

Light On The Path

Unity—The foundation for a love strong enough to lift up the entire world

A Place For God

There is an evolutionary quality to all of life; it grows, expands, renews. In the silence of the night a light comes into the darkness, it illumines the landscape, dispels the shadows. The light beckons all to come and see that which has never been seen before. An awakening, a cry of joy, Life has given birth to life. The fulfillment of promise, a divine destiny renewed, the mystery revealed. What audacity of the stars and the heavens to proclaim a holy birth, the divine Word has become flesh and bone. The Creator has blessed all of creation with joy, the beloved child who can appreciate through praise and worship the wonder of it all. There is a beauty in the Christmas message unparalleled. The mystery of God, the Life Source has enfleshed in a life force. God has become form; seen with the eye, heard with the voice, encountered with the embrace.

How does one prepare for such a life altering, soul shattering event? How does the message that would rend the night still stay new Christmas after Christmas? Where can one draw a fresh experience of the oft repeated story?

Birth is a powerful metaphor for dynamic change, something old has passed away and behold all things are new. It is not only the story of a child but also of the "home" that gave the child life and opportunity. It is the deepest part of the heart that prepares itself. It is the place of birth, a place of peace, a shelter where the finite human will touch the infinite source.

Advent, the four weeks prior to Christmas, is the time to spiritually prepare, to enter the silence of the night and wait upon the Lord. Here in the cradle of the heart is the doorway that holds open the possibility of a divine encounter. Revelation is not time bound, rather it is the moment when the fecund silence is full, then and only then, will the angelic chorus rend the night and a life will be transformed. Waiting for fullness is a steady attuning to the divine seed within that is growing in darkness and stillness. What exactly is the soul waiting for? As the old carol proclaims, the moment "when the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn."

To feel its worth the soul is roused from its sleep to behold the innate goodness and is stunned by the light of its beauty and suddenly all creation sings. The holy place, the soul-manger, is waiting with anticipation for its precious cargo. Yet, the life that is laid into its rough hewn arms is far from mature and strong. The instant of the holy birth within requires a commitment to tend this new life and to see it through to maturation. The Christmas story is a lifetime of encounters that are fresh

with unspoken and unexpressed potential for all good. There are no exceptions, each soul has the dormant seed waiting to be stirred. Each new life comes endowed with the essence of its parent.

Many today find little meaning in Christmas and the hoopla that surrounds the holiday. It is more of an event to get through than it is to experience. Perhaps that was the case in that tiny stable in Bethlehem – a cold, dark night of so long ago another child was born, a child of need, a child to be rejected by the world. Yet, that one small life, so fragile and so vulnerable, changed the course of the world. At some level beyond the story and the words lives a reality that through the generations has not been dampened rather can still quicken a response from the heart. This is the place where Christmas lives. Not in the tinsel, the lights or the gifts or the festivities. Rather, Christmas is a heart story of a tiny place within that sits in silent stillness waiting for the light to declare the dawn of a new day.



**SUNDAYS
10:30 AM
Worship Service**

Reach us online at
unjamestown@aol.com
www.tulsaunity.com

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Dearly Beloved of God,



As I sit here writing on this chilly, rainy October afternoon I am getting excited about our upcoming trip to Israel (Nov. 4-Nov.14). Twelve years ago this night, I was eagerly and somewhat anxiously awaiting my first big adventure overseas. The trip was a 16 day tour taking us to Israel and to Egypt. Because I had traveled throughout the United States I had no real passion for heading off to far away places with strange sounding names. Yet, I wanted to go and our tour leader and old friend, Rev. Bob Wasner promised me that I would never read the Bible the same after being in the Holy Land. "How odd," I thought, "What difference would that make?"

When fellow traveler, Gladys David arrived to drive me to the airport she said, "Take one last look at your home because when you return you will never see it the same way again." And again I thought to myself, "What an odd thing to say, what difference would that make?" Off we went. From the very moment we landed I was in sensory overload. Everything was different sights, smells, signs. Not to mention jet lag! I realized that as we traveled I had very little or no appreciation or experience for people of another culture, their life, their joys, their troubles.

