

UNITY NORTHERN LIGHT – OCTOBER 2008 NEWSLETTER

FRONT PAGE

Dear Friends,

"This is truly an amazing time to be alive. Even in the face of seemingly growing global chaos there is evidence the seeds of transformation are springing to life. As we open our collective eyes and see the work to be done we might feel overwhelmed and small. Yet people all over the world are realizing 'if it is to be, it's up to me.' WE, each one of us, make up the collective. And when we join together and do what needs to be done, transformation occurs." ---- from *Contact* magazine, June 2008

Unity North Church is participating in a movement-wide adventure! The School and Association of Unity Churches recently adopted this visionary statement: "We are the fastest growing transformational spiritual movement in the world. Our congregants, leaders, and our new and established ministries are thriving, whole, healthy, and prosperous. We work closely with leaders around the world to bring forth 'a new heaven and a new earth,' as one human family living in a world that works for all."

We at Unity North have taken, with many other unity churches around the world, a Thriving-in-Unity challenge! This challenge comes with goals and benchmarks in leadership, outreach, service, spiritual development, social action and prosperity.

We will begin immediately in October. The first two Sundays will include a short DVD from our Association. I will be posting the benchmarks for our work in the above-mentioned areas at church and on the website. We will explain them in the newsletter. I implore each of you to be especially informed now through April when this set of challenges will be accomplished.

All of this, of course, is to be done to support and manifest the transformational spiritual movement, which can then help to bring forth "a world that works for all." This is our opportunity to live the fifth Unity principle: "It is not enough to know the truth. We must act on the truth we know." We must live our principles in this world.

I am very excited about this opportunity! Your first opportunity to lend your energy to this adventure will be to join a five-week study group either at the church or in someone's home. We will be discussing Tolle's *A New Earth*. Though some of you participated with this online, I'm sure it will be a different experience to share this with other people in our community: the more participants, the more power. (Our present world consciousness needs this.) Let's power up!

Blessings,
Carol

Can You Help with Benchmark Number 8?

Benchmark number eight is Congregant Spiritual Development. You could help if you are willing to invite church friends to your house for a five-week book study. We will start in mid-October and finish before Thanksgiving. The book is Tolle's *A New Earth*, and study guides will be provided to every participant. Everyone would be sharing the material together. You would be providing a space in your home for "two or more to gather." If you are willing, please let Carol know by October 5. There will be a study group held at the church as well on Tuesday nights from 7 to 9, beginning October 21.

OCTOBER TALK TITLES

Oct. 5 – We Took the Unity Challenge

Oct. 12 – Our Part in Transforming the World

Oct. 19 – The Meaning of Religion (from *A New Earth*)

Oct. 26 – Guest Speaker: Rev. Ron Moor (Northern Enlightenment Series follows Simply Foods luncheon)

BOARD MINUTES

Summer is winding down and the events at Unity are cranking up. I hope you all had a chance to participate in some part of the 11 days of prayer events. Make sure you keep an eye on the calendar in the narthex and in the newsletter, as there are a lot of excellent opportunities for growth, fellowship and service in the near future. I am sure there will be one or two things that you just won't want to miss!

The Board has been working on a new project called **Thriving with Unity**. It is a program from Unity Village that gives us some practical challenges and steps to help us evaluate our progress as a community and how we represent ourselves in the larger community around us. Many of the tasks in this project are already in the works and some well on their way to completion. The Board has been working on a **survey** for you, the congregation, to share your perceptions and ideas with us as part of this process. We are in the final stages of preparing that survey and plan to have it available for the **November annual meeting on November 2**.

Ah yes, the annual meeting. The Board is asking that all the committee chairs start preparing their annual reports and any budget needs they anticipate for next year. The Board would like to have those **reports submitted by October 19**, which is two weeks prior to the annual meeting. This will give us all a chance to prepare the agenda and review the information prior to the meeting with a goal of shortening the meeting time. Reports may be turned in to Sara in the office or placed in the Board folder.

Building news: One of the windows in Carol's office was broken by a large rock. The double pane glass prevented the rock from going all the way through, and it appears that it was just a random vandalism and not an attempt to break in. The police have been notified of the event and the repair has been made. We also had a visitor from a roofing company that informed us that our roof appears to have wind and possibly hail damage. A rep from our insurance company is coming out to give his opinion. If he agrees that there is damage, we will replace the church roof, which leads us to the next item.

