



June 2007

# Universalist Anchor

**Words by Rev Lillie**

My father said, more than once, "Never argue about religion."

I don't know whether it was my father's wise words, or my own nature, but I've never been inclined to debate or argue religion. I have had *discussions* about religion, but when the other person(s) become argumentative, I find a way to extricate myself from the discussion.

I won't argue, because my father was correct. Beliefs and religion are highly-invested and internalized, and it takes more than words to change personal beliefs.

What people believe are their experiences, and what changes their minds and their lives, is living out the stories of their lives.

Perhaps you remember the news story of the rabbi and the skin heads surrounding a synagogue on the west coast a few years ago. The details for me are vague, but the story is clear. There was a group of skin heads who routinely desecrated a synagogue with graffiti and threatened the lives of the rabbi and his family.

It happened that one of the skin heads became chronically and critically ill. He had no one to take care of him, and the rabbi and his congregation became his constant support system. It was not very long before the skin head changed his mind about his "enemies."

Reaching out, caring for, forgiving, and reconciling are the actions that changed the lives of everyone involved. It was not words; it was behavior that

changed their lives.

When we think about making a difference in the world, it is not necessarily what we say, but *who we are* and *what we do* that changes people and conditions.

Making a difference is about how we involve ourselves *in relationship* with others, and how we involve ourselves *in the stories of others' lives*. Because we all realize, eventually, it comes down to our shared existence.

Living out our religion changes not only others' lives, it changes our own lives, too. If our lives are a witness to our beliefs, then we never have to argue with anyone about religion.

See you in church,

Pastor Lillie

## Religious Education/Youth Group

Many, many thanks to Alberta Bridges for filling in at the last minute to teach the R.E. class. They had a wonderful lesson on David and Goliath--and you should see their life-sized drawing of Goliath!!

A big thank you to Paula Harrison for taking charge of the nursery on Mother's Day. As for the R.E. class on Mother's Day, it was a fun "assembly line" to create a delicious dessert called "Dirt." Cups of crushed Oreos and chocolate pudding layers, complete with Gummi worm, flower and spoon, were served in the parlor after church service in celebration of this holiday and the importance of family.

The R.E. and Youth members are preparing for their upcoming service on June 10. It will be the culmination of the year.

Thank you for all the Box Tops for Education donations!! Please keep the flow coming.

## Time for Ministerial Installation

Invitations went out weeks ago; now it's almost here! We hope everyone is planning to attend the Reverend Lillie Henley's Ministerial Installation, scheduled for this Sunday, June 3, at 5 p.m.

We hope everyone remembered to RSVP to Church Administrator Marguerite (needed to help Jeff Jacobs and his reception team of Sally Segal and Jennifer Sandberg with their planning). Reception fare will be organized around the theme of stops in Lillie's sojourn toward UNMC and should be fun.

Lisa Harris and Donna Simonton have been assisting Lillie in organizing the Installation Service on behalf of the Worship Committee.

Brian Pepper, Al Templeton, and Jorn Dakin are leading the set-up/cleanup team, and by now are putting the finishing touches on setup for this important event in the life of our community of faith.

Thanks to Liz Crawford, Chair of the Welcome & Membership Committee, for leading our Guest Relations & Hospitality team, and especially for organizing the recent all-church cleanup day that has helped "spruce up" UNMC.

And thanks to everyone else in the congregation who already has pitched in or will pitch in to help in one way or another. Now, all that is left is for UNMC actually to put its best foot forward publicly and make this Installation a joyous and successful event for all at UNMC, in the UUA, and in the greater community.

-- Vicki Pepper & Mary Templeton

## UNMC CHURCH CLEAN UP

When the cloud of dust settled after Clint and Ron sanded the rough plaster and peeling paint off the south wall in Perkins Hall on May 19, the nearly 20 volunteers who spent the day cleaning could enjoy the fruits of their labor: a spic and span Universalist National Memorial Church.

The walls of Perkin's Hall practically sparkled thanks to Denise, Irina, Jorn, Mark and Vicki who scrubbed scuff marks and grime off the walls. And – for the first time in a long time – the floor of Perkin's Hall was completely clear of clutter, complements of Scott, Mark and Elizabeth who polished and stacked more than a hundred wooden chairs. Al, Perry and Mike also sorted and removed several old tables from the room.

Perry, with the help of Rob and Mike, also successfully conquered the directions for assembling a rolling rack that now holds several new banquet tables.

