

Wings



FIRST UNITY CHURCH – Serving the spiritual needs of the St. Louis community for over ninety years.

The Newsletter of
First Unity Church
Of Saint Louis

January 2014

- ❖ Inspiration
- ❖ Information
- ❖ Illumination

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Jesus: the Man/the
Christ
By Randolph
Schmelig

The Reason for Things

By Martha Smock

Have you ever wondered about the reason for things? Have you wondered why you are where you are in life, why you are doing what you are doing, why your life seems to have taken the turn it has? Even though you cannot answer these questions from a human standpoint—that is, not really answer them—you can find a satisfactory answer in the realization of the truth about yourself. If you realize that you are a spiritual being, a living soul sent out from God, that your life is without beginning or end, you can begin to see yourself and the events of your life from a different perspective. You are essentially a spiritual being, but you are at the same time a human being. Your journey in life is toward the spiritual, toward the complete renewal and spiritualization of mind, soul, and body.

As a human being you may seem far from the goal of spiritual perfection, but human reasoning cannot tell you either how far or how near you are to it. Spiritual things must be spiritually perceived. Spirit in you, Christ in you, tells you that you are God's beloved child. Spirit in you knows your need for growth, for understanding, and Spirit in you says "well done" when an overcoming is made. You may not even have realized your own need, but the experiences of your life seemed almost to force you to call forth qualities of mind and heart and soul that you did not even know you possessed.

Sometimes the choice of the soul seems a more demanding one than any we would consciously make ourselves. Humanly we often feel limited, inadequate; we feel that we are as nothing, that other persons are more blessed, more endowed with talent, more able to give something

worthwhile to the world. But the soul chooses largely for us. The soul's choices are not limited by lack of education or family background or money or any of the many lacks that seem to frustrate our human desire for achievement.

The soul chooses largely because it knows that Christ has chosen it and appointed it to go forth. Where humanly we are afraid, the soul fearlessly chooses to walk through the very "valley of the shadow of death," for it knows neither life nor death, but only progress.

If you are at a place in your life where you cannot understand why you have to meet the things you have to meet, know that there is a divine reason behind every human happening. No matter what the experiences you have to meet, you are more than equal to them in your divine nature. Your soul has chosen the particular path your life is taking because it is the path that leads out of darkness into light. Christ in you makes you more than conqueror in all things. Believe this, act from this belief, and you will stand triumphant in every trial, you will meet and overcome every difficulty, you will go forward with glory.

Martha Smock (1913–1984) served as editor of *Daily Word*® magazine for 35 years. Excerpted from "Your Soul Chooses Largely" in the book *Fear Not!*





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Minister

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WINGS NEWSLETTER

Faye Schmelig, Editor
Email: fayeschmelig@att.net

OFFICE HOURS

Mon. – Wed., 9am – 3pm
Church phone: 314-845-8540
Minister's home: 314-892-3017
Fax: 314-845-0022

www.firstunitychurchstlouis.org/
Email: randyschmelig@att.net

Silent Unity: 1-800-669-7729

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Prepare for the New Year right at our annual
Unity **Burning Bowl Service** on Sunday,
January 5th.



**Jan. Dancing for Degas by
Kathryn Wagner**

Feb. Shanghai Girls

Place: Bread Company, across
from St. Anthony's Hospital from
2:00 to 4:00. Contact: Carol Bullock @ 314-
894-2602 or (cell) 314-518-9598 for
questions.



This month the **Ladies' Night
Out Group** will meet Monday
January 20th at 5:30 at Three
Margaritas, 69 Fenton Plaza.

. For more information call Mary
Tumminello – Home: 314-843-1807 Cell:
314-814-4530. All are welcome!

Feed My People

"Hand In Hand - The Dream Continues"
Hand in Hand, that's all of us,
reaching out and helping each
other, especially those who can
use our help the most. Our
hands are God's hands, letting
God's love flow through each of us out into
the world. The dream continues - the Father's
dream for all of us, of peace, happiness,
prosperity, loving and being loved - the
dream that each of us has for our own
children, magnified millions of times greater.
Feed My People, with your help, is one
instrument of that dream.



