

# *WELCOME!*

## **Membership Orientation Class**

Unity's Essential Teachings  
History of Unity and Unity of Bonita Springs  
Mission, Vision, Core Values  
Organization  
Service opportunities

Open to everyone

Attendance required for prospective members

11:15 – 12:00 p.m.

Rev. Alden Studebaker, facilitator



## The Fillmores



- **Myrtle** Fillmore (1845-1931)
- Said to have inherited TB
- Graduated Oberlin College
- 1876 met Charles in Texas
- Married Charles 1881
- Lowell & Rickert born in CO
- 1886 attended E.B. Weeks, New Thought lecture
- 1888 healed TB condition
- 1889 Silent Unity formed

- **Charles** Fillmore (1854-1948)
- Dislocated/diseased hip 1864
- As printer's helper he studied Shakespeare, Tennyson, Emerson, & Lowell...
- Drove mule team; Assayer
- 1884 - KC sold Real Estate
- 1887 Plunged into study of many religions, philosophies
- 1889 devote full time to study/mastery of Truth

# Growth of Unity

- 1890 Silent Unit prayer ministry began
- 1896 Emilie Cady's article's first published in Unity Mag.
- 1905-6 Unity Inn & 913 Tracy St. started
- 1913 Unity School of Christianity incorporated
- 1920 First land for Unity Village purchased
- 1929 Tower and Silent Unity Buildings completed
- 1931 Myrtle made her transition
- 1948 Charles made his transition



# Unity Today

- **UWW** – Unity World Headquarters
  - Silent Unity
    - 24/7 Prayer Ministry
    - 1.1million phone calls
    - 1 million letters/year
  - Daily Word
    - 1.1million, 9 languages
    - 175 Countries
  - Publishing - Unity mag, books
  - Retreats
- **UWM** – Unity Worldwide Ministries
  - 1000+ Ministries worldwide
    - 200 outside the US
  - Services include:
    - Church Admin. Guidance
    - Education – ministers, LUT's
    - Development consultation
    - Ministerial Employment
    - Church products
    - Key leader training
    - Communication
    - Transitional ministry
    - Assist starting new groups

# Unity's Five Basic Teachings

Connie Fillmore – granddaughter of Charles & Myrtle Fillmore

- 1. God is the source and creator of all. There is no other enduring power. God is good and present everywhere.
- 2. Our essence is of God; therefore, we are inherently good.
- 3. We are co-creators with God, creating reality through thoughts held in mind.
- 4. Through prayer and meditation, we align our heart-mind with God.
- 5. Through thoughts, words, and actions, we live the Truth we know.

# Unity of Bonita Springs

- History
- Mission, Vision, Core Values
- Organization
- Service opportunities

# UNITY MINISTERIAL SCHOOL - 1956



Jack  
Kern

FRONT ROW: LEFT TO RIGHT

JACK KERN

LUIS MOLINARY

N. DENIS ROBINSON

ROBERT C. WALLET

GENE SORENSEN

MIDDLE ROW: LEFT TO RIGHT

HARVEY S. JACOBS

NAOHIKO IDE

LESLIE D. SAUNDERS

ROBERT E. NUTTER

FLORENCE CENEY

HELMUT STEINER

CHASE WILLET

GROVER THORNSBERRY

EDWARD J. HOGE

BACK ROW: LEFT TO RIGHT

BILL AULL

RALPH KNOX

J. DAVID DAVENPORT

DANIEL J. PERIN

BERNARD DOZIER

M. GUY LABERGE

GEORGE STONE



# UNITY

Naples







Rev. Sandra Lockey at the first Service, Nov 1994

Unity of Bonita Springs was born in the summer of 1994 when newly ordained Reverend Sandra Lockey was encouraged by Unity of Naples (her home church) to establish a Unity Center in Bonita Springs. The first Steering Committee meeting was held September 9, 1994 with the goal to begin Sunday services in November in a 1,500 sq. ft. space leased in Springs Plaza.

