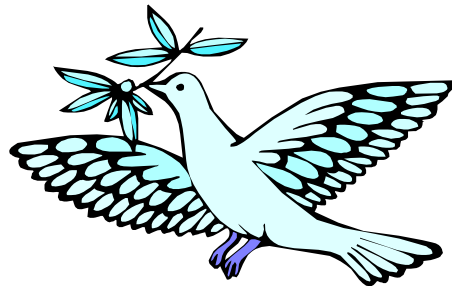


*unity of madison . 601 tompkins drive . madison, wi . 608.221-1376*

# Grace Notes

*july 2008 ☩ volume 70*



*...an open, affirming and heart-centered spiritual community  
we live the Christ consciousness of  
acceptance,  
love,  
peace,  
justice and joy*

## Inside this issue...

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Mailer – Deeksha Oneness Blessing

## July Services...

*Sundays, 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.*

*Communion first Sunday of each month immediately following 1st service and just prior to 2nd service.*

**July 6** – “Judge Not”, Rev. Marshall Norman

**July 13** -- “Make Me Clean”, Rev. Marshall Norman

**July 20** – “Be Made Whole”, Rev. Marshall Norman

**July 27** – “Thy Faith”, Rev. Marshall Norman

**IMPORTANT:** Beginning June 8, Youth Education will be suspended for the summer months. We will offer childcare and fun activities during the Sunday services for children up to 10 years old in the nursery area downstairs. As a reminder, your children are always welcome to join you in the sanctuary during services.

## *In the Silence* by Sandy Strietelmeier

Sweet Spirit ,

Thank You for all the blessings in our lives. We open ourselves to see the blessings in all the activities that we bring into our days. We affirm Your hand in all the challenges that come our way and we seek Your wisdom within ourselves to step up to each challenge.

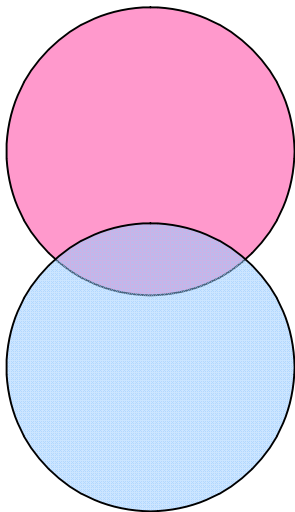


We thank You for all the examples of love in our lives. We thank You for family and friends, teachers and students. We thank You for all the blessings of nature. We see this world nourished by the waters of love and we bless the water and see it returning to its proper places. We see all areas that have been overrun with water blessed and purified. We see this time of trial by water to be an ultimate blessing and we open ourselves to receive this blessing now.

We open our hearts with compassion for all those that have suffered from natural disasters in our world. We see them as whole and sound and strong and free. We open ourselves to understand the cycles of nature and our place within our environment. We open our hearts to be peace in this time.

We release anything that keeps us from our true nature. We turn it over to You. We release anything that binds us to anything other than love. We are loving, we are loved and we are in truth love in expression and we open ourselves to show that love in this world at this time. Thank You God for true love.

And so it is. Amen



## *Here I am Lord* by Sandy Strietelmeier

Please know that along with all of your prayers the Prayer Chaplains and Wednesday Night Prayer Circle have been holding you all in prayer.

Seeing the power of nature in action... seeing the actions of neighbors helping neighbors, can we be anymore aware of our place in this world? We all have a place of service. Each of us does that service in a different and special way.

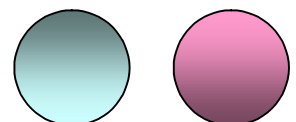
When you come to the Prayer Corner before or after services... whatever Prayer Chaplain you speak with will have their own way of sharing prayers with you. We have all been through the same training at the same time. When we put our training into action we open ourselves to let Spirit speak through our words and actions. That will appear different for each individual. Some of us use more words some of us use few words.

Two things that are the same for all Prayer Chaplains

- 1) We release your prayer request once we are finished with our prayer. We do not see you as your prayer request and we do not attach it to you. So we may not remember your prayer request the next time we see you. We hold **you** in prayer, but we know that Spirit knows your need or concern or joy better than we do, so we release the details of the request.
- 2) We hold in strict confidentiality all things spoken to us. That is another reason we release the request once we have prayed. There is no need for anyone else to know, what was shared.

