

RADIANT LIGHT NEWS

Volume 2, Issue 7

January, 2012

I Walk Through the Open Door in Faith! Happy New Year!



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

WELCOME TO 2012! A NEW YEAR, A NEW OPPORTUNITY, A NEW YOU!

Our 2012 theme scripture is ***"Behold, I have set before thee an open door."*** (Revelation 3:8b)

Our 2012 affirmation is: ***Following my inner star, I confidently walk through the open door to success, peace, power and prosperity. Each day I radiate health, happiness and vibrant joy. I am inspired and inspiring. This is my STAR-POWER YEAR and I dwell in the charmed circle of God's grace and love. I demonstrate my best life ever. Praise God!***

January is faith month. This month we celebrate new beginnings! All new beginnings start with the faith to know that an ending is but a doorway into a whole new world.



As we walk through that door, by faith, we are open to newness, freshness, aliveness and great potential for possibilities and transformation. I've often heard the saying, *"Prayer is the key and faith unlocks the door."* Before we would open the seeming locked doors to our good, we must believe that behind that door there is something better and greater than what we are experiencing. We have to believe that what we seek is available to us. And then we have to believe that we can actually walk up to that door and open it. Some people hold onto years gone by because they either fear that they cannot open the door or that they do not deserve what is behind it.

Like the contestants on the game "Price Is Right," we have to have faith in our ability to choose the right door. We know by now that the game we are in is life and we "win" the prizes of joy, peace, health, love, healing, and prosperity through spiritual means. The quickest avenue to successful living is prayer and faith. Apostle Paul knew this when he said, *"But without faith it is impossible to please God, for he that cometh to God must believe that God is, and that God is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."* (Hebrew 11:6)

JANUARY SUNDAYS AT UNITY LIGHT OF THE WORLD

1st	<i>Following the North Star</i>	Rev. Joanna	Music: Perry Stokes
8th	<i>The Purpose Driven Life</i>	Rev. Steve Willingham	Music: Melody Cole
15th	<i>My Faith is Taking Me Somewhere</i>	Rev. Joanna	Music: Perry Stokes
22nd	<i>StarPower, Part I</i>	Rev. Joanna	Music: Perry Stokes
29th	<i>StarPower, Part II</i>	Rev. Joanna	Music: Melody Cole

I Walk Through the Open Door in Faith! (cont.)



The study of Truth reveals to us that this Universe in which we live is governed and sustained by unalterable spiritual laws. We may consider them all, one by one, a truly exciting study. But until we "step out on the promises" they do not become real to us. **FAITH STEPS OUT ON SEEMING VOID AND FINDS SOLID GROUND! And likewise, FAITH OPENS CLOSED DOORS AND FINDS AN ABUNDANCE OF**

GREATER GOOD! Frances Foulkes has said in her book Effectual Prayer, "*We receive according to our capacity, and the degree of our faith determines our capacity.*" Jesus said it another way. "*According to your faith, it is done unto you.*" (Matthew 9:29). In many instances, Jesus spoke the powerful, positive words of faith that resulted in healings, demonstrations of supply, and even apparent suspending of natural laws to still the storm or walk on water. Always, when asked how it was done, Jesus spoke of faith. There was one time when He asked his disciples, "*Why are you afraid, have you no faith?*" (Mark 4:40). That question is being asked of us today. What are you afraid of, have you no faith? Jesus said not only "have faith", but "*have faith in God.*" (Mark 11:22). There is an often told story about Myrtle Fillmore, co-founder of Unity. In the early days, Unity was having some financial difficulties. Someone went to Myrtle and said, "*Oh Myrtle, I sure hope the money holds out!*" Myrtle's response was, "*I hope the faith holds out!*" **ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE WITH GOD. AND WHEN I ABIDE IN GOD, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE FOR ME!** Faith demands continual growth. As we move into this new year or think about the growth of our church, or, some particular situation in our personal lives, our response needs to be a "holding out" faith. This is the kind of faith that when used, stretches and expands. Like the tiny mustard seed that grows into the largest plant in the garden, our faith needs to grow to meet all of the many situations that come up in our life. We need the overcoming kind of faith -- the "holding out" kind of faith which mirrors that of our co-founders and many other ancestors, as well as modern day heroes and heroines. Think about it, is your faith holding out? Our level of living cannot rise above our level of faith. To live is to grow and unfold and faith will lead us on. "*Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*" (Hebrews 11:1). Charles Fillmore contemplating faith defined faith this way in The Revealing Word, "*Faith is the perceiving power of the mind linked with a power to shape substance. Spiritual assurance; the power to do the seemingly impossible. Faith is a magnetic power that draws unto us our heart's desire from the invisible spiritual substance. Faith is a deep inner knowing that that which is sought is already ours for the taking.*" (p.67) In this month of new beginnings, bring the Invisible to the Visible in greater ways. Think about what is your heart's desire for this brand new year. The blank pages of the new year are before you to write on what you will. What is it that you really want to do? What kind of person do you really want to be?

