

Spirit Express



UNITY CENTER OF PEACE CHURCH

8800 Seawell School Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27516 ♦ Phone (919) 968-1854
http:unitychapelhill.home.mindpspring.com

Volume 10, Number 12

December 2004

From the Heart

Dear Friends:

Gosh, it's December already! I guess I'll have to accept the fact that summer is finally over! Luckily we have the holidays to look forward to, to warm our hearts and shine God's Light upon us.

This is Advent Season – a time of preparation and anticipation. These few weeks before Christmas give us the chance to renew our spiritual commitments as we wait for the Christ to be reborn within us. Are we committed to spiritual growth? To peace-making? To holding a point of Light for the planet?

Advent is a time of hope. As we patiently await the peace we so desperately wish for in the world, we can visualize a broken world made whole again as humanity learns to embrace itself in love. This hope is fulfilled one heart at a time. This is a great time to reconcile with a long lost friend or relative. Take it upon yourself to reach out to someone in pain or someone you have wronged in love and reconciliation this Advent Season.

As Christmas draws closer, I remind you that our prayers and actions for peace are especially

powerful. People tend to be more open this time of year. I invite you to be an active peacemaker in thought, word and deed. Celebrate the peace and prosperity in your life by sharing it with others. Nothing expresses gratitude to God more clearly than sharing your resources with others.

May this holiday season bring you much joy, health, wholeness and prosperity. I hold with you the fulfillment of your deepest heart's desires.

In love,
Mark

BOARD BULLETIN

Dear Community Members:

Following our Board Retreat meeting last spring, I drafted this clarification to address the Retreat Action Item:

IMPROVE ORGANIZATIONAL EFFICIENCY: Clarify Board Member Roles

This was on the June Board Meeting Agenda, and now I want to share this information with all of you. Unity Center of Peace Church, Inc. a church, whose purpose is stated in its Bylaws, is associated and voluntarily subject to the guidance of the Association of Unity Churches, Inc. (AUC). UCPC is also a NC non-profit corporation, and as such, subject to the laws of NC, which stipulate that we will operate according to the registered, duly approved Bylaws of the Corporation. AUC concurs with this, and advises churches be incorporated to operate legally in the states where they exist.

The Board is duly elected by Adult Members of UCPC by written ballot. During a vote, the Trustee positions expiring are elected. The top vote getters are the new Trustees. The next highest vote getter becomes first

Alternate, and the highest vote getter after that becomes second Alternate.

The Board of Trustees now consists of nine representatives:

Six Trustees, the Senior Minister, or Person serving under Special Dispensation, and two Alternates. Only Trustees and the Senior Minister are allowed to vote on any motion. A quorum of over 50% of voting members (any 4 of Trustees and Minister) is required to hold a vote. The Minister does not vote on any issue involving his/her job duties or compensation.

Alternates attend Board meetings, and vote in the absence of enough voting board members to create a quorum, with the first Alternate voting, and second Alternate votes only if five of the seven voting Board members are absent. The Board may decide to table any action or vote until a later meeting, or vote on it with the appropriate Alternate participation necessary to obtain the quorum. Alternates do not vote at any other time, but are welcome to participate in issue discussions.

(continued page 2 Board)

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(continued from page 1) **BOARD**

The voting members of the Board elect (usually at the first Board meeting following an election) the Board Officers of: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary; to perform the functions laid out in the Bylaws.

Current compensation rates:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Wage</u>	<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Mode</u>
Music Director:	\$10--11,000	10 hours/week	Salary/bonus
Office Manager	\$14--16,000	25 hours/week	Hourly
Spiritual Teacher	\$28--30,000	30 hours/week	*Salary/bonus
(*Frequently more hours may be expended, +/- 20%)			
President	\$ 0	14 hours/week +/- 30%	
Treasurer	\$ 0	4 hours/week +/- 30%	
Secretary	\$ 0	2 hours/week +/- 30%	
Vice President	\$ 0	2 hours/week +/- 30%	

Thanks to all of you who do so much around here to keep Unity Center of Peace Church operating.

John Thomas, Board President

Congratulations to our November Contest Winner, Caroline Wood!

