



Light On The Path

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

It's Not Where You Start

Creativity is the point of contact between the very essence of Spirit and Mystery and visible manifestation. Something whispers in the quiet moments of the mind, a light, a thought, the answer to the question, "What if?" A question that is deceptively simple yet, in reality, so intricate and complex. What if this situation was different, what if this job could be more, what if this neighborhood could come together; the possibilities for moving mountains are endless.

Creativity is born of the spark of the divine within the context of human experience. After all it is the human mind who posed the first question, who sees a need, a vague vision for the future and begins the process of quiet contemplation. For some ideas the time of inner processing takes but a moment or two. Others may take years to unfold as various options are tried and discarded for one reason or another. This is not failure, as is so often believed. Rather this is the creative process revealing more of its secret passages in the labyrinth of the mind. The infinite storehouse of God is only bounded by the limitation of the mind that it seeks to move through. Only when one enters the state of willingness to allow birth and life can the question take shape and form, and the ethers coalesce into a tangible demonstration.

Time, space and resources are not the limitations of the creative endeavor. It will come forth through the pursuit of the vision, through the sweat of the brow, through the plan of action that may need to change over and over again until the complex ingredients become simple and the solution fires the resources required. Creativity is less about the conquest and more about the discovery of the treasure that lies within.

To create is to make, creativity is not idle daydreaming, rather it is the intentional work of the soul. It comes through a willingness to see things differently, to connect two unrelated dots, to link things that heretofore had never been held in the same conversation. It is a rich diversity of language that breathes the Spirit of unity into that which had no breath and no form and no connection.

The first step is to acknowledge that the Mystery of God is the great Creator. "In the beginning God created," so says the opening lines of the book of Genesis. Since time began there has always been an intuitive connection and understanding of the power of creativity as the primal cause of all, giving birth to new worlds, vast universes as well as tiny human beings. The second step is the bold declaration that each is part of the great whole. Creativity is not the privilege of just a few; rather it is the best of each and every one. To claim connection to the flow, to stand in the face of obstacles and opportunities and declare, "There is a way!"

Founded on this principle of good, creativity gives birth to innovation and, by the very fact that it is the birth of Mystery into form, it reaches far beyond itself. The ripples go forth through time and space touching, empowering those who never knew the one willing to stand in the face of such awesome energy and channel its power for good.

One can believe struggle is proof that ideas will not be forthcoming yet, creativity is the very flame that is

ignited when the match is lit though the process of resistance and moving beyond the realm of ideas and imagination into the cold light of hot sweat. It takes what is at hand and combines them into something new. Each new innovation rides on the shoulders of those who have gone before; before in ideas, before in design, before in effort. Ideas come forth in new and exciting ways from linking things that were never linked before and the world is forever different.

It is a challenge to stand before the formless, boldly calling forth to the unknown all the resources of an infinite universe to give birth to the holy child. It all began as a simple question in the heart and in the end it was the one who was brave enough to call that is ultimately changed.



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Dearly Beloved of God,

During the month of April and May we have been taking a slow but steady walk through Unity's textbook, **Lessons in Truth**. I have so enjoyed moving a little slower, delving a little deeper into the nuanced layers of this most powerful, and for me, life changing book. Dr. Emilie Cady was a brilliant woman, a deep thinker. But **Lessons in Truth** has one drawback, it is her thoughts and reflections about God and the nature of our existence, a bearing of her consciousness and her spiritual journey. So it is a very rich book of spiritual insight, but very short on practical application! And what I have always loved about Unity was its practicability.

Do not be dismayed for Dr. Cady wrote a sequel entitled, **How I Used Truth**. Here is a fascinating look at how this pioneer of New Thought honed her understanding, sharpened her attunement to the activity of Spirit within.

She writes, "The papers that make up this volume have been written from time to time as a result of practical daily experience ... Every true statement here is as true and as workable today as it was when these papers were written. We ask no one to believe that which is here written simply because it is presented as Truth. 'Prove all things' for yourself ... Every statement here given was proved before it was written. No person can solve another's problems for him. Each must work out his own salvation. Here are some effectual rules, suggestions, and helps thereto; but results that one obtains from them will depend on how faithfully and persistently one uses the helps given." (Forward, **How I Used Truth**).

