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 2015

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- Information
- Illumination

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The New Year

By James Dillet Freeman

The New Year is a time when many of us think about time. We look back and contemplate what has happened during the year that has passed. We look forward and plan what may happen in the year ahead.

January gets its name from the god Janus. He not only had a face facing

forward like the rest of us, but he had one that looked behind him. The Romans put this double-faced god at their doorways and entrances. One of their names for doors was *janua*; no one is sure whether doors got their name from the god or the god got his name from doors.

The New Year was celebrated in the spring by the Romans until Julius Caesar invented his calendar and de creed that the year would start in January.

We human beings seem almost obsessed with our concern for time. Other species seem to take time casually; the sun comes up and goes down for them, and they pay attention to the seasons, and that is about it. But not for us. Today most of us wear wristwatches, even digital ones, and we are concerned if they are a few seconds off.

Not even the spinning Earth is as meticulous about time as we are; it does not complete its journey around the sun in exactly the same time every year, forcing the scientists to adjust their atomic clocks (which can give the right time to elevenmillionths of a second every year.

Personally, I want to feel that I am in charge of time, not that time is in charge of me. Unity is a "now" religion, and we

constantly instruct people to live in the present. But the god Janus reminds us that the present includes the past and the future. The present is the culmination of the past and the foretoken of the future. As we bring together the knowledge and wisdom we have gained from our past life and our vision of future possibilities, we fashion from the present moment the fullest, richest, most creative life we are capable of living now and at every moment.

Now is all the time we have, but now is for forever. We are not one-note creatures. We find our meaning and significance the way a great piece of music finds its meaning and significance. It moves, now adagio, now allegro, through dominants and dissonances, arpeggios and rests, sevenths and tonic chords, and they all have meaning, in terms of the entire piece.

Spinoza told us that we need to look at things "sub specie aeternitatis," from the viewpoint of eternity. It is in this context that we find our meaning, not as time's waifs, but one with the One, who is and was and evermore will be.





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Wings

January, 2015 Page 2 Prepare for the New Year right at our annual Unity **Burning Bowl Service** on Sunday, January 4^{th.}

This month the Ladies' Night Out Group will meet at 5:30 on Dec. 19th at O'Learys on Lindbergh. For more information call Mary
Tumminello – Home: 314-843-1807 Cell: 314-814-4530.



January 13: The Aviator's Wife by Melanie Benjamin

February 10: Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand

March 10: The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry by Rachel Joyce April 10: The Red Tent by Anita Diamant

Laughter Yoga with Jodi

Simple stretching, breathing and guided meditation! Join in for a positive spiritual experience on Thursdays, 4:00 - 5:00 PM, in Fellowship Hall.



Feed My People

On Sunday February 1st, millions of Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl



football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal. Please join Feed My People and others around the country as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. Bring your gifts of soup throughout the month of January, and we will deliver them to Feed My People. Here is the simple prayer of a young boy that inspired this movement to help hungry and hurting people around the world: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat."

www.feed-my-people.org

Our Youth Education department is growing. We sure could use extra hands and hugs. If you could help just one Sunday a month, it would



make a big difference for our church and our children.

Unity Lending Library Grand Reopening Scheduled for Sunday, January 25th

The Unity Spiritual Library has been given a new makeover and will be open for business at its new



location near the elevator following Sunday Service on January 25th.

Be sure to stop by and check out an inspirational title from among a wide selection of books written by some of Unity's greatest authors and teachers.

There are also many other favorites for you to enjoy, written by other New Thought and spiritual thinkers.

Checkout is easy and librarians will be on hand to assist you and answer any questions.

January Birthdays and Pot Luck Lunch: Join us after
the service on the 18th to
enjoy a pot luck lunch and
celebrate all those who have a
birthday this month.



Traveling OnBy Betty Wallace Scott

For the journey into the unknown year I've packed by surplus Christmas cheer, Made fresh resolve to supplement Those good intentions yet unspent.

I've dropped the baggage that I found Too wearisome to drag around – Regrets, resentments—not my style If I would travel with a smile.

Accomplishments and friendships wait Beyond the New Year's open gate.



January Affirmations

Inner Peace: Peace emanates from my calm center.

Guidance: Spirit guides my every step. **Healing**: My body responds to my healing thoughts, and I radiate health.

Prosperity: I claim my inheritance of God's unlimited abundance.

unimited abundance.

World Peace: I am a presence of peace in the world.





When the New Year Begins for Us

In 46 B.C., Roman emperor Julius Caesar first chose January 1 as the date of the New Year. Six hundred years later, the Roman church proclaimed that the new year would henceforth be March 25, the date of the Feast of the Annunciation (when the angel spoke to Mary).

