

Universalist Anchor



Words by Rev Lillie

The end of the year is fast approaching. It seems like we just welcomed 2007!

Why did it seem like time crept along those hot, play-filled days of youth, and now when I have reached an age where I can appreciate each moment, it seems as though time is flying by! Every year seems shorter, the weeks fold into each other, and each day is over before I can complete all the tasks I've assigned myself.

This "accelerating time," has led me to more fully appreciate relationships. On many occasions I've said, "The only thing that really matters in life is who we love and who loves us." By this, I meant that our spiritual and emotional lives are enriched and nurtured by love. However, it seems that our relationships have an impact on our bodies, too.

In *Love and Survival*, Dean Ornish writes:

It may be hard to believe that something as simple as talking with friends, feeling close to your parents, sharing feelings openly, or making yourself vulnerable to others in order to enhance intimacy can make such a powerful difference in your health and well-being, but study after study indicates that they often do. It is easy to make fun of these ideas—talking about your feelings in a group, opening your heart to others, practicing yoga, meditation, or prayer to rediscover inner sources of peace, joy, and well-being—but [all these things] make a powerful difference ... in our survival!

I have always believed that being a friend is a profound endeavor. I often thank God in my prayers for the people in my life who call themselves my friends. And as your minister, I am especially grateful for our loving relationship and powerful ministry.

Being a minister is as nurturing and satisfying as it is challenging. Yet I wouldn't have it any other way, because the love it brings into my life is ineffable and immeasurable. I want the church to grow, because the more it grows, the more love there is in all our lives, especially in mine!

Sounds selfish, doesn't it?

I can't apologize for being greedy about love.

It is the ultimate sustainer of our human spirit.

It is hard work; though, it takes a lot of energy to respond in love to the people in our lives. It means sublimating natural negative human reactions, sometimes,

and deliberately responding to others with serenity and acceptance when we would rather be angry!

You may say, well it seems it is more healthy to confront people than it is to hold in anger. And yes, it generally is, especially if you don't know how to lovingly confront someone. It is imperative for good mental health to learn how to do that.

But there are times when it is better for yourself and the relationship to ask, "Is it really worthwhile to confront this person; would it make a difference in eternity?" and if you answer, "No," then it might be better to proceed with a positive response. Negativity can neither make things all right nor make us feel any better.

How much love do we need in our lives?

I don't know; I can't answer that for myself or for anyone else.

I do know that the more love we give, the more love we get.

As *my time* keeps moving faster and faster, I am determined to make the most of it and share as much love as humanely possible—after all, it nourishes my emotional, spiritual, **and** physical well-being!

Come to church, share the joy and the love you'll find here. Another year is almost here, and I know you'll want to end the year with more love in your life than you had last New Years Day—I do!

Pastor Lillie

If you are receiving this newsletter via email and would prefer to have it by regular mail, let the office know.

Children's Religious Education

In October we have covered the Universalist luminaries Hosea Ballou, George Rogers and John and Judith Murray. If you don't know Judith Murray, try googling her. She is less well known than John but in our opinion even more interesting. She wrote and published, raised more than just her own kids, and - best of all - taught RE. The crucible of children's questions refines faith. Look for her catechism for children. It's an interesting historical document right on the Web, just a few clicks away.

In November we follow the march of Universalism east to Japan, west to Ohio and Minnesota and south to Virginia and North Carolina. We'll take a break from RE on Thanksgiving weekend.

Mike Dillon

Pre-Thanksgiving Potluck

Have you already started planning your Thanksgiving feast? Gotten out the cookbooks, looked through all of your recipes? Here is an opportunity to try out a new recipe or find that old one that Great-Aunt Lou gave you that's been in the family for nineteen generations. After church on Sunday, November 18th, we will retreat to Perkins Hall, downstairs, and have a congregational feast instead of our regular hospitality in the Van Schaick parlor. Please let me know what you will bring either by grabbing me after church before Nov. 18th or via email to the office at office@universalist.org. See you there!

