

UNITY CHURCH
OF TRUTH
2900 S BERNARD
SPOKANE, WA

OF
SPECIAL
INTEREST

*Lifting Our
Prosperity
Consciousness*
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DECEMBER 2009

Receiving the Spirit of Christmas

Unity sees the Bible as the unfolding story of human spiritual consciousness. If we have “eyes to see and ears to hear,” the Bible stories and teachings point the way towards enlightenment, or what Unity calls the Christ Consciousness.

Though many people believe modern biblical scholarship takes something away from the mystery and meaning of the Bible, I find new ideas about the Bible’s historical context and etymology (word use and history) a source of inspiration.

I recently read about Paul’s use of the Greek verb *paralambano*. It means to receive or take over something passed on to oneself such as information or instruction. In his letter that we know as the New Testament book of Galatians, Paul tells the people of Galatia of the life and death of Jesus and what he believes it means. And in chapter 1, verses 11-12 he tells them how he came by this information. **“I neither received it (*paralambano*) from any man, nor was I taught it, but understood it through a revelation of**

Jesus Christ.”

Paul was clear that it wasn’t just the stories or beliefs of others that he was sharing with them, but inspiration from his direct experience with the living Christ.



Clare Austen

As the Christmas season arrives, with all its competing energies and activities, we have a choice about how we will experience the holidays. We all know the familiar story of Mary and Joseph, and baby Jesus in the manger. Whether we believe it is an historical event or a sacred story passed on from generation to generation, we have received it (*paralambano*) from others.

But how many of us allow ourselves to receive the Spirit of Christmas as Paul received his knowledge of the Christ? It changed his

life forever. Have we opened our hearts in true vulnerability and allowed the aliveness of Christmas to live in us as clarity, passion, peace and service?

Whether you love this season or dread it, do you believe that Christmas could be different for you this year? Are you willing to invite true divine revelation into your Christmas celebration? If so, will you set aside time for stillness and receptivity in the midst of the busyness? Can you allow Christmas to open your mind to your self-imposed limits, your well-rehearsed fears, or your mind-numbing habits?

As we deck the halls with greenery, prepare our ritual meals, and get into the spirit of gift-giving, let’s also be open to receive, as Paul did, what no person, church, educational program or book can give us, a direct experience of the infinite, inner Christ Presence.

As your gift to yourself, behold your own magnificence. If you do, it will be a very merry Christmas and there **will** be peace on earth.

Unity Church

(509) 838-6518

Office & Bookstore Hours

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

Wednesday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

ClosedMon., Fri. & Sat.

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

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

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communications@unityspokane.org

STAFF

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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

2009 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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LICENSED UNITY TEACHER

Mary Teresa True

From Our Board

As committed stewards of this church community, your Board of Trustees regularly reflects on the prosperity of this ministry. For this ministry to thrive, it is critical that all of you thrive. And in the current economic climate, many are feeling challenged. Abundance seems an excellent topic for us to revisit. Abundance can be defined as having everything we need at the moment we need it; it's also about losing the fear.

There really is enough for everyone. What would it look like for you to have everything you desired? In my seminary program we were given an assignment to mentally invest \$1,000. Each consecutive day we were to add another \$1,000 to the amount we invested the day prior. As days went by, we had all mentally paid off our debts and had to get creative about using our increasing wealth for good in the world. We continued to invest for weeks. I was surprised by how challenged I became with so much money. I had to look at how I was blocking my good.

I was reminded that what we experience reflects what we believe and the decisions we have made about ourselves. The world of form always reflects our inner knowing. If our world lacks what we truly desire, we must look within to effect change.

Because there is no separation, when we give, we are really giving to ourselves. What we have, we created. Our generosity automatically leads to our abundance. It is exciting to take credit for the good we have created in our lives. It's the "not so good" that is more challenging to own.

What is it that makes us create in a way that does not support us? We need look at our words, feelings and actions. What is it we desire to create with God? Every moment we are invited to play with God in creative expression. Here's to your thriving!



