

UNITY CHURCH  
OF TRUTH  
2900 S BERNARD  
SPOKANE, WA

# Discoveries

APRIL 2010

## OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Dennis Ashley  
Completes  
L.U.T.

Page 6

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Staff and  
Board 2

Finances 3

Compassionate Care  
& Service 4

Youth and  
Family 5

News and  
Upcoming  
Events 6

Wednesday  
Programs  
and Groups 7

Sunday  
Talks 8

## Having a Personal Easter



Clare Austen

Have you ever had someone ask you if you have a personal relationship with Jesus?

Some of us in Unity find it easier to be evasive when asked this question, than to give an answer that reflects our own inner truth.

In the March/April *Unity Magazine* an article suggests we must find our own answer to the question who is Jesus and what are our personal convictions about him. It says “every generation inherits a Jesus whose image is in motion, evolving through time.” With the article are essays by Unity ministers telling what Jesus means to them.

One says Jesus is a living example of the Christ nature in us all. One says Jesus came to show us what is possible through the power of our mind. Another says Jesus revealed what we need to know to create a world based in love. One writer had a very real vision of Jesus inviting her to step out of self-imposed limitation

into a new life. Other terms used for Jesus were my wayshower, a great wisdom teacher, and the Cosmic Christ.

What words would you use? Do you feel a connection to the historical Jesus? Or is it the risen Christ who has evolved over the centuries through faith that inspires you? For some in Unity it might feel more honest to say “Jesus is one example of God in expression, but my personal, transformative relationship is with Truth wherever I find it.”

It is interesting to remember that we have no empirical proof of who Jesus was or how he saw himself. To some degree everyone who reads or hears his story must find their own meaning and their own right relationship to that story.

One thing I personally find in the stories of Jesus is a man who never advocated for the status quo. He questioned the religion of his time when he believed it didn't support true spiritual discovery. He turned things around so the outcast Samaritan was

the hero in a story of compassion, and the woman accused of adultery wasn't stoned by the crowd because there was no one there who was without sin. I think the man who told these stories would want us to question our every habit of thought, to keep reaching deeper within ourselves for our own answers, to discover what is life-changing for us in the ever-evolving image of Jesus. Just as he turned over the tables of the merchants in the temple, I think he would ask us to upend the assumptions handed to us by religion and culture. Assumptions about him, about God, about life.

This month as we once again join in the ancient celebration of Easter, spring, and new life, I invite you to find what is “personal” for you about this season. For Jesus' sake be honest, look closely. What does death and rebirth have to do with your consciousness and your greater expression of life? What is it that changes you, inspires you, and strengthens you when you personally celebrate Easter?

## Unity Church

**Sunday Services ... 9 am and 11 am**

**Office & Bookstore Hours**

Tues. and Thurs. 10:00 - 3:00 pm

Wednesday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Closed .....Mon., Fri. & Sat.

Office .....(509) 838-6518

Prayer Center.....(509) 624-2700

Fax.....(509) 838-5537

Web site.....www.unityspokane.org  
communications@unityspokane.org

### STAFF

Spiritual Director.....Clare Austen

Minister - Family.....Jackie Green

Administrator.....Terri Lewis-Sander

Pastoral Care.....Dennis Ashley

Custodian.....Bee Reynolds

Communications...Judy Merrill-Smith

Music Director.....Tawni Wright

Choir Director.....Shawn Wright

### 2010 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President.....John Cook

Vice President..... Weldon Merritt

Assistant VP..... Mary Ladwig

Secretary.....Steve Yach

Chaplain.....Hank Broeckling

Treasurer.....Dan Robison

Historian.....Diane Hunter

Connections.....Carena Lauren

### LICENSED UNITY TEACHER

Mary Teresa True

## From Our Board

Faith is on my mind lately. Our prosperity class last month was so well attended, that I am guessing a lot of us have prosperity or lack of it on our minds. I think prosperity is one of the greatest spiritual teachers/ challenges for our church. I like the idea of collectively proving God using Unity principles. I, for one, learn by copying what works well for others. What if we all had the confidence to prosper greatly?



