

# Spirit Express



## UNITY CENTER OF PEACE CHURCH

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

Volume 10, Number 11

November 2004

## From the Heart

**I continue to be amazed** at how dynamic our community is. When there is openness and a willingness to allow Spirit to shine through and guide us, we grow and evolve rapidly and gracefully.

We are at a good place in our community's evolution, my precious friends. We have committed to the wisdom of the Unity truth principles. We have also remained open to the perennial wisdom that the world's major faith traditions offer us. In addition, we have created a strong community of spiritual

seekers based on the values of inclusivity, authenticity and mutual respect. We have all the ingredients to thrive and succeed.

We have moved past a "Sunday only" mindset and have, instead, woven our lives together into a strong tapestry of dynamic creativity. What a joy it is to be a part of such an incredible group of people!

I'm sure you are finding that the more you bring to the table, the more fulfilling your Unity experience is. The more you give the more you receive. Last month I mentioned several

volunteer opportunities available at UCPC. Many of these slots remain unfilled. Consider deepening your involvement at Unity and watch how the rewards multiply. The friendships you forge at this church will last a lifetime, paying and repaying you a dividend of love many, many times over.

Thank you for all of who you are. I treasure you.

With love & blessings,  
Mark Malachi  
Spiritual Teacher

### UCP CONGREGANTS' ANSWERS TO THE QUESTION: "How do you describe the Unity Experience"?

Accepting, All-embracing,  
Uplifting, Nurturing –  
*Anonymous*

Unity is a gathering of spirits in search of the deep and profound. We journey together sharing our joys, sorrows and prayers. – *Anonymous*

*These are our final responses. If you have any thoughts you would like to see expressed in this column, please send them to Gaines or Marilyn.*

### BOARD BULLETIN

#### "Hidden Miracles"

Life does seem to have its challenges: drama, intrigue, and mystery. Apparently, we like it that way; we can't seem to help ourselves. I'm reading The DaVinci Code. It's an interesting read with areas that are informative and thought provoking. The plot seems sophomoric, but the message reminds us that the true meaning of things is seldom what we see on the surface. Usually, if not ways, there are deeper layers

we don't see right off.

That is why we are urged repeatedly in this Community to withhold judgment, to exercise what some Buddhists call equanimity to situations that present themselves. Easier said than done! We have made progress together. We have learned to talk and work through challenges, and to strive for consensus.

As a Board member, one can feel bound to "solve the problems",

...continued on page 2  
"Miracles"

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**Miracles**

“maintain a semblance of stability”, or “lead and guide the Community to new, wonderful conditions”. Indeed, one cannot sit on one’s hands, but we can seek and follow Spirit’s guidance and look for the miracles.

The miracle may be below the surface of what appears as a problem. Together, we can find it. We have forged a process to do so. Rather than walking away, or cutting and running, together we face each situation and work for consensus, desiring the good of all.



*Jewelsong.  
 Unity’s 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party*

**John Thomas**

**CHRISTMAS IS AROUND** the corner! November 28<sup>th</sup> is the first Sunday of Advent. We will be putting up our congregational Christmas Tree after the service, so please stay and help decorate the sanctuary. We will also be having a Christmas Party at the home of Deborah Dorland and Rex Bradley on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.

On Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, we will have our annual “Love in Auction” silent auction. New this year: We will have a communion service the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent (December 19<sup>th</sup>).

Our inspiring Christmas Eve service will be 7:00 PM, December 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Deck the halls and a hardy HO! HO! HO!**

**FUN! FUN! FUN!**

**THANXGATHERING**

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 PM, we will be having a fun social event – our first “Thanxgathering.” This will be a thanksgiving party for your other family – UCPC! The party will be held at the home of Natasha Neece located at 5504 Hideaway Drive in North Chapel Hill. To assist Natasha, please call her at 960-2543. There will be a potluck, a drum circle, and a thanks-giving circle. It will be a great time to share words of gratitude with your Unity family for all the manifold blessings Mother/Father God bestows upon us.

# BOOK NOOK & FLICK PICKS

by Ignatious Incognito

**W**ell, one day I was fiddling around in the church office, which used to be the bookstore, and I saw this skinny little red book laying on a desk. No one was looking so I picked it up and read the title: "Agnostic Prayer." "Damn!" I thought, "I wish I had thought of writing that..." Turned that little book over and this is what it said on the backside: "A story about love, chocolate, adventure, art, romance, Italy, and France, and a man who sold his paintings to an idiot." Hey, I can identify with some of that," I realized.

