COMMUNITY

Seven Epicenters of the Unity Movement

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 5 JUNE 2017

JUNE EDITION OF COMMUNITY

y wife Christina has often said that she would love to find a paper that only printed good news! I think she'll agree that this issue is jampacked with good news!

If you can travel up to Unity of Blue Ridge on the 10th to their *Spiritual Summit "Our Love is Power"* you'll experience the wisdom of New Thought giants Marianne Williamson, Rickie Byar Beckwith and Rev. Jack Bomar. Also present will be Native American and Hawaiian elders and music as well! It would certainly fit well in our two-page Interfaith spread but it is Unity to the core!

The concept of Synchronicity is an importance metaphysical touchstone for many including myself. Originated by Carl Jung, the Psychoanalyst who died in June of 1961 and was born in July of 1875. **Community** will be celebrating this world teacher both this

month and next with a look at Synchronicity. Rev. James King of Unity of Greenville has been kind enough to allow us to print extensive material from his book *Dancing With the Universe, Lessons in Synchronicity* which is available from Amazon.

You'll find a fine profile of Rev. René & Marie Pare of Unity of Wilmington and what an inspiring story that is! We are always looking for profiles of congregants to showcase the extraordinary people we have among us in our various churches/centers, so please feel free to praise someone you love in writing! Pass them along to your minister so that we can publish them.

The last bit of GoOD news we have to share is that Unity of Hilton now has Rev. Therese Donlan Lee as our minister! If you haven't heard of the Nehemiah Retreat which she and Tom Lee founded you'll learn about it in July.

INTERFAITH NEWS

he UICC (Unified Interfaith Community Coalition of Beaufort) will be presenting an all weekend long Spiritual Reconstruction beginning Friday the 16th with an Evening of Rememberance, honoring the Mother Emmanuel Nine, continuing Saturday the 17th with a Spiritual Reconstruction Cele-



bration. Details and poster inside.

Happy Summer Solstice! Traditional cultures around the world observe the changing of the seasons and in our modern world it remains a beautiful means of connecting with the natural world and of honoring Mother Earth.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- ♥Profile Rev.René and Marie Pare
- ♥ Our Love is power!
- ♥ Dancing With the Universe, Lessons in Synchronicity
- **♥** The Summer Solstice
- ♥ Spiritual Reconstruction
- **♥** Yet More Positive Memes



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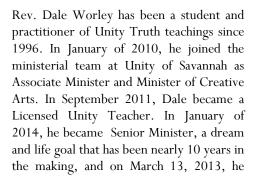
THE STORY OF THIS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is the confluence of several streams. It began as a suggestion by Rev. Nat Carter for a newsletter serving multiple churches based on a similar one that he published in the northwest. The seven church/centers came because of connections that your editor has made with folks primarily through SEE classes. It is a rather arbitrary selection in that several SC churches are not among them and the two

out of state churches are the only ones from their states. The **CommUnity** churches are geographically diverse, ranging from Unity of Savannah in the Coastal Empire of Georgia, up through the Lowcountry of South Carolina, on into the Grand Strand area of coastal South Carolina, stretching on into Brunswick County, NC, and our lone representative of the Upstate region of SC, Unity of Greenville.



UNITY OF SAVANNAH, GA

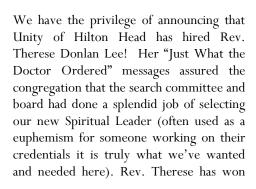


was licensed as a Unity Minister through Unity Worldwide Ministries Field Licensing Program. Dale graduated from the Field Licensing Program at Unity Village on March 19, 2015, and was ordained at Unity of Savannah March 22, 2015 by Rev. Shawn Moninger of Unity Center of Norwalk, CT. He currently serves as Vice President of UMMAS.

www.unitysavannah.org



UNITY OF HILTON HEAD, SC



the trust of our better than a dozen prayer chaplains. She lives on the high watch!

