

Universalist Anchor

from the Heart ...

At the annual congregational meeting, I gave a very short ministerial report. In order to provide a quantitative context to my activities I reported that I had used over 300 first-class stamps on notes and cards to members, friends, newcomers, and guests over this past year. And I said that I had visited in homes over 30 times during this past year, and have also met members and newcomers in restaurants, coffee shops, and other public places. I want you to know that I always have time for you, the members and friends of this church.

There is more that I would like to share with you about some of the other ways that I spend my time, because it reflects on the broader aspects of my being your minister, your pastor, and your servant in Christ.

Prayer and meditation are a regular part of my day. Sometimes I use music and images from YouTube to focus my meditation. Sometimes music from CD's provides the setting for prayers. Often, the I-95 and I-395 "parking lots" give me an opportunity to "pray without ceasing!" Rarely do I go to sleep without lifting up this congregation and the names of the many friends of this church to God's affirming love. I have a prayer list that I attend to each night. Never do I go to sleep without thanking God for the honor and blessing of being your minister.

Each morning when I wake up, I thank God that I "Woke up this morning..." and turn my life over to the Spirit of the Infinite.

Administratively, I help our church Administrator with putting together each week's Order of Service and the monthly "Anchor". Often, I edit and proof. Of course, I always contribute this monthly column. I preached, facilitated the Sunday service, co-preached, or preached "responsively" for 35 services between May 1, 2008, and April 30, 2009. I was the liturgist six times, which can sometimes be harder than preaching, in my opinion!

During the year I attended 11 church Board meetings, almost that many Budget, Finance, and Stewardship Committee meetings, participated in several Welcome and Membership Committee and two Worship Committee meetings, and attended the regular Deacons meetings. Many other meetings were conducted virtually.

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Services for June

Services at UNMC will begin at 11:00 A.M. throughout the summer

Sunday, June 7: No service at UNMC Our worship service will be at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring. Both Rev. Henley and Rev. Elizabeth Lerner will be preaching. Rev. Henley's sermon will be on the future of Unitarian Universalism and Rev. Lerner will be preaching on the future of the UUCSS. Their choir and church band will provide stirring music for us and our choir will be singing with theirs. They have two services, 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Rev. Henley is encouraging our congregation to attend the 11:15 service. The address is 10309 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland 20903.

Sunday, June 14: We will have our annual "Volunteer Recognition Service." We will recognize those of us who have given "above and beyond" this past church program year. Darryl Winston adds an award this year for the "Outstanding Choir Volunteer." We will also recognize new members and have our spring Communion Service. Rev. Henley will be preaching on what a "call to service" can mean for us.

Rev. Henley will be on vacation and professional leave for three weeks. She will be back in church on July 12.

Sunday, June 21: Marti Martinson will deliver the homily "Purpose for Our Worship". Discussing the progressive changes in the gospels on the "nature" of Jesus Christ, the homily will attempt to find an experiential purpose in the meaning of Jesus' relationship to God and our sharing of that relationship. This homily is his final assignment at the St. Alban Liberal Catholic Seminary. The Liberal Catholic Church demands no creedal assent from its members and believes in universalism.

Sunday, June 28: "Music is My Religion" Music stirs up such emotions, yet provides us such peace. It is at once artful and mysterious. Michael Relland invites us to consider how music can be used as a ministry for the church and for ourselves.

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Part of my work in the broader UU community involves support for the Christian Universalist Association, for which I serve on the Board; I have also accepted a position as assistant editor of the *Universalist Herald*, which is the oldest, continuously produced liberal Christian magazine in the United States. Besides meeting every month with five of my local UU minister colleagues in a support group, I try to attend the regular monthly meetings of the Chesapeake UU Ministers' Association. I have regular monthly meetings with a spiritual director. There are other ministerial colleagues with whom I pray every so often, and I maintain regular email correspondence with the UU retired minister who has been my mentor and resource for eleven years now. I have been asked to serve a two-year term on the Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship board, and I am still praying about whether to assume this additional responsibility. I am involved in these activities both because it provides an opportunity to bring the special message and mission of our church to the attention of the broader UU community, and because I think it's important to support and be in fellowship with the other Christian-oriented members of our denomination.

There are many in the congregation who come to me, not only for pastoral visits, but also to find out more about our church and the social justice activities and projects that we support. I don't think it would surprise anyone to know that many of you want to become more involved in social action.

I have been talking recently with Peter Sage of the "Food For All" organization that we sponsor, and we are in the tentative planning stage of a mission trip to Haiti this year for members of UNMC and some of his volunteers. I will let you know more about this as soon as Peter gets back from Brazil.

My prayer for myself and for the members of this church is for more hours in each day, and for the strength, the courage, and the ability to make a difference in the world. No matter what form that will take, I want us to work with others in Washington, D.C. who are seeking to create a world with fairness and equality for all.

