



# Light On The Path

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

## The Receiving Gift

As the Apostle Paul was leaving Ephesus on his way to Rome, he reminded the Ephesians that he had worked hard among them and that he was concerned that their faith was not strong enough to withstand those who would try to take them from the fold. He cautioned them to remain together, to pray with one another, to help one another. His parting words were, "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" (Acts 20:35)

From this moment forward there has been an a skewed version of Christianity that teaches give and give and give. Give until it hurts; give until there is no more, and give more. Did Jesus really mean this? Oddly enough, Paul's claim that the Lord Jesus had spoken these words is not supported in any of the four gospel accounts of the life and memory of the early followers of The Way. Rather, it was Jesus that taught and demonstrated the understanding and use of spiritual law. To simply give and give and give is a misrepresentation of the flow, of the balance inherent within the universal principle.

The spiritual principle of giving is always coupled with a secondary; to be open to receive. Clearly the sports world knows the value of a "receiver," for this is how the ball moves forward on the field. Without the receiver the ball is dropped, the play is over, the game has ended.

The gospels quote Jesus as saying, "Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back." (Luke 6:38)

Clearly, Jesus understood the flow, "give and it will be given to you," and the implicit interdependency of the two, for he emphasized that to receive the gift is to find an overflowing blessing; for it will be "pressed down, shaken together, running over." It seems obvious that the act of receiving is the bigger gift indeed for it has been blessed and multiplied.

Most people find it far easier to give than to receive because the issues are rooted in concepts of self-worth, of value, and power. When one is the giver, one is in the control seat. When one is a receiver, the gift could come at any time, from anywhere. Though it may seem on the surface selfless, underneath there is an agenda quietly holding the receiver in a web of tangled reasons and emotions that negate the true intention of the gift. This is not the free exchange and flow of Spirit.



To become conscious of the divine flow is to become an unattached giver and a gracious receiver. Unattached givers recognize that the transaction is whole and complete in the moment of the gifting. It does not keep tabs, or score. The gift has been given freely with no strings attached, no one owes in return. For the giver, this is the receiving; to be aware of the energy inherent in the space between, and to acknowledge Spirit filling the void. There is no depletion in the flow.

Conversely, that which has been received must be accepted unconditionally, blessed and acknowledged with the clear intention to participate in the flow and not simply to get a gift. Thus, the transaction having been completed is now multiplied through blessing, through graciousness and is once again sent into the world continuing the flow, the good, the gift.

**SUNDAYS  
10:30 AM  
Worship Service**

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

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Dearly Beloved of God,

Spring, at long last! I used to say that autumn was my favorite time of the year. Growing up in Ohio, we always had such a profusion of color and frost, the changing of the season, a gentle walk into the winter. But after so many years in California I somehow forgot the power of spring to enthrall me. Then we moved to Tulsa. Arriving in the early spring of March 2008, the ups and downs of the move, getting used to a new place took much of our attention that first spring season. Yet, I remember one morning Patrick coming in and saying to me, "When are all the flowers on the trees coming back, I didn't get a picture of them." "Ah my California husband," I responded, "next spring." "What? Are you serious?" he cried! "They can't be gone for a whole year!" He was quite upset.

By the time the spring came back the following year, we were old hands on the Tulsa scene; checking out the herb festivals and annoyed by late snow storms. Yes we had settled in. Our landlady was a meticulous gardener and her place, and ours was a stunning array of color and scent. I think it is because of spring that I renewed my old love of photography. Early in the morning you will find me in the parks for that four-week period, with camera in hand.

Spring stirs my soul in a way that autumn does not. I find the message of spring; the soil, the seed, the sun one of renewal and rebirth. I like to watch my "church daffy's" break the ground and blossom. They brazenly announce the spring even when the temperatures are still cold. They stand tall and proud as they mature in the sun. While at the very same time, they have the flexibility to bend with the harsh wind. They are the survivors. How many seasons have I walked by them, watched them grow only to witness them being buried under a late, heavy snow. One year we had several days of ice and snow and I thought for sure they would never be able to bounce back. But I was wrong! That first day of sun and warmth, they raised their proud heads, shook off the dirt and smiled.

What a great metaphor for life, for spiritual renewal! The flowers of spring are usually planted in the fall. Isn't that interesting? The familiar varieties of spring flowers are daffodils, tulips, crocus and hyacinths and they are called hardy bulbs because they need the cold dormancy of the winter in the ground in order to reproduce. I find it fascinating that these bulbs spend far more time in the dark than they do in the light. What does that say to me about how my prayers, how my growth will be made manifest?

Growth in consciousness is not an overnight sensation. Though we talk about healings and miracles as instantaneous, what has happened in the reality of the soul is a long dormancy of the tiny seed breaking new ground. Each time we sit in the silence we add another nutrient to our developing spiritual realization.



