

Dear Friends,

As we look ahead to the new year we may wonder if peace is possible for our world. I would like to think it is, for within each of us I believe a desire for peace wants to be experienced. However, as the verse of *Let There Be Peace On Earth* by Sy Miller and Bill Jackson states: "Let there be peace on earth, And let it begin with me; Let there be peace on earth, The peace that was meant to be."

If we are to create peace then it must begin within each of us. How we treat others is an example that all children learn from at a very early age. Once they enter the educational system to be "socialized," they learn how to behave around others. When they see how adults disrespect and hurt each other; when they constantly listen to messages of hate, intolerance, and bigotry; when they are told that they have no value, no worth, no opinion; when they are taught to fear others because of their differences; we have created the conditions for the seeds of violence to be planted.

True peace comes from within and begins with me and you. Each of us has a duty, a responsibility to set an example to live and demonstrate peace in everything we do and say. There are no excuses for not doing so, and yet there are those who have lived so long in a violent environment they don't know how to break free. But break free they can. It takes work and commitment to change. True peace comes from loving others and praying for their illumination.

To be a peacemaker requires one to follow five simple steps: 1) Peace in your life must be the ultimate goal; 2) Engage those behaviors and activities that promote peaceful feelings; 3) Action on your part is paramount in changing old beliefs, you can't wait for others to do it for you; 4) Commitment to your goal must be maintained at all times, if you fall, pick yourself up and start again; and 5) Exemplify peace every day.

Prayer is an important part of what we do here at Unity, so when you pray be sure to put feet to your prayers by living and teaching peace. Let's all make a commitment to get involved with peacemaking efforts and projects. During the months of February and March we will be focusing on a project called: A Season for Nonviolence. I pray that you join us as Unity Church of Bakersfield makes a commitment this year to exemplify peace in all we do here. After all, "Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me."

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 class - During Healing Prayer Services, 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays
New Member Orientation Class - Saturday, Jan. 12th 9 a.m. to noon
NO Y.O.U. YUMM Meeting this month due to Membership Orientation
Rev. Ruinese "Cassandra" Sheard's class begins on Tuesday, January 15th at 10 a.m.
Y.O.U. Leadership Workshop (ages 14 and up) Saturday, Feb. 2 at KD's from 9 to 5
New Member Sunday - During Services on Sunday, February 3, 2008 10 a.m.
ANNUAL MEETING & ALL CHURCH POTLUCK - Sunday, February 10, 2008
Bring a dish to share.

Dearly Beloved,

We believe in the power of prayer. During the months of January and February 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 Courneya, 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, Youth Ed/YOU Team
- Mark Harris, Member of Board, Maintenance, Fellowship Team
- Sue Berry, Member of Board, Usher/Greeters Team, SOUL
- KD Vargo-Courneya, 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:

January

- Ina Swartz
- Tina Van Horn
- Randy Brock
- Autumn Zelen
- Eddy Royeton
- Penny Vail
- Dusty Rhoades
- Alexandria Portillo
- Kris Williams
- Andre Portillo
- Tom Flickinger
- Jean Irvine
- Shirley Burlingame
- Becky Eidenshink
- Diana Greenlee
- Wynter Campbell-Sheard
- Faith Lopez
- Tom Soucy

February

- Jose (Rudy) Silva
- Ashley Bohannon
- Allan Walker
- Margie Norbury
- Becky Zelen
- Lorrie Moore
- Olga Bialuk
- Don Steckdaub
- Nella Warren
- K D Vargo
- Phillip Anderson
- Vyn Wayne
- Tracey Wallach



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."

January

Ushers/Greeters:

- Judy & Tom Soucy
- Julia Davis & Marilyn Yeich
- Wynter Campbell & Lynnette Anderson
- Y.O.U.

Fellowship:

- Bev Marino & Paul Kemp
- Ray Wallace
- Y.O.U./Uniteens
- Felicia & Owen Kulewicz

Bookstore:

- Deborah Goaldman
- Joanie Steckel
- Char & Ray Wallace

Platform Assistant:

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

February

Ushers/Greeters:

- Sandy Wagner & Sue Berry
- Julia Davis & Sue Berry
- Jean Irvine & Wynter Campbell
- Y.O.U.