Cerena Lauren,
President, Unity
Board of Trustees



En-vision Unity

The Board of Trustees invites you to join them each 1st Monday of the month to discuss ideas for Unity's future. We want to keep our visioning momentum. Come share your ideas on December 7, 5:30 - 6:30 pm.

Holiday Office Hours

The church will be closed the week of December 28 for the holidays. Regular office hours will resume Tuesday, January 5.

Abundance Report

	October	YTD Date	Budget YTD Date
Revenue			
General Revenue	\$21,255.93	\$242,564.15	\$257,813.38
Special Event Revenue	\$2,180.00	\$18,175.77	\$36,499.96
Total Revenue	\$23,435.93	\$260,739.92	\$294,313.34
Expenses			
Special Event		\$5,137.83	\$15,616.66
Personnel	\$16,402.56	\$160,096.39	\$168,816.64
Tithe	\$2,344.00	\$25,560.59	\$27,833.32
Operating Expense	\$6,943.94	\$76,828.39	\$82,118.24
Total Expenses	\$25,690.50	\$267,623.20	\$294,384.86
Income/(Loss)**	(\$2,254.57)	(\$6,883.28)	\$ (71.52)



Buy Scrip

Our 2009 financial statement shows that our Scrip Program is making a difference in meeting our budget. If you haven't started shopping with Scrip, sign up today. Ask Patti Godwin or Terri Lewis-Sander about it. It's easy and doesn't cost you anything but a little time.

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 October, Unity Church gratefully tithed 10% of our revenue to these organizations 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 ...

Second Harvest Food Bank

The Volunteers of America, Family Assistance Program

SNAP (Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners)

Because they feed, clothe, and give hope to those in need...

Faith is expectancy! You do not receive abundance according to what you want, or what you pray for, but according to what you expect.

Rev. Eric Butterworth

Intentional Giving

Each year we ask that you prayerfully consider what financial commitment you will make to Unity. Prayerful is the key word. Do it with an open heart and seek your own inner guidance. Then turn in just the signature portion of your 2010 Intentional Giving Program Card. Our goal once again is 120 Cards turned in by February.

Vintage Salt and Pepper Shakers

On Sale to Benefit Kitchen Fund



Sixty to seventy vintage salt and pepper shaker sets will be available by love offering on December 6 and 13. Lou and Frank Slak have generously donated this collection, begun in the 1940s by Frank's mother, Marge. The figurines include fruits and vegetables, birds, pets, and people. Many of these shakers are sought-after collectibles, so we are suggesting a love offering of at least \$10. Proceeds from the sale will help fund the vision we are holding for our new church kitchen.

Lifting Our Prosperity Consciousness



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

Are you ready to release any limited thinking that keeps you from your greatest life and most exciting future? Do you want to create more prosperity in your life?

Let's face it—prosperity is something that all of us think about. How does Unity define prosperity? According to Rev. Paul Hasselbeck, the Dean of Unity Institute, "Prosperity is a state of consciousness in which we recognize there is an inexhaustible supply of everything we need to unfold our own unique Divine Plan. And that Divine Plan is always to be God more in expression." That means prosperity is far more than just money because it takes more than financial resources to unfold our

own Divine Plan.

During three Wednesdays in January and two Wednesdays in February, we are going to examine this prosperity idea in much more depth. **Our goal is to make this an all-church event.**

Different volunteer groups within the church will create the Wednesday Night Dinners. There will be door prizes at the dinners and during the weekly programs. As one of the highlights, 10 different couples from Unity will be a part of the evening talks, sharing how they have put prosperity principles into action in their lives.

What principles? The ones that have been drawn from Edwene Gaines' book:

The Four Spiritual Laws of Prosperity: A Simple Guide to Unlimited Abundance. It is an outstanding book, recognized by Unity as one of the pivotal texts on prosperity. We will explore goal-setting, tithing, forgiveness, finding our divine purpose, and Unity's overall approach to prosperity.

