

Good News



from the **Northwest Region**
of the Association of Unity Churches

Spring 2009

Heart Notes

From your Northwest Regional Chairperson, Philip Arthur Zemke

Greetings and Blessing to you the Friends of the Northwest Region:

It is such a blessing to live through the transformation of winter to spring and onto summer. Here in Montana it is a radical demonstration of life begetting life in all its cycles and phases. And while the transforming life follows the Divine Pattern, the transformation always appears in God's Time. We are the gardeners and the garden is God's.

In the garden of God named the Unity Movement there are many gardeners with specific tasks to perform, that the garden may flower and bear fruit. Over the past few years the Association of Unity Churches home office and the regional bodies have been in a time of transformation of gardening roles. The home office has been identifying its role as consultant and program development, and, has asked the regions to identify where we might take up a role of increased resource support for our members. The wisdom of this transformation recognizes that there is a more intimate and immediate communion between churches and centers at the regional level, than can be realized by the home office. And so the garden grows.

There are several places where we are tilling this new soil. Our Regional Representative, Barbara Wilson, has been surveying other Regional Representatives for mechanics of programs that all the regions share, as we are similar in need realities. This sharing of models and successes between regions has become the norm for the Earth Care team as well. Moreover, when we created our new Administrative Assistant position we surveyed the other regions for job descriptions. Region to region we have much to share as resources of success with each other.

For this region to take up an enhanced role of resource support we have created the role of Administrative Assistant as the hub of the wheel. Mary Vail, our Administrative Assistant, can be reached by calling 1-360-797-3630 (regional cell) or 1-253-383-2684 (Tacoma Unity), whereupon she will answer your questions or direct you inquiry to the appropriate person. Mary has also begun the task of compiling a Resource Directory of Ministers, Licensed Teachers, Chaplains, adjunct teachers and guest speakers. This Resource Directory is to serve the regional churches, centers, study groups and individuals, for connecting with those who have the skills and willingness to serve as a resource for Board Trainings,

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If you would like to submit something for the next issue, the due date is July 1, 2009. Email your article to: debris1952@webband.com

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The purpose of this newsletter is to provide a means of clear communication that helps unify the ministries of the Northwest Region.

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Peacemaking, Appreciative Inquiry, Heartmath, Integral Leadership, Church Program Development, Electronic communication skills, SEE accredited courses, and more per your needs. We will be surveying regional resources through e-mail, telephone inquiry and the Regional website for both skills and needs.

We also desire to increase our body of talented resource persons in the region. Rob Vogle of Portland Oregon is willing to train folks to be Appreciative Way instructors. Unity's Chaplain extraordinaire Lei Lanni Burt is interested in coming to the region to conduct Chaplaincy training. Unity's current Peacemaker trainer, Stephanie Seigh has also expressed a willingness to come to do certified Peacemaker training.

These resource skills trainings would be coordinated by an Adult Education committee and offered with regional financial support and scholarships. The goal is to have trained individuals in all sub-regions who can serve as resources to their immediate neighboring churches and centers. Our region's trained trainers would then be teaching this and the next generation. These resource skills trainings would be in addition to the annual Fall Leadership Training and the credit class trainings at the Spring Conference. We ask that you offer suggestions for trainings.

It is with great appreciation that I communicate to you that our Regional Representative, Barbara Wilson, is currently working to create a protocol for comprehensive and sustained support from the Regional Representative and region's resources, for churches and centers when a minister or authorized spiritual leader has left that church or center. This is a timely need to be met with immediacy.

During my four-year tenure on the Northwest Regional Board I have worked with a profoundly dedicated and imaginative group of individuals. We, the current Board, owe a great deal to all those who have served before us and tilled the soil in preparation for this new living dynamic; of a region that demonstrates a sufficiency of talent and will to fulfill our destiny and desires in the most comprehensive and functional manner. We owe a wealth of gratitude to each of you who asks the questions and requests the tools from your region, that you may transform your lives, your churches and centers, and our world. Together we are guaranteed all the successes that God plants in the garden of our beloved Northwest Region of our Unity Movement.

