



Rev. Patricia Reiter
Senior Minister

THE GREATWAY



February/March 2012 — Issue #81

"The Unity Way of Life"

Beloved ones,

It is a new year and a fabulous opportunity for new choices. I read a powerful quote in Science of Mind magazine that speaks to new beginnings. "The truth is that every day is a brand-new chance to start over. It is filled with new opportunities to think differently and to be different. You don't have to be limited by your past errors or mistakes. You can start a new chapter in your life right now."

In the book of Genesis, Chapter 1:3 it is written, "And God said, Let there be light, and there was light." It was the beginning of all creation. From that statement the world was created and all of life sprang forth. We sometimes see the Bible as our manual for the unfolding of the human soul....a manual for how to be in this human experience. So, with that in mind, it would make sense for us to start any endeavor with the statement, "Let there be light." It can be, if we choose, the most powerful prayer and most transformative of all spoken words.

Think of how your life might change if you begin each day with the affirmation, "Let there be light in my mind, body, heart and soul." If you have the time and want to take it deeper, you could continue with:

Let there be light in my thoughts....radiating truth, wisdom, and positive creativity.
Let there be light in my heart...radiating love, understanding, acceptance and compassion.
Let there be light in my body...radiating health, energy, peace, and ease of movement.
Let there be light in my soul....dissolving old limiting beliefs, and error thoughts.
Let the light of the Christ consciousness flow through my subconscious and conscious mind
guiding me to make wise choices and take right actions.

Calling upon the light will change you, your mind, and any situation in which you choose to bring forth light. With it, you access the dynamic power of the Christ consciousness.

Remember today and everyday throughout 2012 that You Are The Light Of The World!
Let your light shine.

Much love,
Patricia



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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Happy New Year to all! I hope everyone is still on track with their New Year's resolutions. It is wonderful to sit in church every Sunday and see a full house. Thank you for that.

The church finished out 2011 in a strong financial position and we hope to continue that in 2012. I am pleased to announce that we have two new alternates on the Board of Trustees, Gary Beeler and Sue Cunningham. Both Gary and Sue bring valuable knowledge and experience to our wonderful team of leaders.

I hope everyone can take a minute and see the beautiful and elegant sculpture that was donated and has been installed in the Unity gardens. Thank you Phil Carracher for your gift to Unity.

I would also like to thank everyone that helped at the youth ministry yard sale. Those of you who brought in items for the sale, those who helped during the week with the sorting and of course, all of the shoppers.

In closing, I will leave you with a joke. After the service, a young couple talked to a church member about joining the church. He hadn't met the husband before and he asked what church he was transferring from. After a short pause, he replied, *"I am transferring from the Municipal Golf Course."*

Shawn Singeisen
 President



Financial Report January - December 2011

Total Income	\$ 318,355
Expenses	\$ 281,511
Total Tithe	\$ 21,581
Net Income	\$ 15,263

YOUTH MINISTRY

Thank you to everyone who supported our Annual Yard Sale to benefit youth ministry. The group of volunteers that make this event a success are an amazing bunch of people! Thank you also to the people who donated and shopped at the sale. You have all helped to make our major fundraiser for the year a big success.

The Uniteens and Y.O.U. groups will be attending their Spring Retreat/Rally in February and March. The support of our congregation through events like the yard Sale and other fundraisers is what allows our young people to attend these phenomenal events. From everyone in Youth Ministry we would like to say thank you for helping to promote the spiritual growth of our youth.



Important dates to remember below:

Sunday, February 5th	Youth Ministry Team Meeting	Following Sunday service
Friday, February 24th - Sunday, February 26th	Uniteens attend Spring Retreat	Off campus
Friday, March 9th - Sunday, March 11th	Y.O.U. attend Spring Rally	Off campus
Every Wednesday 7:00 PM	Y.O.U. Night	Miracle House



Lisa Singeisen
Youth Ministry Director

“LOVING WHAT IS”



The Loving What Is group continues to meet on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 AM until 12:00 Noon in the sanctuary. We read a verse of the Tao Te Ching and references to it by Byron Katie and Wayne Dyer, then add our discussion. We also read an excerpt from Lessons in Truth by Emilie Cady, the first book used by Unity founders to explain their thinking. These teachings often inspire insightful & joyful discussion which is so much appreciated by all. Visitors & new members are appreciated.