Roof Repair and Parking Lot Fundraiser: Many of you know Brian Koessler from the Y.O.U. Brian's dad, Jon Koessler, is a Claims Consultant for Excel Roofing based in Anoka. Excel Roofing has agreed to donate directly to the church 3% of the cost of each roof "bought" by an insurance company for members of our church community! The money we earn this way will be put into a fund to be used to replace the church parking lot. Note: Because of the storms that went through the area earlier in the summer, many of our homes have hail damage. Many people don't realize they have damage to the roof or siding because it takes a trained eye to spot it. If there is damage, especially to the roof, it's important that it get taken care of asap. If you are interested in having Brian and

his dad look at your roof, please call Brian on his cell phone at 763.213.6358 after 3 p.m. M-F and anytime on weekends. You can also call Jon Koessler at 763.670.0574; just say you are from Unity North Church. Excel Roofing has a "Master Elite" certification, which only 3% of the contractors in the state have. They use GAF shingles, which is one of the largest shingle companies in North America. There is the potential here to make some serious money for our parking lot fundraiser!

Please take a look at the Treasurer's Report below. We had a good month overall. So far we have been really close to making our goals for income and have been better at staying within our budget.

Thank You All,

Mark Haapoja, President

Board of Trustees

The Treasurer's Report

We were a little short on our tithe income as attendance is still low as we come to the end of summer. Expenses are down this month so that offset this nicely. There was a large tithe toward the purchase of audio and video equipment that replaces the funds spent for our video projector and screens. We continue to be very blessed!

Cash Flow

July 2008

Inflow – 8,630.93

Outflow – 11,828.25

Net – (3,197.32)

August 2008

Inflow – 11,561.88

Outflow – 9,110.12

Net – 2,451.76

We would like to announce that Cindy Huberty is stepping down from the Assistant Treasurer position, and we will be looking for a new person to fill her role. Cindy primarily performed accounts payable functions; i.e., writing checks in payment of bills. This is not a Board position but rather an administrative role. If you would like more information about this opportunity to be of service, contact Carol or one of the other Board members.

OUTREACH NEWS

The Outreach Committee is focusing on our Unity North Food Shelf during the month of October. We are very low on food and need to restock our shelves. Please pick up a bag and buy what you can on the list. If you can't afford all the items on the list, that's OK—do what you can. We appreciate any donation.

Some people have asked if they can just bring in any canned good item and why we are so specific on what we want for our food shelf. Did you know that our food shelf gives the person in need two boxes that are filled with enough food for one week of meals for a family of four? The food and meals have been specifically planned for five days. Also included in the boxes are a Cub certificate for fresh food items, a gas certificate and variety of personal products. The personal products include shampoo, conditioner and soap. The items all fit into two easy-to-carry boxes. So this is why we are so specific about the items we collect.

We need more committee members! We have so many ideas, but not enough people to help. If you are interested in finding out more, or have ideas of your own for the Outreach Committee, please talk with Rhonda Steele or Becky Haaf.

Rhonda Steele, Kathleen Bailey, Becky Haaf

Y.O.U. NEWS

We would like to introduce to you our two children sponsored through Christian Children's Fund— Polce from Indonesia and Ashni from India. Polce is 10 and lives with his grandparents. Though he has struggled with asthma, he still enjoys playing sports. Ashni is 13 and lives with her parents and brother. The family earns approximately \$213 per year and is very poor. In school, Ashni likes math and science. She enjoys playing ball in her free time.

On Sunday, October 26, we will be providing a Simply Foods luncheon to raise money for their care. We always try to pay for 6 months in advance for each child. The amount of sponsorship per child was recently raised to \$28 per month because of the rising cost of food and fuel throughout the world. We thank you in advance for attending the Simply Foods in support of our CCF kids.

Thanks,
The Y.O.U.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Lumindorf School

We are currently using a Harry Potter curriculum to learn our lessons based on the Five Unity Principles and on the Twelve Powers. The Powers' banners are on the wall above the altar in the Fellowship Hall; have a look. The Lumindorf lessons will be posted on a wall in each classroom.

