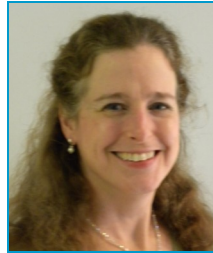




With Great Appreciation

Our holidays were delightful with lots of loving hands, and voices and devotion. You have been the reason for the season. Your hearts have lovingly given TLC to our community in so many ways. We have been blessed with your smiles and hugs. Your generous time and talents have allowed us to share in great moments and create fabulous memories. From hanging decorations to Christmas Dinners and Cantata, we have come together to create a wonderful holiday season. Community Outreach and In-reach have benefited many homes. You have created the greatest gift of all....

**Home for the
Holidays....**



Season

with Rev. Laura Barrett Bennett

Dear Friend,

Happy 2012! Many have looked to this year with the anticipation of major changes on our planet and in our society that would alter our way of life. Some say we are headed for disaster, while others are more optimistic, believing utopia is just around the corner. Still others give no mind to the number on the year at all – believing that, like most other years, it will be filled with its ups and downs – evoking the spectrum of human experience from grief and loss to ecstatic fulfillment. Where do I stand on 2012? I stand in the present moment. Each moment holds within it all that has brought us up to here, and all of the potential of what is to come. In fact, our experience of life boils down to just this – “Who do I choose to be in this moment?”

Joshua once stood before the people of Israel at Shechem, and conveyed to them life’s great choice. As the people stood on the verge of building a new life in a new land, he said, “...*choose this day whom you will serve...*”. In that moment, for the people of Israel, the choice was between following the gods of the land they

had conquered, or following in the way of the Lord who brought them to that land. Perhaps we have evolved beyond the days of Joshua where we have to fight violently to conquer others and gain our “Promised Land”. Yet, we have not evolved beyond the call of the “Promised Land.”

What is your “Promised Land”? Above and beyond anything else 2012 is the year to claim it. This is done the choices you make – moment by moment.

Shechem, the region where the people gathered, literally means to rise up early in the morning and to put on your shoulder or back your load for the day. Are you ready to rise up, and to carry your dream into this day? Are you ready to choose in this moment who you are serving by who you are being? When we choose to be the expression of Divine Love, we choose a miraculous way of life. We choose to cleanse our souls with love’s forgiveness, releasing the burden of resentment. We choose to pour love’s light into the areas of our bodies that need revitalization and healing. We choose to share love’s compassion with others by contributing in ways of supply, sustenance, and

cont pg 2

Season continued page 1

most of all – heart to heart human kindness.

In this way, we no longer depend on certain outer conditions or circumstances to provide our happiness, thinking our good comes from these “gods of the land.” Instead, we choose our oneness with the Source of all our good – the Lord of our being. It is this God of whom it is written in First John, “*God is Love.*”

As we move into this year with the 2012 theme of “*Pulled by A Vision,*” and into these early months through Easter time with the sub-theme, “*Awakening the Sa-*

cred Soul,” we can seek out the opportunities and activities that bring out the love in us. We can be pulled by the vision of a vital and growing spiritual community for Unity Renaissance, built up from what we create together. We can awaken to a community that stands on the firm foundation of our love and respect for God and for each other, as well as our willingness to let our love-light shine through our caring actions in the world. It was another Joshua, whom we know as Jesus, who taught us that the greatest commandment is simply, “*...love one another.*”

Whatever 2012 brings our way – moment by moment – we can choose to be Divine Love in expression. When we do, we stand at the threshold of our own Promised Land, and with Joshua we say, “*...as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.*”

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”
(John 15:12)

With great love and God’s blessings,

Rev. Laura

Affirmative Prayer

I AM READY FOR A NEW BEGINNING

There is One Absolute Power, Eternal Light, Divine Love, Infinite Intelligence called God.

I am an individualized expression of the Eternal Light- a spiritual being- unique and loveable.

In this moment, I make a conscious choice to know that I am always guided by my God Self- the Christ within me

- which is my light. This light illumines my consciousness as I move forward on my path freely and easily.

Letting go of any negative thoughts, feeling and regrets from the past, I keep my fo-

cus on my heart’s desires for the new better and greater life experiences. This inten-

tion blesses my life and the lives of those I am involved with right now.

