

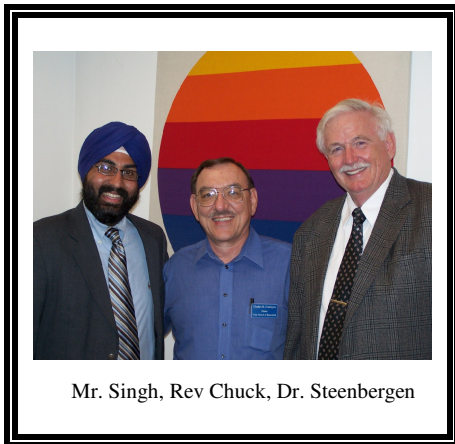
Dear Friends,

There is nothing more exciting than an idea whose time has come. I believe we are entering a new era of interfaith cooperation here at Unity Church of Bakersfield.

Some of the members are planning the first ever Interfaith Harvest Festival in November. They have invited members of other faiths to participate in the annual event of making and selling home made crafts, art, canned food, jams, jellies, and baked goods. It promises to be a great one day event for all. To learn more look for details inside this newsletter.

One of the great ideals that Unity was founded on was that we are all connected. It has been told that when the Charles Fillmore was looking for a name to call this new educational movement he was given the name Unity. The name Unity embraced all the spiritual principles and enhanced the universal concept of pluralism for a whole new group of individuals looking for a new way of life and new a way of understanding how to create loving relationships with God and each other. Thus began the Unity movement.

When I first arrived here in Bakersfield I never envisioned being here this long. As I begin my 15th year as your minister and spiritual leader, I do so with gratitude for all the many lessons you have all taught me. Changes have been made within and without our community of family and friends. And along the way we have been better for them. We have laughed, cried, prayed, enjoyed each other, taught and learned from each other. We watched people come and go. And the amazing thing about all this exchange of energy was that love always prevailed. It is because of this love and understanding that I am able to be and do what Spirit guides me to.



I also believe it is time that this love be taken outside of our walls into the streets of Bakersfield. In an effort to achieve that goal I have accepted the position of president of The Interfaith Alliance of Kern County (TIA-KC).

The Interfaith Alliance of Kern County is a newly formed chapter of The Interfaith Alliance, a nonpartisan organization founded in 1994 and located in Washington, D.C. TIA promotes the sanctity of all the worlds' religions.

As we head into the next few months I would ask that you join me in a vision of a greater unity of all faiths in our community. There is so much we can do to bring about a greater sense of peace, order, harmony, understanding, and goodwill, as we join hands, hearts, and minds with others in making this a reality in our beautiful little corner of the world.

As part of this ongoing process of creating community I will be facilitating a Wednesday night class on Dr. Marshall R. Rosenberg's book, Nonviolent Communication - A Language of Life. If you seriously want to find ways to create a new way of communicating so that you may experience loving relationships, understanding, and greater harmony in your world, then be here for the Wednesday night service starting at 6:30 p.m. August 29th. It's guaranteed to change how you see yourself and others.

Abundant Blessings,



Unity Center - Bakersfield
 1619 E Street, Bakersfield, CA 93301
Your Spiritual Home for the 21st Century

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Mailed with abundant blessings to...

**Rev. Chuck's ongoing class on "Nonviolent Communication" - During Healing Prayer Services,
 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays
 September 8th at 2 p.m. at Borders Bookstore - Youth Empowerment Meeting - ages 14-19
 All Church Potluck and Bingo - Sunday, Sept. 9th after services. Bring a \$5 gift certificate & food!
 S.O.U.L. Meeting - Monday night, September 10th at 7:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
 Rev. Cassandra's class "Spirit/Soul Adventure" begins on Tuesday, Sept. 11th at 10 a.m.
 Potluck after church services Sunday, Sept. 16th followed by
 FIVE WISHES WORKSHOP - \$20 for materials - facilitated by Christina Harris, LCSW
 SAVE THE DATE!!!! Saturday, November 3rd from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Interfaith Harvest Festival!**

Dearly Beloved,

We believe in the power of prayer. During the months of September and October we affirm with you that your faith in God's love is your source of health, vitality, peace, abundance, guidance, and well-being. We affirm divine wisdom, harmony, and understanding in all you do and say. Your prayer request will be kept in our prayer box and affirmed each Wednesday at the healing prayer meeting for 30 days. Then we send it to Silent Unity for another 30 days. We welcome your request.

Please pray with me concerning: _____

Please accept this gift of \$_____ to keep this important work going in Bakersfield.

Abundant Blessings is a bi-monthly newsletter. It is our hope that the articles, activities, and information shared within these pages helps you to create and live a more abundant life.



