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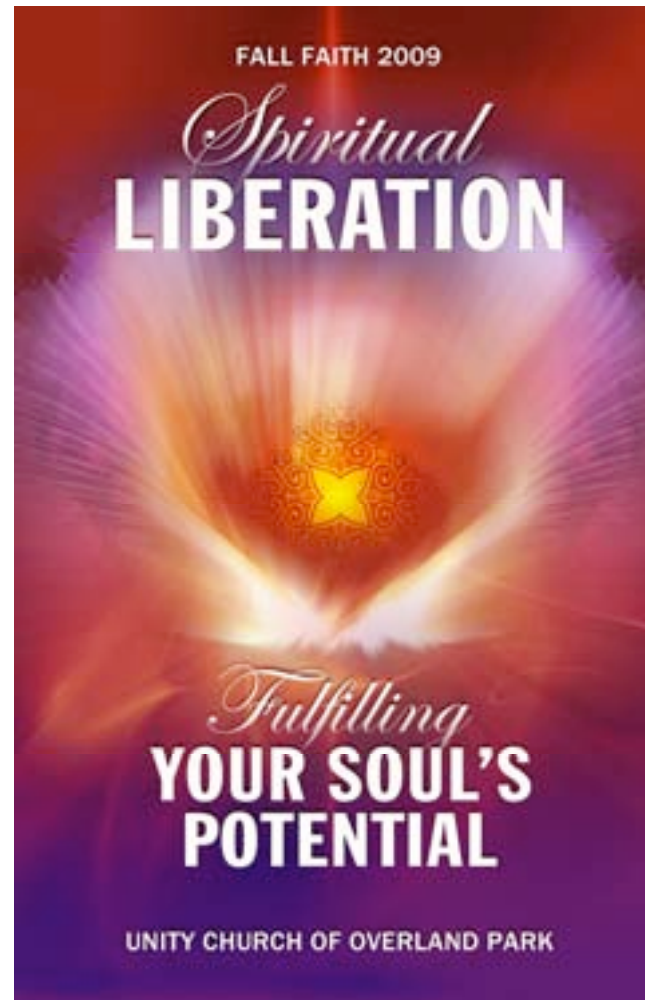
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*Unity Church of
Overland Park
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Overland Park, KS 66212
913.649.1750
www.ucop.org*



October 2009

Pet Blessing

Saturday, October 3, 10:30 am

Fall Faith Celebration Spiritual Liberation

October 4—November 13

Wednesday Circles

Begin Wednesday, October 7

American Red Cross Blood Drive

October 25 • 9 am–1 pm

Family Fun Night

Friday, October 30 • 6pm

Fall Faith Dinner, Live Auction & Concert

Friday, November 13

Tickets on sale starting Wed, Oct. 14

Parliament of World Religions

Melbourne, Australia • Dec. 2–9

*Read past issues of e-Visions
online at www.ucop.org*

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Spiritual Liberation

In his book, *Spiritual Liberation*, Michael Beckwith introduces a term called "playvolving" which he says means to evolve while maintaining a high inner state of play. All spiritual work and no play makes for a very tired spiritual warrior. You see, it's not either/or; it is both/and.

Take, for example, our recent Summer Jam experience, which unfolded while I was away on sabbatical. From the 900 photos I've seen and the stories I've heard, it sounds like our spiritual family mastered the art of playvolving. There were speakers, workshops, and classes...and there were pancakes, water balloons, and Hawaiian shirts. There was serious growth in the midst of heightened joy and fun.

I invite you to carry this same spirit into our 2009 Fall Faith season as we dive into Beckwith's book. Through our Sunday services and weekly small groups, we will become courageous spiritual warriors; setting ourselves free from the confines of self-imposed barriers and revealing how we can contribute to an enlightened society.

But, rest assured, we will have lots of fun in the process as we express our ministry's core value of joy. Our Wednesday night circles will experience the playful side of our favorite soloists and lots of good food every week. Our Fall Faith season culmi-

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Church office hours:

9:00 am–5:00 pm Mon-Thurs

Bookstore: 913.649.3875

Heartline: 913.649.3214

Website: www.ucop.org

Celebration Services: Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 am

Nursery Care and Sunday School is available.

nates on November 13 with a community dinner, auction, and concert with Faith Rivera and the UCOP band.