Rev. Therese and her beloved/departed Tom created the Nehemiah Retreat to Unity Village, like a Habitat for Humanity. Their work has resulted in the restoration and rededication of the Tom Lee Fountains and Courtyard in the heart of the Village.

www.unitychurchofhiltonhead.org



UNITY OF MT. PLEASANT, SC

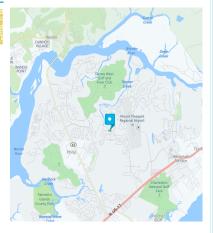
Kimberly Renollet Heck is the Spiritual Leader of Unity of Mt. Pleasant and is on a ministerial path through Unity Urban Ministerial School.

In the past few months she has conducted a Burning Bowl Ceremony, a White Stone Ritual Service, explored Louise Hay's Book, *You Can Heal Your Life*, led participation in James Twyman's 'The Great Abra-

hamic Pulse' among many other things!

A congregant says "From my very first visit I felt at peace and at home here. I've only been a part of Unity for two years now, but I've enjoyed every moment. It's the most accepting and loving environment I've ever experienced." Just what I would expect to hear about Kimberly's house!

www.facebook.com/unitymtpleasant





UNITY OF CHARLESTON, SC



Rev. Ed Kosak has been at Unity Church of Charleston since July of 2002. He found Unity in 1989 when he walked into Unity of Chicago and experienced a wonderful meditation. Walking out the door that day, he consciously said to himself: "I'm gonna be a Unity minister someday!" He was ordained in June of 2002 and has been in Charleston ever since. Ed's personal mission statement is: "Facilitating the spiritual

and emotional transformation of those I serve, and to promote unity in our diversity."

Rev. Ed has had a deep and abiding calling in Interfaith work and now serves as the New Thought Representative on the board of IPSC (Interfaith Partners of South Carolina).

www.unitychs.org



UNITY OF MYRTLE BEACH, SC



Rev. Margaret Hiller took over the ministerial duties at Unity Christ Church of Myrtle Beach in April of 2005. She has over 35 years in ministry, presenting in churches, hospitals, colleges, and mental health agencies. Her wisdom and zest for life flow into humorous and heart-connected Sunday messages about current life issues.

Margaret holds a Master's degree in Thera-

peutic Psychology and has vast experience in many areas of counseling. She and her husband, David, co-authored the book *Dare to Dream: Healing Fears, Creating Miracles and Living Your Dreams.* She and David travel extensively in the United States conducting worship services and presenting a variety of workshops.

unitymyrtlebeach.org



UNITY OF WILMINGTON, NC



Rev. Mindy Tucker's ministerial career began as Education Minister for her church of origin, Unity Church of Hawai'i. Prior to Rev. Mindy's tenure at Unity of Wilmington, she spent two years as Senior Minister in Hartford, CT.

After receiving a Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Southern California, Rev. Mindy earned a Masters in Busi-

ness Administration from the University of Hawai'i. After 20 years of corporate service, Rev. Mindy re-engaged in Truth studies and became a Licensed Unity Teacher in 2008 and an ordained Unity minister in 2013. Rev. Mindy is in a loving, committed relationship with her partner, Dr. Nickie Golden, who is also a Unity Minister.

unitywil.com



UNITY CHURCH OF GREENVILLE, SC



Rev. James King knew at an early age that he would become a minister. He had been involved with three non-denominational churches in Indiana, and has been the Spiritual Leader at Unity Church of Greenville since 2004. He was ordained as a Unity minister earlier this year. Music—writing and playing—is a passion for James. He is the author of the books *Dancing with the Universe: Lessons in Synchronicity* and *Jesus*

Never Said That!: But What He Did Say Could Change The World.

James has served on the Board of Directors for the Greenville Interfaith Forum and is President of the Board of Directors for Unity Ministers of the Mid-Atlantic States (UMMAS).

www.unitychurchofgreenville.org

REV. RENÉ & MARIE PARE

BY REV. NICKIE GOLDEN

nity of Wilmington is a spiritual community built on the foundation of love by Rev. René Pare and his beautiful wife Marie Pare. Their love of God and willingness to say yes to the call of ministry continues to touch lives today after 40 plus years. René recently shared with me some of his ministry highlights that include his being admitted to ministerial school at Unity Institute, being ordained, and watching his spiritual communities grow.

