

# Universalist Anchor



## *From the heart ...*

This is my plea for the congregation to begin the process of choosing an organization to which the entire congregation can reach out and *make a difference*. Since I've been in Washington, I've witnessed many excellent programs that feed, clothe, and educate the needy in the metropolitan area. It will not be hard to identify a charity that UNMC could help.

In order for our church to live our mission of "creating a loving community in the spirit of Jesus of Nazareth" we will need to explore the possibilities and decide as a congregation what we are willing and able to do.

We will not have to look very far. In our 20009 zip code there are well over 120 non-profits. Some of these would not be candidates for outreach, but there are many that feed the hungry, take care of children after school, assist abused women and their children, and help the mentally ill and the homeless.

Several of these organizations, we have already helped through our monthly "Sharing Our Plate" offering.

If you would be willing to form a task force to investigate and research non-profit, social outreach organizations who might be good candidates for an outreach ministry for the church, please let me know. I will facilitate an initial meeting for everyone who is interested in this church ministry.

Hope you're having a great summer, see you in church,

Pastor Lillie

### **Adult Religious Education in August**

**Sunday, August 10, 9:30 a.m.** A Christian *Course in Miracles* taught by William Spruiell. 2nd floor study.

**Sunday, August 31, 9:30 a.m.** The Christian Prayer/Spirituality Covenant Group will meet in the second floor study. The subject will be **Journaling as Spiritual Practice**.

## *Sunday Services for August*

**Summer hours — services begin at 10:30a.m.!**

**August 3** — "Love is the Relish on the Hot Dog of Life," a sermon by Rev. Henley. A light-hearted look at how love enriches our lives.

**August 10** — "Sing Your Favorite Hymns" today. Our new music director Darryl Winston will be leading us in some of our ol' favorites. It will be an opportunity for everyone to get to know Darryl and for Darryl to get to know us. I am not going to suggest that he will be looking for singers for our Chancel Choir!

**August 17** — Michael Relland, our new intern minister, wonders, "Is George Carlin in Heaven?" The comedian's passing has been popularized through cartoons in the Washington Post and threats of picketing at his funeral by religious zealots. This is a famous Universalist question for an infamous personality.

**August 24** — "Women's Equality, Is It Real?" Rev. Henley will explore with us a brief look at Jesus' inclusion of women, as well as how women are included today in our culture. Some of the discoveries may surprise us.

**August 31** — Rev. Henley shares with us her favorite figure from the Transcendentalists: Margaret Fuller, a woman *of* her time and *ahead* of her time.

### ***DO YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW TO...***

**BE A GREETER/USHER** on Sundays. Call Ron Eanes.

**PROVIDE HOSPITALITY** after church, call Jennifer Sandberg.

**GIVE CHANCEL FLOWERS** in memory or in honor of someone? Call Mary Templeton, our flower coordinator.

**HAVE SOMETHING APPEAR IN THE NEWSLETTER** Contact a member of the new Anchor Production Team (Jan-Christine Johnson, Richard Russo, or José Luis Sánchez).

**JOIN THE CHURCH**, or participate in a "Newcomer Class," or attend a *Fireside Chat*, talk to or email Rev. Henley.

All contact information is in the UNMC membership directory. Call the church office for contact information and/or a directory.

## UNMC Building & Grounds

Today I googled “We are all ministers” and “Unitarian” and got 167 hits. Then I googled “We are all ministers” and “Universalist” and got 2080 hits. So, Universalists are 12 times more likely to express their willingness to minister. Cool!

In our own congregation we actively support each other. I love it. We also need to minister to our house, the UNMC building itself. We already are doing many things: cleaning up, repainted Perkins Hall, recycling as possible, improving the yards, identifying problems as they arise, etc. We had a great turnout last year when we spiffed things up before Reverend Lillie’s Installation. I’m delighted to see our house of God looking significantly better over the last year.

Ah, but as good as we are we need to do more. I personally believe all members and friends are – need to be - on the Buildings and Grounds committee. It’s just that most of y’all don’t have to attend meetings. But we all must help as we restore our magnificent building, a structure that was so important to Universalists nationwide as they contributed to its construction. Please step forward and let an “official” someone on the committee know how you would like to minister our house: paint, move furniture, sort through old possessions.

