

## Higher and Hire — by Grace Menzel & Beth Monteith

Our Fellowship not only encourages and assists us on our paths of higher consciousness, but seeks to intentionally apply those practical tips and steps in the daily operation of our community of spirit! Many of us realize that this has truly been a year of miracles as we've navigated the interesting (and at times rough) waters of our 2009-2010 Fellowship Year.

At our recent Annual Membership Meeting we reviewed the miracles and challenges of the last year:

- 1) We found our new Sanctuary space which perfectly matched our vision.
- 2) We have become at home in the Korean Methodist Church building and been able to connect with love to our wonderful landlords.
- 3) We accepted Karen's decision to retire with great appreciation for her beautiful service to us.
- 4) We took on drastic budget cuts (43%), adjusting personnel roles and hours.
- 5) We hired Interim Ministers to assist us (through March 2010).
- 6) We revived Fellowship essentials such as FOOD with excellent and plentiful after-service refreshments. We reinstated greeting one another during the service, and presented several enjoyable fund-raising events including the "Call it Good Café."
- 7) We began supporting our community through filling our Food Bank baskets with items and checks each second Sunday.
- 5) We successfully navigated a difficult decision regarding our tithing practice and through a

membership vote, established new tithing guidelines.

- 6) By greatly expanding our dialogue and decision-making process, most FFT members have participated in the 'everyone-invited' meetings and circles involving our essential decisions.
- 7) And then.....We held our most significant vote of the year at our recent Annual Membership Meeting:

**The unanimous decision to begin the search process which will conclude with the hiring of our new minister!!!**

**HELP US!** We ask each of you to support this big step by holding out a loving invitation to our new teacher/leader, knowing "that our ideal new minister will soon be made known and officially welcomed and hired by the Fellowship". To assist, please send an announcement regarding our Ministerial Search to anyone you know of who might be interested. We intend to hire a candidate who either knows us or knows about us, or whom we already know.

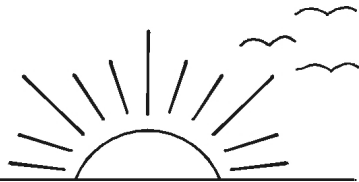
Your help in spreading the word to these Friends of the Fellowship' is essential in this process. Please refer your friends and contacts to the Fellowship's web site: [www.fellowshipfortoday.org](http://www.fellowshipfortoday.org) for information and application specifics.

Knowing that our heartfelt intention and affirming vision is the 'magic wand' of accomplishment, we collectively and individually move steadily on toward the full expression of the Divine in our lives. The Fellowship for Today is truly a place of Learning Living Love/Together!!

**Learning • Living • Love**  

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**TOGETHER**



# FELLOWSHIP FOR TODAY

**Honoring All Spiritual Paths—Recognizing the Divine in Everyone**

## Sunday Service

5:30 p.m. meeting time  
2400 E. Lake Lansing Road  
East Lansing, MI 48823

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# What We Believe

**We believe** that there is one ultimate loving energy that is present in all that exists. You may call it whatever you are comfortable with: God, Spirit, Source, the Great I Am, Allah, Yahweh, etc. This is not a personality *outside* of us, but rather a presence *within* each of us. We are inherently Spiritual beings having a human experience.


**We believe** that God does not judge us, does not “keep score” or choose favorites, but is an infinite Source for our growth and evolution. We view the concept of sin as merely “missing the mark” - an opportunity to make a different choice and experience a different outcome.

**We believe** that heaven and hell are not physical places to which we are sent by God, but describe states of mind. God is unconditional Love, and would not create life to destroy or condemn it. When we tap into the energy of Abundance and Peace, we are in heaven. When we perceive separation from God, we experience hell.

**We believe** that we co-create with God, that our thoughts create our realities. When we align our thoughts with the perfection of God, we can heal sickness, break free from lack and limitation, and choose a way of living that is joy-filled and powerful.

**We believe** that we live in an abundant, unlimited universe and that within us lies all the Wisdom, Love and Power needed to create full, joyous, prosperous lives.


