

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



December 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:  
December 22, 2006

Dear Family of God,

We received abundantly on **Thanksgiving Sunday**. It was something new for us, as far as I know, to have a program of four storytellers as speakers. All did very well, and those in attendance enjoyed it. The engaging stories in all different moods were complemented by our musicians and by our congregational singing – a good mix. This was followed by a fine Thanksgiving Dinner, which I am also grateful for. It is very good for us to have these times of eating, talking and working together. I think about eighty-five people had dinner. Thank you to Anita Gaiteri, Dorothea King, Bernie Bowie and Johnnie Dawson for the organizing, cooking and everything else! Thanks also to all of you who came and brought food, and to the wonderful people who cooked turkeys, set up the day before and cleaned up afterwards. Everyone's help is appreciated.

In November we also had a successful Library **Book Sale**. Many old items went out the door, making room for our continuous stream of new library donations. Thanks to Sylvia Barker for organizing this.

Bounty was in evidence when we saw all the boxes of donated gifts which went to our soldiers in Iraq in November. Thank you to all of you who donated and my praise goes out to the wonderful **Christmas Prosperity** committee which did a great job of collecting and packing gifts. It was a gratifying experience to bless those 19 boxes in a Sunday service. We found more items later, which will be sent after Christmas.

More **special holiday activities** are coming at CCU. On Sat., Dec. 16, we will gather at 11 a.m. to wrap the Christmas food baskets and gifts for children. Anyone is welcome to come and help. We will bless all these gifts of love at the service on Dec. 17. On that day our choir will sing and we will have our traditional Christmas Party reception after the service. Please watch for announcements about the details.

We go to the next step in our process of **strategic planning** by means of a special orientation on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>. The trustees and I invite anyone to come who would like to find out more about this strategic planning process, to see if you would like to be a part of the Team which will start work next year. This is an open meeting but you must **RSVP by Dec. 3** if you wish to come at 5:30 for a pizza and beverage supper. Please sign up at the front counter, or call the church. The meeting will be from 6 -7:30 p.m.

There are **two things you can do** to help us maintain a higher spiritual vibration in our Sunday service: please take responsibility to read the announcements in the bulletin, so that we can reduce the number of spoken announcements. Secondly, please listen quietly to Jane's piano solo; it is meant to be a musical prayer. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Advent** begins on Dec. 3 with a Sunday lesson on Faith. My lessons on succeeding Sundays will further explore the spiritual realities of Advent and Christmas. I hope you will be here to receive the love, peace and healing God offers you. On both **Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve there will be two services: one at 11 a.m. and one at 7:30 p.m.** We welcome you and your family and friends.

**A blessed and merry Christmas to all!**

With love and gratitude,  
Rev. Eleanor



# Teachings in Truth

The figures of the Nativity scene will be on display in our lobby during the Christmas season. When you look at it, remember that you are looking at symbols of yourself and of humanity. When you hear the Christmas story, know that it is the story of each soul.

## Christmas Meditation

I am the world in darkness, hoping for a savior.

I am the simple shepherd who observes my own thoughts.  
I go about my daily life in darkness, until a brilliant thought calls me to look up, and then look within my heart, to find my savior.

The inn is full – my life is too busy.

Someone will help me when the time of destiny comes.

I am the virgin who is humble before God's plan.  
No human power is the source of my Christed self.

My life is the manger.  
I thought I was physical, but now I know I am spiritual.

This is my good news to share with all people:  
Emmanuel saves us from believing in separation from God!

Though my ego is fearful,  
My New Self is unharmed. It departs into my subconscious mind, to wait.

My inner knowing gives me the gifts of what I am and will be:  
Priest, Prophet, and Ruler.

I AM the star of wondrous light.

My life is the old, old story made new again.

I hear the angels sing that Heaven and Earth are One.

I Am the Heaven, I am the Earth, I AM the song, I AM the One.

Rev. Eleanor

# New This Month...



December 6

5:30 PM Promotion Club

December 17

First Christmas Sunday

December 7

5:30 PM Strategic Planning  
Orientation

December 24

11 AM Morning Service  
7:30 PM Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service

December 8

10:30 AM Friday's Angels  
(formerly One-Winged  
Angels)

December 31

11 AM Morning Service  
Jane Faust will speak on  
"The 12 Days of Christmas"  
7:30 PM New Year's Eve  
Burning Bowl Service

December 16

11 AM Christmas Prosperity  
Project gift wrapping



Photo by Mike Gacek



## Prayer

### December Affirmations From Silent Unity

#### Inner Peace

The Christ of my being fills my heart with love.  
I am calm and at peace.

#### Guidance

Christ is reborn in me as wisdom that  
guides me all decisions.

#### Healing

The Christ Spirit renews me with energy and  
enthusiasm for life.

#### Prosperity

I am complete in the Christ Presence.  
I give thanks for the gifts of Spirit.

