

Spirit Express



The Newsletter of Unity Center of Peace Church
Volume 13, Number 9

September 2007

From the Heart ♥♥♥

By Reverend Elizabeth Thompson, Interim Minister

Dear Beloved Friends,

In these past six months I have had the joy and excitement of sharing with you at this pivotal time. We are on a journey of tremendous growth. We are open to the full acceptance of wholeness, peace and fulfillment. It is a pleasure to serve God and see the Christ light shining through you. It is a joy to see the immense work that has been done and is being done through each of you.

We are now well on our way to being a full tithing ministry. Our Youth Education and Music Ministry are blooming. This dynamic leadership Board of Trustees owns its role in a powerful and prosperous way. There are no words that adequately describe how honored I am to have been a part of this wondrous turn around - a process I know will joyfully continue in the coming years.

I so appreciate your confidence and willingness to have invited me to serve this spiritual family as minister for this time. After months of prayerful soul searching, my guidance is not to accept a six-month extension of my original contract. This is mainly because of the time and distance I am traveling. My husband, Neil, and I have made a choice to live in Oriental,

North Carolina. I will continue to serve as your minister until September 30, and will come speak once a month on a Sunday, if desired, while you actively seek a permanent minister.

With all the twists and turns, I can say this is one of the most gratifying ministries I have had the privilege to serve. It also has been a joyous experience to share in worship, study, and celebration with each of you. I look forward to the coming weeks as a time of spiritual adventure, opportunity, and joy. We are One with God and One with each other - God has a purpose, place, and a plan for each of us. It is ALL-GOOD and It is ALL GOD.

I know, as Unity Center of Peace keeps moving forward with such commitment and dedication to Spirit working through each of you, that there will be no end to the wondrous possibilities. There is a perfect Unity minister seeking Unity Center of Peace Church, even as you seek the right and perfect minister to serve you.

We are reminding each one of us of our magnificence. Namaste'.

In Love and Service, Elizabeth Thompson

Board Bulletin

by Pat Veenema, President, UCPC Board of Trustees

It is with a heart of gratitude that I accept Reverend Elizabeth's decision to end her time as Interim Minister with us at the end of September. Because of Elizabeth's leadership these eight months, we have experienced tremendous internal growth. Our community has a strong infrastructure supported by fabulous volunteers! We've studied the Twelve Powers and Lessons in Truth, and by doing so, we have increased our understanding of Unity Principles. We have drafted a new mission statement, which boldly declares our intention to be empowered in Spirit. We are financially stronger than we've been in years.

Simultaneously, other events have occurred which cannot be attributed to coincidence: we have resumed talking with our sister church, Unity Spiritual Center, about coordinating and collaborating with our worship and fellowship plans, and have begun to talk about re-uniting. And it was only two months ago when we began evaluating the current space with open minds, and imagining together the perfect meeting space.

In the past few weeks, the trustees have drafted an invitation for a new minister and have sent it to the Association of Unity Churches. We have extended an invitation to those who want to join the Search Team. We have decided on an interim plan and have received support for it.

During all of this activity, I am reminded of these wise words "Don't just do something! Sit there!" I remember to stop a moment, breathe and focus on the consciousness of God within me. With all these swirling thoughts and emotions, this is when I (all of us) need to call upon my (our) divine powers and energize them for the work that is ahead of us.

It occurs to me that it is no coincidence that we are beginning a year of becoming more conscious of the twelve powers. By choosing to use them as we meditate, we channel the specific energies of God that gives us everything we need to flourish through this interim period.

Don't just do something! Sit a moment, and focus on Faith, that stream of Divine consciousness that flows like a never-ending fountain, through the top of the heads, into our bodies, through us and into every aspect of our work here at Unity Center of Peace Church.

Once again, with joy and confidence, and with a strong knowing, we affirm, "Wherever we are, God is. And all is well."