This statement is from the Bodhi Spiritual Center of Chicago:  
[www.bodhispiritualcenter.org](http://www.bodhispiritualcenter.org)



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# Finding Love – by Denise Wootton

A “Course in Miracles” reminds us that Love is always present, and all we need do is remove the blocks to the awareness of Love’s presence. It fills me with such gratitude when I am privileged to experience this phenomenon in action.

After several years of concerted effort toward growth and healing, I found myself in the doldrums through much of this winter. I had no motivation, no spark, and felt most days like just pulling the covers back up over my head and hiding. My awareness of Love’s presence had disappeared, and it felt uncomfortable and discouraging. I could not seem to pull myself out of it.

Then, the second weekend in March, coinciding with the shift into spring weather, along with others in the Fellowship community, and from around the country, I participated in a Oneness Experience weekend. Words cannot describe the depth of feeling, the opening into Love, that occurred over the course of that workshop. Even my two trips to the Oneness University in India had not prepared me for the heart opening that happened within me. I feel such an overwhelming sense of gratitude for having been allowed to experience this shift in consciousness: for myself; for our current Oneness Blessing givers; and especially for our 26 new blessing givers.

Sometimes we are able to discern what our blocks are and chip away at them, through study, meditation, and other processes. Sometimes, the block is just blown away by Divine Grace when it knows you are ready and willing for that to happen. Sometimes, we work and work, trying to muscle through the blocks, from an intellectual perspective, with no success, then when we give up, exhausted from effort, Grace steps in, finally able to act when we get ourselves out of the way. I believe that was the case with me. I

had been pushing and pushing, intellectually understanding where I wanted to get, and certain that I could achieve this clearing if I just tried hard enough. My time in the doldrums, my temporarily giving up, was the opening that the Divine needed to do Its work.



On that phenomenal Sunday, I felt the energetic blowing away of this blockage like a cork being blasted from a champagne bottle. What was left after the cork blew was a sense of relief, lightness, and Grace that was overwhelmingly sweet. My particular block was a fear of my feelings. This fear was so intense, that it just buried itself deeper as I kept trying to force it with my own will. Our Oneness teachings had warned me that kind of effort did not work with internal issues, but I hadn’t been ready to hear it. I had become conditioned into believing that it was my job. I had to do it by myself. The problem with that thinking is that if we do not allow Grace to flow in our lives, it will just sit back and wait—honoring our choice to struggle—until we surrender. When we quit trying, either because we realize our error, or just out of sheer exhaustion, Grace steps in. In hindsight, of course it makes perfect sense. How can Grace take the reins if we don’t let them go?

Whether this ability to feel is permanent or will come and go as my fears resurface, I don’t know. It doesn’t matter. My job is only to remember that even if the fears do resurface, I don’t have to handle them on my own.



## FELLOWSHIP VOYAGES

An inspirational newsletter  
by and for Fellowship  
members and friends

since 1994

### Editor

Denise Wootton

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### Next Voyages Deadline:

May 15, 2010

for July/Aug/Sept Issue

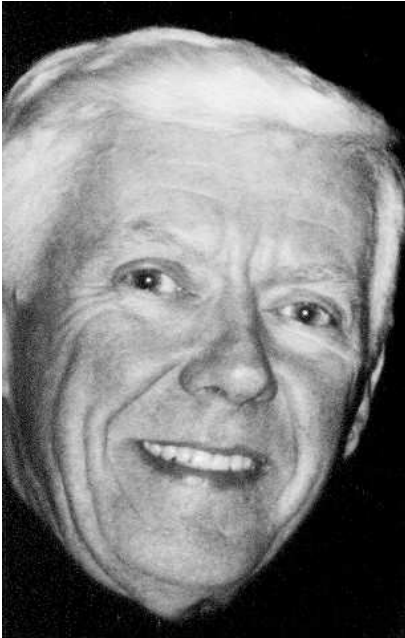
For current events and time-sensitive news, see FELLOWSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS, distributed via e-mail each Wednesday.

