

Universalist Anchor



July 2005

Musings from Mary Katherine

Dear Friends,

I want to thank you for this opportunity to serve as your Interim Minister. I have learned so much in this time we've shared. I have come to share your passion for Universalist National Memorial Church. I believe deeply in the potential for a lively, progressive Universalist Christian Church in the city. I will no longer be your minister (which means I am not permitted to serve in official pastoral roles for you), but I will continue to advocate as I am able for Universalist National Memorial Church. And you will remain in my prayers as you carry forward this vision.

Love,
Mary Katherine

July Worship & Activity Schedule at UNMC

Sunday, July 3

10:30 Worship: "Liberal Christianity and Humanism: Paul Meets Maslow"
Perry King, LICSW, preaching.

Sunday, July 10

10:30 Worship: "Laughter as Spiritual Medicine"
Rev. Mary Katherine Morn

The Rev. David Rankin has written: *Laughter is a bridge over troubled waters; the hand of God on the shoulder of a fragile world; a mode of salvation when all else is lost.* Our service will explore the importance of humor to spiritual maturity.

Sunday, July 17

10:30 Worship: Old-fashioned Hymn Sing
Rev. Mary Katherine Morn

We will sing beloved favorites and learn some new ones. Mary Katherine will reflect on the importance of music and singing in our worship.

Friday, July 22

Join members and friends of Universalist National Memorial Church for an outing with Mary Katherine. We will be attending a Bowie Baysox baseball game.

Sunday, July 24

10:30 Worship: "My Prayer for You"
Rev. Mary Katherine Morn

This is Mary Katherine's final service as our Interim Minister. She will offer reflections on this year together and wishes for the future of Universalist National Memorial Church.

Sunday, July 31

10:30 Worship

Notice our summer worship hours begin at 10:30 a.m. in the main sanctuary. Casual summer attire is welcome. (We will be cooling the sanctuary before the service and then turning the very loud air conditioner off.) Please join us through the summer for intimate worship services.

Chancel Flowers for July

Mary Simmons, Chair

July 3: Open.

July 10: Flowers are given in loving memory of his parents, Charles and Helon Pearce by their son James and family.

July 17: Open

July 24: Flowers are given in honor of Rev. Mary Katherine Morn by the congregation of UNMC.

July 31: Flowers are given in memory of her parents Charles William and Virginia Pfeiffer Thompson by Amy Thompson Tipton.

Bahá'ís Pray at UNMC

UNMC became an impromptu stop on a walking tour by a group of Bahá'ís on Sunday, June 19. The group was visiting sites in the Dupont Circle area connected with the 1912 visits to Washington by Abdu'l-Bahá, the son of the founder of the Bahá'í faith. Just up the street from UNMC, the house at 1832 Sixteenth Street was at that time the Persian Legation, where a Persian diplomat who was a Bahá'í and married to an American most likely gave a luncheon and reception that figures prominently in accounts of the visit.

But the more direct connection is with the Church of Our Father, the precursor to our present building, where Abdu'l-Bahá gave a speech to several hundred people. Since that church, which stood at 13th and L Streets, no longer exists, having been sold to help make the building of UNMC possible, the Bahá'í visitors stopped at UNMC. They were invited in and prayed in our sanctuary, in words that echoed our belief that God's grace belongs to all people.

Parish Notes:

Members and friends have asked where they can send memorials for Mary Katherine's father, Charles Morn, who died June 4, in Florida. The family has asked donations be made to St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral in Shreveport, to Hospice by the Sea in Boca Raton, Florida, or to the charity of your choice.

Addresses are

Hospice by the Sea Inc
1531 W Palmetto Park Rd
Boca Raton, FL 33486
(561) 395-5031

St Mark's Episcopal Cathedral
908 Rutherford St
Shreveport, LA 71104
(318) 221-3360

Sacred Summer Journey

Join other UNMC members and friends for our 4th annual summer pilgrimage to Washington National Cathedral on Tuesday, August 9, starting at 6 p.m. The cathedral is a wonderfully cool place on a summer evening, and we'll also be walking on the cathedral grounds. The tentative schedule is as follows:

6 pm - Gather in the Center for Prayer & Pilgrimage for introductions

6:20 pm - Contemplative walk through Olmsted Woods into the Nave

7 pm - Sacred Journey - guided meditation using the art and architecture of the cathedral

7:30 pm - Individual reflection/prayer time where participants can go anywhere in the cathedral

8:15 pm - Centering Prayer in the Center for Prayer and Pilgrimage

8:45 pm - The pilgrimage ends with Compline, the service of night time prayers.

