

COMMUNITY

Seven Epicenters of the Unity Movement

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2 MARCH 2017

FIRST MONTHLY EDITION OF COMMUNITY

Question: What day of the year is a command? Answer: *March Forth!* Of course that only works if we're willing to leave the "u" out of fourth. Silly joke, I know, but we are boldly going forth and will now be publishing **CommUnity** on a monthly basis.

March is the month that spring officially begins and many seeds which have been lying dormant are now sprouting and pushing their way toward the light. As I look around I find this true in Unity as well, everything from the big changes happening in Unity Village down to our individual churches and further, right down to people all around me I am witnessing new growth and great promise.

I have been traveling a good bit since the first Issue of this newsletter. While at Kanuga with UMMAS last September I was asked if a church in Tennessee could be added, while at SE Regional in St. Pete last October I got requests to

add several churches in Florida, and just this past week at an SEE course at Christ Unity Church in Orlando had more requests, one from North Carolina. In every case I had to say sorry but no.

The idea of **CommUnity** is to create smallish, local networks of churches in order to create a larger sense of community. For many people Unity is the 30 or 40 people they meet with on Sundays at their local church/center and in the clouds somewhere above Missouri there is "The Village". This newsletter fits in that gap, but more importantly gives a sense of the congregations and ministers in communities not very far from where we live.

I offer the templates and help to each person that asks about **CommUnity** and encourage them to celebrate their local communities in a newsletter.

INTERFAITH NEWS

Each issue of **CommUnity** presents two full pages devoted to Interfaith issues and events. As most of you know, I am fairly brimming with Zeal and firmly believe that no Faith-path is better suited to carrying on this important work than Unity. "One God, Many Paths". There are some changes



to the graphics to emphasize those pages so that it will not be as easy for someone to read something and wonder "What has this got to do with Unity?"

This issue presents exciting developments for New Thought in the state of South Carolina.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- ♥ **CommUnity** goes monthly
- ♥ *Unity of Savannah's Carol Hodges*
- ♥ *An Article from Rev. Lynn Holland of Unity of Charleston*
- ♥ *An Article from Kyle Shiver of Unity of Savannah*
- ♥ *SEE from Christ Church Unity*
- ♥ *IPSC recognizes New Thought*
- ♥ *"I never Met a Muslim I didn't like" by Jim Taylor*
- ♥ *Calendar for March 2017*



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

SAVANNAH, GA	2
HILTON HEAD, SC	2
MT. PLEASANT, SC	2
CHARLESTON, SC	3
MYRTLE BEACH, SC	3
WILMINGTON, NC	3
GREENVILLE, SC	3

THE STORY OF THIS NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is the confluence of several streams. It began as a suggestion by Rev. Nat 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.

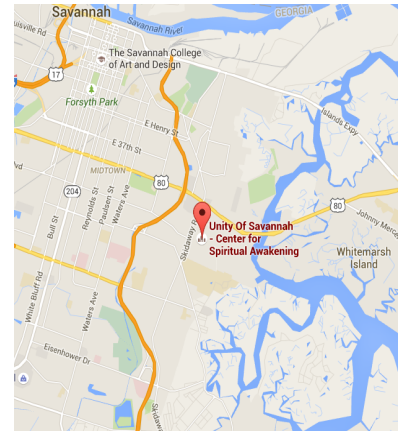


UNITY OF SAVANNAH, GA

Rev. Dale Worley has been a student and practitioner of Unity Truth teachings since 1996. In January of 2010, he joined the ministerial team at Unity of Savannah as Associate Minister and Minister of Creative Arts. In September 2011, Dale became a Licensed Unity Teacher. In January of 2014, he became Senior Minister, a dream and life goal that has been nearly 10 years in the making, and on March 13, 2013, he

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



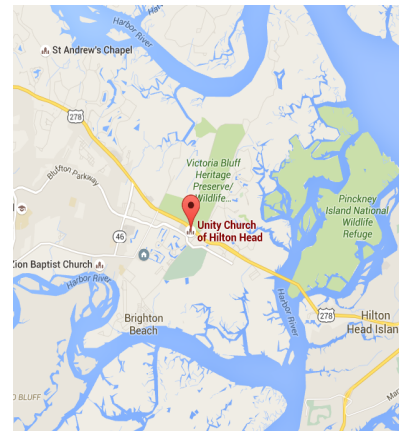
UNITY OF HILTON HEAD, SC

We have been fortunate to have Rev. Nat Carter as our Interim Minister, a transitional ministry specialist with Unity Worldwide Ministries. Rev. Carter served as a guide as we prepared to transition to a new minister. His contract runs through April 2017. Our search committee has been active and we will begin interviews later this month. We are grateful for his compassionate expertise.