Unity Church of Bakersfield
2001 Truxtun Ave, Bakersfield CA
93301

Office & Bookstore
1619 E Street, Bakersfield CA 93301
Phone: 661-327-8614

Website: www.unityofbakersfield.org

Prayer: 1-800-669-7729

Those Who Serve You In Love...

- Rev. Chuck Courneyea, Minister
- Rev. Shirley Bring, Minister Emeritus
- Rev. Dr. Cassandra Sheard, Community Liaison, Prayer Team
- Ray Wallace, President of Board of Trustees, Prayer Team, Music Team
- Eric Foss, Vice-Pres. of Board, Webmaster, Audio-Visual Team
- Owen Kulewicz, Secretary-Treasurer of Board, Office Team
- Mark Harris, Member of Board, Maintenance, Fellowship Team
- Sue Berry, Member of Board, Usher/Greeters Team, SOUL
- KD Vargo-Courneyea, Youth Ed Coordinator, YOU Sponsor
- Deborah Goaldman, Coordinator of Bookstore Volunteers
- Beverly Marino, Coordinator of Church Services, Music Director
- Stephanie Apsit, Coordinator of Fellowship Volunteers
- Christina Harris, Coordinator of Social Activities



The gift of life is one of the greatest blessings we can have. With that in mind it is our pleasure to celebrate the following birthdays:

September

- Michael Placencia
- Darlene Saunders
- Joe Gonzales
- Taylor Saunders
- Stephen Campbell
- Dyan Courneyea
- Sara Talesfore
- Kenn Livesey
- Georgeann Kirkpatrick
- Bernadette Salvamoser
- Marie Gulley
- Donald Moore
- Terese Luther
- Harold Shake
- Karen Sickler
- John Zelen
- Anita Willits
- Pat Selzam
- Virginia Garone
- Michelle Courneyea

October

- Rev. Shirley Bring
- Cathy Perfect
- Yvonne Richard
- Barbara Zourek
- Donna Calanchini
- Donna Wright
- Bill Gill
- Christopher Harvest
- Judy Soucy
- Sunny Johnson
- Rev. Chuck Courneyea
- Joan Newland
- Ray Wallace
- Steve Cospers
- John Wright
- Rose Burns
- Renee Eidsenshink
- Andrew Boyd

Our greatest asset is our volunteers. Your greatest gift to God is to be of service for it enriches the lives of all who are touched by it. When you see the following individuals



around the church give them a hug for sharing their “gift of service.”

September

Ushers/Greeters:

- Stephanie Apsit & Jake Ingle
- Julia Davis & Jen Bowling
- Wynter Campbell & Jean Irvine
- Judy & Tom Soucy
- Y.O.U.

Fellowship:

- Anastasia Salcedo & Lynnette Anderson (Potluck)
- Stephanie Apsit (Potluck)
- Y.O.U./Uniteens
- Ray Wallace & Samantha Lopes
- Jeffrey Silva & Windy Lewis

Bookstore:

- Joanie Steckel
- Deborah Goaldman
- Char & Ray Wallace

Platform Assistant:

- Mike Oldershaw
- Marion Owen
- Deborah Goaldman
- Ray Wallace

October

Ushers/Greeters:

- Lynnette Anderson & Marion Owen
- Marilyn Yeich & Kathleen Palmer
- Felicia & Owen Kulewicz
- Y.O.U.

Fellowship:

- Sue Berry
- Deborah Goaldman & Kendra & Kat Oldershaw
- Y.O.U./Uniteens
- Anastasia Salcedo & Stephanie Apsit

Bookstore:

- Joanie Steckel
- Deborah Goaldman
- Char & Ray Wallace

Platform Assistant:

- Mike Oldershaw
- Marion Owen
- Deborah Goaldman
- Ray Wallace
- Margaret Smith

Our Abundance Factor:

Year To Date Income: \$65,190.01
Year To Date Expenses: \$61,533.03
Difference: \$ 3,656.98

As of July 31, 2007



Affirmation for our Green Report:
“As We Give, So We Receive.” Unity church goes understand the truth of this statement with both our hearts and minds. So we give generously and joyfully to our church, knowing we have already received multiplied blessings in return.

Thank you God for Your Blessing upon our church!
And so it is!

Owen Kulewicz
Secretary/Treasurer

Unity Life
By Jaye Naomi

The Divine Fool

After giving my recent Sunday message on trusting, I took off the next day for my longest trip in years.

When I traveled like that, I used to spend the first two days in a frenzy of fear, imagining everything that could possibly go wrong. If I worried about it “enough” I could keep it from happening. This time I wanted to try something new but was asking God “How?” up to the last minute.

Like Chuck, I write the main outline of my Sunday message ahead of time, but the details usually come as I speak, and this time was no exception.

