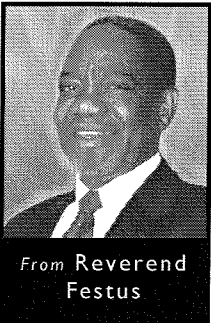




The VOICE

Unity South Church

January/February 2010



From Reverend Festus

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end," (Isaiah 9:6)

This is a prophetic proclamation worthy of being shouted from the top of the mountain.

As Christmas fades to memories and the New Year begins, it can be easy to also store away all the good feelings and intentions associated with the holidays. *(continued on page 2)*

The Twelve Powers

Tuesdays, January 12—March 2, 7:00pm-9:00pm at Unity South

Join Rev. Festus for an enlightening look at the 12 Powers which are central to the Unity belief. Please read full class details, as well as a personal invitation from a previous class attendee, on page 4. Based on Charles Fillmore's book, the class explores the meaning and significance of the powers in our everyday lives.



Unity South Mission Statement

To inspire individuals along their path to spiritual unfoldment, to encourage actions that affirm the Divine nature in each other and to recognize and bless the powerful potential in all people.

Our Beliefs

- God is absolute good, everywhere present.
- Human beings have a spark of Divinity within them, the Christ Spirit within. Their very essence is of God, and therefore they are also inherently good.
- Human beings create their experiences by the activity of their thinking. Everything in the manifest realm has its beginning in thought.
- Prayer is creative thinking that heightens the connection with God-mind and therefore brings forth wisdom, healing prosperity and everything good.
- Knowing and understanding the laws of life, also called Truth, is not enough. A person must also live the Truth that he or she knows.

Saturday, February 27, 10:00am—1:00pm

What people are saying ...

"Delves into the miraculous while remaining grounded in real life"

"Provides remarkable evidence for the ability of dreams to inspire, to empower, and to heal"

"A necessary and welcome basis for exploring everyday life"

Transcendent Dreaming: Stepping into Our Human Potential

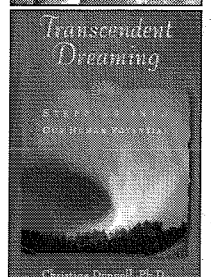
Discover transcendent capacities—spontaneous healing, prophecy, clairvoyance, stepping out of time. Approach a state of oneness with all creation, dormant in humans, but ready to be awakened.

By special engagement, internationally-renowned speaker, author and teacher Christina Donnell, PhD, comes to Unity South Saturday, 2/27.

9:30—10:00 Continental Breakfast
10:00—1:00 Presentation & Workshop
1:00—1:30 Book Signing

Registration required. 952-884-6656 or office@unitysouth.org

Early Bird Registration before 2/21: \$30. After 2/21 and at the door: \$35.



Go Tell it on the Mountain (cont'd from pg 1)

But we must work to consciously keep the spirit of Christmas even as we return to work, school, and the cold of a Minnesota winter.

One does not have to be a Christian to be stirred by the words of prophet Isaiah, for they echo our hearts yearning for an assurance of a new dawn to illumine the human condition. A friend of mine, from another spiritual tradition once said to me that the Christmas narrative is a universal story. It is a story whose power is in its simplicity that belies its universality. The yearning for new light to illumine our path and transform human condition is etched in our DNA. This yearning doesn't stop when the stores take down their holiday displays, it continues on into January and throughout our daily lives all year long.

We yearn for something transcendent to lift us out of our human folly and arrogance. We seek something to save humanity from its propensity towards cycles of violence that unleash thoughtless and heartless suffering, which has always been a part of human history. In a moment of mystical insight, Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 8:19: *"For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God;"*

Once again in history, we are living in a dangerous time of uncertainty. Many have been facing an uncertain economic future; their hopes fading with each passing day. For some, suffering and economic deprivation have become the chronic conditions of their existence, such that they often are no longer in our radar screen of care and concern. Some among us may be dealing with grief resulting from foreign wars, or tragedies at home.

Let us remember that the words of the prophet Isaiah were uttered at time when the conditions were equally or even more grim and discouraging than today. We cannot help but realize that the home of this prophet, from where those words originated, has never seen any semblance of peace for centuries.