Rev. Nat taught a course titled 'Consciously Created Change' based on Eric Butterworth's *The Creative Life: Seven Keys to Your Inner Genius*. He had asked us to create and manifest a project, this newsletter was my effort to meet the requirement.

Rev. Nat is launching a series called 'The Pillars of Your Spiritual Temple.'

www.unitychurchofhiltonhead.org



UNITY OF MT. PLEASANT, SC

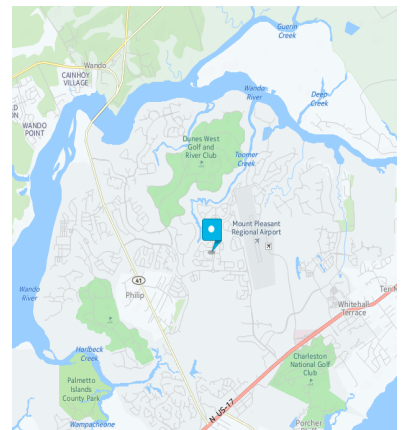
Kimberly Renollet Heck is the Spiritual Leader of Unity of Mt. Pleasant and is on a ministerial path through Unity Urban Ministerial School.

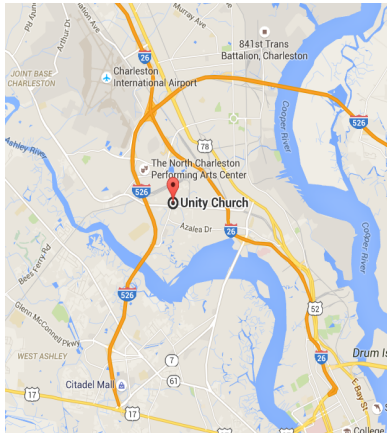
In the past few months she has conducted a Burning Bowl Ceremony, a White Stone Ritual Service, explored Louise Hay's Book, *You Can Heal Your Life*, led participation in James Twyman's 'The Great Abra-

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

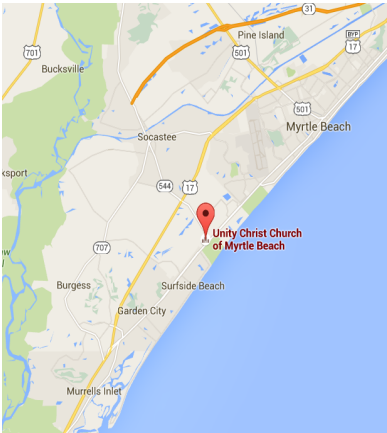


Rev. Ed Kosak has been at Unity Church of Charleston since July of 2002. He took over from founder Rev. MaryAnn Finch who was there for almost 20 years.

tion. 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."

Ed is a former high school teacher and clinical social worker. He did therapy for 16 years in various settings. He found Unity in 1989 when he walked into Unity of Chicago and experienced a wonderful medita-

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 20 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.

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.

Margaret holds a Master's degree in Thera-

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.

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.

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

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

CAROL HODGES

BY SALLY ROUNTREE KLEIN

Carol Hodges, of Unity of Savannah, is a Prayer Chaplain and the Vice-President of the Board of Trustees. Carol's varied background serves her well in her role as a leader in the church and as the "go to person" for all things spiritual, nurturing, kind, and yes, FUN! Born into a long line of seekers, her grandfather was a well-known Baptist evangelist and her father was a Baptist minister. Her mother was a "minister in the field," the highest level of ministry women were allowed to hold at the time. Carol spent part of her childhood in Nigeria, where her parents were missionaries. Her best friend was a wise, older African gentleman who worked at the school compound where she lived. His influence on her was profound and impacts her even to this day.

