

The Anchor

1, 2010

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February's special event—Hunger Benefit

The Swing Dance Benefit for Hunger has been rescheduled to Sunday, February 14. People who look at the online invitation see how many people have committed to attend. Please, show others your commitment to attend this. Purchase your tickets online at MardiGrasBenefit.eventbrite.com

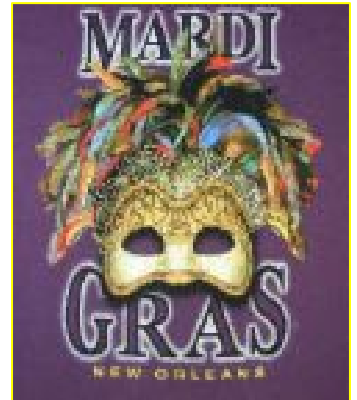
Time is getting close!

Rescheduled to Sunday evening, February 14, UNMC will host a Swing Dance fundraiser to Benefit Hunger. We call it, From P Street to the Philippines. We will have a live band performance at the dance with Fascinatn' Rhythm.

Proceeds will be split between [Food For All/AMURT](http://FoodForAll/AMURT) and the [Universalist Church of the Philippines](http://UniversalistChurchofthePhilippines). Parking will be available in the temple lot across the street.

Let others see how popular this event is by purchasing your tickets online. Go to

MardiGrasBenefit.eventbrite.com



Stay in touch

- Blog with Pastor Lillie
- Tweet with Pastor Lillie

Stay Spiritually Connected Throughout Your Week

Pastor Lillie is on well-deserved vacation and will be back in the pulpit on Sunday, February 7, 2010. To see what her sermons will be for the month of February. Scroll to p. 7.

Pastor Lillie now offers two ways to stay spiritually anchored throughout

the week.

Last month, Pastor Lillie began keeping a blog of her reflections. If you have not visited the site, take a look. Her sermons are still on our website, but she will also be posting excerpts on her blog.

Please, comment as often as you'd like at <http://universalistnational.wordpress.com>

Or send Lillie a tweet to PastorLil.

6-week class ~ Psalms

Psalms—6 weeks

The Psalms have longed served as a common prayer book for Jews and Christians, encouraging moral behavior and teaching the techniques of prayer and praise. They contain some of the bible's most powerful verbal images and metaphors, everything from still waters to harrowing visions of vengeance. Recent scholarship and inclusive language translations have given the Psalms fresh sound.

Join Deacon Sue Mosher during Lent for a 6-week class aimed at finding your own way of engaging with the Psalms through a variety of different approaches. The class will meet each Sunday after hospitality, at 12:30, and tentatively cover these topics:

- February 21
Introduction: History & Context, major themes, quotations within the New Testament
- February 28
Issues with Language: The “Angry” Psalms — attempts at inclusive translations
- March 7
The vivid imagery of the Psalms
- March 14
Use for personal devotion: the Psalms as a model for prayer
- March 21
Use in worship and celebration, chanting
- March 28
Wrap-up: lingering questions & the Psalms in Holy Week

You do not need any previous Bible study experience. While each session is deigned to stand on its own, you will probably have a richer experience if you attend as many sessions as possible and try, at least some, of the suggested “homework” exercises.

For more information, contact Sue Mosher by phone at 703-241-9828 or by email at sue@turtleflock.com

Class ~ Delighting in the Feminine Divine

We have been studying from the book of the same name about the Feminine Divine in the Old Testament. We are now moving into the New Testament. What did Jesus have to do with the Feminine Divine? Where is she in the New Testament?

Come join us, Sunday, February 14, at 12:30, as we

explore how we expand our vision of God. We will be meeting in the library on the second floor.

Our guide through this discussion, Jennifer Sandberg, is spearheading the organizing of a mission trip to Haiti.

What does Jesus have to do with the Feminine Divine?

Sharing Our Plate

Every month, this church shares a percentage of the plate offering with a different charity. For February, we will be sharing with Food For All.