The call to ministry began over forty years ago when René and Marie met their first Unity minister Rev. Jack Boland in Detroit Michigan and were quickly drawn to new ways of living through Unity Principle. During their initial encounter Rev. Jack handed them a card with the telephone number of a prayer ministry called the Dial -A -Thought. Their call to that number eventually led them to a workshop entitled Positive Uses of the Mind. Application of the tools learned in that workshop transformed their lives in a matter of weeks. They begin to give their tithes from a consciousness of joy living by the directive given in 2 Corinthians 9:7 "God loves a cheerful giver" and immediately experienced a turn around in their financial circumstances. René once shared that he would not write a check to pay a bill unless he could do so from a place of joy. If he did not feel joy he would ask Marie to write the check to pay the bill. What a beautiful example of living Principle!

René and Marie moved to Wilmington NC and started a study group that would eventually become Unity of Wilmington. One summer, René travelled to Unity Village to take classes for two weeks. It was during this time he decided to answer his call to

ministry, returned to Wilmington, sold their house, and moved his family to Lee's Summit to begin ministerial school.

René and Marie returned to Wilmington in 1985 after successfully serving ministries in San Diego, California and Orlando, Florida. The decision to return was influenced by a single question posed by Rev. Edwene Gaines: "If you are not where you want to be, doing what you want to do, why not?" Their answer led René and Marie back to Wilmington where the study group hired its first minister, René Pare, and began the process of becoming Unity of Wilmington. By 1989 the community had outgrown its physical space and needed to expand. René and Marie practiced Principle, as Charles Fillmore had done years before, and began a building fund with their contribution of two cents. Soon others were participating in the expansion by buying wall studs for \$1.50 each and placing their name on them. Bricks were purchased with individual's names and laid in front of the new building. People began to show up to assist as the movement of Spirit brought forth plumbers, painters, roofers and interested helpers at just the right time. Today we continue to feel the energy of love that infused each stud, brick and heart that contributed to expanding the presence of Unity in Wilmington.

After many exciting years of service to Unity of Wilmington René and Marie retired from ministry. But, does a minister ever retire? René answered this question with one of his own: "Do you ever retire as a person?" I know that I am one of many people who have been blessed by knowing René and Marie Pare, and since there is no private good, we have all been blessed.

"René once shared that he would not write a check to pay a bill unless he could do so from a place of joy. If he did not feel joy he would ask Marie to write the check to pay the bill. What a beautiful example of living Principle!



René & Marie Pare

CommUnity

A service of **Unity of Hilton Head**

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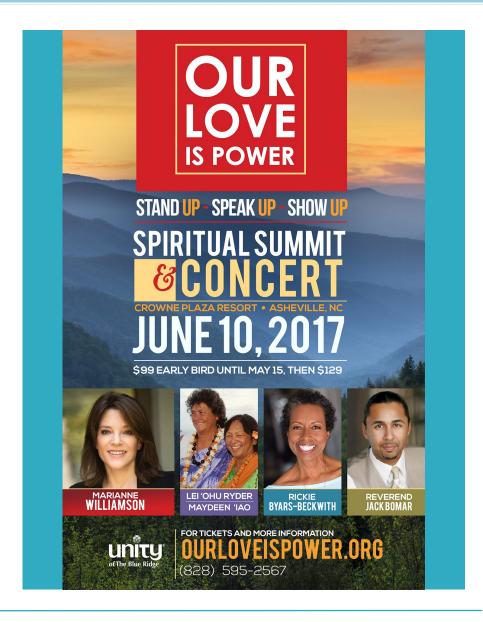




Rev. Darlene Strickland

"My vision for *Our*Love Is Power began with an inspired Call to Action and Pledge. Now is the time and we are the ones! Not only do we proclaim a gospel and believe in inclusivity and love... we are here to champion our emerging world of a Beloved CommUnity."