Jennifer Sandberg

CHURCH KEEPING FROM REV. HENLEY

Joyful News!

It won't be long before we need to hold hospitality in Perkins Hall. Our attendance for Sunday services is growing significantly.

Perkins Hall and the basement's hall needs to be painted. If you can help, please contact Jorn Dakin, Sally Segal, or Greg Wigle.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, November 3, 5:30—6:30 p.m. Vespers

Monday, November 5, 7:00 p.m. Board Meeting

Monday, November 5, 7:30 p.m. Dupont Circle Neighborhood Association meeting at the church

Saturday, November 17: Leland Place Ministry, 3 p.m. in the church kitchen

Sunday, November 18 after church, Thanksgiving Potluck—Bring a dish to share

BIBLICAL SCHOLAR TOPS UUCF REVIVAL PROGRAM NOV. 1-4

This year's Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship Revival will feature Biblical scholar Rev. John Dominic Crossan, presenting three lectures on the world, mission, and message of the Apostle Paul. The newly renovated West Shore UU Church in suburban Cleveland will host this event Thursday, Nov. 1, through Sunday, Nov. 4. A group from UNMC is talking about driving up together; please contact Sue Mosher if you're interested in driving or sharing a ride. There is a discount on the full registration fee if you register before Oct. 1. Full details are available on the Revival web site at



Chancel Flowers

Mary Templeton, Coordinator

November 4--Chancel flowers are given by Bob and Sally Segal in joyful celebration of the wedding of their daughter, Stacy Suzanne, to Paul August Neuland.

November 11--Chancel flowers are given in memory of Hope's grandmothers, Mabel E. Fogwell and Marion B. Carter, by Esther and Hope Fogwell.

November 18--Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Bobbie Birchard by her husband, Mike Dillon, and sons, Alex and Brendan Dillon.

November 25--Chancel flowers are given in memory of Sunny Ambursen and Kay Cronister by Mary Simmons.

Flowers for Advent and Christmas

December offers many opportunities for floral tributes. In addition to the weekly need for chancel flowers, we hope to array the steps to the altar with poinsettias. These also may be designated as gifts "in memory of" or "in honor of" friends and family. With the new red carpet, Christmas trees, greenery, and bright poinsettias, our church will dazzle us all during the holidays! Please contact Mary Templeton (202 333-5059) to participate in UNMC's grand tradition of decking the halls with an abundance of flowers.

Hanging O' the Greens! Mark Your Calendars Sunday, December 2

What? You're talking about Christmas already? Well, yes, we are!

After church, December 2nd, the first Sunday of Advent, we will be *hanging the greens* in the sanctuary for the season. Everyone, newcomers, especially, are invited to share in this UNMC tradition.

This year, the Worship and the Welcome and Membership Committees would like members and friends to donate fresh trees for the church sanctuary and other places inside the church. Any size, any variety of tree is welcome. Along with your tree, please donate a stand and white mini-lights for it.

In addition to the trees, we will need many hands to help make the sanctuary look beautiful. Mark that Sunday to stay late after church and help. Let's make this the most joyous Christmas ever at UNMC!

LELAND PLACE

Our next dinner is scheduled for **Saturday, Nov 17**. Please sign up in advance by calling or e-mailing the office at 202-387-3411 or office@universalist.org.

We meet in the church kitchen at 3 p.m. and serve the meal at Leland, a halfway house on North Capitol Street for men recovering from addiction, about 5 p.m. Volunteers usually divide the cost of the meal, about \$15 to \$25 per person.

If you are short of time and would still like to support the Leland program, use one of the designated Leland envelopes in the pew racks to make a donation during the offering. This will enable folks who are short of time, but not money, to volunteer their labor for the dinner. If you'd like to take advantage of the "time-but-not-money" option, see Pastor Lillie or Dave Skidmore.