Yet, something must be special and holy where Jesus walked! It is, after all, also a region that has seen many

spiritual giants and holy men and women over a long history. The holiness is to be found in another plane – a plane which mortal minds may never touch, and are too often afraid or unwilling to tread. We are reminded again that if there is ever going to be peace on earth, we must search for it in our own hearts, for that is the only place it can begin, and then spread. A glow from our light can certainly help to illuminate the world.

For we are each a child of the promise, and the government is upon us - to usher in a new universal human, conceived with undying love in our hearts, and compassion as our weapon of mass transformation. In this new vision, we can see the captives of every limiting condition set free, and we discover that hope and prosperity abound for all.

Our simple story of the birth of a child becomes even more poignant and powerful given the condition of our world. It must be continually remembered, after the season is past, and it must be told from the mountain tops. In the midst of desperate human condition, a child is born...a star peers through the thick cloud of human condition of death, hatred and suffering and proclaims:

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

In the midst of human suffering and struggle for meaning often despairingly, the Star of Bethlehem peers through the thick cloud and tugs on our hearts and counsels us to look heavenwards...a Child is born!

Happy New Year!

Yours truly, in the Service of Peace and Love,

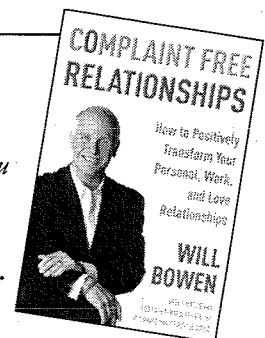

Reverend Festus

A look ahead... COMPLAINT FREE RELATIONSHIPS

"If you don't like something change it; if you can't change it, change your attitude. Don't complain."

—Maya Angelou

A 7-week Sunday Message Series by Rev. Festus, focusing on the new book by Minister Will Bowen, internationally-known for his **Complaint Free World** teachings. Starting after Easter.



From the Board of Directors

Not long ago I was discussing Unity South with an outsider. Even though she had never attended any Unity Church, she was somewhat familiar with Unity philosophy and what Unity South has to offer. I found myself talking about the greatness and wonder of Unity philosophy with her, and then I expressed confusion about why, with all we have to offer, we are not growing by leaps and bounds. She agreed that what we have to offer is indeed profound and wonderful, and immediately questioned whether we at Unity South are ready to handle growth – does the infrastructure necessary to accept more people, more activities, and more outreach currently exist at US? I thought she was on to something. With all the changes at US over the past few years, perhaps we were not ready, as a community, to grow. But now we are. To adapt a cliché, “If you build a church, people will come.”

We are ready to build, so that more may come. More congregants. More services. More activities. More classes, workshops, events. To build, the Board is planning a kick-off retreat to brainstorm, plan, set goals, and make a timetable. This **Church Builders Project Retreat** is January 29 & 30, and you are invited.

I look forward to working with you – whether you are able to attend The Church Builders Retreat or not – to build our church.

With Love,
Jim Rasmusson
 President, Unity South Board of Directors

Sunday Worship Special Music

January 17
 Dennis Warner
 Guitar & Vocals

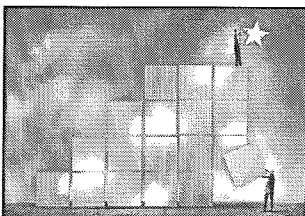
January 24
 Rachel Holder
 Vocals

February 7
 Jimmy Steffan
 Holly Circle

February 14
 Mariene Kreitlow
 Piano & Vocal

February 21
 Y.O.U. Service

February 28
 Laura Preves



Church Builders Project Retreat January 29 & 30

Church Builders—we are building programs and strategies to grow.

Project—we are setting a timeline to create and implement plans.

Retreat—we will be meeting off-site with a professional facilitator.

***This is your invitation to co-create
 Unity South Church of the Future***

The time is now and we want **you** to be with us as we create the path of Unity South.

Our goals? To meet your needs, and to expand our reach and influence in the community—the state—the world!

Momentum, enthusiasm, resources—all are aligning to make this happen.