Rev. Wood (right) recipient of the "Fabulous Book Award" receiving the award from Newsletter co-editor Gaines Steer (shown with pumpkin) and Office Manager, Eileen Helton. Rev. Wood is the first winner of this prestigious award sponsored by the Newsletter.



Rev. Caroline Wood has a long history with Unity Center of Peace. She is a Charter Member (1986), has served on its board of Trustees, and has twice been its Interim Spiritual Director

(1988-92, and 2001-2002).

We thought it would be fun to interview her and used the Time Magazine format of 10 questions.

UCPC: What were the spiritual influences of your childhood? CW: A loving grandmother who taught me how to pray and prayed with me, and five years of elementary grades at the Virginia Beach Friends School. While Friends (Quakers) do not proselytize, and do not teach Quakerism in the school, I was strongly drawn to the Meeting for Worship and the teachings.

UCPC: You've filled many roles in your life, like most of us. What were the most challenging? CW: Motherhood! My husband and I separated when the children were quite small, and they moved back and forth between us. Our parenting styles were so different, it was challenging for all of us, and I missed my children terribly when they were not with me.

Along with that came the role of ex-wife because my children soon had a stepmother, and I did not easily share my children with another woman. Not a unique story in our society!!

UCPC: What has been the most rewarding role? CW: Motherhood! I love the wonderful grown-ups my children have become, and having adult relationships with them is so satisfying. They are good friends! I think it works well because we make so few demands on each other. The most fun has been being a grandmother...just ask me (if you have a few spare hours). *continued page 3 - Winner!*

**Love-In-Auction
Donations Requested**

If you have a new or almost new item of value that you able to part with, please consider donating it to Unity's annual Love-In-Auction. This year we are seeking only quality items worth \$10 or more.

We are also soliciting services such as massage therapy, childcare, car washing or any gift or talent you can offer.

Bring items to the Church office or submit them to
 Robin Samuels
 933-7795
 or
 happicat@gmail.com

Winner!

(continued from page 2)

UCPC: You are not a Unity-ordained minister. What are your credentials? CW: I started taking Unity classes with UCP's first organizational minister in 1985. (Her job was to assist in the transition from Study Group to full Church charter). Along with Mark Malachi, Suzanne Schuett and others, I participated in a yearlong Lay Ministry Training with our first permanent minister. When she left after two years, I was asked by the Board to be both spiritual director and administrator. We had no idea that would last for 4 years! It was during this time that I went to Unity Village for some classes.

When Steve Colladay came to UCP, I joined the UNIQUEST Ministry in Raleigh with Unity minister Victor Williams and Universal Life Church minister Sonny Molinelli. I studied the teachings of the Universal Life Church and was ordained by Sonny in 1993. My most recent formal training was in Clinical Pastoral Education at UNC Hospitals, in the summer of 2003.

UCPC: What do you see as the attractor to Unity and other New Thought teachings? CW: Most people who come to these teachings have rejected the faith of their childhood and are looking for something that is resonant with the beliefs they have found just by living life. The lack of dogma, and the acceptance of diverse interpretation and belief, come as a breath of fresh air to many who have been abused by childhood religious participation.

UCPC: Why does Unity not attract more people? CW: The teachings of Charles Fillmore, in particular, require that one have an adult relationship with God. Most people in our society don't want that responsibility. They want a church that will tell them very clearly what the rules are and what the punishment is if they don't follow the rules. New Thought teachings, at their best, continually put the responsibility back on the individual to find their own core Truth, and to act from it. The strength of Unity is that it provides guidelines and a loving community to support individuals in their search. (continued on last page)

BOOK NOOK & FLICK PICKS

by Richard Benke, Associated Press Writer

A big turnout for an out-of-Hollywood experience gave Oregon-made "Indigo" The prestigious

Audience Choice Award on Saturday at the 4th annual Santa Fe Film Festival. Starring Neale Donald Walsch, author of "Conversations with God". Directed and produced by Stephen Simon, producer of What Dreams May Come, Somewhere in Time and author of The Force is With You: Mystical Movie Messages That Inspire Our Lives. Written by James Twyman, author of Emissary of Light and numerous other books and internationally known as the "Peace Troubador".