To be added to this list, send your request to [info@fellowshipfortoday.org](mailto:info@fellowshipfortoday.org)

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# Is God Dead? —by Erwin Braker (reprinted from the April/May 2003 Voyages)



***“My Divine Universal Power, “Dup,” simply, is the name I give to the capacity that we all have to demonstrate love, kindness and compassion. Dup has no voice and no hands on this earth but ours.”***

I have no idea what the German philosopher Nietzsche meant 100 years ago when he wrote “God is dead,” but, for the purpose of this article, I mean the word “God” is dead. For me, God is no longer a useful word as I continue along my spiritual path. The experience of overcoming life-threatening challenges during a long active life has given me an inner knowing of who I am. At my core, I’m Spirit; eternal, unlimited, peace, love and joy. When I do my inner work I experience miracles and feel the vital creative force that, in the past, I would have called God at work.

Today, I’m looking for words other than God to explain the unexplainable.

Over millennia, the word God has become loaded with too many negative connotations left over from our earlier evolution. Images immediately arise of an external judge, or a savior with human features, both of which no longer fit for me. A *Course in Miracles (ACIM)* says, “My salvation comes from me.” (w-p1. 70.7:3) Not that I do all my work alone. ACIM also reminds me, “Salvation is a collaborative venture” (T-4. VI.8:2). My inner voice will tell me all I need to know.

When Eckhart Tolle writes that the word God has become empty of meaning through thousands of years of misuse, I say, “Amen.” A Fellowship friend reported to have pretty much given up on anything ‘spiritual’ and convinced themselves “God” is a product of human evolution that came into “existence” when people became smart enough to realize they were going to die. My answer to my friend was that this may very well be.

The idea part is true for sure, according to the *Course*, which says: “God is an idea. Every thing is an idea.” (T-15.VI.4:4; T-5.1.2:4). Ideas, like thoughts and beliefs, can change, and as

they do, we need to come up with new names for our new beliefs. For example, very few of us still believe God is a long-bearded guy in the sky. Pondering the heavy-handed male orientation the *Course* gives to naming God caused me to write the following poem.

## GOD’S NAME

The course is full of He’s galore;  
We find one Her and nothing more.

We do not find one single She,  
Yet We are He and He is We.

He’s and She’s are all called Son.  
My sisters cry, “Hey, that’s no fun!”

So when we’re told God has no name  
And only we create our pain,

I hope you will not throw a fit  
If I call God my Beloved IT!

Writing this poem helped me let go of the gender issue, but using “it” didn’t cut it for me either. Humankind has evolved into high enough states of consciousness that we can let go of Mother/Father God issues. We have evolved into Beings who regardless of gender, have an inner power and guidance system which enables us to do the miraculous and experience the extraordinary. Many of us know someone who has had a Holy Instant or experienced merged consciousness. At such times oneness, peace and beauty all take on new meaning. The person having the experience is left changed forever and usually speechless.

A man I’ve known for most of his life recently described an experience he had alone on a mountain bike in Colorado. He had just finished a three-hour bike climb using all his gears to reach the top of the trail. He took a narrow, steeper trail down. The trail was strewn with small loose rocks and embedded roots. It was very winding with a precipitous drop-off to the left and jagged sheer rock wall to the right. Urged

downward by the steep incline, he was soon going faster than he had ever gone on such a trail. Strange things started happening. He felt he was in a slow-motion movie. He could no longer see the trail and his arms seemed to be melting away. He didn't seem to be in control any more.

His first reaction was to panic, but instead he relaxed and began to laugh. He had a definite feeling that something was holding him up and guiding him. Peace and a connectedness beyond all understanding overwhelmed him. After about ten minutes of wonderful riding. Things slowly returned to normal and in the afterglow he felt more exhilarated than he had ever felt in his life.

My friend was reluctant to share this experience with many people, afraid they wouldn't understand. Most would think they'd just heard an account of a finely-tuned athlete getting "into the zone." He'd experienced that and knew this was more. It felt more miraculous, more like merged consciousness. When people try to write about an experience like this, they often get tangled up in our old religious vocabulary and the message is lost.

The *Course* wisely reminds us words are but symbols of symbols and recommends we forget the words and concentrate on the experience. Unfortunately, the *Course* goes on to bury us in so many words with hidden meanings that those of us who try too hard to analyze it let those words get in the way of having the intended experience.

