

Spirit Express



UNITY CENTER OF PEACE CHURCH
Volume 12, Number 8

August 2006

From the Heart ♥

If I had to make a prediction, it would be that our monthly potluck / community meetings (following services on the 1st Sunday of every month) are going to become our church's most exciting regularly scheduled event.

Don't miss the upcoming August 6th meeting. I can't wait to see and hear your reactions to your Board of Trustees presentations.

Don't say we didn't tell you. Be there!

Michael

Board Bulletin

Thanks to the involvement of the 23 congregants at our July 2nd Community Meeting, and the Board members at our Retreat on July 9th, we have a clearer sense of where we are, where we are going, and how to get there.

At our Retreat, the Board identified the following concerns for UCPC: (1) Staffing and the Interim period; (2) Communication; (3) Membership qualifications; (4) Healing and moving forward.

Staffing and the Interim Period: Thanks to all of you who have shared your perspectives regarding the selection process. Our Search Team is activated, under the leadership of David Richter, and has outlined a plan that will be presented at the next Community Meeting on August 6th. Their plan feels calm, steady, breathable, and acceptable. PLEASE NOTE: as a result of your feedback, we are **canceling the August 13th Special Meeting** mentioned in our June 23rd email letter.

Communication: We value open, honest, and direct communication as foundational to our connectedness with each other. Our best venue for communication is the Community Meeting, where we gather to speak, to listen, and to be heard. From these vital meetings the Board of Trustees gains insight into our needed actions. **Please attend the August 6th Community Meeting** to learn more about and provide input on staffing options moving forward and other important matters.

Membership: Thanks for your responses! We are in the process of compiling the 35+ responses to the Membership Criteria survey, and will report when we have completed this. We discovered that we had been in partial compliance with our Bylaws, which define and describe various membership details. Accordingly, we have reintroduced the new member orientation, and will be having Membership Sundays regularly.

Healing/moving forward: We are developing a process for our community by which all of us can address our feelings about our Spiritual Teacher Mark Malachi being on leave, express and release these feelings, acknowledge the tools we have to continue our soul's growth, and take the steps necessary to truly celebrate the present. This is also a topic for the August 6th meeting.

Finally, we acknowledge that the Board of Trustees was proposing a forward movement that didn't work for some of our congregants, and we have made a shift. As we play our "great symphony", sometimes we hit an off note, but once recognized, we correct it, and keep playing. Blessings on us all for this glorious experience we are enjoying together!

Namaste,

Barbs Burman, President
and the **UCPC Board of Trustees**

Unity Center of Peace Church
8800 Seawell School Rd., Chapel Hill, NC 27516 (919) 968-1854
Email: unitychapelhill@mindspring.com, Website: unitychapelhill.org

Regular Business & Bookstore Hours:
Mon., Wed. Fri. 9am – 2pm, Tues. & Thurs. 11:00 am – 4:00pm
Sunday Bookstore Hours: 10:30 - 11:00am & 12:30 – 1:00pm

Administration

Spiritual Teacher	Mark Malachi	currently on medical leave	
Interim Minister	Michael McCluskey	968-1854 or (919) 593-5939	mjmcc1@aol.com
Office Manager	Mariah Wheeler	968-1854 or 942-7477	unitychapelhill@mindspring.com
Interim Music Dir.	Helen Spielman	929-4520	hbs@email.unc.edu

Board of Trustees

President:	Barbs Burman	663-3301	barbsieb@yahoo.com
Vice-President:	Julie Cusatis	402-0878	jcusatis@earthlink.net
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Organizational Spheres

Worship - Intention to express our spirituality
 Education – Intention to teach & learn
 Inreach – Intention to connect with each other
 Outreach – Intention to connect with the community
 Development – Intention to grow
 Administration – Intention to steward what we have

Board Steward: Pat Veenema
 Board Steward: David Richter
 Board Steward: TBA
 Board Steward: Sofianna Solem
 Board Steward: Julie Cusatis
 Board Steward: Barbs Burman

Bookstore	Judy Bosniadis	260-0824	bosniadisj@hpw.com
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Social Action	Barbara Janeway	932-4469	
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	Michael McCluskey	932-3892	mjmcc1@aol.com
Usher Coordinator	Bobbie Hayes	929-3467	
Worship	George Sharp	402-4226	
Youth Ed	Machai St. Rain	732-4363	machaisaintrain@yahoo.com

Here is a poem by Rumi which Mike Flowers shared with the Adult Forum in July. It is worthy of sharing with everyone! Submitted by David Richter.