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 November, the recipient of Sharing Our Plate will be Food for all. Food for All is a non-profit organization that strives to provide food to those who are in temporary situations of need. Our clients are generally elderly citizens, handicapped, or single mothers with young children. Each week we accept referrals from social workers who have been contacted by individuals, and in some cases, we receive calls directly from individuals in need. The majority of the food is obtained from the ?Capitol Area Food Bank, although we also receive donations from area supermarkets and farms. The operation is entirely volunteer operated, with the assistance of a federal grant.

Project Harvest Hope

Helping Preserve the Unitarian Homelands
of Transylvania

The villages of Transylvania have been home to Unitarians since the Reformation. Now the villagers are struggling to meet the challenges of globalization, European Union accession and maintaining rural life. Project Harvest Hope presents our efforts to preserve the environment and the traditional way of life in the Unitarian regions of Transylvania, Romania. See our video of the region and the people, and learn more about this struggle.

Thursday, November 15, 2007 at 7 PM
Kossuth House
2001 Massachusetts Ave
Washington, DC
Refreshments will be served
RSVP by Nov 8th
info@projectharvesthope.org

SUNDAY SERVICES

November 4 will be an "All Souls Sunday" and Rev. Henley and Deacons will be offering a celebratory memorial service grounded in the Philippine and Mexican "Day of the Dead" spiritual theme. Communion will be modeled after the communion of the Universalist Church of the Philippines.

November 11 "The Life We Are Called to Live" is Rev. Henley's sermon. Paul commends his fellow Christians to continue to live the kind of life that is exemplary as Christians, and tells them they will be blessed with love.

November 18 Unitarian Universalist seminarian Kristen Grassel will be preaching on reframing and reinterpreting Biblical images for today. Toward the end of the book of Isaiah, the prophet's original message is reinterpreted in light of the recent hardships and suffering of the people Israel. We as a faith, a nation, and a global community are being called by God to reinterpret old prophecy.

November 25 "After Thanksgiving, What Do You Do With the Leftovers" A sermon by Rev. Henley. There are all kinds of leftovers after family gatherings, especially those during the significant end-of-the-year holidays.

December 2 Advent begins. Rev. Henley invites you to begin thinking about making this a special, devotional holiday season for you and/or your family.

Wanted: UU Pen pals for UU Prisoners

Looking for a social justice project that UUs can do alone or in groups, in their own homes, whenever it's convenient? Over 300 prisoners have joined the UU Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) seeking liberal spiritual support by mail. About half of them are writing to a (non-incarcerated) UU 'pen pal' through CLF's "Letter Writing Ministry", but dozens more CLF prisoner-members are still on the waitlist.

All letters to/from prisoners are sent through the mail (so UUs without web/email can participate), and all letters from prisoners are forwarded through CLF's prison ministry (prisoners are told only their pen pal's first name). The CLF's prison ministry staff makes the 'matches' and remains available to all letter writers for advice/support. Individual UUs are welcome to apply, or a group of UUs from the same congregation can apply and ask to be 'matched' all at the same time (if they want to form an ongoing study/support group). For more information, see Ron Eanes as he participates in this ministry. please visit CLF's website www.clfuu.org/prisonministry to review the Guidelines for the Letter Writing Ministry and request an info-application packet, or write to the CLF Prison Ministry, 25 Beacon St, Boston, MA 02108(PrisMin@clfuu.org).

Parish Notes

A New Addition to the Lisle and Paul Hannah Family

Jackson Hannah has a new baby brother Peter Carlisle Hannah. He was born Friday, September 28th at 3:55 a.m., weighing in at 7.1 lbs. and 19.5 inches long! Dad Paul thinks Peter is “as cute as a button.”

Mother and baby are doing just fine. Lisle said, “We’ll be in church as soon as things get all settled!”

Around the Church



Above: Leland Place volunteers last Saturday afternoon, October 20, in our kitchen preparing a smothered pork chop dinner for the men of Leland Place: Mike, Angela, Judy, Alex, and Bill.

