



# Next Generation Fellowship

Christ following, Jesus patterned

Where you are accepted, respected and loved...no matter where you are on your spiritual journey.

March 2014

## READY, AIM, ADVOCATE!

There is a non-profit organization in St. Louis called "Ready, Aim, Advocate! Committee" and I am assisting a "temporarily disabled" senior, who has been in rough financial straits for a long time. Over the Christmas holidays, I suggested to the Leadership Team that we adopt this senior and a family through "Ready, Aim, Advocate! Committee." The LT supported the idea, decided on a budget for the project, and trusted that our individual members would also support the "adoption." We chose two families -- a dad, mom, and two daughters; and a single mom, who was pregnant. We shared each family's needs and wish list with our members and I helped coordinate specific donations. Then Maria Griswold and Jerri Davenport took a "dive" into a shopping trip for new and used items for each member of each family. Angela, (the senior we "adopted") was overwhelmed by our generosity -- and so was I. Our membership certainly has big hearts!! Thank you all for helping to make others' lives a bit brighter over the Christmas holidays!

(Submitted by Barbara Tilton)

## MIDWEST CHURCH ALIVE SUMMIT

It's almost here! If you have not yet decided to attend this gathering, please consider doing so! It will be a weekend of member-to-member sharing of inspiration, ideas, and support. The theme is AWAKE, ALERT, RESPONSIVE and there are many wonderful sessions planned. You may view the program and register [HERE](#). The President of the Mother Church, Bosede Bakarey, will give the Keynote Address on Saturday, and several of our members are sharing as well. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact [Linda Bargmann](#) or [Cindy Marston](#).

## THE GATHERING ...

### CELEBRATING GOSPEL SUNDAY

Last month, AJ helped us all celebrate Black History Month. On Gospel Sunday, the message was on "FREEING ENSLAVED THINKING" and focused on Paul's letter to Philemon asking him to free his slave Onesimus.

(Submitted by MaryI Walters)



## GATHERINGS POSTED ONLINE

We've recently begun to post a few of our Sunday Gatherings online and hope to add more soon. If you are unable to make it on a Sunday, need some mid-week inspiration, or want a friend to experience a Gathering, click on the following link. Enjoy! <http://nextgensfellowship.com/watch-a-recent-gathering/>.

(Submitted by Maria Griswold)

From the Fellowship Covenant ...

*We come together to experience and love God; to accept, respect and love each other - by practicing spirituality that is God-centered, Biblically-grounded, Christ-following, Jesus-patterned, and Spirit-saturated.*

## AN UPDATE FROM OUR CHURH MINISTRY TEAM

Attendees at three recent Sunday Services at the Brentwood Christian Science Church enjoyed an added treat - original solos written and/or arranged by our own Mike Griswold. All three songs – “Be Still”, “Feed My Sheep”, and “All is Enough” -- are found on Mike’s new CD “Take Off Your Shoes – Songs for the Spiritual Journey.” “Be Still” features the vocals of Lola Hennicke. Lola and Mike team together in singing “Feed My Sheep” and “All is Enough.” Two of the solos were presented as videos put together by Jean Jenkins. The third was performed live. Video solos have been a popular feature at the Brentwood Christian Science Church, but in an effort to provide variety, we will also be scheduling more live solos in the future. If you are interested in purchasing the CD "Take Off Your Shoes" please contact [Mike Griswold](#).

The Brentwood Christian Science Church has re-launched its CS Life discussion series. These meetings provide an open, non-judgmental forum for exploring topics of special interest to anyone interested in the teachings of Christian Science. The first meeting in January focused on “CS Practice and the Medical and Alternative Healthcare Worlds” and attracted near over-flow attendance. There are three more discussions in the current series. The next meeting will be held **Friday, March 28** and will focus on “Contemplation and Meditation in Christian Science Practice.” The evening will include a dessert potluck at the church. All are welcome!

Also, the Downtown Reading Room needs volunteers. Are you open to new opportunities to reach out and share your love for God and humanity? Ready to share Biblical inspiration-- or the message of Christian Science with seekers in downtown St. Louis? The jointly maintained Reading Room (that means it belongs to all of us!) has an active ministry, sharing practical help, information, and prayers with a wide variety of guests and regular visitors. We need a few volunteers that can give an hour on occasional weekdays to provide a break for the full-time librarians and volunteers who can serve occasional Saturdays for 2-3 hours. Please contact [Marti Jo Bicknese](#) if you can help – even if it is just one time!

(Submitted by Jean Jenkins)

## THE WELL

Some people want to know more about The Well and we hope these ideas below will help bring a greater understanding. Please remember that the physical space of The Well remains available for use by the Fellowship for both its Christian Science Church and Next Generation Fellowship activities. **The Well of Saint Louis is an interfaith spiritual resource center.**



In traditional villages, the well is where the community meets and where its members receive the sustenance of life. The Well of Saint Louis provides access to deeper waters that wash and clean, refresh and renew, and that call each of us individually and in community to come, drink, and draw from our own chosen vessel (faith tradition or perspective) in a spirit free from judgment or hostility and full of the most generous hospitality.

