

# 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 2017

- ❖ *Inspiration*
- ❖ *Information*
- ❖ *Illumination*

## Inside this issue:

News and events

Truth Thoughts

Quotable Quotes

Truth Articles

Calendar

Humor

## A Handful of Days

*By Olive Aldous Garrett*

BRIGHT, BRIGHT moonlight, crisp, cold, squeaky snow underfoot, and the horns heralding the New Year had brought momentary excitement; but the streets were quiet once more ... the New Year had come. The only sounds were the footsteps and voices of a little girl and her father. She had one small hand in his big one, both tucked into his pocket, and with the other she clutched a brand new calendar.

I guess we all have a tiny picture of a memorable New Year's Eve in our minds. Mine does not sound very exciting, but there was something about that walk home with Father that has stayed with me all these years. I do not remember what we talked about, but I remember the feeling of the moment. Undoubtedly, Father's words had impressed me with the newness of those first minutes of a New Year. Nothing had happened to spoil them in any way; and they were perfect as God had made and expected us to keep them. The calendar Grandfather had given me (we'd been visiting him) was, of course, the earthly symbol of all the fresh, new days God had placed before us to do with as we wished. Intangibles are hard for

little minds to grasp, but the calendar, held fast in my cold little hand, was to me a whole year full of bright and exciting new days!

And so, as we hang up our handful of brand-new days, this simple act can take on great importance if we think about and make a ritual of it. Bless the days before you, and do it with sincerity, so that the blessing

becomes more than mere words.

A prominent minister recently said that our good is just ahead—that we are walking toward it, stepping right into the midst of it! That is the idea behind the act of hanging up a calendar. It's a symbol of what is ahead, and we make of it what we will with the power of

our minds.

Someone wrote: Each man may prove for himself that, as his thought alters, his condition varies. As he thinks, he becomes. How important it is then that he should know how to control and direct this hidden energy with which he is constantly changing both his world and himself.

It is good that New Year's makes us aware of the passage of another year, reminding us that it is gone, never to be recalled. But the new one? It's a thrilling challenge every time, isn't it?

January 2017						
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29	30	31				



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## Wings

January, 2017

Page 2

### Removing our Christmas Decorations

Please join us on Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> to take down this year's Christmas decorations and get our church ready for the New Year.

You will want to join us for **the White Stone Ceremony on Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>**.

### Toiletree Gifts

First Unity youth will be collecting toiletries for families who would be grateful for toiletries. Please see the tree in the foyer to see how you can help. Shampoo, toilet paper, lotions, toothpaste, etc. are welcomed for these families.



**Quilts for Kids** will be taking a holiday break during December. They will resume after the New Year. For more information, contact Jane Vondruska (636 226-4562) or Sandy Etheridge (314 309-8136).

**The Ladies' Night Out Group** will meet at Pad Thai restaurant in 12676 Lamplighters Square, on Jan. 16 at 5:30. For more information call Mary Tumminello Home: 314-843-1807 Cell: 314-814-4530.



**January 10:** The Silent Sister by Diane Chamberlain  
**February 8:** A Husband's Secret by Liane Moriarty  
(All are welcome, whether you have read the book or not.)

**eScrip News** - Remember to use your eScrip card at Schnuck's. Go to www.escrip.com, or look for the link on the First Unity website to earn money for First Unity as you shop. Thank you!

### Feed My People

Your donations to Feed My People are always greatly appreciated. Your donations do more good than you know!

www.feed-my-people.org



### Youth Education

We welcome extra hands and hugs. If you could help just one Sunday a month, it would make a huge difference.

**Sound System**



If you signed up to help with the sound system on Sunday mornings, training will occur on Saturday morning, January 14<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30am. It will take about an hour. During this time, we will also get a schedule established for the next couple of months. Please plan to attend and bring your calendar. We are very grateful for your willingness to help out.

Stop by Our **Lending Library** and check out an inspirational title from among a wide selection of books written by some of Unity's greatest authors.



In case of **inclement weather**, please check *KSDK News Channel 5 StormWatch* or *KSDK.com*.