Don't wait for someone else to open the door for you. Through prayer, activate your faith faculty. Believe that what you conceive in your mind, you can achieve. In fact, know that which you seek is already yours for the taking. There will be many opportunities to awaken your faith this month. Join Unity Light of the World as we celebrate new beginnings and faith and experience a Jubilant January! No doubt, our faith is taking us somewhere!

Rev. Joanna

A Message from Our President, Maisie McNaught



HAPPY NEW YEAR.....HAPPY NEW YOU!

Picture yourself in your mind's eye acting in the manner you would when you achieved all your goals.

There's a stress-free world, with all the monies you desire, optimum health, heightened spirituality, perfect companionship, magical relationships with friends and family. As you continue to live in this tranquil space:

May your heart be always clear, as you find beauty in your soul; and joy of spirit;

May you experience healing within;

May you be awakened in 2012 to love and manifestation of the deepest peace;

May you never forget to pray.

May you always watch your thoughts;

May you always watch your words;

May you always watch your actions;

May you always be aware of habits;

Please do not miss out on the many classes that are available through our church in 2012. (See our Spiritual Education Classes for this year on the following pages)

See you on the path of creating, dancing, conscious living ,and purposeful dreams.

Maisie

WishList

Technology & Wiring for showing DVD's and PowerPoint in sanctuary, Laptop computer, projector, and moving our flat screen TV from educational room to sanctuary.

New church sign

Painting of church



Storage cabinet in activity room

New sound system



Unity Headquarters is designating 2012 as the year to *Discover the Power Within You*, linking with the powerful book of the same name by the late Rev. Eric Butterworth. If you are unfamiliar with the book or with Rev. Butterworth, we invite you to visit www.ericbutterworth.com for more information on the man and on the book that Oprah Winfrey claimed “*changed my perspective on life and religion. Eric Butterworth teaches that God isn’t ‘up there.’ He exists in, around, above and through each one of us, and it’s up to us to seek the divine within.*”

Each month of 2012, as a part of the annual Unity calendar, there will be a different topic, correlating with the top 12 most requested prayer needs received by Silent Unity. At Unity Light of the World, we will join in this movement, while continuing to meditate on our Twelve Power program. In January *Discover the Power Within You* will focus on Healing by working with the idea: *Words of life encourage the healing of my body.* In our Twelve Power program, the faculty to meditate upon is Faith. We are linking the two together. *I have faith that the thoughts I think, the words I speak and the actions I take encourage healing of my mind, body and spirit.* Speak this for yourself today and be uplifted.



Rev. Steve Willingham, Unity Minister, is a favorite at Unity Light of the World. He will be back with us as guest speaker on January 8th to share a New Year’s message of guidance, hope and love. The title of his lesson will be “*The Purpose Driven Life.*”

“Everyday is a donation to eternity and even one hour is a contribution to the future.” Retranslated by Dr. Maulana Karenga From: The Book of Kheti;The Husia



AND OUR SPOTLIGHT IS
ON.....

GRACE VERNON

You may have heard that song "Getting to know you, getting to know all about you....." This spotlight column is an opportunity for us to better get to know the members and friends of our spiritual community .