Some of us bring a sandwich to eat under the trees in the garden. You can also walk the Labyrinth and meditate on the wisdom books we have been reading.

Judy Walthall, Licensed Unity Teacher

A COURSE IN MIRACLES



A Course in Miracles discussion group is celebrating 12 years of meaningful Tuesday evening meetings and we want to share the insights and the fun with you! We have meditation at 6:30 PM (not required) and we meet at 7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. No outside reading necessary, just bring your willingness for new understanding, your thoughtfulness and above all, your sense of humor!

We hope to see you on any or all Tuesday evenings.

Facilitators: Donna Day 941-468-5177 and Judy Walthall 941-488-6440

In Loving Memory

Our beloved & dear friend Jim Heck passed away on January 15, 2012.

Jim's Memorial Service is scheduled for Wednesday, February 1st at 7:30 PM.





CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

What does a prayer chaplain have to offer YOU? We are your spiritual companions. We hold spiritual space for you, we listen to you and we pray for/with you. One of the most astounding things I have learned this past year is how to pray.

My past prayer life consisted of memorized prayers that I could recite at the drop of a hat. The prayers were words that just didn't require me to really think. I never thought of prayer as a "talk with God"! That was way too personal. Prayers were for reciting when I was asked to recite them.

However, now my day is not right if I don't sit and quietly speak to Spirit first thing every morning. When I am done talking to Spirit I turn my palms up and rest back in my chair and wait for Spirit to speak back to me. It is my guidance for this day.

So again, HOW does one DO that? Armand (of Armand & Angelina) said it during the service they did in October. He said, "Just drop down from your mind to your heart. It is only 16 inches." I know it seems difficult some days, but be persistent and also give yourself a break, it just takes practice, and then more practice. In fact, your learning to pray never ends. So, we your prayer chaplains are here for you, to help in your prayer life as well as prayer for requests for others. We are here for you and we look forward to participating in your prayer life!

Namaste,
Sue Cunningham and the prayer chaplains



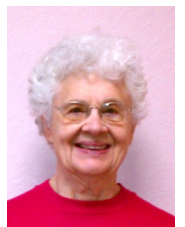
Keep a True Lent

Lent begins on February 22nd. Many of us came from religion traditions that observed Lent by giving up something. Moses, Elijah, and Jesus observed forty-day periods of prayer and fasting in preparation for spiritual work. In Unity, you can too by using this opportunity to give up error thinking.

Writings of Charles Fillmore, co-founder of Unity, have been edited into a book entitled Keep a True Lent. The first half of the book presents summations of his thoughts, which can stretch your mind. This is followed by a section where a lesson for each day of Lent suggests a Bible verse and a short lesson, ending with an affirmation. The third section is a study guide of the second section, prompting you with questions which will lead you to a deeper study.

Changing your life requires that you change your thoughts. This book, available in the bookstore, is an excellent aid in that quest.

- Roleen Lewis



Live Streaming

Sunday and Wednesday Special Events!

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PASSAGES - A Journey in Time
 Where are you on your path?

- What was?
- What is?
- What will be?

Sharing & guided imagery

8 Week Class
 Facilitated by Linda Wells, PH.d

Beginning: February 13 - April 2
Monday evenings at 6:30 PM

\$15 suggested love offering



**The Four Spiritual Laws
 Of Prosperity!**

If you are ready to learn and practice the principles of true prosperity, this workshop will answer your questions and inspire you to act!

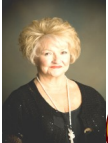
Edwene Gaines has made 100% commitment to the transformation of the abundance consciousness of Planet Earth.

An ordained Unity minister, she shares with humor and joy the four spiritual principles of prosperity...

Finding your Divine Purpose
 Forgiveness and Worthiness
 Tithing and Giving
 Setting Clear-cut Goals

Edwene guarantees that this event will change your life....if you are teachable.