Food For All is a non-profit whose mission is to provide food for those in temporary situations of need. Their clients are generally elderly citizens, handicapped or single mothers with young

children. They accept referrals from social workers who have been contacted by individuals. The majority of the food is obtained from the Capitol Area Food Bank. The operation is an entirely volunteer operation with the assistance of a federal grant, and they welcome new volunteers. Food For All rents space in our church to store the food, and the volunteers

meet here on Saturday morning to distribute it.

Interweave

This month UNMC Interweave will be preparing dinner as a service project for Leland Place on Saturday, February 20, at 2:30. Interweave is a nationally organized Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) group in UU churches. UNMC Interweave is a social service arm of the Welcome & Membership Committee. Social activities include happy hours, trips, brunches, dinners, potlucks, plays and parties. However,

Interweave social activities and service projects are open to ALL. Several times a year, UNMC Interweave has a social with the All Souls Unitarian Lambda Souls/Interweave group. This year a capital area UU Interweave social is planned for the Spring. Service projects include church related activities like making dinner for Leland Place, supporting the national UU Standing on the Side of Love Campaign, a booth at the Capital Pride

Festival, justice projects like marching for marriage equality, supporting DC GLBT organizations and other church related projects. Presently, this group is led by UNMC members Marti Martinson and Ron Eanes.

Young Adults

To find out what the young adults are doing, contact Rev. LA at lamccrae@gmail.com

Join her on Twitter.

Leland Place Barbeque ~ February 20

After snow forced the cancellation of the Leland Place dinner on December 19, Bob Sanderlin, meal leader, and crew tried again on January 16 — to great success. Bob, Marti Martinson and Angela Khaminwa, and 17 Leland Place residents, feasted on pork and chicken barbecue on buns, baked beans, cole slaw, macaroni salad, pies, cookies and ice cream.

Our next dinner is scheduled for February 20. If you are interested in volunteering, please RSVP to Dave Skidmore (dave_skidmore@cox.net) by Thursday or 703-237-2145.

Leland Place is a half-way house for men in recovery from addiction. It is located on North Capitol St and is a facility of SOME, So Others Might Eat. Volunteers gather in the church kitchen at 2:30 PM to cook the meal, then carpool

with the meal to Leland about 5:00, and return to the church about 6:30 PM. Volunteers generally share the cost of the meal, between \$15 - \$25 per volunteer. Those willing to donate their time only are welcome and should see Dave or Pastor Lillie.

Social Action

We will hold our next meeting on Tuesday, February 16, in the church parlour. Lentil soup and bread will be served at 7 PM with the meeting starting promptly at 7:30 and ending at 9 PM. Agenda items:

1. Review of the swing dance fundraiser "From P Street to the Philippines" with discussion and follow-up with UUA partner church in the Philippines.
2. Planning our church's response to Haiti earthquake: We held a fundraiser "From H Street to Haiti in June '09 with proceeds split between AMURT (who also runs our Food Bank housed in Perkins Hall) and the Lambi fund for Haiti, which works with women's empowerment
3. Planning for another Red Cross blood and bone marrow drive. Thanks to Shawn Logue for coordinating our last successful effort. Do we want to make this a regular event?
4. Holding a monthly UNMC social action coffee house event/fundraiser in Perkins Hal.

We especially encourage newcomers to the church to attend this meeting. If it is agreeable, we will plan to meet monthly on the 3rd Tuesday of every month.



Women's Group—Women Supporting Women

Women, we are relevant to each other at any stage of life ~ wherever we are ~ we are all beautiful and we all need each other. Let us embrace ourselves, find where we can belong with others who can support us, socialize and help us de-stress. Are you wondering about getting a mate, raising children, the roller coaster ride of a lifetime partnership, or health concerns specific to women?

Love, Relationships, Children, Women's Health ...

What can we give each other?

Beautiful older women, would you like to mentor and share with younger women?

Beautiful younger women, would you like to be a part of a larger community of experienced older women and see that you will always be relevant?

We are one.