Herein is my greatest prayer challenge, "faithfully and persistently." What does that really mean? I often ask God, how many prayers, how long of days do I need to be faithful and persistent in order for things to be the way I want them to be, in other words, when will my prayers be answered!!

In this book, she talks of the five year journey to have her father released from prison in a foreign country. She speaks of having a friend who was wasting his life through alcohol. She shares her financial troubles and through it all, she echoes the themes, "There must be a way out through Truth, and I must find it. As always, instead of rushing to others for help in these tight places, I stayed at home within my own soul and asked God to show me the way. He did."

By reading this second series of articles you get a much clearer picture of her struggles to put into practice all the ideals we read about in the first book. And, once again, I am back to the question of faithful and persistent. How long, really, am I willing to hold the good, the inner knowing of Truth, maybe five days but five years, I'm not so sure of that. Yes, in some respects our world has shortened our attention span, our tempers and our prayer life. But the question remains.

How long am I willing to see beyond the appearance of things, to the good, to the Truth that is behind it all? It appears that this is one of my growing edges, is it not? The other is expectation. I want the answer to my prayer to show up the way I want and that usually means I want the external to change, to somehow be different.



What does it mean to truly "surrender" and to turn our will over to God? It is a phrase that I hear people say but it still feels so intangible to me for what really is the will? It is not like I turn over the keys to the car, or money to the clerk in the store. I am exchanging a portion of personal control of my life for the spiritual insight; the great mystery of God in action.

I think Dr. Cady gives us a clue when she says that we must stop seeking the reward. So perhaps in a very shortened version, I would say that turning my will over to God, or surrendering, is about giving up the idea that I know what is best for me. That is tough as we all know because our ego says we know exactly what is best for us!

In Unity we teach that through prayer we must form our request. It is an important step, for often we know what we don't want, yet, struggle to articulate what we do. This is why Jesus taught us to "ask." Then we set our mind and heart to affirming the good coming forth and we are open to receive. But here is the last, and most often forgotten step. We are to pray, "This or something better." After all that work to know what is "better" now I am supposed to let it go? To have no attachment? To stop seeking the reward? Seriously?

Why do we think God, the Absolute Good, would not have the best in mind for us? Why do we not trust when things don't work out as we thought they should have, that around the corner is a greater good, a good we could not see in the moment. A good that moved mountains of hubris so that our light could shine forth more clearly?

I love the image of taking a drink of water from a flowing stream. If my hand is clenched, no water can get in. If my fingers are splayed, no water will stay in. So I cup my hand and take my drink allowing the water to flow.

It was a great comfort and encouragement to me to know that someone who I consider a spiritual giant also struggled with these very questions, also was challenged by the events and situations in her daily life.

So as we study **Lessons in Truth** keep **How I Used Truth** close at hand to get the rest of the story!

Rev. Mary Anne Harris

Board Report

Treasurer Report



Suzy Jones, President

Ah, Springtime in Tulsa! Allergies aside, it doesn't get any better. Springtime is a time of renewal for all growing things and also for us as a congregation. And it is in that spirit that I begin my service to you as

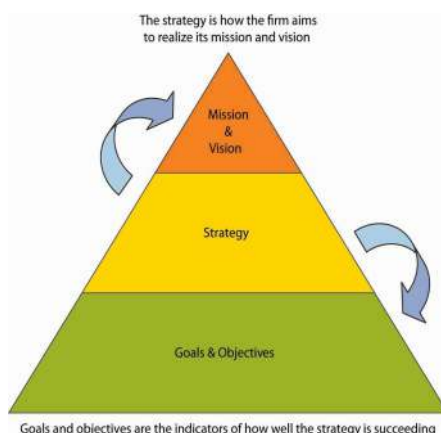
Board president. It is an honor and a privilege that I do not take lightly. Please come to me, or any Board member, and tell me/us your concerns, ask questions, or offer suggestions. We are your Board.