Souper Bowl Sunday – February 2nd

www.feed-my-people.org



Here are the dates for the
**First Unity Prayer
Chaplain Meetings.** We
meet at 7:00 p.m.

- January 12
- February 10
- March 10
- April 14
- May 12
- June 9
- July 14
- August 11
- September 8
- October 13



Brand New

I am the New Year. I
am an unspoiled page in
your book of time.

I am your next chance at
the art of living. I am
your opportunity to practice what you have
learned about life during the last 12 months.

All you sought and didn't find is hidden in
me, waiting for you to search it but with
more determination. All the good you tried
for and didn't achieve is mine to grant when
you have fewer conflicting desires.

All you dreamed but didn't dare to do, all
you hoped but did not will, all the faith you
claimed but did not have — these slumber
lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch
of a strong purpose.

I am your opportunity to renew your
allegiance to him who said, "See, I am
making all things new" (Revelation 21:5,
NRSV).

—Author unknown

Special Dates

- New Year's Day, *January 1, 2014*
- Epiphany, *January 6, 2014*
- Baptism of the Lord, *January 12, 2014*
- Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday
Observance, *January 20, 2014*
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity,
January 18-25, 2014

December Affirmations



Inner Peace: My life
reflects God's peace
within.

Guidance: Abiding in
the presence of God, I
am clearly guided.

Healing: My body is a
sacred temple. I am whole and well.

Prosperity: I am one with the abundance I
seek.

World Peace: The peace of God is
accessible to all.



Wanting his sons to learn not to judge too quickly, a man sent each, in turn, on a quest to look at a pear tree far away and report what he saw. The first son went in winter, the second in spring, the third in summer and the fourth in fall. Finally, the father gathered the young men together. “What did you see?” he asked.

The first son reported seeing an ugly tree, bent and lifeless. The second disagreed, saying it was budding with fresh new life. The third son reported finding a tree laden with sweet-smelling, beautiful blossoms, while the fourth insisted it drooped with ripe fruit.

The father said his sons were all correct, for they’d seen the same tree, though at different seasons of its life. “Don’t judge a tree — or a person — based on just one season of life,” he counseled his children. “Who they are can only be known at the end, when all life’s seasons have been lived.

“Furthermore,” he added, “don’t give up on your own life if you experience a hard season, such as winter, or you’ll miss out on the renewal of spring, the joy of summer, the fulfillment of autumn.”

Passing the Test

Samuel Stokes, a missionary who worked with lepers in India in the early 1900s, walked through the Punjab region with only a water bottle and a blanket. He depended wholly on the hospitality of the region’s residents.

In one village, Stokes received a particularly hostile reception. Village leaders sat in chairs in a circle, leaving Stokes sitting on the floor the entire evening. When he asked if he might teach them and nurse their sick, they hurled insults at him. Stokes offered no reply.

Finally, the men gave the

missionary some stale bread crusts in a dirty bowl. Stokes thanked them and ate. This scene repeated itself for two days. But then on the third day, the top village official laid his turban at Stokes’ feet as a sign of respect.

“We’d heard that Jesus’ disciples were commanded to love their enemies,” the man said, “and we decided to put you to the test.”

Having seen Jesus’ love in action through Stokes, the amazed villagers found him credible. They served him a rich feast and listened eagerly to his teachings.

“Help Me Be”

Lord, help me be your heart today, providing hope for those who stray.
 Lord, help me be your love today, displaying grace in every way.
 Lord, help me be your Word today, proclaiming good when all is gray.
 -MaryAnn Sundby

Thoughts from a Wise Man

Inside each of us there are two “warring” entities, the strong and the weak, the bold and the fearful, the large and the small. Each of us has a “big me” and a “little me” inside, and often the “little me” frustrates and paralyzes the “big me.” When a person’s inner image drops below a certain level, the result is pure misery.
 -Norman Vincent Peale

King and the Good Samaritan

Many Christians will observe Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday on January 19. (His actual birth date is January 15.) King’s comments about the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) are worth remembering:

“The first question that the priest and the Levite asked was: ‘If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?’ But ... the good Samaritan reversed the question: ‘If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?’”