“I keep my focus on my heart’s desires for the new better and greater life “experiences.”

Grateful that I am immersed in the Loving Light of Spirit, I release these words into LAW. This is a new and love filled beginning. And so it is.

Lynette Tucker R.Sc.P.

New Beginnings on Sunday at Unity Renaissance

Adult Education and Prayer Hour

9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Over the past couple of years we have had a decline in the people and support around our 9:00 a.m. Service, and are, therefore, suspending this Service as of the New Year until our support builds around it once more. Thank you to all who have continually attended and supported this time of connection and worship! We love you, we love serving you - and we invite you to join us at the 10:30

Service.

If you are inclined toward the quieter prayer time, as of January 8th, we will be having an hour of quiet prayer and meditation beginning at 9:00 a.m. In addition, we will be having an adult group facilitated by our minister and/or one of our teachers to discuss the Unity book, *"The Quest,"* and to prayerfully support each other in our spiritual journeys together.

**Adult Education
and
Prayer Hour
9:00 to 10:00 am**

The wonderful and connecting spiritual experience of the book study group lead by Licensed Unity Teacher, Gary Thornberry will also be continuing at this hour. Gary is one of our treasured members and teachers, and his wise and gentle presence inspires people in applying spiritual principle to life in our world today. In January, his book class will be continuing to study the book,

Youth and Family Ministry

James Scott, Education Director

Youth Ed

2012 starts with a bang in Youth & Family Ministry (our new name for Youth Ed!). K-5 will be diving into "Children On The Quest" beginning January 8th, and Uniteens and YOU will be starting "Teens On The Quest" on the same day. This curriculum will run all the way through the year of 2012, and Rev. Laura will be

running parallels to the YFM Quest lessons during her Sunday talks.

Also, be on the lookout for another "Harry Potter" marathon in late January or early February. Now that the eighth (and final) movie is out, we will do movies 1&2 on a Friday night, movies 3-6 all day Saturday, and movies 7&8 on a Sunday afternoon.

Our YOUs and Uniteens both have retreats coming up in the late spring, so be watching for the fundraisers they'll be doing over the next couple of months to support those events.

YFM is having a ball! As always, we need teachers and other types of support, so give me a call at church to dive in!

Adult Education is blooming at Unity Renaissance

James Scott, Education Director

Adult Ed is rolling along in 2012. Our plans for January include teaching Metaphysics I Part 2 beginning January. We are also planning to teach a prosperity program beginning in late January (as of this writing, it will probably be the New

& Improved Version of the 4T Prosperity Program, which has new audio recordings and workbook for the first time in 20 years!). Watch our website and our Sunday bulletins for the specific dates and times!

We are excited... several of

our Renaissance family have completed their S.E.E. personal development programs, and are ready to head to Unity Village to start their Licensed Unity Teacher training. Several others are nearly complete with their personal development programs!