[Pat will be stepping down from the Board in October to serve as our Office Director & Ministry Service Coordinator during our minister search phase. Thank you, Pat, for stepping up!]

From the Editor...

FAITH

It's what brings us together in the first place. It's the basis of our spiritual practice. It's the first of the 12 Powers as described by Charles Fillmore, founder of the Unity Movement. It's the theme of this month's edition of our newsletter. To catch you up: I am the new Editor of our church newsletter & am introducing a new format for *Spirit Express*.

The purpose of this newsletter is to be a tool of celebration and communication of who & what Unity Center of Peace Church (UCPC) is, or who & what we each are. Here's a way to get to know more about us as a community and each other as individuals. Some of us are Ministers of the Word. Some of us are Laborers of Love. Some of us are Writers and Performers. Some of us are Healers. Some of us are new to Unity; some of us grew up with Unity. Some of us are into our 80's; some of us are 8. Most of us are somewhere in between.

In the following pages, and in editions to come, we will explore who we are, what we believe & profess, and how we live our beliefs in action. In other words: how we *EXPRESS SPIRIT* in our lives.

So, through the synchronicity of Spirit, both our Youth Ed program and our newsletter will be journeying each month through the 12 Powers, beginning with September. The first Power: Faith.

The Twelve Powers are: Faith, Strength, Discrimination or Judgment, Love, Power, Imagination, Understanding, Will, Order, Zeal, Renunciation or Elimination, Life Conserver. Each month, *Spirit Express* will devote its theme to each of these Powers, in turn. According to Reverend Elizabeth Thompson, our interim minister, this is a progressive journey, beginning with faith.

This, on Faith, from Chapter 2 of *The Twelve Powers* by Charles & Cora Fillmore: *The mind generates an energy that contacts the universal energy and causes circumstances and events to fall into line for the attainment of the latent ideal...It was not Jesus but the mind in Jesus that did the great works. He was the center of faith that transformed the mighty creative forces of Being (which are active in the universe through the mind and brain of man) into a form of force usable in His environment. Tap this inner reservoir of faith and you can do what Jesus did. That was His promise; its fulfillment is the test of a true follower.*

Our faith community is at a great crossroads; we have an opportunity of choice and decision. We can look to ego for the answer, or we can connect with our faith in the One Presence and One Power of God, expressed as the Christ within each one of us. When we choose Faith in Spirit, we allow Faith to work in us. That allowing gives a clear way for Spirit to flow and work through us.

In these pages, you'll read how faith works in the lives of our Interim Minister, our Trustees, and others. You'll discover the essence of the Usher/Greeter, how long we've been cooking at the homeless shelter on Rosemary St., what our youth have to say, and who actually heard Charles Fillmore speak in her Unity church when she was very young!

I believe you will enjoy this issue of *Spirit Express*; at least, I hope you do. My faith is in this God that is both within me as the Christ Presence, and around me as the Universal Oneness. It is this that guides me to present Unity Center of Peace Church and her people to you in this format. Please, let me know of your experience of our new *Spirit Express*.

Peace out,

Barbs Burman

UCPC WANTS TO KNOW: letters to the Editor

[This section is dedicated to answering your letters. All letters must be primarily in the first person, word length not to exceed 150, and be Unity themed. A Unity Minister will answer all questions about Unity teachings; I will seek informed sources to answer questions about our church & community. All letters will become the property of the editor once received. It is ultimately the decision and discretion of the editor to determine what will be printed.] Here's an example:

Dear Editor,

What happens when I doubt myself and my ability to allow God to work through me? I mean, I'm waiting for the unfoldment & manifestation, but I've got bills to pay!

Signed,
Perplexed

Dear Perplexed,

You know God doesn't wait; God responds instantly. The way God responds is to seek any openings wherever you are open, in the heart and in the soul, mind, and body. All outer demonstrations follow this. That's the information you give yourself. Give your 'inner doubter' this information gently and consistently; meditate on this. Wherever you are open to God's Peace, you will be guided. Keep tenacity sharp with a soft heart.