If I had suggested to my biking friend that he'd had a glimpse of the Heaven God has promised us, I would have only added confusion to what was, of itself, an event of pure clarity. Spiritual discussions would be enhanced, I believe, if we could find new words for God.

The *Course*, in its early pages, uses the two words "Divine Abstraction" which say much more to me about what it is attempting to teach me. Unfortunately, it then goes on to use the word "God," "He," and "Him" over 5,000 times in the remaining pages. It is no surprise that attempts to find a replacement for the word God often requires two words. Stephen Mitchell, in his book, "The Gospel According to Jesus," points out that the Bible says God's true name is "I am." Byron Katie, in "*Loving What Is*," says "God, as I use that word, is just another name for 'what is'."

Even our own Matt Bliton, who in his article "What's in a Name?" challenged us all to come up

with our own personal names for God, came up with a two-word name. Our beloved retired minister Amalie often used three words for God, "Impersonal Divine Principle."

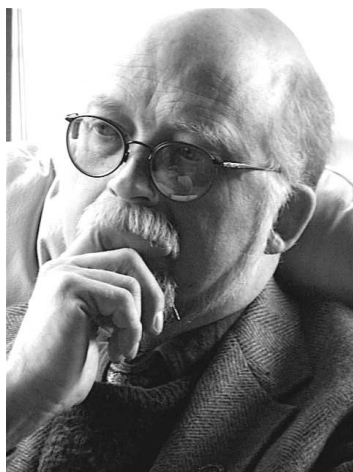
Not all efforts to rename God ended up with multiple words. Eckhart Tolle, in his book "*The Power of Now*," uses the single word, "Being." Early in his book, he makes the point that words are useful signposts, but our main spiritual teacher is stillness. This powerful energy field is always available to us through meditation. In simple language, he explains how to "listen with your entire body," while working with the body, mind, and attention in order to "merge with this moment." As we go beyond the need for thought, he teaches, we achieve the meditative state of "no mind" or "presence" that is effortless, joyful, and natural. Through this timeless path we merge with the universal purpose, and become a divine presence. Eckhart is clearly a contemporary writer who has learned to teach spiritual practice without distracting us with our old, negative views of God.

For me, at least, it is easier to engage in spiritual thought when I'm not struggling with childhood images of some being who sits up in the sky and decides who is going to live or die; who is going to heaven and who is going to hell. My Divine Universal Power, "Dup," simply, is the name I give to the capacity that we all have to demonstrate love, kindness and compassion. Dup has no voice and no hands on this earth but ours.

While my Fellowship friend who was turned off by spiritual stuff was recently standing shoulder to shoulder with me demonstrating for peace in front of our state capital, we were both doing Dup's work. Dup has no way to demonstrate love on this earth except through us. Obviously, working with a new word can be awkward, especially such a funny one as Dup. For all of you who are comfortable with the word God and can let go of any negative thoughts it may bring up for you, bless you. For some of the rest of us, it might help us to get back on a spiritual path if we find a new symbol for what we know and feel in our hearts.

Gandhi once said, "Peace between countries must rest on the solid foundation of love between individuals." It is up to each of us to be the living manifestation of divine love. We cannot hope for peace on earth when there is still war in our hearts.

# The Spirit of the Times - by Llewellyn Drong



Baha'u'llah's son, "Abdu'l-Baha, on several occasions taught, "Among the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh is His declaration that religion must be the cause of love and fellowship, must be the source of unity in the hearts of men. If religion becomes a cause of enmity and hatred, it is evident that the abolition of religion is preferable to its promulgation; for religion is a remedy for human ills. If a remedy should be productive of disease, it is certainly advisable to abandon it." (Abdu'l-Baha, *The*

*Promulgation of Universal Peace*, p. 373).

This passage has long been a yardstick for me in matters of faith. Imagine my pleasure in finding, in the spirit of this lesson, a like minded group; one that opened ear and heart to such diverse practices as a Oneness Blessing from India, Christianity in a variety of forms, Sufi wisdom including the poetry of Rumi, "A Course in Miracles", Buddhism and more. It was natural to enfold this entire Fellowship into my circle of friends – and to let it enfold me, because the Fellowship is a living manifestation of a central Baha'i principle of the unity of religion.