**John Cook,  
Board President**

At the board meetings we have been commenting on a sense of renewed energy in the church, with lots of new activity and new faces. Perhaps this is because our ongoing prayerful/active focus on Visioning is having the desired results of moving us forward. Or perhaps it's because we are rebounding from the anxiety of the past two years' national economic troubles. Whatever it is, we are grateful. We've been working on our Vision for a year now. And we want to bring those ideas back to the congregation over the next few months.

One possibility we've discussed is an electronic sign on 29<sup>th</sup>. I think of it as a way to get our message out to the wider community. Sometimes it seems as if we're hiding our light under a bushel basket. We have a wonderful life-affirming spiritual message. Let's share it.

The cost of the sign could be somewhat intimidating, but had we known the true cost of installing air conditioning, we would have been equally intimidated. We might not have gone for it, but because it seemed a smaller step, we took it, and once committed, we accomplished what would have seemed formidable. So, back to Faith. Do we have Faith in God to provide? Do we have faith in ourselves and in our Vision? What are we willing to prove?

Our larger Vision may include necessities such as a kitchen remodel and a roof replacement, but also improvements such as energy upgrades to the building, a meditative walking path on our grounds, a new multipurpose room. Let's embrace the challenge, raise the money, install the sign, build our confidence for the next, bigger project. In the process we'll be building the most important project of all: our Faith.

## Board Nominating Team

The 2010 Board Nominating Team is Jeff Hunter and Mary Christensen, who were elected by the congregation, and Board members Carena Lauren and Weldon Merritt. They will work with the ministers to identify and select candidates for next year's Board of Trustees election. If you are interested in learning more about the role of Board members, or would like to be considered, please contact any team member.

# February 2010 Abundance Report

	February 2010	YTD Date	Budget YTD Date
<i>Revenue</i>			
General Revenue	\$26,684.46	\$53,572.53	\$52,250.04
Special Event Revenue	\$1,192.13	\$3,112.16	\$2,875.00
Total Revenue	\$27,876.59	\$56,684.69	\$55,125.04
<i>Expenses</i>			
Special Event	\$447.10	\$569.00	\$900.00
Personnel	\$15,443.00	\$31,546.60	\$33,763.34
Tithe	\$2,740.45	\$5,609.07	\$5,576.68
Operating Expense	\$8,609.45	\$17,941.84	\$13,215.00
Total Expenses	\$27,240.00	\$55,666.51	\$53,455.02
Income/(Loss)	\$636.59	\$1,018.18	\$1,670.02

*Gratitude is  
the fairest blossom  
which springs from  
the soul.*

— Henry Ward  
Beecher

**We give thanks for all the joyful giving that sustains this ministry!**

## Freely We Give

**Unity believes in the spiritual practice of tithing. As we share our income with others, we also generously receive.**

**In January, Unity Church gratefully tithed 10% of our revenue to these groups that share our spiritual vision...**

The Association of Unity Churches International

Our Unity NW Region and the NW Youth of Unity

Silent Unity Prayer Ministry, Unity Village, MO

**And to ...**

Hillyard Senior Center

The Volunteers of America, Family Assistance Program

Special Olympics

Inland Northwest Business Alliance

Unity in the Community

**... because they give hope to our community.**

## Foundation

Unity Foundation funds as of February 28, 2010:  
**\$62,182.26**



## Mad Hatters' Garden Party

**Save the Date for the Mad Hatters' Garden Party, Sat, May 8, at 1:30 pm.**

You'll be delighted by this 2 hours of short gardening talks, tea and treats. Raffles, door prizes, music and skits will add to the fun. A perfect outing for honoring your mother or a special gardener in your life. Tickets will be \$5 each, \$25 for a table of six, or \$30 for a table of eight. This fundraiser will benefit the Kitchen Klub and its remodeling plans. *Please contact Alice Callen at 483-2581 if you'd like to help plan the party!*



# The Journey to Faith



Dennis Ashley,  
Director of Seva  
(service) and  
Pastoral Care

We spent Wednesday evenings during the month of March looking at the 12 Powers identified by Charles Fillmore. They are faith, strength, love, wisdom, power, imagination, understanding, will, order, zeal, release, and life. Each holds a gift for us to unwrap, but there is something special about faith. Let's face it—for most of us, developing faith is harder than a woodpecker's lips. It is **the** hard one. We want to have faith but it can be so challenging.

