

# Universalist Anchor



## *From the heart ...*

“Teach me to do your will, for you are my God”  
(Psalm 142)

We live our modern lives in a world that moves so fast, sometimes we feel we are watching our lives instead of living them.

We believe we have some control, but the control we have is seemingly minor. We decide whether we brush our teeth in the morning or if we eat breakfast, but we do not decide when we wake up. Our alarm clock does! The obligations of our lives decide the reality of how much sleep we get.

We are so taken up sometimes in activities we wonder how we continue to function.

Ralph Burhoe in *Toward a Scientific Theology* tells us that there is a purpose and meaning to life which is far greater than our individual desires and pursuits. We are, he says, part of a symbiotic development of cultural and societal systems that are mutually beneficial.

Some call this greater purpose and meaning God’s plan. Some even call the symbiotic process God. We are as much a part of God as God is of us, and God’s will is as integral to our will as we are to God’s will.

This symbiotic relationship in which we exist is the will of which the Psalmist was singing. How do we honor God’s will in our lives? Do we listen for the Divine will to lead us to the purpose and meaning for which we are meant as human beings?

Have you ever felt that something is guiding your life—giving you a sense of meaning and purpose that you did not plan?

“Teach me to do your will, for you are my God” Psalm 142

See you in church,

Pastor Lillie

## *Sunday Services for October*

**Services begin at 11:00a.m.**

**October 5** — “When It Doesn’t Work the First Time” a sermon by Rev. Henley. We work, we build things, we enter into relationships, all with positive and hopeful thoughts; yet, somehow, sometimes, they don’t work out. What do we do then?  
Isaiah 5:1-7 and Luke 13:16

**October 12** — Rev. Relland considers dance as an art form worthy of our attention! Do we dance as religious people? Why do some religions ban dancing altogether? What is it about our bodies that might separate us from our spiritual side?

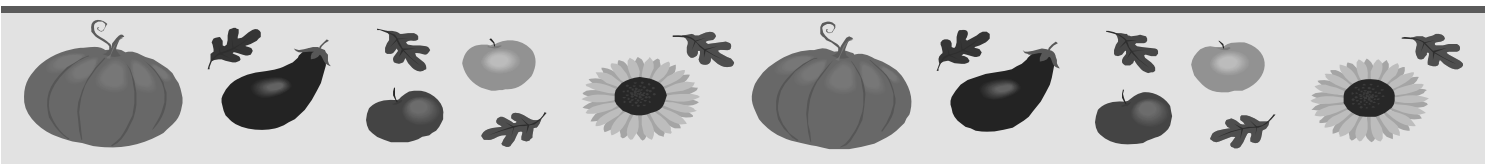
**October 19** — Trying to trap Jesus, the Pharisees ask if they should pay Roman taxes. Jesus says “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, give to God what is God’s. “Taxes for Caesar” Matthew 22:15-22 and Thessalonians 1:1-10

**October 26** — Exploring more Unitarian Universalist history, Rev. Henley will be preaching on Theodore Parker, a Unitarian minister in Boston in the first half of the nineteenth century. Parker was an abolitionist when his congregation was not. He was an egalitarian when it came to God, but not a feminist. He preached to thousands of people each Sunday.

### **Pray for Peace**

**Wednesday, October 1, at 6:00 p.m.** UNMC Vespers Service – The service will be dedicated to praying for peace. Individuals will have an opportunity to light candles of concern.

If you have questions, contact Rev. Henley.



## Autumn Inspirations Costume Fundraiser

Get another wearing out of this year's Halloween costume and invite your friends to join us on the evening of Saturday, November 1st, for an evening of music, fun, and fellowship for the benefit of the Church Building Fund. Festivities begin at 7 pm with snacks in the church parlor, along with a costume parade and contest. Prizes will be awarded for the best children's costumes, and the adult costume contest winner will be able to designate a charity to receive a \$100 donation. At 7:30 there will be a concert of Broadway musical and comedy selections performed by Music Director Darryl Winston and several other noted Washington-area soloists. The concert will be followed by dessert and coffee in Perkins Hall. Tickets to this event will be \$10, and available after church in October or at the door. Children are welcome, particularly in costume, and childcare will be provided. Please contact Ron Eames or Jeff Jacobs to volunteer to help decorate, bring, or serve refreshments.