This is a visible outcome of a spirit of our times. I have observed that such groups as the Fellowship appear in one form or another everywhere. In every city and town there are people who yearn to push beyond the boundaries set by religious institutions that divide people rather than bring them together. Everywhere there are people who recognize that spirituality does not come with a label. It is not Methodist or Hinayana or Orthodox or shamanistic or Sunni. It is a universal potential in every human being and flowers wherever divine light can be discerned to warm it, stimulate it, invite it to grow. The diversity of background in the Fellowship is a

testimony to that, and in every place I have lived I have sought out groups like the Fellowship because I absolutely know they have sensed a hint of the spirit of the age and are responding.

We would be well justified in wondering just what that spirit is. It is no secret that there have been great changes in the world in the last two hundred years; the kind of changes that have never been before in all mankind's known history. The imaginative, inventive, creative, inquiring, exploring inspired and sacred spirit of man has discovered and created on a scale unprecedented in human experience and continues to do so at a rate that is exponentially increasing. Every aspect of human existence is affected: from travel, communications, our scientific capacities, government, the arts, interfaith theologies and even self identity, in a world where it is actually realistic to consider global citizenship. It is significant that no less a person than Prime Minister Gordon Brown of the United Kingdom has matter-of-factly mentioned the reality of world citizenship in his speeches.

What's more, this is all at a time when the many religions of the world are more in contact with each other than has been possible ever before. Setting aside the obvious and destructive clashes that have emerged within and between religions, if we look behind those who love the dark spirit of war and conflict we can find millions of people of good will, striving to fulfill in their lives the best their scriptures have to teach, trying to manifest light and goodness in their lives and endeavoring to treat their fellows with grace and right living and generosity in obedience to their Creator and Guide, regardless of their religion. What's more, even many of those who believe in no God or are not sure strive to model their lives and align their ethics in ways derived from the emanations of Spirit, although they might say they are not.

**"We need to always seek ways to bring ourselves into greater and greater unity with each other and with others outside our circle."**

# Let's Get This Clear!!

A brief reminder to us from Emmet Fox, one of the best known and most outstanding Christian New Thought writers and teachers of the 20th Century (published in his book "Make Your Life Worth While", copyright 1942.)

**"You are, in your true nature, a divine being and you are one with God—now."**

**"You cannot know anything or experience anything except your own states of mind; and these you can change by intelligent and persistent effort."**

**"You demonstrate whatever you really believe."**

**"Any deed or any happening is but the shadow cast by a thought."**

**"Divine Love is absolutely all powerful and is not limited by conditions."**

**"We do not pretend that we are not sick when we are. We say (and know) that inharmony is not substantial. It is a passing shadow cast by wrong thinking, which can be removed by the right thought."**

**"It is always a mistake to force anything. The right thing comes without violence."**

**"This too will pass. Nothing in the material world lasts or is of transcendent importance."**

**"There is positively no hurry."**

**"As thy thoughts, so shall thy days be."**

At no other time in human experience has there been such a clear manifestation of the words of Isaiah; "...for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea. (Is. 11:9). As mankind is inexorably driven closer and closer together by the technologies that continue to permeate every society on earth, the possibilities for mankind change. Slavery, for thousands of years a fact of human experience in every part of the globe, abruptly became a shameful practice in the nineteenth century under the influence of Britain's Queen Victoria. In a span of history extending over civilizations and dynasties, slavery was known as an intractable practice that would always be. Today, such practices are universally criminal and despicable. With that precedence, it is not at all impossible that war is undergoing a similar scrutiny. Even now, it has been determined that the chances of any person on earth being killed in battle, is statistically less than at any time in history; the media's drama and clamor notwithstanding.

All this is just enough to inspire some consideration of the rest of that verse from Isaiah;

"They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain..."