January 2012



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

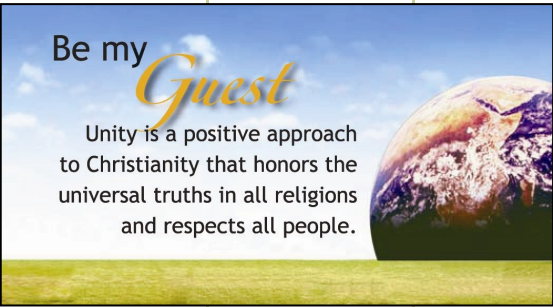
Awakening Our Sacred Souls

<p>1 9:00 Book Study Group 10:30 Celebration Service 11:30 Christmas Deco Down Party</p>	<p>2 Office Closed</p>	<p>3 Lynn H. Lacount Evie Marino</p>	<p>4 7:30 Sounds Of Joy Rehearsal Lynn Marie Plata Nilsa Rodriguez</p>	<p>5 7:30 Narcotics Anonymous Elisa Yvette Cosby</p>	<p>6 6:00 Dinner with Rev. Laura</p>	<p>7 10:00 Transformational Service Team 12:30 Unity In the World</p>
<p>8 9:00 Choir Rehearsal Adults on Quest Book Study Group 10:30 Celebration Service 11:30 Cake Walk 1:00 Evolutionary</p>	<p>9 7:00 Toastmasters 7:00 Women's Group Mtg</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 7:30 Sounds Of Joy Rehearsal Bernice C. Spencer</p>	<p>12 10:00 & 7:00 Class: Metaphysics I 6:15 Finance Com- mittee Mtg 7:30 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>13 UR Gold Fundraiser Wine Reception Edward Rosequist</p>	<p>14 Lisa B. Carter</p>
<p>15 9:00 Adults on Quest & Book Study Group 10:30 Celebration Service Shirley Jones Brand</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 Cheryl B. Wolfred Jean Y. Francis</p>	<p>18 7:30 Sounds Of Joy Rehearsal</p>	<p>19 10:00 & 7:00 Class: Metaphysics I 6:30 Board of Trustees Mtg 7:30 Narcotics Anonymous Efrain Gonzalez</p>	<p>20 Keith Elchih</p>	<p>21 9:30 - 12 noon Path to Discovery</p>
<p>22 9:00 Choir Rehearsal Adults on Quest Book Study Group 10:30 New Member Celebration Service 12:00 Annual Membership Mtg Alan Brand</p>	<p>23 10:00 & 7:00 Class: 4T Prosperity 7:00 Toastmasters 7:00 Prayer Chaplains Mtg</p>	<p>24 7:00 Spiritual Leadership Mtg Jean M. Caravella George Schmitz</p>	<p>25 7:30 SOJ Rehearsal Randy E. Roberts Belinda Sandifer</p>	<p>26 10:00 & 7:00 Class: Metaphysics I 7:30 Narcotics Anonymous Ed Tabbanor</p>		<p>28 7:00 Treasure Map- ping at Rosequist Home</p>
<p>29 9:00 Adults on Quest Book Study Group 10:30 Celebration Service</p>	<p>30 10:00 & 7:00 Class: 4T Prosperity 7:00 Toastmasters Nancy Deming-May Christopher Naugh- ton</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>*Birthdays Listed Did we miss <u>Your</u> Birthday? Fill out a Membership Form located in Narthex</p>		 <p>Connect Evolve Expand</p>	<p>Sacred Selfless Service Path to God Share Your Talents Sign up on Hall Wall</p>

February 2012

Sacred Selfless Service :: Honor to Service :: A Path to GOD

Connecting Hearts: Calling Office 757420-5280

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>Be my Guest Unity is a positive approach to Christianity that honors the universal truths in all religions and respects all people.</p>			<p>1 7:30 SOJ Rehearsal Tom Crouse Melissa Marson</p>	<p>2 10:00 & 7:00 Class: Metaphysics I 7:30 Narcotics Anonymous Cheyenne-Marie Wesley</p>	<p>3 6:00 Dinner with Rev. Laura Pearl Smith Gary Thornberry</p>	<p>4 Barbara Higgins Kathleen McConnin</p>
<p>5 9:00 Adults on Quest Book Study Group 10:30 Celebration Service Celebration Service</p>	<p>6 10:00 & 7:00 Class: 4T Prosperity Linda Hoag Bradley Judy Feld Lana Sapozhnikov Larry Murphy</p>	<p>7 Laurie Surface</p>	<p>8 7:30 Sounds Of Joy Rehearsal Bryan Cadwell</p>	<p>9 10:00 & 7:00 Class: Metaphysics I 7:30 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>10 6:30 Men's Dinner & Auction Carol Brown Shelly Merritt-Myers Russell Ripp</p>	<p>11 9:00 Men's Mtg 12:30 Unity In World Mtg.</p>
<p>2 9:00 Choir Rehearsal Adults on Quest Book Study Group 10:30 Sacred Service Appreciation Service Jeffrey May Jerry Bennett</p>	<p>13 10:00 & 7:00 Class: 4T Prosperity 7:00 Toastmasters</p>	<p>14 Happy Valentine's Day</p>	<p>15 7:30 Sounds Of Joy Rehearsal</p>	<p>16 6:15 Finance Committee Mtg 7:30 Narcotics Anonymous Shawn King, Sr. Jennifer Berg</p>	<p>17 Betsy Lebard</p>	<p>18 Jan Schonborn</p>
<p>19 9:00 Adults on Quest Book Study Group 10:30 Celebration Service Candis Collins</p>	<p>20 10:00 & 7:00 Class: 4T Prosperity</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service 8:00 SOJ Rehearsal Donna Reed Corbet</p>	<p>23 6:30 Board of Trustees Mtg 7:30 Narcotics Anonymous</p>	<p>24 Humphrey Oronzo, Sr.</p>	<p>25 Ana Vincent</p>
<p>26 9:00 Choir Rehearsal Adults on Quest Book Study Group 10:30 Celebration Service Sharon L. James</p>	<p>27 10:00 & 7:00 Class: 4T Prosperity 7:00 Toastmasters 7:00 Prayer Chaplain Mtg Charles Feld</p>	<p>28 Rev. Dorene Lake</p>	<p>29 Happy Leap Day! 7:30 Sounds Of Joy Rehearsal</p>	 <p>February Angel Of The Month: Amber McCulloch</p>		