Fellowship:

- Becky Eidenshink
- Lynnette Anderson
- Y.O.U./Uniteens
- Anastasia Salcedo

Bookstore:

- Joanie Steckel
- Deborah Goaldman
- Char & Ray Wallace

Platform Assistant:

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



Our Abundance Factor:

Year To Date Income: \$99,102.70
 Year To Date Expenses: \$96,203.05
 Difference: \$ 2,899.65

As of November 30, 2007

Thank you, God, that Unity Church of Bakersfield has already had a prosperous 2008, all through You, God, The One Source. We gratefully accept this financial abundance! And so it is.

**Owen Kulewicz
 Secretary/Treasurer**

**ANNUAL MEETING FOR
 UNITY CHURCH WILL BE HELD ON
 SUNDAY, FEB. 10TH AFTER SERVICES.
 Potluck lunch at the meeting. All members
 in good standing will be allowed to vote.**

Unity Life By Jaye Naomi

Back to the Garden

In the January 3rd “Daily Word,” are the following lines by James Dillet Freeman:

Do you need me? I am there.
You cannot see Me, yet I am the light you see by.
You cannot hear Me, yet I speak through your voice.
I am the love that you can cling to.
I am your assurance.
I am your peace.
I am one with you.

I haven't much been feeling like God is “there” lately. Recently our beloved cat left us. Yes, we know she is happy where she is, but I miss her terribly. I am also dealing with ancient events and situations that have left me with terrible, terrible pain, fear, and rage. It's hard to find God in all this. It's hard to find God in myself in all of this.

Yet this is exactly where God is.

In fact, it is where God shines the brightest, if only I think to look inside me. It is now, when inside me is the hardest place to look, because the pain is so great, that I need the most to look there – because that is where God is, patiently waiting to meet me in the Silence.

Yes, I forget. Worse, I resist. I run. The same as Adam and Eve did.

When they left Eden, the Bible says the ground was “cursed” for their sake. I have pondered that for decades, because it was in communion with wild, incredible Nature that I first felt close to God.

Then this week it suddenly struck me that perhaps that “curse” was actually a blessing that the rabbis misunderstood.

You see, it has taken me years to become strong enough to face this pain. Through those years, I have had work to do to keep me distanced from it – in fact, I am a do-aholic.

Now, think of Adam and Eve. In the Garden, they had no pain, no shame, nothing to hide from – they were at one with God – they were at one with their own insides. They had no work – only time to be with themselves – with God.

Then they disobeyed, and were ashamed. We all know what that feels like. We can't stand the feeling. We can't stand ourselves. So what do we do? We do. And do. And DO in order to escape.

And God, in His mercy, gave Adam and Eve something to do. He changed the Earth. Now suddenly the man and woman had to work for food. They felt the need for clothing – and to work to obtain materials and cut and sew them. Even more important, they had to obsess and obsess to figure out how to do it.

For centuries, we have talked about “getting back to the garden”. All we have to do is go within. Stop doing, and go into the Silence. That's where God is.

Come with me, won't you?
Blessings on you, and on your house.

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 Ray Wallace who is our President of the Board of Trustees, a Prayer Chaplain, a platform assistant, and a wonderful bass in the choir. He will also be a guest speaker for us on January 20th! Please give him a hug the next time you see him. Thank you, Ray. We love and appreciate all that you do.

GREETINGS FROM THE MINISTRY OF PRAYER BLANKETS....

It's so fulfilling to see so many prayer blankets going out to family and friends for reasons of bringing cheer or comfort. We had 12 more blankets blessed on December 18th, and there are only 4 left. However, we are busy making more.

This is, as you know, a Church Ministry, and is an on-going work of love. We welcome and encourage any and everyone who wants to make a prayer blanket, contribute or donate to blankets, or if you want to give a blanket to someone in need, please feel free to do so. If you have any ideas of how to better accomplish these goals, please let us know.

We had an idea of getting together sometimes during the week and having a sort of old-fashioned sewing bee to make some blankets. We could have lunch and share ideas. If you would be interested in helping or sharing in this fun and fulfilling ministry, please contact either Char Wallace at 872-7932 or Margaret Smith at 392-0640.

PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH FELLOWSHIP! IT'S FUN & EASY. THE CHURCH PROVIDES THE COFFEE AND SNACKS, YOU JUST SHOW UP AND SET IT UP, THEN HELP PUT THINGS AWAY AFTERWARDS. CALL STEPHANIE APSIT TO SIGN UP 833-6015.