BOW, Beautiful Older Women, is a group of women supporting women. Interested?

Contact Adelaide via email

WomenSupporting-Women@yahoo.com

or

703-517-2672



UNMC Response to Haiti

We are continuing to receive funds to be donated to the Red Cross. Sunday, February 7, will be the last Sunday that we accept monetary donations. Please give generously. There is much need in Haiti. In next month's Anchor, we will reveal how much was collected.

RESPONSE TO
HAITI

Jennifer Sandberg is spearheading the organizing of a mission trip to Haiti. Anyone wishing to help in this endeavor is asked to either contact Jennifer (gaelviking@hotmail.com) or Perry King, Social Action Chair (perikine@yahoo.com). Jennifer has been in contact with the UU service committee and has contacted other UU area churches. As the mission is organized, details will be posted in The Anchor.

Choir

I am sure that you have been noticing new faces in the choir. Our musical family is growing. In December, we added another gifted musician. It is violinist/ baritone-tenor, Raycourt Johnson. Three weeks ago, we added 3-octave plus vocalist Michele Baron. Both of these gifted musicians had added much to our musical diversity and fellowship. They fit in nicely with our resident bunch of serious but spirited singers. Someone recently labeled our rehearsals as "Thursday Night Live." I was taken aback for about a second until I realized that it was true, moreover, I was the host! It was suggested later by a choir member who wishes to remain anonymous (Matt Woorman) that we film our rehearsals and put them out there as a reality TV show. After seeing the junk on reality TV, I think that we would have a strong chance of succeeding? So, when I bring my TV crew from the studio, don't be surprised...

Michele Baron has performed as vocal soloist with the Royal Thai Navy Orchestra, the Orchestre National du Senegal, the Penang Symphony chorus and Orchestra, the San Francisco Concert Orchestra, as well as with piano, regional concert orchestras, jazz ensemble bands, with world-music instrumental groups. Her operatic roles include Tatania (*Eugene Onegin*), Mad-

dalena (*Andrea Chanier*) and Mimi (*La Boheme*). Music theater roles include Lili (*Carnival!*), Eliza Doolittle (*My Fair Lady*) and Rosabella (*The Most Happy Fella*). Ms. Burma also plays the Burmese harp, Japanese fife, Shimee and O-Taiko drums, Thai kaen and glong and other instruments. Michele's husband is with the Armed Forces, and as Michele puts it, he will soon be deployed to a sandy destination. Also, the choir is expecting ... well, kinda. Michelle will be bringing her two young boys to church and rehearsal. This sounds like more TV material in the making.

Right now I am preparing for *The King of Ragtime*, Scott Joplin's opera *Treemonisha*. It is a charming score combining both the classical and ragtime genres into a tuneful and visually appealing tapestry of characters and subplots that add up to an evening of great entertainment. This opera had been lost for 60 years or so and was revived in the 70's to great acclaim by the Houston Grand Opera. Will I be conducting? ...NO! I was "invited" to sing the part of Treemonisha's drunken yet loveable father, Ned. There is a lot of dancing in the show. As someone said, (Joyce and Matt)...seeing me dance on stage would be worth the price of the ticket.

Treemonisha opens on February 19th and will run for 3 consecutive weekends with Sunday matinees at The Atlas Theater on H Street NE. The production is produced by the Washington Savoyards. I hope that you can join us for the fun.

Blessings,
Darryl

UNMC
Artists' Series

Saturday March 13, 8:00 p.m.
UNMC Sanctuary

The Ratcliffe Choral Society will perform.

The Radcliffe Choral Society is one of the oldest and most preeminent collegiate women's choirs in the nation. They perform distinctive literature from the Renaissance to the present. In the past few years, the Choral Society has made an invited appearance at the ACDA convention; has commissioned new works in its honor, including distinguished compositions by Hilary Tann (2005) and Tarik O'Regan (2008); and has hosted several Festivals of Women's Choruses, celebrating women's choral music with renowned composers, publishers, conductors, and fellow singers throughout the nation.