About that time, Editor Eileen saw me fingering this idiosyncratic little book and she immediately invited me to review it for the sometimes boring newsletter (I guess cause it had "review copy" written on it in big olde gothic letters).

Anyway, here is the review in 245 words cause that is all they can allow due to space limits: By Paul Sutherland and Karuna Press, 57 pages. Circa: 2004. In this little treatise the chief character, an ignomatic (sp)artist who likes chocolate, finds out his patron is repainting his

art. He gets so mad he goes kinda crazy and lands in the hospital. He won't talk to anybody but he does admit that he has six (6) Pee H Dee's and has painted 223 churches but has never yet been into one. I felt that that was what he meant by "agnostic." He acknowledges prayer (thus the title) after his girlfriend's mother prays for him on page 21.

The love part is real promiscuous but not dirty.... In the Epilogue, the author tries to be funny by having fictitious reviews by people like Erica Jong, Mark Twain and Gerturde Stein. I felt that the whole book was (or is) fiction.

Like I told Eileen, this book needs some more work but y'all can still benefit from reading it. I think the pithy purpose (really) of the book was to get us to buy some for the bookstore.

*Unonymous*

## MEMBERS FORUM

**-WANTED-WANTED-WANTED-**

### **Creative Event Planners to Coordinate a Peace Centered Shindig**

I am looking for a group of committed people to brainstorm, create, develop, market and throw one heck of a community wide Peace Day event. In an effort to enliven UCPC's vision of being a Center of Peace, join me in developing a community wide special event that focuses on PEACE, HARMONY & JOY. My vision is to provide the Triangle with an opportunity to bring people together to enjoy a festival brimming with music, food, fellowship and fun while celebrating diversity, inspiring unity and manifesting peace. If you are interested in being a part of this effort, contact Julie Cusatis for more information: 919-402-0878 or [jcusatis@earthlink.net](mailto:jcusatis@earthlink.net)

## 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.

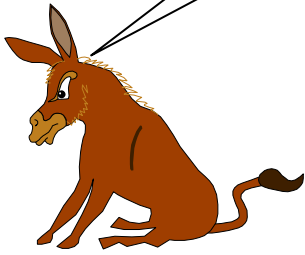
We are also soliciting services such as massage therapy, childcare, car washing or any gift or talent you can offer.





Bring items to the Church office or submit them to Robin Samuels

933-7795 or [robinsam@nc.rr.com](mailto:robinsam@nc.rr.com).

# NOVEMBER 2004

Do I look like a Turkey to you?