Carol achieved a successful career in education and counseling, serving children and adults with behavior disorders. She earned Masters and Education Specialist Degrees

from Georgia Southern University. But Carol's formal education was just the beginning of her continuing journey toward not only academic knowledge, but the wisdom and serenity that seem to surround her. Following the conferring of her Master's Degree, Carol became a Reader in the Episcopal Church, the first step toward becoming a minister. She is a trained Shaman, practicing the affirmative rituals (similar to Unity's affirmative prayer practice) and traditions of Native Americans, Celts, and other ancient sacred belief systems. Carol is a member of the Single Action Shooter Society, where she is a champion contestant in 38 Revolver competitions. Finally, Carol possesses a plethora of practical knowledge and is often consulted for facilities repairs at the Church. Carol Hodges' modest, unassuming style belies the many ways she contributes to the powerfully positive atmosphere at Unity of Savannah. Thank you, Carol!

"Carol's varied background serves her well in her role as a leader in the church and as the "go to person" for all things spiritual, nurturing, kind, and yes, FUN!"



Carol Hodges

Quotes from Charles Fillmore from *Keep a True Lent*

"When we consider Lent as a well-rounded or "completed" season of retreat from the things of the world for the cleansing of the mind and the recollection of the things of Spirit, it becomes a true season of preparation for the glorious Eastertide; a preparation for the resurrection of the mind from the darkness of its sins, doubts, and false beliefs into the light of understanding."

"One of the most valuable ways of observing the Lenten season is to fast from (loose and let go) the belief that men or nations can stand in the way of God's good will for man. Now is the time to affirm the power of the Christ Spirit indwelling in all men everywhere and influencing their thoughts, words, and actions to work for the good of the whole. We all want to be of some influence in establishing world peace"

Community

A service of
Unity of Hilton Head

Editor/Designer:
James R. Taylor
jimbeau@hargray.com
(843) 263-4224

Copy Editor:
Chris Poschmann

A DIVINE ENCOUNTER

BY REV. LYNN HOLLAND



After a busy and full year, it was to be a relaxing and lazy river cruise through Central Europe before the onset of the demands of the holiday season. It seems, however, that there was a greater plan in that I would encounter a man who would touch me at the deepest level of my being. After seeing the usual cathedrals and castles of Central Europe, visiting the German concentration and death camps in Poland and meeting people who had lived before and during Communist rule, it can be difficult to not fall prey to sadness and hopelessness. One might wonder if humankind living in harmony and loving one another is even possible.

How tempting it is to succumb to fear, to fall into despair with so much inhumanity and to become bitter and angry. On reflection though, in reality, good always wins. It may take time, and it may not be easy, but ultimately, good prevails. We have witnessed through history that the most effective means of overcoming adversity is through non-violence. Gandhi demonstrated this in leading his people to overthrow colonialism non-violently. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King led his followers to right injustice non-violently. In 1989, the people of Central Europe ended Communism in what is known as The Velvet Revolution because no lives were lost. It was the will of the people in each of these and other historical events that ultimately defeated oppression. When people of all races, beliefs and economic classes come together to right a wrong, change happens through consensus – non-violently.

It was on the final leg of this enlightening journey that I encountered the very highest and best of humankind. Peter came to tell us of his encounter and work with Syrian refugees. He did not ask for money, support or adulation. He merely wanted to let people know of the terrible plight of the refugees. Peter is a professor at a University in Hungary. On his way home from classes, he noticed a family on the street at the train station. He noticed them still there the next day. On the third day, Peter stopped to ask them why they were there and whether they needed anything. The woman in the family told Peter that they were refugees from Syria. All their money and papers were stolen in a refugee camp. They lost everything and had nowhere to go. They were cold and hungry.

Peter took pity and brought the family food and water. He

did this for several nights when the woman told him that there were many more like them downstairs in the station. Peter investigated and was deeply touched by the needs of these people. He got to work on his own and soon gathered many willing volunteers to deliver food and collect and sort clothing. Medical practitioners volunteered to provide medical care as the need was great. Lawyers volunteered their help as much as they were able according to the law. The refugees would have to enter other countries illegally due to immigration laws. Lawyers were only able to help with identification and other potential legal matters. Peter and his volunteers would never know the final chapter in the lives of those they helped. One day, they would just move on in the night, but fortified with loving kindness.

All of this activity was begun by one man responding to the desperate need of others with no organization, public funding or official backing of any kind. Everyday people were selflessly filling a desperate need. This is what loving one another looks like. How easy it is to look the other way when we are confronted with things we would rather not see.

