

## UNITY NORTHERN LIGHT – DECEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

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### FRONT PAGE

Dear Friends,

Myrtle Fillmore once wrote this regarding Christmas:

“Would it not be well for us to consider individually and collectively the question of how we can observe Christmas in the spirit of its true idea? We have enslaved ourselves with the burden of giving at Christmas. We have lost sight of the real spirit of giving when we spend ourselves and deplete our purses for the sake of conforming to the almost universal custom of exchanging gifts with our friends. It would be much more in conformity with the Christ Spirit to use the time in sending out to our friends the joyful thoughts that come spontaneously from the Christ love. The gift is but the symbol of what we desire for our friends.” (from *Myrtle Fillmore: Mother of Unity*)

“. . . sending out joyful thoughts that come spontaneously from the Christ love.”  
Wow! Imagine how truly uplifting (as opposed to exhausting) the holidays would be if we learned to do what Myrtle is suggesting. Instead of a purely material gift, a spontaneous expression of gratitude, love or admiration may really warm our heart and bring peace on earth.

So, let me give it a try!

Thank you, Unity North Spiritual Community, for being a wonderful space for me to serve, learn and grow. There is no other place I'd rather be!

Blessings,

Carol

### **Christmas Eve Services**

5:00 Family Service

7:00 Candlelight Service

### **Peace Is Possible Now World Healing Meditation**

You are invited to the annual meditation for peace presented by the Y.O.U.

Meditation service begins at 6 a.m. and is followed by a candlelight breakfast.

**Thursday, December 31, at 6 a.m.**

## **BOARD MINUTES**

Greetings from your Board!

Thanks to everyone who was able to attend the 2009 Annual Meeting held last Sunday. I would like to share a few highlights for those of you who were not able to attend. Overall we had a solid year. We were within budget on many of the budget items and over budget in a few areas. Over the summer our monthly tithe income has fallen off considerably. This is pretty typical, but it usually rebounds to a more acceptable level in August and September. This year we have not seen that rebound. We decided that we would need to review the proposed budget we completed in September and make some adjustments before it is approved. We voted to extend the current budget for one more month so that we may reconvene on November 29 to finalize the adjustments we need to make. We will be presenting the revised budget at the next Board meeting on December 13. That meeting will be held in the sanctuary so that all who wish to can attend.

We reported on committee and Board action throughout the year and will be publishing those reports for your inspection. We had some great results in all of our committees and ministry departments this past year. I encourage you to review the reports and thank the committee chairs for all they do for us. If you would like to receive an electronic copy of the reports, please send your request to [unity@unitynorthchurch.org](mailto:unity@unitynorthchurch.org).

We also had a town hall meeting on the Anoka County Family Promise program. Our own Rhonda Steele is the chairman for the committee responsible for bringing this program to aid homeless families to Anoka County. They are currently looking for churches to host families for one week, four times a year and provide them space to sleep and meals. The Board wants to get a general sense of how the community would respond. Before we make any commitments to this program, we need to know if this is something that we want to take part in. Many concerns were raised, and most can be answered with a little more detail about the program. Rhonda will be gathering the information and present in detail what our participation in this program would look like. We will be revisiting this again on December 13 and encourage you all to come and listen to what she has to say and give us your opinion. The program needs commitments from a few more churches to proceed, and we would like to make our decision by the January Board meeting.

Finally, we have three members of the Board coming to the end of their terms and three new members joining the Board. The exiting members are our secretary, Julie Gardner, John Ice, and Mark Haapoja as president. The new members will be Eleanor Deemer, Tom Haddox, and Bill Davis. The Board will appoint members to the open positions in the December meeting. Please join me in thanking the exiting members for their service and dedication these past three years.

## Treasurer's Report

Cash flow report:

### August

Inflow \$13,520.53  
Outflow \$10,271.85  
Net \$3,356.07

### Sept.

Inflow \$8,357.99  
Outflow \$9,539.83  
Net (\$1,181.84)

### Oct.

Inflow \$11,159.91  
Outflow \$24,735.16  
Net (\$13,575.25)

### Annual

Inflow \$163,448.23  
Outflow \$156,787.13  
Net \$6,661.10

October points of interest.

- Net loss of \$13,575—partially due to timing of expenditures
- Good for You Day income of \$3,027 covers most of the landscaping expense of \$3,400 (regrading due to moisture issue)
- Tithing income \$4,000 below new 2010 budget
- Expenses \$13,000 over budget due to:
  - Parking lot--\$6,950 (income in FY2009)
  - Moisture Project--\$5,900 (\$3,000 covered by Good for You Day)
    - Landscaping--\$3,400
    - Mold Removal in Carol's office--\$925
    - Rebuild Carol's office--\$750
    - Gutters--\$825
  - Copier overage--\$400 (annual plan will be reviewed)

This will be my last official Board article. It has been a pleasure serving you. Thank you all for the opportunity and support in the past years.