If you miss a Sunday lesson, you can listen to it from our website:  
**www.firstunitychurchstlouis.org**

### January Affirmations



**Inner Peace:** I connect with Spirit and peace fills my heart.

**Guidance:** I am guided to new and fulfilling discoveries.

**Healing:** I love from the truth of my being. I am whole, strong, and well.

**Prosperity:** My positive thoughts attract abundant blessings.

**World Peace:** I envision a world where peace resides in every heart.

### Now Is the Accepted Time

If we are committed to a life of giving, a life of loving, a life of being - of being an open channel - peace is the inevitable result. When we begin that life, peace begins. As we grow into that life, peace grows into us. Perhaps it will take a completed eternity to open every channel to God and find complete peace. But we can find a "peace of God, which passeth all understanding" now.

-Gardner Hunting,  
*Working with God.*





### Lessons from a snowman

- It's okay to wear white well after Labor Day.
- Simply hanging out in your front yard can be fun.

- Accessories don't have to be fancy or expensive.
- We're all made mostly of water.
- You know you've "arrived" when a song is written about you.
- So what if you're a little bottom-heavy?
- Don't get too much sun.
- Sweating too much can be disastrous!

### Taking a stand

Cowardice asks the question: Is it safe? Expediency asks the question: Is it politic? Vanity asks the question: Is it popular? But conscience asks the question: Is it right? And there comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular — but one must take it simply because it is right.

—Martin Luther King Jr.

### How do you recognize a Christian?

A Christian can never be raging with hatred, intent on revenge, grim-faced without mercy or forgiveness. No, a Christian will reveal sincerity through and through, throbbing with compassion and love, quick to smile and laugh, and always checking to make sure the spirit of Christ is in him or her. Christ in us is the hope of glory (see Colossians 1:27, NRSV).

### Our Task

South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu has the gift of summarizing the role of Christians in God's world. He makes the point that we are to work with God as "agents of transfiguration." We are to be God's instruments, he believes, to change injustice into justice. We are also meant to exercise compassion, care,

joy and laughter. If we will do that, the archbishop says, "There will be more togetherness in God's world."

### 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 unsunk, but unsinkable."



### Waiting to blossom

A 1979 song called "The Rose" (written by Amanda McBroom and made popular by Bette Midler) encourages

listeners to keep the faith, even when the source of our hope isn't visible.

In the depths of winter, we especially need the reminder that beneath mounds of snow lie seeds already being prepared to burst forth "with the sun's love" into springtime flowers.

When you're in the cold depths of despair, grief, illness or other struggles, remember the deeply buried seed. Beyond your view, God's love is already tending that seed, readying it to blossom into healing, new friendship, joy and life.

### "Quotable Quotes"

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

We can major in our fears ... or major in our dreams.

—Dr. Bruce Porter

The world's most basic needs can be summed up in four words: bread, brains, belief and brotherhood.

—Dr. J. Wallace Hamilton

A man who lets himself be worshiped mocks God.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards.

—Søren Kierkegaard

Remember and never doubt it: With God's help you can do incredible things. Never think down; always think up.

—Norman Vincent Peale

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

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

—Benjamin Franklin

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

I love all beginnings, despite their anxiousness and their uncertainty.

—Rainer Maria Rilke

## A New Tempo for your Life

By Eric Butterworth

It is midnight on December 31st of any year. There is an explosion of celebration and the babble of "Happy New Year!" One could logically inquire, "What happened?" Of course, our calendars and clocks tell us that a year has happened. But what is a year? What is time? They are little more than convenient means of keeping track of the footprints in the sands. But the winds of change soon blow them away, leaving only the Allness of eternity.

So, what is New Year's Eve all about? It's a good excuse to celebrate, which is not all that bad. But it can be an empty exercise if we simply celebrate the celebration. How easily the holiday can become a "hollow" day! On the other hand, it can be a joyous commitment to the principle and the process of new beginnings. Certainly one can begin again at any moment, and yet one particular moment can be very special if it is the point in time when we take the first step.

Time is a great illusion. The only difference between one year and the next is what one makes of it. There is great naiveté in the anticipation and expectation of New Year's Eve, the wonder of what the coming year will be like, and the wishing of good luck to friends, hoping that things will be better for them. The sobering thought that few persons dare to think at that happy time is this: The New Year will be no different than the old one unless they are different.