Thank you for reading this! With faith, hope, and love,

Mike Dillon

Other “official” members of Buildings & Grounds are Jorn Dakin, Sally Segal, Catherine Robbins, Brian Pepper, Greg Wigle, Perry King.

## A Thank You to UNMC & Jorn Dakin

On Sunday, May 18, a “Coming of Age” teen group from the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of York, Pennsylvania toured our church. Jorn Dakin facilitated the tour before worship that day.

The teens sent a thank you card saying how much they enjoyed their visit and the trip to our tower. Enclosed was a check from the group for \$50. They also suggested that some of their families may be visiting us this summer.

## Green Door Request

As you travel this summer, and in the future, if you stay in a hotel, would you please remember to bring home the extra toiletries from your stay? There will be a box in the foyer on Sundays to put in the items you bring. The *Green Door* needs these things as well as clothing and furniture for those who are able to enter the workforce and for those who gain the skills to move to their own apartments.



## UNMC Bookshelf

*[Editors’ Note: We would like this to be a continual feature in The Anchor, as a way to share our spiritual community away from the church building. Please send us your mini-reviews on books on topics such as spirituality, faith, universalism, religious history, or comparative religion.]*

### **Report to Greco by Nikos Kazantzakis**

I am re-reading *Report to Greco*, a book I first read 32 years ago that has remained since the most affecting and spiritually significant book in my life.

As the Greek novelist Kazantzakis prepared to die, he wrote his autobiography as the log of his spiritual journey through life. This log was his presentation to his late great-great-grandfather, El Greco (the Greek-born painter that achieved fame in Spain), whom Kazantzakis was getting ready to meet. Kazantzakis addressed his confessional narrative to him because El Greco was the only member of his family who was a fellow artist, and the only ancestor likely to appreciate art as a spiritual journey.

The great universal appeal of *Report to Greco*, however, lies in Kazantzakis’ struggle between his erotic and spiritual forces. Kazantzakis was raised in a religious environment that preached a disembodied spirituality that rejected the world and its erotic attractions. Kazantzakis, by contrast, developed a very earthy spirituality based on the erotic. For him the erotic and the spiritual are not mutually exclusive forces, but actually complementary partners, like horses of a different color pulling the same wagon and heading in the same direction. The book marked for me the path towards peace and wholeness. – José Luis Sánchez

### **The Shack by William P. Young**

I’m currently reading an interesting novel I learned about while visiting my parents recently. Their United Methodist Sunday School class is discussing *The Shack* by William P. Young. As its jacket suggests, *The Shack* “wrestles with the timeless question ‘where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain?’” The book tells the story of a man who, after rough beginnings builds a nice life in the Pacific Northwest, but becomes very angry with God and loses his faith upon suffering great personal tragedy. Years later God reaches out to him, seeking to meet at the site of this tragedy.

The core of the story centers around discussions between the troubled man and God, and their efforts to reconnect. Although some UNMC-ers might find themselves uncomfortable with Young’s Trinitarian conception of God, *(continued on page 3)*

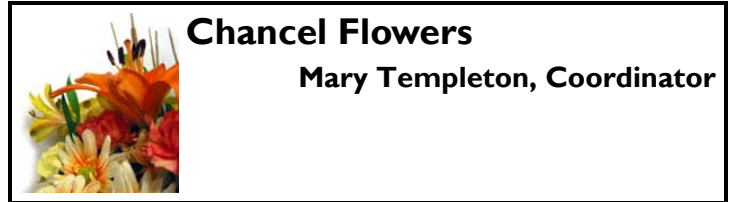
## Hearty Fare at Leland Place Potluck

The style of the dinner at Leland Place on Saturday July 19 was potluck, and the participants--volunteers and Leland residents alike--were lucky indeed.

It was shoulder-to-shoulder around the tables at the half-way house for men in recovery from homelessness and addiction as more than a dozen appreciative men chowed down on hearty fare that included meatloaf, green salad, Angela Khaminwa's garlic roast potatoes, and Catherine Bocskor's chocolate pie.

Thanks to the volunteers -- Angela, Catherine, Mike and Alex Dillon, Marti Martinson, and Dave Skidmore.

