



2016 Annual Gratitude Report

Dear Unity of Nashville Family,

As the great Dag Hammarskjöld once wrote, “For all that has been, thanks. For all that is to be, Yes!”

Our wonderful centenary was one of celebration, fond remembrances and deep thanksgiving. To those who helped create the many events throughout the year – thank you so very much. To those who took time to share and document memories and reach out to acknowledge former congregants, I know your efforts were appreciated. To those who chose to honor our founders and early sustainers through a special donation – we all are grateful for your thoughtfulness. For all that has been since our founding in 1916, thanks indeed.

As for what is yet to be? We know that the future can only be what we are now, what choices we make now, and what course we set our sights on now. So then, who are we, what are we choosing and where are we going? What will we say “yes” to?

What we are now is a truly inclusive community, praising diversity, and worshipping the God of our understanding. We teach Unity Principles and pray affirmatively. We are a culture of life-long learners and offer classes on Sunday and throughout the week (the ages of those actively involved in classes range from 5 to 90 years old).

We choose, over and over, to practice what we preach. We are people seeking to put a positive charge into life knowing that “the world will be to us, what we are to it.” And that if there is to be peace anywhere, “let it begin with me.” Additionally, we choose to see our city as a natural extension of who “we” are. We extend an open invitation to anyone who wishes to worship with us, we serve youth, those without adequate housing, and animals in need of protection.

Even with all these great and life-enhancing ministries, is there more we can be doing? The answer is an enthusiastic, Yes!

As we enter our second century of service to God, humanity, and the Nashville area, yes, there is always something new to create and experience. As a first step to discovering what exactly that might be, we’ll be re-examining our existing vision and mission statements in 2017.

Effective statements ought to be compelling enough to move us to act – to help us close the gap between what we teach and know in our hearts, and how we live. That’s the kind of statement we aim to create.

Without a clear and compelling vision, it is difficult to move forward. All of our programs, efforts, classes and ministries must be vivid expressions

of our values. With a clear and compelling vision, the path forward is clear, choices are easily made, and we get to have an honest sense of accomplishment knowing our aims are achieved.

The more time I spend in this work we call “church” the more enthused I am about the possibilities for Unity of Nashville. We are blessed with vibrant worship on Sundays, good facilities, a large campus and great people. We are here for God, we are here for Good, and we are here for each other – what more is needed? I have a great desire that this community will also be seen as one that is making a difference in our world. Do you?

This past year has been a very good year in the life of our church. To all who helped make it so, you have my personal thanks. I also have a wish to share with you. I hope that in 2116, when Unity of Nashville celebrates its 200th birthday, the congregants will know that we cared about them and they might reflect on our efforts and say, “thanks.”

All is Well, Life is Good,
We are Truly Blessed

John M. McLean

January 29, 2017

2016 Ministry Honors

This year we started a new tradition by giving special recognition to those who have had a major impact on the Unity of Nashville community. We are delighted to list our first honorees here.

<i>Making A Difference</i>	Maxine Caruth
<i>Founder's</i>	Frank Grant
<i>Pace e Bené</i>	Michael King
<i>Light Expressing</i>	Wanda Lynch

How Do We Grow Our Church?

That is a perennial question with three simple answers:

1. What every church-professional knows is this – no amount of advertising, promotion, or events ever built a congregation. The way congregations grow is by personal invitation from congregants.
2. Visitors will be likely to return if they feel there is a “low barrier to welcome” in a church. Do you make an effort to say “hello” to one person you don’t already know, each week? It matters.
3. In your daily prayer work, if you affirm “one more person, just like me,” you’ll be doing something specific and meaningful in supporting the growth of Unity of Nashville. When your prayer manifests our attendance and revenue will double. Is that asking too much of the Infinite? We think not.

Legacies The costs of creating community often outpace annual giving. It is so important to be mindful of how this church, over the years, has blessed you. Please remember Unity of Nashville in your Will when it comes time to make your estate plans. You will experience a special joy and power when you take action steps toward that goal. I promise.

Financial News 2016 We are committed to giving you a comprehensive look at our financial position each year. It’s the role of the Board Treasurer to do this at the Annual Membership Meeting. You can look forward to a complete review of our 2016 finances on May 21, 2017. Until that time, we thought you’d be interested to see some data that we find meaningful. A quick look at our “calendar year” reveals that our Sunday giving is solid. Thank you. Here’s a view of our Sunday Offerings over the past four years -

2013	2014	2015	2016
\$339,868	\$278,369	\$274,968	\$309,432

In the 2016 calendar year, Sunday Offerings accounted for 68% of total revenue received. This percentage varies from year to year. Yet it is clear that Sunday giving is the financial backbone of our church. Other sources of revenue come from facility rentals, class offerings, event revenues, fundraising, gifts received in the mail or on-line, and those who pledge monthly and donate by EZ Tithe.

Reminder: We receive no assistance from the Unity denomination or from foundations, nor do we have an endowment that generates support. Our financial stability is based on the conscious giving of the congregants and staff. To all of you, and for all the ways you give, we sincerely thank you for your support.

