



Light On The Path

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

Equal Partners

In the late 1890's Myrtle Fillmore, Unity's co-founder, wrote a small track that recounted the story of her healing from the brink of death, to radiant health. Although the pamphlet is sometimes read with a halo effect that borders on worship by Unity students, Myrtle's story is an inspiring one, nonetheless. A common, ordinary next door neighbor was she. Nothing that would distinguish her from anyone else in the neighborhood except for the fact that she was a frail sickly looking woman who was often abed. She had two young children and her mother-in-law eventually moved in with the little family, as Myrtle's health continued its downward decline.

In 1886, she was told that modern medicine had come to the end of its ability and knowledge to help her and that she should make certain arrangements for the care of her children as she was given less than 6 months to live. It is almost impossible to imagine her despair and desperation unless one has walked a similar path. So she and husband Charles began in earnest to seek out every possible alternative. Son Lowell would later describe all the various types of elixirs and processes that she went through to find a solution, a permanent cure for her rapidly declining body, but to no avail.

Myrtle, by her own report, was plagued with frequent illnesses during the early years of her life extending into her adulthood. Thus, she was no stranger to a frail physical form, even as she had an indomitable spirit that saw her through many difficult days of restricted living.

That summer, a series of lectures were presented by Dr. Eugene B. Weeks in Kansas City. Dr. Weeks had at one time been a student of Christian Science under Mary Baker Eddy. However when one of her chief pupils, Emma Hopkins, left and founded her own movement, The Illinois Metaphysical College, in Chicago, Dr. Weeks went with her. It was as a member of her College that he visited Kansas City.

The Fillmore's were urged to go to this lecture and it was here that Myrtle experienced a connection so powerful that her life was set on to an entirely new track. What was that shift? What made such an impact upon her that she would dedicate the next 43 years of her life struggling to articulate its presence, its power in her life?



Her spiritual awakening was no longer something that happened outside of her, rather it was something that happened at a very cellular level. She experienced a shift so powerful that her body began to respond to the new vibration of energy that coursed through her veins. Even though Myrtle would attribute her healing to prayer and meditation, in the early days of her changed awareness she was primarily focused upon the healing of the physical body. Yet, over time she came to realize that as she worked with various people, some did not heal, some healed and then relapsed, something she herself did not experience. Yet, she was using the same prayer formula that she herself had used to achieve her own renewed health and vitality.

Over the course of her own physical/spiritual journey to health she came to see the body as an "equal partner" in the journey of transformation. Could the body actually inform the soul? Traditional teachings had always stated the reverse was true, the body was the servant, the subordinate. Her life changing discovery was that if permanent health and life were to be, then both must work as an equal unit, two horses pulling the same load. A back and forth exchange of Life expressing as life in the body.

Myrtle realized and began to honor the value of her body and the role it played in her continual revelation of Spirit. Here was the inner shift, the touchstone for all subsequent Unity teachings. There is a "unity" among all things. Nothing is separate from Spirit, for all is part of a larger whole. Therefore, each phase of life has much to offer in expanding one's consciousness beyond the known horizons.

Her new realization freed her from the past conviction of her body as her enemy and something to escape. Now it became a powerful ally in knowing and understanding the universal life force. Her life's work was to articulate and prove her discovery.

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Dearly Beloved of God,

Over the course of the summer we are taking a look at three of the key figures in early Christianity. In June we discovered more about Paul and in late July, Peter, and finally August we will touch upon the story of Mary Magdalene. What the three of these people share is a common story of the early church that they participated in and in many cases shaped, these were the formative years. Yet, we are not simply talking about a corporation, forming something that was external to them, we are talking about the evolution of the story that we call Christianity.

Each of the three share a central figure in Jesus, yet, each of them have a very different relationship to him. To add to this search for these persons of interest is the fact that their stories were highly prized by the second generation who sought to hold them up as models of faith for themselves as well as their communities. They set about not only preserving the stories but improving them. This presents us with some difficult road blocks to discerning who the real Peter, Paul and Mary actually were.