Carlyle says: *Every day that is born into the world comes like a burst of music, and rings itself all the day through; and thou shalt make of it a dance, a dirge, or a life-march, as thou wilt.*

### What Do You Want?

Thus, you can make of New Year's Day, or any day, whatever you want. You can, if you wish, stand Janus-like, looking nostalgically into the past, or peering apprehensively into the future. Or you can consider the present moment as the midpoint in eternity. It is the most important time of your life, for it is now, which is truly the only

time. You can start from where you are, build on the accumulated benefits of the past, and go forward in the awareness that you can achieve anything you can conceive and believe. Celebrate the *now* of your life today and every day. Life is not yesterday. Life is not tomorrow. Today is where it's at! Now is the time! And you make the difference!

Life for most persons is spent in the waiting room. From the time we were very young, there has been the feeling that we were preparing for the real thing: .. When I am old enough to go to school"; "when I graduate from college"; "when I get married"; "when the children are grown and on their own"; "when we retire to that condominium in Florida." And then how very soon the realization dawns that much of what we have been building for has already passed. Thus, the ante-room looks back upon yesterday with regret and nostalgia: "How good it was when I was in school; when the house was full of the laughter of children; when I had a job to go to each day."

In other words, there is a confused sense of looking for one's niche, one's place in time and space. Somehow we overlook the place where we are. Here and now is the best possible place to be from which to begin to move toward where we want to go. So it can be said, and it should be said, no matter where we are or what our circumstances, "I am in my right place!" A shocking thought? Does it seem to imply resignation and defeat? Not at all! The essential ingredient to progression of any kind is to have a starting place, and then to start. No matter how we hunger to "get there," and even believe we are ready to commence, there is no commencement until we accept where we are as the right place and the only place from which to begin.

### Consent!

In Jean Renoir's beautiful and moving film of India, "The River," there is a scene where a crippled American soldier, raging against the fate that has overtaken him, asks a Hindu girl what he could do to make life worthwhile? She answers him in the one word that seems to sum up all the differences between East and West, "Consent!" In other words, *be!*

There is no past or future in the eternal *now*. Thus, there is no time in which to find and know the Truth or to achieve the betterment you may dream of. There is no meaning in life or in the circumstances of life. Meaning can be found only in the person. And when he finds meaning in himself, it appears that all things have meaning, and he begins to live meaningfully.

In New York a few years ago I conducted a very revealing experiment. With a "port-o-pac" videotape system, and with the technical help of a staff of creative young people, I interviewed 100 people on the street. We singled out individuals from a cross section of society: young and old, rich and poor, bankers and laborers, men and women. We stopped people on Wall Street, Madison Avenue, Central Park, in Grand Central Station, and in Greenwich Village. The people seemed to think they were being interviewed for television, so they were unusually cooperative. We asked one question of each of them: "What would you do if you had six months to live?"

A few persons nervously replied, "I would live it up, have a ball." A few said they would pray and hope for the best. Some said they would want to spend their remaining time giving their all to their families, traveling with them, getting to know them. One wondered, if that is what they would do, why wait for some supposed threat of death? I had the hope that some persons might draw that conclusion for themselves and make changes in their priorities, which would have justified the project.

### Not Just Only

It was interesting and somewhat revealing of a general undercurrent of fear that every person interviewed read morbidity into the question (as you may have). We did not ask, "What would you do if you had *only* six months to live?" The *only* was read into it by the listeners. What we asked, in essence, was, "What are you planning to do with your life in the next six months?"

Six months ago you had six months to live. Six months from now you will be able to look back and see that you had six months to live. Thus, we can see how great is the need for a

consciousness of life as a whole experience. If we really give our consent to life, past and future merge into the now, and concern for termination of life has no place. One is too busy living.

Six months is a long time. Suppose you had to live it in jail, in solitary confinement, in battle combat, or in the intensive care unit of a hospital? So why fear six months of life? Strangely, the thought of six months of life was so terrifying that many of those interviewed replied that they would end their lives, that they just could not endure the pain of waiting around. What a commentary on their involvement with life and their poor sense of self worth!