## Venice's Musical Circle

On **Saturday, October 4, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.** at the Universalist National Memorial Church, 1810 16<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Washington, DC, **The Countertop Ensemble** (Chris Dudley, artistic director) and **The Washington Cornett and Sackbutt Ensemble** (Michael Holmes, director) join forces to present an evening of Italian and German Baroque music. The program will feature choral instrumental music by **Andrea & Giovanni Gabrieli, Heinrich Schuetz, and Adriano Willaert**, and will highlight the versatility of these two ensembles, known for their moving performances of baroque chamber works. Admission is \$20 for adults, \$15 for students. Additional information is available at [www.countertopquartet.org](http://www.countertopquartet.org). Inquiries may be directed to [info@countertopquartet.org](mailto:info@countertopquartet.org).

Michael Holmes is Music Director at The Unitarian Universalist Church of Silver Spring.

## UNMC Prayer Ministry 24-hour Prayer Request Line 703-568-9854

Member William Spruiell, a minister with Universal Prayer Ministries has volunteered to provide a 24-hour prayer request line for UNMC. If you have any prayer request, call 703-568-9854, and leave a message for prayer. William will be praying for the congregation every day as a ministry to the church.



Images from atop the UNMC bell tower. Taken by Eric Stetson. See accompanying article on page 3.



## Sacred Space and Living Memory: Reflections from a Quiet Afternoon at UNMC

By Eric Stetson

One fine summer day I had the opportunity to spend several hours on a self-guided tour of Universalist National Memorial Church. It was an experience I will never forget. I began in the most obvious place when visiting a church. Sitting in the darkened sanctuary, the silence was deep and profound. Though the ceiling soared above me, the space felt somehow intimate, like being immersed in the still waters of the Womb of God. Time seemed to slow down and speed up at the same time, losing all meaning.

I climbed the stairs to the gallery and looked down on the rows and rows of pews below. Imagining the thousands of people who had filled those pews over the years, the church began to take on the image of an organic body – souls entering in the vigor of youth and departing in the wisdom of old age, but the congregation itself remaining an undying embodiment of a great vision of God's love and human potential. Looking across the vast empty space of the upper reaches of the sanctuary, I saw the illuminated stained glass windows as potent symbols of how close to heaven we can find ourselves right here and now.

I climbed the long, narrow, spiral staircase of the bell tower. Confined to this tunnel pressing in upon all sides, simultaneously drawn upward while looking down to make sure my feet didn't slip, it felt as though I were ascending upon the *tariqa*, the "straight path" of faith as it is known in Islam – yet with a twist, the ever-winding journey of Universalism! Jesus, truly a master of the spiral staircase, showed by defying all the expectations of this world that the path to heaven is never as straightforward as one may believe. One must embrace the inevitable twists and turns in order to reach one's goal.

Up and up the staircase went, until finally I emerged at the top and flung open the door. I stood in the bright sunshine upon the very pinnacle of our cathedral and looked out at the city of Washington, D.C., stretching in all directions before me. Looking down 16<sup>th</sup> Street, known affectionately as "God's Avenue," I could see the steeples and domes of various other churches and the Washington Monument rising like a monolith in the distance. It struck me that I was looking upon a city that can be thought of as the New Rome – the center of political power in the modern world – from the uppermost reach of the most universal spiritual community to be found within its borders. What a vista and what a great height to attain – both physically and spiritually!

After descending from the tower, I proceeded to the library. Perusing numerous copies of old books about various religious subjects, I noticed that some looked to have been read many times, while others seemed never to have been opened at all. What works of the mind and heart have been poured out upon these pages for posterity, I thought, by people who have passed on to realms beyond our world. What would they tell us if they could speak to us today?

Hanging on the walls of the library I found black-and-white photographs of Universalists who attended this church in the early part of last century. These folks – ranging in age from young children to the elderly – were dressed in the formal attire of their time, but their faces appeared to me as though I could have seen them at services last Sunday. In their eyes I saw the same openness and liberality of spirit, and the same cares, questions, and struggles that we all share regardless of the generation in which we are born. I also saw the enthusiasm of a spiritual community that was still relatively new, in a time when to be a Universalist was to be a bold and courageous voice for the progress of the human race during a century filled with darkness. What a debt of gratitude we owe these men and women who came before us, who founded our church and built it up and kept it going over the decades. How proud we should be of our spiritual forebears, and of the inheritance they bequeathed to us!

Alone in silence – surrounded by the solidity of stone, the richness of wood, and the ethereal lightness of the sun's rays streaming into a sacred space raised up many decades ago – I realized that I was not really alone, that in fact one could never be truly alone within the hallowed walls of UNMC. I could feel the spirit of "a great cloud of witnesses," as the Epistle to the Hebrews so eloquently puts it, watching over me and filling the very air around me with a fire from the heavens. I became aware of the timeless power of an all-embracing spiritual tradition that bubbled up from the hearts of women and men and was raised up in a great cathedral in our nation's capital.

