



Unity of Nashville

2017 Annual Gratitude Report

Dear Unity of Nashville Family,

This past year has been significant for our church in one primary way – we have entered into the larger family of faith communities in Nashville. For far too long, we've said that we are "the best kept secret in Nashville." This was the year we made it part of our work to "let our light shine" so others may be blessed by what we do here as we, in turn, would be blessed as well. Here are the events of 2017 that indicate our growth in spirit and our commitment to involvement in our city.

We are blessed by the presence of Mani Hull, EdD in our lives as *Scholar In Residence*. Dr. Hull has continued to work with me on local interfaith activities – leading our Tribute to Dr. King in January and organizing a multi-community Walk For Values on our campus in March.

Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi and Victor Spence of *The Edinburgh Interfaith Alliance* joined us in October for what was an exhilarating day of worship and connection. It was Mr. Gandhi who mainstreamed his grandfather's teaching, "Be the change you wish to see in the world." Our children had experiential lessons in Mahatma Gandhi's teachings on non-violence for the month preceding Arun's visit as well.

We continue to work with *Sharing Hands* by distributing much needed goods to those without shelter on the third Sunday of each month.

And in October, we again participated in *Habitat For Humanity's Interfaith Build*. What awesome works these are.

In August, a fervent prayer of mine was answered. GracePointe Ministries began utilizing our campus for all their worship and educational activities. GracePointe is no mere "tenant" but a gift – a motivating and inspiring presence. Almost immediately, Pastor Stan Mitchell and I began to talk about how we might work together to achieve something neither had accomplished before. Both church's Men's Groups have had joint gatherings. And in November we became affiliated with Room In The Inn. We have joined some 200 other churches in Nashville in providing emergency shelter for those without housing two nights a month from November through March. Staffed by Unity and GracePointe volunteers, this outreach has served the homeless and touched the hearts of all volunteers. We were especially graced to be able to add Christmas Night to our calendar and welcome twelve men who otherwise found "no room in the inn." Join us in this service, won't you?

We were fortunate to be featured participants in the Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Concert held at The Temple in Belle Meade. What grace and joy!

In addition to reaching out, we also searched inwardly this year. A dedicated group met several times with the aim of crafting a fresh Vision and Mission statement for our ministry. The final session, skillfully facilitated by Pat White, yielded these potent and compelling words

VISION

A world of inspired people consciously embracing life's richest blessings.

MISSION

Unity of Nashville is a joyful, inclusive community that informs, transforms, strengthens, and connects people. We do this by gathering to pray, educate, and encourage growth in mind and spirit.

These statements not only declare "who we are" but also invite us to reach out in daring ways. This is true for each one of us and for us as a faith-community as well. I find myself re-enrolled in our purpose each time I read these powerful statements.

Both Dr. King and Mahatma Gandhi taught us that the "beloved community" is something that must we work for if we are to experience it. This echoes our own 5th Basic Principle, *It is not enough to know the Truth but we must live it*. At Unity of Nashville we are busy putting our values into action for the betterment of all. We are embracing the mandate to "be the change". I am committed to this work because it makes a difference – in me and in our community. I hope you will join me so you might experience the blessings of fulfillment for yourself.

Good things are happening at Unity of Nashville. I feel honored to be a part of this community and am thankful for each one of you. Stay in your practice and expect the best. Richest blessings for the New Year.

John M. McLean

January 30, 2018

2017 Ministry Honors

We continue the joyful task of shining a loving light on those who have had a major impact on the Unity of Nashville community. We are delighted to list this year's honorees

Making A Difference Wendy Behr
Founder's Stephanie Helmey
Pace e Bené Ron Biddle
Light Expressing Sam Driggins

How Do We Grow Our Church?

That's 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 2017 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 FY2017 finances on May 20, 2018. Until that time we thought you'd be interested in seeing this history of Weekly Donations

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
\$339,868	\$278,369	\$274,968	\$309,432	\$342,703

In the 2017 calendar year, Weekly Donations accounted for 66% of total revenue received. This percentage varies from year to year. Make no mistake, Sunday giving is the financial backbone of our church. Other sources of revenue come from facility usage fees, class offerings, fundraising, and one-time gifts. We continue to operate solidly in "the black" and made a significant principle reduction payment against our loan. We adhere to our budget and are careful with all expenditures.

Reminder: We receive no assistance from the Unity Home Office 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.

Our Committed Giving Program & Service In calendar year 2017, Unity of Nashville shared a total of \$20,715. As a church that is dedicated 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 a few Unity ministers and teachers whose work inspires us. We also share with those who volunteer for the ministry through retreats and training. Youth volunteers, chaplains, and Trustees have enjoyed the benefits of retreat time and professional level training this year. For those who give the most in terms of time, we are happy to be able to honor that through offerings that are enriching – spiritually and personally.

Churches of all denominations have something they call "missions" or "outreach." While we have never used those exact words we also fund 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 interfaith churches working to complete a home for a family. Jennifer Johns leads our Community Care initiative. We've been working with Sharing Hands, a ministry that coordinates donations and meals for those in need on a monthly basis. Together, we distribute personal items that can be critical for those who live on the streets. As related previously, we joined the Room In The Inn network this year. This work has involved dozens of volunteers both from the GracePointe and Unity communities. What an honor it is to share our space in a way that can be literally life-saving.

In addition, we supplied 101 teen-clients of Youth Villages (supporting children in foster homes in Middle Tennessee) with backpacks at the start of the 2017 school year. And at Christmas-time, we provided 101 personal toiletry kits to Sharing Hands clients. (101 being the age of this ministry in Nashville!)