The Unity Church of Overland Park vision statement for our world is bold—some would even call it audacious: Centered in God, we celebrate a world of peace, harmony and abundance for all. We honor each person's part in making this vision a reality. We call forth the spiritual warrior in everyone to tear down inner borders and charge forth into expanded consciousness.

The liberation begins on Sunday, October 4. Join us and discover your inner warrior. You just might be surprised that he or she has been there waiting to emerge all along.

Evolving in love,
Patricia



Rev. Patricia Bass



THE PARLIAMENT OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS

Melbourne, Australia (Dec 2-9, 2009)
Global New Thought goes to Melbourne
as a Unified Movement

Rev. Patricia Bass invites you to join her.
If you are interested in attending as well,
please visit www.agnt.org.

Board President's Message

Talk about fun, excitement, joy, involvement and camaraderie—the best word to describe Summer Jam 2009 is WOW!

Who could forget the cookout in the parking lot and watching ET outside after dark on the big screen? Or the water balloon toss with kids and adults getting wet? Or how about the pretzel relay—handing off tied pretzels by using a straight pretzel held in the mouth? The entire evening was a blast, especially for our children.

Auctioneer Rev. Bob brought in the cash, auctioning off those scrumptious desserts our super in-house bakers provided.

The Men's Group outdid themselves with the pancake feast. We cooked and served "millions" of pancakes. Now that was brotherly love and a lot of fun.

Our summer series of speakers and the comedy team of Barth and Stulak were well worth the price of admission, in fact we have all voted to bring them (Barth & Stulak) back for periodic encores. We rocked, or did we JAM?

One could sense the love and joy of all the church staff as they created the wonderful series of events throughout this summer which zipped by in a nano second—or so it seems.

Joyfully, Ellis Megee, Board President



Ellis with daughter Brenda and granddaughter Hannah at Family Fun Night, July 31.

Fall Faith Celebration: Spiritual Liberation

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4—FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13

SPIRITUAL LIBERATION: FULFILLING YOUR SOUL'S POTENTIAL

Wednesday Circles – last day to sign up is Sunday, October 4

The annual Fall Faith season is again upon us at Unity Church of Overland Park. This year, the congregation is embarking on a six-week series based on the book *Spiritual Liberation* by Michael Beckwith.

Our community is gathering for weekly circles in which small groups of 8-10 congregants will meet each Wednesday at the church for a time of prayer and study of spiritually liberated living using a curriculum study guide prepared especially for our Fall Faith series. Our circles are preceded by a time of music and meditation as one large group and conclude each evening with hospitality and fellowship. Many who participate in Fall Faith circles deepen their connection to their own Christ Nature, with others, and with their life's purpose.

Beckwith is a dynamic spiritual leader who appeared in *The Secret* and is the founder and spiritual director of Agape International Spiritual Center in Culver City, California.

Spiritual Liberation hardback and audio book are available at CommUnity Books & Gifts.

FALL FAITH LIVE AUCTION, DINNER AND CONCERT FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Tickets on sale starting Sunday, October 18

We will culminate and celebrate our six weeks of study with a Live Auction, a Dinner with a fresh, new menu prepared by award winning Chef Gary Hild, and a Concert featuring Emmy award winning

Positive Music artist, singer and songwriter Faith Rivera. This year the proceeds from the Live Auction will support furthering our mission statement through our efforts to expand our presence in, and partnership with, our greater community and beyond.

Our Mission Statement: *We are here to awaken and express the Christ Nature in ourselves, our families, our community and the world.*

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE DURING FALL FAITH 2009

Our annual Fall Faith event is a success because of the many individuals who step forward into service. This year, there are many opportunities to give of your time and talents. Please visit <http://www.ucop.org/pages/fallfaith.html> to learn more about ways you may serve and to sign up.

For more details about Fall Faith 2009, visit <http://www.ucop.org/pages/fallfaith.html.org>. There you can sign up for a circle, read our Fall Faith prayer and more. If you have questions, contact Rev. Eileen Stulak at estulak@ucop.org, or 913.649.1750 ext. 3056.