What is faith? It is the assurance of things hoped for. It is both un-failing knowing and an immediate response to that knowing. Fillmore identified it as a part of the realization process—that part in which we are able to manifest in our lives by knowing that what we desire has already been granted.

But how do we get there? How do we develop a stronger faith

life? Here are 4 steps:

- Reach out for the spiritual life, and faith is activated.

- Be willing to give up our most prized sense ideas and attachment to sense possessions. That starts to stir the faith that will move mountains. If that seems hard, just ask: "How have I done so far clinging to earthly things?" After most of us answer that question, the next logical question is: "So, what do I really have to lose?" Understand that personal attachments need to be released before we can receive the universal.

- Pray in the Upper Room—the high place in consciousness where people realize the Divine Presence.

Simply be receptive. Many of us have heard somewhere along the way that the disciple Peter represents faith. This is because Jesus

recognized that he had complete and trusting faith. But Peter was first called Simon. Simon represents hearing or receptivity. That reminds us that we always start our journey to faith by being receptive. Listen to the Truth in a receptive state of mind and it opens the door to receiving the next degree in the Divine Order, which is Faith.

We take such pride in our intellects. However, it is that very sense of pride (and not the intellect itself) that stands in the way of a deeper faith life. So, know that the intense desire we feel for faith is never about turning off the intellect. Our intellect is a precious gift. Instead, a magnified experience of faith is about harnessing the power of intellect to the strength of love. Together they give us faith, and together, they do move the mountains of our lives.

## CROP Hunger Walk

This year's CROP Hunger Walk will take place on Sunday, April 25, starting at Gonzaga University's Martin Center. Registration begins at noon; the walk begins at 1:30. Our Unity community has generously supported this fundraiser to end hunger locally and globally through self-help initiatives. Become a sponsor, raise money, and come walk with Clare, Rick, Dennis, Jeff Hunter and others. Pick up your registration materials and get more information from Jeff.



# Tidbits of Wisdom



Jackie Green, Minister of Youth and Family

Some tidbits of wisdom that I gleaned at the recent gathering of Regional Unity Youth Ministry Consultants at Unity Village, Missouri, are resonating in my heart.

I was touched by a parenting tip given by International Association of Unity Churches Children's Ministry Consultant, Rev. Kathryn Kellogg: "How we speak about our children in front of

them becomes the story they believe about themselves, which may not be the truth of who they are." What are the children in my life hearing me speak about them? What slips of my tongue are imprinting them when I am tired? I do hope that if you hear me speak anything other than calling forth and affirming their highest self, that you will let me know, so I can invite a do-over with them and edit my words.

Another thought shared by Kathy was "Theology forms the culture of our program structure." Clarifying, she shared that in Unity we focus on having an *experience of \_\_\_\_\_* rather than *learning about \_\_\_\_\_*. You can fill in this blank with lots of things. Try love, the divine, God or some other spiritual principle.

When reflecting on what is offered on Sunday morning in

our Youth Ministry, this makes sense to me. Sometimes parents are disappointed when they ask the kids what they did or what they learned. It is difficult to find words to describe an experience, especially for youth. I trust that our youth staff knows that their own lives are their strongest message and one of our ministry's greatest assets. We are blessed by all those who let us see how their theology is lived out in their relationships.

And one more tidbit: When we live our best for the children, we "give them the best for *their* children."

Even one tidbit of wisdom, put to **consistent use over time**, will improve life for the people in our lives, for you and for me too. I am ready.

## Uniteen Wins Award

Reagan Nelson, daughter of Erik and Colleen Nelson, recently won a statewide school competition. The participants wrote letters to their favorite author about how their book affected them. Reagan wrote to Laura Ingalls Wilder. Her letter focused on what Reagan learned from the similarities between the main character's life and her own. She wrote: "**Little House on the Prairie** taught me that it isn't the tough times that define us, but rather our response to the challenges we face which makes us who we are." Reagan's letter will represent our state in the national competition.