~ The Guest House ~

**This being human is a guest house.
 Every morning a new arrival.**

**A joy, a depression, a meanness,
 some momentary awareness
 comes
 as an unexpected visitor.**

**Welcome and entertain them all!
 Even if they're a crowd of sorrows,
 who violently sweep your house
 empty of its furniture,
 still, treat each guest honorably.
 He may be clearing you out
 for some new delight.**

**The dark thought, the shame, the
 malice,
 meet them at the door laughing,
 and invite them in.**

**Be grateful for whoever comes,
 because each has been sent
 as a guide from beyond.**

~Rumi~

**UCPC Business Service
 Directory**

Advertise your business and/or professional services to your UCPC community in our new directory.

Your community wants to buy from you first before they shop elsewhere.

Tell us what you do: from babysitting to tax preparation, from plumbing to tarot readings.

Are you a healer? An electrician? A musician?

OUR VISION

Unity Center of Peace Church is a community that acknowledges the sacredness in all creation manifested through the Christ Consciousness within each of us. We live in honesty and integrity. We are a self-creating community that constantly evolves as the individual members grow and change.

OUR MISSION

The Mission of Unity Center of Peace Church is to be a safe space and community for all of us to honor our likenesses and differences as expressions of Divine Love. We express this love by creating a balance between inner being and outer actions.

🎵 🎶 Musical Musings 🎵 🎶 Singing Our Love

All of us who attend Unity live in our own unique way, yet we're on the same journey. We have different tastes, but share the same spiritual hunger. We express ourselves as individuals, but know that we're all One. We come together on Sunday mornings to worship and celebrate our diversity, and that's why the use of inclusive language in our hymns is so important. Our music, which is, after all, a universal language, must speak to the heart of each willing person and include *all* in its embrace.

My goal is for each hymn to reflect and enhance a Sunday theme, and to express uplifting joy or deep, quiet devotion. After obtaining the title of the talk, I spend time looking through my collection of hymnals and songbooks, my ringbinders of sheet music, and my file folders filled with lists of songs. My sources are as diverse as chanting books, songsheets from workshops I've attended, or copies of the table of contents from fake books. Sometimes, of course, I can't find a song that goes with the theme, in which I case I select "generic" songs that fit with everything. Spirit always seems to guide me in choosing the "right" one.

As I select the hymn each week, I ask, What does this song say? Does it relate to the day's theme? Does it have a beautiful melody, easy for a group to sing? Are our Unity principles and the truths that our church teaches reflected? And - do the words include everyone?

My intent is to choose lyrics that embrace all racial and ethnic groups, all ages, lifestyles, sexual orientations, and religious backgrounds. Whenever male terms are used, I try to balance them with female terms. I reject any references to sin, violence, militarism, unworthiness, or negativity. I look for words such as Light, Spirit, God, Creator, etc. which each person can interpret in his or her own way. I seek contemporary lyrics that are meaningful in today's world.

Occasionally, a hymn strikes me as perfect except for one word that's contrary to our upbeat style. I attempt to think of another word, which is sometimes a challenge because it has to fit into the beat of the music. Sometimes I change a whole phrase or line. I actually enjoy doing this even though it takes a lot of thought.

I stay aware of the season and time of year, upcoming holidays, and presence of guest speakers when selecting hymns. I'm always open to your feelings, positive or negative, so feel free to give me your feedback along with any suggestions for hymns that you'd like to sing at Unity. If you find any words in our songs that bother you, please feel free to point them out to me. I'd like to know if I've missed something.

My hope is that these wondrous yet sometimes untraditional songs will allow us to delve deeper into our musical worship and take us into joy and solace. I see us uplifted together as One while singing our love and praise to Spirit within and around us.

Helen Spielman, Interim Music Director

Happy Hymn Singing!



A Story Worth Tellin'

Our own **Gaines Steer** will be sharing integral studies, including the Perennial Philosophy, as the speaker at the August 13 Sunday Service . . . following the service (1 - 2pm), yet not connected, Gaines will be reading from his just-published memoir, [A Story Worth Tellin'](#).

Food will be furnished by Adult Forum. Admission is free.

Don't miss this!

The Story of a Miracle

I had dinner at the K&W Cafeteria in Chapel Hill yesterday with my pal Jerry, and he told me a story that I just have to pass on.

