

Unity Northwest Church **NEWS**

www.unitynorthwest.org

We nurture the experience of God in all.

September 2010

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September Music

5	Todd Jackson
12	Tricia Alexander
19	Unity Northwest Choir
26	Troop Namaste dance led by Jenny Hennek

Unity Northwest Church

Member:	Association of Unity Churches
Affiliation:	Unity School of Christianity
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Todd Jackson	Music Director
Tatiana Naumova	Accompanist
Rev. Diane Venzera	Director Youth Ed / Family Ministry

MINISTER'S LETTER



SWITCHING TO THE SOUL

The soul is a real part of us in the here and now, not some far off abstract unattainable goal. When we begin to see ourselves and others as souls in evolution instead of mere personality/ego selves, it starts to bring real

benefits to us and to them.

When we see others as souls in evolution, we can detach from their momentary behavior (and our own) and focus on the real goal: spiritual growth—theirs and ours. This may mean that when they are behaving in a way that we do not like, we stand back and observe, holding the light of Spirit, instead of intervening unnecessarily. One way to gain greater detachment and receive intuitive guidance is to ask the question "What does this soul need?" Solutions can then download into our consciousness, and we are more truly helpful to them.

Our soul serves as a mediating principle, a connector between the spirit and matter. It is that which moves us through our evolutionary process and creates the life that we live. In its perfected

We are souls in evolution.

and fully evolved state, the soul is the Christ. This means that the Christ is not far away, but is a present reality for us.

All my love,

Greg Barrette
Minister

September Sunday Talks

September 5 — Devotion: Gateway to the Heart
Your heart speaks with the language of devotion. Open up your heart and let your love flow!

September 12 — Two Steps Forward, One Step Back!

The dance of life moves back and forth—more like a cha cha than a straight line tango.

September 19 — Set Your Faith Course; Aim High!

A soul without a high aim is like a ship without a rudder. -Eileen Caddy

September 26 — The Spirit of Service
SPIRIT OF SERVICE SUNDAY

Your own soul will tell you what line of service is yours to do!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

On Thursday, September 9th, thousands of people will once again join with the approximately 900 Unity Churches and Prayer Groups in a sacred partnership of prayer — the 17th annual Unity World Day of Prayer. This is an interfaith event open to people around the world. Its purpose is to unite as many people as possible in prayer for one another and for peace and to raise the spiritual consciousness of humankind by radiating God's love to all. Unity believes prayer is a powerful way to achieve healing, harmony, and understanding among the people of the world.

The Prayer Team of Unity Northwest Church will host a **special prayer service Wednesday, September 8th at 7:00 pm**, after which begins a 24-hour prayer vigil. We invite everyone to join us as we unite in prayer with others across the globe for ourselves, each other, and the world. The affirmation statement for this year's World Day of Prayer celebration is: "We are living expressions of Divine light flowing forth into the world."



Megon McDonough in Concert

"Her Way - An Interesting Bunch of Gals"

**Sat., Sept. 11, at 7 p.m.
Tickets \$20.00**

Megon McDonough's show highlights some of the most prolific and memorable female singers of the last 60 years, including Cher, Dusty Springfield, Billie Holiday, Doris Day, Patsy Cline, Edith Piaf, Carole King, Joni Mitchell, Judy Collins, Petula Clark, Ella Fitzgerald, Lulu, Bonnie Raitt and Janis Joplin. Megon will be joined by Big City Jazz led by composer/arranger Peter Polzaz.

Tickets are being sold after all services through September 5th. A limited number of tickets will be sold at the door the day of the concert. Doors open at 6:00 pm, and seating is on a first come, first served basis so plan on buying your tickets ahead of time and arrive early. For more information, please contact 630-508-6965 to purchase advance tickets.

Stay up-to-date with
Unity Northwest Church.
Visit our website at
www.unitynorthwest.org.

Mission Statement

We nurture the experience of God in all.

Our Core Values

Authenticity

Through our Christ nature, we are authentic, principled people, embodying honesty, integrity, and justice.

Creativity

God expresses through us the beauty and joy of the creative spirit.

Faith

Through prayer and meditation centered in faith, we receive wisdom and inspiration.

Love

Through the power of love, we express compassion and kindness to all.

Strength

Through strength, courage and perseverance, we reveal our Christ self.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES LETTER

Dear Unity Friends,

Your Board of Trustees met on August 18th to conduct its monthly business meeting. There were several important and exciting items approved this month.

- Six new members to our church were accepted. They will be formally welcomed into our church family Sunday, August 22nd.
- The program was adopted for the Martha Creek visit in November. Mark your calendars for Saturday November 6th to attend an all day workshop with Martha and Unity members from around the area.
- We approved the enrollment to Amazon's partnership program which will enable us to link to Amazon through our Unity Northwest website. As you link through our website and purchase items from Amazon, the church will be eligible for a small percentage donation from Amazon. Look for more information as we put this new program in place.

