

GoodNewsLetter

Unity Community Church

December 2013 – February 2014 • UnityDunedin.org • UnityDunedin@aol.com

Sunday Service, 10:00 AM

Speakers and Events

Dec 1 – Rev. Aldon Samaha
"The Bible in One Word"

Dec 8 – Linda Carney, Licensed Unity Teacher

Dec 14, Christmas English Tea, 2:00 p.m.

Dec 15 – Revs. Frank Drexler and David Panunzio, "Waiting for the Christ"

Dec 22 – Elsie Huebner, Spiritual Leader

Dec 24 – Christmas Eve, 7:00 p.m. Candle Light Service – Elsie Huebner, Spiritual Leader

Dec 29 – Burning Bowl and Letter to God Service - Elsie Huebner, Spiritual Leader

Jan 5 – Happy New Year: Rev. Dave Drew, speaker; **White Stone Ceremony** -Elsie Huebner, Spiritual Leader

Jan 12 – Feb 9 - Unity Sunday Series – The Five Principles – Elsie Huebner, Spiritual Leader

Jan 31, Friday, 7:00 pm. Movie
"Conversation with Eben Alexander, MD and Raymond Moody, M.D." (Movie is about Dr. Alexander's Near Death Experience).

Feb 16 – Valleri Crabtree,
Speaker and Workshop following at 11:45

Feb 23 – Revs Bob and Ruth Fatur

NOTICE - Annual Membership Meeting, Sunday, Feb 23, after church service

Christmas Traditional English Tea, in the sanctuary, Sat., Dec 14, 2:00 p.m.



Tickets - \$16.00. Please call Helen, 727-442-1388, for information or reservations.

Christmas Eve, Dec 24, 7:00 p.m. "Seven Gifts of the Christ Child" Candlelight Service. The sanctuary will be aglow with candlelight. Each person will be given a personal candle to light during the service, along with an individual affirmation. This new service will feature scripture, readings, and beautiful Christmas music that we all love.

Burning Bowl Service Sunday, Dec 29, 10:00 a.m. After a quiet time of contemplation, you will be guided how to release the past and lay hold of your good in the future. We will each have an opportunity to write down all the things we wish to release from the past. Then the paper we wrote on is set afire in the Burning Bowl, symbolizing the cleansing fire of the Holy Spirit. We will then write a letter to God, expressing the good things we want to manifest during the coming year. The sealed, self-addressed envelopes will be sent to Silent Unity for six months of blessings. In June, they will be mailed back to you unopened. It's very exciting to receive your own letter in the middle of the year to see which of your prayers have been answered. For many of us, this is an important ritual to help us on our spiritual path.

Sunday, January 5, 10:00 a.m. service will include a White Stone ceremony, which comes from an ancient ritual. You will receive your new name during meditation and write it on your white stone. It will have deep meaning for you and provide guidance in the New Year. (The stones we use in this service come from the Holy Land.)

The Five Principles - A Guide to Practical Spirituality. The Sunday series (January 12 – February 9) will be based on a book of the same title, written by Unity Minister, Rev. Ellen Debenport. The five principles constitute core teachings of the Unity spiritual movement founded in 1889 by Charles and Myrtle Fillmore. These same principles reflect the laws of the universe that apply to everyone, all the time. They show up in every major religion and are all reflected in the teachings of Jesus Christ. Rev. Davenport encourages every reader to “work with these principles, test them, apply them to your life, and watch what happens.”

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Mondays, 10:00 - 12:00 noon

Spiritual Support. If you would like prayer support or to meet with Elsie, our spiritual leader, feel free to stop by. Please call the church, 734-0635, if you would like to make an appointment at another time.

Tuesdays, 7:00-8:30 PM

Donoghue-Dunedin Toastmasters meeting

Fridays, 10:00-11:30 a.m. Course in Miracles.

Saturdays, 4:00 – 6:00 PM Debtors

Anonymous

Program meeting, 1st Thurs., 10:30 a.m.

Chaplains meeting, normally last Sunday of month, 11:45 am

Board of Director's meeting, 3rd Sunday, 11:45 a.m.

Healers meeting, (when scheduled)

Church News

Welcome New Members: Cathy Daumen, Terry Gardner and Flora Costello. We are blessed to have you as part of our spiritual family.

Our condolences and prayers surround

Dorothy Balakas. Her husband, Martin, made his transition on Feb. 13.

FINANCIAL REPORT - October 2013

...Helen Quinn, Treasurer

Income	\$3,953.45
Expenses	3,952.13

Thank you everyone who helped pay for our new sanctuary carpet. “Carpets by French” gave us a very good price of \$1,901.38; and your donations totaled \$1,011.00! We are blessed indeed.

Meet Terry Gardner, our Newest Member!

Born in Wareham, Massachusetts, and raised on Cape Cod, Terry had three sisters and one brother. His father's family dates back to the Pilgrims on one side and on the other, the Micmac, Abeniki, and Wampanoag Tribes, which makes Terry one-quarter Native American.

Terry remembers a childhood filled with many jobs – anything to earn a bit of spending cash! He and his siblings would shovel snow, pick wildflowers to sell, clean garages, and dig shellfish. Such was his young life growing up in the village of Monument Beach.