Grace Vernon has the perfect name. Filled with the grace of God's love, Grace is gracious, giving and a true gift to our community. Born in Kingston, Jamaica, one of seven children (two that have passed on), she is the mother of three adult sons, Thaddeus, Dwayne, and Dean and the grandmother of two grandsons, Lynden and Christian. She left Jamaica at the age of 18 and moved to Chicago. Her time there was spent going to college, working in the health care field and eventually serving as a data entry clerk in the computer business.

After ten years, she came to Miami to visit friends and ended up moving here. She says that the weather, which is so like Jamaica, the ocean, and of course friends were pivotal in her decision to come to Miami. Once in Miami, she opened her heart, mind and hands to carve a life for herself and her children here. Her mother in law asked her to pick up some literature from Unity Light of the World. She stayed for service that Sunday, liked what she heard, and has been a part of the spiritual community for almost 30 years. Through guidance and prayers of Unity Light of the World friends, she flourished.

In addition to her work for an airlines and a bank she nurtured her hobby of floral design, preparing flowers for interested friends and family.

She says, "People saw my floral work and liked it. I was encouraged to venture out. I took a class in floral design". When she lost her job at the bank, she turned to the minister at Unity Light of the World for prayer. Says Grace: "I got the courage to open up this business. I never knew I had it in me to run a business. I stepped out on faith and from day one my business "*Flowers by Grace*" went extremely well. I was able to take care of my home and my business." Grace goes on to say: "Life prepares a person for what he or she is to do." Working at a bank helped prepare me for the business aspect of "*Flowers by Grace*." Everything just came into place in a wonderful miraculous way. Grace says she walked through the open door with faith. "When you're supposed to do something, God will move all obstacles out of your way."

Along the way, a lot of good things have happened in my business. I have had some wonderful contracts, including work for the Super Bowl in 1995 which brought a lot of media attention to my store and got some more corporate customers. Over the years Grace has gotten quite a few honors and certificates of appreciation for the work she has done in the community.

"I love being a florist. I enjoy what I do," says this gifted gardener. One of the joys in life is her beautiful home garden. Everyone who sees it is awed by the beauty. It is spectacular, says one friend. "It is my way of communing with God. I can lose track of time nurturing and tending my garden. In the tiniest of detail, you can see how awesome God is."

Exquisite floral design. Large variety of flowers and gifts. Local, National and International Delivery. Flowers by Grace, 18156 NW 2nd Avenue, Miami, FL 33169.



I AM THE NEW YEAR



I am the new year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time. I am your next chance at the art of living. I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last twelve months. All that you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination. All the good that you tried for and didn't achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires. All that you dreamed but didn't dare to do, all that you hoped but did not will, all the faith that you claimed but did not have -- these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose. I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to Him who said, "Behold, I make all things new."



THIS IS THE YEAR

Russell A. Kemp, adapted

Wonderful, wonderful fortunate you,
this is the year your dreams come true!
This is the year that your ships come in;
this is the year you find Christ within
This is the year you will be glad to live;
this is the year you have much to give
This is the year when you know the Truth;
this is the year when you find new youth.
This is the year that will bring happiness;
this is the year you will live to bless.
Wonderful, wonderful, fortunate you,
this is the year that your dreams come true!

2012 Spiritual Education Classes at Unity



Finding the Missing Peace Meditation Class by Developing the Christ Within

Monday, January 9

We will continue four more weeks at 7pm in the sanctuary. Using the material from the Unity book: Christ Enthroned in Man by Cora Dedrick Fillmore, this is a class in meditation practice. Practicing the Silence as part of the prayer and meditation process is fundamental to Unity teachings. During this course attention will be on the Twelve Powers and their physical locations. The benefits of the meditation process and different methods to deal with resistance to it will be explained.