To join us, please talk to Rev. Festus, Karen in the church office, or any board member.

US Wish List

*(either in-kind or designated
 monetary donation)*

Paper Shredder
 (\$150-\$200)—now that we are preparing our year-end financials, we are in dire need of a high quality commercial paper shredder (not the small home office type, but a heavy-duty, more durable style.)

Snow Blower
 (\$400-\$600)—for the extra heavy storms, like the one we had at Christmas this season.

Portable Paper Folder
 (\$240)—folding bulletins, inserts, and congregational mailings would be so much easier and efficient with a time-saving letter folder that has flexible settings.

Homage to Mother Earth

According to the Dagara Cosmology of the Indigenous Tribe of Burkina Faso, West Africa, this year is an EARTH year. Mother Earth, our home, our foundation, our support, our stability, is a living breathing entity. So this year, my resolution is to honor Mother Earth in everything I do.

At first this commitment began as a popular New Year's Resolution: to not buy anything new, but only purchase items that are consumable (i.e. food and toilet paper), previously owned, or absolutely necessary (underwear). But after seeing the film *Avatar*, I was inspired to expand my resolution into a full commitment to Mother Earth this earth year.

The lead female character in *Avatar*, Neytiri, a warrior of the planet Pandora, is tasked to teach Jake Sully, a human controlling an avatar body, the ways of her tribe. Among lessons in flying and riding animals through a process of bonding, Jake meets the ancestors of the people while praying to the Tree of Souls and learns to respect the balance of life by

mourning the death of creatures that were preying on him moments before they died.



The spiritual connection among all living creatures on Pandora illumined a sort of utopia I believe is possible here on earth. My spiritual teacher tells me that what we see in our imaginations is reality, just as I have learned in the Unity teachings that "thoughts held in mind produce after their kind." So this year, I hold in my mind the belief that Mother Earth can be and is as beautiful as Pandora, and that all the living creatures on this planet share a deep spiritual bond that create a balance of life.

So, my resolution for 2010 has expanded. While I shop for clothes in Savers and on eBay, I commit to offering gratitude before and after every meal, I resolve to enjoy the beauty of nature every day, and I promise to appreciate the spiritual nature of every person, animal, and living being I encounter every single day.

-TeriLeigh Schmidt

Dear Unity South,

You should take this 12 Powers Class from Rev. Festus because not only will it enrich your awareness of your own personal power, but it will be a lot of fun!

Don and I took this class from Rev Festus way back in 1998 and again more recently. We found that Festus has such passion for the Unity Truth Principles and his class will bring alive your own passion and power!

I remember being assigned a month, a power and learning the color, the disciple, the one word description such as "will", then when called upon, we did a small skit, acting out our assignment. "Like David and Goliath, we will we will rock you", in this awesome class!

Join us!!!

Sharon & Don
Rollefson,
LUTS

S.E.E. Credit Classes

For information on SEE classes offered at other local Unity Churches, please visit our website.

Twelve Powers (SEE Class 801)

Unity South Church

Tuesdays 7:00-9:00 PM, January 12 – March 2
10 SEE credits

Instructor: Rev. Festus Umeojiego

Explore the 12 fundamental attributes of Divine Mind that form our spiritual nature and express themselves through our minds as divine ideas and faculties. Through the use of Truth Principles, you will create a new you and a new destiny.

You can still join even if you miss the 1st class! Call or Email the church office to register. A love offering will be collected; if SEE Credit is earned, SEE fees apply.

We Appreciate our Volunteers!

So many people give so much every week to keep Unity South operating smoothly. As this newsletter is being typed, **Ron Belter** is in the kitchen, scrubbing the stove. The week of Christmas, brand-new congregant **Steve Good** called the church office and said he would bring over his snow blower and personally make sure the sidewalks were cleared for the Christmas Eve services. **Missy Mound** and **Tom Anderson** operate the book-store as volunteers; **Peg Thomas** volunteered to fill the Office Manager role in an interim role (which turned out to be longer than expected!) **These are just a few of many stellar examples of the giving hearts of Unity South family members**—and though too often acts of volunteerism may seem to go unnoticed, please know that we all are appreciative. Starting with our next issue, we will focus each month on one volunteer—both to provide the recognition that is deserved, but also to hopefully inspire anyone who is sitting back, hesitant for any reason, to step up and pitch in. **To nominate a volunteer, please contact the church office.**



Lending Library

In our lower level is the volunteer-run Lending Library, which operates on the honor system. Periodically we ask that you look around your home, and please return any items you have borrowed. In addition, if any of you made a New Year's Resolution to clean out the clutter, please consider donating your gently used spiritual texts to our library.

