



# Light On The Path

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

## On The Edge

Humanity has always been fascinated by the edge: the edge of the universe, the edge of the water, the edge of night. Nothing so marks the landscape as coming to a precipice and overlooking a broad vista, like the Grand Canyon. Oftentime vistas such as these are hidden until one comes directly upon them. Gently rafting down the Niagara River who knew there was a sharp end to the river’s meandering run?

Edges not only define the earth’s landscape but speak of places unknown, what lies beyond the ability to see. Where is the farthest star and how far away is it? How deep is the dark, still ocean at its farthest depth? It was the edge of the sea that called Columbus to discover a new world.

Edges speak to the mind as well. The more mature one’s patterns of thinking, the more one comes to realize that what is actually known is but a tiny drop in a larger ocean of knowledge. It is the humble moment of realization as one becomes deeply aware that even though well educated, one really knows very little in the course of life.

Edges are those places in consciousness that call for enlightenment. They taunt and tease with small inner glimpses of dreams and possibilities. They quicken the mind and heart to seek, to risk being open to the Infinite Mystery that lies beyond, and yet, at the very same time, lies within.

Edges call to the adventure of life. There is the soft unspoken question of what lies beyond and how to reach it. Within the asking lies the power of imagination, the ability to hope and desire, to give birth to something that, until the moment of stepping to the edge, could not be seen.

What might one learn from standing at the edge of the universe, at the entrance to the soul? First, the edge is a clearly defined marker. There is exhilaration at finally reaching the furthest point where the landscape changes and something unknown is seen and encountered. The stroke of midnight on December 31, is one such cliff, a new year is born, something unseen until that moment.

To step across the threshold announces the intention to explore, to make the unknown, known. But at the same moment, one encounters the real purpose of such journeys, the tearing down of the structures of knowing to build changed realities and bold new worlds. “All journeys have secret destinations of which the traveler is unaware.” Martin Buber

The exhilaration and excitement at reaching an end, is but the realization that in every act of finality is a new beginning. In the breathtaking beauty of the immense vista, one now feels vulnerable to the wind and the elements that are the fiercest for there is no cover, no protective shield. The feeling of being unbounded and limitless is suddenly struck by the force of the elements as if to push one back away from the edge.

Sometimes holding on is all one can do until the tide shifts, the winds cease and a calm is restored. In the turbulence lies a determination, a hope to succeed, to overcome and to reach a new shore and destination.

Here lies the metaphor and process of each chapter in one’s spiritual journey. All faith begins with coming to the edge of the structures of knowing; the knowing of self and of God. Here the wind blows with great force and the night is a rich velvet black. Life longs unceasingly to come to the edge and to harness the forces of unbridled power to create new worlds.



**SUNDAYS  
10:30 AM  
Worship Service**

---

Reach us online at  
[tulsaunity@gmail.com](mailto:tulsaunity@gmail.com)  
[www.tulsaunity.com](http://www.tulsaunity.com)

Inside this issue:	
Minister’s Message	2
Board News	3
Ministry News	4
Events	5
Events	6
Calendar	7

Dearly Beloved of God,

SCAM! It is a word that has surfaced more and more these days in our everyday language, as well as in the media. Even people I know who I consider to be quite savvy about these things have run into problems causing them and their families undo heartache and long term problems. For example, I shopped at Target in late November 2013 and was affected by the data breach. Fortunately for me, the only real damage was changing my charge card number; others were not so lucky.

Our Board President Carol and husband Jerry Horacek were on vacation at a Westin hotel when the "desk clerk" called shortly after they checked in. The clerk apologetically explained that their machine had not captured the last 3 numbers of his credit card and if he would be so kind as to read the number to them they would appreciate it. Jerry replied, "Thank you but I'll bring my card to the front desk." "Oh no," was the reply, "You are a valued customer and we would not trouble you." Fortunately Jerry insisted he would bring the card down to the desk rather than give the requested information over the phone. And guess what he found out when he arrived at the front desk? No such call had been made by the staff of the hotel.

Do you check the balances of your financial records every day: checking, savings, and credit cards? I know it is a hassle but I've developed a regular system that is just part of my daily routine. Early detection is the best prevention to keep from having damage that may take years to unravel, if ever.