March 25 was the accepted New Year's Day for almost 1,000 years. In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII moved it back to January 1.



Resolve to Listen

Although Christian philosopher Paul Tillich said, "The first responsibility of

love is to listen." Yet in our fastpaced culture, truly listening to someone has become a lost art.

The intricate Chinese written character for the verb to listen offers wise insight about how to listen to people so they feel heard. The symbol is actually a combination of characters for ears, eyes and an open heart. Basically it reads, "I give you my ears, my eyes and my undivided attention." What a great image of being fully engaged during the act of communication!

James 1:19 offers two wise resolutions for the year ahead: Be "quick to listen" and "slow to speak" (NRSV). Practicing the skill of active listening is a much-needed way to minister to other people.

Unsinkable serenity

E. Stanley Jones, the great missionary to India, told of a psychiatrist's account of a patient who had no inner serenity. The psychiatrist said he couldn't give her that gift but that perhaps Jones as a religious man might. Jones replied that he couldn't but he knew Someone who could.

Of course, Jones was referring to God through Christ. In his book The Way to Power and Poise, the evangelist wrote: "Now the crux of the whole matter is just here: Can we realize God within us in such a way that no matter what happens on the outside we will still be secure? If that can't happen, we're sunk. If it can happen, we're not only un-sunk, but unsinkable."

I'd Like to Thank . . .

Many years ago, comedian Garry Moore — hot when television was a new thing in the 1950s — was the recipient of a television award for spontaneity. Moore facetiously paid tribute to "the four guys responsible for my spontaneity: my writers."

When the next award went to Bishop Fulton Sheen, he rose and approached the podium. "I also want to pay tribute to my four writers," he declared, "Matthew, Mark, Luke and John!"

Pray without Ceasing

The Alabama minister, Dr. Thomas Lane Butts, tells of a pastor friend who



began every prayer with the words, "And, Lord" Dr. Butts commented that it was as if the fellow was having an ongoing talk with his Savior — sometimes silent, sometimes audible.

Perhaps he was simply following St. Paul's advice to "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances ..." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NRSV).

Our Inner Image

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.

—The Rev. Dr. Norman Vincent Peale

"Quotable Quotes"

What the New Year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the New Year.

Vern McLellan

We don't stop playing because we get old; we get old because we stop playing.

—attributed to George Bernard Shaw

A day without laughter is a day wasted.

—Charlie Chaplin

Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.

—J.M. Barrie

I object to people running down the future. I am going to live all the rest of my life there, and I'd like it to be a nice place.

—Charles Kettering

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

—Franklin Roosevelt

We must learn to live together as brothers or perish as fools.

—Martin Luther King Jr.

God gives us all a free trip around the sun each year. Enjoy the ride.

—Source unknown

Birds sing after a storm; why shouldn't people feel as free to delight in whatever remains to them?

—Rose Kennedy

Always be joyful. That is the only truly saintly state.

—Teresa of Ávila

We plant seeds that will flower as results in our lives, so best to remove the weeds of anger, avarice, envy and doubt, that peace and abundance may manifest for all.

—Dorothy Day

God Is the Answer

By Dana Gatlin

Chapter III

Dare to Trust God

Do you feel poor, sick, unhappy, discouraged? Then the most helpful thing you can do is to change the character of your thoughts. Shift your center of attention, find a new interest, something promising and compelling, something that will galvanize your mind and lift it out of its dreary rut. Change your way of thinking about yourself and your difficulties.

"But how can I?" you may answer. "That is the way things are! There is nothing pleasant in my life to think about. Everything is constantly getting more snarled and hopeless. I am at the end of my rope!"

Very well, then, give up the rope. Give up your last inch of frail, battered, unsatisfactory mortal "rope." Dare! Swing out in your thoughts and feelings. Swing out-on God.

Once when I felt sick, confused, defeated, and frightened, I found this idea of "daring" an almost miraculous help in lifting me out of my mental confusion, out of the needs and difficulties that surrounded me, over into the invisible, illimitable, infinite realm of Spirit.

Daring! Right where I am, I am daring to trust in God! I am God's child. I am daring to claim Him as my Father. I am daring to claim the unshakable truth of all His glorious promises. God is. God can help me! God will. I cannot describe the surge of new strength, courage, interest, and expectancy that this mere change in thought habits will arouse. Dare to swing out on the promises of the Great Unseen. Dare to claim His life and strength and power. Dare to cast aside mortal beliefs, in order to rely on God and to lean on Him only. Dare to perceive and acknowledge Him in the face of adverse seemings;

dare to trust Him through and above every situation in the world.