Blessings of Love's Joy to you all.

Please join me in holding a prayer of thanksgiving
for Thora and Weaver Hess.

Philip



The first man who, having fenced off a plot of land, thought of saying, 'This is mine' and found people simple enough to believe him was the real founder of civil society. How many crimes, wars, murders, how many miseries and horrors might the human race have been spared by the one who, upon pulling up the stakes or filling in the ditch, had shouted to his fellow men: 'Beware of listening to this imposter; you are lost if you forget the fruits of the earth belong to all and that the earth belongs to no one.'

~Jean Jacques Rousseau — 1755

Northwest Region Representative

Rev. Barbara Wilson

Fun Facts From Standards Team January Meeting

Yes, I really do learn some things at those meetings! However, whether or not these facts are fun to know is really up to you.

I. First of all, did you know the Association has a policy on natural disasters? It is in the policy manual under *Resources and Services Available to Membership*. It reads as follows:

In Cases of Natural Disaster:

1. *The Regional Representative is the focal point of the information.*
 - a. *Churches challenged by a natural event call your Regional Representative.*
 - b. *Churches aware of challenged churches call the Regional Representative.*
 - c. *Regional Board members who have challenged churches call the Regional Representative.*
 - d. *An Association designee with information will call the Regional Representative.*
2. *The Regional Representative.*
 - a. *Initiates calls to challenged churches.*
 - b. *Calls the Association designee with information about challenged churches.*
3. *Information gathered is:*
 - a. *Working telephone number.*
 - b. *Working address to receive packages, mail, and money.*
 - c. *A list of requirements, specific items, etc.*
4. *The Association:*
 - a. *Refers callers to the Regional Representative of the affected Region.*
 - b. *Will notify the Regional Representative of any additional information that may come into the Association office regarding a challenged church.*

5. *The Regional Board President and/or Chaplain:*

- a. *Stays in touch with the Regional Representative.*
- b. *Informs member churches of requirements of the challenged church.*
- c. *Starts a prayer tree/circle.*

Now I appreciate that no one is eager to plan for a disaster. It's far more enjoyable to plan a party! At the same time, to have an emergency preparedness plan in place can establish greater order and confidence in the face of a natural disaster. Instead of worrying about the what-ifs, one can relax and better enjoy the moment.

Please note that the Association's plan makes the Regional Representative the key contact person. This means if your ministry suffers a disaster, you are asked to contact me rather than the Association.

This better supports you because, as the official contact person, I will be equipped to spread the word to the rest of the region as well as the Association. It works better for the Association staff because they will not be swamped with phone calls. And the region will be in a greater position to quickly respond with support.

Does your ministry have an emergency preparedness plan? Who would be the contact person in case of a natural disaster? Bear in mind that telephone land lines and cell phone service could be disrupted so do you have someone outside your immediate area that could get word out? Who would I, as regional representative, contact to get the necessary

information?

It would be helpful for our regional association to have emergency contact numbers for all of our ministries. I will begin collecting this information as soon as possible.

II. The Regional Representative is the first person to call about most ministry questions rather than the Association. The Association staff is stretched pretty thin these days so it would be a great help to them if you would call me first.

This helps keep me in the loop about what is happening in the field. I, then, am responsible to keep all other affected parties informed, i.e. Judicatory Representative Ann Thomas and Association staff members such as Joann Landreth, Carl Osier, Stephanie Seigh, etc.

III. Another thing I learned at the Standards Meeting—the Association is supposed to have a copy of every ministry's current bylaws. Have you updated your bylaws recently? Did you send a copy to the Association?

IV. Our Association's sexual conduct code has been revised. I would strongly urge you to review it. To find it, simply go to the joint website for Unity. Click on "ministries and leaders" and then click on "ministers."

