

OCTOBER 2010

# Centerpoint

UNITY CENTER OF WALNUT CREEK

## Special "Love in Action" Update



### **10/10/10 is our Homecoming!**

Love in Action is our name for the amazing combination of dreams and visions, commitments and generosity, designs and details, plus heartfelt care that has brought into manifestation our renewed Center on Geary Road. We are in the home stretch of moving home. Our Homecoming Celebrations and Services are 10/10/10 (Sunday October 10, 2010) at 8:00, 9:30 & 11:30 am. Here, from our Love in Action team, are some of the exciting details about the journey we've taken and the things yet to do as we call our spiritual family home.

*For more complete details concerning the information in this newsletter, please see our website, [www.unitycenter.net](http://www.unitycenter.net)*



# What a Ride It's Been!



**A**s we prepare to return to Geary Road, we can look back at the success of the Love In Action program and look beyond to where we are going.

## The Beginning

In 2000, our congregation joined together to envision priorities for Unity. One of the main themes was beautification and better utilization of our Unity center facilities.

In 2006, under the leadership of Rev. David McArthur, we were ready to begin that process. We knew two things: 1) our 1970s buildings needed to be renovated and to do that we needed to raise money, and 2) it wasn't about the money. It was about experiencing and understanding the truth of our belief that God is the source of all of our good, and that there is nothing that can keep us from it.

We hired a consultant (Rev. Cherie Larkin) who had a proven program to build prosperity consciousness while raising funds. Under the dynamic leadership of Marion Crew and Susan Miller, the program kicked off: the name Love In Action was selected, teams were created, communications were written, pledge cards were designed, Sacred Gatherings were scheduled. A video was put together to view at the Sacred Gatherings that so perfectly spoke to the intent of Love In Action's goals and helped to strengthen the bonds of our spiritual community.

All of this activity led up to Commitment Sunday in June 2007. Our congregants, in support of this project, pledged more than \$700,000! As the donations began to roll in, the Capital Development Committee began meeting under the leadership of Jack Shaffer. The committee selected an architect, Jerri Holan & Associates, and the design process began.

## The Choice

While the level of giving was generous, it left our congregation with a decision to make. Knowing that to renovate both buildings would cost more than twice the amount of the



pledges, should only one building be renovated at this time (and if so, which one), or should the church finance the rest? As the congregation prayed and considered the possibilities, support for completing both buildings received overwhelming support. A lender was secured that would finance up to \$1.5 million.

We found wonderful locations for Sunday services – Heather Farm – and for our temporary office and classroom space. Requests for bids went out to contractors, and of all the bidders, Mark Scott Construction of Pleasant Hill – just a few miles from Geary Rd. – was selected.

## Oops

As we finally prepared to move out of Geary Rd. and begin meeting at Heather Farm in August, 2009, changes to the banking industry affected our plans. The lender stopped doing construction lending and we were, all of a sudden, without financing! Knowing that all things are possible, we shopped lenders and were led to OneCalifornia Bank of Oakland, which approved our loan in January. In the meantime, our Center sat empty, and we missed our spiritual home.

Construction finally began in February 2010! It just so happened to be the wettest winter in several years; we cheered the return of the rain while shaking our heads at the construction delays. Originally hoping to return to Geary Rd. in August, the final return date has been set as 10/10/10.

## Generosity

Even with the challenges of the economy, members and visitors generously continued to donate to Love In Action. Some gave one-time gifts, others gave every month and others funded specific parts of the project that were important to them. From



Commitment Sunday in June 2007 through July 2010, a total of \$682,840 has been contributed.

From this generosity, we will have paid 1/3 of what is, in total, a \$2.1 million project! Architect and engineering fees, rental space and moving costs, loan fees, project management, and planning and permits have been the major expenses paid out of our funds. The \$1.4 million loan is covering materials and labor for the construction.

### Still To Do

As our return to Geary Road gets closer, we are looking at finishing touches that will add beauty, comfort and functionality to the new buildings. These are needs we still have to meet by 10/10/10. What speaks to your heart to support?