One morning as we were walking along the old Roman road of Samaria, it occurred to me that here we stood in this holy land, not because of its meaning to any religion but because it was a place people called home. It was an earth, a sky, a river that called to their heart with gentle haunting whisper. I picked up a stone from the ground and clutched it to listen to it tell me the story of its meaning and of this land. I had never really appreciated that sense of place, my place – literally - in the world. It gave new meaning to the moment when we arrived back in San Francisco and as I went through customs, the official stamped my passport and said, "Welcome to the United States." I felt a rush of tears as I thought to myself, home, back to my holy land, the place that nourished my life, hopes and dreams.

Our place in this world is also a metaphor, is it not? In some respects we have no real place here on earth; we are earth travelers not earth dwellers; a way station as we pass through on the path of our eternal existence. So often we try to hold on and fight for our sense of permanence and our place within it failing to realize that we carry home within our soul. This is the place of peace, of hope, and expectancy. Here in this place is the continuing story of our lives.

There is a yearning for that which is permanent but the answer can never be found outside of ourselves in the clay of the ground, the line of a nation, the language of a people. Our spiritual roots are the only ones that have permanence, that bring forth life from deep within the center of the soul. And like the various cultures in the world, our spiritual roots are different too.

Gladys was right; my home looked very different when I returned. I was deeply grateful for the little things that I no longer took for granted. And Bob most assuredly was right for now when I read the Bible I can feel the sense of the land under the words. A land that has been walked upon almost as long as human civilization has been recorded. It was from this trip that I was able to really hear the language of the story teller and to know the stories of the Bible in a deeply personal and intimate way.

Traveling opens to us a new awareness of real life people rather than sound bites of turmoil and trouble. People with homes, children, soup cooking for dinner. It gives one a great appreciation for the country in which we live, the life that we have. And part of our place in this world is also our church community, a spiritual family of choice. Oddly enough, it does matter that you are here and that together we have the opportunity to embrace the age old story of spiritual renewal this Christmas season as a gathering of faith filled people, seeking our inner holy land.

May this season open your heart to hear anew the stories of faith, of family and friends.

Love

Rev. Mary Anne

Board of Directors

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 Vice President: Suzy Jones
 Secretary: Lou Torbett
 Treasurer:
 Director: Andy Kramarczuk
 Director: Mary Ellen Thiets
 Alternate: Shelly Jones
 Alternate: Marilyn Cullum

Spiritual Connections Newsletter

Office Assistant: Michelle Huhn
 Editor & Writer: Rev. Mary Anne Harris
 Contributing writers: Chaz Gaut, Vickie Shindell
 Holy Folders: Ruth Mass, Skye Sharpe, Leo Baker

Board Report

Board Notes

A time to reflect

Born and raised in southeast Texas I am very proud of those roots (as are most native Texans), but I have to say I do love Tulsa, the place I've called home for over 20 years now. There are many reasons that I love living in Tulsa, one of which is the real seasons, each with its own beauty and each I welcome for different reasons.

Spring brings not only my birthday but also gentle warmth to ease the chill of winter, and new life of color in the landscape. Summer brings more energy with outdoor activity and more sunshine. Fall brings a relief to the summer heat and brings vibrant color as the foliage gradually changes. Winter brings crispness to the air and the anticipation of spending special time with family and friends for the holidays, as well as the excitement of welcoming a fresh brand new year.

Here at our church home in November our season changes, too. It marks the end of our fiscal year and the beginning of a fresh new one, full of joy and gratitude that we have such a special, happy place to learn, grow and nurture our spiritual selves together. It is also a time of change in the management team of our church as two Directors three-year terms conclude and two new Directors are elected and bring their talents to fill those positions.



Sadly, on October 14th, Dan Ahrens, our board Treasurer who's term would have concluded this year, passed away and his passing left a huge whole in our hearts and in our team. He is deeply missed. My board term is complete this year as well. Dan and I both were honored to serve our church and you its loving and generous congregation.