Not sure how forgiveness, for example, is a principle of prosperity? Then you should definitely plan on being there on January 6, 20, 27, February 3, and February 10. There is nothing to lose and everything to gain.

Come to the Wednesday night dinners at 5:45, then stay for a life-changing dive into the world of prosperity. *Your life will never be the same again!*



Bear Hugs!

Our program to share our love with shut-ins and recuperating children and adults will be back next February. If you come across any extra-cuddly or cute teddy bears or other furry friends during your Christmas shopping, please consider picking them up now and for this service project in February.

Dec. 31st Peace Meditation

Our Unity Peace team invites you to attend the *23rd Annual World Peace Meditation*. Created to promote a world-wide consciousness of peace, the meditation has been held at Unity since its inception in 1986, and hosted for many years by our Outrageous Wild Women of Unity. Last year, and again this year, we are making it a broader community event. Join us at the Center for Spiritual Living, 33rd & Regal, on December 31 at **4:00 am**. (Yes, you read that correctly! The event is held at 12:00 noon Greenwich Mean Time, so that participants around the world all gather at the same time.)

Season of Giving



Jackie Green, Minister of Youth and Family

Knowing that we all live in an abundant universe, we are blessed to be a blessing.

We have many gifts and we have much to give. You may ask yourself, "What do I have to give?" Perhaps these ideas will give you ideas of your own.

What can I give my neighbor? I can gift my energy by raking their yard or caring for their pet when they vacation. How can I gift my com-

munity? I can pick up litter, volunteer at schools or read stories at libraries. What would bless my church? My gift could be to adopt a spot to weed, paint a wall, greet people or pray with others.

How can I gift those who come after me? I can create a photo album for a child of their ancestors. I can change a habit, such as replacing my sarcastic retorts with compassionate listening. What do I have to give to myself? The satisfaction of helping others.

Peggy Joy Jenkins in her book, **Nurturing Spirituality In Children: Simple Hands-on Activities**, says "thoughts are gifts." Then she invites us to explore this idea. "What are some gifts you like to receive that are not bought or wrapped?" Some ideas she gives are "... someone to listen, prayers or loving thoughts. . . ."

During this season of giv-

ing, let us remember the infinite number of gifts that we can give.

Thinking of a special gift for children, parents and teachers in your life? Our Unity Bookstore has expanded its selection of wonderful inspirational books.

Some of my favorites are **Miss Rumphius** (making the world more beautiful), **The Soul of the Child** (nurturing their Divine Identity), and **I Love Dirt!** (the wonders of nature).

In November we were blessed by local author Sarah Conover reading from her books on ancient wisdom from Buddhist, Islamic and Chinese teachings for today's children and parents. Her books are simple, wise and enchanting.

You can also make requests for special orders. Books are treasures that keep on giving in a myriad of ways.

"The greatest gifts that a child can receive are an opened mind, a caring heart, and ignited creativity."

Peggy Joy Jenkins

December Youth Ministry Events

Youth and Family Christmas Celebration Sunday, December 20, 5 pm Unity Sanctuary

You are specially invited to join us as our Youth Ministry presents an evening of holiday music, skits, and poems. Hear our children tell what Christmas means to them.

It's More Than Kiss the Pig Sunday

A couple of someones **will** kiss Lily the Pig on Sunday, Dec. 6, and their doing so will support the Youth of Unity in their fundraising. However, much more importantly, we can all support our Y.O.U.ers by attending that day in the consciousness of seeing our teens as future leaders on our planet.

Our Y.O.U. Sunday speakers this year are our 2010 graduating seniors. They are Jay Wolfer, son of John and Sheri Wolfer; Amelia Yach, daughter of Steve and Leslie Yach; and Amy and Sarah Godwin, daughters of Joe and Patti Godwin. They will be sharing "Life Lessons" about what they have personally learned and how their lives have changed by being a part of Unity's international youth organization, Y.O.U.

“The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves.”

From the Charter for Compassion (www.charterforcompassion.org.)