Development of the Unity Movement

Sunday, January 15, 1-3

In addition to tracing the evolution of the Unity movement from its birth in the minds and hearts of Myrtle and Charles Fillmore to the present day, the intent of this course is to pose two questions for reflection and response. The first of these questions is "What role does the Unity movement play in my personal unfoldment?" The second question is "What is my role in the development of the Unity movement?" Required text: *The Story of Unity* by James Dillet Freeman. This class will also serve as a Membership Orientation for those wishing to become a voting member of this church. Our next Membership Sunday to be announced. To become a member you must have a sincere desire to practice spiritual principles and to support this Unity Center.. At the end of this class, participants will schedule to meet to plan a visit to Unity Village to take place later in the year. Facilitator, Rev. Joanna

Passport to Transformation Class: 4T - Tithing of Time, Talent and Treasure

Two Opportunities: Sundays, beginning January 22 – April 1. 4:00-6:00 PM

Mondays, beginning January 23 – April 2 . 10:00-12:00

Join facilitator Rev. Joanna for this powerful 12-week course in raising prosperity consciousness. 4T is a **tithing program** that offers proven results and a powerful support system, which enables people to change their consciousness. The result is a deeper spiritual awareness, loving relationships, financial security, job satisfaction, creative ideas, improved self-esteem, and better physical health. Visit 4tprosperity.com for more details. *NOTE: Due to the 4T Prosperity Program dynamic, this course closes after the second session—so be sure to call to pre-register! Pre-registration required. Cost \$49.50 covers materials.*

Bible Overview of Hebrew Scriptures

Begins Wednesday, January 4 –February 22

An eight week course in the study of The Hebrew Scriptures (Also Known As The Old Testament) . Credits from Unity Institute available upon request. This course uses the term "Hebrew Scriptures" in place of the more commonly used term "Old Testament." *Overview of the Hebrew Scriptures* introduces the rich history of the Hebrew Scriptures, known in Hebrew culture as *Tanakh*, and provides a framework for future study. Learners will explore the history and development of the Hebrew Scriptures through stories, exploration of events, and discussion of the perspectives from which the books of the Law (Torah), the Prophets (Nevi'im) and the Writings (Kethuvim) were written. The course identifies the main story lines and historical periods of the Hebrew Scriptures. It begins with the allegories of Genesis and traces the history of the Hebrew Writings (Kethuvim) were written. The course identifies the main story lines and historical periods of the Hebrew Scriptures. It begins with the allegories of Genesis and traces the history of the Hebrew people from the call of Abraham through the Patriarchal period, the Exodus, the period of the Judges, the United Kingdom, the Divided Kingdom, the Exile, and the post-Exile period. Required by Unity Institute for credit: *The Bible* (New Revised Standard Version required); *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time* by Marcus J. Borg, published by Harper San Francisco. Instructor, Rev. Joanna (continued on next page)

Ash Wednesday Begins Our Lenten Meditation Series

February 22nd To April 4th 630pm – 7p

Ash Wednesday is the start of Lent, the 40 days of preparation before Easter. The 40 days represent the time Jesus spent in the desert, fasting and enduring temptation. Traditionally, Lent is observed by fasting, both from foods and festivities, and by other acts of self-denial and repentance. The three traditional practices to be taken up with renewed vigor during Lent are prayer (justice towards God), fasting (justice towards self), and charitable giving (justice towards neighbor). Come learn what Lent is all about. Why would you choose to "give up" something for Lent... and what should that something really be? How can you prepare to resurrect your spirit? Using the 2012 Unity Lenten materials, we will meditate on these divine ideas.



Minister's Book Study

March 7th To April 25th.

Rev. Joanna leads us in this church wide book study and discussion class. One of the newest books published by Unity, *Do Greater Things* stems from the New Testament (John 14:12: "Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do, and in fact, will do greater works than these ..."). The book describes in easy-to-understand terms who Jesus was and what it means to follow his example. Searcy outlines the nine spiritual practices Jesus lived and taught—vision, faith, prayer, gratitude, forgiveness, humility, community, death and service. She says, "As we develop a daily routine around these practices, we awaken our own divine qualities and learn what it means to live in Christ Consciousness, to awaken to that highly evolved level that Jesus demonstrated, every day." Searcy explains. "I take it out of the abstract, and I give very practical suggestions on how to incorporate what Jesus taught into our daily lives.

