



# Unity Church of Light

Newsletter

November-December 2009

**Unity Church of Light**  
2809 Yale Blvd.  
St. Charles, MO 63301  
(636) 723-7000

## **SERVICE TIMES:**

**Sunday Service:**  
**10:30-11:45 am**

Prayer Services:  
Wednesday  
11 am & 6:30 pm

**Minister:**  
**Rev. Blaine Tinsley**  
Days off are  
Monday and Tuesday;  
he can be reached  
Wed.-Sun.  
through the church office.

**Office Manager:**  
**Paulette Makurat**  
Office Hours:  
Monday-Thursday  
9:00 am to 2:00 pm  
E-mail:  
unitychurchoflight  
@sbcglobal.net  
Web site:  
[www.unitychurchoflight.org](http://www.unitychurchoflight.org)

**Newsletter editor:**  
**Mare Proso**  
trusteemember  
@yahoo.com

## **Merry Christmas!**



Dear Friends,

Are you as excited about the Christmas season as you were when you were a child? When you travel and see the Christmas lights, decorated trees, and Christmas scenes in store windows, do you ever say to yourself, "Christmas does not have the same wonder and mystery as it did when I was a child?"

If you feel disillusioned about Christmas, you have an opportunity to look at the season differently this year, and to embrace the spirit of Advent. The way to do this is not by simply looking for excitement through Christmas decorations and festivities, but to seek the wonder of Christmas within you. The celebration of Advent is in an inner journey and transformation, in which we allow our consciousness to "birth" the Christ Presence within us.

On the four Advent Sundays we will have an Advent wreath and candles on display at Unity Church of Light, as we celebrate hope, peace, joy, and love, in preparation for Christmas. The round shape and green color of the Advent wreath represent life without beginning or end. Every week of the Advent season one candle is lit. The three blue candles used for the first three weeks symbolize

the hope, peace and joy we feel as we prepare to welcome the Christ into our lives. The pink candle, lit on the fourth Sunday, represents the love of God expressing through us. The white Christ candle, in the middle of our advent wreath, is lit on Christmas day to represent the birth of the Christ within us.

The Advent season reminds us that we can illuminate those areas of our consciousness that appear to be blocked from the light. When we embody the Spirit of God, and allow the essence of the Christ to be born within us, we see things differently, and everything takes on new beauty. As a result of this awakening to God's glory, we feel new appreciation for the Christmas celebrations, which we embrace with even more splendor than we did as children.

Come and join us at Church of Light this Christmas season as we lovingly support each other in bringing forth the Christ Spirit. Richard Carr will inspire us with beautiful Christmas music during our Candle Lighting Service on Christmas Eve. We will release old thoughts and beliefs during the Burning Bowl Service on New Years Eve. Georgy and Mr. Dill will share their musical gifts with us as we participate in this transformative ceremony.

I pray that your Christmas will be filled with hope, peace, joy and love. I behold the Christ in you, and know that you are always in our prayers.

Love and Blessings,

*Reverend Blaine Tinsley*

# Let's Count Our Blessings

by Mare Proso, President, Board of Trustees



As the leaves on the trees put on a lovely display of various hues for us before dropping off and carpeting the ground in a delightfully crunchy manner, I am reminded of another kind of autumn. Just as the trees burst forth in visual splendor prior to the apparent death of winter, we humans have the opportunity to express all our gifts before the illusion of death.

Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote:

"A few can touch the magic string,  
And noisy Fame is proud to win them:—  
Alas for those that never sing,  
But die with all their music in them!"

For those who listen to Wayne Dyer, you know that in his PBS seminars, he often refers to this quote from Holmes. Once we get past the outer world's pressure to "succeed" in outer ways, we are typically in the autumn of our lives. That allows us the opportunity to succeed on the inside



"You are the light of the world."

and bring forth our hidden splendor to bless those around us.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, let us remember to count our blessings for all the lovely individuals who are part of our church and for the Light they express daily. We truly are the Light of the World. Each of us in our True Being is Light. Together, we are like the individual flames you see in the fire in your fireplace on these cool evenings. We are all part of the One Light, yet if you stare into the fire, you can see the individual flames which make up the larger Light of the Flame.

So, stir up the gift of God in you and express more of the Christ within. We will all rejoice in being part of such rich blessings among us.



## Blessings of the Season

by Sharon Lindsey,  
Licensed Unity Teacher,  
Prayer Chaplain Trainer

Season Blessings from  
Unity's Prayer Chaplains

Our Prayer Chaplains want to join you in the celebration of the birth of Christ this holiday season by holding you in God's sacred light. We wish you a blessed holiday season and a new year filled with hope, love, peace, joy, and a greater awareness of God's good in your life.  
God bless you.

