



Lost in translation

We began our series to explore the metaphysical interpretations of the Beatitudes last month. The word *beatitude* stems from words meaning happy or blessed. These eight lines summarize Jesus teachings. When we use our right thinking, we live in a conscious mental state of joy and know bliss, oneness as the Truth of our connection to the Divine. Remember, the Bible is the story of our soul's growth, and through these eight teachings we live raise our consciousness to our highest good.

These eight "blessings," found in Matthew 5, are early in the *Sermon on the Mount*, which has been called the "world's greatest discourse." Taken literally, these eight directives are confusing and seemingly impossible to achieve.

Of course, in Unity, we look to the deeper meaning - beyond the physical/literal. Adding to the confusion, most of us we are familiar with the traditional translations - often the King James version - which translated the Greek texts into "old" English.

More complications: Jesus spoke in Aramaic; the New Testament texts that have been uncovered so far are in Greek. (Daniel and Ezra texts have been discovered in Aramaic.) And, it's believed that the Greek texts were created 60 to 100 years AFTER Jesus' death. It's doubtful that anyone was taking notes - and no phones to video the events.



The Sea of Galilee was also called the Sea of Tiberias. The name often changed with the prevailing invader.

Historical insights

The site of *Sermon on the Mount*, which may actually be the compilation of multiple events, is believed to have taken place near the Sea of Galilee, which is a lake surrounded by many towns, including Capernaum and Bethsaida.

The surrounding mountains and sloping terrain create perfect amphitheatres, which are enhanced by the winds carrying the sound. When the winds blew from the lake, Jesus could speak from a boat to the crowds on the shore.

Continued on page 2

Sunday, March 17 Annual Meeting

Following the service

Join us for this important meeting!

- Update from the Board of Trustees
- Financial Report
- Election of three new Board members (and an alternate)

Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting, but only active members may vote.

* See page 3 to review the minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting.

Please bring a snack to share!

Translation

Continued from page 1

Who was in these crowds? Probably poor and powerless Jews who were desperately awaiting the arrival of a messiah to take them out of the Roman oppression under which they had lived for almost 100 years. Some theologians believe that Jesus taught these Truths to his Disciples, not crowds of people.

Language challenges

As we work to explore the metaphysical meanings of these passages, it's important to understand the language in which they would have been spoken: Aramaic. So, why didn't Jesus speak in Hebrew? Aramaic, Hebrew, Tigrinya and Arabic are each part of the Northern Semitic family of languages. Hebrew and Aramaic share 22 written characters. Those living in the area spoke the prevalent language at that time, which was Aramaic.

Back to the Beatitudes (BE Attitudes)...

Rev. Val began the series with **"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."** In the Lamsa Bible (*The Holy Bible from Ancient Eastern Manuscripts* was published by George M. Lamsa in 1933. It was derived, both Old and New Testaments, from the Syriac Peshitta, the Bible used by the Assyrian Church of the East and other Syriac Christian traditions.), the word **humble** is used instead of poor.

Metaphysically, we are not talking about poor in the material or outer world sense. We are looking those who are poor in false pride, humble or unassuming because they are open and willing to learn, to grow and transform their own self. We bless our thoughts or actions that

miss the mark and bless others when they are complaining or creating discontent. When we bless it, we let it go and grow in our spiritual understanding, allowing our highest and best to manifest the Good.

The root word that is translated "spirit" comes from the Hebrew word **ru'ach**, which refers to the part of the soul that distinguishes good from evil. Per Emmett Fox, to be **poor in spirit** is to have "emptied yourself of all desire to exercise personal self-will and have renounced all preconceived opinions in the search for God." This is why the **poor in spirit** have begun to awaken from the need for material "stuff," outer success and the accompanying pride. The **poor in spirit** have begun a heart-centered quest for the Divine.

We next delved into **"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth,"** with Elaine digging into the Greek and Aramaic words for "meek," "inherit" and "earth." According to Charles Fillmore, the **"meek"** are "trained to react to negative stimuli with love - instead of an eye for an eye." Metaphysically, **"inherit"** means to become aware of or recognize - not to receive something. According to the **Revealing Word**, **"earth"** refers to an awareness of the subconscious mind's ability to repair, restore and renew the body and its functions. Emmett Fox says that, "when you possess the spiritual meaning of this text, you have the Secret of Dominion - the Key to Life to overcoming every kind of difficulty."

So, this Be-Attitude means that those who live in the flow of God's love - not revenge, angry etc. - have the power to manifest harmony and true success.