There is a small fee for this program -- \$20 for adults, \$15 for youth 18 and under and seniors 59 and older, \$10 for National Cathedral Association members. Registration forms are available on the information table in the church parlor. You are encouraged to register before July 31 so that the cathedral's Center for Prayer and Pilgrimage can send you a packet of advance information. For more information or if you can't get to church to pick up a registration form, please contact the church office at office@universalist.org.

The Board of Trustees meeting is
July 13, 7:00 p.m.

Third Wednesday Theology Discussion

Four persons were in attendance for our 3rd Wed. discussion on "Create your own five principles." Thanks to Jennifer Sandberg for her thoughtful submission which follows: Our next discussion will look at the parallels and differences between Humanism and Christianity drawing on the work of Abraham Maslow, "Toward a New Psychology of Being" and Paul's letter to the Galatians. Readings will be available on the table in the church parlor. Come for a lively discussion and fellowship starting at 7:00pm. For more info contact the office at office@universalist.org

MY FIVE PRINCIPLES Jennifer Sandberg

1. God is. God loves us. We are all eventually reconciled to God, in this life or when we die. It is up to God, as to when that actually happens.
2. Jesus was a human who was extraordinarily blessed by God. His words and deeds are what is paramount. He lived as other Jewish men lived at the time, i.e., he was married, had a family, but was called by God to teach others. His teaching that the Realm of God was reachable by everyone is the most important. The Romans killed him.
3. The Bible was written by humans, inspired by God. Not all of the current Bible tells us everything God wants us to know. We are to use the minds God gave us to seek out other sources of enlightenment.
4. We are all members of the Priesthood of Believers. It is the obligation God gave us, to follow God's commandments, to follow the teachings of Jesus in our daily lives, to lighten the burden of others, to bring a ray of Light to those in need, whether they be on the street, in our place of work, or in our own house. And whether or not they are of a different religion or belief system. God is God.

Continued in next column

Interim Ministerial Search

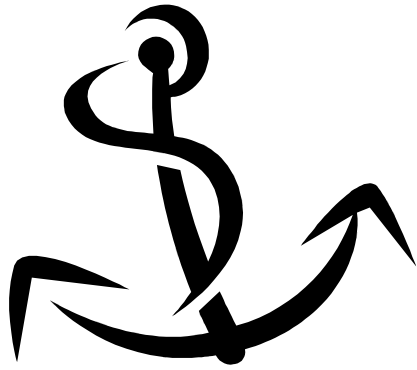
The work of your Interim Search Committee, comprised of Vicki Pepper, David Skidmore, and Mary Templeton, described in last month's Anchor, continues diligently. In its efforts to secure an Interim Minister for the second year of UNMC's purposeful Interim Ministry, the Committee thus far has identified a dozen potential candidates for whom it has reviewed information and/or with whom it has discussed UNMC's Interim Ministry. The Committee has interviewed four of those candidates and is in concerted dialogue with two of them. As of the Anchor's publication deadline, the Committee is in the process of running promising leads on a few remaining candidates to ground and hopes to complete all personal interviews very soon.

Although the Committee started initially with the formal UUA Settlement Office process and database, it since has broadened UNMC's horizons to identify and explore certain ordained UCC and Methodist ministers who might be theologically and liturgically compatible with our outlook and worship style. Per instructions from the Board, the Committee in its deliberations also remains open to a range of options for full- or part-time Interim Ministry at UNMC next year in its efforts to find the best available interim solution for our Church. The Committee remains hopeful that it will have a final recommendation for the Board of Trustees by July 15th, the date its Charter is scheduled to expire. "Stay tuned" for additional information.

Continued from previous column

5. Women and men are both Priests. God created us equally. Jesus didn't make those distinctions, either. He taught us to love one another as God loves us. Period. God incorporates both the feminine and masculine divine.

Mary of Magdala (or Mary Magdalene) was the First Apostle. After Jesus died, she carried on his work, with members of his family.



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

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The Rev. Mary Katherine Morn, Interim Minister

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

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Mr. David Skidmore, Head Deacon

Mr. Kirk Denton, Organist

Marguerite Bogle, Church Office
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Our Mission (adopted May 2002)

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.

The Universalist Anchor
Universalist National Memorial Church
1810 Sixteenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