## UNITY CHURCH OF LIGHT BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**President, Mare Proso 573-470-2432**

**Vice-President, Joyce Robbins 636-294-2337**

**Secretary, Sarah Carr-Jordan 314-921-8666**

**Treasurer, Janette Bizzell 636-946-2688**

**Member, Priscilla Edwards 636-928-0295**

**Member, Rev. Blaine Tinsley 636-723-7000**



**LIGHT SEEKERS  
BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**  
2nd Sunday of the month  
after service  
November 8, 2009 and  
December 13, 2009

Mare Prossio will facilitate the discussion about the new book *The Noticer* by Andy Andrews. Join us as we read about one unusual old man who impacts the lives of others in a simple yet profound way. Copies of the book are available in the church bookstore.



**UPDATE TO  
FRIENDSHIP BOOK**  
Sunday, Nov. 15 and 22  
after service

Vernetta Holmes will take photos with her digital camera so we can get our Friendship Book up-to-date. We also need updates on contact information (someone in your church family may want to send you a Christmas card!). We are planning pages that you can insert into your existing book.



**VOLUNTEER  
APPRECIATION**  
Sunday  
November 22, 2009

We appreciate all our volunteers. Please join us as we celebrate your contributions to our church.



**ALL-UNITY  
THANKSGIVING SERVICE**  
Wednesday, 7:00 pm  
November 25, 2009  
Unity Christ Church  
33 North Skinker Blvd.  
St. Louis

Come and join Rev. Blaine and other area Unity ministers and congregations for this annual celebration. The evening promises to be inspiring, love-filled, and joyful with inspirational messages, live music and songs.



**DEEKSHA BLESSING**  
Wednesday, 7:00 pm  
December 2, 2009

The founders of the Oneness University, Sri Bhagavan and Sri Amma, believe the solution to humanity's suffering can only be found through each individual being elevated to a state of causeless love and limitless joy, to transfer him or her into an awakened state of Oneness. This is being done through the transfer of the Oneness Blessing which is usually transferred by the blessing giver placing his or her hands on the crown of the recipient's head. It can also be given by intention from a long distance away in meditation, over the phone or the internet. Oneness Blessing/Deeksha is dogma-free and does not belong to any particular religion, philosophy or belief-system. (Ananda Angela Donna Taylor 314-775-4762 or [deeksha2enlightenment@yahoo.com](mailto:deeksha2enlightenment@yahoo.com))



**CHRISTMAS  
UNITY CAFÉ**  
Friday, 7:30 pm  
December 4, 2009

**Michelle VanHoose with Bill Lehman** will be our guests for this café. Come enjoy your all-time favorite Christmas songs at this special Unity Café.



**PRAYER CHAPLAIN  
DEDICATION**  
Sunday  
December 6, 2009

During this ceremony, we will welcome new prayer chaplain, Karen Maresca.



**CHRISTMAS  
CANDLELIGHTING  
SERVICE**  
Thursday, 7:00 pm  
December 24, 2009

The truth about the Christmas story is that it is not just an event that took place long ago, far across

the ocean. It is not just a story of a cold night in a barren stable where a young maiden brought forth a child... the Christmas story is our story. It is enacted within us every day of our lives, it is a cause for rejoicing and wonderment each time it occurs, and it can occur as often as we allow it to. We will bring to life the powerful metaphysics of the Christmas story in our Candle Lighting Service. We will see how each person, place and thing in the Christmas story represents an aspect of our own spiritual journey to the birth of the Christ consciousness within us. During the service everyone will have the opportunity to light a candle for themselves that represents the birth of the Christ within.

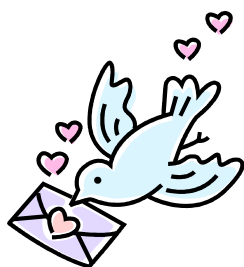
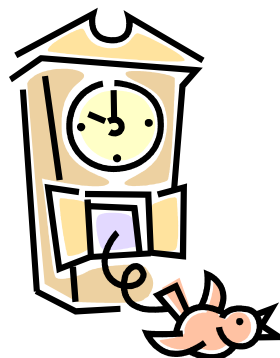
Richard Carr will provide special music for this transformational night. As we sing Christmas songs we will gain a deeper sense of the Christ within. Join us on Christmas Eve as we celebrate Christmas with our family and friends.

The Burning Bowl service is a spiritual ritual of renunciation and affirmation. After burning and releasing negative beliefs, we will write letters to God using affirmations of our heartfelt desires. This will be a powerful ceremony of letting go of 2009 and welcoming in 2010.

Georgy Rock and Mr. Dill will inspire us with their transformative, uplifting music.