We are at full staff. Here is a list of this year's fabulous teachers: Pre-K/Kindergarten—Liz Carr; 1st/2nd—Marla Nelson, Rhonda Steele, Christine Grinsell and Robyn Froemming; 3rd/4th—Michele Costa and Martha Burckhardt; 5th/6th—Dawn Premo and Vicky Wedwick. Our Uniteens, the 7th and 8th graders, are doing their own, separate program with Bernadette Levesque-Olson and Nancy Helvig. These women are giving of themselves, their time and their resources. Thank you so much for stepping forward and taking up this calling to help guide and nurture our young people.

Parents, please remember to check your children out immediately after the service.

Brenda Erickson, Children's Church Director

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HEART RHYTHM MEDITATION

With Will Hale

\$35 for 3 weeks - Wednesdays, Oct 1, 8, 15, 7:30—8:45

Sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex

Minimum 6 participants

A simple method to bring more Spirit into your everyday life. We will learn the basic fundamentals of Heart Rhythm Meditation through practical direct experience. Questions - contact Will Hale 651 307 3849 or will@willhale.com

More information at www.applied-meditation.org

REMINDER: Unconditional Love and Forgiveness Workshop, Oct. 3-5

SACRED BEADWORK WITH LIZ MCGONIGLE CARR
Two Thursday Evenings in October, 7 – 9 p.m.

Beadwork is a beautiful way to bring healing, peace and prayerful energy to you, your home or workplace. The unconscious responds easily and readily to symbols, so we work our intentions in colors, numbers, animals and medallions. Various stones emit helpful energy so we may add these into our work. These classes will cover basic techniques, symbols and stones which can be used to awaken intensity in our prayer work. Each class will start at beginner level but will be tailored to the level of the students, so beginners are very welcome. Handouts and drawings available to take home. Unless otherwise indicated, classes are open to ages 12 years and older—all genders welcome! Bring materials you wish to use, or you may purchase supplies from instructor at class. Tools provided or bring your own tools and learn how to use them.

Payment by Love Offering at end of class. Usual charge is \$35 per class (but don't let that stop you). Supply lists and sign-up sheet on credenza. Limit 12 per class; no minimum. (You do not have to register for *all* the classes—you may take any one or more than one.)

Oct. 2, **Sacred Beadwork – For MEN ONLY** (Woven Hatpiece, Armbrace, etc.) Create and learn to use a Bead Weaving Loom. Traditional beadwork has never been just for women! Simple bead looms and directions for making your own loom at home will be available. Bring a loom if you have one. Focus will be on weaving a rectangular beaded piece in class, 2-4 inches wide and up to 10 inches long. (Longer works may need to be completed at home.) Simple patterns will be available and we will discuss traditional meanings of colors and symbols that you can work into your beadpiece. Dedication of sacred item at end of class.

Oct. 9, **Sacred Beadwork – Chakras in Beadwork** (Create your choice of choker, earring(s), ankle or wrist brace(let)) Positioning one's beadpiece brings energy to an area in need of healing or an intention symbolized by that particular area of the body. We will discuss the energy inherent in the main chakras and how chakras can aid our prayer intentions in physical, mental, spiritual and emotional healing. Through a simple meditation, each student will pick a chakra to utilize for prayer intention and then create a healing item to wear. Together we will secure healing into our creations at the end of class. Wear your prayer every day!

OCTOBER SPIRITUAL CINEMA presents CURTAIN CALL. A *spirited romance* directed by Peter Yates, featuring James Spader, Polly Walker, Maggie Smith, and Michael Caine. 1999

There be Ghosts in this story! This amusing film introduces us to a young executive named Stevenson Lowe who moves into a house inhabited by the ghosts of two famous stage actors from a previous age, Lily Marlowe and Max Gale, who bicker constantly. The ghosts quickly involve themselves in Stevenson's life, helping to foil any chance of success he might have with his girlfriend Julia, and making complete nuisances of themselves in every way possible. Incredibly, though, even the ghosts evolve in this story of life, love and relationships, and trying to right the wrongs that cause our souls unrest. 7PM, Friday, Oct. 10, Discussion Circle to follow.

Suggested donation - \$5

UNITY NORTH BOOK CLUB

7:00 p.m.

Oct. 16—*The Lost Gospel of Judas Iscariot* (Bart Ehrman)

GOOD FOR YOU DAY

Saturday, October 18

9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Registration starts at 9:00 a.m.