Reverend Elizabeth

Spirit Express

The newsletter of Unity Center of Peace Church

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[Email submissions for consideration to the editor by the 10th of each month, with a copy to the church office manager, 'Subject: SpEx'. All submissions become the property of the newsletter. Selection for inclusion in the edition is by the discretion of the editor. Direct your comments or questions to the editor.]

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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS: Putting Principle into Practice

[This is where we tell our story of service to our greater community, with the intention of following Spirit's Guidance for the Greater Good.]

IFC Kitchen: 2nd Saturday of each month, Simon Kaplan, Coordinator

Simon shared the following about IFC, when UCPC began this community service, his role in it, and his hopes for UCPC:

Interfaith Council runs the kitchen for the homeless shelter on Rosemary Street in Chapel Hill. The kitchen is a fully equipped production kitchen, providing 3 meals a day for those who use the shelter. Volunteers from area church groups prepare the meals that are served; we prepare lunch on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

UCPC started doing this before Claudia and I came to the church in the early 90's. I took on coordinating this about 10 years ago. I have a list of 18 names of folks who prepare that Saturday meal. Of these 18, only about 7 of them are active UCPC attendees. Most of these others are former attendees who still love cooking at the Shelter and continue in the name of UCPC.

My experience is that it's a lot of fun! A lot of food is leftover from restaurants, and merely requires heating up. We'd also make a large salad. We'd cook for 60 people, and sometimes have 80 come through the line! Then we'd quickly see what was in the larder and prepare more. Now, with my family schedule and commitments, I don't cook anymore but coordinate those who do. I feel I can still help in this way.

To any prospective volunteers, I'd say this is good fun and good service. It's a great way to get to know people you wouldn't normally do this with. It's a very enjoyable way to spend a Saturday. There's enough people who have done it before that there's always experienced ones who can serve as team leader. The Shelter staff also has its own Monitor on duty who can help pitch in when needed.

Trust is an element of Faith. You trust that there's always enough quantity and variety of food; and trust that the volunteers will make it edible. I'm hoping that this article will inspire our church to do more community service.

[If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer,
call Simon @ 919.490.5949]

Affirmations: Writings of Inspiration

The writings submitted by you

[These may be your own compositions of poetry or prose. Or song lyrics. Or stories in the first person. Or prayers you've found that moved your heart. Anything that is 250 words or less, is inspirational and resonates with the Unity message of Divine Oneness.]

Prayer of Saint Theresa

May today there be peace within
May you trust your highest power that you are
exactly where you are meant to be...
May you not forget the infinite possibilities
that are born of faith.
May you use those gifts that you have received,
and pass on the love
that has been given to you...
May you be content knowing
you are a child of God...
Let this presence settle into your bones, and
allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance,
It is there for each and every one of you...

Out Of The Mouths Of Babes-- News from our Youth

By Diana Gildea, Youth Ed Director

Our Powerful new Unity curriculum, "The Twelve Gifts from God" focuses on the 12 Powers. This program is designed to help our youth awaken their awareness of their God-given powers and their Divinity within. Each month we will explore a new Power, starting in September with Faith.

Our Youth are brilliant globes of light, shooting and soaring into the universe, perfect expressions of Divinity. They are creative, thoughtful, and eager to learn through discussion, music, art, and action. It is their desires that motivate me. It is their need that serves as the seed and root for the shoots of projects, ideas, and events we have seen and will continue to enjoy around Youth Ed.

The YE Volunteer Team typically meets on the fourth Sunday of each month where we discuss curriculum, planning, training, and special events. Our Youth Service attendance ranges from four to nine kids, who age from 4 to 13. We are delighted to have several new kids who have come regularly over the last few months. We also hold in the light that there is one special (maybe more?) member of our community who is looking to step into the role of Youth Ed educator.

[Be on the lookout for youth quotes, photos, etc. in future issues! If you'd like to help with Youth Ed, please call Diana @ 967.1385.]