Memorials

Unity South has been blessed to receive some memorial donations from family, friends and co-workers of people who have made their transition recently — Alyce Dawn, Rev. Ken Williamson, and Bob & Virginia Ternand (Chris' parents). Unity South Church appreciates any donations received in memoriam. Gifts may be made to the general operating fund of the church, or designated for a specific purpose. When contemplating memorial donations during 2010, please remember Unity South Church as an option.

Communications Information

Church Telephone 952-884-6656
 Church FAX 952-884-0534
 Silent Unity 816-969-2000
 Church Inspiration Line 952-888-6282
 Church Prayer Loop
 Mary Kovach 952-881-2251
 Arlene Fuselier 952-884-6058

Neighboring Unity Churches

Unity Golden Valley 763-521-4793
 Unity East 651-731-5330
 Unity North 763-754-6489
 Unity of the Valley 952-895-0745
 Unity of St. Paul 952-894-9109
 Unity of St. Cloud 310-259-4006

On the Web

Email office@unitysouth.org
 Website www.unitysouth.org

Newsletters

- Weekly e-newsletters are emailed every Thursday. Subscribe on our website, or contact the Unity South office.
- Direct submissions to THE VOICE (bi-monthly newsletter) to the Unity South Office.

Direct all questions to Office Manager Karen Peterson, by calling 952-884-6656 or by email, office@unitysouth.org.

UNITY SOUTH CONTACTS

Minister

Reverend Festus Umeojiego
 651-323-3180 (cell)
 umeojiegof@q.com

Rev. Festus' Office Hours
 Tue—Thu 10am-4pm

also available by appointment and as needed

Board of Directors

Jim Rasmusson, President
 763-546-4156
 Rasmusson@comcast.net

Yvette Trotman, Vice President
 952-233-1188
 jovette@usfamily.net

Chris Ternand, Treasurer
 952-525-9506
 terna001@gmail.com

Mary Jo Bartos, Secretary
 952-933-5413
 MaryJo_Bartos@cargill.com

Tom Mound, Director
 612-386-3473
 raptor03@comcast.net

Kelli von Heydekampf, Director
 952-829-0114
 kellivonheydekampf@earthlink.net

Organizational Structure

Pastoral Care Ministry
 Leader: Lindy Anderson
 952-949-0487
 rtlama@yahoo.com

Financial Ministry
 Leader: Bob Anderson
 952-949-0487
 rtlama@yahoo.com

Worship Ministry
 Leader: LaVonne Rasmusson
 763-546-4156
 Isras3544@comcast.net

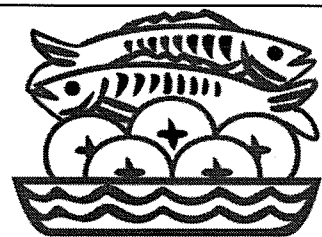
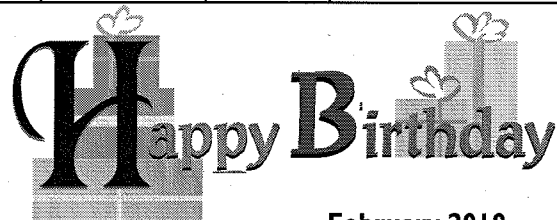
Adult Education
 Leader: Wendy Snow
 952-936-9846
 graciesnow@mindspring.com

Youth Education
 Leader: Joy Portzline
 952-884-6656
 joyportzline@comcast.net

Office Manager
 Karen Peterson
 952-884-6656
 Monday—Thursday 9:00—4:00
 office@unitysouth.org