Peter wanted us to know that our own ambassador was so very helpful in spreading the news of the plight of the refugees. He told us that he gathered other officials from involved nations, closed the doors and told Peter that he had one hour to tell his story. When Peter was finished, our ambassador said to the others present, “Now you cannot say that you were unaware.”

When one of our group asked about his own faith, Peter responded that he is Jewish. I approached this humble man and emptied all of the euros I had in my pockets into his hands. It seemed so little when there is so much need. Others followed although he asked for nothing. I had the opportunity to speak briefly with Peter and felt that at that moment I knew that I was looking into the loving eyes of a Christ.

Such beings walk among us. How brave it is not to succumb to fear. We all want and deserve the opportunity to meet basic needs. Most spiritual paths teach followers to love and give aid to one another, especially those in need. Imagine how wonderful it would be to pick up a newspaper and read of all the good things, big and small, that people are doing in the world for they are many. When the news of the day sounds so bleak, I think of Peter and those who have overcome the toughest challenges and know truly that the divine is at work through them.

Rev. Lynn Holland is a vital member of Unity of Charleston, wearing as many hats as is needed!

WHAT IS MINE TO DO?

BY KYLE SHIVER, MUSIC DIRECTOR FOR UNITY OF SAVANNAH

It was Wednesday and time was fast approaching for our weekly Contemplative Healing service at Unity of Savannah.

And here I was, all alone.

My minister and mentor was out-of-town, the people who usually step in were sick or had something else to do that night, and there were no other Prayer Chaplains available.

I got things prepared, and then called Silent Unity and asked to be “prayed in,” plus I had been praying plenty on my own.

It isn’t as if I don’t have a lot of experience speaking, praying, leading meditations, and playing music. I can lead a service on my own. After all, I led a church for a year and all...

But this week, the tragic incident in Orlando was going to have to be addressed.

And it was clearly mine to do.

I prayed some more, and remembered how I’d spoken the week after the incident in Charleston last year. I reassured myself that, “You will know the right thing to say at the right time, and SPIRIT will speak through you and guide you.”

If nobody was there at 6:30, I would lock the door and run.

But sure enough, right at 6:30, two people ambled in. I greeted them and we talked about what we should do. Should we just pray and leave? And then two other people showed up.

Gotta do the service Kyle.

No need to take you through the entire service, but at one point I was asked to pray for the victims in Orlando and their families, and also to please pray for the “bad guy,” and his family as well.

I suddenly exclaimed, “And what about the officers who were forced to take the “bad guy’s” life? Did anyone think of them and their families?”

We prayed for everyone.

Like it or not, every other person that you see and encounter in this world is your brother or your sister.

After the prayer I suddenly felt myself being taken over.

“In the Bible, in the Bhagavad-Gita, in every scripture and recorded history that we have, there is tragedy. There is tragedy on most every page.” I said.

We live in a Universe in which everything, and I mean everything is in a constant state of living and dying. Even the cells in our bodies are constantly dying and regenerating. We live in a Universe where there are many different people who are in different states of consciousness, or “mind,” if you prefer. Tragedy occurs around us all the time and it always has.

And one day, we will transition or die too.

One of the four congregants shrugged their shoulders and asked, “What can you do?”

And it was then that I realized how powerless people were feeling.

And it was then that I felt the great surge of SPIRIT enter me and began to pour out of my mouth.

“Look at the thousands of people who lined up to give blood. Look at the thousands of people who are speaking out. There are lots of people who need lots of help, and there are ways that YOU can help!”

One of my congregation of four mentioned an organization who is raising money for the employee’s of Pulse(the club where the incident happened), who will be out of work for a while. And some of them are going to no doubt need counseling and emotional help.

I urged everyone, “Don’t sit around as if you have nothing to do with this. Don’t sit around as if there is nothing that you can do to help people who need help!”

If you are reading this blog right now, maybe you believe in God and maybe you don’t. Maybe you consider yourself to be on a Spiritual path, or maybe you don’t.

And none of that really matters so much.

What matters is that YOU know that YOU matter. What you say and what you do and how you live your life does indeed matter. We must speak our truth and we must live our truth, and that means that we need to act.

So if you are feeling powerless, or frustrated and helpless, I sincerely urge you to do ANYTHING. Send even a small amount of money to an organization who is supporting the victims and their families.

Speak out when you hear someone voice that violence towards anyone is a good idea.