Universalism is far from dead as some fear it to be. It's heyday may be in the past, but if we appreciate its beliefs, values, works, and traditions – striving to carry on the legacy of the Universalist Church in an active community of spirituality and service today – then we will find that it is amazingly alive and that its future is boundless.

Universalist National Memorial Church may not have the prestige of the great cathedrals of the world. But let there be no doubt about it, our church is truly a national memorial to the sacred vision of people who carried forth a movement of the human spirit that has flung open the doors of divine light on this planet. In my eyes, UNMC is a living memory cast in stone and glass and filled with spirit and flesh. It is a place of pilgrimage for all who are striving to know God without limitations and to love their brothers and sisters in the human family without restrictions. Let it ever be so!



## UNMC Bookshelf

### ***Remembrance of Things Past*** **[vol. 1: *Swann's Way*]:**

I was in my 50s before I was ready for Proust. Swann is the nicest man in the world, but not the smartest. Eventually he's banished from the "society" of his social inferiors because he won't let Mme. Verdurin boss him. That it would even occur to anyone to be so unbelievable as to regiment her friends? He just can't take it seriously. That anyone would be so low as to cook his goose for "disobedience"? He cannot face it. He's hurt, not angry, and works to get back in her good graces. (And Proust is full of surprises.) — *Kirk Perrow III*

### ***Things Seen and Unseen: A Year Lived in Faith*** by Nora Gallagher.

Gallagher takes us through her own journey of faith as a latecomer to the Episcopal Church, using the Christian calendar (Advent to Ordinary Time) to guide the narrative. Many stories revolve around a church soup kitchen and "radical hospitality" in the spirit of Jesus it entails. — *R. Russo*

## Leland Place Dinner Set for Saturday, October 18

Leland, a program of SOME (So Others Might Eat), is a halfway house on North Capitol Street for men in recovery from addictions. Volunteers will gather in the UNMC kitchen at 2:30 p.m., prepare a meal, and take it to Leland and eat with the men around 5 p.m.

If you are interested in participating, please let the church office know at [office@universalist.org](mailto:office@universalist.org) or 202-387-3411. Volunteers share the cost of the meal usually, between \$15 and \$25 per volunteer.. If you'd like to volunteer your time only, please see Dave or Pastor Lillie. If you are short of time but would like to contribute to the Leland effort, please use one of the special envelopes found on the table near the entrance to the sanctuary and drop it in the collection plate.

## Representing UNMC at the UUA General Assembly

Every year, Unitarian Universalist congregations send delegates to a convention, called General Assembly (GA), which occurs in a different city in North America each summer. In 2009, it will occur in Salt Lake City, Utah. At the opening ceremonies, there is a banner parade, in which hundreds of people march proudly representing their home congregations. We have not had an intact banner for several years at Universalist National Memorial Church to display in the parade. Making a new banner to encapsulate our religious home's spirit is a project worth doing so that the next time someone does represent our congregation at the GA, hopefully next year or 2010, we can be fully present in our Unitarian Universalist Association's festivities and heritage. If you would like to get in on this project, contact Devry Becker.

## Welcome and Membership Committee

The Welcome and Membership Committee hosted a new member lunch on September 20 for a discussion about UNMC and how they would like to serve the church. New members attending included Jeff Kellum, Eric Stetson, Devry Becker and Jan-Christine Johnson. They have planned an outing for Saturday, Sep. 27 to Southern Virginia to dig up plants to bring back to beautify the S Street side of the sanctuary.

The Building and Grounds Committee will be invited to the October Welcome and Membership meeting planned for Sunday, Oct. 5 after hospitality. A discussion regarding banners for the exterior of the church including permits, placement, color, design and wording is planned. Future Welcome and Membership meetings are planned for the first Sunday of the month after hospitality. Church members and guests are encouraged to attend. Additional committee members are needed.

At our September meeting, publicity and public relations were discussed for the UNMC fundraiser, Autumn Inspirations at Dupont Circle, planned for November 1. Press releases will be sent to the media and postcards will be sent to every residence in the church's zip code. In addition, Keith Maly will be hosting another meeting in October to discuss the UNMC web site and proposed changes.