3 New Ways to Empower YOU!

Strategic Plan 2012-2013

Our Strategic Plan, developed by the Creative Planning Team of Ed Rosequist, Rev. Laura, James Scott, "Scotty" and Donna Corbet, has been placed on our website. They have created a framework of ideas for 2012 with themes and sub-themes and Special Anchor Guests to support our vision. It has been our intention to create a cohesive plan for growth and development for the membership of Unity Renaissance. As our newly formed Evolutionary Council takes off there may be changes afoot based on your conversations.

Evolutionary Council

With our newly appointed and dedicated council members, UR members will be contacted directly for a conversation to deepen our spiritual maturity by transparently seeking to embody our core values and Unity principles. There are 3 primary objectives:

1. Map the Heart of what's moving, evolving and emerging in our membership. This will mirror back to our community the themes to the entire community.
2. Report on "What Is". This research and report will cover the recent history and characteristics of UR's services/ministries; attendance and giving trends; staffing and Board Performance; visions; successes; and tensions for evolution.
3. Assist in later analysis comparing the "What Is" picture with the intents of Goals/Objectives or our ministry to determine next steps.

Transformational Sunday Service Team

This team is comprised of our Sunday Service Team Leaders who are both Volunteers and Staff. They are creatively embellishing on the ideas of the Evolutionary Council and Creative Planning Team to bring the fun and effervescence to your goals and dreams.

Through these efforts, we are looking to create a stronger congregation and sense of ownership. Unity Renaissance exists because of you. It is here to serve you and to be served by you. We live in a reciprocal universe. As we sow, so shall we reap. Join us in this very exciting evolution as we define what we want and where we are going.

Remember: Membership matters.

WOW! Gifts for You

Evolutionary Leadership Toolkit is available on our website. It is a gift of info that ranges from "The Art of Asking Questions" to "Spirituality in the Work Place", from such noted people as Barbara Marx Hubbard to Michael Beckwith and Jean Houston. These Evolutionary Leaders, want you to know.....

Christmas Deco Down Party - help us bring the holidays to a close with music and refreshments. Miss Cynthia Schonborn has this sooooo organized that a few minutes of your time will make this party a delight and an inspiration for all of us. 11:30 am, Sunday, January 1 at Unity Renaissance.

January/Feb Angels - Our presentations are scheduled on January 8 for Caleb McCoy and February 5 for Amber McCulloch. Don't miss their amazing insights. Make sure that you congratulate them, too!

Gold Event - Unity in the World is supporting Unity Renaissance with a gala fundraiser on Friday, January 13. Bring your old gold and donate funds to UR. We will have quality person on hand to sell your old gold to and UR will start the year off with a bling in our bank account. Wine and refreshments served. See details in bulletins.

Y.O.U. Cake Walk - Our Y.O.U. will be going to a January rally and have a "sweet" deal for you to help them with funds. Join us for a fun filled Cake Walk to delight your taste buds.

Path to Discovery - Join us 9:30, Saturday, January 21. Find our: How to get connected? What is Unity all about? How can I better understand Meditation? And so, much more. Everyone is welcomed. Anyone interested in UR Membership is encouraged to attend.

2012 Membership Annual Renewal - Now is the time to let us know your intentions. Only 2012 Members will be eligible to vote at Annual Meeting on January 22. Membership has its privileges. Interested in joining? Sign up in Narthex.