Having graduated from Bourne High School, Terry entered the US Army and served two terms in Vietnam. After that, he and brother, Allen, started a concrete construction business. Terry worked in this business on Cape Cod for 30 years. Feeling like he was ready to semi-retire and wanting to get away from the hassles of running a business, Terry figured that if he sold the business and moved to Florida, he would have enough money to buy a house. This he did in 2005!

Terry felt he wanted to do something else – he went back to school and became a licensed CNA. He has worked in this capacity for over 7 years and enjoys it immensely. Terry recently renewed his license and is thinking about going back to work at this again! Right now he is undecided.

The spiritual path for Terry began with his Methodist upbringing; however, he "didn't get much out of it." In his quest for a meaningful, nurturing spiritual experience, he tried many different non-denominational Christian churches over the years. It seemed that whenever he found one he liked, the dogma turned out to be too strict – too limiting. He felt he just "didn't fit the mold." But Terry knew that God is real, and he believed strongly in Jesus.

Having moved to the community of Dunedin with his partner of 22 years, Kevin, Terry was searching for a church which would feed him spiritually. One day driving along Bayshore, he spied the sign of Unity Community! He stopped, jotted down the phone number on the

front door, went home and called the number. Of course, he reached Elsie Huebner, our Spiritual Leader. The two of them met at the church and discussed Unity beliefs. Elsie sent him home with a copy of "Lessons in Truth" by Emile Cady. Terry could not put this book down. He read it in one sitting, and then read it again – he read it three times! Terry described the humorous situation in which he found himself – retreating to the bathroom at home to read this book, in order to avoid questions from his family! He did not want to give the book back, and soon used it during Reverend Prentiss's class a few weeks later.

Terry feels his spiritual awakening began with reading Gibran's "The Prophet" years ago, but he found something he really likes in Unity. He especially enjoys attending Unity Community of Dunedin. Terry likes the "very nice" people here, finding them to be "real, not dictating what others should be or do." Terry appreciates the non-judgmental practice of Unity people.

Terry and Kevin have two sons, Joshua and Jeremy. Joshua lives on Cape Cod and works as a carpenter there. Jeremy and his family live in Charlotte, North Carolina. He is a chef and Doggie Daycare worker. Jeremy's wife, Jill, owns and manages a very successful hair salon. Terry and Kevin have three grandchildren: Lincoln, Antonia, and Lillyanna.

When asked about the achievements of which he is most proud, Terry mentioned his work ethic, his sons, and his "current attitude of humility." Explaining that he'd always wanted to be a CEO, he's found that working as a CNA is far more important, a more valuable contribution than the other.

Terry's hopes and goals for the future include staying healthy, and appreciating his life here in beautiful Florida! He knows the decision as to whether or not to start another business will come at just the right time.

Welcome to Unity Community of Dunedin, Terry - we're very glad you're here!

....*Marilyn Renner*



....by Elsie Huebner, Spiritual Leader

"An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.'" - MT 1:30

Loving people don't strive for love, they allow love. If you think of the most loving people you know, chances are they are not trying to love. They are simply being true to what they are, and what they are is love.

"She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." - MT 1-21

However people may treat us, it's important to love them. Certainly it's easy to judge them as not worthy of our love, but in withholding love from them, we are first depriving ourselves. Are we unworthy, too?

"And they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us.'" - MT 1-23

The degree in which you can let your love flow unconditionally in all directions is the automatic built-in gauge of how you are letting God express in your life. Your love quotient is never higher than the least amount of love you give to someone.

"When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him." - MT 1-24

In the past, has someone's love for you affected your decision to love that person and others? For example, the leader of a clique in high school may have unexpectedly shown love for you and you may have decided to love him or her and their group.

"Joseph...went...to the city of David called Bethlehem...to be registered with Mary." Luke 2:4-5

In the past, has someone's lack of love for you affected your decision to withhold love from that person and others? For example, a bitter

divorce may have led you to withhold love from your former mate and his or her family.

"While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child." Luke 2-6

Is there anyone you love unconditionally? Think about this for a good while. If you answered "yes," be sure there are no strings attached to your love. If you feel you could love this person more if he or she did something more, then your present love is conditional. Or if your love would diminish even a little bit if this person stopped doing something (like loving you), it is conditional.

"She gave birth to her firstborn son, and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger." - Luke 2:7

The power of love begins with God, but we need to accept that love as our own before it can be sent to someone else. The more we accept God's love, the more we allow it to pass on to others. Know that love is not something you have to master, but only allow. There is something you can practice over and over again, however, and that is the decision to love. Make up your mind to love, and then let love do what love will. The mind is extremely powerful. It can take you to the very gates of heaven, but only your heart can utter the password to let you enter.

Love is a divine activity. It is a cosmic force, a spiritual gift. It is a part of our life just as the ocean is part of the fish's life. As long as the fish swims in the ocean, the ocean sustains it and nurtures it and renews it. Love is God's ocean, and we live and move and have our being in that ocean. Love is God's energy, and when we let love direct us, we let God direct us and we become part of the divine energy of God.

Life lived from this awareness becomes so sweetly simple. Love is the healer. Love is the harmonizer of nations. Love is the soothing balm of relationships.

Paul spoke eloquently about love in 1 Cor. 13:2, "And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing."

(Excerpted from Unity's "Reclaiming Christmas - 26 Days to Spiritual Rebirth")