

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

# Christ Church Unity

## Light Notes



November 2006

### ***Our Vision Statement***

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

### **Our Board of Trustees**

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

Rev. Eleanor Celentani,  
Spiritual Leader/Minister

### **Our Staff**

Bernie Bowie, Newsltr Editor, Offc. Mgr.  
Jane Faust, Accompanist  
Anita Gaiteri, Custodian  
Samuel Gaiteri, Custodial Aide  
Eric Strader, Gardener  
Thomas Warfield, Soloist

### **Our Ministry Team Coordinators**

Prayer – Jane Faust  
Ushers – Marie Hedrick  
Greeters – Kat VanMeenen  
Platform Assistants – Donna Ries  
Bookstore – Paulie Gajewski  
Social – Anita Gaiteri  
Remembrance – 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:  
November 16, 2006

Dear fellow Truth students,

I am grateful that I had the opportunity to attend the annual AUC Eastern Region conference the first week in October. This was my second time there, and it was nice that some people remembered me. I connected with some of our Northwest subregion ministers and spiritual leaders; we have a plan in place to maintain contact and get to know each other better and to support one another spiritually.

I am happy that so many of our congregation were blessed through the Unexpected Income Program. You will see the numbers in the Treasurer's report. There were 84 separate contributions, which shows that Substance was spread out among a lot of people. I am grateful for these blessings. As you know, there also were non-monetary blessings which added to our happiness and healing. Thank you, God.

I would like to applaud all the committees who have been working diligently the last two months to plan and execute good for all of us. Due to space limitations, I cannot name them all here, but I am aware of and grateful for all the time and love being given to our church. Thank you, and may you receive back your abundant reward!

On Thanksgiving Sunday, Nov. 19, four storytellers from our church will give the Sunday Service, focusing on stories of gratitude for blessings. The service will also include music. After that we will have our traditional Thanksgiving dinner where everyone brings a side dish. Anita and Dorothea are asking for volunteers to cook a turkey and slice it, and bring it to the church. The church will provide the turkeys; we just need help with cooking. There will be other ways to help too – watch for details and a sign up sheet at the church. This is always a warm-hearted event!

Please save the dates of May 4, 5, and 6, 2007, for 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration activities: a special service, banquet, and more.

I have been asked if Unity could offer Communion Services sometimes for those who find this meaningful. Yes, we can; please let me know if this would serve you. I need to know how many people are interested in this and I will plan accordingly. Please see me, call or email, preferably by Nov. 25.

Last but not least, our Treasurer informs me that we need to request that people not give us post-dated checks; too many things can go wrong, and the church ends up with significant bank charges. We are happy that people want to give, but Wisdom's Way is to bless and give from the substance on hand. Thank you for understanding.

Blessings for a Happy Thanksgiving to everyone,  
Rev. Eleanor



# Teachings in Truth

## Fruits of Gratitude

1. To feel gratitude, you must feel and therefore, gratitude pulls you into the present moment, even if you are grateful for things in the past. To be aware of what you are feeling right now is a skill required to advance spiritually.
2. As all Truth students have heard many times, what you are grateful for, increases. Therefore, gratitude produces more things to be grateful for.
3. A corollary not to be forgotten is, what you do not appreciate will diminish in your life (because you are withdrawing your consciousness from it.)
4. Gratitude reminds you of your relationship to God, the All That Is, your Source. This reinforces the realization that you are never alone.
5. Gratitude is a mood-lifter, for it causes you to focus on what pleases you.  
  
(The word gratitude comes from the Latin word for "pleasing.")
6. Gratitude impels you to share and give, for gratitude opens the heart. Thus your gratitude will most likely stir up gratitude in others.
7. Gratitude cancels out poverty consciousness, for you cannot feel grateful and feel needy or greedy at the same time.
8. You can give thanks in advance for the new good you want to draw into your life, contemplating your blessings ahead of time. This is a powerful way to magnetize, which also produces joy because you know you are cocreating with God.

Gratitude is a power you have been given to use. I bless your use of gratitude; it causes your life to be "overflowing with blessings."

