



Light On The Path

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

The University of Life

Has life really come to teach a lesson or are there lessons to be learned? Looking back upon one's life is often a difficult thing to do. It requires a forgiveness of self that embraces both the times of triumph and the times of failure. It allows for compassion to the self and its unfolding journey, while at the same time, it grants the seeker a newer depth and appreciation for the journey of every other soul that walks upon the planet.

Life is a teacher with wisdom buried inside each lesson. The teacher does not force one to learn; rather the true meaning of the word education comes from the Latin word "educare" meaning to draw from within. Something one innately knows and understands on a vibrational level, but until given vocabulary and language, one cannot articulate the lesson for oneself. This is what the ancient rite of the apprentice was all about.

The master was a teacher who had walked the path before. They understood the pitfalls and the promise with each new level of knowledge and understanding. As often is the case in craft and life, one thinks because they can do the basics that there is no need for instruction or guidance or practice. But the truly wise student hears the faint calling from within, a call that allows the ears to open and the heart to hear. Vulnerable and ready, the student bends into the teacher allowing the wisdom to be given voice and the lesson to be both taught and learned once again.

In life, it is all too often said that "life is teaching one a lesson," but nothing could be further from the truth. A University is the repository of the cumulative lessons learned through the process of living through the creative act of discovery. Thus it is true of Life as well.

Spirituality is not a quest for perfection, rather it is an embracing of the human divine at the intersection of the two. It is the world of imperfection and failure that is the fertile ground of learning and growth. Hardened soil will crush the fragile plant root as it seeks nutrients and water from the soil. This drive toward perfection is one that isolates people from one another, for in reality, it is an imperfect world inhabited by imperfect people. There is no escape but rather it is to live into the daily, the ordinary with an appreciation for the gift, the miracle that it is.

Does that negate all the past; tuck it away in an untidy box to be hidden under the bed? On the contrary, it is something to be opened with strong hearts, gentle hands, and fresh eyes. Here are gems within the rocks. The breaking away of the dirt, the pain and suffering holds the invitation to learn, to understand and appreciate that the people, situations and circumstances are the doorways to greater realization. Here is the elixir to heal the heart even though, on the surface, it seems to be the very thing that broke one in two.



This is where the wisdom of the master patiently holds the raw skill of the apprentice in hand, shaping and molding the future. Step by step, the process of crafting life is through the incorporation of all of life. What are the lessons that can be learned from suffering, sorrow and pain? How is one a better person, more sensitive to the cries of other people's hearts, because they have heard the cry in their own? Suddenly, quietly beneath the soil of the past a new awakening stirs, the ground becomes more fertile, well-watered and life giving, now life sustaining.

There is no great master, prophet or avatar of the past or present who has not suffered.

Suffered to understand themselves first and that self in relationship to something grandeur than a small mind can contain. In the end isn't that the essential message of Love. A Love that is beyond feeling, a Love that is healing, life-giving, embracing. One who loves is not perfect, nor is human love a perfect model of a divine ideal. Rather it is an awakening to a larger purpose that expands ones vision of the self.

A purified vision is the goal of the university of life, a way to see through the temporary, the immediate to the eternal reality. Inner wisdom and love bring forth from within the integration of the disciplines of life: suffering and success, health and disease, poverty and prosperity into a full living curriculum.

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Dearly Beloved of God,

I have had the wonderful fortune to travel extensively both in the United States and overseas. And as I prepare for another trip coming up in just a few short weeks I ponder once again why travel? What calls me to foreign shores and distant lands with customs, food and language not my own. What am I seeking, or hoping to find? And I have discovered about myself that although cruises are fun, my greatest joy is to literally walk the land, to be on the ground and experience the land and its own vibration.

Some places I go, I step off the plane and immediately seem to know my way around, as if I have been there before. Perhaps I have, in another lifetime, but in this one I know for sure I have not. So it intrigues me, why here in this place and not in some other. This question became very alive for me back in 2007 when I lead my first tour to Turkey. I had always wanted to go to this historical and mysterious land and was so drawn to Istanbul, so that when the opportunity arose I was thrilled to be able to go. From the minute I stepped off the plane, it seemed that every corner, every place was like a visit to an old friend somehow. In the moment it didn't really strike me until several months later my family fulfilled a long held dream of going to Alaska. We did the land tour and connected to the cruise line several days later.