Where We “Tithe” In calendar year 2016, Unity of Nashville shared a total of \$18,616. As a church that is committed to practicing the Law of Reciprocity, we “give to that which we want to see more of” in this world. The majority of our gifts went to the major Unity institutions – Silent Unity, Unity Worldwide Ministries, and Unity Southeast Region. Those groups sponsor, create and support national events. We also shared gifts with Unity of Music City and Unity of Murfreesboro.

Where We Serve Churches of all denominations have something they call “missions” or “outreach.” While we have never used those exact words we did fund (modestly) activities that engage our congregation in community-based service projects. An important project, under the leadership of Brandi Nunnery, was our participation in **Habitat For Humanity’s Unity Build** – a gathering of members from various inter-faith churches working to complete a home for a family. Jennifer Johns leads our **Community Care** initiative. We have been working with **Sharing Hands**, a ministry that coordinates donations and meals for those in need. Together, we distribute personal items that can be critical for those who live on the streets. Queenie Mullinix, **Animal Ministry** leader, along with volunteers, has assisted with a variety of community projects. They have helped transport animals to foster or forever homes and have built fences when needed. In addition, they have participated in several local events. Some of the organizations we have supported are Humane Society’s “Fill The Bowl”, the Pet Community Center (low cost spay/neuter clinic) and Agape Animal Rescue.

In Addition In July, we supplied 100 clients of **Youth Villages** (supporting children in foster homes in Middle Tennessee) with backpacks at the start of the school year. At Christmas-time, we provided 100 personal toiletry items kits to **Sharing Hands** clients. We were also able to make significant financial donations to **Room In The Inn** and **Oasis Center** because of a successful, benefit performance of *A Christmas Memory* in December. Special thanks to all who went above and beyond in making these important activities so successful.

Service is the rent we pay for being. It is the very purpose of life, and not something you do in your spare time.

Marian Wright Edelman

Volunteers In Joyful Service To The Ministry

Chaplains

Heidi Weigel / Lead
Penny Campbell, Luzangela Correa
Steve Derringer, Trina DeSoto
Pamela Dunn, Dennis Harvey
Bryan Holmes, Lori Knowles
Alison Ledbetter, Marcia Warren
Janet Wilson

Christmas Crew

Luzangela Correa-Diaz
Nicole Diaz, Michael King
Sybil Spaulding, Ellen Warren

Community Care

Jennifer Johns / Lead
Iley Behr, Maeve Bixler
Mark Bixler, Miles Bixler
Stephanie Bixler, Suzanne Berg
Shawna Dacus, Deb Finn
Denny Finn, Rachel Finn
Angela Grant, Marie Hayman
Tootie Heigen, Jakeena Kendrick,
Beverly Love, Jesus Rivera
Ella Thiel, Shanti Thiel,
Gillian Wells, Janet Wilson

Drive-by Blessings

(our sign on Franklin Pike)
Mike Bolduc, Jim Lewis
Joe Weigel

Green & Clean Team

Michael Morano / Lead
Tom Cullen, Harold Edwards
Frank Grant, Jim Lewis
Robert Masto, Joe Weigel, Ron White

Greeters & Ushers

Sam Driggins / Lead
Bob Day, Lynn Foster
Gene Freeman, Frank Grant
Chip Hardy, Steve Hunter, Erin Kiney
Jim Lewis, Kent McGary
Roy Stevenson, Candy Toler
Kathy Venafró, Diane Wasemiller

Fellowship

John Brooks / Lead
Harold Edwards, Constance Jarrett,
Kathy Rochelle, Elizabeth Turrentine
Arcelia Vazquez, Janet Wilson

Homecoming & Centennial

Patricia Lefler / Lead
Jeff Barrie, Julia Bearden
Wendy Behr, Isabel Behr
Luzangela Correa, Albert Diaz
Wray Estes, Marshall Ford
Lynn Foster, Michael Holt
Jeff Johnson, Jim Lewis,
Robert Masto, Jennifer Mehr
Karena Mehr, Queenie Mullinix, Audrey
Ramsey, Derrick Sarago
Sybil Spaulding, Arcelia Vazquez
Wyatt Wallace, Jaci Ward,
Kim Watkins, Dave Webb
Ron White

Installation of New Minister and Centennial Homecoming Picnic

Michael King & Monell's
Dan Easterly

Midsummer Night's Dream

Brandi Nunnery, Lead
Zack Austin, Hayley Clark
Sarah Joy Cook, Sabrina Craig-Boyd
Joel George, Gillian Hooker
Brenda McCourt, Queenie Mullinix
Rachel Smith, Ellen Warren
Dave Webb

New Member Orientation

Stephanie Helmey

Office Assistant

Gloria Bolduc

Publications Editor

Maxine Caruth

Unity Build

Brandi Nunnery / Lead
Penny Campbell, Carless Dance
Frank Grant, Louise Grant
Jennifer Johns, Lisa King,
Patricia Lefler, Marjorie Mason
Doug Seaborn, Ellen Warren
James Warren