“Quotable Quotes”

The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today.
 -Franklin Roosevelt

Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors and let each new year find you a better [person].
 -Benjamin Franklin

The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul.
 -G.K. Chesterton

If you want to be holy, be kind.
 -Frederick Buechner

I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.
 -Martin Luther King Jr.

It gives me a deep, comforting sense that ‘things seen are temporal and things unseen are eternal.’
 -Helen Keller

A Christian should be an alleluia from his head down to his feet.
 -St. Augustine

Remember and never doubt it: With God’s help you can do incredible things. Never think down; always think up.
 -Norman Vincent Peale

Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.
 -J.M. Barrie



“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’”

JESUS THE MAN THE CHRIST

By Randolph Schmelig

Chapter 1 Introduction

There is an inherent contrast in the title "Jesus: the Man/the Christ," or so it would seem at first. And yet, this is just the kind of contrast that every truly dynamic, world-influencing, mind-challenging personality has always summoned in mankind's thinking. We do not quite know what to make of those people we perceive as "great"; we do not quite know what to make of Jesus. But the search for His meaning does make something of us.

Out of all the centuries of study and thought about Jesus, two basic conclusions are reached: 1) Jesus was a man, and 2) Jesus was more than a man. It is over this apparent contradiction that Christian scholars have argued and struggled. And it is in contemplating and resolving this contradiction for himself that each seeking individual reaches his own understanding about Jesus. And amazingly, too, he will reach a new understanding about his own true Self.

From the record of His life in the New Testament of today, we can judge that Jesus was a man insofar as He had a specific date of birth and a specific time of death. He ate, slept, walked, spoke, was arrested, convicted, and executed. Seen alongside thousands of other biographies of great people through history, there is nothing particularly outstanding in the basic facts of His life. That is to say, countless others have spent as many years as He did (and more) in teaching one philosophy or another. Countless others have been citizens of conquered and oppressed nations. Countless others have been of

humble birth. Countless others have suffered physically, have been persecuted, tortured, and killed for various reasons, political and otherwise, or for no discernable cause. Many others have been instrumental in bringing about some unusual events or healings that have seemed to be "miraculous." Others have experienced a kind of illumination. Other teachers have inspired religious cults and institutions of worldwide scope. Others have even experienced some sort of resurrection. But none of these happenings or activities in and of itself could possibly account for the overwhelming impact of Jesus.

For serious Truth students, the question has been persistent: "What is this Jesus-man or God-man, human or Christ?" We may think sometimes that from the New Testament traces we have about Jesus, we can discover which of these two identities Jesus is revealing to us. We think perhaps that here, in this particular book and verse of the Bible, He is surely man ... and here, somehow more than man. Here He weeps, here He seems to doubt; here He is angry, perhaps as any ordinary person might have been in a similar situation. And yet here again, elusively, He is far beyond any limitations we call human. At His touch, at His command, the blind see, the sick become whole, the dead suddenly quicken and breathe in life again. Substance and people are transmuted through Him. All at once things indicate the spiritual purpose and meanings, and all because *He* has made things miraculously clear.

In the midst of all this evidence, we look upon Him in wonder. We become a curious witness at all the Bible scenes, a silent follower just a few paces behind, thinking always: "What are You, Jesus? May I know

You?" And if we can see inwardly, we can behold that same gentle countenance, and the Christ essence indwelling answers that He is both man and Christ, and fully Master.