I appreciate that it may not be fun reading but it is educational. It is better to find out about appropriate sexual conduct through reading the code rather than

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From The Desk of the Treasurer — Rev. Inge Tarantola

New Budget 2009-2010

By the time this newsletter reaches you Menucha will have happened and the new budget will have been voted in. You all received the financial letter from the board in early April with the proposed budget. If you did not get a letter, please call our administrative assistant, Mary Vail, 253-383-2684 to request your copy and get on the mailing list. I will report in our next newsletter about the new budget we adopted at Menucha for those who were not able to be present.

Fiscal Year Ends

Here is the budget vs. actual accounting for the fiscal year that just ended, and runs from March 1st to February 28th. Where some

events resulted in net losses rather than the expected income (Crystal Mountain had a short-fall of \$8,186, for example), the Youth Education programs contributed \$8,906 more income than anticipated. Overall, we had a net income of \$761 and both our expenses and income were 81% of expected at \$108,530 and \$109,291, respectively. There may be a few minor year-end adjustments yet to come. The next newsletter will address any changes from what is presented here.

Budget changes

The proposed budget for the fiscal year March 2009 – February 2010 is higher than the one you voted in last year by \$5,300, from 134,300 to 139,600. This is mostly due to the full year cost for our adminis-

trative assistant versus part-year in the last budget, and the NGU coordinator receiving \$1,000 for each of the two Regional NGU events that he coordinates each year.

Comments and questions welcome. We hope you will review the information and feel free to ask questions or send your comment to me, Inge Tarantola, see contact information. All input will be considered by the board for future considerations.

“Whoever has a heart full of love has something to give.”

~ Pope John XXIII

Looking forward to seeing you at Menucha.

God's richest blessings,
Inge Tarantola
Treasurer



Healthy Congregations Teleclasses

6 sessions, call in 712-432-0080, pin code 568230#

Monday evenings at 9:00 p.m. EASTERN TIME 4/27, 5/18, 6/22, 7/20 8/17, 9/21

Martha Creek, Certified Facilitator

www.marthacreek.net

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Healthy Congregations is a series of 6 workshops. The workshops are designed precisely for a time of rapid changes. It is a new way of thinking about both the congregation as a whole, the leadership and individual realization. These workshops enable participants to: Gain a renewed sense of purpose and mission; cultivate leadership capacities; develop healthy patterns of relationships; learn to focus on strengths, resources and options for the future; boost confidence in responding to life's challenges and opportunities; learn to lead with calm connectedness; guide the system/ministry toward healthy functioning.

We will gain skill and mastering in our personal relationships and life as well as our ministries.

THE OLD PAINFUL WAY

Deny differences
Focus on weaknesses
Focus on issues
Deny conflict exists
Act rigidly
Depend on skill & techniques
Stay judgmental & secretive
Willful transactions
Dominate or “cure” others
Isolated Living
Stay Stuck

THE NEW PEACEFUL WAY

Accept differences
Focus on strengths
Focus on interests
Value transformation
Respond creatively
Practice presence
Openly communicate
Win/Win transactions
Empower self & others
Collaborative living
Transcendence