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> <b>RIF A'1 MARUFI (SUF)</b> 8:00 – 11:00 pm <i>Sanctuary + Kitchen</i>  R... time changed!	<b>2</b> <b>ELECTION DAY! VOTE!</b> <b>4T Prosperity Class</b> 7:00 – 9:00 pm <i>Sanctuary &amp; Kitchen</i>	<b>3</b> 12:00 Noon Prayer <b>PR &amp; Outreach</b> 7:00 PM <i>Mark's Office</i> <b>Wild Bunch AA</b> 8:00 – 9:30 pm <i>Sanctuary + Kitchen</i>	<b>4</b> <b>CHOIR</b> 7:30 PM <i>Sanctuary</i> <b>AUCTION PLANNING</b> 6:30 PM <i>Mark's Office</i> <b>RIF A'1 MARUFI (SUF)</b> 9:00 – 12:00 midnight <i>Sanctuary + Kitchen</i>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> NATIONAL TAKE YOUR DOG TO LUNCH DAY!
<b>7</b> <b>NEW MEMBER SUNDAY! POTLUCK &amp; COMMUNITY MEETING</b> Adult Forum: 10:00 am 11:00 Service Speaker: Mark Malachi "The Meaning of Life" Music: Joyful Noise Choir 7:30 pm A Course In Miracles <i>upstairs classroom</i>	<b>8</b> <b>RIF A'1 MARUFI (SUF)</b> 8:00 – 11:00 pm <i>Sanctuary + Kitchen</i>	<b>9</b> <b>4T Prosperity Class</b> 7:00 – 9:00 pm <i>Sanctuary &amp; Kitchen</i>	<b>10</b> 12:00 Noon Prayer <b>Wild Bunch AA</b> 8:00 – 9:30 pm <i>Sanctuary + Kitchen</i> <b>COMMITTEE OF 10</b> 7:00 PM <i>K&amp;W Cafeteria</i>	<b>11</b> <b>VETERAN'S DAY Interfaith Worship</b> 7:30 pm <i>Sanctuary</i> <b>SUF OI</b> 7:30 – 9:00 PM <i>Upstairs classroom</i> <b>RIF A'1 MARUFI (SUF)</b> 9:00 – 12:00m <i>Sanctuary + Kitchen</i>	<b>12</b> <b>Budhist Talk:</b> Gangteng Tulku Rinpoche 6:30-9:30 PM <i>Sanctuary</i>	<b>13</b> <b>IFC Kitchen</b> call Simon Kaplan 932-8858 to register <b>"Exploring Trager"</b> with Loraine Lewis 4:00-6:00PM <i>Sanctuary</i>
<b>14</b> <b>Worship Committee Meeting</b> Adult Forum: 10:00 am 11:00 Service Speaker: Mark Malachi "Your Divine Purpose" Music: Jewelsong 7:30 pm A Course In Miracles <i>upstairs classroom</i>	<b>15</b> <b>RIF A'1 MARUFI (SUF)</b> 8:00 – 11:00 pm <i>Sanctuary + Kitchen</i>	<b>16</b> <b>4T Prosperity Class</b> 7:00 – 9:00 pm <i>Sanctuary &amp; Kitchen</i>	<b>17</b> 12:00 Noon Prayer <b>Wild Bunch AA</b> 8:00 – 9:30 pm <i>Sanctuary + Kitchen</i>	<b>18</b> <b>RIF A'1 MARUFI (SUF)</b> 9:00 – 12:00 midnight <i>Sanctuary + Kitchen</i>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>Thanks Gathering</b> 5:00 PM <i>Natasha Neece's home</i> <b>Dances of Univ Peace</b> 7:30 – 9:30 pm <i>Sanctuary</i>
<b>21</b> <b>Board Meeting</b> Adult Forum: 10:00 am 11:00 Service Speaker: Mark Malachi "Thank You, God!" Music: Mark Smith Evening Concert: Helen Spielman 7:30 pm A Course In Miracles <i>upstairs classroom</i>	<b>22</b> <b>RIF A'1 MARUFI (SUF)</b> 8:00 – 11:00 pm <i>Sanctuary + Kitchen</i>	<b>23</b> <b>4T Prosperity Class</b> 7:00 – 9:00 pm <i>Sanctuary &amp; Kitchen</i> <b>LAST CLASS</b> <b>AUCTION PLANNING</b> 5:15 PM at <i>Chinese Buffet</i>	<b>24</b> 12:00 Noon Prayer <b>Wild Bunch AA</b> 8:00 – 9:30 pm <i>Sanctuary + Kitchen</i>	<b>25</b> <b>THANKSGIVING</b> <b>RIF A'1 MARUFI (SUF)</b> 9:00 – 12:00 midnight <i>Sanctuary + Kitchen</i>	<b>26</b> <b>Mystical Jewish Service</b> 7:30 pm <i>sanctuary</i>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Adult Forum: 10:00 am 11:00 Service Guest Speaker: Julie Cusatis "Listening for God: a Journey of self-Discovery" Music: Mark Malachi Advent Begins Put up Christmas Tree 7:30 pm A Course In Miracles <i>upstairs classroom</i>	<b>29</b> <b>RIF A'1 MARUFI (SUF)</b> 8:00 – 11:00 pm <i>Sanctuary + Kitchen</i>	<b>30</b>	 <b>BIRTHDAY CORNER</b>   Happy Birthday to all this month's chickadees: Deborah Dorland Bradley, Dorothy McGee, Ahnie Rising, Natasha Teasley and Pat Yell		<b>UNITY CARES</b> We pray with these people during the month of November: Tom Bogan, Carol Counihan, Joy Hellman, Terry Krauss, Susan Lombardo, Natasha Neece, David Richter, Brett Rodgers, Kerry Smith, Richard Taylor & Kris and Cathy vonHassel-Davie	

