

GoodNewsLetter

Unity Community Church

December 2014-February 2015 • UnityDunedin.org • UnityDunedin@aol.com



Dear Beloved Friends,

We leave our Thanksgiving celebrations with hearts full of love and a renewed sense of gratitude to you, our spiritual family.

The message of Christmas is PEACE. This was announced in Isaiah's prophecy of the coming of the Holy Child to earth: *"For unto us a child is born...and his name will be called...Prince of Peace."* It was also emphasized by angels heralding Jesus' birth: *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace."*

An awesome truth is that the Christ is also within you. The birth of the inner Christ is an awakening of our own divine nature. The angels and prophets proclaimed the arrival of Immanuel, a Hebrew word meaning God is with us. Charles Fillmore, co-founder of Unity, said Immanuel means the consciousness of God that is with us and we are one with God.

This newsletter comes to you enveloped by the spirit of the coming season. May the Christ express through you with greater power than ever before, throughout the holidays and in the New Year.

We joyously invite you to join us here at Unity Community for all of our special holiday activities and awesome musical presentations and classes in the New Year.

In His Love and Light,
Elsie Huebner, Spiritual Leader

SPEAKERS and ACTIVITIES **Sunday Service – 10:00 a.m.**

December 7 – Rev. Aldon Samaha

December 14 – Linda Carney, Licensed Unity Teacher

December 21 – Elsie Huebner, Spiritual Leader "Once Upon a Christmas" with an abundance of Christmas music. Join us for special holiday finger foods during fellowship time after church.

December 24, 7:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

December 28 – Elsie Huebner, Spiritual Leader

"Burning Bowl" and "Letter to God" Service

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 want 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 4, 2015 **Armand and Angelina**

Start the New Year with love and joy! Armand and Angela will present their special musical Sunday Service. We'll have a potluck luncheon afterwards, followed by a concert entitled "The Age of Aquarius." Concert is presented on a responsible love offering basis.

(continued "Speakers and Activities")

January 11, 18, 25 and Feb 1
Elsie Huebner, Spiritual Leader
"Four Agreements"

February 8 – Special Musical Service
with FAIRIE ELAINE SILVER

February 15 – Rev. Aldon Samaha

February 22 – Phyllis Barrett DeBella,
Licensed Unity Teacher

March 1 – Special Musical Message and
concert with BOB SIMA (potluck lunch
before concert)

NEW CLASS
"Infinite Possibilities"
Wednesdays, January 21 – March 4,
7:00 – 9:00 pm

1. Thoughts Become Things
2. Beliefs
3. Emotions
4. Taking Action
5. Instincts and Hunches, Dreams and Desires
6. Faith and the Magical Universe
7. The Meaning of Life

Join us for a fun filled class series as we explore the deeper layers of the **Law of Attraction**. Certified Trainer Gregg Sanderson will teach the Infinite Possibilities Program by best-selling author Mike Dooley of **The Secret**. You'll see how powerful you are and what your true purpose on this planet is. It is to **THRIVE**. There will also be inspirational and funny videos, along with other activities to get you charged up to have the life of your dreams. By the end of the class series, you will have laughed, possibly cried, but most importantly, you will be on your way to a better and brighter you.

Registration required by signing up at church or phoning the church. Workbook will be available at the first class. Class presented on a Love Offering Basis.

NOTICE

Annual Membership Meeting will be held after church service on Sunday, February 15, 2015. Year-end financial reports, proposed budget, spiritual leaders report and election of several directors will take place at the meeting. If you will need an absentee ballot, please let us know before the meeting by calling Elsie (727-791-7732) or emailing UnityDunedin@aol.com.

Call for Nominations

If you would like to run for a seat on the Board of Directors, or nominate another member, please let Elsie or Barbara Lanier know.



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 (Toastmasters in recess Christmas and New Year's Week)

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.