A Course in Miracles
 Leader: Cheryl Berg Weinman
 612-309-6898

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JANUARY Power: Faith Disciple: Thaddeus Color: Blue	4 7PM Women's AA	5 11AM Silent Unity Prayer Service	6 7PM A Course in Miracles (ACIM)	7 12 PM Worship Committee	8	9 9:30-noon MAGNT <i>Beliefs vs Truth</i>
10 YOUTH MINISTRY BREAKFAST 8:30 Interactive Service 10:00 Worship— Healing Service	11 7PM Women's AA	12 11AM Silent Unity Prayer Service 7-9 PM 12 Powers (1/8)	13 7PM Board Meeting (<i>off-site</i>) 7PM ACIM	14 6:30-8:30 EFT Group	15	16 9:30-11:30 Women's Group <i>Resolutions; Spiritual Dancing</i>
17 8:30 Interactive Service 10:00 Worship	18 7PM Women's AA	19 11AM Silent Unity Prayer Service 7-9 PM 12 Powers (2/8)	20 7:15 Adult Ed Meeting 7PM ACIM	21 7PM Board Meeting	22	23
24 8:30 Interactive Service 10:00 Worship 12:00 Life Enrichment Circle (<i>Brigman Group</i>)	25 7PM Women's AA	26 11AM Silent Unity Prayer Service 7-9 PM 12 Powers (3/8)	27 7PM ACIM	28	29 Loaves & Fishes Church Builders Retreat	30 Church Builders Project Retreat (<i>see page 3</i>)
31 8:30 Interactive Service 10:00 Worship						



Loaves & Fishes

It's our turn again! We are privileged to help feed our neighbors by preparing and serving a meal through Loaves and Fishes in Bloomington. Friday, January 29, 3:00—8:00 at Creekside Center, located at 98th Street & Penn Avenue.

Many hands are needed to make our supper a success. Come for 1 hour or stay for 5—you will make a difference in the life of a hungry neighbor. *Excellent Youth Service Opportunity!*

Sign up in the Atrium or contact the church office to help. Coordinators Leif and Karen Nestingen plan all the details, so it's easy and fun.

Volunteering gives as much to the helper as the helped. Start 2010 by giving yourself the gift of volunteering.

If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one. Good works are links that form a chain of love.

~ Mother Teresa

January 2010

1 Mike DesMarais
4 Wayne Martinson
7 Laretta Taggart
8 Bill Jordan
9 Mary Louise Bodinski
11 Don Ramler
14 Lisa Sanders
15 Gayle Roberts
18 Jim Rasmusson
18 Carlotta Posz
22 Carole Fink
22 Linda Ruth
25 Joan Hurd
27 Wendy Snow
28 Edith Washington
29 Pam Brown

February 2010

2 Cindy Rolek
2 Hans Gasterland
3 Joni McBrien
4 Tally Wright-Wells
4 Jane Johnson
9 Leif Nestingen
11 Cathi Droz
11 William Christoferson
12 Missy Mound
12 Courtney Anderson
12 Bill Coyne
13 Randy Sheets
14 Betty Dexter
14 Kathy Hager
16 Jane Spaulding
17 Tom Mound
20 Art Hubbs
20 Sissy Monn
20 Christine Ternand
22 Marian Karalis
24 Debbie Vargas
25 Brenda Taylor

