

Universalist Anchor



April 2007

Words by Rev Lillie

Recently, I was talking with someone about life's blessings. *Happiness* came up, and he said, "I think being grateful is part of happiness."

That got me to thinking about a movie I watched recently titled *Three Wishes*, and it is about a man who is terribly unhappy in his youth because his father is supposedly killed in action in Korea. It is a magical movie; Patrick Swayze is a ghost—not the first time he played a ghost—who travels about the land giving families three wishes.

If a person doesn't make a wish, Swayze makes a wish for them. The young boy is so unhappy, that he can't even make a wish, so Swayze makes a wish for him.

Years later, when this man is grown, his life begins to fall apart; he loses his business and may lose his home. He is miserably unhappy, but his wife tells him, "This might be the best thing that ever happened to us."

He doubts it, but somehow finds himself in a place where he encounters Swayze again. They talk, and Swayze says, "Don't you ever wonder what I wished for you?"

The man says, "I always thought your wish was my father coming back home to us, which made me so happy." And Swayze says, "No, what I wished was that you would find happiness with whatever life brought you."

"Look around," and there was his wife and children playing on the grass, "you have so much to be grateful for, so many reasons to be happy."

My personal philosophy for many years was that happiness is for parties, special occasions, and vacations. It was a feeling that could not be sustained for very long. How could a person be happy all the time, especially when there was tragedy in her or his life, or when s/he looked at the world and saw so much pain? What one wanted to achieve in life, I decided, was *contentment*, a continuing sense of well-being or wholeness, each and every day.

When my friend said, "...being grateful is part of happiness" it touched a chord within me, and I realized that he was describing my definition of *contentment*. I realize now that perhaps each of us has our own words to describe our desire for wholeness in our lives.

We don't reach that place, however, without gratitude. Someone wrote, "Happiness is recognizing and appreciating what we do have." That is what the movie *Three Wishes* was all about.

My prayer for us is that we take the time each day to count our blessings, to express gratitude for the gifts God has given us. Whether it is in daily prayer, a gratitude journal, or quiet whispers throughout the day, gratitude will enrich our lives and become a vital element in our continuing sense of well-being.

God bless you and yours,
Pastor Lillie

Little Friends for Peace Interested in a Peace Camp for Children?

We have an opportunity to offer a peace camp for children! It would happen on the mornings of July 30-August 3 or evenings over supper on a variety of dates.

Leaders would be MJ & Jerry Park who founded Little Friends for Peace 27 years ago. They live in Mount Rainier, MD, and have parented 6 children.

In the camp 4-11 year olds explore their experiences of peace and 'unpeace', dramatize peace heroes, play cooperative games, and learn the 'Peace Train' method for winning with, or loving their enemies.

Our adults and teens would lead small groups or be special presenters in music, art, protecting Mother Earth...

Talk to Rev. Henley by April 10 if this stirs your interest.
www.LFFP.org 4405 29th St., Mt. Rainier, MD 20712 301 927-5474 mjpeace@gmail.com



Religious Education/Youth Group

It was fun to have Marti Martinson join us for part of our class. We invite members of the congregation to drop in and "check us out!" . . . just not all at once!!

We have discussed the disturbing story of the battle of Jericho. Parental input on this subject is welcome.

We thank Dara Petersen, our Youth Director extraordinaire, for all her work in setting up the field trip to the nearby Islamic mosque. Stephen Pepper represented the Youth Group, and we asked him his impressions. He said that the building was bigger than he expected and that there was no dome, only a minaret. He was surprised to see a couple of Caucasians and a lot of African Americans in attendance. He thought it would be all Arabs. One strong impression of the visit was the HEAT! Stephen said that it was very hot inside the building. It had thick walls and many windows to help regulate the temperature. He commented on the "bunch of geometric shapes" and pictures of flowers throughout the building. During the question-and-answer session with the Islamic guide, Stephen learned that Lent and Ramadan were similar observances in that they require fasting.

Please mark the UNMC "Coffee House" on your calendars for the end of the month. The RE/Youth Group have been asked to help out, so you KNOW it will be a good time! Also, please remember to check food boxes/bags for any Box Tops for Education labels, clip them, and drop them into the little box in the foyer. Thanks.

Reverend Henley's Office Hours

Tuesday and Thursday 10-4

All other times by appointment

301-655-3798

Chili Cook-off

Twenty people enjoyed games, camaraderie, and chili in Perkins Hall on March 10. Especially welcome were newcomers Amanda, Molly, and Molly's two-month-old daughter, Eve. Brian and Stephen Pepper shared game prizes, while Dave Skidmore took top honors among the five chili contestants with his pork chorizo version. Sue Mosher's white bean chicken chili was the runner-up. (Recipes below) Pastor Lillie promises that she'll work hard all year so that she can uphold the honor of Texas and win next year's chili cook-off. Many thanks to the deacons for organizing this event!