## Invitation to Join Youth Ministry

Six recent "retirements" in our youth ministry leave room for fresh faces to appear. We give thanks for the loving years of service from these committed volunteers. They aren't leaving us; they each are choosing new areas for their personal ministry. Can you hear the children calling you? Is Spirit moving in you to respond? **See the list below and check the Seva Center for applications, then contact Jackie Green.**

**EVENINGS**—Childcare Providers for workshops, classes, and other occasions. **This is a paid position.**

**SUNDAY MORNINGS, 9 & 11 am** — Be a Spiritual Guide for our children, and share your spiritual journey. Travel with our youth. The 2010 Curriculum theme is "Our 12 Powers."

- *UniTots: infants to 4 years.* Form a team to provide a safe nurturing space. Be as wide open as they are to experience and express love.
- *Unikids: 5 years to 3rd grade.* Join Mary Ladwig to give our kids what they need to thrive; loving consistency.
- *Unifriends: 4th & 5th grade.* Join the once-a-month rotating team: Elena, Bob, Carol, Joni and Patti.
- *Uniteens: 6th - 8th grade.* Join Jeremiah and Deanna who rotate Sundays.

*Children are changed by people -- not programs! They don't need bigger and flashier programming; they need teachers who care about them and will be there each week to lovingly greet them when they walk through the door.*  
-- Linda Kondracki Sibley, "When Families Fall Apart," Children's Ministry Magazine e-newsletter

## Congrats! Dennis Ashley Completes L.U.T.

On April 1 Dennis Ashley graduates from the Licensed Unity Teacher Program at Unity Village. He and wife Patty went to KC together where Dennis finished his last required classes and attended the graduation ceremony.

This completes two years of hard work including Biblical and metaphysical studies, and classes in Prayer, Peacemaking Skills, New Thought History, and others. Dennis will have a final week of testing and oral exams in Au-

gust before being licensed.

Next, Dennis will be applying to Unity's Field Licensing Program. If accepted, he will remain on staff here in Spokane while completing four more years of study before being ordained.

## Geshe Phelgye at Unity

**Wed. April 14, 7:00 pm**

Geshe-la, as he is known, escaped Tibet when he was 3 and became a monk when he was 17. He has a doctorate in Buddhist Philosophy. He emerged from a 5-year retreat in the mountains of India in 1998 to found

the **Universal Compassion Movement** calling for greater compassion for all beings.

Geshe-la will be speaking on the 4 Noble Truths of Buddhism. These ancient teachings show us how our "suffering is optional" and how to change the patterns that keep us imprisoned in our unhappiness.



## Kids' Camp

The Northwest Region Youth Of Unity invites Unity Kids ages 7 to 11 to the 31st Annual Kids' Camp, Sat., June 26 – Tues., June 29. This year's theme is "Be a Noodle, Dance Your Doodle." The cost is \$250 [\$210 if postmarked by 6/7]. Scholarships are available. See Jackie Green for details and applications.

## Easter Tulips

To decorate our sanctuary for Easter, we are asking that you bring potted tulips to the church on Wednesday, March 31 and Thursday, April 1. Any color, any type. The bulbs will eventually be planted on our church grounds, so we'll enjoy their beauty for years.



## Unity Home Companion Time!

**Sat. April 24, 7 pm**

What?? You've never been to one of our **Unity Home Companion** shows? Then you've missed some outstanding entertainment by our Unity Players. UHC is Unity's own version of Garrison Keillor's *Prairie Home Companion*, with some notable improvements, of course.

Come join us for the fun of it on April 24<sup>th</sup> and you will hear superb singing; toe-tappin' music; a hula dance or two; hilarious skits; even some political satire, a little bodacious

story-telling, comedic commercials, and kooky characters, with scrumptious home made treats at intermission. Admission is your love offering. See you Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. Bring your family, bring your friends, and bring a stranger or two.

## Transitions

Our prayers are with Claudia Craven and her family. Her husband Irv passed recently.