Suddenly, just when life seems at its most barren and worn, a tiny shaft of color penetrates our darkness. At first we are not really aware of it, yet we feel a stirring within. New life is reaching toward expression in my human experience. Delicate and fragile like the spring flowers, it is also brazen in its song, yet flexible in its appearance.

Here is an important witness to life and its journey. Life can knock us down, or just when we think we are on top, the winds can change. So perhaps the spring flowers give me hope and insight into the sometimes barren and unproductive places.

The spring flowers also remind me that this new life quickly becomes incorporated into new thinking and new habits and new consciousness. In other words, the realization, or miracle that so inspired me today must fall back into the soil to nourish the next moment of revelation. Yes, there is a time and a season for it all. A time for growth and new life but there is also the time of inner growth and maturing at depth.

Oh to be so intimate and aware of nature and its movement that I can simply allow the unfolding flow with grace and ease. Yet, we also have been given the ability to weave the energy of our new found insights into manifest form that better our lives and ultimately our world. Yes, spring is a time of great spiritual wealth if we will be attuned to its vibration and message.

As I write this morning it is still a little chilly with scattered days of warm sun teasing us with the season ahead. The light grows longer, the temperatures are beginning to climb and all around the clarion call of spring is being sounded within each bulb and tree. But it is not for nature alone that the song is sung. Can you hear what Spirit is singing in your heart in this phase of your life journey? Listen to the flowers and the trees as they break the ground, the seed, the soil and bloom.

*Rev. Mary Anne Harris*

## Board Report



*Connally Perry*, Director

You hear people talk about taking a “giant step” forward; in life, in careers, in projects. But it has been my experience that for every giant step there has been countless little ones that made the final step seem like a leap.

My role on the board has been to continue the work of disaster planning, something that is part of my daily job at the Mental Health Association. Having walked through the process on a much larger scale I thought it would be simple to just follow the template for the church. But of course, things are very different here. First, six days out of the week very few people are in the building, so a plan is almost unnecessary. But along comes Sunday and at 10am there are very few people, but by 11am, the scene has changed and the needs of the group for safety and security have changed, as well.

I am extremely grateful to teammates, Kim Wiley, Carol Horacek, John Raney, Shelly Jones and Jeff Woods as we have completed our first draft of the plan. It specifically covers medical, fire and weather related issues. And there is more work to be done, as well as training to cement the action plan into everyone’s awareness. Yes, it has been a series of very small steps that have gotten us to this point.

I live in a world someplace between thinking, “no this will never happen to us and we don’t need all this,” to being overwhelmed with all the possible scenarios that “could” happen when a group of people are in one building at one time. I remind myself the best defense is a positive, well planned and executed offense.

So we continue our work balancing thoroughness with effectiveness. It is my heart’s desire that we never need any of it, but it makes me feel secure knowing the plan is in place.

## Treasurer Report



Taking over the job as Treasurer is a rather daunting task! But thankfully I am walking on a path that has been well laid out by our previous Treasurer, Maggie Cunningham. This job is one of those “behind the scenes” kind. For the most part my job is one of overseeing: the counting of the money, the accounting for the money, and planning financial decisions of the church based on current cash position, goals, and business knowledge of investments.

During Maggie’s time in office she guided us through the sanctuary renewal and the change in our financial investors as our long time friend Beverly Barry retired.

We also made a decision that I believe was a wise one to repair our Center (formerly called the Annex). Though a big financial investment, I as well as, the rest of the board felt it was in alignment with our long term goals to see the building brought back to life.

This year we may again see another major expense as our roof continues to be having lots of leaks. In fact, on Sunday, December 27, it was raining so hard inside the sanctuary that I actually got wet while we sang the Peace Song! Then to make matters worse, I went to my office, a few blocks from the church, and we had a roof leak there too! Right now we are contacting roofers, getting bids and praying over the wisest course of action.

Thank you Maggie for laying it all out so smoothly. It was a big job and I trust that I meet the challenge with the same grace, wisdom and spirit as you!

*Jeff Woods*, Treasurer

P& L Actuals	December 2015	January 2016
Income	\$21,801	\$16,035
Expense	\$16,992	\$15,579

### 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

Office Assistant: Sherry Setters  
 Editor & Writer: Rev. Mary Anne Harris  
 Bookkeeper: Mary Portwood  
 Contributing writers: Jeff Woods, Connally Perry  
 Weekly Helpers: Betty Sharp  
 Teachers: Renny Berry

Community **CORNER**



A big thank you from Alice & Jason for all the pet food that was donated and the gift of our tithe to help defray the cost of veterinary care.