One of those interviewed replied, "I will do what I have always done; I will live one day at a time." It turned out that ten years previously he had been told by his doctor that he had a terminal illness and had about six months to live. He said it seemed logical to him that one cannot really live more than one day at a time anyway. so why not just take them as they come? He said that he had experienced ten years of creative and fulfilled life. There was no sad existing in anticipation of impending doom, which in his case never came. One wonders if the centering of his consciousness in the now was the secret key to his wholeness.

I love the words of Walt Whitman:  
*Oh; while I live to be the ruler of life,  
not a slave. To meet life as a powerful  
conqueror ... and nothing exterior  
shall ever take command of me.*

And yet, how very many persons become slaves of time! There is a common tendency to equate time with life. Thus, in living we move through a progression of days and months and years fully expecting (and realizing) the progressive deterioration of vitality and beauty. The great Truth is life cannot be analyzed in terms of length of years, only in depth and breadth of living.

### How Well?

One may ask about a person, now deceased, "How long did he live?" But that is really irrelevant, other than to historians. All that really counts is: How well did he live? How deeply did he live? How much did he achieve? How far did he progress in releasing

his own 'imprisoned splendor'?

Thomas Carlyle once said:

*Our main business is not to see what lies dimly at a distance, but to do what lies clearly at hand.* This thought had a profound influence on the life and thinking and even on the medical practice of the great surgeon, Sir William Osler. It was he who evolved the ideal of living in *day-tight compartments*. He urged people to seal off each day into segments complete in themselves. As Theodore Roosevelt said: *Do what you can with what you have right where you are.*

Of course we need goals that transcend one day, for goals give direction to life and vitality and depth to our thoughts. The person who removed all his goals in the face of the supposed six-month sentence would live a six-month hell of fear and dread. But living and working toward a goal, he would live dynamically and fully. Life for him would have whether he lived only six months or another sixty years.

Have a plan for your life, and ideals toward which to build. However, a goal is not a preoccupation with tomorrow but a direction for today. There is no tomorrow! Today is all there is, for when tomorrow comes it will most certainly be today. Life is a constantly unfolding adventure. Let it happen. And keep it happening in the *now*. Do not hold too tenaciously to things that have passed, and do not grope so frantically for things you hope will happen in the future. Give your consent to today. For "God's good time" is *now*.

It really doesn't matter when the year begins. But as long as we think of January 1st as the commencement, it is a good time to make a new commitment to growth, overcoming, and achievement. Many persons faithfully make resolutions on or before the eve of the New Year. A resolution is a fine thing. It can be a helpful technique for achievement. However, realistically, few endure through the first month. As someone has quipped, "Most resolutions go in one year and out the other." The problem is, the resolution is normally made to reach too far. Life can only be lived in the now. If you resolve to do something or refrain from doing something for a whole year, one slip and the whole project is down the drain. Then it is said, "Well,

that's that! It was a nice try!"

### One Day Only

How much better to outline goals for the year, but then to make a resolution each morning for one day only. Begin each day with the commitment: "Today I resolve to be strong, to keep free from worry and negativity, to eat sensibly, to reject that drink or cigarette, and so on." It is much easier to work on things one day at a time. And the beauty of the resolution-for-a-day technique is that if we fail during the day, the next day we can start anew. If we fail fifty days in the year, the score is still 315 to 50. We stay on the winning side: This keeps the emphasis where it should be. Then a resolution is more than a wish or vague yearning. It is a commitment, a sincere covenant between you and the transcendent forces within you.

One of the finest resolutions or commitments for a new year is to become established in a new tempo for living. Tempo means "time," related to that which is passing, and contrasted with eternity, that which endures. The new tempo we are suggesting is the awareness of the eternal, the changeless, the *now*. Time is related to "temporary," that which wears away, runs out, grows old. But the new tempo is the consciousness of the ceaseless flow of love, the allness of time, the ever-renewing activity of life, and the inexhaustibility of basic substance.