**Sanctuary:** The mauve sanctuary chairs will be reupholstered to match the new interior, being both environmentally friendly and cost efficient. We are asking everyone to cover two of the two-hundred chairs, one for you and one for a guest. A beautiful altar table and handcrafted candleholder will bring artistic beauty to the stage. Window blinds will help control the light, a necessity for quality videos of services and weddings. (The total for the special gifts is \$7,800.)

**Education Building:** What more perfect way to support our children than to have chairs and tables that are their size! Chairs will also be purchased for gatherings and receptions in the CommUnity room. (The total cost is \$2,000.)

**Landscaping:** Our outdoor gathering areas will be lovely with trees, plants and grass. A group of our Unity men organized to build a retaining wall—when we gather outside, our tables will no longer slant! (\$30,000, some of which may be financed, is the amount needed to make our landscaping complete.)

Equipment and materials will be needed for reinstallation of our Peace Wall. (The cost will be \$1,900.)

**Kitchen:** 8-burner professional grade gas stove with two ovens, huge refrigerator and freezer, and stainless steel countertops (all donated) – what more could a kitchen want? We need only

a few things to move in—then we will have a major kitchen shower for the finishing touches in November and it will be fun, fun, fun.

We invite you to join in furnishing this beautiful place that has been created! Donations can be submitted in Love In Action envelopes during Sunday services or sent to the office at 1800 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill, CA 94523.

We are also looking to the future, of being able to meet the new mortgage commitment to a bank that took a chance on a non-profit in the midst of a difficult economic environment. Our monthly mortgage payment will increase by almost \$8,000, to \$9,800. By mid-August, more than 60 people had given new or additional one-time donations or pledged to give monthly toward the mortgage. In total, about \$6,500 per month has been pledged through at least mid-2011.

### Returning Home

But mostly we are looking forward to meeting once again in our spiritual home. We will bless the manifestation of our vision with a 24 hour prayer vigil in the sanctuary that will begin Saturday at 8:00 am on October 9, and continue until our first service in our renovated sanctuary at 8:00 am on October 10. A special consecration service will be that Saturday at 7:00 pm.

Of course it wouldn't be Unity without a party with food! You are invited to celebrate with us on Friday, October 8, in the CommUnity Room in the Education building from 7:30 - 11 pm. Join us for food, dancing, fun, appreciation and friendship to commemorate the end of this stage of our journey, that has built friendship, developed spiritual consciousness, and created a church home that reflects the light, love and abundance that is Unity of Walnut Creek.

After our services are over on 10/10/10 is when all of us can eat, visit, enjoy Unity's music and talent as we share a fun filled afternoon back home.

And we invite you to join in the excitement of this wonderful journey as it continues to unfold.

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# Frequently Asked Questions



## **When will the renovation of the sanctuary and facilities at 1871 Geary Road be completed?**

Our move back home will be in steps. Offices will move approximately the end of September, classes will move at a date to be announced, and Sunday services will move as of October 10.

## **Will the starting times of the three services change when we return home?**

Yes, the times will change to 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM. These are the same times we held services before we moved to Heather Farm.

## **Will there be maps and directions to Geary Road provided to new members?**

During September, at our services at Heather Farm, we will have maps and directions available for newer members to guide them to our Geary Road home.

## **What will be the meeting times and locations for children, Uniteens and YOU (Youth of Unity) programs?**

All of our youth programs will continue as before, with the times changing to match the new service times: children and Uniteens (middle school) will meet at 9:30 and 11:30; YOU (high school) will meet at 11:30 only.

## **Will our bookstore re-open in the same space where it was located before the renovation?**

Our bookstore will once again flourish on Sundays in the Book Center with a fully-stocked array of spiritually nourishing and illuminating books, gifts and other items.

## **How can I contact Reverend David or members of the Center staff during the transition?**

Reverend David and the staff can still be contacted at 925-937-2191 or [office@unitycenter.net](mailto:office@unitycenter.net). When offices are moved back to our home location, announcements will be made in our Sunday services and in the weekly email Newsletter to let you know where you will find them during the day.