I am very grateful to my fellow board members with whom I have served, both present and past, for your support, your kindness and your friendship. I have been very blessed during this term of office to work with, be guided by and learn from Revs. Nicholas and Carol Griffin, Rev. Bob Wasner, Rev. Dan Holloway and our precious Rev. Mary Anne Harris. What a wonderful chorus of spiritual teachers and leaders!

My personal mission when I was elected three years ago was to do my very best in service to the church and hopefully when my term was complete, to leave behind a better place for those who follow. These past three years have been packed full of change, challenges, triumphs and celebration. I've witnessed a renewed energy in our church and congregation that has made it even stronger and more dynamic than it already was. I thank you all for your commitment to our church and for your loving support of me and my service as board President. I have learned a great deal from each of you. You have enriched my life and I am proud to have you as friends and as my church family.

Wishing you All blessings of joy and prosperity,

Vickie Shindell
<http://www.vickieshindell.com>

Sunday November 22

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

12:15-2:00pm

A review of the year by our Board of Directors and Rev. Mary Anne, election of new board members. Light snacks will be served.

Membership Renewal Cards are Due!

All members please note that you must return your membership renewal card to the church office no later than Sunday, Nov. 15th.

Our Sunday Team

Worship Assistants

Cheryl Phelps
Nancy Vitali
Mike Wilson
VC Garrett

Sound Technician

Don Rush & Bob Busch

Greeters

Chuck Hart
Rae Jean Roller
Lee Lowder
Susan Snodgrass
Diane Pinsart
Pat Bales
Chuck Lange

Ushers

Connally Perry
Shelly Jones
Buck Clary
Lorry Dean
Carol Horacek
Jerry Horacek
Debbie Grillot
Mike Wilson
Chuck Lange

Youth Education

Karen McCoy
Bob Roth
Robyn Brooks
Marion Ruegg
Connie Portman
Colleen Kirkpatrick

Bookstore

Alice Bates
Pat Bales
Eddie Hassell
John Fisher

Hospitality

Ann Thompson
Jan Magee
Bea Sears
Sallie Simons
Pat Conwell
Ione McDonell

Music Ministry

Noteworthy Composition

Music: Chaz Gaut, Music Director

By Chaz Gaut, Music Director
Cheryl Stice, Organist

SOUP SUPPER & GRATITUDE RITUAL

Wednesday Evening,
Nov. 25
(night before Thanksgiving)
6:30-8:30pm

We gather together in the comfort of friends and share warm and hearty food. We will be serving a variety of soups, crusty breads, salad and dessert.

Following dinner at 7:30pm, Rev. Mary Anne will guide us in a celebration of gratitude.

We welcome special guest flutist, Ann Parker!
Through her music, Ann brings to us the beauty of the Native American tradition of thanksgiving and grace.

Sign up sheet for dinner and soup making will be on the information table in the foyer beginning Nov. 1.



Children's Advent Book

A new e-book from Unity!

A colorful FREE booklet from Unity filled with stories, activities and spiritual lessons for children of all ages. Follow the link below to download a master and feel free to make as many copies as you like.

Right above the children's advent book is the adult version, "Reclaiming Christmas." All download books are free!

www.unity.org/publications/freeBooklets/index.html

November Highlights



TOM ANDERSON

Sunday, November 8th

Living a Mythic Life

1:00-3:00pm

A workshop designed to encourage the participant to come to see their unfolding life as the journey of the hero—a journey toward wholeness and healing where every day is another magical step toward awakening to the soul's purpose that we are born to live!

Workshop is on a love offering basis

Tom will be speaking at our morning service. The title of his talk is "What Haunts You?"

Tom Anderson is an explorer who captures the challenge of life as a fearless search for his deepest purpose. A member of Unity in Overland Park, KS for many years and Vision Quest guide.