If we know very little about the historical Jesus, we know even less about his followers. With the exception of Paul, which is why we started with him, our trail of facts runs cold rather quickly! But we do not need to distress, for in the gap comes a wealth of myth and legend to fill the void. Now before you say, that doesn't really count as history, in some ways you are correct. And in some ways you are not. Because these stories that circulated then, grew as if they were fact.

Let's take the example of Peter. We really don't know what happened to him. Jesus never really did commission him to establish the church in his name, for we read the passage only once in the gospel of Matthew. But by the time that Matthew's gospel was written, there was a foundational church growing in the belly of the empire! So the foundation upon which the Catholic Church resides is a story, a legend about Peter and his relationship to Jesus.

Mary Magdalene is the person we know the least about! And what we seem to "know" is incorrect. In the Eastern Church, Mary holds a place of honor and her feast day is July 22. However, in the Western Church she is seen as a sinner and ultimately a prostitute. How can this be? Where did that story line come from? In the Western Church Mary became a composite story largely due to the writings and sermons of one Pope Gregory I (known as Gregory the Great) in his Easter sermon 591 he identified Magdalene not only with the anonymous sinner with the perfume in Luke's gospel, but also with Mary of Bethany, the sister of Martha and Lazarus; this interpretation is often called the "composite Magdalene" in modern scholarship. There is no proof, yet western peoples still see her as the fallen woman.

The seven devils removed from her by Jesus "morphed" into the seven capital sins, and Mary Magdalene began to be condemned not only for lust, but for pride and covetousness as well. Did you ever wonder why Mary is almost always in a red dress or shawl? Western art had a field day with her "sins."



In recent years, thanks to the highly popular book by Dan Brown, *The DaVinci Code*, there has been a movement to upgrade Mary from her lowly status as sinner, in its place the book claims that she was the wife of Jesus! I'm not sure the story is getting us closer to the truth, but it was a good read with just enough history to be believable and enough story to tease. Why is it not enough to say Mary was a follower who truly understood Jesus, as many of the Eastern Churches do? Why was a woman with power such a threat that not only was she taken off the list of disciples, but given the status of a fallen prostitute. After all, all four gospels tell us that she, and she alone, was the first witness to the resurrected Lord.

The point I am trying to make is that, although we have minimal facts, or in some cases none whatsoever, the stories about these three lives continues to speak and guide religious values and institutions of our current day.

Let's look back at Paul, after all we have just studied him! It is common knowledge that Paul is against women. Oh really? If so, then why do women feature prominently in his letter to the Romans where he thanks so many of them for their work in the field with him? Read Chapter 16 of the letter to the Romans and you will be amazed at the number of women Paul lists as his coworkers.

But you say what about that passage in 1 Corinthians 14:34-36 that says women are to keep silent? Could it possibly be that someone with "good intentions" inserted these two lines and Paul knew nothing of them. Scholarship today has proven over and over that there are actually more errors in the New Testament than there are text.

Why is this important, or is it? Because much of the rancor we experience regarding Christianity is based on some of these incorrect passages especially in regards to women and homosexuals. It is important that we understand history and legend in order to be more informed to move beyond the barriers of ancient times to live more fully in our own.

Join me in our next two session – 3 classes on Peter, 3 classes on Mary, See pages 5 & 6 for details. If you would like the notes from the June class on Paul contact the church office and I'll be happy to send them to you.

Rev. Mary Anne Harris

Board Report



Marleen Reddaway, Director

A goal of Reverend May Anne's, presented to the Board, is to have an outreach committee. This resonated with me. What is outreach?

Being "young" in my spiritual journey, I immediately had grandiose visions of planning a big event, and getting the community involved. Feelings of anxiety creep in about resources and the dedication of time. Not to mention, what if all this work was put into it, and nobody from the community participates. Voicing these concerns, Rev. Mary Anne's experience kicks in, "keep it simple" she says.