And I assure you that you will feel differently.

Because you are certainly not powerless or helpless. In no way is this true.

It is true that we cannot do anything to change what has happened. But we can sure do something to change what is happening in our lives right now.

And we can make a difference.

I invite you now to stop and take a moment and ask yourself the very same question that I ask myself every day;

What is mine to do?

Editor’s note: I’ve just returned from an SEE week at Christ Unity Church of Orlando, less than two miles from the Pulse nightclub. Reminders are still everywhere. I was reminded of Kyle’s post of 06/17/16 in his spiritministries.net blog.

“Monthly Evening Intensive – Courses are offered Monday through Thursday evenings, the last week of most months.”



Rev. Roxanne Graves

SPIRITUAL EDUCATION & ENRICHMENT (SEE) AT CHRIST CHURCH UNITY OF ORLANDO

I just returned from a grand week of SEE courses at Christ Church Unity of Orlando. Among the classes I took was Metaphysics 3 and from the Rev. Paul Hasselbeck himself! I'm inspired to share about this unique ministry of Rev. Roxanne Graves. As a Licensed Unity Teacher and Ministerial Candidate at Unity Urban Ministerial School, Roxanne Graves serves Christ Church Unity as Ministerial Associate, where she enjoys the opportunity to support the congregation by giving messages, teaching classes, and offering Spiritual Counseling. Roxanne was introduced to Unity in 1994, and has been actively involved in Unity ever since. She has an MBA (with a focus in Accounting) and an undergraduate degree in Finance. She is currently serving on Unity Worldwide Ministries' Budget and Finance Team.

She has developed a powerful, well-oiled machine of a learning facility. If you attend in person that will be immediately obvious, and I can assure you that breakfast and lunch everyday will be a feast as well. BUT many churches sponsor SEE weeks, Rev. Roxanne has significantly raised the bar making an increasing number of courses available in intensive online sessions and at very affordable prices.

Another course I took was Healing and Wholeness 2 from the ever delightful Rev. Nikkie Golden from Unity of Wilmington and we were joined in that class by the virtual presence of Ms. Monica X, who was able to participate fully with us in life size

presence due to the magic of ZOOM and a good size monitor! The below is from their website <http://christchurchunity.net/spiritual-education/>

Whether you want to become credentialed as a Licensed Unity Teacher (LUT), a Certified Spiritual Educator (CSE), a Unity Minister, renew your passion for spirituality, or discover new ideas that will change your life, we want to support you on your journey. Spiritual Education and Enrichment (S.E.E.) courses provide the prerequisites required for credentialing as well as practical metaphysical teachings you can use every day to enrich your life.

CCU offers classes in a variety of formats:

S.E.E. in the Field – Week Long Intensive Courses are offered during week-long sessions the last full weeks of February and June each year. You can take up to 4 classes per week during these sessions. Some of these classes are offered both Face-to-Face and Live Streaming. All classes can be taken for S.E.E. credit.

Monthly Evening Intensive – Courses are offered Monday through Thursday evenings, the last week of most months. Choice of one class, can be taken for S.E.E. credit. These classes are offered both Face-to-Face and Live Stream.

Standard Evening Class – Courses are offered Thursday nights for 4 weeks, can be taken for S.E.E. credit. Dates vary. Some of these classes are offered both Face-to-Face and Live Streaming.



IPSC CREATES AN 11TH FAITHPATH FOR NEW THOUGHT

Interfaith Partners of South Carolina is the oldest and largest organization of its type in South Carolina and had its roots a formal Christian/Jewish Ecumenical Dialogue in the 1970's. Now a very diverse organization with board representatives of Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Sikhism and the Bahá'í faith, our President is also our Native American rep. Besides the faith representatives there are at large members of the board of which I (Jim Taylor) am one. In January I moved that New Thought be added as a new faith path, based in part upon the successful efforts of the Assoc. for Global New Thought in gaining that recognition with the Parliament of the World's Religions at their gathering in 2015. Here's a quote from an email from Dr. Barbara Fields, AGNT's executive director in which she shared some very interesting historical background information:

"Temple (Unity minister Rev. Temple Hayes) might not have mentioned to you that I served as Program Director for the first modern-day Parliament of the World's Religions, which was the 1993 centennial celebration of the 1893 World Congress of Faiths at the World's Fair in Chicago. Obviously, that event and my role in creating it, was a life-changer. Because of ties I have sustained with the CPWR in Chicago, it seemed a serendipitous moment for me to suggest they formally include New Thought as a tradition in its now right. This came on the heels of the fact that when 350 of our New Thought delegates traveled to the 2009 Melbourne, Australia, PWR, even though we were one of the largest single delegations in attendance, we were still obliged to select "Other," as our religious/spiritual tradition."