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1

A Day of Blessing

Be here during our Sunday morning service as we bless those who will be leaving for Israel on Wednesday, Nov. 4—14th.

Bring your children in costume.

Remember! - Time changes this Sunday
FALL BACK one hour.

Tuesday Morning Study Group

9:30-11:00am

Join our group every Tuesday morning for coffee and lively discussion.

A Scrapbook Named Desire

Saturday, November 7

10am—2pm

Bring a Brown Bag Lunch, a joyful heart and a playful mind as we join Martha Parkinson for a day of play and insight with Spirit! Enhance your unique life experience through scrapbooking, an exciting and revealing pictorial journey of your soul.

Please bring 3-5 of your favorite magazines, scissors and glue sticks. Martha will provide the card stock for the days work.



Play Day is on a love offering basis

To reserve your spot call or email

Martha at

633-7455 or

gypsyinabeemer@cox.net

Special Guest Gina Pearson

Sunday, November 15

Well known light on the Tulsa scene for many years, special friend Gina Pearson will be here to share her thoughts on "The Art of Transformation."

Following the service Gina will be available for a book signing of her spiritual anthology entitled "*The Queen's Legacy*." 45 stories of the journey of faith by various inspirational authors! The book will be available after service for purchase, \$15.00



December Highlights

Holiday Highlights



Tuesday , Nov. 24 – Church decorating party

10am – 2pm, light lunch will be served

Wednesday, Nov. 25—Soup Supper and Gratitude Ritual. Special guest Ann Parker, native American Flute. 6:30—8:30pm.

Sunday, Nov. 29 – The First Sunday of Advent

Advent Prayer Tree – During our morning service we will light the advent wreath and invite everyone to come forward and place a prayer request on the trees in the sanctuary. **Morning Service—10:30am**

Sunday Morning, Dec. 15 – Remembrance Sunday

A time to honor those who are no longer with us and to celebrate their memory. Bring a free standing picture of your loved one for display.

Morning Service—10:30am

Sunday Evening, December 22 – Old Fashion Christmas Carol Sing-a-long. Bring a friend, co-worker, neighbor as we sing all the old favorites both sacred and secular! **6:00-8:00pm**

Thursday Evening, December 24 – 6:00-7:30pm

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Thursday evening, December 31st – 6:00—7:30pm

The Burning Bowl Service—a ceremony to release the year past and to embrace and bless the year ahead.

Christmas Carol Sing-along

Sunday, December 20

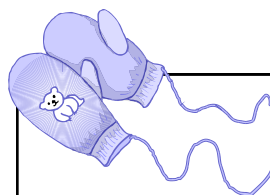
6:00pm—7:30pm

Invite family and friends to an old time sing a long! We will have songbooks available, as well as hot chocolate and cookies.

We will sing that our traditional favorites, both sacred and secular.

Come and get in the spirit!

It's free, it's fun



The mitten tree

From Nov. 24—Dec. 20th in Neal Hall there will be a tree waiting for you to decorate with warm clothing for children, such as, scarves, mittens, caps.

Our food bin located in the foyer is always accepting non-perishable food items. Bring an extra can or two and share abundance with those less fortunate.

November, 2009

Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	2	3 Discussion Group 9:30-11am	4	5 Yoga 6-7pm	6	7 Scrapbook Workshop 10am-2pm Yoga 6-7pm
8 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am Workshop 1-3pm.	9	10 Discussion Group 9:30-11am	11	12 Yoga 6-7pm	13	14
15 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	16	17 Discussion Group 9:30-11am	18	19 Yoga 6-7pm	20	21
22 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am Annual Mtg.	23	24 Decorate the church 10am-2pm	25 Thanksgiving Eve Supper & Gratitude Service 6:30PM	26 Thanksgiving	27	28
29 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	30					



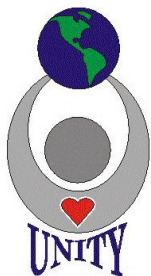
The message of Christmas is that the visible material world is bound to the invisible spiritual world. *Author Unknown*