Bible Overview of the Christian Scriptures

Wednesdays, June 6th To July 25th

An eight week course in the study of the Christian Scriptures. Credits from Unity Institute will be available. *Overview of the Christian Scriptures* explores the Gospels, Letters, History (Book of Acts), and Apocryphal literature (Book of Revelation) that comprise what is more commonly known as the "New Testament" of the Judaeo-Christian Bible. It is not a course in metaphysical Bible interpretation. A primary purpose of the course is to develop an understanding of the Christian Scriptures' meaning for the people to whom they were written. Understanding the Christian Scriptures as a Testament *about* Jesus Christ rather than a Testament *of* Jesus Christ frees us to appreciate and become inspired by the powerful faith of these first followers of The Way. Required by Unity Institute for credit: *The Bible* (New Revised Standard Version required); *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time* by Marcus J. Borg, published by Harper San Francisco. Instructor, Rev. Joanna

Background of the New Thought Movement

Mondays, July 2nd to August 20th

A seven week class that explores the origin and development of the ideas, beliefs, and theories that characterize the New Thought movement, looks at the expression of those ideas, beliefs, and theories in the various New Thought religions, and briefly examines the work of some of the more notable New Thought writers and teachers. Unity Institute credits available upon request. Required: *Spirits in Rebellion* by Charles S. Braden; *Friends in High Places* by Thomas Shepherd --published by Unity Instructor, Rev. Joanna



UNITY QUOTES ON FAITH

Faith is the highest expression of belief or confidence (Atom Smashing Power of the Mind, Charles Fillmore)

Anyone who has faith in Spirit and the power of the word spoken in faith can send it forth, and like the radio oscillation, it will be picked up by receptive minds everywhere (Atom Smashing Power of the Mind, Charles Fillmore) .

The man who is grounded in faith does not measure his thoughts or his acts by the world's standard of facts (Jesus Christ Heals, Charles Fillmore).

Faith is the perceiving power of the mind linked with a power to shape substance (Prosperity, Charles Fillmore).

The office of faith is to take abstract ideas and give them definite form in substance. Ideas are abstract and formless to us until they become substance, the substance of faith (Prosperity, Charles Fillmore).

Whatever you form in the mind and have faith in will become substantial. Then you should be on guard as regards what you put your faith in (Prosperity, Charles Fillmore).

Faith is the inner assurance that what we desire already exists in the invisible realm of Spirit and can, by the exercise of our faith, be brought into being (Be Ye Transformed, Elizabeth Sands Turner).

The spiritual substance out of which visible wealth comes is never depleted. It is right with you all the time. It will respond to your faith in it (How to Let God Help You, Myrtle Fillmore).

All things are possible, not because God makes an exception for you by reason of your pleas, but because your faith is a key to the kingdom of the power within you to apply the laws that transcend human limitation (Celebrate You, Eric Butterworth).

Faith is really your consent to let your own uniqueness unfold and to let that which is attracted by your uniqueness manifest in your life (Spiritual Economics, Eric Butterworth).

Even as physical bodies require exercise, so faith, as mental muscle, must be developed by use (Keep a True Lent, Charles Fillmore).

It seems certain beyond doubt that, in a group of people gathered in prayer and meditation, people of an above average spiritual level of belief, faith is multiplied (How To Use The Power of Your Word, Stella Terrill Mann).

Your faith is your future: your faith is the nature, the power, the presence of God within you (Like A Miracle, Ernest C. Wilson).

We need to stand firm in faith, for faith is the substance out of which the new state of consciousness and everything it will produce are brought into being (Revelation: The Book of Unity, Paulson & Dickerson).

Faith is the assurance or confidence of the mind that invisible substance is the source of visible material things (Christ Enthroned in Man, Cora Fillmore).

Faith is a power accessible to everyone and free for the taking. It will enable anyone to overcome every challenge, every seeming handicap or obstacle that confronts, no matter how insurmountable it may seem (A New Way of Thinking, Charles Roth).

Faith is strengthened as you speak your word. Every time your consciousness hears words of Truth you are building up your faith, you are strengthening your faith (The Magic of Your Word, May Rowland).

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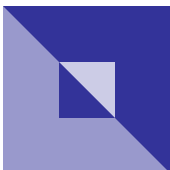
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