Moving even deeper, we explored the Aramaic words that were probably spoken. The Aramaic word for "meek" is **makeekheh** - a willingness to be open to Life Energy. The Lakota have an almost identical word that means allowing the Life Force to flow in and through - to be



one with the Creator. They say, **"Let the wind blow through you."**

We are not to allow the negative, icky stuff that shows up to "stick" or cause adverse

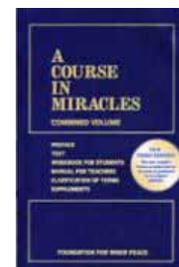
reactions. AND we are to open to the flow of Divine energy and receptive to its power.

The bottom line: **Blessed are those who are open to Oneness with the Creator - for they shall manifest infinite Good, harmony and prosperity.** And so it is!

This series will continue through Sunday, April 7.

The Holy Bible published by George Lamsa and **The Sermon on the Mount: The Key to Success in Life** by Emmett Fox, are available online. **Charles Fillmore's Revealing Word** and **Metaphysical Bible Dictionary** are available as free downloads at <https://www.truthunity.net>.

A Course In Miracles Study Group



**Thursdays
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm**

**Coordinated by
Kristin Kelly**

Sunday, March 3
12:25 pm
“Doing Church” Training

Are you interested in volunteering during the worship hour on Sunday morning? Rev. Val will lead this informative training session.

Here are some of the jobs that allow us all to enjoy a peaceful, loving experience on Sunday mornings:

- Song Leader • Daily Word Reader • Platform Assistance
- Speaker • Meditation Leader • PowerPoint Operator
- Backup for Sound Booth • Usher/Greeter • Hospitality Team
- and whatever else you may see that's needed.

We invite you to stay, learn more and sign up!

Church Ladies Luncheon



Join the UEL gals for lunch...

Tuesday,
March 19, 2019

12:00 noon

New location:

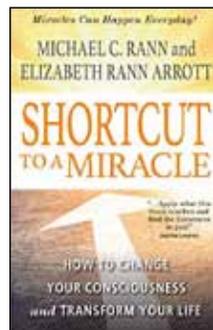
Mitchell's Fish Market

The Paddock Shops
 (formerly The Summit) Brownsboro Road
 (between N. Hurstbourne Pkwy and the
 Gene Snyder)

If you'd like to join us, please sign up at church, or e-mail Elaine at elainecw27@gmail.com.

New Sunday Morning book study beginning!

Our group of early morning “students” has chosen a new book to study: **Shortcut to A Miracle: How to Change Your Consciousness and Transform Your Life** by Michael C. Rann and Elizabeth Rann Arott.



problem or is in need of healing, this book reveals that people have the power to create wonderful lives by learning to shape dominant thought patterns.”

“For everyone who would like to experience greater joy, health, and success, and anyone who faces a seemingly insurmountable

See Margie Logsdon or Kathy Schmidlin for more information.

UNITY of EAST LOUISVILLE
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 18, 2018

Opening Prayer

- Was said by Chaplin Cynthia Phillips
- Minutes from the 1/21/18 Congregational meeting were read by Secretary Cynthia Phillips.
- Treasurer's report was given by Treasurer LaVena Wilken and from Bob Wilken. Had Quarterly report and hand-outs were provided.
- 35 people attended and voted on new by laws. Others voted and left.
- The by laws voted on were Proxy and Absentee votes.
 - Tracey Adams (VP) gave an update on security.
 - Would like a police officer to come and speak to the congregation about questions they may have about a security plan.
 - Locks and Keys are going to be changed.
- Directory is being updated and non-members who attend regularly can be included.
- Strategic Planning: In the near future we will need to form a committee for this.
 - Closed with the Prayer for Protection.

Respectfully Submitted
Cynthia Phillips
 Cynthia Phillips

Attention chocoholics!



Our March cake “raffle” ...

Dark Chocolate Fudge Cherry!

Tickets available starting March 10.

Drawing will be held on Sunday, March 24.

You or your ticket must be present to win.

Tickets: 1.00 ea/6 for \$5.00/13 for \$10.00

Proceeds of this and the next two cakes will go toward the purchase of a video camera/battery charger/etc., so we can record and post our Sunday services on Facebook and YouTube.

The cost for this technology is about \$600.

The February Strawberry Cake raised \$118 for our new equipment. The cake was won by Sandra Higgins-Smith, who lovingly shared it with the congregation.



Always with a smile and a hug!

Like most people who “find” Unity, Chris Mattingly felt an immediate connection at his first visit in 2004. He and Jo (his wife of 27 years who made her transition in 2014) were searching for a new church. Having read all the *Conversations with God* books, they were already moving in this spiritual direction.