Knowing what to do, and what NOT to do, when your computer begins to send threatening messages is critical. Three years ago a pop-up screen came on my computer and I clicked the box to close it. Only to later learn that I had in fact just activated a virus that cost me nearly \$1000.00 to get rid of, and countless hours of frustration and lost data.

Some people think that just having their calls screened is enough protection but, alas, it is not. Mail solicitations, internet scams abound. When we travel overseas we can no longer use Travelers Checks because they are so easy to forge. Sad isn't it for they used to be the main instrument of exchange in every country.

Rather than being paranoid at every turn, it is best to know what to look for, what to be aware of. In the situation with Target, how was I supposed to know? Even Target didn't know! But because I checked my bank balances every day I knew I had not been affected like others. And Jerry's quick thinking earned him a trouble free vacation because his information was secure.

The worst line of defense is to think that you are safe because you do or do not have or use credit, internet, etc. Solicitations in the mail look surprisingly like the originals and some phone calls feel threatening, "This is the IRS." They are counting on catching you off guard, building fear and getting you to react before common sense takes hold. And before you know it, you have given them your credit card number, your life savings, never to be returned.



With all of that said I would like to invite you to a very special informational event. I'm pleased that we have connected with Local KOTV Channel 6's very own Lori Fullbright who will be with us on January 20 for a short seminar on what to do to protect yourself and your valuable information. Her workshop is entitled "Cons, Frauds and Scams." Her focus is placed solidly on the con artists who are currently operating HERE in Green Country.

Here is one of the latest scams in Green Country, as reported by Lori. Someone calls to say that you have missed Jury Duty and that you need to pay a penalty or else the police will issue a warrant for your arrest! This is NOT true.

Everyday hundreds of people fall victim to a con game. Not only is the person counting on catching you off guard but, at the same time, they are also masters of the study of human nature, for they know when they succeed, you often times are too embarrassed at having been fooled, having been duped by someone who seemed so nice. Thus, these people can elude police for a long time leaving a trail of shattered lives, a little bit here, a little bit there. So not only do we have a need to protect our own valuables, but also a responsibility to each other to get these people off the streets.

We do not have to live in fear! Rather, we need to be savvy consumers, fierce defenders of our privacy, property and financial resources. Invite a friend for this very interesting and informative seminar. The seminar is free and lunch will be provided!

I hope to see you there!

*Rev. Mary Anne Harris*

## Board Report



*Carol Horacek*, Board President

Greetings to My Church Family,

I would guess that many retiring Church Board presidents mention how quickly their term of office has gone by. I am among those. My term ends at the Annual Meeting this coming February 2016. It has been a good experience and I hope I have helped keep the Church on an even keel.

Being Board president was not a difficult job. I have a very supportive Board and I have a good relationship with Rev. Mary Anne. Above all, one impression that will stick with me from my time as president is how much time, energy and heart each board member brings to the task. There is a strong sense of commitment by everyone – director and alternate alike – to be mindful of the overall operation of the church, our finances, our decisions that affect the present and the future.

Sometimes people tend to discount the importance of volunteering as if it was just “something” to do. Yet, any non-profit will tell you that volunteers are what truly make the organization and its mission happen.

When you volunteer you learn new skills. I have finally figured out how to use the word count in Word! All kidding aside, I have learned new skills, new ideas and the extra bonus, I’ve made new friends. So in my book, I call volunteering a win-win. Sometimes I don’t feel like showing up but honoring my commitment invites me to the edges of my growth and somehow what felt like a difficult thing always is rewarded as I move through my own resistance.

Other than deepest thanks for your support, I would say my most important words to you are to consider being a volunteer. Really, it is good for you!

## Treasurer Report



Looking back and looking forward are always a function of the end of one year and the beginning of the new. This year as I look forward I see my time on the Board coming to an end. As I look back I am amazed at the many things that have happened during my time on the board: the renovation of the sanctuary; the completion of a mission statement developed by our congregation; the transition of loved ones - Arlene Ruegg, Pat Bales, and Betty Robb - who still live in our hearts. And now we celebrate the Center For the Heart. We look forward to using this facility as a community outreach in the New Year. (The financials below show the extra expenses paid out over October and November for the renovation.) All that in just 3 years!