The minute I stepped off the plane in Fairbanks I did not feel at home, was uncomfortable, as if I did not belong there, an intruder of sorts. How odd, I thought. Alaska is part of my own country, they speak the same language, my atm card works here! Yet, for some unknown reason the land did not resonate with my soul. Don't get me wrong, it was not a fearful feeling as if something bad were going to happen, rather a sense of not my place. Nice to visit, but don't stay. All in all, it was a great trip filled with wonderful family laughs, beautiful scenery, and memories to last a precious lifetime. But somehow I just could not get my "footing."

It was one of those "aha" moments, an awakening to something I had always sensed but never really connected or understood, the power of "my" places on earth. Since that time, every time we travel I am very aware of what it feels like, within me, when I step into an new land, whether it be in America or across the sea. What makes a place "feel" like home, even though I may be thousands of miles away from the place of my birth? And even more difficult question is what makes a place feel sacred, holy?

Perhaps the intention by which it was created, for example, a sacred temple or great cathedral. Some of the lands we walk are ancient burials sites, cemeteries, battle fields; places where people have left their loved ones in solemn partings, their bodies long taken back into the earth, but their spirits and stories live on in the simple markers and headstones.

Yet, that does not account for all the places that humans call sacred sites. On my second trip to Israel in 2009, I was struck by the strength/lack of energy in some places that were supposed to be where something happened in the life of Jesus: the place he was born, the place where he died, etc. Now did those things really happen in those exact locations or is it because believers believe it happened in those exact locations that a shift of energy can be felt.



Enter the story of Helena, the mother of the great Emperor Constantine. History tells us that it was Helena who was a convert to Christianity that ultimately exposed her son to the beliefs that he would one day espouse for himself and his empire. History tells us that she was born of lowly estate, perhaps a stable-maid and early in her life she met a soldier named Constantius. They married and had one son, Constantine, who history would later call Emperor Constantine the Great. Sadly, when her husband's fame increased he divorced Helena and sent her and her son to the court of the Emperor Diocletian. Upon Diocletian's retirement, and after much strife, Constantine in 306 CE was declared Emperor.

Constantine appointed his mother Helena as Augusta Imperatrix, and gave her unlimited access to the imperial treasury in order to locate the relics of Judeo-Christian tradition. In 326-28 Helena undertook a trip to the Holy Places in Palestine. According to Eusebius of Caesarea she was responsible for the construction or beautification of two churches, the Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, and the Church on the Mount of Olives, sites of Christ's birth and ascension, respectively.

She not only established these sites but is credited for having found the "true cross" and on the site of discovery, Constantine ordered the building of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher; churches were also built on other sites detected by Helena. Two of her attendants claim that Helena also found the nails of the crucifixion. To use their miraculous power to aid her son, Helena allegedly had one placed in Constantine's helmet, and another in the bridle of his horse.

Since her "discovery" hundreds of thousands of pilgrims have made their way to these places, these churches to venerate the life of Jesus and to ask for prayer. Many could probably attest to the power they felt in that place and in that moment. But again I wonder, is it because there is power in the place or power in the belief in the place that makes those sacred spaces dynamically alive. Or is it both?

Rev. Mary Anne Harris

Board Report



Kim Wiley, Secretary

As many of you know I am an avid gardener. I have been all my life. For me, being out and digging in the soil is a rich experience. One that makes me feel a sense of productivity and peace unlike anything else. I know that those of you who garden totally understand! And at the very same time, it also gifts me with many spiritual lessons along the way. Oftentimes I can't put my finger on them in the moment yet over time I learn something by participating in the ebb and flow of the seasons.

So here we are at the end of summer, beginning to clean up and clear up for the quiet cold winter ahead. It isn't necessarily my favorite time of year to see my garden turned under, its produce and goodness spent for another year. Yet I do understand that it is a necessary part of the growth cycle for I am nourishing and resting the soil in preparation for next year's season of abundance.

I think this is also true of our church. I have witnessed seasons of growth and seasons of fallow where the ground of our community is being replenished from within and on the surface it seems as if nothing is happening! It concerns me as I am sure it does you as well. Certainly we can't sit back and just believe that things will magically change. Just like my garden there are stages of planning, of work, of gratitude as I enjoy the fruits of my labor. In other words I must put some effort into it.

As I look over this newsletter there are many opportunities to participate and enjoy events, classes, as well as, Sunday service that help plant the new season. How about inviting a friend on Sunday, September 11th? Or come to a class, or help out by contributing to our veterans.

We must be willing to plant new seeds in order for our church to grow. As we have often discussed at the Board level, today's people are not just coming to church. They must be invited, and like planting new seeds they bear fruit in their own time.

Treasurer Report



I continue my musings about giving, why I give and why we give as a whole. Well, this time I am pondering why we don't give.