If you would like more information on A-friend For-a Friend visit them on facebook.

**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

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 Chuck Lange  
 Victoria Hoge  
 John Raney, Louise Rose  
 Marleen Reddaway  
 Jamie Townsend  
 Lee Lowder

**Ushers**  
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 Danny Baker, Louise Rose  
 Colleen Kirkpatrick  
 Marleen Reddaway  
 Pat Nicholson  
 Renee Anthony  
 Robert Curnutt

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 Kourtney Cushway  
 Sarah Stansell

**Hospitality**  
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 Betty Sharp,  
 Gayle Iadevaia  
 Marleen Reddaway  
 Jeff Woods, Dayna Lane  
 Sandy Burggraf  
 Sarah Stansell

**Altar Decorations**  
 Colleen Kirkpatrick  
 Kim Wiley



Happy Birthday Unity!

In April, 1889, Charles and Myrtle Fillmore declared their intentions to publish a magazine presenting new religious beliefs and thus, *Modern Thought* was born and with it so was the Unity movement.

Today *Unity Magazine* (for sale in foyer or from Unity) continues the tradition of bringing forth spiritual principles and practical applications. New people often ask what is Unity. So as part of our 127<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration we are going to share a brief review.

The story really begins with the healing of Myrtle Fillmore in 1886, who at the age of 46 was told she would not live six more months, for she had a family history of tuberculous and was suffering from an active case of malaria. Her healing and overcoming the odds through prayer and meditation became Unity's founding story.

Unity is a positive, practical, modern approach to Christianity based on the teachings of Jesus and the power of prayer. Unity honors the universal truths in all religions and respects each individual's right to choose a spiritual path.

Here is what we believe:

- God is Spirit, the loving source of all that is. God is not a being rather God is divine energy, continually creating, expressing and sustaining all creation.
- Jesus is our master teacher, the one who came to show us the way. In Unity, we use the term "Christ" to mean the divinity of humankind. Jesus is the great example of the Christ in expression.
- Humanity is an individual, eternal expression of God and therefore our nature is divine and inherently good.
- The Bible is a valuable spiritual resource for it represents humankind's evolutionary journey toward spiritual awakening.
- Unity teaches that each person is a unique expression of God created with sacred worth. Living from that awareness transforms our lives and the world. By applying the Law of Mind Action, we choose to take personal responsibility for our thoughts, words and actions. We emphasize the importance of applying spiritual principles to every circumstance and situation we encounter in our daily lives.

# March Highlights



## THE WORLD OF MARK

Wednesday Evenings  
 March 2, 9, 16  
 6:30-8:00pm

The Gospel of Mark was written to inspire but it also gives insight into a world that was unknown at the time of Jesus. Come and explore the early world of the followers of The Way.

Join Rev. Mary Anne for this class that invites us to a greater understanding of the history of the times, the faith of the early followers and the challenges they faced.

Class is on a love offering basis  
 No book is necessary.

### On-Going Classes

Join at anytime!



Wednesday Evenings Coloring  
 6:30 - 8:00pm  
 It's fun, it's free! It's relaxing.

Thursday Evenings ~ 6:30 - 8:00pm  
 Tapping Class resumes March 3.



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.



## Good Friday

The Night He Died  
 Friday Evening, March 25  
 7:00 - 8:00pm

The gospels are full of accounts regarding the crucifixion and death of Jesus, but what happened to his followers those who had given up everything to follow?

Come and hear their story.



## Memories

11:00am - 1:00pm

March 3 - 30 Something  
 April 7 - The Career Years

### 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.



Interfaith series #2

## Guest Speaker ~ Mark Lobos

March 20

A native Tulsan, Mark attended Barnard Elementary, Woodrow Wilson Junior High and Central High, always among a small minority of Jewish kids.

He learned first hand the importance of the need for diversity in society. Beginning with the Creation story in Genesis to the Oklahoma Center for Community and Justice, he will weave the framework that God provided mankind to build a civilization.

As a licensed professional engineer, Mark respects the laws of nature that constrain us. As Jew he respects religion to give us the ability to be at peace with others while living within constraints.

# April Highlights

## Mosque trip

Wednesday Evening April 13

7:00 - 8:30pm

We have been invited to visit the Mosque here in Tulsa for an evening tour and to participate in their Discover Islam class.

Our teacher will be Sheryl Siddiqui

Mosque is located at  
4620 S Irvington Ave, Tulsa, OK 74135



## PET BLESSING

Saturday, April 30  
4:00pm - 5:00pm

### Highland Park

Yale & S. Allegany St.  
Across the street from the  
Little Lighthouse.

We will gather and have a moment of blessing for all God's creatures, then Rev. Mary Anne will bless each pet.