Why not commit yourself to a new tempo, where there is no hurry or rush, nor any of the pressures of fear and worry that cause them. Get out of the frenzy of pushing, pulling, driving yourself, competing against everyone around you, using yourself up in order to find or keep security. As Emerson asks: "*Why so hot, little man!*"

Get into the awareness of *now*. Really believe in the here and now. This is the place! Now is the time! A great discovery awaits you. If you do things in time, there are strain and drain. Do them in eternity and they will be done easily and in no time at all! Of course we are talking about attitudes, but then what is a year, or a day, or a moment but an attitude? Whenever you find yourself rushed or pressed, take a few moments of quiet meditation in which to recall

that you are living in eternity, and there is enough time (and wisdom and substance and love and energy) to do and do well anything that needs to be done. It is a mystical thought but a practical key to effective living.

There are persons who make predictions on January 1st, forecasting all sorts of dire things for the ensuing year. It is as if the year is a fixed period replete with all its happenings. Actually, no one can see the year ahead, no matter how great may be the psychic power of the seer. He may sense trends and movements in consciousness and, thus, he may project them forward to predict things. But even if his calculations are good, the events need not happen, and will not if there is a shift in consciousness or a change in the rate of vibration, the tempo of living.

### You Are the Key

So don't play Russian roulette. Your future depends on you. You make the difference! Don't get into the "wishing" business. **It** is said so many unthinking times, "I wish you a happy New Year!" This is really saying, "I hope you get lucky." I like Emerson's gentle chiding: *Shallow men believe in luck. . . . Strong men believe in cause and effect.*

Instead of emphasizing the New Year, why not the new you? I have been encouraging use of the salutation, "Happy New You!" It is a positive and realistic blessing. For the year will be no different unless you are different. In other words, let your salutation imply: "May you really make a new beginning in your life, living within a new tempo!"

This is what faith is: letting go of the temporal, the changing, the evidence that "life is on the wane and time is running out," and getting into the awareness of the changeless and eternal, the ceaseless flow of transcendent life that cannot know depletion.

The best resolution you can make is the commitment to "walk by faith and not by sight" in the days ahead. This does not mean walking with your head in the clouds, for this kind of Pollyanna attitude is easily disillusioned if

difficulties arise. Faith is not expecting no challenges, for life is change, and change means growth. Rather it is faith that says, "When I meet my next Waterloo, I shall be a Wellington and not a Napoleon; I will not be the victim of circumstances, but I will be their master."

### All for Good

When we walk in this kind of faith, we are vibrating in a way that causes things to work together for good. **It** is a consciousness that is synchronized with the transcendent rhythms of harmony and peace and creativity that are omnipresent in life. Karl Jung first referred to synchronicity as meaningful coincidences that cannot be causally explained. But they can be explained as the synchronization of thought vibrations, a consciousness that is in tune with the Universe.

There is a thrilling story of how Marjorie Rambeau, the motion picture actress, celebrated a new beginning. A number of years ago she was in an automobile accident, and after a prolonged hospitalization and a series of operations, she was told that she would never walk again. Eventually she resumed her career, taking roles in television where she could sit. In time she was able to stand, painfully, but she could not walk because there was a paralysis of the muscles.

She was cast in the picture, "A Man Called Peter," the life of the late Peter Marshall. In one scene she was to sit in the front pew of the church and, at a given time, when the congregation stood, she was to stand with them. But then, as the people walked out, the cameras were to cut away while she was carried out. An actor, playing Dr. Marshall, was delivering one of Peter Marshall's inspiring sermons on faith. "If you really believe," he was saying, "then if you step out on faith, you can do amazing things." Miss Rambeau was listening and responding with a quickening of faith. She forgot she was an actress in a scene, forgot this was only an actor speaking his lines. She heard the message! It awakened some dimensions of consciousness that had been lying dormant. Suddenly she caught the new tempo, and vibrated with it. Her whole mind was synchronized with the audacious idea:

*You can!*

### She Did It!

When the congregation turned to walk out, she turned and walked out with them. It almost threw the whole cast off! She was a cripple! She could not walk! But she was walking. The cameraman was awed by the scene, but fortunately he kept his camera trained on this "modern miracle." She made her way, haltingly but surely, down the aisle. And she continued to walk after that. She had caught the new tempo of her life. She marched confidently to her own drummer. She was in tune with the rhythm of the Universe. It was a New Year for Marjorie Rambeau, a new beginning. She let go of the painful experience, and the prognosis of the doctors. It was all in the past. She faced forward and stepped confidently into the unknown.