**Washington National Wagner Society**

*"Bridging the multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-generational communities through the music of Richard Wagner"*

*Darryl Winston, Artistic Director  
Janice Rosen, President*

**Don't Miss...**

**A Lauritz Melchior Tribute**



Join noted singer, teacher, author, and famed Melchior biographer

**Shirlee Emmons**  
Author of "Tristanissimo"



Featuring a Lecture, a Mini-Concert, and a Reception/Book-signing  
(Be sure to bring your old copies of "Tristanissimo" copies are available on half.com)

**Saturday, November 15, 2008 at 7 pm**

**Universalist National Memorial Church**

1810 16<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W  
Admission \$20.00

**Washington National Wagner Society**

Darryl Winston, Artistic Director  
Janice Rosen, President  
1810 16<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, DC 20009  
[www.washingtonnationalwagnersociety.org](http://www.washingtonnationalwagnersociety.org)  
202 470 5559



**Chancel Flowers**  
**Mary Templeton, Coordinator**

- 5 October**--Chancel flowers are given by Mae Combs to celebrate the October birthdays of Mae and her mother, father, sister, niece, and two nephews.
- 12 October**--Chancel flowers are given in memory of Corinne and Seth Brooks by James and Evelyn Rowse.
- 19 October**--Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of their parents, Dorothy and Leonard Smith & William and Lynn Fox, by Lynn, Bill, and David Fox.
- 26 October**--Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of their cousin Vernie Sampson by Jeffrey, Catherine, and Brian Jacobs.

## A Musical Note



Our newly formed choir has been enjoying sharing their God-given talents, fellowship, and music in both rehearsals and in worship. We hope that you have not only enjoyed the extra presence of the choir during the services; but have at some point been sincerely touched spiritually by our musical offerings.

We are blessed to have wonderful soloist/section leaders who go beyond their “duties” to share their talents, lead, and are flexible as needed. They add that quality that will set us apart from a regular church choir. What we lack in size, we make up in quality and enthusiasm! As I said last month, each month we will be highlighting the choir members in the Anchor. We will start with the soloists.

### Meet Joyce Lundy...

When the call went out for singers, Joyce was the second to contact me. She said that she would like to sing under my direction again and that she would have August through October available. Realizing the caliber of this fine soprano, I invited her to join us as a “Guest Artist”. By the spontaneous applause of the congregation after Joyce’s rendition of Olive Dungan’s “Eternal Life,” I am sure that you will agree that she is a treasure and will have a bright future.



Joyce Lundy, a native of Washington, D.C., is a soprano who has performed to critical acclaim both nationally and abroad. “A major talent... a voice to look out for” – *The Intowner*; “A lush, full sound, full of great pathos” – *Concertonet.com*. Joyce has performed with the Municipal Opera Company of Baltimore, Washington National Opera, Wolf Trap, Opera Bel Canto, Diaspora Opera, The Aria Club of Washington, Summer Opera Theater of Washington and the Washington National Wagner Society, Southside Music Festival, National Symphony Orchestra, RAI Television, the Amafi Coast Music Festival and the Maryland Opera Society.

Ms. Lundy was a first place winner in the National Association of Teachers of Singing Vocal Competition, and runner-up in the Leontyne Price, Maryland Opera Society and Marie E. Crump competitions. Joyce was also a finalist in the Gretchen Hood, Baltimore Opera and Fairfax Choral Arts Society competitions. Joyce earned her Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from Bucknell University and her Master of Music degree in Operatic Performance from the University of Maryland. In January 2008, Joyce sang the role of the Mother in the Maryland Opera Society’s production of *Hansel and Gretel*. Upcoming engagements include *La Traviata*, *Lucrezia Borgia* and *Peter Grimes* with the Washington National Opera. In November of this year, Joyce will interpret the title role of *Aida* with the Aria Club of Washington. A much sought after performer, Ms. Lundy also serves as a vocal instructor at the Levine School of Music of Washington, DC.



The choir needs your support! We are not asking for money. The best way for you to support us is to come to church! We are doing our part.

### Answer to Last Month’s Musical Question:

In Western [musical notation](#), the **staff** is a set of five horizontal, equidistant, parallel lines and four spaces, on which musical [note](#) symbols are placed to indicate their [pitch](#).

**This Month’s Musical Question:** What is a cleft?

Blessings, Darryl

## UNMC's Community Minister Intern



I am starting a small group ministry with other young adults here at our church. People who want to connect to others, build their spiritual gifts, or make a greater contribution through group projects join small groups. They desire a conversation beyond coffee (though some small groups DO meet in coffee shops!)