Onward my thoughts go, outreach is the outwardly focus of positive energy and sharing God's love. Inward focus is definitely important too, makes the outward focus more pure. Now, I'm nowhere near being fully enlightened, but I have this bubbling inside when I think about our church and Rev. Mary Anny's weekly message. I want to share the overflow of the love God with those in need, which I imagine can only enhance spiritual growth. Something as simple as outreach in our own house, such as affirmative prayer for an acquaintance losing faith in God's goodness.

Where do we start, I asked myself? Good ideas, and energized intentions need to be followed with thoughtful action and that takes more than a committee of one. If you're seeking more, come find me on Sunday about wanting to join Team Outreach. The first few initial committee meetings will be to discuss the why and how they align with the five basic principles of Unity. Then we'd discuss how to channel this overflow of God's love. Finally, how to communicate it throughout the church and into the community on any new outreach ideas and any existing ones. All energies and affirmative prayers welcome for this goal. Join me on a fun new journey of discovery.

Treasurer Report



I was thinking the other day about giving, my giving, your giving and why we give in general. That covers a lot of territory doesn't it? For me personally, and I would imagine for you as well, it feels good to give, it feels good to help. When I see a need, from something small to large I want to help. I suppose in one way I hope it fixes a problem, relieves a burden; a flat tire all the way to world peace. It makes me feel like I have contributed in my own way to the greater good by helping others.

But giving is more than a feel good habit, as we teach in Unity, it is a spiritual discipline much like good eating habits and exercise, for we are taking care of our spiritual body. We are exercising our awareness of God's all provision, our ability to honor the flow of good, and at the same time be in the flow of that good, sending it forth as it has been so freely sent to us. Disciplined giving helps us to recognize that lack is something we create in our mind and that changing our mindset is the beginning of living a truly abundant life. As well known Unity author Eric Butterworth says, "Prosperity (or Poverty) is a way of living and thinking, and not just about money or things."

Over my spiritual years, I have begun to learn that giving is not about fixing or control rather it is about letting go and giving into the flow of the greater good. And for me giving to our church is about a greater good. It is a recognition that the message of Unity is a life changing one. It certainly changed mine and I bet yours as well. Because I hold this message as all important I want to see it shared so that others, even generations behind me will come to these doors and find our Unity message. That is the vision that pulls me!

Jeff Woods, Treasurer

P& L Actuals	April 2016	May 2016
Income	\$13,612	\$11,761
Expense	\$14,009	\$16,615

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Colleen Kirkpatrick
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Unity Tee Shirts New colors for the summer!

Colors: Antique Royal . . . Rusty Bronze . . . Gold
Heliconia (fushia) . . . Irish Green . . . Ice Gray

**Tee shirts are Gildan Ultra Cotton 6 oz shirt
100% preshrunk cotton**

Sizes: Small—5XL

Cost \$15.00 (additional charge for 2XL - 5XL)

Payment is required in advance of ordering.

Color swatches available on website and in foyer.

Profits from the sale will be donated to *Charity Waters* - a non-profit organization that provides clean and safe drinking water to people in developing nations. Help yourself, help others!



Tee shirt orders taken until Sunday, July 31—delivery dates estimated 2 weeks.

ON-GOING CLASSES

Join at anytime!

**Memories Class
11:00am - 1:00pm**

Topics

July 7 -- Soul Friends

August 4 - Grace for the Moment

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.

July Highlights



SUNDAY JULY 3

Potluck Sunday

Crop dusters, old barns
and wheat fields!

Slide show of Rev. Mary Anne & Diane Pinsart's recent photography trip to Washington State.

Bring a dish to share with 6 people and enjoy the beautiful countryside, as well as the fun stories of adventure.

Ice Cream & Movie Night

Saturday, July 23

6:00-8:00pm

The Lady in the Van

Starring Dame Maggie Smith



The Lady in the Van tells the true story of Alan Bennett's strained friendship with Miss Mary Shepherd, an eccentric homeless woman whom Bennett befriended in the 1970s before allowing her temporarily to park her Bedford van in the driveway of his Camden home. She stayed there for 15 years.



