

Universalist Anchor

Newsletter of the Universalist National Memorial Church

August 2004 www.universalist.org

1810 Sixteenth Street NW, Washington DC 20009

202-387-3411



August Worship and Activity Schedule at UNMC

Bold events occur on Sunday. New earlier time for summer services, 10:30 a.m.

All are welcome to attend church group meetings.

August 1. The Annual Picnic. Ms. Donna K. Simonton will lead the congregation in a brief service titled, "Dance: A Metaphor for Life," afterwards the congregation will depart enroute to the picnic site at Glen Echo Park.

Monday, August 2. The Board of Trustees meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the Romaine-van Schaick room. All are welcome.

Saturday, August 7. Shanon Loring and Tom Curteman's wedding at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.

August 8. Rev. Harry Quiett preaching. Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting at 1:00 p.m. in the Romaine-van Schaick room. Chalice Lighter Ambassador training, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., Cedar Lane UU Church. (See article, page 5)

August 15. Mr. Ben Van Dyne preaching. After worship, regular meeting of the Welcome & Membership Committee.

Thursday, August 19. *Anchor* submissions deadline.

August 22. Rev. Mary Katherine Morn preaching.

August 29. Preacher to be announced.

Tuesday, August 31. The third annual UNMC pilgrimage evening at Washington National Cathedral, 5:30 - 9:00 p.m. (See article, page 4)

In upcoming months:

Saturday, September 25, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - "Listening Skills for Congregational Caregivers" workshop at UNMC. (See article, page 4)

Sunday, October 17. Dupont Circle House Tour. (See article, page 4)

November 4-7. Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship Revival 4 conference, First Unitarian Church of Worcester (MA). (See article, page 5)

Greetings From Rev. Mary Katherine Morn

Dear New Friends at UNMC,

By the time you receive this, I will have started as your Interim Minister. I am so pleased to have this opportunity to be a part of this special religious community and to offer myself to this ministry.

I am slowly learning about your history and your special needs. This interim period is a time of unique opportunity. I hope to work with you to use this time well. In our first weeks, I will be working hard to get to know you and learn from you what you hope for from UNMC and from me as your Interim Minister.

Kimberly and I are working on systems that will make it easy for you to reach me. I'll have an office e-mail address and my own voicemail on the church phone. Many thanks to Jorn Dakin for setting me up with a computer that I can use in the pastor's study.

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In about a month, I will let you know what my regular office hours will be. In the meantime, you can try to reach me at the church and if I'm not there, just leave me a message.

I would like to say a special thanks to the Interim Minister Search Committee for welcoming me so kindly. Vicki Pepper has helped in many ways with my transition to the area. Thanks to moderator Greg Wigle for his help with some of the paperwork involved with our moving. And, I also want to thank Sue and Bob Mosher for the opportunity to house-sit and cat-sit while they were away.

Perhaps like me, you are feeling some apprehension about this new beginning. It's fitting for a new beginning to have within it uncertainty. Hopefully, these feelings are balanced by a sense of excitement and anticipation. I know you love this religious home of yours. I am grateful for the opportunity to join you in ministering in this holy community. I anticipate learning a great deal from you; and, I hope we will join our heads and hands and hearts in the work of answering the gifts of God by blessing each other and the world with our ministry together.

Faithfully,
Mary Katherine

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.

Donna Simonton for donating the organ-shaped desk now located in the vestibule and providing an eye-catching display of church materials for both the organ fund drive and other activities.

Richard Hurst, Sue Mosher, and Dave Skidmore for leading last month's Inquirers' Classes and **Donna Simonton** and **Mary Templeton** for helping out with class refreshments.

Jorn Dakin for tracking down a new computer for our new minister, having the church office's laser printer repaired in record time, and also, along with **Brian Pepper**, for plumbing work on the kitchen sink.

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 August:

August 1
Greeter: Mary Simmons
Refreshments: Church picnic

August 8
Greeter: Donna Simonton
Refreshments: OPEN

August 15
Greeter: Sue Mosher
Refreshments: OPEN

August 22
Greeter: OPEN
Refreshments: OPEN

August 29
Greeter: OPEN
Refreshments: OPEN

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 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.

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Chancel Flowers

August 8. In memory of Dr. and Mrs. Clarence A. Weaver, by their family and friends.

August 15. OPEN

August 22. OPEN

August 29. In loving memory of Frances Marin Pepper by Vicki, Brian, Stephen, Irina, and Godmother Pi-Rung.

News from the Buildings and Grounds Front

Jorn Dakin, Chair

Quite a bit of activity has been occurring on the B&G front this past few weeks. I would first like to thank Al Templeton for all of the work that he has been doing in connection with supervising the painting and other renovation work on the parsonage condominium apartment, as we prepare it for rental in the near future. It has not been in bad condition by any means, but like any space inhabited by human beings, it requires paintup and fixup from time to time. This work will be particularly beneficial to the church inasmuch as it should allow the church to rent the parsonage for a higher rental than it might otherwise receive. Al was also the person responsible for arranging the removal of the various junk items that had been collected into a single room during the church "field" day earlier this spring. Now that this material has been removed, it is clear that other items likely remain, and that more space could be freed by further removal efforts later this year.