A small group might have different names: the Methodists call them "Covenant Disciple Groups;" some UU churches call them "Chalice Circles." Run by a facilitator, these groups support the larger church's mission by acting on the value of intimate connection. In "small" ways, members in these groups create goals that meet their spiritual needs and are acted out by the group. For example, let's say you are a member of a small group. There's about 5 or 6 other people in the group. You may have a spiritual discipline on which you would like to focus, and might ask the others in the group to hold you accountable for this. Who knows, the group may decide to all work on it with you! Alternatively, the group may form a pattern of check-in that provides some much-needed pastoral support in your week. There are as many ways a small group can function as there are dynamics created by whoever is in that group!

If you have questions or if you are a 20's or 30's-minded young adult who wants to join our "group," feel free to give me a call! See you in church,

Michael Relland ([mjvielle@yahoo.com](mailto:mjvielle@yahoo.com); 301-233-3552)

### News Gleaned from the UU Christian Fellowship Newsletter

UNMC's own Kelly Murphy Mason, who has continued to work in New York after her ordination in 2006, was elected vice president of the Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship at the UUCF annual meeting in June. To see Kelly in action, spreading a welcoming message at the UUCF booth at General Assembly last summer, watch the video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mlnxrbEXvN4>.

Pastor Lillie is scheduled to lead the communion service at the UUCF Revival in Tulsa, OK, March 26-29. Mark your calendar! Keynote speaker will be Bishop Carlton Pearson of New Dimensions Worship Center (<http://www.newdimensions.us/>), a one-time mega-church pastor who made national headlines when he began preaching a universalist message. More information is available at <http://www.uuchristian.org/revival>, with online registration opening in January.

#### Retreat with Carl Scovel: Seeing and Imagining Jesus

The Rev. Dr. Carl Scovel, now retired after his long tenure at King's Chapel in Boston, will lead a retreat over the weekend of November 14-16 at Glastonbury Abbey, a Benedictine monastery in Hingham, MA. Participants will discuss various representations of Jesus through Christian history, reflect on the theology such images represent, explore how Jesus has appeared to them, and worship both as a separate retreat group and with the monks. The cost of \$120 covers room and board. Contact Carl at [carl-scovel@comcast.net](mailto:carl-scovel@comcast.net) or at (617) 522-3681 for more information or to register.

—Sue Mosher

### Feedback Sought on UUA Principles and Purposes Revision

The UUA Commission on Appraisal is seeking feedback through October 16 on its draft of Article II of the Unitarian Universalist Associate bylaws, the Covenant section that defines the purposes of the UUA and contains what are commonly known as the "Seven Principles" of Unitarian Universalism. The revised text will be presented to the General Assembly in 2009 for an initial vote, with a final vote planned for the 2010 General Assembly. To download a copy of the revision and submit your feedback, visit

<http://www.uua.org/aboutus/governance/electedcommittees/appraisalcommission/119345.shtml>

## Organ Update

Members of the Board of Trustees met recently with a representative of the Daffer Organ Company to hear proposals for the renovation of the church's 1929 Gottfried Organ and some alternative pipe and electronic organ options. The options could include incorporation of some elements of the McKim Organ, for which we are currently trying to find a good home. Our next step will be to listen to some organs installed by the Daffer Company in DC and Baltimore. If you would be interested in helping us "audition" some organs on a Saturday this fall, please contact Dave Burton or Jeff Jacobs.

## Religious Education

The Religious Education program resumed for the new year on Sunday, September 14. The new curriculum is called The Seven UU Principles and Jesus. Each week teachers and students will review a principle and discuss its meaning. Then a relevant passage or two from the Bible will be read, compared and contrasted with the principle. We hope to have different adults in the congregation join us from time to time as we love to hear different perspectives and examples from our daily lives.

## Sharing our Plate

The Jeanne Jugan Residence of the Little Sisters of the Poor is our October recipient. Their mission — "As Little Sisters of the Poor, we care for the elderly in the spirit of humble service ... We welcome the elderly as we would Jesus Christ himself and serve them with love and respect until death." The Jeanne Jugan home has about 100 residents. To learn more visit their website at

<http://www.littlesistersofthepoor.org>



## Donate a Free Mammogram

Manish Dhar Bajracharya, who is now at the Albany Medical Center, has asked us to go to the Breast Cancer site to help fight breast cancer

The Breast Cancer site is having trouble getting enough people to click on their site daily to meet their quota of donating at least one free mammogram a day to an underprivileged woman. It takes less than a minute to go to their site and click on 'donating a mammogram' for free (pink window in the middle).

This doesn't cost you a thing. Their corporate sponsors/advertisers use the number of daily visits to donate mammograms in exchange for advertising.

Here's the web site! Pass it along to people you know.

<http://www.thebreastcancersite.com/>