A year ago last April, Jerry had been having some chest pain. He thought it was indigestion, and he was treating it with Mylanta. But one day at work, the pain worsened, and he decided to go home and lie down.

On the way home, he stopped by Barnes & Noble to buy a book for his daughter, Diane. He wanted her to have Marianne Williamson's A Woman's Worth. Diane is his only child, and he just adores her. He is always worried that she doesn't have enough self-esteem or isn't tending to her spiritual life.

So he comes out of B&N and goes to his truck, and he happens to notice that the person parked next to him has left a bag of books on the top of his car. Jerry can see the bag of books in his side mirror, so he decides to wait for the person to come back out. Jerry is guarding the books to make sure no one steals them. His chest is really hurting.

The man who parked next to him finally comes back to his car, and he and Jerry have a brief, friendly conversation about the books, and then the man asks Jerry, "Are you all right? Is anything wrong?"

Jerry tells him about his discomfort, and the man questions Jerry about the pain. Finally the man says, "I've been a paramedic for 20 years and I can tell you this: You're not having indigestion; you need to get to a hospital."

So Jerry--rather than waiting the 20 minutes or so for an ambulance--drives himself to UNC hospital. He checks in and sits down in the waiting room. The ER staff keeps rushing over and reassuring him that they're looking for a bed for him, but no beds are available.

So Jerry gets so sick that he lies down on the floor. The next thing he knows they're hauling him onto a gurney. Jerry says that he checked in at 4 p.m. and by 6 p.m. the doctors were putting a stent into his artery. A couple of days later he was released from the hospital and has been fine ever since.

When I think of how God loves Jerry, and how Jerry is so open to God's leading, I am deeply grateful. If Jerry hadn't stopped to buy his daughter that book, if he hadn't waited for the man to return to his car for his package, if the man hadn't been a paramedic, if Jerry hadn't just made it to the hospital.....I can tell you, I would have lost one of the best friends I've ever had in this world.

And it would not only have been my loss of a dear friend, but Diane would have lost her dad and her two wonderful boys would have lost a grandfather. It's not too much to say as well that the world would have lost a true saint.

Please join me in thanks to God that Jerry's life was spared. Let us never take our friends for granted. Thank you, God.

Carol Wills

Company on the Road of Life



I like to think that on the road of life there are moments, places, and people that can capture your heart, soul, spirit and can change your way of thinking. I would like to place Unity Center of Peace Church in that category. I've been a "friend" of the church for about 2 years and in that time I've met some very nice and caring souls who have gently encouraged me to look at the bigger picture of who I really am.

It hasn't been easy I fought the feelings of confusion and doubt and finally gave into my intuition. I have found a safe place to explore, learn, and grow as a child of god/goddess.

I do not know where this journey will take me or the surprises that await me but I do know I am not alone!