**Our next dinner is scheduled for Saturday, August 16th.** RSVP to the church office at 202-387-3411 or email [office@universalist.org](mailto:office@universalist.org). We will gather in the church kitchen at 2:30 p.m., cook the meal and share it with the men of Leland, a facility of SOME (So Others Might Eat) on North Capitol Street, around 5 p.m. Volunteers share the cost of the meal, usually \$15 to \$25 each. Church members interested in contributing to the Leland effort may use the specially marked envelopes in the pews, while volunteers interested in contributing their time, but not monetarily, should see Dave Skidmore or Pastor Lillie.



## Chancel Flowers

Mary Templeton, Coordinator

**Aug 3** — open

**Aug 10** — Chancel flowers are given by David W. Skidmore in memory of his father, David Skidmore.

**Aug 17** — open

**Aug 24** — Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Frances Marin Pepper, beloved daughter of Vicki and Brian, sister of Stephen and Irina, and goddaughter of Pi-Rung.

**Aug 31** — Chancel flowers are given in memory of Florence and Jack Brooks by James and Evelyn Rowse.

## Our Own All-Star!

One of our young members was a member of an All-Star team which won the championship at the All-Star team tournament. The event took place in Clifton, VA earlier this summer. Congratulations!



## Growth and Outreach at UNMC

### New UNMC Member

Devry Becker joined UNMC on Sunday, July 13, with great joy and enthusiasm. He is a recent college graduate from St. Louis, a UU since high school, working a temp job, and looking for something permanent so he can stay in the DC area, which he absolutely loves. Welcome!

—Sue Mosher

*(book review continued from page 2)*

many of his ideas about the nature of God, the nature of humanity, and the nature of faith seem likely to resonate well in our community, as will the appearance of God to the protagonist.

-- Vicki Pepper

*Consider purchasing your books via UNMC's gateway to Amazon (found on the UNMC webpage). UNMC gets a commission from books purchased this way.*

## Global Peace Festival

An interfaith peace festival will be held on the Capitol grounds on Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>.

Muslims, Jews, Christians, from hundreds of social justice organizations will gather share their hopes for peace. The **GLOBAL PEACE FESTIVAL** promotes and celebrates persons and programs that contribute to reconciliation, mutual respect, harmony and cooperation among the members of the whole human family as "One Family Under God."



## 2008 NoVA UU Revival

Unitarian Universalism—the faith the world needs now!

Does the world need a faith that upholds the tenets of love, justice, democracy, and freedom? Do you need a faith that encourages the pursuit of truth through whatever means speak to you? And if this is your faith, then what are you doing with it?

On Sat. Sept. 27, UUs from all of the NoVA area, as well as of the Greater Washington area, will gather to examine these questions in worship, music, dancing, clapping, eating, and making joyful noise (do you hear halleluiaah?)

Watch for more information to come soon. Revival registration will go live August 15 on the [UUSJ Web site](#) – all are asked to register.

Something special happens whenever the NoVA UUs gather, as anyone who has attended previous NoVA revivals can attest. So mark your calendars, tell your friends, and we'll see you there!

2008 NoVA UU Revival at the UU Church of Arlington  
Sat. Sept. 27, 2008 4444 Arlington Blvd  
8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Arlington, Va. 22201

## Darryl Winston

### Interim Musical Director

"I look forward to joining the UNMC family. I want to thank everyone for being so warm and welcoming. I think we are in for an exciting year of joy and praise during the worship services.



Our dream is to build a choir that will be part of a UNMC music ministry. I'll be installing a quality Artists Series Program and planning an exciting

year of music encompassing all musical styles from Bach to Gospel. If you think you would like to lend your vocal talents to the choir; please don't hesitate to ask me. Remember that a voice raised in worship and praise can only be glorious...well...most of the time!"

Darryl Winston started his inaugural season in 2000 as Managing and Artistic Director of DC's historic Mount Vernon Players. The May 2008 production of "The Last Days of King Solomon" for the 7th Street Playhouse marked the completion of his 189th production.

Currently, he is Artistic Director of the Maytime Light Opera Company and Artistic and Managing Director of the Washington National Wagner Society. Mr. Winston has been musical assistant to composers Aaron Copland and Gunther Schuller.

Look for his talented theatrical troupe as the "The Darryl Winston Show", a salute to the "Golden Age of TV" which premieres on cable TV this Fall.

Besides being a four-time recipient of the prestigious Victor Herbert Foundation Grant, Darryl is also a recipient of the Common Good of the Community Grant, the Farber Scholarship, the DC Music Educators' Vocal Award and the DePauw Scholarship.

