

Universalist Anchor

Newsletter of the Universalist National Memorial Church

September 2004 · www.universalist.org

1810 Sixteenth Street NW, Washington DC 20009

202-387-3411



September Worship and Activity Schedule at UNMC

Bold events occur on Sunday.

****Note the 10:30 a.m. summer worship service time is in effect and will revert to 11:00 a.m. starting on Rally Sunday, September 12.****

September 5. Mrs. Sue Mosher preaching. Sermon title, "The Yeast Factor."

Saturday, September 11 Pre- Rally Sunday

Workshops: Getting Ready to Rally

10:30 a.m. the Board of Trustees will meet for a fundraising workshop. At noon to 1:00 p.m. lunch will be served. After lunch, "Quick Start" workshop from 1:00-4:00 p.m. The "Quick Start" workshop is an opportunity for the entire congregation and interim minister to explore ideas on exactly what this interim ministry should be all about. All are welcome to attend both workshops.

September 12. Rally Sunday (worship service time changes back to 11:00 a.m. beginning this Sunday) Rev. Mary Katherine Morn preaching. Sermon title: "To be a Religious Community." This service will explore what it means to be a religious community and hear the challenge of Jesus to "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost."

September 19. The Rev. Jay Stearns will be preaching. Jay Stearns is a pastoral counselor and friend of Universalist National Memorial

Church. Please help us welcome him back to our pulpit.

September 26. Yom Kippur: Naked Heart Revealed. In the previous week Jews celebrated the Days of Awe, culminating with Yom Kippur. This holy time of prayer and repentance is an opportune moment for us to consider the possibilities of forgiveness.

Saturday, September 25, 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. - "Listening Skills for Congregational Caregivers" workshop at UNMC. (See article, page 3)

In upcoming months:

Sunday, October 17. Dupont Circle House Tour. (See article, page 3)

November 4-7. Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship Revival 4 conference, First Unitarian Church of Worcester (MA). (See article, page 4)

Musings from Rev. Mary Katherine Morn

In the Interim

I was a little disheartened recently when someone laughed at my pride in getting around the area by car with such ease. "Just wait until September! Then you'll see what it's really like." Oh well, I'm still pretty proud of myself.

I'm getting accustomed to things changing. For the last year, my life has been full of change. The most dramatic change in my life this past year was my mother's death. And that came in a period that included my changing jobs and homes and schools for Caleb (my son) and many other more ordinary

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things. Things I'd love to tell my mom about. When I think to tell her something I remember how change always brings a measure of grief. Even when the change is overwhelmingly positive.

Maybe all these changes in my life position me well to be an Interim Minister. Interim ministry is just like ordinary ministry in some ways - pastoral care to provide, worship to lead, meetings to attend, and so on. In addition, though, my ministry with you focuses on navigating this transition to new ministry. That means change.

This aspect of Interim Ministry creates freedom for us in this relationship. We can try new things without panicking. Our mistakes are all important information. Our successes are foundational.

Our ministry together has a great deal of potential. The key, I believe, is good communication. I will do my best to communicate openly with you. I hope you will do the same with me.

In a community of caring and commitment much is possible. Gratefully, we can trust that we share a desire for Universalist National Memorial Church to be the best that it can be. I have already heard from some of you what vision you have for this beloved community. Please contact me if you would be willing to share your vision and passion with me.

Yours in shared ministry,
Mary Katherine

Rev. Morn can be reached in the church office at 202-387-3411 or by email at mkmorn@universalist.org.

Around Our Church

Special Thanks

The following members have been nominated to receive special thanks for quietly and generously giving of their time and resources to make UNMC a more vibrant place to worship at and enjoy fellowship.

Rev. Morn, May Simmons, Donna Simonton, Al

Templeton, and others for their input into the church's new welcome brochure.

Richard Zierdt and **Jorn Dakin** for their tireless efforts in improving the church's technological communication systems.

Al Templeton for further cleaning up the parsonage, and having necessary improvements made in it increasing its value and beauty.

Welcome Team

Each week, someone from the congregation stands ready at the front door to welcome members, friends, and guests to our worship service, while someone else is busy in the parlor preparing refreshments to accompany conversation after the service.

Here's the welcome team schedule for September:

September 5

Greeter: Mary Simmons
Refreshments: OPEN

September 12

Greeter: Sue Mosher
Refreshments: Perry King

September 19

Greeter: Über Fellowship of Light youth group
Refreshments: OPEN

September 26

Greeter: Perry King
Refreshments: OPEN

If you can help the church provide a warm welcome one Sunday per month or even on an occasional basis, please contact Sue Mosher at sue@turtleflock.com or (703) 241-9828. No prior experience necessary; training, including answers to basic questions that guests often ask, will be provided.

Additional greeters are needed both for regular and substitute positions in the fall. If you can help the church provide a warm welcome one Sunday per month or even on an occasional basis, please contact

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Sue Mosher at sue@turtleflock.com or (703) 241-9828. No prior experience necessary; training, including answers to basic questions that guests often ask, will be provided.

News from the Buildings & Grounds Front

Jorn Dakin, Chair

I just wanted to pass along a few brief news items on the Buildings and Grounds front. First, our new trash disposal situation seems to be much improved over the past inasmuch as we now have at least two new trash cans available to us. Dumping has not been a problem in the very recent past, and we hope that will continue. Our trash removal company, Tenleytown Trash, seems to be refreshingly aggressive about curbing such dumping.