December, 2009

Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

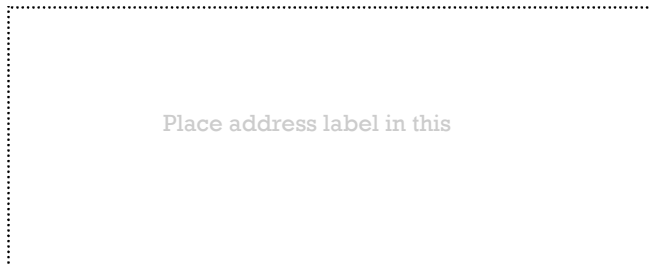
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Discussion Group 9:30-11am	2	3	4	5
6 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	7	8 Discussion Group 9:30-11am	9	10	11	12
13 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	14	15 Discussion Group 9:30-11am	16	17	18	19
20 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am Christmas Sing-along 6PM	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight 6pm	25	26
27 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	28	29	30	31 Burning Bowl Service 6:00pm		



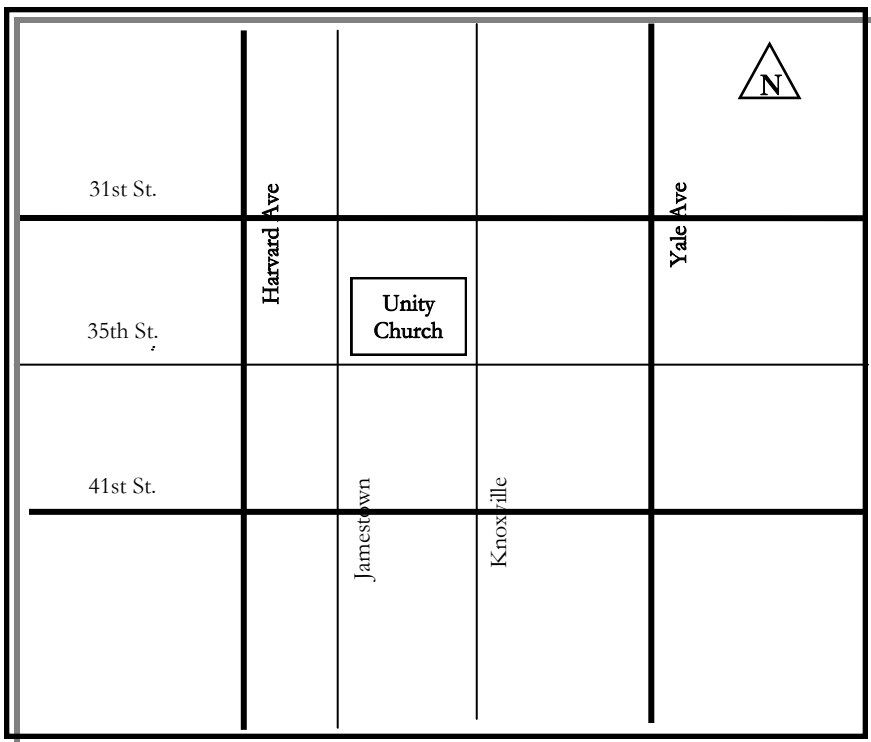
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<i>Unity Church of Christianity</i>	Church: 3355 S. Jamestown Ave. - Tulsa, OK. 74135 (918) 749-8833 E-mail: unjamestown@aol.com - Web-site: www.tulsaunity.com Sunday Service 10:30AM
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November Theme: A Holy Land

- Nov. 1 - Full of Grace
- Nov. 8 - Tom Anderson, guest
- Nov. 15 - Gina Pearson, guest
- Nov. 22 - A Holy Land
- Nov. 29 - No Place Like Home

December Theme: A Place for God

- Dec. 6 - A Place of Peace
- Dec. 13 - A Place of Expectancy
- Dec. 20 - A Place of Faith
- Dec. 24 - A Place of Love
- Dec. 27 - A New Horizon