See you in church, Pastor Lillie



INTERWEAVE

Interweave had a Cinco de Mayo potluck party on Saturday, May 9 with the Interweave/Lambda Souls group from All Souls Unitarian Church at a private home on upper 16th St. After dinner both groups discussed Interweave social and service projects at each church. All Souls also discussed results of their Interweave survey that was shared with UNMC.

This month UNMC Interweave and All Souls Interweave will be hosting an information booth at the GLBT Capitol Pride Festival on **Sunday, June 14** on Pennsylvania Avenue near the Capitol from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. UNMC Interweave will be giving out UNMC Welcome Brochures to encourage church attendance and membership for GLBT people looking for a spiritual home. Interweave volunteers are needed to work at the booth for one or two hours during the festival. A sign-up sheet will be in the parlor. For additional information, see Marti Martinson or Ron Eanes. Interweave is UNMC's social and service group for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals. It is a national organization affiliated with the UU church.

Sharing Our Plate in June

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. In June, UNMC will share ten percent of its collected offerings with For Love of Children (FLOC). FLOC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has worked to protect and inspire thousands of Washington, DC's most vulnerable children and youth, and to strengthen their families, since its founding in 1965.

Today, FLOC's mission is to offer educational services that equip high-risk children and youth with the skills necessary to break the cycle of poverty, become life-long learners, and make substantial contributions to their communities. Through example and partnership, For Love of Children will use education to empower young people.

A child with a dream is a child with a future. Our early dreams are often the foundations that allow us to thrive and grow into contributing citizens.

FLOC has had its annual awards program and dinner at UNMC for the past 3 years.

Social Outreach

A musical performance to raise funds for hunger at home and abroad, featuring Bill Baker, Country Blues Artist

On **Sat. June 27, 2009** at 7:30pm the UNMC Social Action Committee will host an event "From H. St. to Haiti" featuring our UNMC friend Bill Baker playing original country blues. Bill played for a previous UNMC fundraiser and received rave reviews. He will be accompanied by his lead guitarist. The proceeds for this concert will be split three ways between our Food Bank, Food for All; AMURT's Haiti project; and the Lambi fund for Haiti. We will also have a short presentation about Haiti and the work of our local food bank before the concert. Food will be served at 7:00 p.m. Suggested donation is from \$5 to \$20, but no one will be turned away. Come out and support our social action ministry and enjoy a great performance from UNMC's Bill Baker!

JOINING UNMC

Our path to membership is a series of three events on a regularly scheduled, cyclical basis throughout the church year. Each is scheduled for 90 minutes, which should allow some time for fellowship. We invite and encourage all who are interested to attend, ideally—but not necessarily—in order.

Kindred Spirits is a gathering of newcomers, guests, and other members of the congregation interested in exploring their spiritual journeys. *Get to Know UNMC* provides newcomers, guests, and interested others useful information about Unitarian Universalist history and the history of UNMC. *Thinking About Commitment* is for all those interested in making a commitment to the works and ministries of the Church, although no one is obligated to join the church upon attendance. It is a time when participants explore what it means to be part of a religious community.

UU Christian Fellowship Revival 2012

To be held at **Universalist National Memorial Church, Washington, D.C., March 22-25, 2012**
For more information on UUCF, see the website at <http://www.uuchristian.org>.

What to Read

Mike Dillon

Recently I discovered a website containing a variety of more than 200 old Universalist (and Unitarian) publications. Nearly all are old and out of print, and all are free to read, download, or print. The items seem to have been scanned by Google, mostly from Harvard University's libraries, and now that the copyright has expired they are freely available. They can be read as scanned or in text from which you can easily cut-and-paste. You can not only find Hosea Ballou's classic [A Treatise on Atonement](#) but you can find eight editions of it from 1828 to 1902. You can find Unitarian publications in Hungarian, at least I think it's Hungarian. There are several books by James Coleman Adams, a personal favorite. There are books of hymns, history or biography, and religious education.

But my favorite of all is the publication, "Ladies Repository". Some of it is rather traditional, some nascent modern feminism, some fiction which reveals much of the time, society, and faith. Try *My Aunt's Bureau* in Vol XXII, 1854 and try to decide how much is fiction and how much is real. And there is an extra kick to read Olympia Brown in an original article in the original print font, typos and all. She was something.

The URL:

<http://somesources.blogspot.com/search/label/Universalist>

Angels in America

An edited dramatic reading will be presented in the Sanctuary, **Sunday, June 28**, in the afternoon, with a reception in the Parlor to follow the performance. Check the website for specific times.

The playwright, Tony Kushner, explores what was a silenced side of American life in the 1980s: the horrifically swift rise of Aids. In spite of its zeitgeist particularity, *Angels* is still relevant and moving today: both as Aids continues to ravage the human race, but also as a poignant and meaningful character drama exploring humanity and suffering.

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the Tony Award, *Angels* is considered by some to be one of the most important American plays of the past 25 years.