U-C Angels, usually 2nd Saturday of month

Prayer 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



Since our last newsletter, two beloved members of our church family made their transition: Rev. Bette Petersen and Jerry Fudge. Bette served in almost every capacity during her years at Unity Community (speaker, board director, treasurer, worship leader, Reiki healer, and more). Jerry also gave of his talents by serving as a Pilgrimage Energy Healer and a Prayer Chaplain. We bless Bette and Jerry on their way to new and even more wonderful life experiences in God's many mansions.

We offer our deepest condolences to Marilyn Renner and Diane Ramsey on the loss of their beloved mothers.

Congratulations to Josie Davenport and Jack Furey, who will be married on Sand Key Beach two days after Christmas.

Congratulations to new member Maizie Dalby, who recently joined Donoghue-Dunedin Toastmasters Club. She has won first place with her very first speech. If you are interested in checking out Toastmasters, it meets on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. Visitors are always welcome.

Catherine Montez and her son, Timmy, moved to Buena Vista, Colorado. Catherine says "It's a little town almost 8000 feet up, looking at 14000 foot peaks which had snow on them in October." Timmy has his first job and Catherine is seeking employment. They are very happy in their new location.

Jim and Carol Minner, who have been "snow birds," announced that they have sold their home up north and will live in Florida year-round.

Christine, John and Emmy Oberst took an exciting trip to the Grand Canyon and Sedona in November. They had a wonderful time.

We donated lots of toys for our Christmas project, Toys for Tots, sponsored by the Marine Corps. This year we partnered with Revs. Frank Drexler and David Panunzio, who collect Toys for Tots every year through their ministry.

New member, Pat Franz, created a beautiful necklace and earring set for us to raffle off. Thank you, Pat

FINANCIAL REPORT – OCTOBER 2014

Operating Income	\$3,339.00
Non-Operating Income	0
Operating Expense	3,913.08
Non-Operating Expense	215.00
Difference	-789.08

CHURCH NEEDS A NEW ROOF

The church roof is very old and we've had to repair it numerous times. Now, it's beyond repair. The board secured estimates from three licensed roofing contractors. It will cost about \$18,000, which includes a separate cost for moving and disconnecting/reconnecting the two air conditioners. This will be our biggest expense since purchasing the building. We're thanking God in advance that we have the funds to take care of our beloved church.

We appreciate your loving prayers and financial support all year long and especially thank you in advance for holiday gifts of substance, which will be used to help pay for our new roof.



A Christmas Blessing for you

May your Christmas be filled with beautiful hours

And memories lovely to hold,

To enhance and embellish the days of your years,

Like angel wings sprinkled with gold.

May Christ spirit, in all of its joy,

Touch the depths of your soul with delight,

And may blessings in bushels, abundant and rich,

Light every part of your life.

WHY MEMBERSHIP IN UNITY?

Members can vote at membership meetings and serve on the Board of Directors. Members declare their commitment to the Unity way of life. It means that this is their church, their spiritual home. It means they are proud to declare that it is, and are willing to accept their share of the responsibility. If you are interested in becoming a member, please let Elsie know.

PRAYER. We believe in prayer at Unity Community. Each written request placed in our prayer box is given prayer treatment at our church, then sent to Silent Unity for an additional 30 days of prayer. Our Prayer Chaplains also pray for those who attend Unity Community. They make wellness calls every month and pray with you for any concern you have. If you don't have a prayer chaplain assigned to you, and would like one, please let Elsie know.

HELPING HANDS ARE LOVING HANDS. One of the things that stands out in our church is that almost everyone has a job to do and people say it makes them feel in partnership with the ministry. If you would like to help out, either in a large way or a small way, please let one of the Board Members or the Spiritual Leader know.

OUR CHURCH TITHES. Unity Community tithes 10% of our operating income to persons and organizations that feed us spiritually and make the world a better place to live. Perhaps that's why we have always had resources to pay our bills on time and put funds into savings. Tithing does work for people and organizations.

