www.unityrochester.org](http://www.unityrochester.org)

Beautiful & creative home page. Extensive description of staff. Streaming audio for minister's message. Good use of links and good use of pictures."

Thank you for making our Sunday Service fragrance-free.

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

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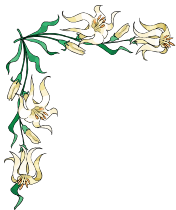
Dial – A – Prayer 865-8683 Ext. PRAY (7729)
Two—minute recorded prayer message

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



Mothers Are the Place That We Call Home

*Mothers are the place that we call home.
On them we rest our heads and close our eyes.
There's no one else who grants the same soft peace,
Happiness, contentment, sweet release,
Erasing nighttime tears with lullabies,
Restoring the bright sun that makes us bloom.*

By Nicholas Gordon