Rev. Darlene Strickland. Senior Minister Unity of The Blue Ridge



Summit Purpose

Engaged Spirituality. To gather community around a common cause and higher purpose.

A day of inspiration, motivation and collaboration Affirming and honoring the common Spirit in All -Building bridges, connections and partnerships and Igniting inspired Love in action.

Premise

Love connects us through our common spirit and emboldens us to actively live as a Beloved CommUnity. Love unites us in Peace, Compassion, Generosity and Respect for the sanctity of humanity, Mother Earth, and all creation.

Our Love is power. Empowered Love is greater

than any authority or influence acting in service of prejudice, greed, divisiveness, hatred or violence.

Our power is Love. We pledge our Love in Action. We Stand up, Speak up and Show up in support and common caring for each other, all creatures and Mother Earth.

Manifesto & Pledge

I stand as an Ambassador, Advocate and Activist for the sanctity of All life.

I AM my brothers keeper, I AM my sisters keeper, I AM a keeper of the Earth and all sentient beings. I commit to TURN
UP the volume of
Love, Dignity and
Respect for All. I
commit to STAND
UP and TAKE
LOVING ACTION
as needed.

I will not become numb or disconnected or pretend I don't see the harm or wrongdoing.

I will not remain silent when Love needs a voice. Not only do I proclaim a belief of inclusivity and love.

I AM now championing our emerging world of a Beloved CommUnity.

I will Stand Up. I will Speak Up. I will Show Up!

I Pledge My Love in Action... Will you join me?

To register visit: ourloveispower.org

DANCING WITH THE UNIVERSE, LESSONS IN SYNCHRONICITY

BY REV. JAMES KING

Step 1 Awakening the Soul

In each of us are heroes; Speak to them and they will come forth. ~Anonymous

We have been like spiritual Rip Van Winkles who have been asleep for many years. The spiritual side of ourselves has been ignored. Your soul is part of your true and natural self and has the answers to all of life's most perplexing questions. Your soul is the container of the joy and fulfillment you long for. Awakening that part of you is beginning of real wisdom and knowledge. The soul knows the deepest truths of your being. It can show you what your purpose is and how to fulfill it. The awakening of your soul will fill the nagging hole of emptiness that everyone feels. Once awakened, you will begin to discover the steps to a dance that you were made for, a dance you were invited to long ago and is still going on. It's the soul's dance of joy and purpose. Dancing denotes joy and joy comes from the soul. The purpose of the soul is to follow the joy, which leads to greater experiences of joy! The amount of joy you experience in your life is relative to how awakened your soul becomes.

The very fact that you realize you have a soul is a message to you. It is the opening of a doorway to becoming who you were meant to be. The soul only deals in truth and can help you break through the falsehoods you have believed about yourself. The soul will introduce you to the deeper aspects of your true and natural self. The spiritual awakening becomes a turning

point on your journey and it is a life changing experience.

How do I wake up?

There are basically two ways to awaken someone.

Sirens, loud voices, shaking and crisis (drama)

Gentleness, soft voices, caresses and quiet (love)

Your soul will respond to either choice. Many people only connect with the soul when there is a full-blown crisis. They beg and plead for help trying to make a deal with the Higher Power. "If you will help me out of this trouble I will change and be a better person!" The Higher Power responds with aid and assistance. The problem with this scenario is that the only time a connection is made with the soul is when there is a crisis. A crisis-oriented person soon forgets the soul and needs another trauma in order to feel their loving connection with the soul again. Of course the very reason for the constant drama is the disconnected spiritual life.

The other choice is to invite the soul in to your quiet moments of inner communion and connect in a quiet and gentle way. This allows for a healing of the disjointed feelings of separation, confusion, and loneliness. Instead of an ambulance service your soul becomes your teacher and guide. Be gentle and allow yourself to feel the stirring of this wise friend and companion. We have many lessons to learn and each revelation will bring more freedom into your life.

What is the next step?