Peace and Release to you all,

*Sandy and your Unity of Madison Prayer Chaplains*



# Minister's Letter by Rev. Marshall Norman



## “The Unity Spirit”

“This fall, Unity Institute will launch an annual Lyceum at Unity Village to bring together some of the world’s top spiritual leaders for provocative debate and discussion. This year’s event will be held November 3-6.” (From the June/July 2008 Contact magazine—a publication of the Association of Unity Churches International)

I first started attending a Unity church in 1982. I was introduced to this church through a long-time friend of my family. I was thirty years of age at the time. A memory that has stayed with me from that very first visit is a feeling of freedom. The freedom that I refer to is the freedom to explore and investigate. The minister of that church was not teaching from a single set of books exclusive to Unity. She taught from a wide variety of traditions and encouraged us to consider the idea that the truth was not the property of any one organization. Everyone was welcome to study different spiritual traditions and practices in order to find a way that worked for them. This spirit of freedom is one of the very first things I think of when I attempt to describe the Unity spirit. Indeed, the founders of Unity, Charles and Myrtle Fillmore, were eclectic in their approach to truth. Charles Fillmore, when confronted by a student who claimed that Charles was being inconsistent, famously said in reply “I have the right to change my mind!”.

The excerpt listed above from the Contact magazine is a perfect example of this ongoing spirit of freedom and inquiry in Unity. I hope to attend this conference at Unity Village and invite you to consider it as well. I am very glad that Unity Institute has created this annual opportunity to be exposed to different ideas and viewpoints. It takes courage to test our beliefs in a free and open forum. Hopefully, there will be much “changing of minds” in this kind of open environment.

A further excerpt from the article....“Unity ministers, licensed teachers, graduate students and others may also participate in the events by submitting abstracts of papers on any topics they would like to present (the deadline for abstracts is July 15). In addition to the formal “Call for Papers,” Unity Institute is providing a new opportunity for young people (14 to 19 years old) in the New Thought movement to participate in an essay competition on the Lyceum theme of “Culturally Christian, Spiritually Unlimited,” (the deadline for entries is July 1).” Unfortunately, by the time you read this article, there will not be much time to get involved in this part of the program.....please contact Lyceum coordinator Victoria Cromwell at 816 251 3535 ext. 2065 or email [cromwellvj@unityonline.org](mailto:cromwellvj@unityonline.org) with questions.

Our Unity founders were wise enough to realize that there are many approaches to the direct encounter with the one truth. There are many paths “up the mountain” and many different vehicles for making the journey. Spiritual practices around the world have the same ultimate goal. It is interesting that this same goal is an experience of love. This experience is beyond words and thoughts. This experience cannot be found in books or teachings. This direct experience of love is actually a rediscovery of who and what we really are as children of God. In truth, all of our experiences in life help pave the way for the attainment of the goal of a life lived in beauty and peace and love.

We rejoice in the spirit of Unity! We rejoice in the freedom to experiment and explore and to change our minds often in the presence of new experience!

Blessings on the path,

*Marshall*

*Unity of Madison*  
Senior Minister Rev. Marshall Norman



2008 Board of Trustees

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|                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Office Manager           | Laura Hughes        |
| Volunteer Coordinator    | Shanti Norman       |
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| Nursery Staff            | Margaret Bolar Boly |
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*May Tithes*

|                   |                                       |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| \$ 559.68         | Association of Unity Churches         |
| \$ 300.00         | Unity Costa Rica                      |
| \$ 404.84         | Great Lakes Unity Regional Conference |
| \$ 404.84         | Silent Unity                          |
| \$ 200.00         | Porchlight                            |
| \$ 250.00         | American Forests-Global Releaf        |
| <b>\$2,119.36</b> | <b>TOTAL TITHE</b>                    |

*Financial Information*

Income Statement as of 3/31/08

|          |              |
|----------|--------------|
| Income   | \$73,557.00  |
| Expenses | \$77,029.00  |
| Net Loss | (\$3,472.00) |

*Thank you Spirit!*

*Unity Bookstore Reminder*

Great News! Aine Calgaro has set up an Amazon link from our Unity website [www.unityofmadison.org](http://www.unityofmadison.org). This makes it possible to order anything from Amazon via our Unity website. You are not limited to a certain kind of book, such as spiritual or metaphysical books or books that Unity stocks in the bookstore.

This is a win-win situation. You, the customer, have easy internet access to all the items Amazon carries and Unity receives a percentage of the sales for anything ordered when you enter Amazon through our site. Feel free to pass this information on to friends and family. Spread the word!

...beyond  
books!