### Prayer Ministry

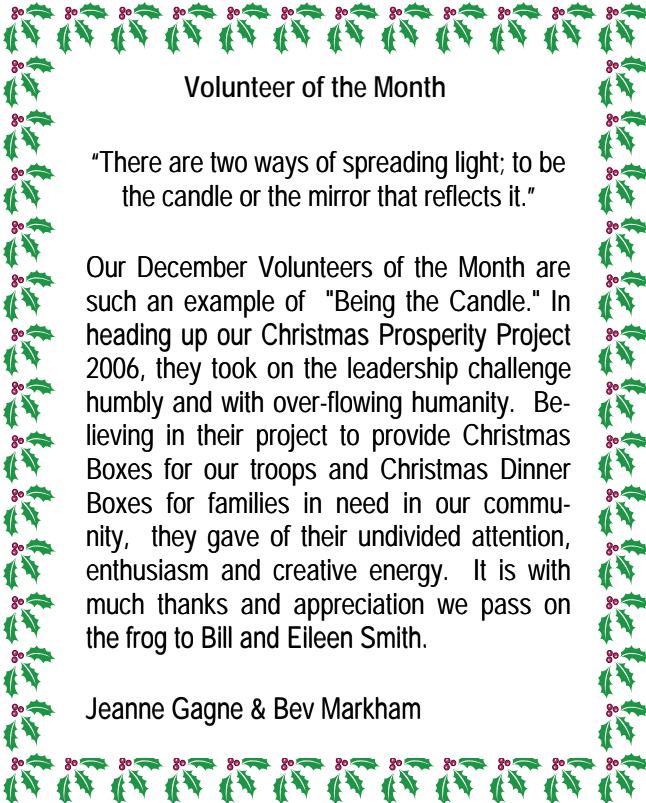
Beautiful words, images and music for prayer can be found on the main Unity website at [www.unityonline.org](http://www.unityonline.org). A short meditation on peace called "Song of Peace" contains lovely nature scenes and a picture of our planet in space. Visit this site to see all that your connection to our mother organization offers you: prayer, classes, retreats and more.

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:

- ◆ The helpful hands with the newsletter: Sue Giannavola, Peela Hooke, Chris Spridy, Rev. Eleanor.
- ◆ We give thanks for the fine Thanksgiving Dinner organized by our dedicated Social Committee: Anita Gaiteri, Dorothea King, Bernie Bowie and Johnnie Dawson.
- ◆ Thank you to everyone who cooked a turkey or brought a dish!
- ◆ Thanks to those who helped set up, take down and clean up: Jane Faust, Josephine Hendricks, Carol Cafalone, Elsé & John Vella, Daryl Brown, Leah Ruekberg, Rick French, Peter Gagliano, Rick Orlando, Mike Sciortino, Bev Liederbach, Terry Bullock, Paulie Gajewski, John & Colleen Celentani, Loretta Calahan, Leslie Wright, Donna Ries, Jeanne Gagne, Bev Markham, Bob Nobles, and anyone else who pitched in.
- ◆ Thank you to everyone who came and blessed us with your presence and good feelings-we are grateful to have a spiritual community to gather with.
- ◆ Thank you to our storytellers who entertained us with great skill on Thanksgiving Sunday: Sylvia Barker, Marna Rossi, Leah Ruekberg and Mary Jo TenEyck.
- ◆ We are blessed by the ongoing efforts of our Christmas Prosperity Project volunteers who are joyfully organizing our Christmas giving.
- ◆ Our Christmas Prosperity Angels who packed and shipped 19 boxes of goodies and supplies to our troops.
- ◆ Thank you to the secret santas who have taken a child's name for Christmas giving.
- ◆ Thanks to our trustees and committee members who give unselfishly behind the scenes so that we can continue to function smoothly and grow into greater manifestation.
- ◆ Our gratitude to Rev. Steve D'Annunzio for continuing to be a presence holding the Light here consistently.
- ◆ We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who lovingly invite new people into the experience called Unity by bringing them to a Sunday service.



## Volunteer of the Month

"There are two ways of spreading light; to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it."

Our December Volunteers of the Month are such an example of "Being the Candle." In heading up our Christmas Prosperity Project 2006, they took on the leadership challenge humbly and with over-flowing humanity. Believing in their project to provide Christmas Boxes for our troops and Christmas Dinner Boxes for families in need in our community, they gave of their undivided attention, enthusiasm and creative energy. It is with much thanks and appreciation we pass on the frog to Bill and Eileen Smith.

Jeanne Gagne & Bev Markham

Divine Love richly provides everything



# Board News

We are in the mist of our holiday season and with it, many of our thoughts and prayers lean towards the healing of our families, our country and the world we live in. Unity and the Association of Unity Churches have written the "Joint Statement for Peace." It states:

*"Unity stands for peace in the presence of conflict; for love in the presence of hatred; for forgiveness in the presence of injury. Unity honors the many names for God, the many paths to God, the many ways to worship God for there is only one power and presence of God and that God loves each one of us equally. It is therefore the position of Unity to urge all nations, their leaders, and their people to turn to God by whatever the name for guidance during these challenging times and pursue peace, not war, for this is what honors the God of all our faith traditions. Unity stands for peace in our lifetime".*

What a powerful statement this is! Read it again and then ask yourself: What can I do to change the world? How do I begin? I am only one person, me. Words from a song that we sing every Sunday come to mind...Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me...begin with me...with me...me.