Carol Horacek, your past Board president left Board affairs in great shape and I want to thank her once again for her leadership. She's not taking a break, however, as she took over the duties of Volunteer Coordinator.

The Board is working on a vision statement for our church. The vision statement will play off the mission statement that we recite each Sunday morning. It will tell us where we want to be as we "do" or carry out our mission statement.

Sure, it would be great to see our sanctuary filled to capacity, but it's not just the numbers. We truly believe we have a message of "good news" just as Jesus and his disciples taught. We want to share the good news that is a practical approach to Christianity that brings hope, freedom and a community that does not judge.

Our vision statement will lead us to a strategic plan giving us a clear path to fulfill that vision. And as the Board holds a vision for our church, we pray that you will do the same.



I was attracted to Unity by its beliefs and philosophies. I chose to join the church because of the members of the church, as well as our beliefs.

As I settle in with my duties as Treasurer I feel even more connected to our church. I believe with any organization, whether it is business or a church, the accounting for the movement of money gives a different perspective on the organization. I was very happy to see that we are on solid ground financially.

I was impressed to learn that the church owns its buildings which I believe is a huge advantage, but that also comes with some added responsibility. I was in a meeting with Rev. Mary Anne and she referred to our building as our Spiritual Home. As I have been reviewing the day to day expenses I have realized how accurate that statement is.

Just as we need to maintain our own homes so we can have safety and security for our physical selves, we need to maintain our "Spiritual Home" so we can have safety and security for our spiritual selves. We had some unexpected repairs to the heating system during the winter that were more than what was budgeted and we need some roof repairs to prevent additional water damage. The board is being very careful and deliberate in selecting the best option for these repairs.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the church for their financial support, past and future, so that we can continue to maintain our Spiritual Home.

Jeff Woods, Treasurer

P& L Actuals	February 2016	March 2016
Income	\$9,711	\$10,311
Expense	\$18,823	\$15,916

Board of Directors

- President: Suzy Jones
- Vice President: Connally Perry
- Secretary: Kim Wiley
- Treasurer: Jeff Woods
- Director: Marleen Reddaway
- Director: Linda Lusk

Spiritual Connections Newsletter

- Editor & Writer: Rev. Mary Anne Harris
- Office Assistant: Sherry Setters
- Bookkeeper: Mary Portwood
- Contributing Writers: Jeff Woods, Suzy Jones
- Weekly Helpers: Betty Sharp
- Teachers: Renny Berry

OUR SUNDAY TEAM

Carol Horacek
Volunteer Coordinator

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Cheryl Phelps
Renny Berry
Louise Rose
Colleen Kirkpatrick

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Renee Anthony
Danny Baker
Robert Curnutt
VC Garrett
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Pat Nicholson
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Gail Iadevaia
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Betty Sharp
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Victoria Hoge
Chuck Lange
Lee Lowder
John Raney
Marleen Reddaway
Louise Rose
Jamie Townsend
Kim Wiley

SOUND TEAM

Patrick Harris
Colleen Kirkpatrick
Omar Perez
Keith Purtell
Don Rush

Altar Decorations

Colleen Kirkpatrick
Kim Wiley

PEACE OF MIND PROJECT (CONTINUES)

Last two sessions: Tuesday Evenings May 3 & 10
6:30-8:30pm

The Peace of Mind Project is a free educational workshop featuring top local experts who address the many decisions involved with planning and ensuring your final wishes are completed and followed. You still can join!
Facilitated by Chaz Wesley



ON-GOING CLASSES



Join at anytime!

Memories Class

11:00am - 1:00pm

May 5 - The Creative Spark

June 9 - The Discovery of God

No writing experience necessary!

Class is on a love offering basis, bring notebook and a brown bag lunch/snack if you choose. Although the class is in process you are welcome to join at anytime.

Wednesday Evenings
Adult Coloring Book Club

6:30 - 8:00pm

It's fun, it's free! It's relaxing.



Emotional Freedom Technique (Tapping)

Thursday Evenings ~ 6:30 - 8:00pm

The technique is simple, yet fun and easy to learn. But don't be fooled! It is a powerful transformational tool.