Basically, we all give with an expectation. Let me clarify. I am not talking about just an expectation of some kind of notice or praise, but because the money and time we give means something. In other words, we are contributing to make things better, to help, to support that which we believe is good, causes that we are passionate about.

Some things are easier to give to than others, for example: I give to the local animal shelter, I give to the vets, I give to appeals for aid following a natural disaster. I give to things where I see a tangible difference is being made.

What about our church - or any church for that matter? What we have is something intangible, it is a message of hope and transformation. Therefore, it is not always easy to see the "end product." How often have people, myself included, come to church, heard the message and not returned for several years. Yet when they return they say how much they had grown because they read a Unity book, or heard a Sunday lesson and it changed and touched their lives.

I think this makes it more difficult for us to see how our contributions, in terms of money and time, are really going out to do the work of the ministry. Personal transformation takes time, takes commitment on the part of the one being touched. I suppose this is where we must affirm our faith in our value, our message. Unity does change lives, it changed mine. How about you? Perhaps that is the reward inherent in each gift, to know we have touched one another for good.

Jeff Woods, Treasurer

P& L Actuals	June 2016	July 2016
Income	\$10,036	\$16,566
Expense	\$16,488	\$15,756

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Colleen Kirkpatrick
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Kim Wiley



Community CORNER

Tulsa Stand Down for our Veterans

What is a stand down? In military jargon it is the time when soldiers are called off the front line to rest, to renew, to find safe space. Thus, the Tulsa Stand Down is part of a nationwide program that offers vets, especially the at risk vets who are in less than desirable living spaces to receive medical attention, benefits, clean clothes and a warm shower. Best of all small gifts they can call their own.

Working with the Mental Health Association of Oklahoma and the Veterans Administration we have been asked to purchase

GLOVES AND SCARFS

to go to the nearly 350 at risk Veterans who will served at the Stand Down on Saturday, September 10, 2016.*



*Share this message with family and friends, co-workers and companies. * Please bring gloves to church on Sunday, September 4 - or to the office Monday through Friday, 10am to 2pm, during the week of August 29 - September 2.*

Living the Artistic Life

11:00am - 1:00pm

The first Thursday of every month for 12 months**

*This class is NOT about "art"
rather it IS about creating your life story.*

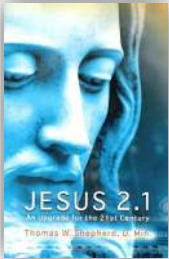
Utilizing Unity's basic teaching of the law of mind action (thoughts held in mind produce after their kind), and exercises from Julia Cameron's great work, **The Artist Way**, and various other resources, we will explore through writing, readings, and discussion, how we create our lives, and how we give our lives purpose and meaning.

**Class is on a love offering basis
Bring a lunch or snack if you would like.**

Thursday, September 1—A Spiritual Practice
Thursday, October 6—What Holds You Back?

**Thursday October 27—What Moves You Forward? (one date change)

September Highlights



Wednesday Morning Book Group

September 7 - Oct. 26

9:30 - 11:30am

Jesus 2.1 : An Upgrade for the 21st Century

Rev. Tom Shephard

John Bowdle returns as the purveyor of lively discussion and thought provoking questions.

Class is on a love offering basis.

Please purchase book before class begins.

Celebrating 125 Years of the work of Silent Unity

Thur., September 8

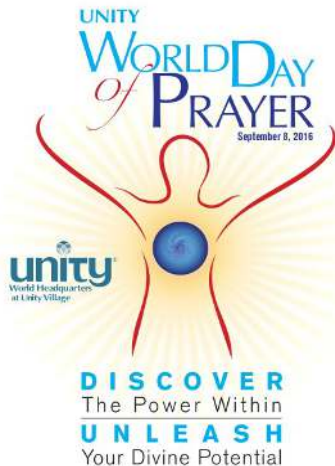
8:30am & Noon

Half hour of quiet reflection here in our sanctuary.

Many events are happening at Unity Village and are open for you to attend.

Visit:

www.unity.org/wdop



Do you have the free Unity Prayer App on your phone? Download from the apps store - [uPray](https://www.unity.org/wdop).

Friendship Sunday

Sunday, September 11

Has it been awhile since you have invited a friend or two to church. Well, how about this Sunday?

Do you know . . .

- ♥ a friend, who needs uplifting?
- ♥ a neighbor who needs a friend?
- ♥ a co-worker who is searching?



Good News is Meant to Be Shared!



Autumn Retreat

Saturday, September 24

9:00am - 4:00pm

Hearts in a Holy Place

Carpool from church at 8am will return by 5pm. Osage Retreat Center is located in Sand Springs. Rev. Mary Anne will lead this day of renewal. There will be both silent personal time as well as directed activities throughout the day.