**UPCOMING EVENTS NOT TO MISS!**

**THANXGATHERING:** November 20<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 PM –  
Natasha Neece's home

**ADVENT:** The first Sunday of Advent is November  
28<sup>th</sup>. Time to put up and decorate the Christmas  
Tree.

**CHRISTMAS PARTY:** December 11<sup>th</sup> at the home  
of Deborah Dorland and Rex Bradley.

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

**COMMUNION SERVICE:** December 19<sup>th</sup>.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:** December 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:00  
PM

**SPECIAL CONTEST!**

The first person to find 3 humorous items (or articles) in  
this newsletter gets her/his name published as the "Grand  
Prize Winner" in next month's newsletter! Send answers to  
Gaines Steer at [info@thelastunicorn.com](mailto:info@thelastunicorn.com))



**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: [Mma127@aol.com](mailto:Mma127@aol.com)

Y.O.U. Prayer Line  
24-Hour Prayer Line **968-1854**  
[neverprayalone@cs.com](mailto: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](mailto:marilyngrubbs@juno.com) or  
Gaines at: [info@thelastunicorn.com](mailto:info@thelastunicorn.com) by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. You may also  
drop off submissions in the box provided in the church foyer.

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November 2004



# COMMUNITY MEETING OF

**October 3, 2004**

- Transforming Love Community (TLC) has applied to the Association of Unity Churches (AUC) to become a Unity Church. A preliminary discussion was heard on this issue and the official discussion will take place at the membership meeting of Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, at 1:15 PM.
- Leasing versus purchasing a new copier was also discussed at the meeting. It was unanimously decided to keep the current lease until it expires in August 2005 and then pursue a purchase or a new lease.
- The community is concerned with the noise level during services. It was agreed that folks should leave the sanctuary less often and refrain from talking in the lobby and kitchen during services.
- The possibility of retaining the healing room for member usage was suggested. It was decided that more discussion on this issue was needed and will be scheduled for another meeting.
- The community unanimously agreed that the community “calls the shots” and all approved of our current democratic process for making decisions.

## My Two Cents Worth on Tithing

by Marilyn Grubbs

Is two cents a tithe? Only if your monthly income is twenty cents!

I sometimes hear people ask, “How much should we tithe?” This question makes no sense if you understand what the word “tithe” means. A tithe is 10% (ten percent), no more, and no less. So you can’t say you are tithing 1% or 5% of your income! You can only tithe 10%!

OK, that’s it for my semantic rant. What I really want to focus on is the importance of tithing for creating abundance (“a bun dance” – thank you Swami Beyondananda!) for ourselves as individuals and for our church community. We

are all aware of the principle of using affirmations to bring what we desire into existence. When we focus on abundance rather than scarcity (“Scare City” according to Swami) increased prosperity flows into our lives. In the 4T Prosperity

*“Thank God! I always have enough good and even some to share!”*

program, tithing is treated as a concrete form of affirmation. When I did 4T a couple of years ago, I made the commitment to tithe, and I have continued it ever since. I see it as part of my spiritual discipline, which rewards me in numerous tangible and intangible ways. Certainly, the strength of our church community today is the result of so many of us giving our money, time, and talent over the years.

This meditation from Daily Word on October 8 says it beautifully:

“Thank God! I always have enough good and even some to share!

Whenever I am concerned about my finances, I may hold too tightly to what I have, hoping not to lose it. This attitude does not serve me or anyone else.

Because God is the source of my good, I know that I have enough good and even some to share. I share not only my financial resources, but also my time, energy, optimism, comfort, humor, and of course, my prayers.

It is the circulation of good that keeps it flowing in and through my life and outward to bless others. Applying this principle every day, I find an abundance of time, energy, optimism, comfort, and prayers coming my way! I see my own blessings with new clarity and gratitude as I share from the abundance of God that appears in my life.”

**WE HAVE HAD SEVERAL COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE NOISE LEVEL IN THE LOBBY AND KITCHEN DURING WORSHIP SERVICES. WE ASK THAT YOU PLEASE RESPECT THE SANCTITY OF OUR WORSHIP SERVICE AND REFRAIN FROM TALKING IN THE KITCHEN AND LOBBY DURING SERVICES**