Northwest Region of the Association of Unity Churches
Fiscal Year — 2008 - 2009

	Proposed	Mar-Feb	100.00%
<i>Income</i>	Budget	Actual	Percent
Offerings from Churches & Others	114,300	100,014	0.88
Sustaining Programs-Summer Retreat	7,000	-8,186	-1.17
Sustaining Programs-Reg. Conf. Menucha	3,000	-1,443	-0.48
Youth Ministry	10,000	18,906	1.89
Total Income	134,300	<u>\$ 109,291</u>	0.81
<i>Expenses</i>			
Contributions Pioneering Church	3,000	2000	0.67
Cell Phone	600	424	0.71
Bank Service Charges	200	115	0.58
Contract Bookkeeping (b)	5,400	5180	0.96
Earth Care	1,500	450	0.3
Equipment Rental Visa CC Machine	200	42	0.21
Judicatory Representative	1,200	934	0.78
Liab Insurance	2,800	2103	0.75
LUT Rep Exp	5,800	2003	0.35
Children's Ministry Exp	7,000	5460	0.78
Office Supplies	100	26	0.26
Postage & Mailings	300	327	1.09
Regional Rep Exp	13,700	8497	0.62
Alternate Region Rep	1,000	120	0.12
Tithe (a)	13,400	9954	0.74
Salaries (Youth Programs) (b)	40,100	39985	1.00
Y.O. U. Exp	6,500	6430	0.99
Regional Team Exp	7,000	6944	0.99
Field Licensing Program	3,500	2076	0.59
Other Exp (Flowers etc)	800	1591	1.99
Newsletter	800	835	1.04
Uniteens	4,500	4816	1.07
NGU Exp	1,600	2705	1.69
Employee Expenses Payroll Exp.	3,100	3051	0.98
Regional Website	900	550	0.61
SEE Scholarship	1,800	1912	1.06
Administrative Support (6 Month Trial)	5,000		0
Fall Traing	2,500		0.00
Total Expenses	\$134,300	<u>\$108,530</u>	0.81
Net Income/(Loss)		<u>\$ 761</u>	

Welcome Mary!

Mary Vail has been working for Unity of Tacoma since the fall of 2006 and looks forward to her new role as Administrative Assistant to the NW Region of Unity Churches. Mary is currently making calls & sending email, updating contact information and determining the number of LUTs and Chaplains we have in the region.

Mary was educated in the Catholic tradition and graduated from St. Edwards's University in Austin, Texas. She was Office Services Coordinator at Pax Christi Catholic Community in Eden Prairie, Minnesota. Since moving to Washington, she has worked for area social service agencies including Washington Women's Employment & Education in Tacoma.

Mary lives with her partner Marty Jagodensky and daughter Ana in Lakewood, Washington. She has two sons, Matthew and Ed, and four grandchildren: Ariana, Simon, Owen and Ian.

In Remembrance

Rev. Thora Jean Hess

August 27, 1927 - March 30, 2009



Thora was born in Royal Center, Indiana and first visited Unity Village as a child. She graduated in 1949 from Butler University, Indianapolis and received her Masters in Organic Chemistry in 1951 from Miami University of Ohio. In her early career, she spent some time as a research chemist for Malencrost in St. Louis, MO. After her children were born, she decided to teach science and math at N. Highland High School in Sacramento, California. She began attending a local Presbyterian Church where she met Weaver. After graduating from Unity School of Practical Christianity in 1982, Thora was ordained & taught there for two years. She and Weaver have served as interim ministers for numerous churches between 1987-1995. An avid reader & seeker of truth, she traveled to 11 foreign countries, including Tibet, to experience the spiritual essence of each culture.

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through a personal conversation with our judicatory representative. That would definitely not be fun!

The code strongly encourages every ministry to have a sexual conduct policy for guest presenters. To provide some direction with this, the Association has created a presenter-church agreement form. You can download it from the joint website. Click on "ministries and leaders" and then click on "ministries and boards".

Important: When a ministry has a sexual conduct policy for guest presenters, it must be enforced for all presenters from outside the ministry and all those within the ministry who are not already covered under the Association's sexual conduct code. Otherwise the ministry could be accused of discrimination. (To make it easy on you, just make a habit to have every guest speaker, workshop presenter, etc. sign the form.)

IV. Lastly, I met a new employee at the Association—Director of Credentialing, Rev. Margie Brach. As I understand it, her job is to bring greater clarity and consistency to the credentialing process. She will be identifying the skills and proficiencies needed to be a licensed/ordained spiritual leader. With greater clarity, we will be in a better position to recognize other ordinations and custom tailor credentialing programs for them.

To help her with this, Margie would really like to hear from individuals who received an ordination from other organizations. She is interested in finding out all she can about the curriculum and the training that was involved.

Our Regional Youth Ministry

Happy Happenings

The third weekend in May, NGUers from around the Northwest Region will gather at Menucha Conference Center in Corbett, OR for *The Inner Adventure* retreat. This retreat will be full of creativity, fun, and exploration—within and without.