And, why is that? Because of people like ourselves in the Fellowship, seeking to attune ourselves to the spirit of the age; and succeeding according to the power of our capacities and the constraints of our foibles. Wherever there are groups that struggle with the latter and strive for the former we have a building of something grand, even sacred. We need to always seek ways to bring ourselves into greater and greater unity with each other and with others outside our circle. To the extent we become part of a greater and greater circle of mankind, we increase the potential of the fulfillment of those last quoted words of Isaiah.

Let us now, consider, deeply, what we envision in the words proposed for the vision statement. Learning-Living-Love/Together describes everything the spirit of the age draws us to and can remind us to look outward from our inner lives to connect with the whole world.

**Your generous support of  
Fellowship Voyages is greatly appreciated.**

**For your convenience,  
a return envelope is enclosed.**

**Thank You!**

# Dear Laura – by Rev. Delyth Balmer



During one of our visioning meetings, members were asked to imagine that five years in the future they had been asked by their out-of-town friend 'Laura' what made the Fellowship for Today so successful. The Dear Laura letters contained descriptions of many aspects of our Fellowship of the future. This letter is a composite of what was received.

## **Dear Laura:**

You asked me what makes Fellowship such a wonderful, thriving spiritual community. To begin, we have dynamic, strong leaders, both on the

Steering Committee and our Minister, who are committed to their own spiritual growth and serve as role models for the community. They led us in developing a Mission/Vision Statement that guided us in moving forward.

Our minister has a strong vision and listens to and follows inner guidance in making decisions on behalf of the Fellowship. Our minister is dedicated, hardworking, creative, intelligent, flexible, loving, open and encouraging. S/He is active in the larger community.

Our leadership fosters a supportive/trusting environment with open/honest communication. The process of working together is more important than the outcome. The Steering Committee is responsible to the membership and dynamic leadership comes from many members that are active in the organization.

We are comfortable asking the membership for money through donations, pledge drives and fundraisers. We are financially sound and live within our budget. We hold fun fundraising events including benefit dinners four times a year. Our membership has doubled, and we continue to grow as we invite others to join us.

We are a dynamic growing spiritual community attracting dynamic, growing members. Inclusiveness (beliefs/religions) and honoring all paths is important to our group. There is no dogma yet we adhere to our Guiding Principles and philosophy of Oneness. We honor the earth and ourselves. We are grateful for each other and all that we have.

Members are engaged in creating community and decision making. We hold intention setting groups periodically to evaluate our progress and try new things. As a community we are free to set our own direction, are not afraid of change and have the courage to meet challenges head on.

We value the people who participate in Fellowship, and they feel valued and appreciated. We have a strong volunteer

network that we value and recognize regularly. We hold group gatherings to get acquainted. There is a sense of belonging, friendship and acceptance. Our community holds a positive attitude, offers help and has fun together. People know and contact one another with the help of our picture directory. Members share their views in our Voyages newsletter.

We meet in a wonderful space which is open and comforting. We feel welcomed by greeters when we arrive. There is always great music, and opportunities to sing together. We have a strong choir and choir director. We share hugs and joyful expression. Our minister and speakers deliver insightful, thought provoking messages which are useful, cheerful, and funny. We rotate service leaders from the group. We have a thriving Children's Program. After service we have refreshments or potluck dinners and other activities. Visitors can pick up literature at our visitors table and everyone loves the bookstore. Special services are held four times a year and include services on our land. Our evening service allows people to attend other churches.

We are a spiritual teaching center (and School of Ministry) which provides personal growth experiences and teachings. We have dynamic speakers and teachers. We have a fabulous lending library. We recognize different needs of our members by offering teachings and practices of all religions. We have many ongoing meditation and study groups.

We have monthly social activities, such as movies and the "Call it Good Café". There are opportunities to get together for knitting, singing, building projects, games, golf and dinner groups. Twice a year we hold overnight weekend events and retreats. We have an annual Holiday party and sometimes take a vacation cruise as a group.

There are many service opportunities for reaching out to the public-serving food, visiting nursing homes, and participating in community projects. We share experiences with the greater spiritual community through combined events and activities such as joining together to go caroling at nursing homes.

So much has happened during the past five years, to tell you about. We are very grateful for our Spiritual Community.