Second, the church has been able to start making repairs on some long-time annoyances. For example, the glass doors on the front entrance have been fixed so that they work much better. We want to thank Mr. George Kaminski of the Kaminski Company for having done a very nice job on this task. Mr. Kaminski is in the process of doing some other work for the church that will be the subject of future newsletter items.

Plans are afoot for a work session on September 11, probably in the late morning and early afternoon. There will be several items on which people can work, including a start on removal of the peeling paint in the "front" stairwell. That's about it for now.

Covenant Disciple Group

Are you interested in exploring ways to live your faith more fully? Would you like to get to know a small group of UNMCers better? Do you wish for a community that challenges and nurtures you in your spiritual journey?

Sometime in mid-October, I will convene a gathering of individuals interested in participating in a Covenant-Disciple group. We will follow a Wesleyan model of support and accountability. We will meet

two times a month for no more than an hour and a half. If you would like to participate, please contact me. You may call me at the church 202-387-3411 or send me an email to mkmorn@universalist.org.

Chancel Flowers

Mary Simmons, Chair

September 5. In memory of her parents, Maurice and Stella McKee, and her twin sister May McKee, and her friend Doris Uppercue by Helen Rousseau.

September 12. In memory of Mabel Elizabeth Fogwell by the Seymour Fogwell family.

September 19. In memory of H. Jerome Graham, organist emeritus, by his daughter Sally and son-in-law, Douglas Simon.

September 26. OPEN

Community Events

The Art of Listening Well

If you've always wanted to "be present" for family, friends, and fellow church members as they go through life's ups and downs, plan to attend a workshop on Saturday, September 25, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., on "Listening Skills for Congregational Caregivers," organized by the UNMC deacons. This workshop will be presented by the Rev. Don Lowe, who preached at UNMC earlier this year, and Deaconess Kathy A. Garrison, R.N., and is drawn from their "Art of Pastoral Care" curriculum. The \$20 fee covers snacks and course materials. Flyers will be available at the church or you can contact Sue Mosher at sue@turtleflock.com or (703) 241-9828 for more information.

Be a Good Dupont Circle Neighbor

Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 17, noon - 5:00 p.m., when the Dupont Circle House Tour will

take place in the area roughly centered around the triangle formed by New Hampshire, 19th and T Streets. To welcome visitors to our neighborhood, UNMC will hold a short vespers service at 5:30 that evening. (Maybe someone would also like to organize a dinner outing afterward?)

The house tour committee is looking for volunteers. Maybe you'd like to volunteer with a friend and get to know other people in the neighborhood! On the day of the tour, you could work in one of the individual tour houses or help organizers get everything ready in the morning; contact Jim Mears at JHMears@aol.com or (evenings) at (202) 332-3220. Or, in the days and weeks before the event, you could make some phone calls, sell tickets, or distribute flyers; contact house tour committee chair Maureen Donovan at md48@erols.com.

Denominational Affairs

Jesus in 21st Century Spirituality

What role does Jesus play in 21st century spirituality? How does devotion to Jesus fit within the broad diversity of contemporary Unitarian Universalism? Join the Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship for a free-wheeling exploration of these two questions at the Revival 4 conference November 4-7 at the First Unitarian Church of Worcester (MA). Featured speakers will include UUA President the Rev. William Sinkford and the Rev. Erik Walker Wikstrom, author of *Teacher, Guide and Companion: Rediscovering Jesus in a Secular World*. Brochures will be available soon at the church. In the meantime, you can visit the UUCF web site at <http://www.uua.org/uucf/revival/2004/> for more information.

Administrator's Corner

Graphics Whiz Needed

Do you enjoy fiddling with computer graphics and making a printed page come alive? The increasing

number of activities at UNMC means we have a real need for someone who can design eye-catching flyers. Please contact church administrator Kimberly Durham Bates at office@universalist.org or (202) 387-3411 if this is something you'd like to help with.

Webmaster Needed

Have you checked out the church's web site at <http://www.universalist.org> lately? It's full of news about church events, plus recent sermons, prayers, and other inspirational articles. While church administrator Kimberly Durham Bates takes care of routine updates, such as posting the monthly *Anchor* and events calendar, a webmaster is needed to spend an hour or two each week on other tasks, such as posting sermons and other longer articles and researching ways to make the web site even better. This is a great opportunity for someone with a little web experience who'd like to build up their resume. Skills required: Good proofreading and experience with HTML and FTP. Experience with the Movable Type blogging software would be a plus, but it's very easy to learn. Please contact church administrator Kimberly Durham Bates at office@universalist.org or (202) 387-3411 if this is something you'd like to help with.

Our Mission

We create a loving community for worship and service in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

We welcome all and respect individual beliefs as we grow together.

Our Goals

We want to grow as a spiritual community, both in numbers and in the depth of our faith experience.

We want to revitalize our building to make it a welcoming house of worship, study, fellowship, and service with the potential to contribute financially to the long-term viability of this congregation.

The *Universalist Anchor* is published monthly for the members and friends of the Universalist National Memorial Church in Washington, D.C.

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mkmorn@universalist.org

office@universalist.org · (202) 387-3411

The Rev. Mary Katherine Morn, Interim Minister

The Rev. Dr. William L. Fox, Minister Emeritus

Board of Trustees: Rob Bertram, Kathryn Desmond, Richard Hurst, Clint McCully (Assistant Treasurer), Sue Mosher, Brian Pepper (Treasurer), Vicki Pepper (Vice Moderator), Greg Wigle (Moderator), and Richard Zierdt (Secretary)

Ms. Jennifer Sandberg, Head Deacon

Dr. Michael O'Brien, Music Director

Mr. Kirk Denton, Organist

Ms. Kimberly Durham Bates, Church Administrator

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