Chris says his favorite aspect of UEL is the community - the people. “There is something unique about being in a small congregation and receiving hugs from the same folks each week,” he explained, and added, “Other than this, it would be the acknowledgement that we are all one with the Divine. This is the most comforting thing that I have discovered in my life, while also being a constant reminder to see all people through this understanding, even those with whom I disagree strongly.”

With the exception of two years on Guam as a child and two years in Danville during college, Chris has lived



in Louisville. After working in his father’s dental lab as a teenager, he graduated from dental and orthodontic programs at UofL and joined his father’s practice. He currently practices at Mattingly and Howell Orthodontics.

Chris says he loves to be outdoors doing just about anything - cutting grass, gardening/landscaping, hiking, playing golf, biking and scuba. He also loves traveling to Guatemala annually with Bellarmine University to provide dental services and working with local

groups to provide services to Louisville’s under-served homeless population.

Chris is a familiar face at UEL, serving as co-coordinator of the Usher/Greeter Team and he helps with the Sacred Grounds.

Chris is married to our own Colette Delaney Mattingly, who shares her gifts with UEL regularly. He and Colette and have three “wonderful” daughters: Jordan, Mckenzie and Sedona; as well as an “amazing” son, Daniel.

He thinks most of us at UEL would be surprised to know that he has a tattoo and likes to be in bed by 9:30 pm because mornings are his favorite time of day.

Chris, we are so very grateful that Spirit guided you to UEL! And we bless you for all that you bring to UEL!



Mary Magdalene Workshop Recognizing the Divine Feminine & the Divine Masculine

Place: Unity of East Louisville
Date: March 31, 2019
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Investment: Suggested Love Offering: \$20.00
Presented by: Faith Hoover

Was the Magdalene the true successor to Jesus’ ministry? If so, how did she become so lost to us? If Mary had continued to be the acknowledged leader, how do you think Christianity would be different today? How do we identify and reclaim that which was lost – our Divine Feminine & our Divine Masculine? Come & explore these questions. Reclaim what is yours!

About our Presenter: Faith Hoover has Bachelors and Masters degrees in Education and minors in Psychology and Counseling. She spent many years working with people with developmental disabilities connecting them with the community. She has also presented several workshops in her life coaching on Growing Your Inner Peace. All the while she has researched extensively on the subject of one of the most mysterious women of the Bible, Mary Magdalene, and has finally begun writing the novel to which all this has lead.

Are you seeking answers to the big questions in life?

Enliven your spiritual journey with
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- A wide variety of topics
- Something for everyone

Enroll now at unity.org/spiritualexplorers.

Your assistance is really needed!

It takes a team to orchestrate each Sunday morning service. While our sound/video technology is pretty basic for a church, it does require working knowledge of the equipment and PowerPoint software.

Our current team includes Les Reynolds, who oversees the sound system each week, and Charlie Logsdon and Rollin Phillips, who



operate PowerPoint for our services. These three share these tasks and responsibilities 52

weeks a year and for special services. It's time to give them more support!



Training will be provided for each of these positions.

1. Sound system - set up and manage the sound, including microphones, monitors and sound levels for speakers and musicians.

2. Laptop/PowerPoint - set up, download and operate various PowerPoint files for our pre-service announcements, songs, prayers, etc.

If you are willing to be part of this team, please see Charlie or Les.

Spirit

is a monthly publication of Unity of East Louisville.

For questions or to provide information, please contact Elaine Wood at elainecw27@gmail.com

Go deeper...!

March 3

Speaker: Rev. Valerie Mansfield
"What Life Embraces"

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

March 10

Rev. Scott DeMarco
"Loyalty to Convictions"

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

March 17

Speaker: Rev. Valerie Mansfield
"Human Expectations"

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

March 24

Speaker: Elaine Wood
"The Presence and the Pure"

Blessed are the pure of heart, for they will see God.

March 31

Speaker: Troubadours of Divine Bliss

"Love is the Only Way"

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called Children of God.

April 7

Speaker: Rev. Valerie Mansfield
"Living in the Witness of Truth"

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.

April 14

Speaker: Rev Jim Ernstsen
"Magnificence of Spirit"

The consciousness of the Holy Spirit welling within us is where the habitation of peace, possession of peace, vision of peace and the abode of peace are alive.

April 21

Speaker: Rev. Valerie Mansfield
Easter: "Consciousness Rising"

The "I AM" consciousness rising up and challenging ourselves and the world as we see it today.

New series begins: The Seven Prescriptions of Happiness

April 28

Speaker: Elaine Wood
"Nurturing an Attitude of Gratitude"

Create the foundation for happiness.