## **Where will Healing Night and other evening classes be held during the transition period?**

Healing Night and classes will meet at 1800 Oak Park Boulevard through September.

## **What will happen to the Peace Wall?**

The panels have been safely stored and will be reinstalled onsite once the renovation is complete.

## **How can I help?**

There are many ways you can help during our time of transition:

- Sign up to volunteer: Volunteer sign-up sheets, as needed, will be available on the patio after Sunday services. We look forward to your support!
- Reach out to others: Support our beloved community with your love and kind words and actions by reaching out to old friends and introducing yourself to new ones, welcoming them to a home they have yet to experience for themselves.
- Donate a Gift of Beauty: While the structures will be complete, the final touches that will illuminate our Center with beauty and grace are still awaiting our support.
- Support us in prayer: Most importantly, we welcome your ongoing prayer support during the transition and changes we will experience during the renovation.

## **Where can I find additional information?**

Additional information about Unity Center of Walnut Creek, our renovation and our temporary space during construction is available at:

[www.unitycenter.net](http://www.unitycenter.net) and [www.growingunity.com](http://www.growingunity.com)





# Sacred Gathering

Unity Center of Walnut Creek invites you to a sacred gathering of fellowship and meaningful conversation. If you were not able to attend the September 1 sacred gathering, there's another opportunity on September 15, from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm. Please RSVP by calling Veronica Wolfe at 925-285-3030.

We are coming together to cultivate friendships and strengthen our spiritual community while we discuss Unity principles, universal law, and Love in Action at Unity of Walnut Creek. We hope you can join us!

Questions? Call Javier Cortez at 925-570-8401.



## Love in Action Trivia

**200-300 pounds** (amount of nails used in the renovation)

**5,000 hours** (estimated hours put in by the contractor on the renovation)

**1,600 hours** (estimated hours put in by Unity's Capital Development Committee on planning the renovation)

**3** (number of times the project was scheduled for the Planning Commission's monthly meeting)

**16** (number of days of rain delay during construction)

**27** (number of lenders contacted for financing after first lender pulled out)

**62** (number of Sunday services that will have been held at Heather Farm by the time we return to Geary Rd.)

**540+** (number of people who have contributed at least \$5 to the Love In Action campaign)

**\$50,000** (largest contribution level given by several donors to Love in Action)

## Pledge Card Blessings

*That love, appreciation, peace, happiness, abundance and prosperity flow through the hearts and lives of all members of our church.*

*Divine love supports and enfolds us in creating our spiritual, loving home. We are blessed.*

*May the people of Unity Center connect with the divine to enter into prosperity, serenity, transformation, inspiration and depth of being.*

*Every day I thank Unity, the people and the heartfelt love.*

*God IS good - all the time.*



# Love in Action - A Prosperity Journey



One of our primary goals when we began Love in Action was to create for us all a true consciousness of prosperity. Charles Fillmore, our founder, taught that abundance was a part of a right relationship with the Divine. We knew this commitment would cause us to grow in consciousness and together we said, “Yes!”

We have raised over \$670,000, drawn financing of \$1,500,000, met our daily expenses of running our Center while in a temporary location, and we did it all while confronted with the worst recession since the Great Depression. To do that we had to embrace and live the spiritual principle that God is our source and under God’s law, the more you give, the more you receive. Here is what that looked like:

- We made generous financial commitments to support our church over and beyond what we were already giving for its operations (almost \$672,850 over three years).
- The recession began and we affirmed our abundance and continued giving generously. (A few people had to pull back a little because of changes in their lives and others stepped forward to give more.)
- When the outer world said, “don’t give, be afraid; if you give, you’ll have less,” we responded by giving generously even when hit with loss.
- The truth is that as we individually and collectively have lived the spirit of giving, knowing that God is our source. I firmly believe that our giving and practicing of spiritual principle helped many of our people recover from the recession quickly and overcome both fear and lack.
- We have stepped forward to commit the special pledges



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we have met lack with abundance, and fear with faith. When people needed work, we affirmed our ability to be productive. When people needed to see demonstrations of God’s goodness, we chose to be the instruments.