## August Vespers @ UNMC

Wed, Aug 6 at 6pm

The first responsive prayer at Vespers is for "International Peace". One of the biblical passages used is probably very familiar:

And they shall beat their swords into plow shares and their spears into pruning hooks.

Nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war anymore.

This appears in the Old Testament in both the books of Isaiah (2:4) and Micah (4:3). Scholars believe that Isaiah was written during the 8<sup>th</sup> century BCE; its current form, however, might be from only 180 BCE. Micah, one of the twelve Minor Prophets, is believed to have been a contemporary of Isaiah. It is interesting to note that Isaiah is considered to have been part of the "upper class" of citizenry, while Micah possibly grew up in the "working class".

On these two passages, Christian theologian Matthew Henry (1662-1714) sadly commented that the words are "precious promises" but that "nothing answering to these expressions has yet taken place on the earth." 294 years later he is still, sadly, correct.

As befitting our Christian Universalist heritage, there is a passage in Micah which gives encouragement: "He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy." (7:18) May His mercy be on us and on all nations.

Peace Vespers is at 6 PM on the first Wednesday of the month. See Marti after service.



**Michael Relland**

## UNMC's New Community Minister Intern

Hello!

I'm your community minister intern this year. Many questions ensue: What is a community minister? We have another minister here at UNMC? What does an intern do? Well, I won't do anything the Rev. Lillie already works on, though I model my work on her parish ministry. She and your intern committee (Sue Mosher, Catherine Bocskor and others yet to be determined) provide necessary guidance to me as a candidate for ordination next spring. In return, I provide our church and our community with my service.

I will be preaching throughout the year about the people I serve. Here are some of the groups I hold as my community during my intern year:

- 1) The young adults here at UNMC. Many come in the door, but some mysteriously leave after the service! As far as I'm concerned, it's young adult central in our hip urban locale and we should reach out a little, don't you think?
- 2) Beacon House, a UU after-school non-profit agency offering tutoring and programming for kids living in the Edgewood Terrace neighborhood, just south of Catholic University. ([www.beaconhousedc.org](http://www.beaconhousedc.org)) I taught music for seven years in the public schools, so this will be a fun extension of my interest with our youngest and brightest.

3) Artists in DC who are already using spirituality in their work, and who might want to collaborate with religious institutions to broaden the perspectives of both! As a frustrated artist myself (sometimes it seems this is the nature of artists), I recognize the difficulties facing those who give their lives to the craft of inspiration. I consider artists as co-creators with the divine and mourn the loss of connection between the church and the artistic community.

This all sounds like a big community! What holds it together? Me and you! Community ministers are usually affiliated with a congregation, as each seeks to build up and embolden the other's work. As I let our church know about the goings on in our community, maybe you will want to join me in tying the loose ends of DC together with the faith of Universalism and the hope of a united, purposeful people!

See you in church,  
Michael Relland

### Time-Off for the Minister

Rev. Henley will be taking two weeks off, August 4 — 18. One week will be for spiritual retreat and the second week she will be working on the Church Worship Calendar for 2008-2209. If there is a pastoral emergency, please call David Gatton, our Board Moderator. He is listed in our Church Directory.

### SHARING OUR PLATE

Each month we share 10% of our free-will plate collection with a non-profit organization that works in our neighborhood and gives to those in need. For August, the recipient will be Cole's Closet. Cole's Closet is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization serving the Baltimore-Washington area.

In honor of Cole who died within a year of his birth and spent half of his life in hospitals, and millions of other "little heroes" like him, Cole's Closet is dedicated to reducing the amount of stress hospitalized children and their families face. Each year Cole's Closet donates numerous items to hospitals that will ensure a more comfortable [hospital stay](#) for all children. In addition, we donate thousands of new [toys, books, gift cards and care packages](#) to seriously ill children and their families.

With all the support we have received, Cole's Closet has been able to expand donations beyond toys. In 2003 we began sending care packages to families who had children in the hospital for lengthy periods of time. Most families were referred to us through families, friends or our contacts at Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children.

In 2005 we created a formal structure for our Family Outreach Program. This program is dedicated to supporting the families of children who have been hospitalized in a pediatric unit for four consecutive weeks or more. These families are provided with items such as gas cards, phone cards, toiletries, restaurant gift certificates and, at times, the support of a family who has been there. We officially began the program at Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children in Summer 2005.