I’ve also seen how much goes on behind the scenes. There is so much being done and most of it either by Rev. Mary Anne or overseen by her. As she says, there is the minister part of her job and the Administer part of her job. It is a lot to balance on an on-going basis. Whew! I don’t know where she gets the energy!

Also, your board is committed to doing the best for our church, aka you. We start our meeting recognizing God and then each other. During the meeting, we give thanks for our blessings and end with a prayer. We are guided by our mission statement.

Serving on the board has been a pleasure. Thank you for letting me represent you.

*Maggie Cunningham*, Treasurer

P& L Actuals	October 2015	November 2015
Income	\$12,787	\$15,639
Expense	\$18,351	\$15,405

### Board of Directors

- President: Carol Horacek
- Vice President: Suzy Jones
- Secretary: Kim Wiley
- Treasurer: Maggie Cunningham
- Director: Connally Perry
- Director: Linda Lusk
- Alternate: Jeff Woods
- Alternate: Marleen Reddaway

### Spiritual Connections Newsletter

- Office Assistant: Sherry Setters
- Editor & Writer: Rev. Mary Anne Harris
- Bookkeeper: Mary Portwood
- Contributing writers: Maggie Cunningham, Carol Horecek
- Weekly Helpers: Betty Sharp
- Teachers: John Bowdle, RScP, Renny Berry, Dr. Jack and Linda Rowe.

**Our Sunday Team**

**Suzy Jones**  
Volunteer Coordinator

**Worship Assistants**

Renny Berry  
Louise Rose  
Cheryl Phelps  
Cindy Bear  
Colleen Kirkpatrick

**Sound Technician**

Don Rush,  
Omar Perez  
Patrick Harris  
Colleen Kirkpatrick  
Keith Purtell  
Terry Stewart

**Greeters**

Lorry Dean, Kim Wiley  
Chuck Lange, Victoria Hoge  
John Raney, Louise Rose  
Marleen Reddaway  
Jamie Townsend,  
Lee Lowder

**Ushers**

Shelly Jones, VC Garrett  
Danny Baker, Suzy Jones  
Colleen Kirkpatrick,  
Marleen Reddaway,  
Pat Nicholson,  
Renee Anthony,  
Christina Roberson

**Youth Education**

Jessica Robb  
Kourtney Cushway  
Sarah Stansell

**Hospitality**

John Raney, Kim Wiley  
Betty Sharp, Gayle Iadevaia  
Marleen Reddaway.

**Altar Decorations**

Colleen Kirkpatrick  
Kim Wiley



*Community*

*CORNER*

**A-friend For-a Friend**

This is a non-profit program begun by our very own Alice Bates. The goal of the program is to help provide pet food and veterinary care for those dealing with HIV/AIDS.

As any pet owner will tell you, there is no companionship or healing power greater than that of a loved animal friend. But those who are seriously ill often cannot afford to take care of their pets. In steps the Friend program to provide assistance.

So let's help our "Friends"



Sunday, February 20th bring a  
bag or two  
of dog or cat food  
with you to church.

We will have a pickup ready to receive the bags and happy hands to deliver the much needed supplies to many here in Tulsa.



A very special Sunday - January 10

*We welcome Ashlee Elmore  
as our new Music Director.*

Over the past few months Ashlee has been with us on many occasions and now she is taking up the reins of directing our music program. She brings to us an impressive resume of vocal, choral and musical skills. She was the choir director for 8 years at the Good Shepard Presbyterian church in Bartlesville, director of the Tulsa Youth Choir, and for the past three years she has been the director for the American Theater Company's "A Christmas Carol." Add to that she teaches at Preslar Music School and has many private students here in Tulsa.

We welcome you Ashlee!

# January Highlights

## OH THE WEATHER!

It is that time of year again to remind you of some basic foul weather guidelines:

**Weekdays** ~ If the Tulsa Schools are closed so is the church office and all groups/activities are cancelled.

**On Sunday** - we will notify everyone by email/the office phone message will be changed by 8AM and will reflect the closure/we will notify Channel 8.

Remember, as with all bad weather, we may not really know in advance. Check before you venture out. Our first priority is YOUR safety.