MISSION STATEMENT: Unity Community is a spiritual family of love, guided by the Holy Spirit. We encourage and empower each other to grow in consciousness by teaching, learning and practicing the universal truth principles that Jesus Christ demonstrated.

VISION STATEMENT: Unity Community is overflowing with love, peace, friendship, closeness and spiritual nourishment for all. We are a reflection of God's perfection through Enlightened Christianity.

Happy Special Days

BIRTHDAYS

Dec 10 – Darcy Anne Potts

Dec 18 – Pat Gannon

Jan 3 – Jan Sprague

Jan 13 – Steve Brewer

Jan 15 – Celia Blum

Jan 18 – Nancy Baird

Jan 29 – Jane Killian

Feb 1 – Joanne West

February 3 – Pat Frantz

Feb 20 – Dee Kuncz

ANNIVERSARIES

Jan 1 – Pat and Bill Frantz

Jan 27 – Jan and Norm Sprague

Feb 22 – Mary and Robert Sutherland

Thank you, Jane Killian, for always remembering us on our special days. Since 1997, Jane has kept the records, sent birthday, anniversary, Get Well, and Condolence cards from the church, all at her own expense. How blessed we are by Jane's loving gifts.



Why Did the Magi Bring Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh?

Medicinal uses of frankincense may help explain the gifts of the magi

Were the gifts of the magi meant to save Jesus from the pain of arthritis? It's possible, according to researchers at Cardiff University in Wales who have been studying the medical uses of frankincense.

Since the early days of Christianity, Biblical scholars and theologians have offered varying interpretations of the meaning and significance of the gold, frankincense and myrrh that the magi presented to Jesus, according to the Gospel of Matthew (2:11). These valuable items were standard gifts to honor a king or deity in the ancient world: gold as a precious metal, frankincense as perfume or incense, and myrrh as anointing oil. In fact, these same three items were apparently among the gifts, recorded in ancient inscriptions, that King Seleucus II Callinicus offered to the god Apollo at the temple in Miletus in 243 B.C.E.

The Book of Isaiah, when describing Jerusalem's glorious restoration, tells of nations and kings who will come and "bring gold and frankincense and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord" (Isaiah 60:6). Although Matthew's gospel does not include the names or number of the Magi, many believe that the number of the gifts is what led to the tradition of the Three Wise Men.

The traditional gifts of the magi—gold, frankincense and myrrh—may have had symbolic as well as practical value. Researchers believe the medicinal uses of frankincense were known to the author of Matthew's gospel.

In addition to the honor and status implied by the value of the gifts of the magi, scholars think that these three were chosen for their special spiritual symbolism about Jesus himself—gold representing his kingship, frankincense a symbol of his priestly role, and myrrh a prefiguring of his death and embalming—an interpretation made popular in the well-known Christmas carol "We Three Kings."

Still others have suggested that the gifts of the magi were a bit more practical—even medicinal in nature. Researchers at Cardiff University have

demonstrated that frankincense has an active ingredient that can help relieve arthritis by inhibiting the inflammation that breaks down cartilage tissue and causes arthritis pain. The new study validates traditional uses of frankincense as an herbal remedy to treat arthritis in communities of North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula, where the trees that produce this aromatic resin grow.

Did the Magi "from the East" know of frankincense's healing properties when they presented it to young Jesus?

(Based on Strata, "[The Magi's Gifts—Tribute or Treatment?](#)" *Biblical Archaeology Review*, January/February 2012. [Biblical Archaeology Society Staff](#) • 10/23/2014 *This Bible History Daily feature was originally published in December 2011. It has been updated*)



**"SILENT NIGHT
HOLY NIGHT!
ALL IS CALM,
ALL IS BRIGHT!"**

This most beloved Christmas song was hastily written on the afternoon of Christmas Eve in 1818, by a young German priest, Franz Gruber. The cathedral's massive organ had suddenly quit working and Franz needed a song to sing and play on his guitar for services that night. Little did he, or anyone, know what a blessed gift God had sent us through Franz Gruber's Divine inspiration.