Renny Berry is leading our group and he will explain the basics of tapping (Emotional Freedom Technique) and together the class will move through a series of easy exercises that bring peace of mind, relief from pain, and openness to the fulfillment of your dreams.

Class is on a love offering basis.

May Highlights

Sunday May 22

Casual Sunday!

Break out your Unity T shirt, sunscreen and get ready for fun!



During Our Service

Diane Pinsart will be sharing the poem *Home*.

FOLLOWING OUR SERVICE

PICNIC!

Noon - 3:00 pm

LaFortune Park
Southwest Pavilion



Sign up in the foyer to bring a dish to share with 6 people . The Church will supply chicken and pulled pork for sandwiches.. Plus, utensils and paper products. **Bring your lawn chairs**



Temple Israel

Sunday, May 1

1:30pm - 3:00pm

2004 East 22nd Place
Tulsa, OK

We have arranged to visit the Temple as part of our ongoing interfaith series of getting to know our faith neighbors.

AFTER the regular monthly potluck we will drive over to the Temple for a guided tour.
The tour will last approximately one hour.

In the garden



Saturday Morning ~ May 7

9:00 am - Noon

Bring your energy and your tools and we will plant and prune and freshen up our church landscape & garden.

Sunday, May 15

Special Guest Music

Josh Caudle

Josh Caudle is a Tulsa musician and artist. Josh focuses on World fusions of genres and instruments, transcendental, spiritual and visionary music. On May 15, he will be sharing his improvisational and flourishing piano artistry with us.



Interfaith series #3

Guest Speaker

Rev. Don Chatfield, Ph.D

May 29

A Blending of Tradition



Rev. Don, an ordained interfaith minister, has many years of experience as a counselor, speaker, retreat facilitator, and spiritual director.

He and his wife Karen became Directors of the Osage Forest of Peace last year to play a role in advancing the interspiritual age, providing tangible examples of how people from different faiths can live in harmony and peace.

June Highlights

PORTUGAL & SPAIN



Last Call!

November 1—November 12

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

Brochures are now available on the information table and on website. **Reservations taken until July.**

This trip is open to anyone ~ invite a friend!



Congratulations!

Thursday Evening, June 9
Dinah Chapman
 will be ordained at Unity Village Chapel

Dinah spent 10 weeks with us as an intern last year. She is now serving as an associate Minister at Unity in San Leandro, CA.



Fannie's Country Cookin

Good old fashioned Amish cooking

**15842 S. 428 Rd.
 Chouteau, OK**

Saturday, June 25

5 - 7pm - Carpool from the church at 4pm

Dinner Menu

Oven Fried Chicken & Roast Beef
 All you can eat dinner plus homemade pies!

\$20.00 per person

You MUST make a reservation and pay for dinner before June 20th.



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...be social!



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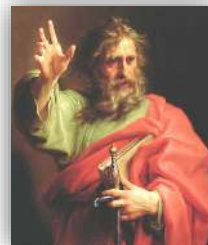


Check our website for weekly updates: www.tulsaunity.com



Email: tulsaunity@gmail.com

Send us YOUR email to update our database!



Paul, the Apostle

Forever fascinating, forever infuriating!

Thursday Evenings June 16, 23, 30

6:30 - 8:00pm

The Apostle Paul is one of the most controversial people in history. Some say he was the real founder of Christianity, while others say he was the one who took the original teachings of Jesus and mixed them to suit his own purposes.

Together we will explore this most fascinating figure: His travels ... His writings ... His legacy.