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Rev. Eleanor

# New This Month...



**November 2**  
5:30 Anniversary Committee

**November 18**  
1 PM Financial Prosperity Committee

**December 17**  
Christmas Sunday

**November 5**  
12:45 PM Membership Class  
12:30 PM Art Club (part of the fun club)

**November 19**  
Storytelling Sunday  
Thanksgiving Dinner

**November 10**  
10:30 AM One Winged Angels

## Upcoming Events

**December 1**  
7 PM Feng Shui for the Holidays with Lyn Volare

**November 11**  
1 PM Financial Prosperity Committee

**December 16**  
Christmas Prosperity Project gift wrapping



Photo by Mike Gacek



## Prayer

### November Affirmations From Silent Unity

#### Inner Peace

In the stillness of this moment, I rest in God's love.

#### Guidance

Divine wisdom guides me in the fulfillment of my soul.  
I am wise and confident.

#### Healing

Aglow with God's healing light, I am an expression of radiant wholeness.

#### Prosperity

My heart overflows with thankfulness for the abundant blessings of God.

### Prayer Ministry

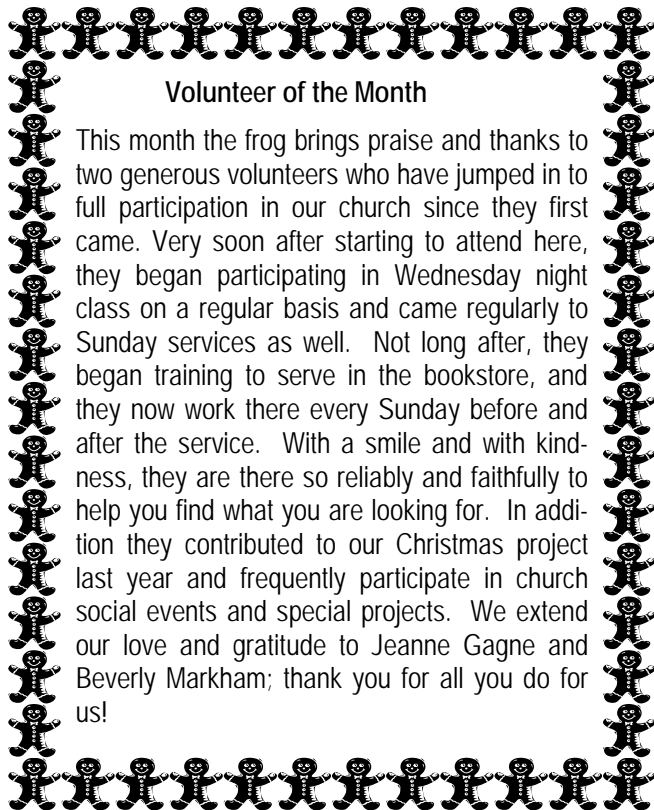
Rev. Eleanor is inviting up to ten people from the congregation to stand up with the Prayer Team during our prayers for individual needs in the Sunday Service. The goal is to strengthen the idea and feeling of *focusing spiritual love and power in space*. You are invited to sign yourself up for one month, to do this whichever Sundays you can be here. The next month, different people can take a turn. Or, just stand up if the Spirit moves you. Here is your chance to practice knowing "The spirit works through me."

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:

- ◆ Our October Daily Word readers: Paulie Gajewski, Bev Liederbach, Joanie Trahan, Dick TenEyck, David Mercer.
- ◆ The beautiful flower arrangements from: Paulie Gajewski, MaryJo & Dick TenEyck, Bev Liederbach, Bill & Eileen Smith.
- ◆ The helpful hands with the newsletter: Sue Giannavola, Kat VanMeenen, Elsé Vella, Elizabeth Crawford, James laucutone, Jonathan Wolfinger, Chris Spridy, Rev. Eleanor.
- ◆ Thank you to the volunteers who helped with the memorial service: Marie Hendrick, Leslie Wright, Sue Giannavola, Paula Bramwell, Daryl Brown, Bob Gajewski.
- ◆ Marie Hedrick who has accepted appointment as a Trustee to serve until the Annual Meeting.
- ◆ The Trustees, Financial Prosperity Committee, Welcoming Ministry, Anniversary Committee, Planning and Beautification Committee, all of whom have put in a lot of meeting time in the last 2 months.
- ◆ Our Christmas Prosperity Project volunteers giving their time and substance from the heart.
- ◆ Paulie and Bob Gajewski for a stimulating workshop.
- ◆ Our new members Coby Nichols and Steve Bohn—welcome!