Blessed be, *Kimberly Raulli*

August 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 BIRTHDAY CORNER  <p>Happy Birthday to: Susan O'Neil, Donna Shannon, Rainbow Teasley, John Thomas, Claus Sievers, Ginger Massey, Renee Caruso, Mary Thomas, Michelle Wilson, Max Cusatis, Linda Smith, Dan Hutchins</p>		1	2 A Course in Miracles 7 - 8:30 pm Chapel Wild Bunch 6:30-9:30 pm Sanctuary + Kitchen	3 RIF A'I MARUFI (SUFU) 9 pm - 12 am Sanctuary + Kitchen	4	5 Walk Like a Living Prayer 10 am - noon <i>Sanctuary</i>
6 POTLUCK & COMMUNITY MEETING after church Adult Forum: 9:45 - 10:45 am Service 11am - 12:30 pm Speaker: Laurie Brill "Powerful Peace" Music: Machai St. Rain A Course In Miracles 7:30 pm	7 Healing Circle 7 - 8 pm Sanctuary RIF A'I MARUFI (SUFU) 8 - 11 pm Sanctuary + Kitchen	8 UCPC Workshop topic TBA 7 - 9pm	9 A Course in Miracles 7 - 8:30 pm Chapel Wild Bunch 6:30-9:30 pm Sanctuary + Kitchen	10 Interfaith Worship 7:30pm <i>Sanctuary</i> RIF A'I MARUFI (SUFU) 9 pm - 12 am Sanctuary + Kitchen	11	12 IFC Kitchen call Simon Kaplan 932-8858 to register
13 Adult Forum 9:45 - 10:45am Service 11 am - 12:30 pm Speaker: Gaines Steer "Going Deeper" Music: Marilyn Grubbs Gaines Steer Book Reading & Signing 1 - 2pm A Course In Miracles 7:30pm	14 Healing Circle 7 - 8 pm Sanctuary RIF A'I MARUFI (SUFU) 8 - 11 pm Sanctuary + Kitchen	15 UCPC Workshop topic TBA 7 - 9pm	16 Lay Ministry Team 7 pm <i>Office</i> A Course in Miracles 7 - 8:30 pm Chapel Wild Bunch 6:30-9:30 pm Sanctuary + Kitchen	17 Outdoor Sanctuary Team 7:30 - 9:15pm RIF A'I MARUFI (SUFU) 9 pm - 12 am Sanctuary + Kitchen	18	19 Walk Like a Living Prayer 10 am - noon <i>Sanctuary</i> Dances of Universal Peace 7:30 - 9:30pm <i>Sanctuary</i>
20 Adult Forum 9:45 - 10:45am Service 11 am - 12:30 pm Speaker: Michael McCluskey Music: Mark Hirschhorn Board Meeting 1 - 4pm <i>Chapel</i> A Course In Miracles 7:30pm	21 Healing Circle 7 - 8 pm Sanctuary RIF A'I MARUFI (SUFU) 8 - 11 pm Sanctuary + Kitchen	22 UCPC Workshop topic TBA 7 - 9pm	23 A Course in Miracles 7 - 8:30 pm Chapel Wild Bunch 6:30-9:30 pm Sanctuary + Kitchen	24 RIF A'I MARUFI (SUFU) 9 pm - 12 am Sanctuary + Kitchen	25	26
27 Adult Forum 9:45 - 10:45am Service 11 am - 12:30 pm Speaker: Mark Malachi "The Gifts of Acceptance" Music: TBA Worship Committee 1:30 pm at EarthFare Women's Vision Circle - Potluck 5:30 pm meeting 6:15 - 8 pm upstairs A Course In Miracles 7:30pm	28 Healing Circle 7 - 8 pm Sanctuary Social Action Team 7pm <i>Office</i> RIF A'I MARUFI (SUFU) 8 - 11 pm Sanctuary + Kitchen	29 UCPC Workshop topic TBA 7 - 9pm	30 A Course in Miracles 7 - 8:30 pm Chapel Wild Bunch 6:30-9:30 pm Sanctuary + Kitchen	31 RIF A'I MARUFI (SUFU) 9 pm - 12 am Sanctuary + Kitchen	UNITY CARES <i>We pray with these people during the month of August:</i> Diane Denney, Roger Gaby, Rory Garcia, Susan Nelson, Gail Parker-Cox, Carolyn Smith, John Upfield & Caroline Demoise, Kate Vosecky, Barbie & Jennifer Wilder	

UPCOMING EVENTS NOT TO MISS

***** Potluck & Community Meeting Sun., August 6
after the service**

*** Healing Circle Mondays 7 - 8 pm**

*** Tuesdays UCPC Workshop
Topic to be announced
7 - 9 pm**

*** Outdoor Sanctuary Team
Thurs., August 10, 7:30 - 9:15 pm**

*** Interfaith Worship Service
Thurs. August 10, 7:30 pm
led by Mark Smith**

*** Gaines Steer Reading & Book Signing
Sunday, August 13, 1 - 2 pm**

*** Women's Vision Circle: Sun., August 27,
5:30 potluck, 6:15-8 pm meeting, this time
facilitated by Jane Maske**

Coming September 14

World Day of Prayer

An all-day prayer service

Powerful prayer, poetry, music and more
to be held at UCPC in conjunction with our
sister Chapel Hill church,
Unity Spiritual Center - and joined with
other spirit-led folks around the world.

Spiritual Teacher: Mark Malachi - currently on medical leave

Interim Minister: **Michael McCluskey**

Office Hours: Mon. & Fri. On Call,

Tues. & Thurs. 11am - 5pm, Wed. 10am - 2pm

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UCPC Prayer & Care:

24-hour Prayer Line 968-1854

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Email newsletter submissions to editors:

Marilyn Grubbs, mgrubbs@nc.rr.com, or Michael McCluskey,

mjmcc1@aol.com by the 10th of month.

UNITY CENTER OF PEACE CHURCH

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