Love, Communicate, Respond

I am pleased to announce that we have appointed Dee Caputo to the new position of Event Coordinator. As special events at our church continue to grow both in number and increased attendance, it becomes clear that we need a central person to coordinate between the church and the event committees. Dee's services will help the various event organizers understand all the aspects of making their event a huge success and how best to utilize the church services, website and facilities.

As always this month, the meeting was a pleasure to attend. The Board works as a cooperative team, and at each meeting there is a new idea or special thought that comes forth, always looking towards the continued growth and development of our ministry.

In love and faith,

Judy Cole

President, Board of Trustees

What Is Unity?

Unity is an interdenominational Christian church based on the practical teachings of Jesus Christ, often referred to as "Positive, Practical Christianity." Our main focus is not on "original sin," but on the "original blessing" of being children of God. We are created in the image and likeness of God, here to live life and live it more abundantly.

Silent Unity Prayer Line:
1-800-NOW-PRAY

What's Up in September?

THE HEALING JOURNEY

Runs for four weeks beginning Tuesday, September 7, 7 to 9 p.m.

We will explore how to maximize our potential to be healed, using methods of healing, all of which are truly spiritual at heart. Visualization, affirmation, energy, guided imagery and prayer will be explored in this series. Special emphasis will be given to Unity's methods of healing. A love offering will be accepted.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Runs for 13 weeks and begins Monday, September 13th at 7:00pm

Financial Peace University (FPU) is the most important step to changing your financial future. It is your Total Money Makeover Program. It takes the knowledge from God and turns it into real action in our lives through a step-by-step process created by best-selling author and financial counselor Dave Ramsey.

FPU is a 13-week life-changing program that empowers and teaches you how to make the right money decisions to achieve your financial goals and God's plan for your life. The course includes practical lessons on eliminating debt, building wealth, giving like never before, and much, much more! Sharon Martin-Becker, with 30 plus years of accounting experience, coordinates.

The first class is free. If you decide to join us, the whole 13 weeks costs \$100.00.

SECOND SATURDAY SERVICE

Saturday, September 11th at 5:00pm

How can really bad things do you a world of good? This question will be explored at our next scheduled alternative service. Licensed Unity Teacher candidates, Laurie Geschrey and Michael Korpan, facilitate the service which will be highlighted by the musical talents of Megon McDonough. A love offering will be accepted.

Following the service, at 7:00 pm Megon will perform in concert. See the ad on p. 1.

KIRTAN: HINDU CHANTING

Wednesday, September 22, 7:30 PM

In response to many requests, Inside Tracks next meditation returns to the Hindu tradition of Kirtan. Kirtan is Hindu chanting. It is anticipated

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Newsletter Staff

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Betsy Nickerson Coordinator

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Diane Venzera Web Master

September 2010 Contributing Writers

Greg Barrette Judy Cole
Diane Venzera Linda Minor
Ruth Podjasek Jo Ann Ballard

**I am aligned with the
Presence of God within.**

**From Spiritual Power Tools:
Support for Your Soul © Jane E. Hart**

The Interfaith Counseling Center (ICC)

offers counseling to individuals, couples and families on a free-will offering basis for up to three visits. By the third visit, you may choose to end counseling, continue offsite, or be referred to a therapist or other community service agency that will best serve your needs.



ICC is available to people of all religious, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds, and provides support for a wide array of issues: spiritual, personal, relationships, parenting support, stress release, depression and anxiety.

Call today for an appointment: 847-297-0997.

YOUTH EDUCATION MINISTRY

It is back to school time, and we are excited about welcoming everyone back from their summer activities. This is the time that we will be exploring who we are and getting reacquainted with one another.

Here is an overview of our September lessons:

Each classroom will:

- Have a fly-up ceremony to honor those moving to new classrooms.
- Create a vision statement of who they are and what they would like to explore.
- Create new heart agreements.

Be good · Be patient · Be still

- Have fun engaging in ice breakers; community building activities and "getting to know you better" games.
- Create new classroom signs that reflect each group's unique personality.

These activities are designed to reinforce that idea that we are one community, one spiritual family working together for the greater good of all.

Many blessings,

Rev. Diane Venzera

Director, Youth Education Ministry.



Boy Praying by Coby
www.art.com

A GOOD NEWS STORY

Katherine Anderson's prosperity story contains several aspects of prosperity. She was ready to move on from her previous job. However, as many people today find, it can be challenging to determine, first, what that next job will be. Secondly, and especially challenging these days is to actually find a job in their desired area. But Katherine has had a strong prayer life and has also served as a UNW Prayer Chaplain for several years. Remember, however, that just having a strong prayer life does not mean we will not face challenges. The difference is that with a strong prayer life you are able to move through the situation and grow in the process.