We cannot see God. We cannot touch Him. Therefore it is often difficult to establish and maintain our trust in Him amid the adverse conditions in Our life that we can both touch and see. But this we must do, it is the one thing we must do. Trust. The dictionary defines this allimportant word as "a reliance or practical resting of the mind on the integrity, veracity, justice, or other sound principle of another person, or upon his friendship, or upon his promises as involving these; faith." Paul has defined "faith" for us as "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." We can easily see how important and potent is the essential element of trust, which in itself is never tangible but which brings about very tangible

Recently I had a letter from a despairing friend, in which she said, "I feel that you have proved this Truth or you could not write as you do. My own faith is not as steady as it should be, yet I must not, cannot lose it – it is all I have. Can you give me a message of hope?"

The letter moved me deeply, because it reminded me of a time when I had been in a similar situation. "My faith *is* all I have," she wrote. Of course when one has true faith one has everything. It is out of my absolute conviction of this, gained through an ever-widening comprehension of God in my own experience, that I am writing this open letter as a "message of hope" to my friend and to all other friends who are similarly distressed.

Each person's faith is something that must be quickened within him individually, and I can understand how your personal situation may have filled your mind with confusion and tormenting doubts. Yet is all this a proof that God cannot? For myself I claim and say that God can! In any and all circumstances I should keep on saying, "God can." For me He has proved that He can: in proportion as I

maintain and develop my trust, as I let my consciousness be filled with His ever-present love and wisdom, as I keep my faith centered in the invisible but infallible, undefeatable power of Spirit. God who lives in the midst of me—with whom all things are possible—against whom nothing unlike Himself can stand. When I think back to the sick, weak, discouraged person I once was, I rejoice and give thanks for that utter collapse. I was forced to build up my trust in God and I now know there is no need ever to be frightened again.

I have glimpsed the tremendous truth that God is omnipresent and omnipotent in every situation, waiting only for my mortal mind to perceive and claim Him and I know that my sheer faith in Him, proportionately as I am faithful, enables me to "surmount and solve my every human problem. In God is my trust. To cling to that trust, to increase my understanding of it, and to be true to that understanding has become my first and most important business in life.

"I believe: help thou mine unbelief." A soothed spirit, a feeling of relief, of reassurance, of new expectancy was my first intuitive intimation that I had contacted Him, that God had actually heard and was answering my prayer. God in mein you—God in His whole creation. Just what does God mean to you? Jesus taught that God our heavenly Father is omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent. This means that God knows; God is here; God can. But what chance do we give His almighty power when we submerge it under a welter of limited, sorry impressions received from the man-made world? God gave us our mind as an individual part of HIS one great Mind, but He left us free agents as regards how we should use it. When we cram and clutter it with the ills and adverse appearances we see around us, we not only feel very unhappy at the time but are also courting further miseries.

When we turn to God for help sincerely seeking to know Him, God

not only gives us poignantly felt glimpses of Himself—the divine touch of comfort and the flash of illumination that we most need but He opens the mortal mind to awareness of its own responsibility and power. We receive elucidation of how Divine Mind works in and for mankind, increasing our knowledge and our ability to help ourselves.

In the leaflet *Remaking Our World* Imelda Octavia Shanklin has so succinctly and forcefully explained the mind's power of creation that I should like to quote a passage here:

"The power by which we act on the spiritual creation is the same power by which creation came. The power is the word. . . . The spiritual creation never changes, being the form of God's immutable word. Our world is continuously changing, being made in the form of our fickle words.

"Our world is constituted of all that we hold in consciousness, and words react on consciousness. . . . When we speak a new word, our world is changed somewhat. If we reiterate the new word, the change is strengthened. A new word may have the power radically to change our world, to change it instantly. But the remaking of our world is rarely instantaneous. Our mind swings from the good that we hope to manifest and again contemplates the non-good which we hope to expel from our world. . . . The measure of our belief is indicated by the effect of the re-creating word. 'God said . . . and it was so:"

Don't you see why we must not, dare not, fasten our attention on distressing conditions in our outer world or fill our mind with distressing thoughts? We dare not carry around thoughts of grievance, hardship, weakness, sickness, failure, and lack. Every time we think an adverse thought we plant it deeper in our consciousness; by our own recognition of it and belief in it we strengthen its hold on us. We ourselves pave the way for it to

become a stronger actuality in our life. The saddest part is that in so doing we are misusing and subverting the only creative power there is, that vital, dynamic substance in us "from which all things are made," that one and only power, that God-given power which lies innate in every man, that power which God Himself uses: "God said ... and it was so." God didn't plant sickness for us, or poverty, misery, failure, and fear. Man thought up these things himself, continues to believe in them, and in his personal world continues to bring them to pass. God never thought of them, does not think of them now, and never will. As long as you or I persist in such thoughts, God Himself cannot help us. Even when we pray to God to help us, beseechingly, frantically, He cannot do so as long as we keep our mind filled with our troubles. We cannot, dare not, carry our man-made negations to God.