At some point in our lives we need to make a decision by answering this question. Do I want to be right or do I want to be happy? To me being happy is more important than being right. Being happy for me is to put my pride aside, to forgive myself, to forgive others and to accept them for who they truly are and not judge them according to what I want them to be. In times of distress and confusion I ask, "What would Jesus say or do in this situation?" Sometimes the answer to this question is not something we want to acknowledge, accept, or do. But, how would Jesus act? What would Jesus

do? The answer is, Jesus would let it begin. Jesus, let it begin with me...with me...me. My prayer for this holiday season is:

May you have  
The Spirit of Christmas, which is Peace  
The Gladness of Christmas, which is  
Hope  
The Heart of Christmas, which is Love

And may God's peace be with you  
throughout the holiday season.  
Peace and Joy!  
Paula Bramwell



## Highlights from the Board

New members will be accepted on Membership Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Our membership is growing steadily. The possibility was discussed of having a couple of the Board trustees teach the third and final segment of the membership class next year.

A new laptop computer was purchased for the Board and the various committee minute-takers to use at meetings.

The holiday services were discussed. There will be a Christmas Eve Candle Lighting Service and New Year's Eve Bowl Burning Service.

The Board is planning a Strategic Planning Orientation on December 7<sup>th</sup>

to discuss the strategy and guidelines for the kickoff workshop in early January. Rev. Eleanor has contacted Barbara O'Hearne, Church Management Consultant at AUC, to invite her to do the workshop in early 2007 and possibly speak at the Sunday Service as well. The Strategic Planning Team would greatly benefit from her visit.

The old maple tree on the west side of the church building will be cut down in the near future. It is causing damage to the sanitary pipes in the neighbor's home plus the tree itself has reached a safety hazard stage. Rev. Eleanor has requested to do a blessing for the tree before the removal. New flowering trees with shallower roots may be planted in its place.

Bob Gajewski, coordinator for renovating the sanctuary lighting and ceiling fans among other things, indicated that the plan is in the final stages.

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.

## Christmas Prosperity Project 2006



Santa, via the US Military Mail, will be delivering 19 boxes to our service men and women, carrying donated items, cards and love from CCU.

Nonperishable food items are being collected through December 14, for our Christmas Dinner food boxes. A box and a list of suggested items are in the church lobby.

Secret Santas can choose an Angel from

the Angel tree on the bulletin board next to the nametags. Unwrapped gifts for the children can be at the church through December 14. **Please place your Angel tag on the gift(s).**

Everyone is invited to join in the fun of wrapping the boxes and gifts on Saturday, December 16, beginning at 11 AM.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, please write CPP on your envelope or memo line of the check.

## Nominating Committee

The 2007 Annual Meeting will be held on March 11, 2007, and the election for members of the Board of Trustees will take place at that time. The Christ Church Unity Nominating Committee is in the process of nominating people to fill vacat-

ing positions on the Board. We are contacting people to see if they are interested in serving.

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

## I am blessed in giving from the abundance of God within

## Ways to Get Involved



The One-Winged Angels support group led by Jane Faust has a new name. **Friday's Angels** will meet Friday, December 8 at 10:30 AM. The group will continue discussing the tape "The Bible Comes Alive," a dialogue between Unity Minister Sig Paulson and Rocco Errico (disciple of Aramaic Scholar George Lamsa) on metaphysical interpretation of the Bible. There will be a pot luck at the church following the meeting.

## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



Come lift your voices! The Christmas Choir will rehearse Sunday, December 3, 10 & 17 at 9:30 AM. Thomas will lead us in song for the December 17 performance. Please be committed to attending all rehearsals and to being on time. All are welcome. A sign up sheet is on the front counter.

## Promotion Club

The spiritual support group for people seeking new employment will meet December 6 at 5:30 PM. Please call Rev. Eleanor for more information. New people are welcome.

## Directory Update



Marie Hedrick will be updating the CCU Directory. **Deadline** to be added or for making changes to information already in the directory is **Sunday, December 3**. A copy of the Directory is on the front counter; changes can be made directly on this copy in red.

# Living~Giving~Learning

## Unity December Birthdays

Robyn L. Olson-Walsh	December 4	Glenn Annable	December 22
Les Collins	December 5	Ruth Fogarty	December 30
Barbara Daly	December 5	Connie Hamilton	December 31
Sandra Hamilton	December 6		
Alicia Mercer	December 6		
Jean Marie Bianco	December 13		
Carol Chittenden	December 18		
Anne Stewart-Frost	December 18		
Anita Gaiteri	December 22		

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 December 2, 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.



**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.

**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.

Christ Church Unity  
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Rochester, NY 14607-1025

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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

*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.*