The homework I assigned at the end of that lesson, “Drop your troubles at God’s feet for one minute a day,” was spur of the moment. Only a Fool would do that, right? Well, I told you I would show you how to be a more effective Fool – what I didn’t know was that I was going to show myself, too!

I set out the next morning, and the worries hit.

“No,” I told myself. “All I have to do is drive the car. God has everything under control.”

The worries backed off for a minute.

That minute worked so well, I did it for a second minute. A third, a fourth, a fifth, and so on.

Sure, I had a few hair-raising moments on the trip – some hairy traffic moments, for example – but each time, God took care of things as needed.

The harps are fixed, I had a wonderful visit to Crater Lake, and I even found a velvet Fool’s Cap in a Shakespearean store in Ashland to replace my homemade one!

I’m not a perfect Divine Fool yet – I still have times when trust comes hard.

One meaning of “The fool has said in his heart ‘there is no God,’” is “There is no God in this situation.” When we believe that, we shut God out. Then God can’t act for us and in us in that situation, and we are one kind of Fool – who I think of as the Tom Fool. When we trust, and allow God to be God in our lives, we are the other kind of Fool – the Divine Fool.

I had a lot of fun being a Divine Fool on my trip, and I’m working on continuing here at home.

You can have the same fun every day. The choice is yours.

Blessings on you, and on your house.

S.O.U.L. (Spirits of Unity’s Love)
Will be meeting on Monday,
September 10th at 7:30 p.m. in
fellowship hall. Please join us as we
discuss and plan the Interfaith Harvest
Festival for Unity Church of
Bakersfield! See Becky Eidenshink
for details.

We Love Our Volunteers

It takes many hands in front and behind the scenes to keep the doors open and services in place here at Unity of Bakersfield. We want to thank everyone who gives of their time, talents, and treasures on a regular basis to help Unity be a blessing in the community in which we live. We believe everyone has a gift to share, the “light” that is theirs to share with others so their little part of the world can be brighter. With that in mind, we joyously celebrate the “light” of Sue Berry, who is our Coordinator of Ushers/Greeters, a member of the Board of Trustees, the Board Liaison for S.O.U.L., and our Wellness Team Leader. Please give her a hug the next time you see her. Thank you, Sue. We love and appreciate all that you do.

News ... on the line.

Dateline August 25, south west Bakersfield. A new day, or at least afternoon, has come to the Unity Church of Bakersfield web site. After days of working around the clock, no small feat since the clock is on his desk, Webmaster Eric has added bold new services to the ever changing and growing Unity website.

Visitors to the site are now treated to a totally new look and feel on those web hallowed pages. "I've wanted to get more services on line for our Church," he said. "and now we've added a host of new utilities to let visitors keep up-to-date with what's going on." "We have Rev. Chuck's blog at blog.ucob.org, 'What's In Your Mindset,' which I'm sure he'll be updating every day in his copious free time with his thoughts and new ideas. Then there's our Netcast page, netcast.ucob.org, where you can sign up to get his lessons delivered directly to your computer. There's also an archive of previous lessons that can be reached from that page."

"You can subscribe to several different mailing lists so you'll stay informed about Church events and other happenings; just send an E-Mail to subscribe@ucob.org and be sure your name is part of your return address. In the body of the letter say which lists you want to join."

"You can join classes, special events, Sunday lesson, choir, newsletter, or web site updates."

"There's even a display of the current weather at the bottom of the home page so you no longer have to go outside to feel how cool it is." A truly remarkable feat that's been years in the making is now waiting for you at the Unity Church of Bakersfield web site. Now you too can get your "News ... On The Line."

The opinions expressed in this piece do not necessarily reflect the views of the management or this piece of paper.

FIVE WISHES WORKSHOP

Give yourself the gift of control over your care and peace of mind for you and your loved ones. Please come and complete your Five Wishes document.

Five Wishes is an easy-to-use legal document that lets you plan in advance for how you want to be cared for in case you become seriously ill. Some people refer to it as an "advance directive" because when you complete Five Wishes, you give direction to your doctor and family, in advance, on how you want to be treated.

Without an advance directive like Five Wishes, you may have no control over important medical care decisions that will be made if you ever get seriously ill. Not expressing your wishes can put your family, friends, and doctor in the difficult position of guessing what kind of treatment you want, which could lead to disagreements. Please come join us and complete your Five Wishes document.

**Where: Unity Church of Bakersfield
1619 "E" St. (Truxtun & E)**

When: Sunday, September 16, 2007

Time: 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Cost: \$20 per person

There will be a potluck after the service and before the workshop. Please bring a dish to share with others.

If you have any questions, please call Christina Harris, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, at (661) 302-9999.

Bingo & Potluck!

When - Sunday, September 9, 2007

Time - 11:45 a.m.

Bring a potluck dish to share and a \$5.00 gift certificate per adult for prizes! We'll have games for the kids too!