Sunday, February 19th
10:30 AM Service
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Workshop



Love offering



Betty Porrazzo

Bookstore Buzz

**Unity's New Year's
Resolution:
Resolve to Evolve and....
Read, Read, Read**



Hope Martell

The Fifth Agreement

By Don Miguel Ruiz, Don Jose Ruiz and Janet Mills

The Fifth Agreement, "Be Skeptical, but learn to listen", is the sequel to the Four Agreements. It seems simple and basic, but is quite profound. If the fifth agreement is carried to its conclusion, it will lead to complete freedom. The premise is that we, as a society, are ready to listen to each other and to respect our differences. Combined with the four agreements we could have heaven on earth. It is a great book truly worth reading. Here is a passage from the book: "Let's say you're living with guilt and shame for a mistake you made ten years ago. The excuse for your suffering is, I made a terrible mistake" and you're still suffering for something that happened ten years ago, but the truth is you're suffering from something that happened ten seconds ago. You judged yourself again for the same mistake, and of course the big judge says "You need to be punished." It's the simple action-reaction. The action is self-judgment; the reaction is self-punishment in the form of guilt and shame. All your life you repeat the same action, hoping to have a different reaction and it never happens. The only way to change your life is to change the action, and then the reaction will change."

The Calm Before the Storm

In The Calm Before the Storm, Neale Donald Walsch reexamines many of the ideas originally presented in Conversations with God. Basically, the concepts remain the same. The human race is here on Earth, experiencing a physical existence, in order to remember that we all originate from one source, God, so that we can co-create our existence with all of the other individual expressions of God. This new book calls humanity to action, stating that the world's greatest problems are neither economic nor political, but rather spiritual in nature. He suggests that we all must come together to effect a paradigm shift that would ultimately eliminate poverty, reduce suffering, obliterate starvation, and ensure the most basic of rights to all of humanity: survival.

Hummingbirds Don't Fly in the Rain

By Kim Klein

On December 23, 2007, the plane carrying the author's only child, Talia, crashed into the side of a volcano in Panama. Hummingbirds Don't Fly in the Rain chronicles the seven day, suspense-filled journey that begins the moment Klein receives the phone call announcing her daughter's plane is missing. She shares fascinating details about the accident once back in the US. She also reveals a glimpse of something wonderful to come: lying in agony after receiving the news of her daughter's death, she suddenly feels a pressure around her left wrist and realizes that Talia is communicating with her! Talia's afterlife communications continue and expand, ultimately bring love and peace to Klein and she hopes, to others. Hummingbirds Don't Fly in the Rain reads like a suspense thriller, yet every word is true! What a fascinating read!

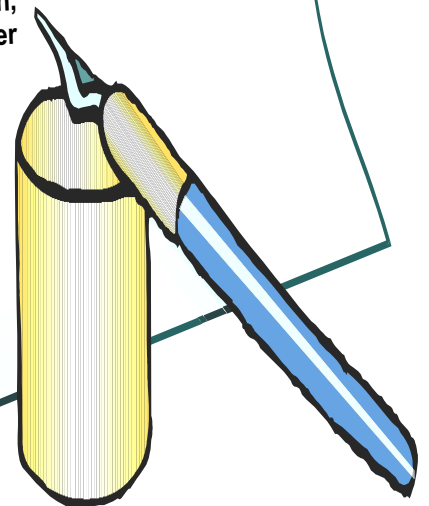


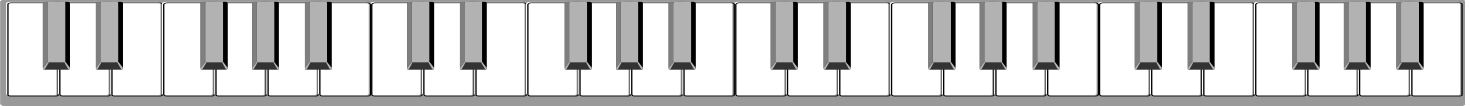
**From your TLC Team
(Care Bears)**

The winter holidays are over and we look forward to those of the coming spring. Through it all, month to month, a TLC team member has been sending loving, uplifting notes and affirmations to people whose names have been given to us. Remember, if you know of someone who would enjoy receiving a thoughtful, handwritten note, please let Celia Marion or the church office know!

Also, we have one month remaining open for a care-bear person to fill! The month of April is still unclaimed. If you'd like to go through our awesome collection of blank cards, choose a special affirmation from the notebook or from your heart and send it off with a smile and a prayer during the month of April, let us know! We even have stamps and return address labels for you to use. If you have questions about how it all works, please feel free to give Celia a call - 941-484-2571.