We will have built a beautiful spiritual home and even more beautiful—a consciousness of true abundance. For all your wonderful loving generosity and faith, I am so grateful.

over and above our regular church giving to meet our monthly building payments for the next three years. At this point we are 2/3 of the way to that level of commitment.

- We have given many special items to meet the non-building needs of: special floors, audio-video equipment (wow—are we going to have the best and most wonderful!), sanctuary beautification, walls, kitchen

appliances (all of them plus the stainless steal counter tops), and many, many more things.

- A new retaining wall to level our lawn and expand our seating and beauty was built by our people and looks soooo good!

Because we know God is our source, we have created a beautiful spiritual home for ourselves, our community and many people for years to come. Because we have lived the spirit of generosity and giving,

— Reverend David McArthur



### Pledge Card Blessings

*May those who need peace in their hearts and love of self find their way to Unity of Walnut Creek and be touched and loved by the people and the teachings.*

*We are love. We are love in action. Divine love flows through our hearts, enfolding and blessing the world we live in. We love and bless each other, and we love and bless our mortgage and our new home!*

*That our center provide refuge, nurturing, support and inspiration for all who enter. I can't wait to get back home!*

*To be a major source of love, light, joy and prosperity to the universe.*

*A place of beauty to spread joy and love.*



## Homecoming Events You Won't Want to Miss!



### **Black and White Gala – October 8, 7:30 pm**

An evening at Geary Road appreciating all that made it possible

### **24 hour Prayer Vigil – October 9, beginning 8:00 am**

Join us at home or at Geary Road in preparing our sacred space

### **Consecration Service – October 9, 7:00 pm**

Consciously committing our building to its sacred work

### **Homecoming Services at 8:00, 9:30 & 11:30 am – October 10**

Our very special first services in our renewed home

### **Homecoming Celebration after Services – October 10**

Food, music and most importantly enjoying each other

# Unity Center

OF WALNUT CREEK

1871 Geary Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94597

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## The **BLACK & WHITE** Gala

**Celebrate Our Return to 1871 Geary Rd.  
At our Homecoming Celebration!**

It took the effort of hundreds of volunteers, the generosity of hundreds of donors, the leadership of one excellent minister, and the vision and faith of an entire congregation to renovate our spiritual home. Now we will come together in community to rejoice and honor the manifestation of this vision!

**October 8, 2010**

**7:30 – 11:00+**

**Black and White Gala (Black Tie Optional)  
CommUnity Room in the Education Building  
Come dressed as fancy as you want to dress!**

At 8:30 p.m., we will adjourn to the sanctuary for the ribbon cutting of our new Sanctuary then continue in Unity tradition of instilling our new home with prayers and blessings. We will then return to the CommUnity room for a night of dancing and celebration! Our Heart Ministers will hold a prayer vigil beginning 8:00 am Saturday morning until our first service in our renovated sanctuary at 8:00 am on Sunday, October 10.

**Reverend David McArthur, Senior Minister • Reverend Don Eggleston, Assistant Minister**

### How to Reach Us:

Office (925) 937-2191 and office@unitycenter.net

Dial-A-Thought (925) 937-0777

24 Hour Prayer Chain (925) 937-2191

Silent Unity / Unity Village, MO (800) 669-7729

(24 Hour Prayer) (816) 969-2000

**Business Hours:** Monday - Thursday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm; closed Friday

**Daily Meditation:** Monday - Thursday 12:00 pm - 12:15 pm

**Retail Book Sales:** Sunday 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

**Sunday Morning Service:** 8:00 am, 9:30 am & 11:30 am

**Sunday Morning Youth Education:** Infants-13yrs: 9:30 and 11:00

Uniteens (Middle School): 9:30 & 11:00; Y.O.U. (High School): 11:00 only