Continued on page 7





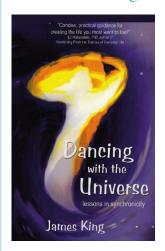
Rev. James King

Editors Note:

The concept of Synchronicity is an understanding that the things we call coincidence, because they occur with no causal relationship, may be found to be meaningfully related. We owe this to analytical psychologist Carl Jung, I have long felt that the frequency and intensity of synchronicities in my life are an indication that I remain on my path, that I am in the right place at the right time.

"The soul is not satisfied with anything less than true intimacy and will always seek the heart of the mater. At the core of the universe is unconditional love. Love is the very center of all things. It is your center, the world's center and the center of the universe."

Rev. James King



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DANCING WITH THE UNIVERSE, LESSONS IN SYNCHRONICITY

Cont. from page 6

Step 2

Oneness

All are one. This is the basis of all truth. All people are connected to each other. We are family. We are all related to every being in the universe. The only separation that exists is that which we create in our minds. Outwardly we appear to be separate but we are held together by the one Spirit that we all are. This is a truth that must be understood before anything else can make sense. A sign that your soul is awakening causes you to notice the sense of oneness with all that is. Being aware of this oneness changes your view of the world and the universe. No longer is everything "out there." The world and the universe become inner landscapes into which your soul can journey.

The Intimate Universe

Oneness means that I have an intimate relationship with the universe. In a very real sense I am the universe and the universe is me. We are so closely joined that it is nearly impossible to tell where one begins and the other ends. The universe is my partner and is willing to share with me all of the wonderful secrets that my soul is ready for. Anything less than universal principles cannot fill the soul's vast desire for growth and expansion. Thoughts of strife and division are not the kind of nourishment your soul needs. Anything that contracts or takes away from something else is a divider and is moving further away from your soul. Through intimacy I can gain the experience of integration and healing of all the parts of myself. I can be whole. This is the dance of the soul with the universe as they move together. The revelation of oneness opens the door to a new center that was always there.

The Center of the Universe is Love

The soul is not satisfied with anything less than true intimacy and will always seek the heart of the mater. At the core of the universe is unconditional love. Love is the very center of all things. It is your center, the world's center and the center of the universe. Love is the force that brings us together. People are naturally drawn toward love. The real food of the soul is love and intimacy. We will experience a sense of separation without it. Love and intimacy are the essence of the spiritual life. As you expand your inner awareness and uncover your center life takes on a different texture and feel. Your inner life becomes richer and your perception changes. You see the world through the eyes of an awakened soul. The world doesn't change, you do and that is the point.

Everyone has a different view of reality. No two people see the world exactly alike. The element that brings us closer, in spite of our different views, is love. When I allow more love in my life, change is inevitable. The intimacy of this dance becomes more apparent. I am not by myself in life's journey and I am not on this planet alone. You are here with me and our every interaction is a type of dance. The style and form of your dance depends on the perception of yourself and the other person. Your perception creates the kind of dance you involve yourself in and whether it is a dance that you enjoy doing or not. Your attitude colors your perception of life. Your attitude is based on your core beliefs. There are the only two core beliefs from which to choose.

Fear and separation

Love and oneness

That's it. All human beings create their lives from one place or the other. Your dance with the universe is based on these two ideas. Fear and love are choices we make in every moment. They create the circumstances and connections we experience in our lives.

Step 3 and *My Declaration of Self - Individuation* will appear in the July Issue.

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE SUMMER SOLSTICE

BY CAROL HODGES, BAN DRUI

Summer Solstice is so named because the sun appears stationary in its northern and southern progression. In the Northern hemisphere, the sun is directly over the tropic of Cancer at the summer solstice and we have the longest day and shortest night.

Midsummer Eve is one of the nights of the year when boundaries between the worlds are thin and porous. In this warm season farmers' animals and crops may be more subject to disease, and the fields need prolonged sun with enough rain to ensure a successful crop. Midsummer festival, even in Christian times, focuses on the sun/fire and water. This festival was most important in the northern lands where the sun is weakest and the growing season the shortest.