Cost \$20.00 to cover Center usage and lunch. Please reserve your spot by signing up in foyer or call the church office 918-749-8833. ***The deadline for reservations is Sunday, September 18.***



Sunday, September 25

Sean Al-Jibouri

Sean is a native Tulsan and a dedicated student and teacher of music for over ten years. He

began playing guitar at the age of fourteen, learning rock and blues expanding to classical and jazz. Not only is he an excellent player, but a gifted composer as well. He will also have copies of his CD "Day Dreamer" for purchase.

October Highlights

Sunday, October 2

Interfaith Series #5

Native American Traditions Ann Dapice (Lenape/Cherokee)



Ann received a PhD in psychology, sociology and philosophy from the University of Pennsylvania. She has taught courses in social sciences, philosophy and Native American Studies. She is a member of the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania where she serves on the Elders Council.

FOLLOWING THE SERVICE



Potluck Lunch & Town Hall Meeting

Bring a dish to share with six people and stay as our Board of Directors and Rev. Mary Anne share with us a partial year in review. Bring your questions and concerns, as well as, your ideas and willing hands.

IN THE GARDEN

Fall clean up & planting
October 15 ~ 9am - noon



Ending the season well is the best insurance we can have for our garden to survive the winter and to make a strong showing in the spring. Bring your gloves and a spirit of fun!



Sunday, October 23

Olivia Duhon

Jazz aficionados you are in for a treat!

A native Cajun from southwest Louisiana, Olivia moved to Tulsa during her high school years and found her passion for jazz and performance.

"Even at her relatively young age, she not only has a voice, but poise beyond her years. She seamlessly blends jazz and pop music in a manner that not only caters to classic jazz fans, but also opens doors to a new audience, bringing together multiple generations of music fans." G.K.Hizer



MEMBERSHIP ORIENTATION

Saturday, October 1
9am—Noon

Join Rev. Mary Anne as we explore together 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—October 23

Hayride!

Sunday Evening,
October 23 6:00 -9:00pm

Meadowlake Ranch

3450 S. 137th W. Ave. Sand Springs, OK 74063

This evening will include:
dinner (cowboy stew & biscuits),
hayride and S'mores roasted by
the campfire.

Cost: \$25.00 per person
Space is limited so please make
your reservation/payment



Sunday, October 30 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.

Blessing our travelers on their exciting adventure to Spain!

Calendar

Unity Church of Christianity

September 2016

Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Wednesday Evenings Adult Coloring Book Club 6:30 - 8:00pm			1 Artistic Life 11:00 - 1:00pm Mary Class 6:30 - 8:00pm	2	3
4 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am Potluck	5	6	7 Book Discussion 9:30-11:30am Coloring 6:30-8:00pm	8 World Day of Prayer Mary Class 6:30 - 8:00pm	9	10
11 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	12	13	14 Book Discussion 9:30-11:30am Coloring 6:30-8:00pm	15	16	17
18 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	19	20	21 Book Discussion 9:30-11:30am Coloring 6:30-8:00pm	22	23	24 Osage Retreat 9:00-4:00
25 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	26	27	28 Book Discussion 9:30-11:30am Coloring 6:30-8:00pm	29	30	

October 2016

Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Wednesday Evenings Adult Coloring Book Club 6:30 - 8:00pm					1 Membership Orientation 9:00-Noon
2 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am Potluck & Town Mtg.!	3	4	5 Book Discussion 9:30-11:30am Coloring 6:30-8:00pm	6 Artistic Life 11:00 - 1:00pm	7	8
9 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	10	11	12 Book Discussion 9:30-11:30am Coloring 6:30-8:00pm	13	14	15 Garden Day 9:00-Noon
16 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	17	18	19 Book Discussion 9:30-11:30am Coloring 6:30-8:00pm	20	21	22
23 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am Hayride! 6:00-9:00pm	24	25	26 Book Discussion 9:30-11:30am Coloring 6:30-8:00pm	27 Artistic Life 11:00 - 1:00pm	28	29
30 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	31					



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*Unity Church
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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	

September Theme: A Holy Place

- Sept. 4** - What makes a place holy?
- Sept. 11** - A Holy Place
- Sept. 18** - A Holy Space
- Sept. 25** - A Holy Moment

October Theme: Seeing Clearly

- Oct. 2** - Our Native Traditions
- Oct. 9** - Self Help
- Oct. 16** - No Accidents Here
- Oct. 23** - Look Again
- Oct. 30** - Bucket List