I'm pleased to announce that last Monday, February 20th the motion was unanimously passed. AND I have the great pleasure to announce that our own Rev. Ed Kosak of Unity of Charleston was named as the new board representative of New Thought! Congratulations Rev. Ed!

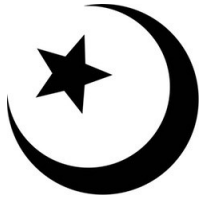


In response to requests from board members Rev. Ed shared these comments about New Thought in an email to the IPSC, I apologize for making it less readable by removing the line breaks and decreasing font size to fit :

"Some on the Board wanted to know what NT is exactly so you can tell people. The following is from Wikipedia, which overall is pretty accurate, with comments in red by me:

The New Thought movement is a philosophical (yes, but more spiritual) movement which developed in the United States in the 19th century, considered by many to have been derived from the unpublished writings of Phineas Quimby (and for me, The Transcendentalists to be more precise). There are numerous smaller groups,

most of which are incorporated in the International New Thought Alliance. The concept of New Thought, sometimes known as "Higher Thought" (never heard this before and would not agree with it as no one's beliefs are higher than the other) promotes the ideas that Infinite Intelligence, or God, is everywhere, spirit is the totality of real things, true human selfhood is divine, divine thought is a force for good, sickness originates in the mind, and "right thinking" has a healing effect. Although New Thought is neither monolithic nor doctrinaire, in general, modern-day adherents of New Thought share some core beliefs: God or Infinite Intelligence is "supreme, universal, and everlasting"; yes, but God is not a man up in the sky doling out punishments to some and rewards to others. God is Spirit, universal energy. God did not create the universe, God IS the universe. We are co-creators with Spirit. divinity dwells within each person, that all people are spiritual beings; yes, very much so and this is what we stress, and "sin" is a result of ego, the need to be right, biological brain disorders, unresolved inner pain and shadow to use Jung's term. Hell is a state of mind we put ourselves in, and heaven is variously believed by adherents of NT to be the traditional heaven where everyone goes unconditionally, a state of mind or the transitional place between reincarnations. "the highest spiritual principle [is] loving one another unconditionally... and teaching and healing one another"; "our mental states are carried forward into manifestation and become our experience in daily living". The New Thought movement originated in the early 19th century, and survives to the current day in the form of a loosely allied group of religious denominations, authors, philosophers, and individuals who share a set of beliefs concerning metaphysics, positive thinking, the law of attraction, healing, life force, creative visualization, and personal (better word would be spiritual) power. The teachings of Christian Science are in some ways similar to Quimby's teachings. Its founder, Mary Baker Eddy, was a student and patient of Quimby's but she later disavowed his influence on her Christian Science. The more mainstream groups of NT are Unity churches, Centers for Spiritual Living, and the Agape Church of Dr. Michael Beckwith. Dr. Beckwith and Marianne Williamson are often called upon by news outlets to respond to major events like 9-11, shootings, etc. for NT's perspective on things. Additional thoughts: We are not "new age" though some in NT practice new agey kinds of things (though we hope for a new age of flourishing humanity). We really are not even New thought, as everything we believe can be traced in antiquity (there's nothing new under the sun, Ecclesiastes). For us, we're just resurrecting these ancient beliefs because to many the thoughts seem "new". NT is often criticized for "blaming" people for their cancer for example, and I understand this criticism. To me, blame is never helpful. it's a matter of taking responsibility for what life brings our way and yes, there is a strong mind/body connection that we believe in NT. For some in NT this is absolute, for me it is not. But this freedom of thought in NT is what I love about NT."



“To hate Muslims is as ridiculous a stance as to hate Republicans or Democrats. Certainly long lists of points of disagreement are readily at hand, but no single point is in fact an article of faith for everyone who adopts a label, sports a bumper sticker, or wears a baseball cap with a logo.”



Jim Taylor, your Editor

I NEVER MET A MUSLIM I DIDN'T LIKE!