Are we missing your birthday? If so, please let us know so we can include you next year!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
FEBRUARY Power: Strength Disciple: Andrew Color: Light Green	1 7PM Women's AA	2 11AM Silent Unity Prayer Service 7-9 PM 12 Powers (4/8)	3 7PM ACIM	4 12 PM Worship Comm. Meeting	5	6
7 YOUTH MINISTRY BREAKFAST 8:30 Interactive Service 10:00 Worship	8 7PM Women's AA	9 11AM Silent Unity Prayer Service 7-9 PM 12 Powers (5/8)	10 7PM ACIM	11 6:30-8:30 EFT Group	12	13 9:30-noon MAGNT
14 8:30 Interactive Service 10:00 Worship	15 7PM Women's AA	16 11AM Silent Unity Prayer Service 7-9 PM 12 Powers (6/8)	17 ASH WEDNESDAY <i>Evening Service</i> 7PM ACIM 7:15 PM Adult Ed Meeting	18 7PM Board Meeting	19	20 9:30-11:30 Women's Group 9am-2pm New Member Ori- entation (1 of 2, 2nd session 3/6)
21 First Sunday in Lent <i>Look for a Unity Lenten Booklet to guide you during the season of Lent—we will have them available at church.</i> 8:30 Interactive Service 10:00 Worship: Y.O.U.	22 7PM Women's AA	23 11AM Silent Unity Prayer Service 7-9 PM 12 Powers (7/8)	24 7PM ACIM	25	26	27 Transcendent Dreaming Christina Donnell, PhD 9:30—1:30 (see page 1)
28 Second Sunday in Lent 8:30 Interactive Service 10:00 Worship						

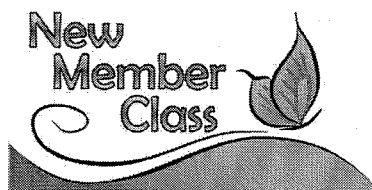


Youth Ministry Breakfasts—January 10 & February 7

Not just pancakes any more—the youth of US provide breakfast once each month, with proceeds going to benefit youth programs, retreats, and other activities at Unity.

Women's Group—Saturdays, January 19 & February 20

Hey ladies, join us in January to look at whether New Year's Resolutions are needed in our lives, and then some Spiritual Dancing led by Carlotta Posz. February topic is still to be determined, but this group never fails to provide a fun and interesting gathering. This is a wonderful way to get to know the women of Unity in an informal setting.



New Members Classes—Saturdays Feb 20 & Mar 6

Have you been attending Unity South and want to be a voting member? Would you like to become more informed and involved in our community? We encourage you to make the commitment! Become a member of Unity South Church (just in time to exercise voting rights at the Annual Meeting, coming March 21st.) Register by calling the church office, or sign up in the Atrium. Talk with Rev. Festus if you have any questions.

Y.O.U. Service—Sunday, February 21

For over twenty years, Unity South's Y.O.U. has led at least one Sunday worship service each year. The youth take care of everything from selecting the music to delivering the message. It is always inspiring, so don't miss this one!



Unity South Church
7950 First Avenue South
Bloomington, MN 55420-1201

www.unitysouth.org

January/February 2010

PLEASE READ!

NOTICE:

We are working hard to decrease the resources needed to communicate with you.

Please call or email us, indicating which of the following you wish:

1. Continue to receive this printed newsletter
2. Receive an electronic version of this newsletter
3. Remove your name from our distribution list completely.

office@unitysouth.org
952-884-6656

Thank you!

**Sundays
at Unity South**

8:30 am Interactive
Worship

Marlene Qualle

10:00am Worship
Service

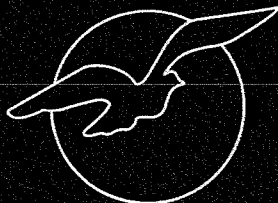
Rev. Festus Umeojiego

Sunday School

Child Care

Y.O.U.

ASL Interpreter



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Look inside for information on ...



New Class with Rev. Festus

The Twelve Powers

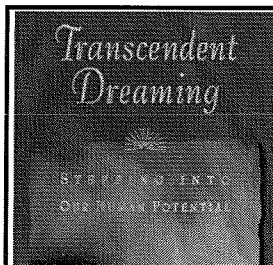
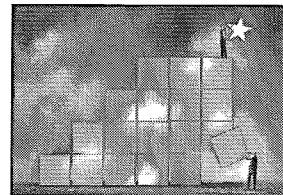
Discover the meaning and significance of the powers in your everyday life

Tuesdays 7pm-9pm, January 12—March 2

Important congregant opportunity
Church Builders Project Retreat

January 29 & 30

Your chance to co-create the future of Unity South!



Exciting Adult Education Opportunity

**Transcendent Dreaming:
Stepping Into Our Human Potential**

Bridge the chasm between self and universe

Saturday, February 27, 10:00—1:00