MANY HANDS: UCPC's Team of the Month

This Month: The Usher/Greeter Team

[Caroline Demoise, coordinator of the Usher/Greeter Team, describes the purpose, essence, and experience of the Usher/Greeters.]

The Usher/Greeters are the outward face of the church. They are the first ones people, especially the newcomers, see. They are representing what we want to convey to the world. They serve the function of embracing people into the spirit of the church. They are the greeters and welcomers to UCPC on Sundays.

Ideally, an Usher/Greeter is someone who is able to be present and genuinely communicate with another human being. Friendly. Smiling. Enjoys talking with others. Experiences everything with a positive perspective. Graceful in their social interaction. Someone who leaves newcomers with the impression 'I'd like to go back, I'd like to be a part of this community.'

My own experience as Usher has been profound. I experience myself as friendlier and more sociable than usual. Being Usher/Greeter brings out this great quality in me; I bubble up to meet the opportunity in a way that I enjoy. So, for those who think they may be too shy to do this, they might be surprised to find out how friendly and welcoming they can be.

UCPC extends this invitation to any member who would like the opportunity for inner transformation as well as being of service to your church. Please call the church office if you would like to serve as an Usher/Greeter.

UCPC TEAM MEETINGS THIS MONTH:

Board of Trustees: Sunday Sept 16th @ 1-4 pm

Youth Ed: Sunday Sept 23rd @ 1-2

Healing Ministry: Mondays Sept 3rd & 10th & 17th & 24th @ 6:30-7:30pm

Joyful Noise Choir Rehearsal: Thursday Sept 6th @ 6:30-8:00 pm

Community Meeting: Sunday Sept 9th @ 1-2:30 pm

Treasurer's Report				
Date	Attendance	Tithes	Goal	Ave/person
29-Jul	71	\$1,895.00	\$2,000	\$26.69
5-Aug	64	\$1,804.00	\$2,000	\$28.19
12-Aug	66	\$1,002.00	\$2,000	\$15.18
19-Aug	69	\$1,510.00	\$2,000	\$21.88
26-Aug	88	\$1,391.00	\$2,000	\$15.81
Total	358	\$7,602.00	\$10,000	\$21.23
Average	72	\$1,552.75	\$2,000	\$21.69

In The Light: a closer look in the mirror

[Here's where we get 'up close & personal' with ourselves. Each month a different member of our faith community will share with us a bit of themselves. This will be excerpted from their interview with the editor.]

Carolyn Smith

For those of you who don't know Carolyn Smith: next time you're at church on Sunday, introduce yourself to the woman who sits in the armchair at the back of the Sanctuary by the door. She shared this about herself.

I grew up with Unity. My mother learned about Unity when she was in the hospital delivering me. That was 1920, in Cincinnati, Ohio. My parents went to Unity classes then. Because there weren't any youth programs then, I went to Sunday school at the Presbyterian and Methodist churches. I did get to hear Charles Fillmore speak when he was quite old and I was very young!

When I started high school, I didn't know anyone. I had no friends; I was miserable. Then I remembered the Unity teachings I learned when I sat through those classes with my parents. I used the Unity Principles in practice: send out the Love, and the Love comes back. I did that, and in no time I had so many friends! When you apply it, it works. Stop finding fault in people, just accept them.

While I was in high school, I joined the Y.O.U. [Youth Of Unity], and even went to a conference in Lee's Summit. I loved it!

I first came to UCPC when I moved from Cincinnati to Chapel Hill in 1999. After the church split, I've gone to both USC & UCPC. I enjoyed Rev. Terence, but now that he's leaving and they've moved to Chatham County, it's too far for me to drive down there. I have enjoyed Rev. Elizabeth; she's been wonderful. Now she's leaving. I hope the two churches come back together. It would be a wonderful thing for the whole world!