The title is intended to be provocative and to raise some questions, such as “Why does he like Muslims?”, or “How many Muslims has he met?” or even “Why is he telling us that?” Good questions all. I have been involved in Interfaith work for over forty years and have developed some high level overviews and arguments for the value of Interfaith work, the intrinsic value of individual faiths. I’ve lately been reading Eboo Patel’s book *Interfaith Leadership* and I have come to realize that my natural willingness to defend the rights of Muslims to practice their faith was arrived at slowly after much thought and debate. My story (a very important word “story”) begins long before any real consideration of these issues, with my experiences teaching English as a Second Language to Muslims at Utah State University in the mid-seventies, a point in time where I self-identified as an Atheist. Over the course of four or five years I taught several hundred students from all over the Middle East, Iran and parts of Africa. I found them generally warm, engaging and hospitable. It was twenty years later that I first heard the word “Jihad” even though some of those students were Palestinian or Libyan for instance and had very strong political opinions.

I was raised in the Mormon community of Bountiful, UT and attended that church until I was maybe twelve. The Latter Day Saints (LDS) as the Mormons are formally known, feel a strong kinship with the Jewish people, some going so far as to refer to themselves as “the other Chosen People”. Although I left the LDS faith while quite young I still had strong sympathies for the Jews and for the state of Israel. Because our community in Bountiful was so homogeneous I wasn’t really exposed to religious bigotry until I was in basic training in the military. One poor kid came down with a bad summer cold and as it turns out he was Jewish. It wasn’t long before I heard such phrases as “don’t catch the Jew Germ” and other slurs. My natural response was to come to Bernard’s aid and I chose being his pal as a defensive shield. I had him teach me Hava Nagila which I’d vaguely remembered from Fiddler on the Roof. We sang it at the top of our lungs. . . I’m not sure this really helped except I never heard “Jew Germ” again.



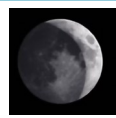
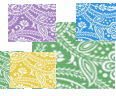
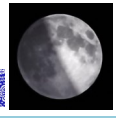




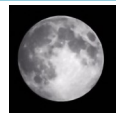







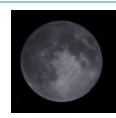
Fast forward to my years at Utah State and to the “Hub” where we gathered to drink coffee and smoke cigarettes. Surprisingly the most boisterous, laughing tables were occupied by Middle Easterners, which made me feel comfortable and drew me in enough to allow me to begin asking questions about the volatility and warfare in that region. I soon came to realize that things were much more complicated than I originally believed. We had a lot of political discussions, but also I heard a great many personal stories which made for deeper connections. I really was taken by the cultural warmth and hospitality of these primarily Arabic speaking Semitic peoples. I say that in contrast to the large presence of Iranians, or Persians as they called themselves, who were also Muslim, but Cau-




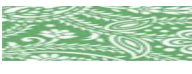
casian for the most part, and many were quick to remind you of that. The national/cultural presence of these Farsi speaking folks was not as lighthearted or welcoming, they sat by themselves for the most part, somewhat more distant and reserved, although when I began to teach I made good friends among them as well. It turned out they had plenty of reasons to be cautious as they fell into two strong factions, the loyalists to the Shaw of Iran and the revolutionary forces which eventually toppled the Peacock Throne.


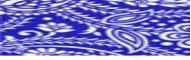
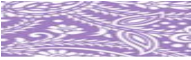
So back to the questions I intended to spark. I’ve known hundreds of Muslims, made many friends and have participated in weddings and other celebrations, and yes, “broke bread” with them and I stand by my claim that I’ve never met a Muslim that I didn’t like. Since they are just people, like many another, I count myself lucky in who I have met. Certainly I’ve read of Muslims who have committed atrocities and I’m pretty sure that friendship would not have been possible with them, the same may be said for partisans in Northern Ireland or guerrilla army members of the revolutionaries in Columbia, just to point toward a couple other troubled places. My liking the Muslims that I’ve known also probably has very little to do with their religion. When I think of Muslims my mind doesn’t instantly go to the troubles, to religious tensions and ideological chasms, but rather to specific people I came to know and like. For that I count myself lucky as well. Perhaps this is true in large measure because we shared and listened to each other’s stories and made human connections. Eboo Patel has challenged me deeply in almost everything I’ve read of his and I’m grateful that he has. Mr. Patel has made me more sensitive to a number of subtler issues, but especially he has reminded me that in conversations it comes down to you and me, to your story and mine.