Upper Right: Maureen Jais-Mick, Development Director of The Green Door receives UNMC’s “Sharing Our Plate” check and the school supplies collected in October for their college-student clients.

Lower Right: Bob Segal, Sue Mosher, Perry King and Wendy Bond listen to Washington’s The Urban Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra who performed Sunday night, October 21, in our Sanctuary. Darrold Hunt, one of our newcomers, conducted the Suitland High School String Orchestra, Dr. Hovada Samandari, Music Director, and members of the Urban Philharmonic.



Board Notes from David Gatton, UNMC Moderator

It is great to see UNMC on the upswing. On Sunday mornings we have a lot of visitors from the neighborhood, newcomers becoming regulars, and several families with infants and toddlers. There is a sense of joy and enthusiasm in our services.

Thanks to everyone over the last two months who have contributed to special events and to the running of the church. And of course a special thanks to Pastor Lillie, the Choir, and to all of you who have supported the worship service through your attendance.

On more mundane matters, I am pleased to announce that the Board has re-energized its Budget and Finance Committee, to be chaired by Jeff Jacobs. Our Treasurer, Brian Pepper, and I will serve on the Committee that will be charged with setting some long-term strategic financial goals along with the daily (monthly) monitoring of expenses and contracts.

The board concluded, after reviewing the results from the McKim Organ Survey, that UNMC is not, at this time in its life, ready to provide a home for the McKim Organ. In many respects this is sad, because a lot of work went into its acquisition and storage.

The Board passed a resolution to form a new Organ Task Force that will:

- find a church or institution that would “take over” the McKim project
- identify and develop options and recommendations for the upgrade, renovation and/or replacement of the current organ

The Task Force will take into consideration each option’s overall feasibility and benefits, including such factors as quality of sound, effect on the aesthetics of the sanctuary, costs, longevity, installation, and practicality of implementation. Working with the Moderator and Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, the Task Force will also take into consideration overall support of the congregation and its ability to raise the funds necessary given additional capital demands and needs of the church.

If you are interested in serving on this Task Force please contact me, and I will be glad to discuss it further with you.

We all look forward to the autumn and Thanksgiving season. Safe travels to everyone.

Dave Gatton,
Moderator

Prayer Workshop Planned

The deacons of our church are planning a prayer workshop. It will be sometime in the New Year. More information will be in the December *Anchor*.

Recently, a young man who is a Unitarian Universalist—not at our church—said to me, “I am praying a lot because of my illness, and it seems to be making me feel better, do you think it’s my fantasy, Rev. Henley?”

His question highlights the conundrum or doubt or just plain unawareness many Unitarian Universalists have about prayer.

The workshop will introduce us to the many, many kinds of prayer and how prayer can enrich our lives.

Think—it’s not just about “petitions,” it is about a richer spiritual existence.

Look for more details next month.

The *Universalist Anchor* is published monthly for the members and friends of the Universalist National Memorial Church in Washington, DC. It is also on our website, along with Rev. Henley's sermons, and announcements and activities.

1810 Sixteenth Street, NW • Washington, DC
20009

Visit: www.universalist.org • (202) 387-3411

Rev. Lillie Henley, Minister, 301-655-3798, pastorlillie@universalist.org

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

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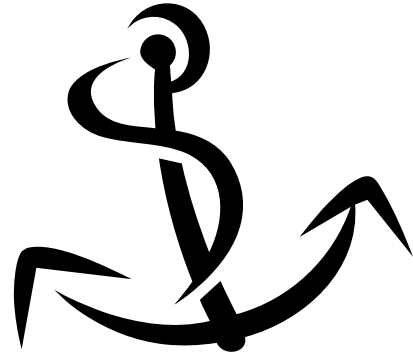
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Mr. Kirk Denton, Organist

Church Administration
email: office@universalist.org
Marguerite Bogle—(202) 387-3411

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



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