To the Celts, Anu or Danu is Mother Earth, Goddess of fertility, prosperity, and comfort; the Mother of the Gods, Great Mother, Moon Goddess and it is She who blesses the animals and plants by the affirmations of the faith-filled so that food is available throughout the year.

Saxon tradition places Litha opposite of Yule. At midsummer, the Sun God reaches greatest strength and is portrayed on his greenwood throne as lord of the forests. You can find his face in church architecture gazing from leafy masks. The Christian religion converted this day of Jack-in-the-Green to the Feast of St. John the Baptist, portraying him in rustic attire and sometimes with horns. As Christianity became more dominant, Midsummer's Eve became Saint John's Eve.

Midsummer is celebrated with bonfires and the thought that fire could stave off evil spirits. In some cultures, Sunwheels, balls of hay and straw, are lit on fire and rolled down a hill into the ocean, lakes and rivers. Music festivals and cookouts are common celebrations and traditionally, the unpledged collect flowers and charms to place on their bed in order to dream of

their future partner.

A rural English tradition was to build a big bonfire on Midsummer's Eve, called "setting the watch," as fire would keep evil spirits out of the town. Some holders would light a fire on their land, while others would carry torches from one bonfire to another. Irish tradition is to carry a small stone in your hand and whisper affirmations to it while circling the bonfire, then throw the stone into it to manifest them.

Often, couples handfasted the year before at Beltane, bonded in a more formal handfasting at Midsummer or Lughnasadh (August 1st). Questions to oracles on matters of love are especially productive on Midsummer's eve. The midsummer moon is called the Honey Moon, the hives are filled with honey that may be fermented into mead, which was frequently available at wedding parties. We see the roots of current marriage traditions growing from early pagan practices.

Midsummer was an important solar event in the evolution of human culture. The axis of Stonehenge, aligned with the monument's entrance, is oriented in the direction of the midsummer sunrise. The Teotihuacan Temple of the Sun, a pre-Columbian temple in Mexico, is also oriented to the sun's path at the Summer Solstice. For the ancient Egyptians, Sirius (the dog star) rose on the Summer Solstice bringing the beginning of their new year, just before the season of the Nile's flooding.

At this season the fullness of life, in its most magnificent abundance, is appreciated. We affirm in celebration that The Source continues to bless us in each turn of the Earth. Love and commitment are developed within us.

Shakespeare, the Bard provides entertaining reading for Midsummer in A Midsummer Night's Dream, Macbeth, and The Tempest.



Carol Hodges Prayer Chaplain, Unity of Savannah

"The midsummer moon is called the Honey Moon, the hives are filled with honey that may be fermented into mead, which was frequently available at wedding parties. We see the roots of current marriage traditions growing from early pagan practices."





Rev. Jeannine Smalls New Grace Chapel AME

"Celebration of Spiritual Reconstruction! Telling the Truth: The Joys, Challenges, Fears and Hopes of living in Beaufort County in 2017"



The Unified Interfaith Community Coalition of Beaufort is composed of a broad collection of spiritual leaders from throughout the Sea Islands of Beaufort County. Organized, energized and inspired by Rev. Jeannine Smalls of Grace Chapel AME our group has grwn into a cohesive network of committed clergy and layman. After the success and great public attention that the Memorial Service last June and the Joyous Interfaith/Intercultural Celebration that

followed in January (to coincide with South Carolina's Interfaith Harmony Month) there was a strong desire to bring those elements together and to parallel the National creation, and federal designation of the Reconstruction Monument in our area. I believe it was Rev. Jack Bomar who first made the connection and suggested the name "Spiritual Reconstruction". One place to keep up on that news is on the UICC Facebook page.







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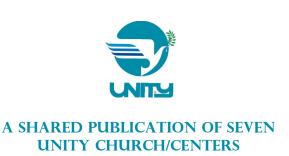


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CAN BE FOLDED, STAPLED AND SENT TO MEMBERS NOT USING EMAIL





TO TO TO ADDRESS