



Monthly Letter from our Minister

### **A Thought & A Prayer: Imagination and Fatherhood**

*Imagination is more important than knowledge. For while knowledge defines all we currently know and understand, imagination points to all we might yet discover and create (Albert Einstein; [http://www.wisdomquotes.com/cat\\_imagination.html](http://www.wisdomquotes.com/cat_imagination.html)).*

In June our children study the power of **IMAGINATION**. Is it a divine coincidence that it is also the month we celebrate fathers? Probably not. Charles Fillmore recognized Imagination as one of our God-like qualities, or faculties or attribute of the divine Self. Imagination, according to Fillmore, is the formative activity of the mind. It is the faculty that takes the inspiration of spirit and begins a great multiplication of forms and shapes in the mind. Children have such wide open, inquiring minds, and amazing imaginations. Have you noticed that a piece of paper in the hands of a child can be a cone, an airplane, a shield, a drawing surface, an ocean, a parachute, a field, outer space, . . . There's virtually no limit.

One father figure who nurtured the imagination of hundreds of children was Albert Cullum. In the days of Dick and Jane for elementary students, Cullum brought Shakespeare to the classroom. He used active learning and play when most teachers were telling their students to sit quietly and listen. Cullum's career as an educator began in the 1940s, when he landed a job teaching at St. Luke's School in New York City's Greenwich Village

(<http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/touchofgreatness/teacher.html>). He authored numerous books on education, including *The Geranium On The Windowsill Just Died But Teacher You Went Right On*. Some of his

former students include an emergency room doctor, a genetic counselor, an Emmy Award-winning actress, a psychodramatist, to name a few. Cullum lived the belief that the only way teachers can be successful with children is to speak directly to their hearts and to their instinctive and largely ignored capacity to quickly understand and identify with the great personalities, ideas and emotions found in classical literature. Such an inspired/inspiring teacher makes our hearts sing!

When Fillmore spoke of God as father, he said, *The ability of the individual mind to combine the ideas of Divine Mind in a consciousness of its own makes each of us the "only begotten Son," a particular and special creation . . . God is individually formed in consciousness in each of us, and is known to us as "Father" when we recognize Him within us as our creator, as our mind, as our life, as our very being* (Gaither, *The Essential Charles Fillmore*, 98). You may not be a trailblazing teacher like Cullum, the founder of a religious movement like Fillmore, or even a parent. You are, however, an expression of the Father principle. As that, you/we are fully capable of lovingly holding that imagination and potential of every child we meet. We can nurture in that one the respect his or her ideas and fantasies deserve. So we give thanks for those men who serve as fathers, by biology or by circumstance, knowing that each of us is a reflection of the Father principle, God. As George Bernard Shaw said, "You see things; and you say, 'Why?' But I dream things that never were; and I say, 'Why not?'"

Happy Father's Day, and nurture that budding imagination in all God's kids.

*God Loves You And So Do I,  
Martha*