COMMUNITY
Books & Gifts

Bookstore
HOURS:
M–Th: 11:00–5:30
Sun: 8:30–1:00
(closed during services)
913.649.3875

20% off A Course in
Miracles
materials
and 20% off
Crystal Stones
in October

Congratulations

GREEN STAR AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Green Team has awarded their Green Star Award to those showing an outstanding commitment to living earth conscious.

1st Quarter Recipient

Bob Black is awarded posthumously for his selfless support to Unity Church of Overland Park, including conducting an energy analysis of church electrical usage resulting in a KCP&L rebate. Bob provided energy efficient lighting to the church, as well as the Green Team. He made "being green" a corporate policy. At home, he and his wife, Colleen, chose all organic foods, built a rain garden and were devoted recyclers.

2nd Quarter Recipients

Twelve year old Daveon Jefferson dedicatedly recycles everything she can daily, at home and at school.

The UCOP Hospitality Team switched from using Styrofoam to ceramic coffee cups and mugs after Sunday services.

The UCOP Men's Group discontinued the use of Styrofoam and throwaway dishes and utensils at their monthly Saturday breakfasts.

American
Red Cross

Sunday, October 25
9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Blood Drive

Fall Faith 2009 Children's Curriculum

We are excited to announce that our children will once again be studying the same principles on Sunday morning that the entire congregation will be hearing about during Sunday morning services for our Fall Faith Celebration. The curriculum this year is being written by our Youth and Family Ministry Director Brandon Nagel and will closely follow both the ideas presented in Michael Beckwith's Spiritual Liberation and the discussion topics used in the Fall Faith curriculum that has been created by Reverend Patricia and the ministerial team! Make sure your entire family joins us as we begin our journey toward Spiritual Liberation on October 4th! To learn more about Fall Faith visit <http://www.ucop.org/pages/fallfaith.html>

Family Fun Night

OCTOBER 30 • 6 PM

Bring your entire family to UCOP for a fun Halloween themed event. The evening will start with a potluck dinner until 7 p.m. and then we will clear off the tables, cover them with butcher paper, and have each family showcase their talents in the first UCOP Family Pumpkin Carving Night. The event will also include a fun family-themed "Enchanted" House designed, decorated, and put on by our very own Y.O.U. The upstairs hallway will be transformed into a fun Halloween experience for everyone to enjoy. Be sure to bring a dish to share and prepare to have a fun Halloween celebration with your "extended" UCOP family.



Brandon Nagel

Spiritual Counseling Team

Did you know that Unity Church of Overland Park has a spiritual counseling team? This team consists of licensed professionals who are trained to help you move through addictions, depression, anxiety, relationship issues, abuse and more.

The team members offer three sessions to UCOP congregants on a love offering basis. If the relationship continues beyond these sessions, fees will be discussed and agreed to by you and the counselor.

The team members are Craig McAndrew, Karen Harrison, and Molly Witker. In addition, Rev. Eileen Stulak serves on the team and offers counseling centered on personal and spiritual development. A flyer with more detailed information on the spiritual counseling team is located in the brochure rack in the church lobby.

If you are interested in speaking with one of the counselors, or if you would like to be considered for membership on the team, please contact Rev. Eileen Stulak at 913.649.1750, ext. 3056 or estulak@ucop.org

Summer Outreach Pack-a-Backpack Program

Thanks to the generous support of the Pack-a-Backpack team, backpack sponsors and those who gave cash donations.

214 children returned to school with materials and supplies

You supported our own church families, as well as the following agencies that helped distribute backpacks: Community Linc, Restart Inc, Safehome, and St. Vincent's Operation Breakthrough.



Prayer Chaplains

Having completed training over the summer, 24 dedicated prayer chaplains have stepped into service this month at Unity Church of Overland Park. This dedicated team is available for prayer after all of our Celebration Services. In addition, they offer monthly calls of prayer support to members of our congregation. We have been blessed with a greater number of prayer chaplains this year. As a result, we have been able to add an additional 90 households to those receiving calls.



New Members August 2009



L to R Seated: Ann French, Wanda Harland, Stormyee Edmondson Standing: Shelby Bretton, Carl White, Sally Baird, Jon Baird Not pictured: Dawna Adams-Davis and Pam Saunders