"Indigo" was selected on the basis of ballots filled out by more than 1,000 filmgoers, many of whom came from out of state specifically to see the film made by Stephen Simon.

"Indigo" is about prescient children who can communicate via extra-sensory means and how they are able to work with disbelievers and, in time, win them over. It was shot in 20 days on \$500,000, made from start to finish within eight months, completed just 10 days before the festival, Simon said in an interview before the ceremony.

"Indigo," he said, was meant to be "a movie that hopefully makes people feel better about being human beings and shows who we are and why we're here - on a very small budget. That's what spiritual cinema is all about now. It's not about big movie stars or special effects. It's about going to an audience which the studios have forgotten, which is adults."

Ultimately, Simon said, he hopes to help found a cable/satellite channel that offers a steady diet of such films, which are intended to be spiritually uplifting without being preachy. Simon's filmmaking community is located in Ashland, OR.

"Indigo" premieres January 29th. around the country and UCPC will be one of the premier sites! We are excited that this movie is coming to our church and we will keep you up to date on the specifics. Visit the movie's web site at:

www.Indigothemovie.com.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Come to the 10th Anniversary Conference for People of Faith Against the Death Penalty
Sunday, December 4, 2004
Durham, NC

Keynote Speaker – Mike Farrell (M*A*S*H, Providence)

Civil rights leader – Julius Chambers

Exonererees – Alan Gell and Darryl Hunt




"Take a Break" Auction

Awards Banquet featuring:

Watts Street Baptist Church of Durham

Information and registration online at www.pfadp.org or call (919) 9337567

DECEMBER 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
 BIRTHDAY CORNER  Happy Birthday to this month's special people: Judy Greggar, Marilyn Grubbs, Tom Bogan, Simon Kaplan and Nancy Shepherd			1 12:00 Noon Prayer PR/Outreach 7:00 PM Mark's Ofc. Wild Bunch AA 8:00 -9:30 pm <i>Sanctuary + Kitchen</i>	2 RIF A'I MARUFI (SUFU) 9:00 - 12:00 midnight <i>Sanctuary + Kitchen</i> Mark speaks at Community United Church at 7:15 PM	3	4		
5 POTLUCK & COMMUNITY MEETING <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> Adult Forum: 10:00 am 11:00 Service Speaker: Mark Malachi: "The Power of Prayer" Music: Matt Short 7:30 pm A Course In Miracles <i>upstairs classroom</i>	6 RIF A'I MARUFI (SUFU) 8:00 - 11:00 pm <i>Sanctuary + Kitchen</i>	7 Hanukkah Angel Light Healing Ceremony 6:30-9:30 PM <i>Sanctuary</i> Auction Mtg 6:00 PM <i>Breadmen's</i>	8 12:00 Noon Prayer Wild Bunch AA 8:00 -9:30 pm <i>Sanctuary + Kitchen</i>	9 Interfaith Worship 7:30 pm <i>Sanctuary</i> SUFI OI 7:30-9:00 PM <i>upstairs classroom</i> RIF A'I MARUFI (SUFU) 9:00 - 12:00 midnight <i>Sanctuary + Kitchen</i>	10	11 IFC Kitchen Christmas Party Deborah & Rex's 7:00 PM Auction Set-up 3:00-5:00 <i>Sanctuary</i> Rental 9:00AM-3:00PM <i>Sanctuary</i>		
12 <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> Adult Forum: 10:00 am 11:00 Service Speaker: Mark Malachi: "Releasing into Forgiveness" Music: Claudia Kaplan LOVE-IN-AUCTION 1:00-3:00 PM Rental 3:00-6:00 PM 7:30 pm A Course In Miracles <i>upstairs classroom</i>	13 RIF A'I MARUFI (SUFU) 8:00 - 11:00 pm <i>Sanctuary + Kitchen</i>	14	15 12:00 Noon Prayer Wild Bunch AA 8:00 -9:30 pm <i>Sanctuary + Kitchen</i> Committee of 10 7PM <i>K&W Cafeteria</i>	16 RIF A'I MARUFI (SUFU) 9:00 - 12:00 midnight <i>Sanctuary + Kitchen</i> CHOIR Rehearsal 7:30 pm	17	18 Dances of Universal Peace 7:30 - 9:30 Sanctuary & Kitchen		
19 COMMUNION SUNDAY <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> Adult Forum: 10:00 am 11:00 Service Speaker: Mark Malachi: "Ye Must Be Born Again" Music: Helen Spielman & Julie Harris BOARD MEETING 7:30 pm A Course In Miracles <i>upstairs classroom</i>	20 RIF A'I MARUFI (SUFU) 8:00 - 11:00 pm <i>Sanctuary + Kitchen</i>	21 CHOIR Rehearsal 7:30 pm	22 12:00 Noon Prayer Wild Bunch AA 8:00 -9:30 pm <i>Sanctuary + Kitchen</i>	23 RIF A'I MARUFI (SUFU) 9:00 - 12:00 midnight <i>Sanctuary + Kitchen</i> CHOIR Rehearsal 7:30 pm	24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 7:00 PM Speaker: Mark Malachi: "God is Here!" Music: Mark Malachi & Joyful Noise Choir	25 CHRISTMAS DAY Mark will be out of town until January 1 st .		
26 Adult Forum: 10:00 am 11:00 Service Guest Speaker: Daniela Diesel, N.D.: "How I Healed Myself of Cancer the Natural Way" Music: TBA Blood cell analysis demos 7:30 pm A Course In Miracles <i>upstairs classroom</i>	27 RIF A'I MARUFI (SUFU) 8:00 - 11:00 pm <i>Sanctuary + Kitchen</i> Office closed	28	29 12:00 Noon Prayer Wild Bunch AA 8:00 -9:30 pm <i>Sanctuary + Kitchen</i>	30 RIF A'I MARUFI (SUFU) 9:00 - 12:00 midnight <i>Sanctuary + Kitchen</i>	31 No Jewish Service this month 	Office will re-open January 2 nd		
Sunday Morning Service 11:00 am Adult Forum 10:00 am	UNITY CARES We pray with these people during the month of December: <i>Barbs Burman, Charles Crank, Martha Isleib, Nancy Jeannechild, Mary Linker, Ray Marshall, Jane Maske, Gail Parker-Cox, Gaines Steer, Michelle & Don Tudor and Karen Wagner.</i>							