The Well is a networking hub for local faith communities to share with and learn from one another, but most importantly a hub to serve the broadening and deepening spiritual horizons of the people of the Saint Louis region.

As an “honest broker” for those exploring deeper meaning and connectivity, the Well attends first to the needs of the seeker and works to support him or her in finding a path (and if desired a faith community) that is in harmony with that individual’s current spiritual journey.

The Well seeks to provide programs and resources for Saint Louis that further understanding and support for spiritual practices, richer humanity and greater service, and a safe place for the discussion of challenging issues.

Supported by an Advisory Team of leaders from a variety of faith and social service backgrounds, the Well embraces the Saint Louis Interfaith Partnership and is a place for the Compassionate Saint Louis initiative to meet. The Well also engages in advocacy and action on behalf of the disadvantaged and those in need.

In many ways the Well reflects the operative values of The Christian Science Monitor in bringing higher, purer, less self-centered thought and action to the “public square”—the conversation and actualization of how Saint Louis envisions itself as a community of compassion that deeply and effectively cares for all its members. The 2014 launch of the Well looks to the future of Saint Louis as the city celebrates the 250th anniversary of its founding.

(Submitted by Maryl Walters)

## SERVICE AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Please consider whether you are able to meet any of the following ministry needs.

### ST. LOUIS JOINT READING ROOM

**REPRESENTATIVE** – Duties include attending a meeting every other month on the second Tuesday of February, April, June, August, October, and December to help guide activity and administration of the downtown Reading Room with other area church representatives, and to share fruitage reports with Brentwood members.

In addition, there are still several opportunities to share your gifts with the Brentwood Christian Science Church, such as:

**TEAM LEADER** – Brentwood Christian Science Reading Room – coordinate a team in planning and implementing a new vision for our Reading Room and its mission of reaching out to our community. What can a 21<sup>st</sup> century Reading Room look like?

**PR TEAM** – Produce (write copy, design graphics and layout, print, etc.) materials to publicize events and to explain Church and Fellowship activities for visitors. Materials could include bookmarks, flyers, posters, displays, etc.

**CHILDREN'S ROOM** – Teams of 2 needed; care for children once a month (or more) during CS service.

**LECTURE CONTACT** – Contact area schools and colleges to provide CS lectures, talks, presentations for religion classes and coordinate with lecturer to arrange details

**LITERATURE COORDINATOR** – Collect and organize our church's donated Christian Science literature which will be used at church-sponsored Christian Science lectures/talks or donated to Joint Reading Room downtown.

**TECH TEAM** – Assist with various needs at Christian Science church and Fellowship services and events; maintain supplies/extra equipment.

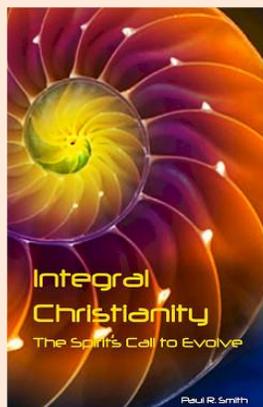
**SERVE**– Connect with our local community and region by serving those in need. All ages welcome and various volunteer opportunities available.

PLEASE CONTACT [Karen Carnesciali](#) if you are interested in any of these opportunities.

**And thank you!**

## INTEGRAL CHRISTIANITY

### BOOK DISCUSSION



It's not too late to join the discussion of Paul Smith's book **Integral Christianity: The Spirit's Call to Evolve**. The next discussion will be on **Sunday, April 6th from 1-2:30 in The Well**. We will be revisiting Part 2 which focuses on "States of Consciousness." If you would like a copy of the summaries prepared for earlier

discussions, please send an email to [msgriswold@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msgriswold@sbcglobal.net).

Smith's book brings together pieces from other Fellowship book discussions while also opening up important new ideas to consider as we move forward helping each other to grow spiritually as individuals, a Fellowship, and as a global community of spiritual seekers.

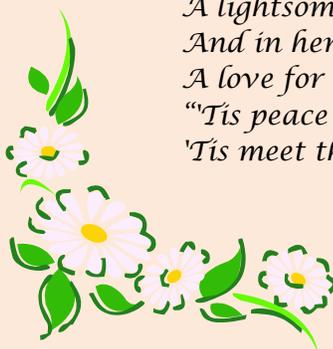
(Submitted by Maria Griwsold)

## SPRING GREETING

*Beloved brethren all over our land and in every land, accept your Leader's Spring greeting, while*

*The bird of hope is singing  
A lightsome lay, a cooing call,  
And in her heart is beating  
A love for all –  
"Tis peace not power I seek,  
'Tis meet that man be meek."*

*Mary Baker Eddy*



Thank you to our members that have signed up to serve dinner at The Bridge, the drop-in homeless shelter, at Centenary Methodist Church on Monday, March 30!