Mark Haapoja

Exiting Unity Board of Trustees President

## OUTREACH NEWS

This month's events include:

- Adopt-a-Family for Christmas – Gifts for families from Everyday Miracles will be due back to the church on Sunday, December 13. Family information is available on the narthex table.
- There will be a Bear Blessing on Sunday, December 27.

All of us on the Outreach Committee want to thank everyone who helped with their time, talents and tithing for Family Table Meals and all of our other programs this year. You have been very generous. We have helped a lot of people this year and had lots of fun doing it as well. Thank You!

Becky Haaf, Rhonda Steele, Mary Sorenson, Kathleen Bailey, Sue & Rick Bona and Donna Snyder

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

We studied the power of **Love** in October and November. One of the principles is to love your neighbor as yourself.

We have been singing the Magic Penny song. It goes like this: "Love is something, when you give it away, you end up having more." We pass the basket each Sunday. The children know the money is sent to our CCF child in Thailand. We talk about our connection to someone we do not know. This would be much more powerful for our children if they had a coin of their own, not from their parent(s), to place in the basket each Sunday. Therefore, we are making banks with the children. These banks are made from three baby food jars attached together. The lids will say Fun, Save and Give. There is some planning on the parent's part. Each time money is received, some is placed in each jar. This could look like a weekly allowance of fifty cents given in dimes. Two dimes could go into the Fun and Save containers, and one into the Give container, or any combination of the above. If you would like your child to have this bank and you were not at the service on November 22, let me know, and I will get you the number of banks needed.

Also, in December we are decorating mittens and gloves for children and will be donating them to our Christmas families and sending the rest down to Mary Jo's place in Minneapolis. If you have a pair of gloves or mittens in nice shape that you would like to donate to this service project, see Brenda or deliver the items to a Sunday School teacher on or before December 6.

Happy Holidays to you and yours.

Brenda Erickson, Director of Children's Church

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### UNITY NORTH BOOK CLUB

7:00 p.m.

December 3, *We Are Their Heaven* by Allison DuBois

### SPIRITUAL CINEMA

Friday, December 11, 7 p.m.

\$5 donation

Starring Robin Williams and Cuba Gooding, Jr.

Join Robin Williams on a wondrous afterlife odyssey in this visually dazzling fantasy/romance in which he plays a devoted doctor and husband who is killed in a car accident. Taken to a heaven of his own imagining by spiritual guide Cuba Gooding, Jr., Williams must leave the pastoral paradise to attempt to save wife Annabella Sciorra, sent to a hellish netherworld after taking her own life in despair. Max von Sydow also stars.

Robin Williams is masterful and Sciorra perfectly mirrors her soul mate (Williams). Their performances encapsulate all the joy and abject sorrow human life entails. It's a movie that wants you to find real love, see beyond cynicism and grasp the idea of soul mate. And it's all presented in a stunningly gorgeous montage of exquisite color and symmetry.

From the opening shot to the closing frame, it's magnificent. The story is enveloping, encompassing nearly every aspect of human emotion. It's a roller-coaster ride but rewarding. Comedy, hope, sadness, joy, elation, despair... all displayed perfectly.

## **NOTICE ABOUT PARKING IN THE WELLS FARGO BANK LOT**

We have checked with the branch manager, and we can park in the Wells Fargo bank parking lot for Sunday services as long as we do not park by the door to the lobby of the bank.

### **CALENDAR**

Nov. 25, Thanksgiving Service, 7 PM

Dec. 3, Book Club, 7 PM

Dec. 6, Mittens due to Children's Church

Dec. 11, Spiritual Cinema (What Dreams May Come), 7 PM

Dec. 13, Adopt a Family Gifts Due to Church

Dec. 13, Board Meeting—all welcome, 12:30 PM

Dec. 15, Articles due for January/February newsletter

Dec. 24, Family Service (5 PM); Candlelight Service (7 PM)

Dec. 27, Healing Services, 8:45 and 11 AM

Dec. 27, Bear Blessing

Dec. 31, PIPN Meditation by Y.O.U., 6 AM, followed by candlelight breakfast

### **ONGOING**

Church Services, Sundays, 8:45 and 11 AM

Nursery and Sunday School, Sundays, 11 AM

Y.O.U., Sundays, 10 AM

Y.O.U., Wednesdays, 6 PM

Midweek Recharge, Wednesdays at 7 PM

CoDA, Thursdays at 6 PM