UPCOMING EVENTS NOT TO MISS!

CHRISTMAS PARTY: December 11th at the home of Deborah Dorland and Rex Bradley.

"LOVE IN AUCTION": December 12th. Please contact the committee if you have an auction item to donate.

COMMUNION SERVICE: December 19th.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: December 24th, 7:00 PM

PLACES TO VISIT

If you are upset over the election, visit www.markfiore.com/animation/depressed/htm/ for a laugh.

Or try www.Indigothemovie.com for information and reviews of this enchanting movie.

ANOTHER SPECIAL CONTEST!

Which people, of the 53 plus, contributing names etched on the floor of our deck,, are still active at UCPC? The first person to answer this question will be our "Grand Prize Winner" in next month's newsletter! Send answers to Gaines Steer at info@thelastunicorn.com. *There is another special prize for this month's winner! **Hint:** Do you like chocolate cake?*

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To remove your name from our mailing list, call 968-1854 or e-mail us at unitychapelhill@mindspring.com

Visit our web site w.unitychapelhill.org
December 2004



Affiliated with Unity School of Religious Studies, Unity Village, Missouri,
publishers of the *Daily Word*.
Member of the Association of Unity Churches



Regular Office Hours: Main Office: 9:00 -2:00 Monday-Friday. Office will also be open on days that Mark is scheduled, as follows:

Monday - Off (*call only for emergencies*)
Tuesday - 11:00 - 5:00; Wednesday - On-Call;
Thursday - 11:00 - 5:00; Friday - On-Call
Home Phone: 932-5282 Cell Phone: 270-3983
e-mail: Mmal27@aol.com

Y.O.U. Prayer Line
24-Hour Prayer Line **968-1854**
neverprayalone@cs.com

Prayer Box (Front Foyer)

Silent Unity
Unity Village, Missouri
(816) 969-2000 (in English)
(816) 969-2020 (in Spanish)
Or

(800) 669-7729
(If you can't pay for the call)

Co-editors Marilyn Grubbs and Gaines Steer invite you to submit articles for this newsletter. You can e-mail them to Marilyn at: marilyngrubbs@juno.com or Gaines at: info@thelastunicorn.com by the 10th of each month. You may also drop off submissions in the box provided in the church foyer.