Sincerely, Your FFT Friend

Our vision for our future has been expressed through several group gatherings during the past year. We have discovered our strengths and seen opportunities for improvement. As we see the optimum representation of our spiritual community expressed in this letter, may we hold and nurture the manifestation of this vision. May we continue on with intention, openness and willingness to play our part in the magnificent, conscious co-creation of the Fellowship of the future.

With Blessings and Gratitude, Delyth

# What Does Love Have to Do With It? - by Rev. Beth Monteith

As a little girl I had the experience of going to a church with a beautiful Sunday School sanctuary. Near the ceiling of the gorgeous room was painted, in giant gold letters, GOD IS LOVE. I was a small child, and that powerful idea, along with "God is everywhere present" which was also presented to us each Sunday, found deep roots in my sense of reality. GOD-LOVE-EVERYWHERE! .... Yes!!

A few nights ago many Fellowshipians (after another wonderful pot luck dinner together) attended a lecture by award winning author of "A Stroke of Insight", Jill Bolte Taylor. Early in her lecture, Dr Jill, a neuroscientist, explained that within our brain we have a peanut-sized 'gate keeper' called the amygdala which wields great power (until we intentionally choose to have things ordered differently.) She said that this peanut decides if we are safe and OK or under attack, and if it decides we're not safe, its sense of fear/defensiveness/fright affects everything we see and experience, and all of our relationships with the world and with one another!! She also explained that there is another whole side of our brain that remains in At-One-Ment, peace, and beauty....in other words, it remains in a state of LOVE....Oh!!

Dr. Jill concluded her lecture by saying that each of us can access that part of our self that remains in perfect peace. She urged us to make that choice, and to live from the space that knows we're all one; through such choosing this entire human adventure can be experienced with a sense of beauty, freedom, connectedness, and joy. LOVE. She also assured us that through such individual choice all Beingness is touched, and moves a step closer to experiencing the state of transcendent oneness. Oh Good!!

As I drove home from the Wharton Center that night, I found myself revisiting many messages and spiritual beliefs that resonate within me: *'Love one another....there are no neutral thoughts, each thought contributes to the experience of heaven or hell....resist not evil....Love your enemies....Fear Not....Choose once again....I have overcome the world....the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.... though I walk through the valley and shadow of death, I will fear no evil for Thou art with me....I have overcome the world....I am with you always.... heaven is here there is no other place'*. It seemed to me that all spiritual traditions, (unless they'd fallen into being directed by the judgmental and fearful peanut) were



**....It is for that consistent reminder and for that encouragement and inspiration that I am a Fellowshipian.**

speaking to us on behalf of our right brain, reminding us that the Oneness Kingdom is present, and that it can be experienced in this very moment. One of my favorite ACIM quotes says: "the end of the earth is not its destruction but its translation into heaven". ....OH Good!! YES!

These amazing teachings are everywhere, and readily available, aren't they? And that's where the Fellowship comes in. I know that there is something essential, and for me, necessary, in being part of an organization (a community of Spirit) whose intention and mission is to keep these ideas in front of us; to help us remember, and in remembering to practice. It is for that consistent reminder and for that encouragement and inspiration that I am a Fellowshipian.

What does Love have to do with it? I think LOVE truly is the whole enchilada....OH YES!

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# The Blessings of Community — by Janet Skole



As I retrace the steps that brought me to the Fellowship for Today nearly a decade ago, I realize it was the process of a heartfelt search for peace and a series of personal spiritual surrenders to God's will that brought me here. I suspect that could be said by many of us, that this may be one of the forces that draw (and hold) us together.

When I came to my first Sunday service, a shift occurred, one that

I could not have described at the time, but that I experienced throughout my being. There was a feeling of remembrance that I still can't put into language, except to say that I felt like I had found a home I'd been trying to find for a very long time. I had a deep recognition of something being offered that could feed me. I felt the welcome of brothers and sisters (my soul siblings), who seemed to have been bitten by the same bug as I. They (you) seemed to be pulled by a similar yearning and even to have found a priceless contentment when you went into meditation, sang Fellowship songs, and when you joined together in the peace circle. I felt precious moments of peace and joy here, an experience I'd never known in a church community before.