What keeps bringing me back to Unity: it's just the only church there is! I've been to other denominations, but those other churches just didn't do it for me. There's nothing like Unity!

I have to tell you my one claim to fame. In 1938, when I was a teenager and attending the Y.O.U. Conference, I got to dance with Eric Butterworth! Wow! What a thrill that was for me!



[Thank you, Carolyn! You are being prayed for this month!]

September 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
UNITY CARES <i>We pray with these people during the month of September: Barnsley Brown, David & Betty Lou Chaika, Holly Culton, Sheila Dempsey, Marilyn Grubbs, Debbie Hall, Susan Lombardo, Charlotte Harris Provost, Diane Raulli, Kathleen Sisk, Carolyn Smith, & Carol Troutner</i>						1
2 Adult Forum: 9:45 am 11am – 12:30pm Service Speaker: Rev. Elizabeth Thompson "Desired Outcome - Joy" Special Music: Mark Malachi Oneness Deeksha Blessing 1 – 2pm 7:30pm A Course In Miracles <i>Chapel</i>	3 Healing Circle 6:30 – 7:30p <i>Sanctuary</i> Laws of Prosperity 7:30 – 8:30pm <i>Sanctuary</i>	4 12 – 12:30pm Noon Prayer	5 A Course in Miracles 7 – 8:30pm <i>Chapel</i> WildBunch 8 – 9:30pm <i>Sanctuary + Kitchen</i>	6 Choir Rehearsal 6:30 – 8pm <i>Sanctuary</i>	7	8 IFC Kitchen call Simon Kaplan 490-5949 to register More Truth Will Set You Free 10am – 5pm <i>Sanctuary</i>
9 Adult Forum: 9:45 am 11am – 12:30pm Service Speaker: Rev. Elizabeth Thompson "Desired Outcome – Peace" Special Music: Joyful Noise Choir Potluck & Community Meeting 12:30 – 3:30pm 7:30pm A Course In Miracles <i>Chapel</i>	10 Healing Circle 6:30 – 7:30p <i>Sanctuary</i> Laws of Prosperity 7:30 – 8:30pm <i>Sanctuary</i>	11 12 – 12:30pm Noon Prayer	12 A Course in Miracles 7 – 8:30pm <i>Chapel</i> WildBunch 8 – 9:30pm <i>Sanctuary + Kitchen n</i>	13 Unity World Day of Prayer 13-hour Vigil begins at 6am UCPC/USC Service 7pm <i>Sanctuary</i>	14	15 New Member Orientation 1 – 3pm <i>Chapel</i>
16 Adult Forum: 9:45 am 11am – 12:30pm Service Speaker: Rev. Elizabeth Thompson "Desired Outcome – Plenty" Board Meeting 12:30 – 4pm <i>Chapel</i> 7:30pm A Course In Miracles <i>Chapel</i>	17 Healing Circle 6:30 – 7:30p <i>Sanctuary</i> Laws of Prosperity 7:30 – 8:30pm <i>Sanctuary</i>	18 12 – 12:30pm Noon Prayer	19 A Course in Miracles 7 – 8:30pm <i>Chapel</i> WildBunch 8 – 9:30pm <i>Sanctuary + Kitchen</i>	20 Interfaith Chanting 7:30 pm <i>Sanctuary</i>	21	22 Drawing Out Your Soul 10am – 1pm <i>Sanctuary</i>
23 Adult Forum: 9:45 am 11am – 12:30pm Service NEW MEMBER SUNDAY Speaker: Rev. Elizabeth Thompson "Desired Outcome – Fulfilled Purpose" 7:30pm A Course In Miracles <i>Chapel</i>	24 Healing Circle 6:30 – 7:30p <i>Sanctuary</i> Laws of Prosperity 7:30 – 8:30pm <i>Sanctuary</i>	25 12 – 12:30pm Noon Prayer	26 A Course in Miracles 7 – 8:30pm <i>Chapel</i> WildBunch 8 – 9:30pm <i>Sanctuary + Kitchen</i>	27	28 Jewish Erev Shabbat Worship 7:30 – 9pm <i>Sanctuary</i>	29 Joint UCPC/USC Coffeehouse 7 – 10pm <i>Sanctuary & Kitchen</i>
30 Adult Forum: 9:45 am 11am – 12:30pm Service Speaker: Rev. Elizabeth Thompson "Desired Outcome – Knowing" Special Music: Jewelsong 7:30pm A Course In Miracles <i>Chapel</i>	<p>Interested in becoming a Member of Unity Center of Peace Church?</p> <p>Here's your opportunity to decide to make your spiritual home with us A place is being set just for you! Come to the Orientation first, then join on Sept. 23 during the worship service. Please contact Rev. Elizabeth or the church office if you are planning to attend, or if you have any questions.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Orientation to Membership Saturday, September 15 1 – 3pm, Sanctuary</p>					