**On Saturday night,  
October 31, don't  
forget to turn back  
the clock one hour  
since daylight  
savings time ends at  
2 am November 1.**



**NEW YEAR'S EVE  
BURNING BOWL SERVICE**  
Thursday, 7:00 pm  
December 31, 2009

# Children's Ministry

by Kate Hammond, Youth Ministry Director

First I would like to thank everyone for the help and support I have received as the new Director of the Youth Ministry. The month of September was a finishing up of the "In the Forest of Finding Out" lessons which Joyce O'Neill and many others had carried out so beautifully. Unity Church of Light and I are very grateful for all their hard work and diligence in "filling in" the missing weeks and months. The new curriculum started at the beginning of October: "Basic Unity Principles for Children" exploring 5 of Unity's Basic Principles through activities: The Magic of Theatre, Movement & Games, Creative Arts, and Fun with Food & Science. Each Principle is explored in depth for one month through these weekly "Creation Stations" focusing on different aspects of the same Unity Principle. This program has been newly written in 2009 and offers a creative learning experience for our children to develop their own understanding of the Principles and to use them in their lives. They are encouraged to be aware of their own spiritual power and to use these powers to make choices that benefit all. Working along with me to implement this program and create a "New Sunday School" atmosphere

## Prayer Chaplains:

- ♦ Kate Hammond
- ♦ Vernetta Holmes
- ♦ Sharon Lindsey
- ♦ Diane Luebbert
- ♦ Joyce Robbins



## Outreach Ministry by Judy Schmidt

**CAREGIVERS:** We'd appreciate your help with our fundraiser on November 22. Gift items are needed along with baked goods (they do not have to be homemade, and re-gifted items are welcome). Fleece Quillows and Linus (children's) blankets will also be sold. The money raised will go toward purchasing fleece for blankets, which are given to cancer patients and children in crisis, and for grocery gift cards for the Women's Shelter in St. Charles. For our Christmas Outreach in December, we will be collecting gift cards for the St. Charles Crisis Nursery families. These may be purchased at church or at a store of your choice. More information will be given with announcements at church. THANKS for your support.

**DRESS FOR SUCCESS:** The ladies receiving your

are teachers Abena Madkins, Jane Thomas, and Kayt Hawley as well as our co-teacher Priscilla Edwards. We may be slow to start but we are inspired, confident, energized and excited about the unfolding of these new experiences from and for our children in the Youth Ministry.

The Children's Ministry welcomes more Teachers and Co-Teachers who are interested in teaching or assisting once a month with our children. Please express your interest by contacting Kate Hammond (Mrs. M): e-mail: [katerondack@yahoo.com](mailto:katerondack@yahoo.com), cell phone: 518-598-8141, or home phone: 314-831-9665.

"Our mission is not to entertain the children, but to call them out. To be always entertained is to be dwarfed and dependent. To be 'called out' is to follow the harmonious law of soul's unfoldment."

—Myrtle Fillmore

Blessings, Mrs. M. (Kate Hammond)

## Licensed Unity Teachers:

- ♥ Vernetta Holmes
- ♥ Sharon Lindsey
- ♥ Joyce Robbins



donations want you to know how much the clothing means to them. Thank you to Priscilla Edwards for delivering them. When making room for your new clothes, remember to bring the gently used business clothes here! Hangers and tax receipts available in the furnace room.

**OASIS FOOD PANTRY:** The OASIS Food Pantry has expanded, making it easier to serve the clients along with more storage space. The food drive on the 4th Sunday of the month has been well-supported and the pantry appreciates our donations. The Thrift Store is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm with proceeds going to help the pantry buy items in short supply and pay their bills. All help is by volunteers.

NEWSLETTER

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Web site: [www.unitychurchoflight.org](http://www.unitychurchoflight.org)

Mail to



## Unity Church of Light

10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship  
and Youth Education

Please advise the church of any address, name, phone, or e-mail changes. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please call (636) 723-7000 or e-mail [unitychurchoflight@sbcglobal.net](mailto:unitychurchoflight@sbcglobal.net) and request to have your name removed from our mailing lists. Thank you.

# CELEBRATIONS

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- Nov. 22 Eric Madkins
- Nov. 23 Louise Marks
- Nov. 29 Kay Kuerschen
- Nov. 30 Vernetta Holmes

- Dec. 11 Dayle Barrett
- Dec. 11 Janette Bizzell
- Dec. 21 Victoria Knapp
- Dec. 28 Chris Silvey
- Dec. 31 Jean Whitener



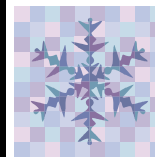
### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- Nov. 1 Jerry & Jane Thomas
- Nov. 3 Rick & Gail Detwiler

- Dec. 12 Charles & Elida Ziegler



If you have a November or December birthday or anniversary that is not listed, please call or e-mail the office.



Before the snow flies, I invite you to help clean the piece of Hwy. 370 off and on ramps at Elm Street which UCOL has adopted. It is no longer too hot to be outside, so let's get a group together and demonstrate our commitment to community service!

Mare Prossio, President