An audience of the young and young-at-heart enjoyed “Tales of Compassion,” a family event presented by the Unity Church Peace Team and One Peace, Many Paths on Nov. 15. Sarah Conover, author and daughter of Fran and John Church, read from her multicultural children’s books, and Bill Edge brought the stories to life with his spontaneous illustrations.

2010 Hospitality Sign-Ups

You are invited to sign up in the Seva Center for 2010 Sunday hospitality treats.

Providing treats on Sunday for our after-service get-to-know-each-other-time is a wonderful way to share your abundance with this spiritual community. The treats table is a powerful magnet, drawing children and adults to enjoy food, to talk and to laugh, and to share some of their lives with each other.

AND THERE’S SOMETHING NEW!

You can sign up for treats to honor a birthday, anniversary or other life event, OR you can use it as an opportunity to share information about your favorite group event, or cause. You can display materials on the treats table, as well. When you sign up, please indicate what event or cause or group you’ll be highlighting.

Hospitality is one form of worship.
- Jewish proverb

Wednesday Nights

Wednesdays at Unity are a great time to recharge your Spirit mid-week, share a meal and make new friends.

Dinner: 5:45

\$4 Adults, \$3 Seniors,
\$2 Children under 12

Meditation: 6:30 - 6:50

Evening Program:

7 - 8:30 (or 8:00)

December 2: Unity's Approach to Prayer with Dennis Ashley. How relevant is a prayer practice in our world today?

December 9: Christmas Carol Sing-spiration. Join Bee Reynolds, Rick Hutchins, and a Christmas string ensemble for a time of carol singing.

December 16: Holiday Memorial Service with Dennis Ashley. If you have lost someone this year, or the holidays remind you of a loss, join us for a service of comfort.

There will be no Wednesday night activities on December 23 and 30. Merry Christmas!

There is no greater magic in all the world than that of people joined together in love.

Wiccan blessing

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, 7 pm. Everyone welcome anytime. By Love Offering.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Wednesdays 2 pm

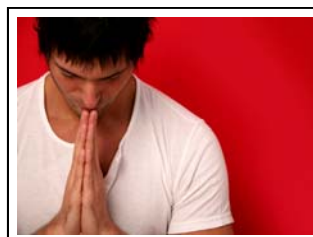
All knitters, including beginners, welcome. Every shawl made is a blessing wrapped in love!

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

Wednesdays
8:30 am,
6:30 - 6:50 pm
Sundays 1 - 3 pm

Next Generation Unity (NGU) Ages 18-35

Meeting the spiritual needs of Unity's young adults. Contact Deanna Brown, 619-957-6125 or mrsdeannabrown@hotmail.com about activities.

Round the table peace and joy prevail. May all who share this season's delight enjoy countless more.

Chinese blessing

Other Groups at Unity

OA Overeaters Anonymous

Sundays at 6 pm.

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

2nd and 4th Mondays at 5:30 pm. Have fun & develop your public speaking skills. Visitors are always 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.

Dances of Universal Peace

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

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.



Sundays in December



6th – Annual Youth
 of Unity Sunday
“Life Lessons”
 Music by our Y.O.U.
 Group and Sponsors
Plus - Kiss the Pig!

13th - Christmas Family Sunday
“Signs and Wonders” Stories by Clare
 Austen, Jackie Green & Dennis Ashley
 Music - Judy and Scott Jamison

20th - Choir Program **“Christmas Prophets”**

27th - Dennis Ashley **“A Simpler Peace”**
 Music - Michael Robinson

Christmas Events

9th, Wed. - Christmas Carol Sing-spiration

16th, Wed. - Holiday Memorial Service

20th - Sunday 5:00 pm

Youth Ministry Christmas Celebration
 Music and skits by our Unity youth

24th – Evening Candlelighting Services

6:00 Contemporary Family Service. Music
 by Greg Tenold and Rick Hutchins.

8:00 Traditional Service with music by the
 Unity Choir.

10:00 Contemplative Service with Dennis
 Ashley. Music by Bee Reynolds,
 Celeste Reynolds, and Rick Hutchins.