It may be that the most important impression we can gain from looking at the surface contrasts in His nature is that He will not be pinned down by categorization in this way. He is not this, nor that, but all of it at once. He is man, but man illumined, Self-knowing. He is man as man is meant to be, as he is in spiritual potential, created in the image and the likeness of God. He is more than man in the sense that it is usual to think of humankind as necessarily limited by physical law-as mortal, as finite. Jesus, by words as well as by actions, demonstrates the Truth that He is neither limited nor mortal nor finite in His consciousness.

He is man and Christ in one perfectly integrated whole. The contradictions in His nature exist for us only so long as we have not understood Him fully, and only so long as we have not understood ourself as we are in Truth. His mystery is our mystery. That is why we are so marvelously attracted to Him. That is why we follow Him still.

He leads us by the straight path

If we would follow Him on the spiritual path, we will need more than just an emotional response to Him, and we will need more than ordinary reasoning. Jesus does not use reason to determine His message or to assert His true nature. This realization is a matter of direct perception. If someone asks us "Is there a God?" and we reply, "Yes," the questioner may at once ask what our reasoning is. He wants us to explain how we know this to be true, and probably a long discussion of terms will follow, not necessarily providing

anything or convincing anyone. But if the Incarnation of God were asked, "Is there a God?" He would at once answer, "Behold the Lord!" We continually ask in prayer, "Father, reveal Yourself to me," and we are answered by Jesus, "He who has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:8, 9).

Jesus' teachings cannot be argued with because they are not based on emotion or on logic, and they are not the product of education:

About the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and taught. The Jews marveled at it, saying, "How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?" So Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me; if any man's will is to do his will, he shall know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. He who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but he who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood." (John 7:14-18)

Mere reason could never have had such impact. Timeless philosophy can only come out of that which is timeless. Without a doubt, Jesus is in touch with God, with timeless Truth. His words contain no hint of uncertainty about this realization.

No amount of reasoning can make you deny the physical existence of the chair you are sitting upon. You know it exists, because you can directly perceive it. In the same way, Jesus had no doubt of the existence of God, for He directly perceived God. Truth has a way of asserting itself, and nowhere more irresistibly than through the Incarnation of God. Those who heard His words felt the unmistakable power in them. And those who read them today cannot help but feel the influence of that direct spiritual perception. No reasoning can explain it away.

There is a recognized power behind His words, for these words have been recorded and kept, and are read and reread, wondered about, cherished, and closely studied throughout the world. This power and authority takes its force from a certainty of spirituality, a oneness with the Infinite that can come only from direct experience.

The sayings of Jesus have unlimited power to grant immediate recognition of Truth and new depths of understanding to the receptive mind and heart. Regardless of the language spoken or the grammar used, regardless of the time and place, or even of the translation, this force remains in the sayings of Jesus. The spiritual message is definitely conveyed.

His teachings are compelling evidence that He is thoroughly awake to the divine potential in all of life. He experiences and demonstrates an understanding of the Truth that lies behind and beyond the "ordinary." If Jesus had not directly experienced what He taught, He could never have said the wondrously moving things He said. His words would have fallen empty and meaningless. Yet with every reading of the sayings of Jesus, it is impossible not to be aware of the irrefutable authority behind the teachings. Throughout the New Testament it can be seen that there is a terrific spiritual force in His words: "And he awoke and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm" (Mark 4:39).

He knows who He is, and He tells us who we are....

Through the eyes and ears of scripture, we find that there is still sufficient power remaining in the record of His words to have great spiritual meaning for us. It seems

that years of wondering and searching are answered in the simplest statement of Truth from Jesus. So it is that the divine grace and perfect love of the Incarnation are always real and vital. But when we imagine the special impact of actually hearing the words of Truth from the very mouth of Jesus, we cannot help but feel a thrill of joy' and thanksgiving. Because of our great desire to know Him, we can stand with those long-ago Truth students of the Bible, and ask and receive His message directly from the Master.

The woman of Samaria mentioned the Messiah, the great spiritual leader whose coming had been prophesied. Without hesitation, Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he" (John 4:26). He did not preface this statement with "I believe," or "it is logical that," or "it may be." His response has the strength of direct vision, and it blesses and frees all who will receive the message.