## Volunteer of the Month

This month the frog brings praise and thanks to two generous volunteers who have jumped in to full participation in our church since they first came. Very soon after starting to attend here, they began participating in Wednesday night class on a regular basis and came regularly to Sunday services as well. Not long after, they began training to serve in the bookstore, and they now work there every Sunday before and after the service. With a smile and with kindness, they are there so reliably and faithfully to help you find what you are looking for. In addition they contributed to our Christmas project last year and frequently participate in church social events and special projects. We extend our love and gratitude to Jeanne Gagne and Beverly Markham; thank you for all you do for us!

Divine Love richly provides everything



# Board News

## Unexpected Income

The Unexpected Income Program that ended in September was an awesome experience for me. After I started saying the prayer twice daily, I kept an eye out for the Publishers Clearing House vehicle. Guess what? It didn't show up. Actually what did happen to me was much more enjoyable.

My experience with the program was not so much receiving money in the form of checks or cash. For me it was money I had planned on spending and ended up not having to spend after all.

For one thing, the program started on June 25<sup>th</sup>; that just happens to be my birthday. That in itself should have been an indication of great things to come, as in fact they did. I started my Cardiac Rehab program on the same day thinking I would have a considerable out of pocket expense with our present insurance cov-

erage. One of the people at the Rehab Center made a phone call to Blue Cross in Detroit and was able to make the right connection to cover my 12 week Rehab program 100%.

I started getting calls from customers that I hadn't heard from in months. The most recent experience was with the Sleep Center that I make an annual visit to. They had called and said that our current insurance would not cover the office visit and that could run as high as \$300.00. While I was there, they informed me that they were going to switch me to a different vendor for the sleep equipment I use. Guess what, that vendor was able to get the office visit covered 100%.

Paulie & I are pretty active with eBay. Well we had a friend of ours consign an assortment of golf clubs and some Nike Air Jordans to sell for him on eBay. These items have generated well over \$1000.00 in sales so far, with

more to come

I could go on & on with the examples of unexpected income. Even something as simple as pulling up to a parking meter in the city that had 30 minutes still on it. This happened more than once. Not a major event, but it was still unexpected income.

Needless to say, I am continuing to say the prayer twice daily and am a firm believer in the power of Prayer. "Life is Good"

Bob Gajewski



## Highlights from the Board

Since Barbara Daly, secretary of the Board, is moving out of town, Marie Hedrick was asked and appointed to serve in her place until the Annual Meeting.

It is that time of the year to get the budget ready for the next year. Leslie Wright, treasurer, sent out budget request forms for 2007 to the various committees, to be returned by November 3, 2006. The Board members came up with a rough draft of a budget for Board expenditures.

Rev. Eleanor shared her experience from the Eastern Region Conference. The Eastern Region is divided into six sub-regions; we are located in the northwest. Rev. Mary Masters of

Buffalo serves as the President of the Eastern Region. They had various smaller exercises and one all-day presentation on the Bible, the different time periods – the concept of God – concept of what religion is – how Unity fits in – where we are going next. Rev. Eleanor will share more of her experience with the congregation at the Fireside Chat on October 22<sup>nd</sup> after the Sunday Service.

Bob Gajewski, coordinator for the renovating the sanctuary lighting and ceiling fans among other things, indicated that the plan is moving right along. Cheryl Bilski, from Functional Interiors will meet with the Planning Committee to share her ideas about the sanctuary. New carpet estimates are also in the works.

The Board retreat on September 30<sup>th</sup> was very productive. They focused on the CCU Strategic Plan development process and developed guidelines for the soon to be appointed Strategic Planning Committee. The Committee will develop the long-range plans for the church and submit them to the Board for approval. The Board is looking into possibly bringing in an expert to start the committee off and running. The target date for the formation of the committee is by the end of 2006.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marie Hendrick



# 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.

## Christmas Prosperity Project 2006



The first part of the Christmas Prosperity Project is well underway. Boxes for our troops will be packed and mailed November 9.