Fortunately we can drop the negations. The power of thought is man's greatest gift from God, and it is one of our greatest blessings that the mind can at any time change its thought, and can think only one thought at a time. Instead of thinking limited, puny, wretched thoughts we can lift up our mind and think God's thoughts after Him. It always helps me to remember that if I keep fifty-one per cent of my thinking constructive, I am on the upswing.

Dare to lift your mind up to God. Behold the Truth of God, His flawless and undeviating perfection, and have the courage to claim it as your own. If your body seems weak and sick, have the courage to ignore this mortal appearance. Let it go so that you may receive direct from God! Dare to throw away every cloud and shadow of misbelief, every evidence of man-made imperfection. Dare to turn to God and claim His glorious wholeness.

Dare to say:

"I am not going to be sick, I am going to be well. I am well right now. I am healed with the wholeness of God."

Dare to say:

"I am not going to be poor, I am not poor now. God, everywherepresent substance, is making Himself visible in all my affairs."

Dare to thrill to the upspringing sense of power within you as you make your new claim, and choose to identify yourself with all the good that exists in the realm of God. Try to live one perfect day in your mental domain, one day in which you lift your mind up to God and think His thoughts after Him. Say to yourself:

"I am choosing God. Today I will be true to God. Today I will vision His perfection everywhere. I will use constructively the power of my word. Today I will let my every thought and feeling carry a blessing. Today I will discount all my troubles and every adverse seeming. God rules my entire world, and nothing unlike Him can stand against Him.

"Today I will be cheerful, generous, tolerant, patient, kind. God neither knows nor countenances inharmony. God is my constant companion, and fills my environment. My sense of gratitude flows out and fills my whole world.

"Today, realizing I am God's child, I will give thanks for His protection, guidance, and enveloping love and wisdom. I will count my every blessing and give thanks for the countless unseen blessings that are waiting to come into visibility. 'God said ... and it was so.'

"Today out of my trust, gratitude, and loyalty to God I will see only His Truth and beauty back of every mortal situation. God's ways are 'ways of pleasantness.' God thoughts melt all the hard places out of my mind, my heart, and my world. Today I will find

something to do whereby I can make life brighter and pleasanter for others.

"Today I will rejoice to know that I am a free, untrammeled, all-forgiving child of God. I gladly give up all the thoughts of weakness and defect that have bound and hampered me; all the discontents, resentments, and frictions. I gladly give up all the hard ways. Human ways are often hard and difficult, but one way always is 'easy' – the way of Christ, leading to the glorious Truth of God.

"Today I will remember God. I will turn to Him and be true to Him. 'He leadeth me!' In God is my trust."

Chapter IV

What Is the Kingdom of Heaven?

All of us want health, happiness, and success in life. Many of us pray for God's help and guidance in order to attain them. Jesus said, "Seek ye first his kingdom, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

A recent letter to me from a friend asks: "What is the kingdom of God? Of what is it constituted? Is it found in being kind, loving, generous? Giving our tithings to the church, attending services? Doing willingly everything that we are called to do in God's service? How are we to know if we are truly seeking His kingdom? How are we to know when we have attained that blessing?"

Millions of inspired words have been written about "the kingdom," a proper conception of which is the basis of all Truth teaching. In the face of this it might seem strange that so many human minds are still puzzled and uncertain about it, yet humanly it is not strange. When I was first seeking to know God, to find the place and manner in which He dispenses His blessings, the whole matter seemed very vague,

mystical, and mysterious. Then one day it broke upon me with startling clearness! "Why, 'the kingdom' is simply the state of my own mind and heart toward God—the most intimate inmost state in which I know Him and live with Him. It is being receptive to Him, the altered mood and feeling of awareness that He inspires in me. It is the state of being quickened in spirit. It is my awareness of Him in and through all the vicissitudes of my daily life."