On the lawn and gardens front, I want to thank all those who have been participating in mowing the lawn and other trimming, weeding, planting and soil improvement projects. A topic that has come up recently in connection with the lawn has been the problem of neighborhood residents who use the lawns as space to let their pets exercise. This has created some problems, but it is not clear what a perfect solution to these problems would be. There is park space about a block away at the intersection of 18th, S and New Hampshire, where there is a small

triangular park that can be used, but folks from the neighborhood nevertheless do not necessarily go on over there, and instead use the church lawns for their pets. There is an understandable reluctance to have something like a sign with "NO DOGS" in big letters greeting people as they approach the church from 16th Street. A more feasible alternative might be combination locks of some sort on the gates [as well as repairing the gate on the S Street yard], so that anyone who wanted access to the yards would either need to climb over the fence or else be able to unlock the gates. We are open to suggestions!

The church has recently changed trash hauling companies, and we hope that this will result in more timely and effective trash removal. We continue to have problems with unknown people bringing their trash and leaving it in the alley in back of the church, either in the church dumpster or else on the pavement. This is bad because of the rats in the neighborhood. The residents of the immediate neighborhood are waging a constant and energetic battle against rats, and the District government has been helpful as well. Keeping trash off the ground is a major part of this effort, as is location of rat burrows and setting out poison in the alleys. Our church can help in this regard by doing everything that it can to keep garbage, especially food garbage, under control.

Several improvements in the internal physical plant of the church have recently been made. The water cooler in the first floor hallway has recently been resuscitated as a result of a replacement part kit applied by a gentleman by the name of "Brian" from Madden Plumbing. This water cooler dates from 1967, but with the replacement parts in place, it seems to be cranking along very nicely. We also investigated the water fountain in the basement hallway, but it appears that there is no immediate inexpensive means of getting this fountain working again. Russell Chapman tells me that he believes that this basement fountain was shut-off sometime in the late 1940s. The sink drain in the pantry off the Romaine-van Schaick room has also been routed, and seems to be doing better. The admonition that coffee grounds should not be dumped down this sink still applies, needless to say.

We had called in the folks from Madden initially as a result of water appearing on the floor in the downstairs kitchen, apparently coming from the wall that separates the kitchen from Perkins Hall. We were apprehensive that a pipe in that wall had started to leak, but Brian's initial analysis was that there did not appear to be a leaking pipe in the wall, but rather that perhaps water was coming up from the subsoil underlying the basement floors, possibly along the columns or footings of the foundations in that part of the church. Short of perhaps some sort of resealing effort on the basement, there does not appear to be at this time an immediate, reasonably priced remedy for this situation, so long as it is not causing major problems. That is, we have not found a pipe gushing water out of the wall. However, we do reserve the right to establish a special "bailout" committee in the event that the water level reaches a point where it starts to empty out of the floor level windows and doors onto the lawns and sidewalks.

The next item on the agenda for the B&G group is preparation for the arrival of Reverend Mary Katherine Morn. She is planning to have her office in the room opposite the church office on the first floor. This room is currently where the church library is located, so that at some point in the near future a group effort to move books and furniture will take place. Please be prepared to join us on that occasion. Needless to say, you will be hearing further details.

Update: A book and furniture moving party is scheduled for the morning of Saturday, July 31.

Community Events

To Be a Pilgrim

Our third annual pilgrimage to Washington National Cathedral will take place the evening of Tuesday, August 31. Summer is a wonderful time to visit the cathedral, when its cool stone walls contrast so sharply with the heat outside. Walk the labyrinth inspired by live music and sung chant, participate in an expert-led discussion on an issue of public concern, and enjoy a sacred arts program. This is a great outing for inviting friends!

Here is the schedule for the evening; there is no charge for any of these activities:

5:30 p.m.	Evensong (early evening worship)
6:00 - 8:40 p.m.	Labyrinth
7:00 - 7:20 p.m.	Centering prayer
7:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Discussion
7:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Arts program
8:40 p.m.	Compline (late evening worship)

Plan to meet at the cathedral before the 5:30 p.m. evensong service and stay as long as you like. The cathedral museum store (one of the best religious bookstores in town) stays open until 7:30 p.m. for a light supper. Contact Sue Mosher at sue@turtleflock.com or (703) 241-9828 for more information.

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.

Chalice Lighter Training

Would you like to meet people from other UU churches and help them (and this church) grow? The Chalice Lighter program of the Joseph Priestly District of the UUA provides substantial grants for growth initiatives, funded by small (\$10-20 per person, three times a year) contributions from individual members. Chalice Lighter Ambassadors inspire people in their congregations to become Chalice Lighters. Training for new Chalice Lighter Ambassadors will take place on Sunday, Aug. 8, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. at Cedar Lane UU Church. Pick up a flyer in the parlor after church or visit <http://jpd.uua.org/julpacket.htm> for more information about this opportunity to get more

involved in our denomination, or just contact jillian@jpduus.org to confirm your attendance.

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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The Rev. Mary Katherine Morn, Interim Minister

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

Board of Trustees: Rob Bertram, Kathryn Desmond,
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Mr. Kirk Denton, Organist

Ms. Kimberly Durham Bates, Church Administrator

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