September's Schedule of Classes

Reverend Elizabeth's Classes:

Reverend Elizabeth Thompson, Interim Minister, will be teaching "Laws of Attraction & Prosperity", Mondays in Sept. @ 7:30-8:30pm in the Sanctuary. Love offering accepted.

Adult Education:

The Adult Forum, Sundays 9:45-10:45am, topic for Sept. 2 will be "Confronting the Spiritual Crisis" (includes a Life Review Exercise from Sept/Oct. '07 *Unity Magazine*.) Other topics to be announced.

Youth Education:

Beginning in Sept.: "The Twelve Gifts From God", based on the Unity teachings, *The 12 Powers*.
September's theme: Faith.

Orientation to Membership: Saturday, Sept. 15th @ 1-3pm. Rev. Elizabeth will be conducting an Orientation Session for all those desiring to declare Unity Center of Peace Church their spiritual home by becoming a member.

Important Community Meeting! Sunday Sept. 9th @ 1-3pm. Join this vital discussion of our options RE: unifying with Unity Spiritual Center and our minister search.



COMING ATTRACTIONS for SEPTEMBER 2007!!!

Oneness Deeksha Blessing:

Sunday Sept. 3 @ 1pm

Annie Viscarra & Obi Mbah will be sharing special blessings with all who wish to receive them. Experience the Divine Energy transfer known as Oneness Blessing. Love offering suggested.

More Truth Will Set You Free

Saturday Sept. 8 @ 10am-5pm

With Stephanie Azaria, practitioner of the Rising Star Healing System. Fee \$100. Pre-registration required. Proceeds shared with Prema Agni Foundation.

Unity World Day of Prayer

Thursday Sept. 13

Vigil begins @ 6am and runs until 7pm

Worship Service @ 7pm

This is our joint service with Unity Spiritual Center. Ask anyone here last year; it's a great opportunity to put the Principle of Prayer to work. Love offering support both churches. Contact church office for prayer vigil details.

Drawing Out Your Soul

Saturday Sept. 22 @ 10am-1pm

Marilyn Grubbs will be facilitating this Touch Drawing process, using material from Deborah Koff-Chopin's *Soul Cards*. Pre-register prior to class, \$30 for materials. Contact Marilyn @ 960-2604.

New Member Sunday

Sunday Sept. 23 Worship Service

For all those who completed Orientation on Saturday Sept. 15th, this service will be your chance to declare your commitment to UCPC, and be welcomed by the congregation. Welcome!

UCPC/USC Coffeehouse @ UCPC

Saturday Sept. 29 @ 7pm

Coordinated by Marilyn Grubbs (UCPC) & Donna Shannon (USC). Call Marilyn @ 960.2604 if you'd like to perform or help with concessions, set up, the door, publicity, etc. All proceeds shared between our two churches.



UNITY CENTER OF PEACE CHURCH

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www.unitychapelhill.org (919) 968-1854

Prayer Line: (919) 968-1854 #2, **Silent Unity** (800) 669-7729

September 2007