Please bring your loved one on a leash or in a cage for their safety and the sake of others.



## PEACE OF MIND PROJECT

4 Tuesday Evenings  
April 19 & 26, May 3 & 10  
6:30-8:30pm

*The Peace of Mind Project* is an educational workshop featuring top local experts who address the many decisions involved with planning and ensuring your final wishes are completed and followed, including:

- Estate Planning (Trusts, Last Will & Testaments, Powers of Attorney)
- Advance Directives (Living Wills, DNRs)
- Life Care Management (Financial, medical, emotional guidance)
- End-of-Life & Grief Services
- Funeral & Memorial Pre-Planning

"Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes." James 4:14

***The time to have the conversation is NOW!***

This is a FREE workshop, invite a friend!  
Please confirm your space and sign up in foyer  
or call church office - 918-749-8833  
Facilitated by Chaz Wesley



Sunday April 3  
Special Guest Music

Sharla Ember

A multi-instrumentalist singer/songwriter, Sharla Ember cultivates presence, love and acceptance through interactive musical meditations and performances.

## 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. Reservations taken until July.

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

## March, 2016

Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Coloring 6:30-8:00pm World of Mark 6:30-8:00pm	3 Memories 11:00 - 1:00pm Tapping 6:30-8:00pm	4	5
6 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am  Potluck !	7	8	9 Coloring 6:30-8:00pm World of Mark 6:30-8:00pm	10  Tapping 6:30-8:00pm	11	12
13  Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	14	15	16 Coloring 6:30-8:00pm World of Mark 6:30-8:00pm	17  Tapping 6:30-8:00pm	18	19
20  Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	21	22	23  Coloring 6:30-8:00pm	24  Tapping 6:30-8:00pm	25  Good Friday Service 7:00 - 8:00pm	26
27  Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	28	29	30  Coloring 6:30-8:00pm	31  Tapping 6:30-8:00pm		



“Until we can receive with an open heart, we're never really giving with an open heart.  
When we attach judgment to receiving help, we knowingly or unknowingly attach judgment to giving help.”  
*Brene' Brown*



## April, 2016

Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

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

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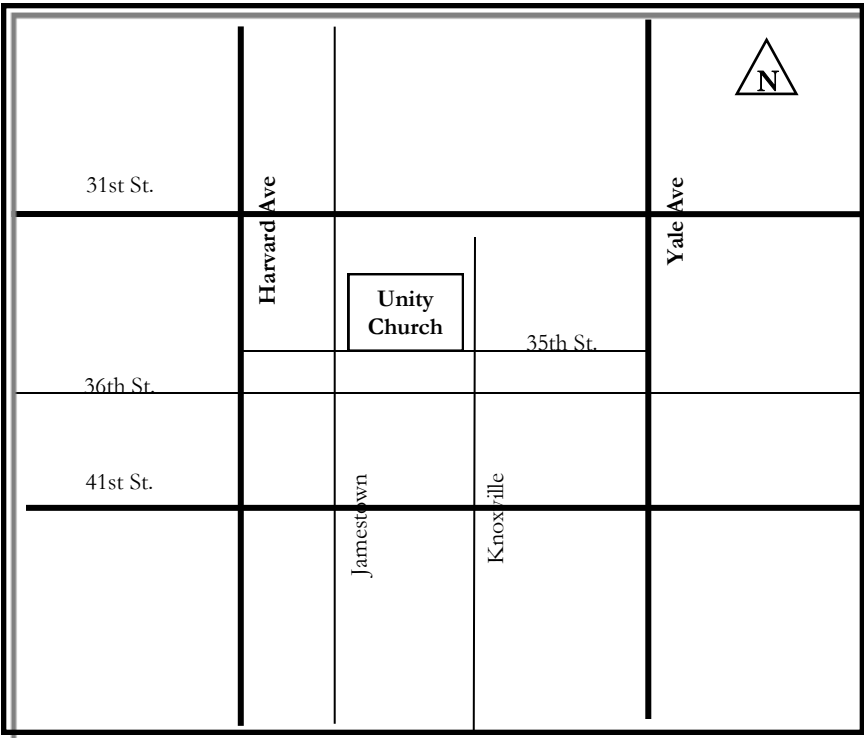
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**SUNDAYS**  
**10:30 AM**  
**Worship Service**

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
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**March Theme: In the Flow**

- Mar. 6** - As You Give
- Mar. 13** - A Complete Transaction
- Mar. 20** - Mark Lobos
- Mar. 27** - The Promise Fulfilled

**April Theme: Lessons in Truth**

- April. 3** - Unity's Textbook
- April. 10** - Of the Father
- April. 17** - At the Root
- April. 24** - The Free Gift