I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy. Rabindranath Tagore

Volunteers In Joyful Service To The Ministry

Animal Friends

Queenie Mullinix

Bookstore

Kimmy Watkins

Chaplains

Trina DeSoto
Pamela Dunn
Bryan Holmes
Marcene Larkin
Marcia Warren-Lewis
Janet Wilson

Christmas Crew

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

Unity of Nashville Cares

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
Joan & Bill Robinson, Ella Thiel
Shanti Thiel, Gillian Wells
Janet Wilson

Drive-by Blessings

(our sign on Franklin Pike)

Mike Bolduc
Jim Lewis
Robert Masto

Green & Clean Team

Randy Cook
Tom Cullen
Harold Edwards
Jim Lewis
Robert Masto
David Taylor
James Warren
Joe Weigel
Ron White

Greeters & Stewards

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

Fellowship

John Brooks / Lead
Ron Biddle, Harold Edwards
Kathy Rochelle, Angela Grant
Arcelia Vazquez, Janet Wilson

Midsummer Night's Dream

Brandi Nunnery, Lead
Sarah Joy Cook, Sabrina Craig-Boyd,
Gillian Hooker, Brenda McCourt,
Queenie Mullinix, Rachel Smith,
Ellen & Jim Warren
Kimmy Watkins

New Member Orientation

Stephanie Helmey

Office Assistant

Gloria Bolduc

Room In The Inn / Unity

Wendy Behr, Susan Higgins
David Jungquist, Robert Masto
John McLean, Ellen Warren

Unity Build 2017

Brandi Nunnery / Lead
Penny Campbell, Vikki Chandley
Carless Dance, Tom Cullen, Joe Grant,
Jennifer Johns, Lisa King, Don Sledge,
Erin Somavile, Gillian Wells

Vision-Mission Contributors

Dylan Burnette, Ben Cyllus
Sebastian Diaz, Stephanie Helmey
Gillian Hooker, Beverly Love
Ted Martinez
Queenie Mullinix
Brandi Nunnery, Richard Patton
Wyatt Wallace, Pat White

Youth and Family Ministry

Pre-K Teachers

Brenda McCourt
Nancy Ramsey
Jo Stanley

K-5 Teachers

Linda Clark
Stephanie Helmey
Jennifer Johns
Jakeena Kendrick
Tina Lee
Katherine Marsh
Brenda McCourt
Cyrus Mehr
Jennifer Mehr
Dawne Pascoe
Bryan Pascoe
Kate Walmsley

Classroom Assistants

Linda Clark
Kellee Gooch
Debbie Holladay
Gillian Hooker
Jakeena Kendrick
Tina Lee
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

2017 Year In Review

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

- John McLean** *Five Basic Principles, This Thing Called You, Four Principles of Prosperity, How To Be An Adult In Spirituality, Eager To Love – The Way of St. Francis.*
- Wanda Lynch** *Let There Be Light, Practicing the Presence*
- Joan Kennedy** *The Gift of Change, World Wisdom Bible*

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

Youth and Family Ministry Melanie Ladd retired her position as Youth & Family Program Director in July. Melanie has been an important person in this church for a very long time. Her devotion to youth and their education remains an inspiration and her peaceful yet joyful presence in our offices will be missed for sure. Thank you Melanie for all you've done toward enriching the soul-lives of our youngest congregants.

Following up, but never "replacing" Mrs. Ladd, are Stefanie Jakobs, our new Program Director and Dawne Pascoe, who is taking the lead in the Children's School. How blessed we are to have so many caring folks working with and for our youth?

During the summer break, we had exhilarating experiences in the area of program development for our teens and tweens. We engaged three youth workers to lead volunteers, and then the teens, in separate "consensus workshops". These workshops helped us focus on what we hope to achieve with and for our tweens and teens in the upcoming years. Our leaders for these sessions were Jonna Laidlaw, Rokeisha Bryant and Adrian Cartledge – outstanding professionals all.

Interfaith Initiatives

We affiliate with Dr. Mani Hull this year with the aim of moving forward in the areas of Interfaith programs and education. She has brought vitality and experience to our campus and we are so enriched by her efforts with us. These are some of the activities that took place at Unity of Nashville that were outward looking and inclusive: an *Interfaith Tribute to The Beloved Community of Dr. Martin Luther King* with guests from the Buddhist, Hindu, Baha'i communities, January 15th, a dharma talk from the Tibetan Buddhist tradition by Lama Pema Dragpa, February 24th / a screening of the documentary film *13th* followed by commentary from Davidson County Public Defender Dawn Deaner, February 16th / a Gong / Sound Immersion for meditation and healing, March 21st / *Walk for Values Afternoon* sponsored by the Sathya Sai Baba Center, Baha'i Center of Nashville with prayers by Venerable Bhante Nanda and an appreciation for the Tennessee Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, April 22nd. The highlight of the year was the appearance of Arun Gandhi who gave the Sunday lesson, signed books and engaged in a robust Q&A on Sunday, October 1st.

2017 Special Sunday Speakers included (left to right) Rev. Paulette Pipe Rev. Dr. Edwene Gaines, Terry McBride, Terry McBride, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, Stowe-Good, Arun Gandhi, and Wanda Lynch



We feel it's imperative to hear "other voices" from time to time and look forward to another year of learning from exceptional people who enrich our perspectives and lives.

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At Large
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- Ted Martinez
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Music Director
- Wanda Lynch
Licensed Unity Teacher
- Joan Kennedy
Licensed Unity Teacher
- Mani Hull, EdD
Scholar In Residence

Unity is a link in the great educational movement inaugurated by Jesus Christ: our object is to discern the truth of Christianity and prove it. The truth we teach is not new, neither do we claim special revelations or discovery of new religious principles. Our purpose is to help and teach mankind to use and prove the eternal truth taught by the Master.
Charles Fillmore