Once I wrote an article on mental control. In this I told of my tremendous discovery that my mind is my own domain and that I am responsible for every thought I harbor in it. Some time later it came to me that my heart is a throne of God's love. It is the deep, invisible, vital place in me where God pours Himself forth to change and enlarge my own nature, to quicken, redeem, and bless it. It is the place in me where I know God and live with Him. My heart is a throne of God's love, of all His mercies and blessings. There is my individual "kingdom."

Jesus taught that this potent, allimportant kingdom is not "Lo, here! or, There," that it is not in the future nor in some far-off place in the sky. "The kingdom of God is within you," said Jesus. He likened it to a mustard seed which when planted has within itself the power to grow into a tree; He likened it to the increasing power revealed by a lump of leaven hidden in a loaf of bread. At different times Jesus made the following statements: "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." "Seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." "Except one be born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God." "I am the way and the truth and the life." "Lo, I am with you always." "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." "I speak not from myself: but the Father abiding in me doeth his works." "This is the work of God. that ye believe."

Jesus said, "God is Spirit." God's kingdom in the illimitable sense is

that invisible spiritual realm in which God holds, sustains, and governs His entire universe. But for you and me and for every individual of us God's kingdom is simply the matter of our awareness of Him as ever present. We must be "born anew" into this spiritual awareness. My individual "kingdom" is simply a matter of how much, how widely, and how intimately I believe in God. A matter of how much of Him I give credence to, how much power I yield Him to guide and mold and control my thoughts and feelings, and every experience of my life. It is determined by the state of my own mind and heart, by what I am most deeply and vitally attuned to. It is determined by my conviction of God's never-failing presence, regardless of what may be happening in the world about me.

The vast sweep of God's unseen domain is beyond our mortal comprehension, but for you and me God assumes just as much of His almightiness and omnipresence as we can individually sense and grasp. To each one of us He becomes "my heavenly Father," to whom in the midst of our own being we have access and can pray. Whatever may be your conception or mine, it does not change the absolute God, the principle of all good; but to you and to me God is exactly what we individually conceive Him to be. Likewise His "kingdom" is, for each one of us, the place in our consciousness which most fully perceives His unfailing and illimitable good.

--Continued in February

January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 "Burning Bowl Service 10:30AM Youth Ed 10:30AM	5	6	7 AA Men's Group 10AM CA 7PM	8 Yoga Class 4-5	9	10 Choir Rehearsal 9AM Bell Choir 10:30AM
11 Sunday Services 10:30AM Youth Ed 10:30AM	12 Prayer Chaplain Meeting 6:45PM	13 Book Club The Aviator's Wife by Melanie Benjamin at Bread Company 2-4PM	14 AA Men's Group 10AM CA 7PM	15 Yoga Class 4-5	16	17 Choir Rehearsal 9AM Bell Choir 10:30AM
18 Sunday Services 10:30AM Youth Ed 10:30AM Birthday/Potluck	19 Ladies Night Out Will meet at O'Learys on Lindbergh at 5:30PM	20	21 AA Men's Group 10AM CA 7PM	22 Yoga Class 4-5	23	24 Choir Rehearsal 9AM Bell Choir 10:30AM
25 Sunday Services 10:30AM Youth Ed 10:30AM Reopening of Library after services Light refreshments	26	27	28 AA Men's Group 10AM CA 7PM	29 Yoga Class 4-5	30	3 I Choir Rehearsal 9AM Bell Choir 10:30AM

Wings

THE JANUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER OF FIRST UNITY CHURCH OF ST. LOUIS

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The light side — A little holy humor

Funny work place signs:

In an Office: Would the person who took the step ladder yesterday please bring it back or further steps will be taken.

In a Beauty Shop: Dye now!

Inside a Bowling Alley: Please be quiet. We need to hear a pin drop.

Outside a Radiator Repair Shop: Best place in town to take a leak.

In a Non-smoking area: If we see you smoking we will assume you are on fire and take appropriate action.

Maternity Clothes Shop: We are open on labor day.

At an Optometrist's Office: If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place.

On a Butcher's window: Let me meat your needs.

At a Used Car Lot: Second Hand cars in first crash condition.

On a fence: Salesmen welcome. Dog food is expensive.

At a Car Dealership: The best way to get back on your feet - miss a car payment.

Outside a Muffler Shop: No appointment necessary. We'll hear you coming.

Outside a Hotel: Help! We need innexperienced people.

In a Counselor's office: Growing old is mandatory. Growing wise is optional.

Outside a country shop: We buy junk and sell antiques.

In front of a junk yard building: Drive Reckless! It helps business!

On a travel agency: Please go away.

On entering the Lion Country Safari in Florida, there is a sign: Trespassers will be eaten!

A sign outside a church: ch__ch What's missing? ur