Dave's Chili

Ingredients

2 lb Mexican pork sausage (chorizo)

2 T olive oil

1 large onion, chopped

2 ex. large garlic cloves, chopped

1 lg. green pepper, diced

2 cans (28 oz) whole tomatoes

2 cans (15 oz) black beans

2 cans (15 oz) dark red kidney beans

2 cans (15 oz) great northern or other white bean

1 (12 oz) bottle dark beer

1T Mexican chili powder

2T cumin

3 T honey

In a large pot or kettle with a heavy bottom, sauté the sausage in the olive oil. (before sautéing, prick sausage several times with fork to prevent skin from bursting.)

Remove the sausage and set aside to cool.

Sauté onion, pepper and garlic until soft. (About 10 minutes)

Slice the sausage into bite size pieces and return to pot.

Chop the tomatoes and add to pot along with the liquid from the cans.

Rinse the beans and add to pot along with beer.

Stir in spices and honey. (Add more spice to taste.)

Simmer on low heat -- no cover -- for about an hour.

Stir frequently to prevent burning on the bottom.

White Bean Chicken Chili

Serves 8-10

1.25 lb thin-sliced chicken breasts (or 1 lb diced, cooked chicken meat)

3 tbsp vegetable oil, divided

1 onion, chopped

2 cloves garlic, minced

1/2 tsp dried oregano

1/2 tsp ground coriander seed

1/4 tsp ground cumin

1 can chicken broth (14 oz)

1 jar tomatillo salsa (16 oz)

1 can chopped green chilies (4 oz)

1 can diced tomatoes (16 oz)

2 cans white beans (15 oz)

1.5 cups corn (fresh cooked, canned, or frozen)

1. If using chicken breasts, lightly brush them with 1 tbsp oil, and grill or broil until done. Set aside to cool slightly, and cut into bite-size pieces.

2. Heat the remainder of the oil in a large pot over medium heat, and cook onion and garlic until soft.

3. Stir in oregano, coriander, and cumin and cook for another minute, stirring to mix well.

4. Add broth, salsa, and chilies. Bring to a boil, and then simmer for 10 minutes.

5. Add the corn, chicken, and beans. Simmer for at least 5 minutes, or until all ingredients are heated through.

6. If you want to make it ahead, you can transfer the chili at this point to a crock pot and let it simmer on low for 2-4 hours.

Serve with shredded Monterey Jack cheese, plus lime-flavored tortilla chips on the side.



Chancel Flowers

Mary Simmons, Coordinator

April 1—Palm Sunday—Palms are given in memory of Mary K. and H. Jerome Graham by their daughter and son-in-law, Sally and Douglas Simon. Palms are also given in memory of Norman and Martha Brace by Douglas, Juliet, and Marcia Brace and Steven and Carol Brace Shaw.

April 8—Easter—Flowers are given by Arthur G. and Jean Wiley in memory of their family members and in memory of Walter H. Wood, Sr. by his family.

April 15—Flowers are given in memory of Corinne H. and Seth R. Brooks by Amy T. Tipton.

April 22—Open

April 29—Flowers are given in honor of Dorothy Chapman by Mae Combs.

Sunday Services

April 1, Palm Sunday, Rev. Henley's sermon, "Wrongly Accused and Fortunate Escape" will reflect on the irony and implications of the events of Jesus' last days in Jerusalem and on the crucifixion. Biblical texts for this Sunday are Isaiah 50:4-9, Psalm 31:9-16, and Luke 23:1-24.

April 5, Maundy Thursday, 7:30 pm will be a "Feast of Friends," commemorating the last time Jesus ate with his disciples. All are welcome and bring your friends. Members are preparing food, please email office@universalist.org to confirm your attendance.

April 6, Good Friday Service at noon. A contemporary and contemplative service.

April 8, Easter Sunday – "The Hope of the Resurrection" will be Rev. Henley's sermon. She will explore with us the profound impact of Jesus' ministry and the Christ of Easter Sunday. Biblical texts: Isaiah 65:17-25, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, and John 20:1-8.

April 15 "When in Doubt, Call on the Holy Spirit" a sermon by Rev. Henley about the power of community and the synergy of group dynamics. For Universalists, the Holy Spirit is a metaphorical presence of the New Testament. But, we cannot deny the power of shared beliefs, work, and worship. The Biblical texts are: Acts 5:27-32 Psalm 118:14-29, and John 20:19-31.

April 22 Lisa Kemper, who will graduate from Andover Newton Theological School in May and is currently serving an internship with Rev. Mary Katherine Morn at the Fairfax UU Church, will preach: "From the Ashes." She will be exploring different images and symbols of resurrection, and how they help us to make meaning in our lives.

April 29 Colin Bossen, 2006 graduate of Meadville Lombard and the contract minister at the UU Fellowship of Pottstown: "Radical Love." The core message of Universalism is that in the end God forgives all of us for our sins. This service will look at what the Universalist message of radical love challenges us to act in our daily lives. Dostoevsky readings.

BEHREND BUILDERS SHELTER RENOVATION AND REPAIR PROGRAM

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. Not only is the organization that we have chosen for April a non-profit in our neighborhood, it is a step toward our interfaith efforts.