Some temporary locations met the need until regular services were possible at the Springs Plaza location. Unity of Naples provided start-up funding and initial support for the fledgling church that was guided by a Steering Committee.

Jerry Stawski has provided the music since the first Sunday service.





By November, 1998, Unity of Bonita Springs was deeded its current five plus acres of natural Florida habitat and the land blessing was held on the property in April of 1999





Planning and building construction followed leading to the Grand Opening service for the newly built church building May 29, 2005, officiated by Rev. Sandra Lockey.

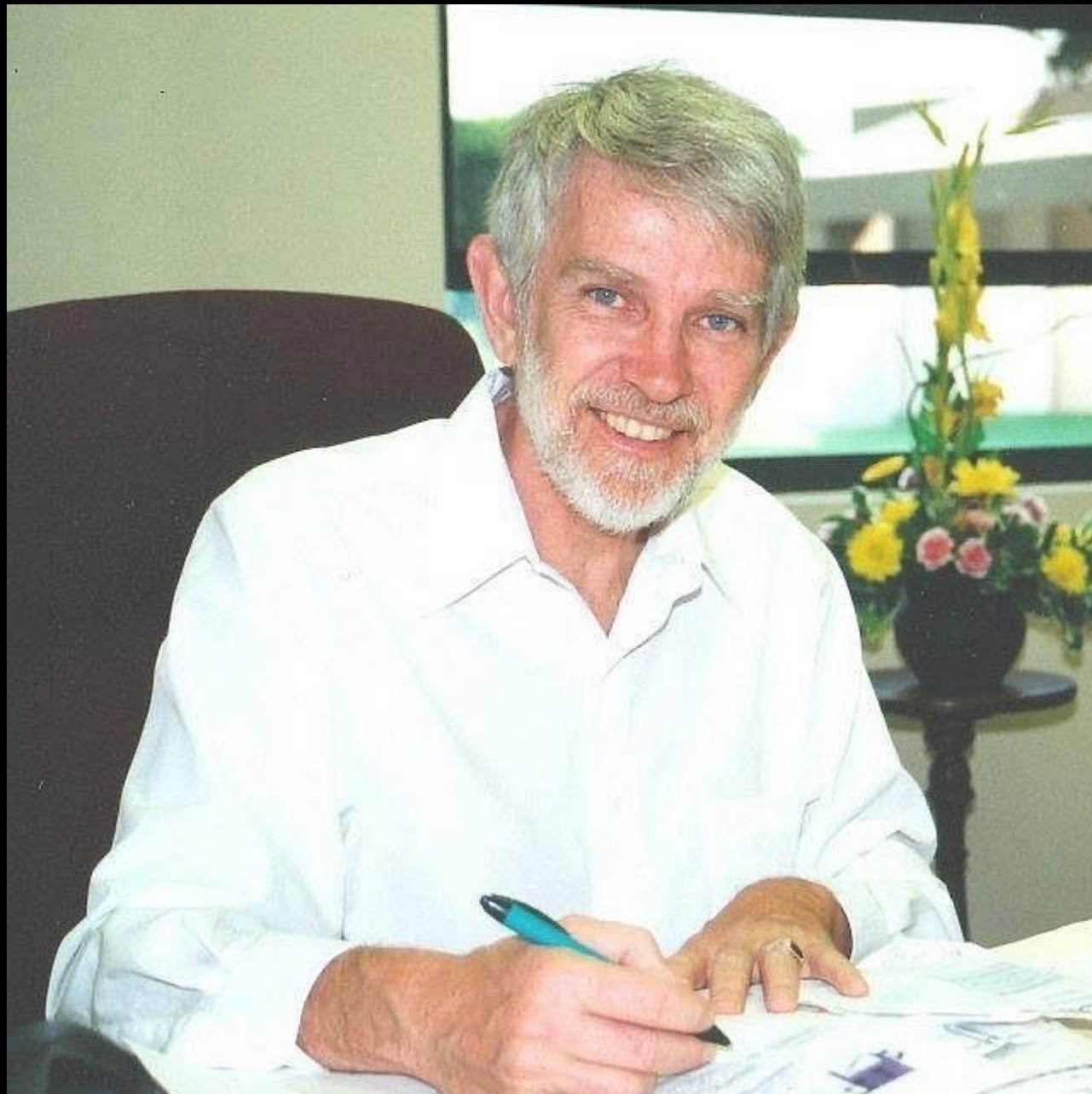


# Unity Ministerial School Class of 1982



Phil Schlaefer





Rev. Phil Schlaefer was hired as the new minister, beginning in June 2005 and was the first minister at our present location on Imperial Parkway.

During his tenure the congregation grew and the physical property improved with enhanced landscaping. Rev. Phil provided spiritual education in keeping with the Unity spirit. His messages were simple, powerful, delivered with grace and humor. Jo, his wife, served as a Licensed Unity Teacher and Prayer Chaplain during this time.



A blue and white sign hangs from a silver chain across a gravel path. The sign has three horizontal sections: a top blue section with white cursive text, a middle white section with blue bold sans-serif text, and a bottom blue section with white bold sans-serif text. The path is made of grey gravel and leads towards a paved area in the background. There are some green plants on the left side of the path.

*Welcome to our*  
**MEMORIAL GARDEN  
&  
PEACE PATH**  
**FOOT TRAFFIC ONLY**





The five acres surrounding Unity of Bonita Springs have been described as "a rare and excellent example of a scrub community habitat" (Native Plant Society of Florida).

A wandering Peace Path was created through the property allowing anybody to enjoy the ecosystem, rest at benches representing Unity's 12 Powers, and meditate in the quiet of nature.







Connected to the Peace Path, a Memorial Garden was created using native plants.