# Wednesday Nights

**Dinner:** 5:45 pm  
\$4 Adults, \$3 Seniors,  
\$2 Children under 12  
**Meditation:** 6:30 - 6:50  
**Evening Program:** 7 - 8:30  
(approximately)

**April 7: Why People Don't Heal.** Based on the book by Carolyn Myss. Presented by Clare Austen.

**April 14: An Evening with Geshe Phelgye** (See page 6.)

**April 21: Healing Journey: Deepening Into A Relationship With Yourself, Others and God** with Patricia Yacker. Patricia will share her inner healing story, her expertise as a wholistic counselor for 30 years, and her perspective as an intuitive healer, psychic, and minister. The class will include exercises in mindfulness, self-healing and stress reduction with handouts so you can practice them at home.

**April 28: Allowing Healing, Expanding Well-Being.** Local healing practitioner Mary Willard offers an evening of peace, stillness and joy! You will transform personal "baggage," and touch the brilliance of your Soul through an exploration of Emotional Freedom Techniques and various types of Meditation. Learn how to bring love & light to your body, allowing healing to take place.

Listen to the  
Soul. Love it.  
Give it back its  
dance.

~ Marion Woodman



# Ongoing Unity Groups

**The Explorers** - Coffee and Discussion with Rev. Clare - Wednesdays at 10.

**The Outrageous Wild Women of Unity (OWWU)**

Spiritual circles held the 4th Saturday of most months. For more info, please contact Joyce@swanlight.com or 242-9980.

**A Course in Miracles Study Group**

Tuesdays, 6:45 pm. Everyone welcome. By Love Offering.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry Wednesdays 2 pm**

All knitters, including beginners, welcome. Every shawl made is a blessing wrapped in love!

**Unity Choir**

Rehearsals - Thursday, 7 pm. Wanted: everyone interested in singing and fun! Talk to our music team, Shawn and Tawni.

**Men of Unity**

Personal growth, fellowship, service, and retreats. Breakfast meetings held quarterly.

**Weekly Meditations (in the chapel)**

**Wednesdays:** 8:30 - 9:15 am; 6:30 - 6:50 pm

**Sundays:** 1 - 3 pm — Meditation Classes for a spiritually enriching, and fulfilling life - dedicated to love, unity, and peace. Facilitator: Regina Merritt.

**Next Generation Unity (NGU) Ages 18-35**

Meeting the spiritual needs of Unity's young adults. Contact Deanna Brown, 509-847-5277 or mrsdeannabrown@hotmail.com about activities.



# Other Groups at Unity

**Al-Anon Serenity Seekers**  
Thursdays at Noon.

**AA New Soil, New Roots**

Thursdays from 7 - 8 pm.  
(Enter downstairs from west parking lot.)

**Toastmasters - Southsiders at Unity**

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays at 5:30 pm. Develop your public speaking skills. Visitors are welcome.

**Gentle Stretch Yoga**

Saturday, 9 - 10 am.  
Call Robin Marks at 455-5931 for more info and fees.

**Mindful Mamas**

10:30 - noon on Thursdays. Kid-friendly parenting and support group.

**Metaphysical Research Society**

2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays at 7 pm.

**Dances of Universal Peace**

Dance with the Sufis  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs, 7 - 9 pm. Contact Bruce at 220-5160 for details.

**Crystal Bowl Meditation**

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays, 7:30  
Meditation with drumming and pure tones. \$10 per session.

**Unity Church of Truth**  
**2900 S Bernard**  
**Spokane, WA 99203**

509-838-6518

unityspokane.org

ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED

### DISCOVERIES MAILING LIST

To **Add** or **Remove** your name from our mailing list or to **change your address**, please send your request with your full name, email address / postal address to **communications@unityspokane.org**, or drop it off or mail it to the church - attention Judy.

## April Services

*We continue to feel Spirit as the Wind in our Sails  
through our Easter Experience!*

### 2nd - Good Friday

**Service**, 7:00 - 7:30 pm

**Prayer Vigil**, 7:30 - 11 pm

Come any time and be transformed by the silence

### 4th - Easter Awakening Service

**6:30 - 7:00 am**

In the Prayer Garden if weather permits, followed by an early risers' breakfast.



### Easter Celebration Services

with our **Unity Choir**

- **Clare Austen** "I Die Daily"

9:00 and 11:00

### 11th - Clare Austen

"Understanding Wholeness"

### 18th - Dennis Ashley

"Two Doors"

### 25th - Clare Austen Celebrating Earth Day

"It Seemed Like a Good Idea..."