Welcome Table

Deb Clark, Linda Clark

Youth and Family Ministry

Pre-K Teachers

Lisa Beck
Rosa Ivy Lewis
Brenda McCourt
Nancy Ramsey
Bernice Spann
Jo Stanley

K-5 Teachers

Linda Clark
Stephanie Helmey
Tanya Iddings
Dae Iddings
Jennifer Johns
Jakenna Kendrick
Tina Lee
Cyrus Mehr
Jennifer Mehr
Ashley Meier
Dawne Pascoe
Kate Walmsley

Classroom Assistants

Halle Anderson
Terisa Brenna
Marcella Bakari
Kellee Gooch
Debbie Holladay
Gillian Hooker
Nikki Olstuni

Uniteens Sponsors

Jeff Barrie
Katrina Beck
Christina Beck
Ben Cyllus
Deb Finn
David Walmsley

Youth of Unity Sponsors

Iley Behr
Wendy Behr
Lisa Gusty
Audrey Ramsey
Emily Randalow

Youth of Unity Events

Jeff Beck
Iley Behr
Matt Kahn

2016 Year In Review

How We Pray With You is always something foremost on my mind. Our chaplains stand in service, each week, to pray and hold the “high watch” with you. We have a Prayer Circle each Tuesday at 12 Noon. Are you aware that all are invited to participate? We also send special prayer cards to all members twice a year to let them know that the chaplains and Rev. John are praying with them for divine order.

How We Communicate With You A **Weekly News** is emailed to subscribers each Tuesday. We have **Handouts** on Sunday listing all current activities and a **Classes & Events Broadsheet** available in the church. **Announcements** are made weekly from the platform. A **Coffee-Talk** is scheduled quarterly so congregants can chat with the minister and Board about what’s going on. We also have a very user-friendly **website** as well as an **APP** that anyone with a smartphone (Android and iPhone) can use. All upcoming events are also posted on our **Facebook** page.

Classes are a crucial component of any Unity ministry. We are committed to offering classes for the adult learner throughout the year. Among those completed this year were:

John McLean *The Universe Is Calling, Discover The Power Within You, Keys to the Kingdom The Power of Decision, Jungian Spirituality, Joseph Campbell & Myth.*

Wanda Lynch *Your Hope of Glory, Be Ye Transformed, Atom Smashing Power of Mind*

Joan Kennedy *Resurrecting Jesus, Finding Yourself In Transition, The Gift of Change.*

In addition, other fine teachers offer regular classes at the church in Yoga, Reiki, *A Course In Miracles* and *Non-Violent Communication*.

Youth and Family Ministry If you look at the list of volunteers on the previous page, it’s clear we have an active program. The youth of our church led a wildly successful Dessert Auction in July that funded all off-campus activities for the entire year! As a church, we were also blessed by a terrific Christmas play called “A Night To Remember” on December 18th. Fun!

Centennial Events Centennial Soirée and Homecoming 100 on September 24th and 25th were both elegant and fun. Our special guests on Homecoming Sunday were Rev. Jimmie and Mary Scott. It was under the leadership of Rev. Scott that our present buildings were completed. Another special guest was a former Music Director, Richard Mekdeci. He acted as Worship Leader for the day. And three cheers to the Leadership Team who worked so hard to make it happen – Patricia Lefler, Chair, Jeff Barrie, Queenie Mullinix, Sybil Spaulding, Jaci Ward, and Arcelia Vazquez.

Documentary What would a celebration be without a video? Audrey Ramsey and Jeff Barrie created a terrific piece that can be viewed at our YouTube channel. It’s an important record of our past and one that captures us at this time in our unfoldment.

New Bylaws were adopted in October at a Special Business Meeting. These bylaws are greatly simplified from the previous set. One of the changes that may not have gotten your attention is that congregants who are 15 years of age, or older, can become an Active Member. We love this change. The bylaws are available on our website if you scroll to the bottom of the homepage and click Bylaws. To the congenial group that helped create the bylaws, thank you.



Special Sunday and workshop presenters this year included (left to right) Frank Uyttebroeck, Dr. Amy Jill Levine, John Two-Hawks, Rev. Donna Michael and Michael Mirdad.

Board of Trustees

Penny Campbell
Secretary

Albert Diaz
At Large

Bryan Holmes
At Large

Patricia Lefler
At Large

Ted Martinez
Vice President

Rev. John M McLean
ex officio

Richard Patton
At Large

Joe Weigel
Treasurer

Ron White
President

Staff

Pat Andrew
Bookstore

David Gumina
Administrator

Joan Kennedy
Licensed Unity Teacher

Melanie Ladd
Youth & Family Ministry

Matt Leech
Audio Engineer

David Lukens
Music Director

Wanda Lynch
Licensed Unity Teacher

Rev John M McLean
Senior Minister

Annette Story
Bookkeeper

Jon Scott
Worship Leader

Milestones

The following beloved friends made their transitions in 2016

Lorraine H Green
Sela Pearson