King George of England, in a broadcast to the world in 1939 in the early days of World War II, quoted from a poem by M. Louise Haskins, words that have been a light to many persons in the years since: *And I said to a man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light, that I may tread safely into the unknown. And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than the known way."*

The *known* way is always in the past. Walking the known way will make a new year or the new day more of the same. Resolve that you will walk in new ways, with a new tempo for living. Put your hand into the hand of God, which means that your consciousness will be synchronized with the transcendent flow of life, substance, and intelligence instead of with the ways of the world. You will walk by faith and not by sight, and your way will be fraught with unbelievable good. Happy New you!

You are at the midpoint of eternity, and today is the first day of the rest of your life. It will become for you all that you can conceive and believe. You make the difference!

# January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <i>Sunday Services, 10:30 AM Youth Ed, 10:30 AM  Burning Bowl Ceremony</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <i>A.A. Men's Group, 10 AM  CA 7PM</i>	<b>5</b> <i>Ukulele Practice, 7PM</i>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> <i>Choir Practice, 9 AM  Removal of Holiday Décor, 10AM</i>
<b>8</b> <i>Sunday Services, 10:30 AM Youth Ed, 10:30 AM  White Stone Ceremony</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <i>Book Club, <b>The Silent Sister</b> by Diane Chamberlein at Bread Co. at 2PM</i>	<b>11</b> <i>A.A. Men's Group, 10 AM  CA 7PM</i>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> <i>Choir Practice, 9 AM  Sound System Training,, 10:30 AM</i>
<b>15</b> <i>Sunday Services, 10:30 AM Youth Ed, 10:30 AM</i>	<b>16</b> <i>Ladies' Night Out, Pad Thai, 12676 Lamplighter Square, 5:30 PM</i>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <i>A.A. Men's Group, 10 AM  CA 7PM</i>	<b>19</b> <i>Ukulele Practice, 7PM</i>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> <i>Choir Practice, 9 AM</i>
<b>22</b> <i>Sunday Services, 10:30 AM Youth Ed, 10:30 AM</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> <i>A.A. Men's Group, 10 AM  CA 7PM</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> <i>Choir Practice, 9 AM</i>
<b>29</b> <i>Sunday Services, 10:30 AM Youth Ed, 10:30 AM</i>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

## *Wings*

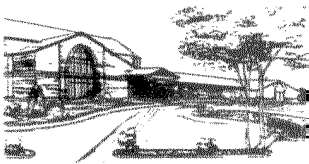
THE JANUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER OF  
FIRST UNITY CHURCH OF ST. LOUIS

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# The light side — A little holy humor

A young pastor tried to comfort a widow as they stood looking at her husband's body in a casket.

"I know this is very hard for you," he said. "But we Christians have hope. The body is only a husk. It is only the shell. It is what we see. But the nut that was in the shell has already gone to heaven."

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A Sunday school teacher was teaching a group of youngsters about the Israelites in the Old Testament. She kept referring to the Jews as the "children of Israel."

A little girl interrupted her, wanting permission to ask a question.

"Certainly," the teacher responded.

"Well," the child said, "you keep talking about the children of Israel. The children of Israel crossed the Red Sea. The children of Israel built the temple. The children of Israel did this

and did that. Didn't the grown-ups ever do anything?"

\*\*\*\*\*

A minister on the Internet, who calls himself simply Pastor Tim, loves to tell jokes. One joke is about a little girl sitting on her grandfather's lap, while he reads a bedtime story to her.

As the child listened, she kept reaching up to her grandfather's face to trace his many wrinkles with her finger. When the story was finished, she looked at him quizzically and said, "Granddaddy, did God make you?"

"Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago."

"God made me too, didn't he?"

"Yes," he affirmed. "God made you not too many years ago."

She then placed one of her hands on her own face, noticed how smooth it was and said, "God's getting better at it now, isn't he?"

\*\*\*\*\*

When young Kelli said her prayers each night, she would bless every family member, every friend and every pet (current or past). Toward the end of her prayers, she'd say, "And all girls."

One night her father asked his daughter why she always ended that way.

"Because," she replied, "everybody else always finishes their prayers by saying, 'All men.'"