Some participants have been financially supported in attending this retreat by selling retreat t-shirts in their churches and local communities. Proceeds from shirts not sold by an individual retreat participant go to the general scholarship fund for future retreats. If you think there is someone in your community that would like to be a part of this program in the future or if your church would like to participate and support the scholarship fund please contact me: northwest.ngu@gmail.com. This is the beginning of what may become an ongoing fundraiser called NGU Gear via our website.

July 17th-19th we will be having a camp out at Cape Lookout State Park in Tillamook, OR. This is an opportunity for NGUers and their families to have some summer fun at the beach with a larger spirit-centered community. The cost for this event will be very affordable, something like \$20 per person.

This fall we will be returning to Lewis and Clark State Park outside of Chehalis, WA for our *Oneness* retreat, November 20th-22nd. At this retreat we will be exploring the similarities and common roots between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

During the winter, I set up a list server for NW NGU communications through Google. To view this group or to subscribe visit: groups.google.com/northwest_ngu. This group is set up as an announcement only group, meaning that members will get communications only from me and usually about regional events.

In March NGU³ was completed. NGU³ is a resource for starting and maintaining a NGU group. It contains detailed information about what NGU is, how it can manifest, and what you can do to encourage its manifestation in your community. NGU³ is available from our Association of Unity Churches International. To receive a digital copy of this resource contact Rachel Simpson youast@unity.org.

Love and Blessings,
Nick Muncie-Jarvis
NW NGU Coordinator



NW Region Youth Ministry Calendar 2009

(Some prices may vary slightly)

- June 20 Unitreat Staff arrives at Cispus Center
June 21-26 **Unitreat (Uniteens)** at Cispus Center near Randle WA **\$200**
- June 26 Kids Camp - Counselors arrive at Waskowitz
June 27-30 **Kids Camp** (Campers arrive)
(NW YOU Service Project) 4 pm Sat. until 1 pm Tues
Camp Waskowitz - North Bend WA **\$210** kids
(\$190 postmark by 6/7/09)
- July 19-23 International Y.O.U. at Unity Village
- August 9-13 YOU Rendezvous at Vernonia OR \$250 includes Leadership Training
- September 25-27 **Fall Youth Ed Directors Leadership** - Seabeck WA **\$185**
- Oct 16-18 **YOU Retreat** at Camp Waskowitz near North Bend WA **\$180**
(\$160 if postmark by 10/1/2009)
- Nov 6-8 **Fall Unitreat (Uniteens)** at Cispus Center near Randle WA **\$140**

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Unity Earth Care Northwest

We declare our covenant with God to walk upon Earth for the greatest good of all creation.

April is the month of Earth Day, which began in 1970. Next year will be the 40th anniversary of the day that helped catalyze the environmental movement of the 1970's.

EarthCare Prayer

This quarter we have a Prayer-Poem by Meister Eckhart, Catholic Dominican monk and scholar (1260-1328).

When I Was the Forest

When I was the stream, when I was the
forest, when I was still the field,
when I was every hoof, foot
fin and wing, when I
was the sky
itself,

no one ever asked me did I have a purpose, no one
ever wondered was there anything I might need,
for there was nothing
I could not
love.

It was when I left all we once were that
the agony began, the fear and questions came,
and I wept, I wept. And tears
I had never known
before.

So I returned to the river, I returned to the mountains.
I asked for their hand in marriage again,
I begged—I begged to wed every object
and creature,

and when they accepted
God was ever present in my arms.
And He did not say,
“Where have you
been?”

For then I knew my soul—every soul—
has always held
Him.

* * * * *

Contact Unity Earth Care Northwest at
unityearthcare@yahoo.com

Visit our webpage at www.unitynwregion.org
go to /Programs/Earth Care

Yearning to green your congregation?

There are many ways to be good stewards of the earth to maintain your ministry and carry out your church activities. Here are two good programs developed by the Association that you can try.

Earthcare Congregations Program

Designed by Unity EarthCare International, a ministry team of the Association of Unity Churches International, the *EarthCare Congregation Program* assists congregations in integrating an earth-oriented spirituality into their ministry.