Part II

Peter, Paul & Mary

A bible trilogy

Thursday Evenings

July 21, 28, & August 4

6:30 - 8:00pm

"Upon this rock I will build my church"

Matthew 16:18

Did Jesus really give this authority to Peter or did later Christians create a myth around the man?

Our trilogy continues with the study of the apostle Peter.

Come and explore the early church as it grows from its founding roots to a religion of the empire.

Rev. Mary Anne is teaching this class.

Class is on a love offering basis.



Our Interfaith Series

Sunday, July 24

The Unity of All:

The Bahá'í Faith

Our guest speakers will be our own Paul Davis and his mother Nancy. They are graciously coming to share their story, their journey of faith and walking in the footsteps of the Bahá'u'lláh and His Covenant.

Following our service will be a question and answer period from 11:45 - 12:30pm.

What to know more about the Bahá'í Faith?

Check out their website: www.bahai.org

Sunday, July 31

Communion Sunday

Faith is the way of the heart and communion is an external ritual that recalls the internal step to deeper commitment and connection to the Path of God.

All are welcome at the table.



August Highlights

Part III Peter, Paul & Mary

A Bible Trilogy



Thursday Evenings
August 25, September 1, & 8
6:30 - 8:00pm

*Who was Mary Magdalene?
Sinner, saint, wife, companion?*

The final segment of the bible trilogy is Mary Magdalene. She is the least known of all the three and surrounded by much myth and legend. Yet, she alone is the sole witness to the resurrection. What do we really know of her and why has her story been lost in the Western Church?

Rev. Mary Anne is teaching this class;

Class is on a love offering basis.

Sunday, August 28

Welcome back ~ SISTAS IN RHYTHM



A Tulsa-based percussion and vocal ensemble that evolved from a weekly West African drumming class.

All members are deeply dedicated to spreading the power and connection to others through music. Using instruments such as jidunjduns, djembes, ashikos, shekeres, balafons and a variety of instruments from all over the world, the "Sistas" perform traditional African rhythms and songs, and much more!

Members: Dianna Burrup, Leslie Brown, Robin Leach, Libby Sublett, Grace Weber, Jessica Sims, Joan Crager.

Step up to the mic and let your talent shine!

Saturday, June 27
6:30-8:30pm



Sing a song, create a skit, share a poetry reading.

A fun time snacks and surprises, guaranteed.

Sign up to be "on-stage" so we can plan our acts.

Every show needs an audience.

Come and join the fun.

No cover charge - light snacks and coffee!



**Are You
Sharing?**

...be social!



Like, follow and share our Facebook news!



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



Email: tulsaunity@gmail.com

Send us YOUR email to update our database!

Calendar

Unity Church of Christianity

July 2016

Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am Potluck & Photos	4	5	6 Coloring 6:30-8:00pm	7 Memories 11:00 - 1:00pm	8	9
10 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	11	12	13 Coloring 6:30-8:00pm	14	15	16
17 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	18	19	20 Coloring 6:30-8:00pm	21 Peter Class 6:30 - 8:00pm	22	23 Ice Cream & Movie Night 6:00-8:00pm
24 Interfaith Series ~4 10:30 am	25	26	27 Coloring 6:30-8:00pm	28 Peter Class 6:30 - 8:00pm	29	30
31 Communion Sunday 10:30 am						

August 2016

Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

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



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www.tulsaunity.com

*Unity Church
 of
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 E-mail: tulsaunity@gmail.com Website: www.tulsaunity.com
 Sunday Service 10:30AM

31st St.	Harvard Ave			
36th St.		Unity Church	35th St.	
41st St.				
		Jamestown	Knoxville	

July Theme: Health in Mind, Body & Spirit

- July 3** - Our Story
- July 10** - Thoughts Are Things
- July 17** - The Power of Presence
- July 24** - Unity of All
- July 31** - Gratitude & Grace

August Theme: Spiritual Economics

- August 7** - Substance - the invisible gift
- August 14** - Success Syndrome
- August 21** - The Money Enigma
- August 28** - Look Again