**Celia Marion,
Team Leader**





Music Ministry News!

TOP 10 REASONS TO JOIN THE UNITY OF VENICE MUSIC TEAM:

DRUM ROLL, PLEASE.....

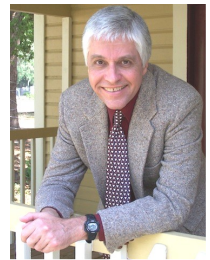
10. IT'S A LOT OF FUN!
9. You'll be part of a vital ministry that has a lot to offer the world.
8. Singing is good for the soul.
7. Singing is good for the body.
6. Thirty people making music in harmony is the first step toward 7 billion people living in harmony.
5. Because friends don't let friends clap on one and three.
4. Did someone tell you years ago that you couldn't sing? Maybe it's time to let go of that. Ask me how.
3. Would you like to work hard and be challenged to grow? This is your place.
2. We are a creative, collaborative, supportive, caring group of friends.

And, number 1:

Did I mention that it's a lot of fun? 😊

Speak to any of us on Sunday morning or email me at MikeDavisMusic@hotmail.com.

Many blessings, Mike



Men's Group

Guys, 2012 proves to be a most powerful year. Are you tapping into the energy that is available to all of us? You are the creator of conditions in your life. The good and the not so good! Come join the Men's group at Unity to explore new possibilities.

If you love what you have created, come share with us how you did it. Don't let this year slip away to a life of quiet desperation. Be the magnificent man God created you to be. We will be setting goals to achieve our 2012 objectives and supporting each other in being accountable to reach our goals.

WHERE: Unity Church Sanctuary
 WHEN: The last Monday of each month
 TIME: 7:00 - 8:15 PM
 LOVE OFFERING: All donations go to Unity church
 FACILITATOR: Steven Northcraft

CONTACT INFORMATION: 941-321-7909 or theblessingpool@gmail.com



**CHURCH NEWS
FROM BEV ARNOLD**

The travel club had two trips in December. We visited a Disney lobby, had soup and salad. Then to the Marriott Hotel for the entrée. We finished the day at Gaylord Palms for beautiful decorations and dessert.

Later in December we had dinner at an Amish restaurant, then toured Sarasota and finished at the owner's beautiful home with homemade cookies.

Thank you Patricia and the chaplains for the beautiful candlelight service.

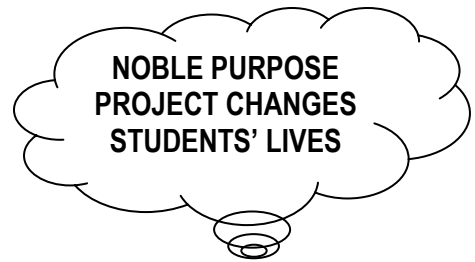
If you've done anything exciting and want it published in the next Greatway, please call me.

Betty Porrazzo went to Vermont in the cold and had a great time with her family. Alice Lukasik's daughter was here for Christmas. They went shopping and really enjoyed the pool with the beautiful weather we had.

I went on a cruise and helped my friend Grace celebrate her 106th birthday on Christmas Day. No, that is not a typo, she is really 106 now. We call her amazing Grace.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for the travel club, please call me.

Blessings, Bev
941-483-3204



At the November 20th service, Rev. Patricia and Unity of Venice member Jaye Williams gave an update on the Decisions to Win mentoring program that our church has had as its Noble Purpose Project for the past six years. When Unity began its involvement, only about 25 students were being serviced in one high school. Today, over 200 high school students at risk of not graduating are being mentored in ten high schools. The graduation rate for seniors completing the Decisions to Win program is 92%.

At the end of the presentation, Rev. Patricia asked those that are willing to help a child to step forward. Twenty-five NEW mentors came forth!! This year, our church will have over 40 volunteers listening to and supporting students in six schools.

In addition, Jay and Carolyn Kasmark continue to fund the production of all of the Decisions to Win manuals for students and mentors. Thank you!!!

If you have an interest in being a mentor to an at-risk student, contact Jaye Williams at 941-488-4009.



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