The program has three components with increasing levels of commitment and activities. Pick the level that meets your needs! You can start out at a lower level and gradually move up to a higher level. Or you can jump right in at the highest level of commitment and activities.

EarthCare Covenant. Set an intention by committing to and signing the provided Covenant.

EarthCare Commitment Program. Accomplish some meaningful actions that move you into an active EarthCare program as described in the booklet.

EarthCare Congregation Certification. Express EarthCare in all aspects of your ministry.

Thriving In Unity Program - Benchmark 11

Here is an update about Benchmark 11 for those working on the Benchmarks of the middle level program. Benchmark 11 requires a *green audit*.

1. In Version 2 of Thriving In Unity, expected in June, Benchmark 11 will likely be revised.
2. **Be aware** that the goal of the benchmark is to use the audit list to check your church. If you plan to make changes, check with your local city or county planning or permitting offices. Permits or other approvals may be needed. Sometimes actions that seem to provide good stewardship may actually be prohibited. For example, some items on the checklist are prohibited in some or most areas of Washington state (examples include rain barrels, composting toilets, using gray water to irrigate).

Licensed Unity Teacher News - April 2009

By Janet Rhodes, Licensed Unity Teacher Representative

As I write this, the sun is out and the temperature is forecast to reach 60°. What a reminder that spring does indeed arrive after a dark and dreary winter! Even when the dark, cold, and rainy part has been longer than expected, with March being almost a degree colder than February this year (at least in Western Washington).

Fortunately, there have been some spots of light....

Licensed Teachers Gathered in Salem

On the afternoon of March 6th, eight licensed Unity teachers gathered at the Salem, Oregon, church for discussion and learning. At an informal sub-regional get-together, Janet Rhodes, LUT Rep, provided updates about the Association and on SEE and shared information on good teams (including an appreciative inquiry activity on good teams) that she received at the mid-year meetings. She also did part of her HealthyTalk presentation on being in dialogue within our church communities and reducing intensity when things are going on. We had time to check-in with each other at the beginning of our afternoon and at supper afterward.

The idea for the get-together arose due to the Thriving Ministries workshop sponsored by the Salem church. Licensed Teacher Representative Alternate Diana Moskal made arrangements for use of classroom space and, along with licensed teacher Ann Armstrong, made us feel at home.

Questions ... and Answers about SEE Testing

The Association's licensed teacher coordinator Shirley Kennedy reports that questions continue to come in about the SEE universal testing which started January 2009.

All students taking a class for SEE credit must pass the test created at Unity School for that class, regardless of where they took the class (at the Village, at their home church, online, etc.). Learn about signing up to take the test from Lisa Hurst who is on the SEE staff. Reach her at hurstlm@unityonline.org.

Syllabi for credit classes are available from Lisa. Obtain a syllabus for each class you teach, as the syllabus presents the scope of material to be included in the standardized test. Obtain a syllabus each time you teach a credit class, as the content of the syllabus and therefore the test may have changed since the last time you taught the material.

NOTE: The SEE program is keeping the individual tests confidential and will not provide them to the teachers. They want to avoid a situation in which people are "teaching to the test".

For copies of any of the SEE Extension Forms please visit www.spiritpathonline.org/seeforms. A Question and Answer form on SEE Standardized Testing, dated January 14, 2009, which is very helpful, is at above site, or at NW Region site, LUT page.

Convention

The 2009 People's Convention is June 8-12, at the Double Tree Hotel, Overland Park, Kansas. The Licensed Teacher Forum is Monday at 1-4 pm. Half of the Forum time will be for licensed teachers to network and share what is working for them; the other half will be Healthy Talk Decision-Making-A workshop for Licensed Teachers which will be presented by Janet Rhodes, our own Licensed Teacher Regional Representative.

Contact Information

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Diana Moskal, LUT Rep Alternate

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January 2009

The Truth About Substance

“When we are consciously centered in the universal flow, we experience inner direction and the unfoldment of creative activity.”