Wednesday, January 20  
Noon to 1:00pm

## Cons, Frauds, & Scams

How aware are you of the many ways in which con artists are hurting you and your credit?

Join Tulsa KOTV Channel 6 award winning news anchor and crime reporter Lori Fullbright for a very informative and eye-opening hour of information. Her focus will be on events happening right here in Green Country!

Lori is a two-time Emmy award winning journalist. In addition to her job at Channel 6, she teaches classes at TCC in broadcasting and speaks to groups all over the state about crime safety.

A soup and salad lunch will be served starting at 11:30am.

**There is no cost to you, invite a neighbor, a friend.**



## Here's to Health!

Monday and Thursday Evenings  
January 11 - February 29  
5:45-6:45pm

Grab your walking shoes and come join the fun as we walk together to get in shape. The group will use the popular dvd series by Leslie Sansone, **Walk Slim**.

Low impact, invigorating walk that will gradually build up muscle, tone and fun!

*Exercise class will be held upstairs.*

**Join Diane Pinsart and Renny Berry**  
It's free, it's fun!



## Memories

A laboratory of life  
Your life IS worth remembering!

11:00am - 1:00pm

*The first Thursday of every month*

Building on topics that range from the very concrete to more reflective musings, the end product will be a slice of personal history, a legacy to family and friends.

January 7 - School Daze

February 4 - The Rites of Passage

**No writing experience necessary!**

Class is on a love offering basis, bring notebook and a brown bag lunch/snack if you choose.

***Rev. Mary Anne teaches and shares her stories too!***

Make this the year to get started capturing those precious memories! Although the class is in process you are welcome to join at anytime.

# February Highlights

## Annual Membership Meeting

**Sunday February 28**

12:00-1:30pm

A review of the year by our Board of Directors and Rev. Mary Anne, election of new board members.

Light lunch will be served.

### Membership Renewal Cards are Due

Return by mail or drop in box in foyer.

All members please note that you must return your membership renewal card to the church office **no later than Sunday, Feb. 14th.**

### Board Candidates

We say goodbye and heartfelt gratitude to **Carol Horacek and Maggie Cunningham** for their many years of service and welcome **Jeff Woods and Marleen Reddaway** to serve on the 2016 Board.

Marleen Reddaway



Jeff Woods



See their biographies in Neal Hall.

### Evolution Sunday - Sunday, February 14

We join together with faith communities all over the country to work toward a greater understanding that sound science and religious beliefs are not in conflict, nor does the theory of evolution in any way threaten, demean, or diminish our faith in God.

Now we expand our circle to include honoring the faith practices of other religious traditions.

Love One Another is the title of Rev. Mary Anne's talk as we explore Islam and the gift of understanding.

## MEMBERSHIP ORIENTATION

**Saturday, February 6 ~ 9am—Noon**

Join Rev. Mary Anne to explore together the journey of the soul, basic Unity teachings and its history, as well as the story of Unity Church of Christianity.

Membership is a symbol of a desire to deepen your commitment to living from a spiritual point of view. You are not obligated by attending to become a member, however, in order to become a member you are required to attend this session and complete the application.

**Membership Sunday—February 28**

## Potluck Sunday

**Sunday, February 7**



Pictures of our adventures in France will be shown following a delightful sharing of food and fellowship.

Plan to be here! Bring a dish to share with 6 people.

## PORTUGAL & SPAIN



**November 1—November 12**

Cost from New York (JFK)  
\$2999.00\* (Includes taxes)

Join Rev. Mary Anne and fellow Unity Travelers for another exciting adventure of a lifetime.

Brochures are now available on the information table and on website.