Community Meeting November 7, 2004

On Nov. 7, the community convened a special membership meeting to reach consensus about TLC's proposal to become an AUC-member Unity church as well as discuss the chair orientation. We reached four conclusions:

1. The Community was unable to reach consensus about supporting TLC's proposal, but the vast majority of congregants were able to lend some degree of support.
2. We unanimously voted to begin a process of communication, connection, collaboration and cooperation with TLC. The form of this new degree of connection will unfold in God's time.
3. We also achieved consensus that we were uncomfortable with TLC using the name "Unity of Chapel Hill" (or the like) should they be admitted as an AUC member Unity church.
4. We will keep the chairs facing the cross for the next year and then reassess our needs next November.

P.S. On Monday, Nov 8, several board members met with representatives of TLC for the first time since the split three years ago. It was an overwhelmingly positive meeting. We began the healing process, worked toward a common understanding of what each group wants and needs and disabused each other of any misconceptions about the other. We scheduled another meeting in December and will continue to work toward ways the two congregations can form a positive, mutually beneficial relationship.

Thank you, God!

My Dear and
Wonderful
Supporters
from Amy Gillespie

In the past year I have joined Unity Church, left a house, a car, a career and many friends and gone to Africa. There are definitely times when I feel like Peter, answering Jesus' call to "come". I **never** feel like getting back into the boat, but there are times when I think, "Did He Say to *walk* on the water, or just to tread?" Did I get this confused with *Finding Nemo* and I'm supposed to "just keep swimming?"

Anyway, it's important that you know I am every bit as human as the rest of you. The only message I received was a call to help the "children of Darkness" about a year ago. I said, "Yes, I can do that, though I'm not really sure what you are asking me to do." Then the opportunity came for me to come to Africa. Here, the reward of building a preschool, of bringing goats to orphans, of teaching the alphabet to street

kids, and having people express an interest in Unity is tremendous. Sometimes you reach a point where you feel like David picking up his stone and taking aim with the slingshot. You know "this Shot" will be the one that takes Goliath down. Then the tidal wave that went past Peter comes by and knocks the slingshot out of your hands and you have to start all over again. Then you ask God, "Was I confused? Did you ask me to go for a swim?"

So, that's it. Don't be afraid to get out of the boat. It's not as rough as it looks. There are days of tears and days of tremendous frustration, but there are days when you walk on water and I feel like every one of the days I walk on water, you're walking with me because I wouldn't be here if it weren't for your support.

*There are definitely times when I feel like Peter, answering Jesus' call to "come". I **never** feel like getting back into the boat, but there are times when I think, "Did He Say to walk on the water, or just to tread?"*

Many blessings to each and every one of you. Love and Light from the "formerly" Dark Continent". Keep me in your prayers.

WINNER!

(Continued from page 3)

UCPC: You are known as a great reader. What books do you suggest to new spiritual seekers? CW: One short one, one long one: Illusions by Richard Bach and Autobiography of a Yogi by Paramahansa Yogananda. these two just about cover it!!

UCPC: What have you read recently that juices you? The Disappearance of the Universe by Gary Renard, and Bill Bryson's A Short History of Nearly Everything.

UCPC: You are currently interim spiritual director at Transforming Love CommUNITY church. What else are you up to? Well, I am facilitating three (yes three!) Course in Miracles study groups, and serve on the board of the Janis Foundation for A Course in Miracles. I'm also on the board of the Integral Science Institute, and am vice-chair of the Orange County Commission for Women. And, of course, time with my family!

UCPC: The year is almost over. What have been the highlights for you? Helping in the Dennis Kucinich for President campaign, and bringing him to Carrboro last spring. Working with TLC Church – a wonderful group of people! And a ten-day trip to France for the wedding of my older son. I am ready to go back!