You had something I wanted and, over time, I hoped that I could have it, too. My soul said this is where I belonged, so I stayed. I knew from previous experience that such insistent calls of the soul aren't to be ignored.

What I've found here is a gift beyond measure, and that is to know that I am home. I am home, and I can be home whenever I want. There's tremendous freedom in that.

Even better, I'm not home alone. I have plenty of immensely pleasurable company in my connections with all of you. That's not to say I don't have relapses and fall under the

spell of my ego. These so-called "failings" happen continuously, but I have learned through Fellowship teachings, and through much trial and error, to forgive and try again. You've taught me that at any moment, a miracle can occur, that I can change my thoughts and again experience arriving home. I'm grateful that you help me remember.

This week I came across a quote by Thomas Moore that expresses one invaluable lesson I've learned from this community. He says, *"Become spiritual people for the pleasure of it, not for its moralism, because the spiritual life itself has a great deal of beauty and real satisfaction, even pleasure. And this is what the soul needs."*

Contrary to beliefs I adopted earlier in life (and what my ego still prefers to believe), this approach is the most generous path to love. My guilt, with its convoluted machinations and need for punishment, really is of no value to the world. To be at home in spirit, to know I am free to return to a place of peace at any moment – that's my gift to God.

My happiness blesses the world. And that's the truth!

*"Become spiritual people for the pleasure of it, not for its moralism, because the spiritual life itself has a great deal of beauty and real satisfaction, even pleasure. And this is what the soul needs."*

Thomas Moore

**The Fellowship for Today  
is now accepting  
applications for**

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## Fellowship Happenings

For additional information or to register for any of these workshops or classes, call the Fellowship Office at (517) 337-4070 or e-mail at [info@fellowshipfortoday.org](mailto:info@fellowshipfortoday.org).

### Two Workshops on "The Work" of Byron Katie April 24

#### The Work I 9 to 12 am \$35.00

Introduction to The Work of Byron Katie. Learn a fast, gentle and amazingly effective way to clear your mind of stressful thoughts, change unwanted behavior, heal stressful relationships and find the peace you seek. Join Facilitator Deb Canja, student and Staff member at Byron Katie's "School for The Work" as she helps participants learn how to use The Work to bring happiness and peace to life through a series of interactive exercises, video demonstrations and personal exploration.

#### The Work III 1-4 pm \$30.00

New ways of applying The Work of Byron Katie. Remove thoughts and memories that bring stress into your life. Continue your Work with this gentle method of changing unwanted behaviors and eliminating conflict, anger and disappointment. This session is a follow up for those who have taken Work I or both Work I and Work II.

Lunch will not be included, so plan to bring a lunch, or go to a nearby restaurant.



"In comparison with the inconceivable **Infinity** that we actually are, what we think we are is a mere hallucination, an illusory and insubstantial shadow."

Ramesh Balsekar

## Our Calendar

### SUNDAY SERVICE 5:30 p.m.

**Korean United Methodist Church**  
2400 E. Lake Lansing Road  
East Lansing, MI 48823  
(1/4 mile East of Intersection of  
Saginaw and Lake Lansing Road)

### 'A COURSE IN MIRACLES' STUDY GROUPS

**FFT OFFICE, 2722 E. Michigan Ave.,  
Lansing, MI 517 337-4070**

**Wednesdays, 9:15-10:30 a.m.**  
**Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m.**  
**Thursdays, 7:30-8:45 p.m.**

#### At Other Locations

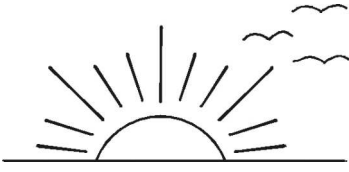
**Tuesdays 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.**  
10th Floor, Boji Tower, Lansing, MI  
Call Doug Austin (517) 377-0838

**Saturdays 10:00 a.m.**  
5331 Park Lake Road, East Lansing  
Contact Jim Noble at:  
[jamesdnoble@juno.com](mailto:jamesdnoble@juno.com)

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"Be with those  
who help your Being."

Rumi