*This trip is open to anyone ~ invite a friend!*

## January, 2016

Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Years Day Office Closed	2
3  Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	4	5	6	7  Memories 11:00 - 1:00pm  Health 5:45-6:45pm	8	9
10  Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	11  Health 5:45-6:45pm	12	13	14  Health 5:45-6:45pm	15	16
17  Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	18  Health 5:45-6:45pm	19	20  Cons & Scams 11:30- 1:00pm	21  Health 5:45-6:45pm	22	23
24  Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	25  Health 5:45-6:45pm	26	27	28  Health 5:45-6:45pm	29	30
31  Sunday Celebration 10:30 am						

## February, 2016

Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  Health 5:45-6:45pm	2	3	4  Memories 11:00 - 1:00pm  Health 5:45-6:45pm	5	6  Membership Orientation 9:00am-Noon
7  Sunday Celebration 10:30 am  Potluck & France Photos - Noon!	8  Health 5:45-6:45pm	9	10	11  Health 5:45-6:45pm	12	13
14  Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	15  Health 5:45-6:45pm	16	17	18  Health 5:45-6:45pm	19	20
21  Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	22  Health 5:45-6:45pm	23	24	25  Health 5:45-6:45pm	26	27
28  Sunday Celebration 10:30 am  Annual Meeting 12:00-1:30pm	29  Health 5:45-6:45pm					

NON PROFIT ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 Tulsa, OK.  
 PERMIT NO. 2168



**UNITY**  
 CHURCH OF CHRISTIANITY

Unity Church of Christianity  
 3355 S. Jamestown Ave.  
 Tulsa, OK 74135

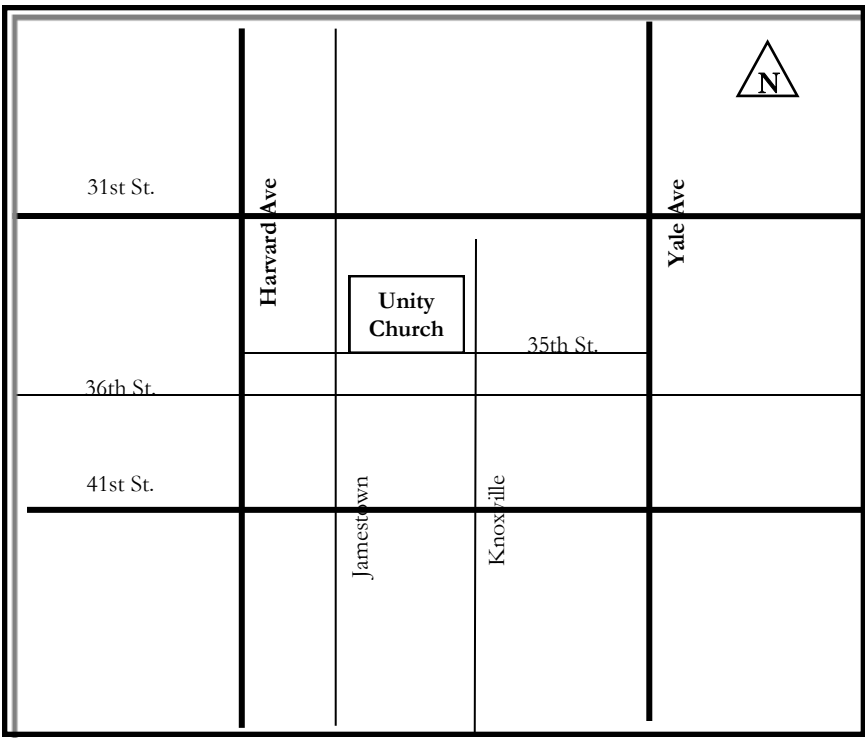
Returned Service Requested



**SUNDAYS**  
**10:30 AM**  
**Worship Service**

Reach us online at  
[tulsaunitymail.com](mailto:tulsaunitymail.com)  
[www.tulsaunity.com](http://www.tulsaunity.com)

<i>Unity Church of Christianity</i>	Church: 3355 S. Jamestown Ave. - Tulsa, OK. 74135 (918) 749-8833 E-mail: <a href="mailto:tulsaunity@gmail.com">tulsaunity@gmail.com</a> - Web-site: <a href="http://www.tulsaunity.com">www.tulsaunity.com</a> Sunday Service 10:30AM
---	---



**January Theme: Coming to our edges**

- Jan. 3** - The Edge of Time
- Jan. 10** - The Edge of Night
- Jan. 17** - The Edge of Fear
- Jan. 24** - The Edge of Life
- Jan. 31** - The Edge of God

**February Theme: Time to Wander**

- Feb. 7** - The Exodus
- Feb. 14** - Love One Another
- Feb. 21** - Breaking Free
- Feb. 28** - Don't Look Back