Through her inner guidance Katherine felt drawn to apply for a place in Lutheran General Hospital's Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE). This is a premiere training program, and to be accepted is indeed an honor. Graduating from this program allows you to be hired by the hospital, or any hospital, to provide pastoral support to their patients and even to be hired as Hospice Chaplain. Applying to this program caused her to look at several doubts. Even if she were accepted into this outstanding program, would she be "good enough?" Her classmates would be divinity students while she is older and a church chaplain. As she jokingly says, "It would be like comparing the Ritz Carlton to a Best Western motel. Both are in the same business but leagues apart." Then there was her fear around the issue of not having a salary during the three months of the program. Our financial fears can be huge.

Katherine was accepted into Lutheran General's CPE program, which was a huge honor in itself. Her concerns about her fellow students being Divinity Students disappeared almost immediately. They have become her colleagues and friends. And her partner's mother gifted to

a.k.a. Demonstrating Prosperity

her the money equivalent of three month's pay. So her financial concerns were also addressed.

Her graduation from CPE came at the end of August, and Katherine knows that blessings have come to her in a multitude of ways. She has served on the front lines of life and death, drawing upon her faith and prayer to see her through the patients' challenges—each a blessing as she would tell you. And she acknowledges that none of this would have happened without prayer and faith. Her life is richer from all these experiences, and she has served God in helping people deal with their life challenges. What a blessing!

Jo Ann Ballard, L.U.T.

DEMONSTRATING PROSPERITY Editor

What's Up in September?

(Continued from p. 2)

that this month's meditation will be lead by Pandit, Pattabhirama Krishna Jois.

Kirtan involves the communal call and response chanting and singing. The group that assembles to do this is referred to as a "Satsang". It is a gathering of people who come together to remember by going within in order to find their own inner path to Oneness. While all individuals must follow their own path, in reality we are all traveling together. Kirtan is to assist each other to find the path that is right for each of us.

For more information about these events, call the church office at 847-297-0997 or visit our website at www.unitynorthwest.org.

A COURSE IN MIRACLES

Prayer is God's love. Prayer is the acceptance of God's love. Prayer is the devotion to God's love.

Prayer is listening to God. Prayer is the acceptance that God is devoted to help all. Prayer is the devotion of God to help all.

Prayer is talking to God. Prayer is listening to God. Prayer is God's wisdom to help all.

Linda Minor ACIM Class
Master Advanced Teacher 6 PM
A Course In Miracles Tuesdays

**Teach only love,
for that is what you are.**

**If you've had an experience of
prosperity that you'd like to
share, contact Jo Ann Ballard
at JB960TOP@aol.com.**

Reminder!

**Unity Northwest Church
2010 Women's Retreat
September 17, 18 & 19**

- weekend & Saturday-only reservations available
- all reservations must be submitted by August 31st
- flyers and reservation forms available in the lobby

FROM THE INSIDE OUT

I am centered in the heart and mind of God.

You must look into other people as well as at them.

Lord Chesterfield

So I read this James Redfield book a bunch of years ago—*The Celestine Prophecy*, you know? Well, somewhere in there he talks about kids having to work through the unresolved issues of their parents, and that's where they find their own life purpose. So I got to thinking about my parents' biggest issues (mind you, my sister sees something different). My mother never knew how to be happy; actually, I think she set out not to be happy. My father stuttered and couldn't speak smoothly. Okay, so, "not happy" and "not speaking." And I came up with joining their opposites—"joyful communication."

Then along the way it occurred to me that we have to move past our parents' issues if we want to be ourselves. But this stuff is hard core ingrained. If Daddy acted out failure during his life, is it okay for us to be successful? If Mommy was shy, is it okay for us to be outgoing? If either was loud or angry, is it okay to be soft spoken or accepting? And even if it is okay to be ourselves, is it possible? In my case, it took me a long time to discover that I had a sense of humor and that I had something to say. Then I had to give myself permission to laugh and speak up.

Some people struggle all their lives with their parents' issues either by taking them on or rebelling against them. But the good news is that neither is necessary. We are all something like each of our parents both physically and mentally, yes, but what we do with what we have is entirely our choice. Inside us is the truth of who we are—children of God—and how we express that piece of God's creation that each of us is. It's okay to transcend our parents' limitations no matter how insistently they were fed to us. Then as we embrace how God works in us, we can turn it outward by letting God work through us as us. Which is ultimately our life's purpose—to express the love of God as only we can—each of us a sparkle in the ever shifting kaleidoscope of creation. Yes, it's okay to be you and me! So do it, and be it! Uh-huh and amen!

Ruth Podjasek

Thoughts become things... choose the good ones! ® © www.tut.com ®



A Course in Miracles Lesson 94

"I am as God created me."

This is the Self That never sinned, nor made an image to replace reality. This is the Self Which never left Its home in God, to walk the world uncertainly. This is the Self Which knows no fear, nor could conceive of loss or suffering or death.

"I am as God created me.
I am His Son eternally."



259 East Central Road
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Sunday Services: 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Youth Education: Sundays at 11:00 a.m.