For additional information on the Radcliffe Choral Society, please visit their website:

[http://
www.hcs.harvard.edu/~racs/
index.html](http://www.hcs.harvard.edu/~racs/index.html)

From The Heart

~ Pastor Lillie

This week I am in the Sonoran Desert. When I hike through the trails in the nearby hills, I pay attention to the plants and scurrying ground creatures and, of course, the side of the path which could or could not be a precipice down which I might fall if I do not pay enough attention.

"Oh, my God," you might say, "Pastor Lillie has trouble negotiating the UNMC Chancel steps sometimes!" Which is true, but I give the credit to my robes--and then

I wonder why I don't have them shortened.

Getting back to the Sonoran.

It is a landscape that demands one transitions from the burdens of the mundane and moves to an openness to the sacred and serene. For if anything is sacred, it is the unadulterated beauty of a place that nourishes the spirit and soul.

Exiting the car and placing my feet on the path which leads to a rocky, seemingly barren hill transforms the

trip into a spiritual journey. It is no matter what your God's Self looks like--or does not look like--in any desert, the Creator becomes real.

The connection to the sacred happens swiftly, before I even know it, and within a few dozen steps I am breathing slowly and intentionally, slowing my heartbeat to a calm which I only experience in meditation and prayer.

Describing the Sonoran has been a gift of many a writer

before me, and Discovery Channel is wonderful at introducing landscapes to which we could travel for a spiritual awakening. I will say that all the plants, creatures, and geologic formations are foreign to me, but they have a primal familiarity that awakens in me a joy and gladness.

We do not have to go to the Sonoran or Sahara or Sinai to experience profound spiritual nourishment. We can find it through prayer and contemplation anywhere. Yet, when we

need, or have an opportunity to go to, a landscape that takes us to a sacred experience, the time there is as ineffable as a mystical experience and as nourishing as any sonata ever written.

See you in Church!

Thanks to Deacons Marti Martinson, Sue Mosher, and Dave Skidmore for preaching during my professional leave and vacation. Everyone I have talked with has said the services were great.



The Longest Hike "Superstitious Mountain"



Superstitious Mountain is rumored to hold the Lost Dutchmen's Goldmine; however, I did not find the cave nor the gold!

Sermons In February

February 7

"Flash Mob; I Got a Feeling"

Reading II: Luke 5:1-11

February 14

"Holy Ground"

Reading II: Luke 9:28-43a

February 21 – First Sunday in Lent

"The Devil Made Me Do It"

Reading II: Luke 4:1-13

February 28- 2nd Sunday in Lent

"I Must Be On My Way"

Reading I: "Apology to a Poem I Forgot to Write"

William James

Reading II: Luke 13:31-35

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From the Editor:

Hello:

As the new newsletter editor, I'd like to share a few thoughts.

Communication with others is vital to letting them know how much they are needed in our lives. At UNMC, we want our visitors and members to know how much they are needed. We have many ministries where anyone can serve.

For a community, a newsletter is a central focus point for such communications. Use it to encourage others. Let them know how quickly they can plug-in so that they can decide where they feel that they would like to help and share in the wonderful sense of belonging to something much bigger that helps others in need.

This church community so quickly embraces people and is willing to hear all voices and ideas. Let them be known. As the editor for this publication, I am thrilled to help coordinate these communications for that purpose.

Our newsletter, *The Anchor*, is published on the 1st of the month. If you have an article that you would like to share, please submit it to the Editor's email address below by the 25th of the month and it will be published in the following month's newsletter.

Let's embrace the mission of this church by embracing our larger community and growing our ministries.

Peace,
Adelaide Eldridge

Editor
editor@SwingJazzBand.com

PS

As many of you know, my husband, Rick Eldridge, and I are professional jazz musicians and have a dance band called Fascinatn' Rhythm. Our band has performed for many country and yacht club dances and concerts. We are thrilled to be performing at the Mardi Gras Hunger benefit and to perform at some Sunday services. Our next Sunday performance: February 14!