To hate Muslims is as ridiculous a stance as to hate Republicans or Democrats. Certainly long lists of points of disagreement are readily at hand, but no single point is in fact an article of faith for everyone who adopts a label, sports a bumper sticker, or wears a baseball cap with a logo. And in the case of hating Muslims, in many cases it’s like hating Frenchmen. Any element of being French is an accident of birth, that is one happened to be born in Marseilles, and not a crucial aspect of their identity. That one is born in Egypt or Indonesia (the most populous Islamic nation) is similarly an accident of birth. The tightness with which one holds to the tenets of their faith is as variable as the human experience. Even to the devout, the particular ranking of these tenets also vary widely. Best to come at anyone with the understanding that they came to be in front of you by way of paths that you have no idea. The more willing you are to hear their story and to share your own, the more likely it is that you will hear one another on religious and ideological issues.

March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 	2 	3 	4
5 	6 	7	8	9 	10 	11 
12 	13 	14	15	16	17	18 
19 	20  Spring Equinox	21	22 	23	24 	25 
26 	27 	28	29	30	31	

DATE	EVENT	TIME
	Unity of Savannah, GA	
03/01	ASH WEDNESDAY PRAYER SERVICE	6:30 PM
	Unity of Hilton Head, SC	
03/02-03/09	TWELVE POWERS, LAST TWO SESSIONS	10:30-NOON
03/02-04/16	'PILLARS OF YOUR SPIRITUAL TEMPLE' BOOK STUDY	VARIOUS
03/25	REV. STAN MCNEESE, TRYOUT WORKSHOP	NOON-2 PM
03/26	REV. STAN MCNEESE, TRYOUT SERVICE	10 AM
	Unity of Mt. Pleasant, SC	
03/5,12,19,26	MAIN BUILDING OF SOMERBY IN PARK WEST, 2ND FLOOR, 3100 TRADITION CIRCLE	10 AM
	Unity of Charleston, SC	
03/01	CRAFTERS CIRCLE	11 AM
03/05	INTERFAITH UNDERSTANDING NATIVE AMERICAN	9:15 AM
03/05	TRUTH TALK, DR. LEE IRWIN	1 PM

DATE	EVENT	TIME
03/12	HEATHER RICE AND LEE BARBOUR	9:30AM
03/12	BLACK HISTORY FILM SERIES	1 PM
03/26	HOLISTIC HEALTH FAIR	1 PM
 Unity of Myrtle Beach, SC		
03/05	CELEBRATING LENT – A TIME OF TRANSFORMATION	
03/12	“QUANTUM WEIRDNESS” WITH DR. MARSHA WALTERS	11:30 AM – 4 PM
 Unity of Wilmington, NC		
03/06	CHILI COOKOFF	NOON
03/18	ANNUAL YARD SALE SATURDAY, MARCH 18,	8 AM-1 PM
03/22	LEE HARRINGTON, KIRTAN	7:00 PM
03/26	EDDIE WATKINS, JR. IN CONCERT	7:00 PM
 Unity Church of Greenville, SC		
03/05	SUNDAY CINEMA - HOME BY YANN ARTHUS-BERTRAND	2:15 PM
03/10	YES MAN—RELAXED MOVEMENT EXERCISE (AGES OVER 55)	7 PM
03/11,18,25	SONIC MEDITATION (SOLFEGGIO SOUND THERAPY)	10AM - 11 AM
03/18	SOLAR PLEXUS CHAKRA SEMINAR	1 PM - 5 PM
03/25	MEN’S COOKOUT & GAMES	NOON



COMMUNITY

Seven Epicenters of the Unity Movement

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

MARCH 2017



A SHARED PUBLICATION OF SEVEN
UNITY CHURCH/CENTERS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE
CommUnity goes monthly	1
Seven Unity Centers	2-3
Carol Hodges of Unity of Savannah	4
A Divine Encounter by Rev. Lynn Holland	5
What Is Mine To Do? By Kyle Shiver	6
SEE at Christ Church Unity of Orlando	7
IPSC recognizes New Thought	8
I Never Met a Muslim I didn't Like, Jim Talor	9
Calendar of Events for March 2017	10-11



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

FROM



TO TO TO
ADDRESS