Navigating Change



During the last year, Unity of East Louisville has navigated many changes. For some, change means no control and can be scary, especially when it's your spiritual home

and family. So, take a deep breath and say "thank you" to the Universe for the challenges that allowed the community to open up the river's dam to become fluid, flowing to a new destiny. A destiny of greater good for all people seeking a community family filled with love and light for those who are currently part of community and for those standing on the shore waiting and ready to join the flow.

This month we embark on a new path in leadership and there will be change. The first election of Board of Trustees for Unity of East Louisville, takes place on March 17, 2019, during the Annual Meeting. We have seven candidates running for office. We have three openings for Board of Trustees and one Alternate Board member.

Take another deep breathe and put on your boots, cause we are going into the flow of consciousness with the highest and best for all to flow forth through the stream. Remember, what Heraclitus, the Greek philosopher, said "Change is the only constant in life." We grow when we change and we are here to grow, from our human consciousness into our spiritual consciousness, which is the True Circle of Life.

Blessings of Love and Light,
Rev. Valerie

Hugs, snuggles and blessings!

This year UEL will partner with Unity of Louisville in the Hug-A-Bunny project.

HUG A BUNNY is an annual project created in 2004 by Alan Scherer in gratitude for his recovery from prostate cancer.

Each spring, Unity of Louisville congregants - and now UEL, too - bring new stuffed animals to share with those in hospitals, nursing homes, cancer care units and other facilities and programs in our community. The **HUG A BUNNY** stuffed animals are placed throughout the sanctuary where we surround and fill them with our Love and Blessings. More than 4,100 love-stuffed **HUG A BUNNY** animals have been distributed in our community.



Alan is surrounded by the collection of love-infused stuffed animals.



This year, the carloads of fluffy friends will be delivered on Sunday, April 28 to nursing homes, hospitals, cancer wards, to Veterans and other places. Large or small - bunny, bear or lamb - each stuffed animal will share our Love

and Blessings with those who need a little hug!

Please bring your furry friend donations to UEL

between Sunday, March 24 and April 21. Alan will collect them and orchestrate their distribution. Questions? See Rev. Val or Elaine.

Hospitality Team members needed!!

Ever wondered who makes sure that we have coffee cups, water to drink or plates and napkins? Ever wondered who cleans up the counter and takes care of the "treat" leftovers?

We need a team of volunteers to assume these tasks and responsibilities, including:

- Check the inventory of our supplies (coffee/plastic cups, plates, bowls, napkins, utensils, tea bags, water, etc.) and make sure they get purchased or ordered (an order request form is provided).
- Make sure we have jugs of drinking water for Sundays.
- Coordinate the "treats" on Sunday mornings. (Design and implement your own system for sign-ups, orchestrating special food events, etc.)

- Clean up the counter after Sunday services, including disposing of leftover treats and food items.
- Check around the counters and tables for cups and other items that need to be thrown away.
- Assist with the set-up, serving and clean-up for special food events, such as for a workshop, new member celebration, meeting or program after a Sunday service.
- Assist with the coordination of "food" events, such as our potluck lunches.
- Empty the trash and replace the bag if the can is full.

If you'd like to lead or be part of this team, please see Elaine or contact her at elainecw27@gmail.com.

Community Outreach:



While we may not see much visible "need" in Anchorage or Middletown, UEL is one of the 38 partner churches of Eastern Area Community Ministries, which serves a wide area of eastern Jefferson County - east of the Watterson Expressway and north of Interstate 64 - which includes the following zip codes: 40018, 40027, 40059, 40222, 40223, 40241, 40242, 40243, 40245. EACM

Executive Director Carrie Gerrard joined the Ladies Luncheon in February to provide more information about this vital agency. Among the services that EACM provides for people "in need or crisis and to equip and support them in achieving life-long stability and dignity" are: emergency financial assistance with utilities and rent; food pantry access; essential items for infants and toddlers; meals on Wheels deliveries; 1-on-1 mentoring; financial education; and English classes and services to help immigrants adapt to life in the US.

In addition to sending a portion of our monthly church tithe to EACM, UEL has been a strong contributor to the Christmas Store for several years. And we collect non-perishable food items and gift cards for the Thanksgiving Baskets each year.

Right now, the greatest need is for items for the Food Pantry. The collection basket for donated items is in back of the sanctuary. Tracey Adams and Barbara Mudica are our liaisons with EACM. For more about volunteer opportunities with EACM, visit the website at www.eacmonline.org.

Love In Action is delighted to announce that Pat Mitchum has volunteered to head up our **Outreach Team**. He will work to identify service opportunities and coordinate our UEL participation. If you'd like to be part of this team, see Pat or complete a LIA Volunteer form in back of the sanctuary.