During November we will continue to collect nonperishable food items for the Christmas Dinner Boxes. There is a box by the door as you enter the church to place your items in. A list of suggestions is available on the front counter. If you would like to contribute but can't get out to shop, you can make a financial contribution by putting CCP on the memo line of your check.

This year there will be an Angel Tree in the lobby with children's names who need a "Secret Santa" to help make their Christmas a bit more joyous.

Twelve Unity Elves have been giving their time and Christmas spirit this past month. If you would like to join them, contact Bill & Eileen Smith.

## Nominating Committee

The Christ Church Unity Nominating Committee will soon be meeting to begin the process of selecting potential candidates to fill vacating positions on the Board of Trustees. The election will take place at the Annual Meeting in 2007.

Is this something you would like to do and feel drawn to by spirit?

If you have been a member of Christ Church Unity for at least one year as of March 2007, you are eligible to run. Last

year we put together a list of *Desirable Board Qualities* and we have placed copies of them on the counter in the lobby for you to read, review and pray on.

If you would like to be a candidate, please let one of us know.

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

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

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

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

# Ways to Get Involved

You are invited to sit in on the **Financial Prosperity Committee** at one of our next meetings—Sat., 11/11 or Sat. 11/18, both at 1 PM.

There are no specific skills or abilities required – we welcome the ideas and energy of everyone willing to dedicate efforts in the interest of our church's prosperity. For further information contact Leslie Wright or Rev. Eleanor. Thank you for your consideration.



The **One-Winged Angels** support group led by Jane Faust will meet Friday, November 10 at 10:30 AM.

The featured topic will be a cassette called the Bible Comes Alive. This is a dialogue between Unity Minister Sig Paulson and Rocco Errico (disciple of Aramaic Scholar George Lamsa) on metaphysical interpretation of the Bible. The group will discuss the tape. Those who wish will adjourn to lunch after the meeting.

## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



Come lift your voices! The Christmas Choir will begin rehearsals Sunday, December 3 at 9:30 AM. Sharon Francis will lead us in song for the December 17 performance. Since there are only three rehearsals (including December 17), please be committed to attending all rehearsals and to being on time. All are welcome. A sign up sheet is on the front counter.

## Thanksgiving Dinner



The annual CCU Thanksgiving Dinner will take place on Sunday November 19 after the service. **Volunteers are needed to cook a turkey**—the church will supply the turkey. A Sign up sheet for bringing a dish to pass as well as to help with the set up and clean up is on the front counter.

## Library News



The library will have a book sale November 5 & 12. Hardcover and paperback books will be available as well as audio and video tapes.

Anyone who has borrowed and returned books, please make sure that you have completed the return portion of your library sign out card.



# Living~Giving~Learning

## Unity November Birthdays

Linda Lorenzo	November 1
Dylan Mariah	November 5
Coby Nichols	November 9
Fred Lawrence	November 13
Barbara Mennie	November 13
John Culligan	November 19
Chuck Elberti	November 21
Sylvia Barker	November 22
Mollie Wolf	November 29
Diana Robinson	November 30

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



## Promotion Club

The spiritual support group for people seeking new employment will meet November 8 at 5:30 PM. Please call Rev. Eleanor for more information. New people are welcome.

## On-Going Events

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

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

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.



## Feng Shui for the Holidays

If you find the holiday season stressful and too busy, check out how Feng Shui ideas can help. What do you really want this time of year? Join Feng Shui Master Lyn Volare Friday, December 1 from 7—8:30 PM. Cost is a love offering. Questions? Contact Lyn Volare at 585-624-3359 or [Lynvolare@yahoo.com](mailto:Lynvolare@yahoo.com).

## Peace Art International Presents A Thomas Warfield Production

6th Annual World Aids Day Benefit Concert  
"Hope for the Children"  
Friday, December 1, 2006—7:30 PM  
First Universalist Church  
150 South Clinton Av  
Tickets \$10 (advance) \$12 (at the door)  
Available @ Parkleigh, Equal=Grounds,  
Outlandish Videos & Gifts, First Universalist



## Office Hours

The CCU church office is open Monday—Friday 9:30 AM—1:30 PM. You can also leave a message at any time by calling 585-473-0910.

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

Thank you for making our  
Sunday Service fragrance-free.

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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.*