Class will be taught by Rev. Mary Anne Harris
 Class is on love offering basis

May 2016

Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am Potluck & Temple	2	3 Peace of Mind 6:30-8:30pm	4 Coloring 6:30-8:00pm	5 Memories 11:00 - 1:00pm Tapping 6:30-8:00pm	6	7 Garden Day! 9am - Noon
8 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	9	10 Peace of Mind 6:30-8:30pm	11 Coloring 6:30-8:00pm	12 Tapping 6:30-8:00pm	13	14
15 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	16	17	18 Coloring 6:30-8:00pm	19 Tapping 6:30-8:00pm	20	21
22 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am Picnic LaFortune Park	23	24	25 Coloring 6:30-8:00pm	26 Tapping 6:30-8:00pm	27	28
29 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	30	31				



“Creativity is putting your imagination to work,
and it’s produced the most extraordinary results in human culture.”
Ken Robinson



June 2016

Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Coloring 6:30-8:00pm	2 Tapping 6:30-8:00pm	3	4
5 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am Potluck!	6	7	8 Memories 11:00 - 1:00pm Coloring 6:30-8:00pm	9 Tapping 6:30-8:00pm	10	11
12 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	13	14	15 Coloring 6:30-8:00pm	16 Paul, The Apostle 6:30-8:00pm Tapping 6:30-8:00pm	17	18
19 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	20	21	22 Coloring 6:30-8:00pm	23 Paul, the Apostle 6:30-8:00pm Tapping 6:30-8:00pm	24	25 Amish Dinner 5:00-7:00pm
26 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	27	28	29 Coloring 6:30-8:00pm	30 Paul, The Apostle 6:30-8:00pm Tapping 6:30-8:00pm		

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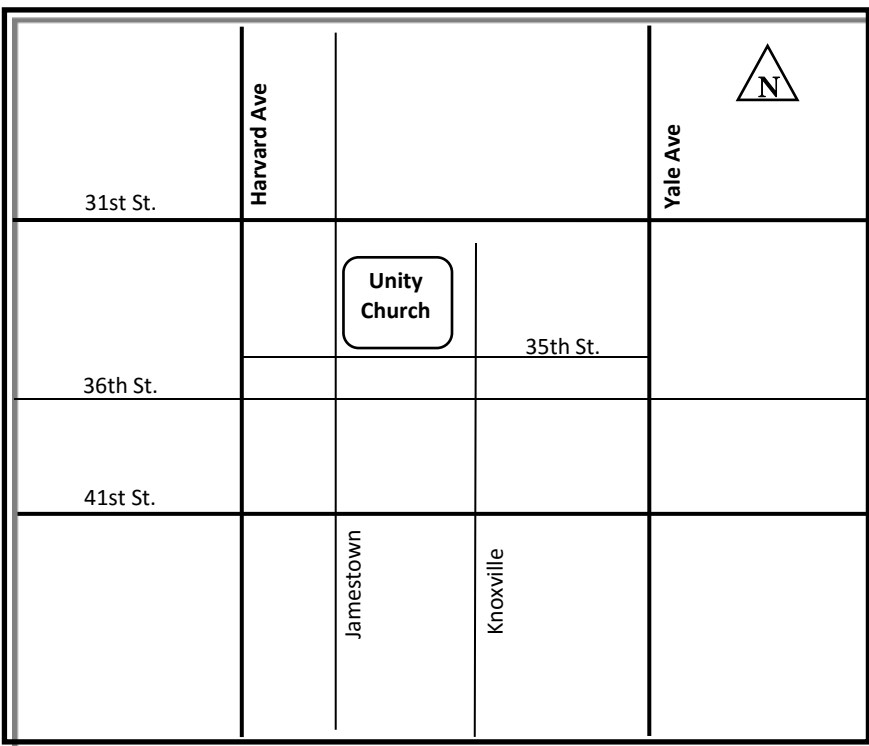
Returned Service Requested



SUNDAYS
10:30 AM
Worship Service

Reach us online at
tulsaunitymail.com
www.tulsaunity.com

<i>Unity Church of Christianity</i>	Church: 3355 S. Jamestown Ave. - Tulsa, OK. 74135 918-749-8833 E-mail: tulsaunity@gmail.com Website: www.tulsaunity.com Sunday Service 10:30AM
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May Theme: Lessons in Truth

- May 1** - Faith
- May 8** - The Secret Place
- May 15** - Spiritual Gifts
- May 22** - Unity of Spirit
- May 29** - Rev. Don Chatfield

June Theme: The Creative Fight

- June 5** - What If?
- June 12** - Critical Creativity
- June 19** - The Creative Flow
- June 26** - Keep the Wild Edges