New Member Sunday - January 22, at 10:30

Spiritual Leadership Meeting - 7:00 pm Tuesday, January 24 at UR. Designed to focus on February 12 Appreciation Sunday. Plan to attend. RSVP Regrets.

You are loved. All is well.



Each and every component that makes up your life experience is drawn to you by the powerful **Law of Attraction's** response to the thoughts you think and the story you tell about your life. Your money and financial assets; your body's state of wellness, clarity, flexibility, size, and shape; your work environment, how you are treated, work satisfaction, and rewards—indeed, the very happiness of your life experience in general—is all happening because of the story that you tell.

--- Abraham

Excerpted from the book "Money and the Law of Attraction: Learning to Attract Health, Wealth and Happiness" # 295

Sold at Unity Renaissance Source Store

Source Store

Have you checked out our fabulous Unity Renaissance store lately? Fortunately for you, we have a generous supply of new items awaiting your personal needs.

Unity Resources

Bibles

Media Materials

Music for the Soul's Awakening

Gifts and Cards

Fair Trade Products

Weight Loss

Growth & Development

Yes, we special order, too!

And, we have awesome Staff!

2012 Members receive 10% off Everything all year long...

MUSIC for the Awakening Soul

Renaissance Choir is starting up in January with a new rehearsal schedule. We will be rehearsing at 9:00 am and singing at the 10:30 Service. If you have not been a member of the choir before, we encourage you to share your delights for music. Joan Kennedy, our Choir Coordinator is a jewel to work with. John Sterling, our Music Director is eager to spread the glory of God thru music.

9:00 am Rehearsal and 10:30 Performance on

January 8

January 22

February 12

February 26

Canda Lambert will be sharing her special talents on the first Sunday of each month.

With a Song in our Hearts for You

Get Connected

The Couple's Group will be hosting 2012 Treasuring Mapping night for all members of UR – couples or singles – on Saturday, January 28th, starting at 6:30pm. Sondra and Ed Rosequist will be hosting at their home in Virginia Beach (Thoroughgood). Please bring poster board, scissors and magazines (if you have some to share). For RSVP and directions, call Sondra and Ed at 460-0261.

Men's Group will be hosting the UR Winter Dinner and Auction on Friday, February 10th – dinner will be starting at 6:15pm and auction starting at 7:30. Do not miss the fun and exciting event. All funds raised will go back into our church home as a Men's Group project. Auction items will be collected starting January 28th – we will be asking for donations of collectables, art, jewelry, and services. For donations, contact Ed Rosequist at 460-0261 or John Root at 646-1846.

Women's Group will gathering at Unity Renaissance on Monday, January 9th at 7:00 pm under the direction of Beatrice Clendendin and Maureen Bonefant. All women are invited as they set up fun and connection for the ladies of UR. Child care will not be available.

Facilities Team is looking for volunteers to provide 2 hours per week helping with "light and easy" maintenance at UR – changing light bulbs, cleaning classrooms and windows, along with outside work. Please contact Ed Rosequist (621-9554) if you have some time and energy to serve in supporting your church home.

Creative Ideas Appreciated contact office with *your* great ideas.

Unity Renaissance
Spiritual Life Community
1120 Eden Way N
Chesapeake, VA 23320
757 420-5280



Return Address Requested

**NON PROFIT
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Chesapeake, VA
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2012 January ~ February

Transforming lives through
Authentic and Empowering
Spiritual Experience

We're on the web
UnityRenaissance.org

From Our Hearts to Yours
With Prayers and Blessings

Happy Leap Year!

“So, Let’s Begin Again....”

Unity Renaissance
Annual Meeting, Noon
Sunday, January 22, 2011
Everyone is Welcomed
Only 2012 Members are invited
to vote on elections and issues.

UR Bylaws require
Annual Membership Renewal.
Interested in Membership?
Visit Unity Renaissance
Membership table in Narthex.

The Sleeper Must Awaken....

*Rev. Laura and our
Sunday Celebration
Transformation Team
are planning fun-filled
inspired Sundays for personal
growth and development.*

January

“Dream”

A Tale of Wonder, Wisdom & Wishes
by Susan V. Bosak

February

“Sacred Service”

The Path to God,
The Honor to Serve