COMING SOON!! GREAT FOOD! EXCELLENT BODYWORK! INFORMATIVE READINGS! Come rain or shine for a great day of pampering yourself. Bring friends and family for this Unity North fun raiser and fundraiser. Come try a new Good For You Soup at our Good For You Café.

Want first pick of sessions? Buy one or more raffle tickets and get meals and free sessions at Good For You Day. Raffle tickets are \$5 each. Tickets will be on sale Sundays until the start of the 11 a.m. service on October 12. Drawing will be held on October 12 at 11 a.m. service. You do not need to be present to win. Sessions can be shared with one other person.

First Prize – 5 sessions and meals

Second Prize – 3 sessions and meals

Third Prize – 2 sessions and meals

Come and learn about Sacred Contracts, how words affect your life with Word Play, Sacred Beadwork and how Essential Oils work in 1 hour classes. The classes are \$15 each.

Hands-on energy work sessions are \$15. Readings are \$20. Sessions are a half hour long. Breakfast and lunch are \$8 for both or \$4 for breakfast and \$6 for lunch.

We are looking for volunteers to help set up the church for Good For You Day on Friday evening, October 17, starting at 6 p.m. and then to help put things back the way they were starting at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 18.

If you want to volunteer your healing or intuitive reading ability or if you have a class you want to teach next Good For You Day, March 14, 2009, please contact Kim Malarkey.

NORTHERN ENLIGHTENMENT LEARNING SERIES

Sunday, October 26, 1:00-3:00

\$30

Reverend Ron Moor will be our guest minister at the healing services in the morning. Join Rev. Moor in the afternoon for his inspiring presentation

THE NARROW GATE WITH REV. RON MOOR

Jesus of Nazareth and Lao Tzu of Ancient China left us with teachings that are elegant, simple, and challenging. "When the very best seekers hear of way-making, they are just barely able to keep to its center," says Lao Tzu. "For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it," says Jesus. Although they lived in different times and very different civilizations, their teachings have a remarkably similar thread. Often, the study of one helps illumine the other. We will explore the Tao Te Ching and the recently discovered Gospel of Thomas. Both are Sayings Gospels – short passages that challenge, stimulate and illumine. The Gospel of Thomas may be the earliest record of the actual teachings of Jesus. Both arose in times of great turmoil. Both challenge us to look within, to find our own eternal being. Both the Tao and the Gospel of Thomas were banned, and burned, by the rulers of their day. Both have re-emerged in our time with a message of wisdom and hope. Join us as we explore some of the key sayings in each and weave a beautiful cloth of love and appreciation as we open to the Living Presence that speaks so beautifully through these ancient texts.

IS THE ELEMENT OF PLAY MISSING IN YOUR LIFE?

If so, then consider this your Permission Slip to add it in! Unity Nursery is seeking 3 fun-loving individuals to provide care for our Unity little ones. The task is minimal but the reward is great. If your heart is seeking playtime, please talk to Tracy Rohloff, our new Nursery Coordinator (thank you!).

INFORMATION AND MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

When: Mondays, October 27, November 3 and 10, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

What: This is the class that describes the development of Unity, its basic teachings, how Unity North Church works, and the larger Unity Movement of which we are a part. The first night is storytelling: Bring the popcorn and settle in. The last night will include two short DVDs. After this class, participants may choose to become formal members of this spiritual community.

CALENDAR

Sept. 28, Northern Enlightenment Series presents: Curses & Possession, 1-3PM
Oct. 1, 8, 15, Heart Meditation Series, 7:30-8:45 PM
Oct. 2 & 9, Sacred Beadwork Classes, 7 PM
Oct. 3, Dance, Drum, Journey, 7 PM
Oct. 3-5, Unconditional Love & Forgiveness Workshop
Oct. 5 Outreach Committee Meeting 10 AM
Oct. 10, Spiritual Cinema, 7 PM
Oct. 12, Board Meeting, 12:15 PM
Oct. 14, Articles Due for November Newsletter
Oct. 16, Book Club, 7 PM
Oct. 18, Good For You Day, 9 AM registration
Oct. 21, *A New Earth* Study Group begins, 7-9PM
Oct. 26, Healing Services, 8:45 and 11 AM
Oct. 26, Simply Foods Luncheon (Y.O.U Fundraiser/sponsored children), 12:15
Oct. 26, Northern Enlightenment Series: THE NARROW GATE/Rev. Ron Moor
Oct. 27, Membership Classes begin, 7-8:30 PM

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