It's been the setting for memorials, pet blessings, other special services, and for meditation.







Maxine Carter was a significant person in the church, and gave a donation that helped to fund the building of a minister's study in 2016. This garden outside the study is dedicated to her.







In December 2020, Rev. Phil Schlaefer retired at the age of 80 having served as Unity of Bonita Springs' minister for 15 years.

The search began for a new minister. Rev. Melissa Hill Greenbaum served as spiritual leader during some of this transitional period.



Unity  
Ministerial  
School Class  
of 1984

Alden  
Studebaker





Rev. Alden Studebaker was hired in May 2021 and began serving as the new senior minister on July 15, 2021. His wife, Donna, serves as a Licensed Unity Teacher.







Peace Pole

On December 5, 2021, a Peace Pole was dedicated to the advocacy of PEACE.

**May Peace Prevail On Earth** is displayed in four languages:

**English, Hawaiian, Spanish, and Mandarin.**

# Mission & Vision Statements



To invite and inspire spiritual consciousness through Unity and its principles.

We are love, joy, and acceptance in the world. Whoever you are, wherever you are on your spiritual journey you are welcome here.



# Core Values



Joy, Emotion, Love, Community, Spiritual Connection,  
Acceptance, Inclusivity, Gratitude, Faith, Hope,  
Charity, Peace, Connection, Happiness, Welcoming,  
Supportive

# Organization



The Board of Trustees made up of 5-6 members who are elected at each annual membership meeting (next one February 27 following the service). Regular board meetings held third Wednesdays.

The Minister hired by the board with input from the congregation to serve as spiritual leader and administrative director.

Unity Church of Bonita Springs is a member of Unity Worldwide Ministries and the Southeast Unity Region. Affiliated with Unity World Headquarters publisher of the *Daily Word*.



# Service Opportunities

- Fellowship Hour 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month
- Ushering & Greeting
- Fund Raising, i.e., yard sale
- Christmas stuffed animal drive
- More to unfold....



# Membership Application

- Fill out the application form
- Approval by Board of Trustees
- Membership Ceremony