Jesus' continual message is that He is Spirit, one with God. His great ongoing activity is to emphasize the Truth He so clearly beholds: that every individual regardless of social rank, race, sex, or past experiences is also the embodiment of that same Spirit that shines through Him. His great purpose is to call forth in everyone that same spiritual nature so that each might realize it and manifest it for himself.

He sees that all are of God-free, unconquerable, and eternal. He says to us, "You are gods" (John 10:34), not that mankind must worship some distant divinity, or wait for some far-off day, but that each is innately divine now. Because of this insight, Jesus has a profound effect on others, particularly those who are ripe for spiritual realization. A few words and His intense presence has been enough to call forth spirituality in these

individuals, and in this way to transform their lives. "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" was all that was needed to cause four men to abandon their livelihood and their families and follow Jesus on a journey of unknown destiny.

To Philip and to Matthew, the tax collector, Jesus said only, "Follow me." And immediately the men followed Him. There was a transforming healing spiritual power in His very touch: "And Jesus in pity touched their eyes, and immediately they received their sight and followed him" (Matthew 20:34). There was an unforgettable spiritual attraction and significance in His very look: "And the Lord turned and looked at Peter, and Peter remembered the word of the Lord" (Luke 22:61). Even when He does not speak, the spiritual message is still conveyed by a touch, a look, or a gesture. The purpose is always to instill in men and women the inspiration of Spirit, and this purpose is accomplished in countless wonderful ways.

He is contrast, but He is the culmination of Truth

The seeming contradictions or contrasts in His teaching methods and in His nature are many. But as we learn to understand Him, and as we watch Him and listen to Him inwardly, the apparent contrasts confuse less, and more and more they make the Christ nature more beautiful and more real to us. Religion is always a paradox to the strictly material-minded. But firsthand *experience* of the full force and power of religion through the many-faceted personality of the Incarnation of God will resolve the paradox.

Perhaps the overwhelming contrast inherent in Jesus Christ is that His life on earth, which was so real and touchable, is also divine and transcendent. Jesus

affirmed His spiritual nature when He said, "I am not of this world" (John 8:23). It is obvious from the events of His life that He was never limited by the negative restrictions that mankind usually accepts for itself. In that sense, He was never "of the world." Working with the laws of nature, He is ever free. While living and acting in the material world, He saw beyond appearances to the spiritual reality in and through all things. And He manifested that reality "on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10).

Because thought-provoking contrasts are part of His nature, He has a way of challenging the established state of things. All that is inertia-bound in society or in habits of thinking is disrupted by His presence. In this sense, He is a divine disturber: "Do not think that I have come to bring peace on earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword" (Matthew 10:34). However, although He challenges in that sense, in a higher sense He comforts as nothing temporal can comfort: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid" (John 14:27). His call is one of change, of renewal, of upset. And still His message is the healing, changeless Truth, the very essence of peace.

While He is a quoter of ancient words of scripture, and a fulfiller of long-awaited prophecy, He is original in the fullest sense of the word. His message has a never-before-imparted quality. But we sense that everything we have ever heard before that has sounded good and true is very much like what Jesus is telling us. He gives new phrases like "our Father," but his words ring with eternal truth. He gives us a new teaching, but we feel that these things are not

new but have been deep within us always.

Jesus is rare, *uncommon* among people, to say the least. But at the same time, He represents that common potential of love and wisdom and peace and power with which all can identify. Any stranger passing on the pathway might take Him for one of his own. Anyone might respond to Him. In this way, He is the *most common* and universally acceptable of all. That is why so many, many people in every kind of place and of every kind of background have expressed the idea about Jesus Christ, "He is my very own."

Perhaps the best commentary on the life of Jesus Christ is that life itself, for in that life the great message of Truth shines. Metaphysical principle is interesting to study, but the Incarnation of God is the living example of all metaphysics. He is what they have all been talking about. To experience this example—even through the windows of scripture—is to behold the Source of our faith in spiritual reality.