~Eric Butterworth

What is the truth about substance? The word substance actually means “stand under.” So, what is standing under all that we see? The presence of God. The truth is that substance is everywhere present—it is present in us and all around us. We are the activity of God—God is expressing as us! Isn't this amazing? We are actually expressing as God.

Many of us were taught in other religions that God was out there or that we were separate from God. Doesn't it simply feel true that we are the actual expression of God? How could we be separate from the presence of God? Jesus himself said, “I and the Father are one.” We know Jesus was not speaking of the personal self at all but the cosmic Christ—the I of all. Eric Butterworth describes this as the isness of the allness.

If it is true that we are the expression of God, why don't we manifest instantly, like Jesus? When we study closely the work and life of Jesus, we begin to see that Jesus lived in 2 worlds concurrently. Jesus anchored heaven on earth—He brought the Divine (the 4th dimension Christ consciousness) into the manifest realm (the 3rd dimensional plane) by constantly having His consciousness centered in God. Eric Butterworth tells us, “The centering process is the key to prosperity.” The truth about substance is that you are the thing by which substance is made in the world. God cannot bring it to you but God can bring it through you. Once you align your consciousness with the divine, all that you desire will flow from you!

The Bible says

“He (Jesus) said to them, ‘When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?’ They said, ‘No, not a thing.’”

Lu 22:35

“And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.”

2 Co 9:8

“Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his presence continually.”

1Ch 16:11

“Well then, does God supply you with the Spirit and work miracles among you by your doing the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard?”

Ga 3:5

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

Mt 6:19-21

Unity says

“One of the unerring truths in the Universe is that there is already provided a lavish abundance for every human want. In other words, the supply of every good always awaits the demand. Another truth is that the demand must be made before the supply can come forth to fill it.”

~Emily Cady, *Lessons in Truth*

“Substance is everywhere equally present, pervades all things, and inspires to action. It underlies all manifestation and is the spiritual essence, the living energy out of which everything is made.”

Charles Fillmore, *Revealing Word*
“God's rich supply is all around you

universally, as well as innately within you, as talents, abilities, and ideas longing for expression.” Catherine Ponder, *The Dynamic Laws of Prosperity*

“The physical substance which we call the earth is the visible form of the spiritual substance that pervades all things.” Myrtle Fillmore, *How to Let God Help You*

Practices

- The last scripture above is about our consciousness-our relationship to things. Take some time in the silence to center your consciousness on God and experience true prosperity. Feel how peaceful and secure you are, knowing that God is the source of all the good in your life and you are the vehicle by which it comes forth. Begin affirming, “The Father and I are one” or “God and I are one.” Affirm this several times a day or all day every day. Do it as much as possible to ground yourself in this truth. As you practice the presence of God in this way, your consciousness will begin to shift in ways you could never imagine. Remember that God's will for you is good- it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Spend time journaling on the ideas and feelings that came up for you.

- Gratitude is a guaranteed way to stay in a prosperous space. Below is a gratitude prayer for prosperity. Spend time with this prayer daily: Mother, Father, God, I give thanks for continued abundance in my life. I affirm that it is truly God's good pleasure to give me the Kingdom. I claim God's abundance because I am abundance! I give thanks in the name and through the power of Jesus Christ and so it is! Amen.

- Share this prayer with you prayer partners. Share how the understanding of substance can and will change your life.

February 2009

Your Fortune Begins with You Chapter 2, *Spiritual Economics* by Eric Butterworth

“There are no miracles in an orderly Universe. All things are possible under divine law.”

Spiritual Economics Pg. 32

Have you ever heard comments about how lucky or unlucky someone was? People play the lottery hoping for some miracle to bring them the prosperity that they seek.

But life is not a “Wheel of Fortune.” We do not hold our breath, then spin and wait to see the outcome. We create our own fortunes or misfortunes by right of our consciousness. This is not easy to accept. It is easier to blame the stock market, the job, or our families for the things in life that do not work.