Behrend Builders is MCCC's award-winning volunteer program that works to repair, renovate, and rebuild Washington, DC. They work throughout the city to resuscitate homeless shelters, public and charter schools, homes for low-income families and elderly residents, recreational and community centers, social service agencies, and vital community spaces and facilities. Their goals are to meet the critical needs of Washington's low-income housing communities and to supplement the over-extended social service agencies and government programs of our city.

Founded 18 years ago by Ruth Small and Amy Goldstein, Behrend Builders is the longest-running program of its kind in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. Their volunteers



come from local schools and universities, the Washington DCJCC's outreach efforts, and local businesses and community organizations. They make every effort to have their volunteers work side-by-side with the recipients of their work, ensuring the creation of community and the building of bridges across the racial and socioeconomic divides that are so prevalent in DC.

THANK YOU

Reverend Lillie received a letter from For Love of Children thanking UNMC for the \$195.80 that was contributed from the January Share the Plate offerings.

Upcoming Events

COFFEE HOUSE BENEFIT FOR FOOD FOR ALL

Saturday, March 31st, 7:30 p.m. Perkins Hall

Please mark your calendars for this event, which will feature our own UNMC friend Bill Baker performing acoustic country blues along with a local talent showcase of poets and musicians. Bill has recorded CD's and is a long time participant/organizer of the Glen Echo Folk Festival in DC.

All proceeds will go to our ongoing food bank ministry Food for All (a project of AMURT), located in Perkins Hall, UNMC. Please contact Perry King if you would like to perform or assist with this event. We need help with publicity, setup, refreshments, and takedown.

Prepare Leland Place Dinner—Saturday, April 21. See article on this page for more information.

Ever thought about taking seminary classes?

There are more than 15 Unitarian Universalist students currently taking classes at Wesley Theological Seminary, and we'd love company! Wesley is a great option for quality theological education close to home, and there are enough UU students that the school provides some UU-specific classes for us, and we meet weekly for lunch and bi-weekly for theological reflection.

Wesley is affiliated with the United Methodist Church and is probably one of the most diverse seminaries in the nation, with dozens of denominations represented and a great mix of ages, races, cultures, and nationalities. See the Wesley website for more details, <http://www.wesleyseminary.edu/>, or email Rob Keithan, first-year Masters of Divinity student, at robkav@erols.com.

JPD SPRING CONFERENCE—SPREADING THE FAITH
April 27-29 in Harrisburg, PA. See the brochure in the hallway outside the parlor or visit www.jpduaa.org

Neighborhood Volunteer Opportunity

Language, ETC (a non profit ESL School located near Dupont Circle in Our Lady Queen of the Americas Church is recruiting fluent English speaking volunteers to teach English to adult immigrants, one night or day per week during the following times:

Mon. through Thurs. 6:30-9 PM

Tue. or Thurs. from 10 am to 1 PM

Sat. or sun. 2 to 5 PM

We ask for a 12 week commitment for one night or day a week. We use a co-teacher model so no experience is required, orientation/training is provided.



Language, ETC is located at 2200 California Street NW between Connecticut and Massachusetts Avenues. Visit our website at www.languageetc.org/.

LELAND PLACE OUTREACH MINISTRY

Leland Place Belatedly Celebrates Mardi Gras as the men of Leland Place and UNMC volunteers enjoyed dinner on St. Patrick's Day --- March 17. A full dining room at Leland -- a halfway house for men recovering from homelessness and addiction -- dined on jambalaya with sausage, shrimp and chicken and, for dessert, hot apple crisp a la mode. Thanks to volunteers Marti Martinson, Judy Burns and Dave Skidmore.

Our next dinner is planned for Saturday April 21. Volunteers are asked to reserve their spot by calling or e-mailing the office: office@universalist.org, 202-287-3411. We meet at 3 p.m. in the church kitchen with the goal of sitting down and sharing the meal at Leland, on North Capitol Street, at 5 p.m. Volunteers divide the cost of the meal -- a per-volunteer amount usually ranging between \$15 and \$25.

Leland is a program of S.O.M.E. -- So Others Might Eat.

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.

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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

Board of Trustees: Rob Bertram, Catherine Bocskor (Assistant Treasurer), David Burton, Elizabeth Crawford (Interim Secretary), Lisa Harris, Brian Pepper (Treasurer), Jennifer Sandberg, Al Templeton, and Greg Wigle (Moderator).

Mr. David Skidmore, Head Deacon

Donna Simonton, Interim Music Director

Mr. Kirk Denton, Organist

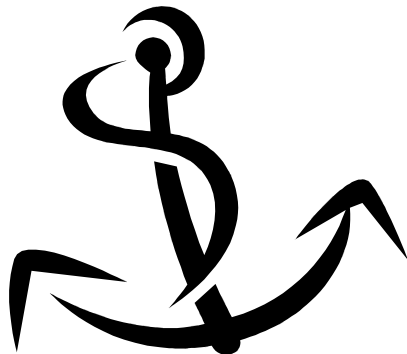
Church Administration — email: office@universalist.org

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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