If we try to think of omnipresent God, or all-encompassing divinity, we may find it difficult to reach an understanding of God. But if we think of the life and personality of Jesus, Incarnation of God, we can at once conceive of spiritual qualities. The thought of Jesus Christ makes spiritual ideas clearer to us; the thought of Jesus is at once comforting, strengthening, purifying, uplifting. Thinking of His great love makes the idea of divine love real to us. He is immediately accessible, all-loving, all-wise, and ever responsive to our prayer. He is closer and more immediate than abstract Principal.

--Continued in February

January 2013

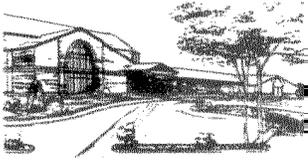
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>AA Men's Group</i> 10:00 AM <i>CA 7:00 PM</i>	2 <i>Ukulele Practice</i> 7-9 PM	3	4 <i>Choir Rehearsal</i> 9 AM <i>Bell Choir</i> 10:30 AM
5 <i>Burning Bowl Service</i> 10:30 AM <i>Youth Ed</i> 10:30	6	7	8 <i>AA Men's Group</i> 10:00 AM <i>CA 7:00 PM</i>	9	10	11 <i>Choir Rehearsal</i> 9 AM <i>Bell Choir</i> 10:30 AM
12 <i>Sunday Service</i> 10:30 AM <i>Youth Ed</i> 10:30	13	14 <i>The Book Club</i> <i>"Dancing for Degas" by Kathryn Wagner</i> <i>Bread Co. (across from St. Anthony's Hospital) 2-4pm</i>	15 <i>AA Men's Group</i> 10:00 AM <i>CA 7:00 PM</i>	16 <i>Ukulele Practice</i> 7-9 PM	17	18 <i>Choir Rehearsal</i> 9 AM <i>Bell Choir</i> 10:30 AM
19 <i>Sunday Service</i> 10:30 AM <i>Youth Ed</i> 10:30	20 <i>Ladies Night Out</i> <i>"Three Margaritas"</i> <i>69 Fenton Plaza</i> 5:30 PM	21	22 <i>AA Men's Group</i> 10:00 AM <i>CA 7:00 PM</i>	23	24	25 <i>Choir Rehearsal</i> 9 AM <i>Bell Choir</i> 10:30 AM
26 <i>Sunday Service</i> 10:30 AM <i>Youth Ed</i> 10:30	27	28	29 <i>AA Men's Group</i> 10:00 AM <i>CA 7:00 PM</i>	30 <i>Ukulele Practice</i> 7-9 PM	31	

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THE JANUARY, 2014 NEWSLETTER OF
 FIRST UNITY CHURCH OF ST. LOUIS

First Unity Church
 4753 Butler Hill Road
 St. Louis, MO 63128

Phone: (314) 845-8540
Fax: (314) 845-0022
Email: firstunity@firstunitychurchstlouis.org
www.firstunitychurchstlouis.org



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The light side -- A little holy humor

Funny One-Liners

Ninety-nine percent of lawyers give the rest a bad name.

Borrow money from a pessimist -- they don't expect it back.

Time is what keeps things from happening all at once.

Lottery: A tax on people who are bad at math.

I didn't fight my way to the top of the food chain to be a vegetarian.

Never answer an anonymous letter.

It's lonely at the top; but you do eat better.

I don't suffer from insanity;
I enjoy every minute of it.

Always go to other people's funerals, or they won't go to yours.

Few women admit their age; few men act it.

If we aren't supposed to eat animals, why are they made with meat?

No one is listening until you make a mistake.

Give me ambiguity or give me something else.

He who laughs last thinks slowest

We have enough youth. How about a fountain of "Smart"?

. Campers: Nature's way of feeding mosquitoes.

Always remember that you are unique; just like everyone else.

Consciousness: That annoying time between naps.

There are three kinds of people: Those who can count and those who can't.

Why is "abbreviation" such a long word?