It is time to stop placing blame on the outer conditions of the world and look within at our beliefs regarding prosperity. If we believe our prosperity comes from our job, our investments, or our family, we will never truly prosper. At Unity, we believe in the power of prayer. But are we looking for our prayers to bring about a miracle in our life? If so, we are practicing nothing less than spiritual gambling. Prayer does not change things. It changes our consciousness.

As we stop praying in the hope of demonstrating a miracle and begin to pray for nothing less than a change in our consciousness, we begin to be the change we wish to see.

All things are possible not because we can somehow change God’s mind, but because we become one with the flow of the universe. We stop swimming upstream and go with the flow. As

we do, new ideas come, new avenues of good appear, and new opportunities arrive.

Our good is rooted in the Kingdom of God that Jesus taught. It is not the lucky coin we carry, the lucky shoes we are wearing, or the “right” prayer that we say. When we are in the flow we are working with universal law rather than against it.

What the Bible says:

“Choose this day whom you will serve.”

Josh 24:15

“For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.” Mt 25:29
“Come, ye blessed...., inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”

Mt 25:34

What Unity Says:

“Everything that appears in the universe had its origin in mind.”

Charles Fillmore, *Prosperity*

“God does not give us material things, but Mind substance—not money but ideas— ideas that set spiritual forces in motion so that things begin to come to us by the application of the law.”

Charles Fillmore, *Prosperity*

“In the new economy we shall serve for the joy of serving, and prosperity will flow to us and through us in rippling streams of plenty.”

Charles Fillmore, *Atom-Smashing Power of Mind*

“Financial success or failure depends on the attitude of mind active in both those who achieve success and those who fall under the negations of failure. Fill your mind to overflowing with thoughts of success; realize that

the fullness of all good belongs to you by divine right.”

Charles Fillmore, *Atom-Smashing Power of Mind*

For Practice

- Take three weeks (21 days) without watching, listening to, or reading the news. Record in your journal about the main content of your mind without this extra stimulus. Do you notice a shift in how you feel and what’s on your mind? Share with your triad how this experience has changed your outlook.
- Prosperity begins by changing our thoughts about “how things are.” Find three things in your past that appeared to be “bad luck” and find something good that came out of it. Write about these and revisit when a new “bad luck” challenge appears.
- When good things happen to you, do not reduce it to a matter of luck but to a consciousness of knowing that you are a creative expression of Divine Mind. Make a point of thinking about these things at the end of the day, and take them into a prayer of gratitude.
- Spend time in silence holding before you a change in consciousness. What would it feel like? How might your life be different? If this seems to be a struggle for you, take it to your triad and let them hold you in the light of prosperity.

These two pages came from an e-newsletter from The Association of Unity churches. The Association has an “Opt-In” email policy. If this was forwarded to you and you would like to receive this e-newsletter or any others directly, you can sign up by going to www.unity.org/enews. You must sign up for each e-newsletter individually.



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MONDAY—FRIDAY, August 3–7

S.E.E. in the Field, Portland

Spiritual Education and Enrichment classes will be offered all week long, six classes per day, with four dynamic instructors: Rev. Billie Blain and Rev. Lisa Davis (co-ministers, Unity of Portland), Rev. Rosella Turner (Minister, Unity of Kent, WA), and Rev. John McLean (Senior Minister, Unity of Bellvue, WA).

All classes may be taken for S.E.E. credit. Complete details will be announced soon. Advance registration required, plus payment of \$60 per class (no credit); an additional \$36 per class is required if taken for credit. As of July 1, registration fee will be \$75, so register soon. Classes to be offered:

- [8 AM] Creative Process in the Bible: Rosella Turner
- [10 AM] Bible interpretation: Hebrew Bible: Billie Blain
- [10 AM] Development of the Unity Movement: John McLean
- [1 PM] Metaphysics I, Part 1: Rosella Turner
- [1 PM] Myrtle and Charles Fillmore on Healing and Wholeness, Part 1: Lisa Davis
- [7 PM] Prosperity: John McLean

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