Down the hall, David H. cleaned up the janitor's closet – removing old, hazardous cleaning supplies, while Catherine and Sally tackled the women's room in the basement. Mike and Alex also added their strength to remove the old sofa in the women's lounge to make room for a new one.

That's not all: Sue, Alex and Jorn tidied up sanctuary and changed light bulbs in the chandeliers so we can all read our hymnals.

(Speaking of hymnals, our music director, Donna, tidied the music room and showed off our gleaming – or soon to be – church to fellow UU-ers from Paint Brush.)

Even Skeeter, Lillie's dog, contributed by supervising while Lillie cooked clam chowder and made one of her famous salads for all the volunteers at lunch. Mary T. and Debbie kept Lillie company in the kitchen by sorting through the pantry, organizing dishes and washing dish racks and other items.

Megan and Irina continued the cleaning on Sunday by disinfecting the nursery and RE room. They also sorted crayons, markers and other toys.

Thank you everyone for making UNMC's clean-up day a success!

## NEW DEACONS ADDED

Lisa Harris and Marti Martinson are new deacons. Rev. Henley nominated them at the Annual Meeting. While there was not a quorum to vote for their appointments, they were heartily approved *in spirit* by the congregation present.

“Approved ‘in spirit,’” Rev. Henley said, “means to me, that they are deacons and we will welcome them at our June 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday service. A quorum vote is a formality that we can obtain at our semi-annual meeting in the fall.

Our deacons are an integral part of our collaborative ministry and provide lay pastoral care to the congregation. When Rev. Henley is out of town, or whenever it is needed, the deacons offer themselves as a resource for congregational needs.

In addition to Lisa and Marti, our deacons are: Perry King, Richard Hurst, Clint McCully, Sue Mosher, Vicki Pepper, Jennifer Sandberg, and David Skidmore. Their telephone numbers are in our Congregational Directory.

## Leland Place Volunteers Brave Crowded Kitchen

Leland Place volunteers -- Denise Lewandowski, Bill Baker, Judy Burns, Dave Skidmore and Pastor Lillie -- produced three delicious pork and beef meatloaves, a mountain of homemade mashed potatoes and garlic-soy green beans and shared them with a full dining room of appreciative Leland men on May 19. (And they braved a kitchen crowded with stacked chairs and other flotsam from the Perkins Hall clean-up to do it!)

Want in on the next culinary adventure, scheduled Saturday June 16? RSVP to Dave Skidmore, in care of the church office, 202-387-3411. Volunteers gather at the church kitchen at 3 p.m., with the aim of sharing the meal at Leland at around 5 p.m. They share the cost of the meal, usually \$15 to \$25 per volunteer.

Leland is a halfway house for men on the journey from homelessness and addiction to independence and sobriety. It is a program of SOME (So Others Might Eat).

## Sunday Services

**June 3** “Wit and Wisdom” Is there a wisdom beyond rational decision-making? Who possesses that kind of wisdom? Texts Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 and John 16:12-15 Rev. Henley preaching.

**June 10** “Some Things You Never Tell Your Teens” Our annual teen and youth service will recognize Ian McCully’s graduation from high school. Rev. Henley will share some of her research into “Teens and Parents Today”.

**June 17** A Fathers Day Service, “Remembering Our Fathers and Leaving a Legacy,” a sermon by Rev. Henley. **Communion Sunday**

**June 24** “Sundae Sunday” a service which recognizes new members, new deacons, volunteers, installation and charge to the Board of Trustees. The Deacons will provide ice cream sundaes for everyone after the service!

## Upcoming Events

**Sunday, June 3:** 5:00 p.m. Reverend Henley’s installation

**Sunday, June 10:** 6:00 All Souls choir will perform in our sanctuary,

**Saturday, June 16:** Leland Place Ministry, 3 p.m. in the church kitchen

Reverend Henley’s Office Hours

Tuesday and Thursday 10-4

All other times by appointment

301-655-3798

## 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 June, the recipient of Sharing Our Plate will be HIPS, Helping Individual Prostitutes Survive. HIPS' mission is to assist female, male, and transgendered individuals engaging in sex work in Washington, DC in leading healthy lives.

HIPS was formed in 1993 by community and police representatives in response to the recognized need for specialized services for youth engaging in sex for gain in Washington, D.C.

HIPS reaches over 100 sex workers each night on outreach and makes over 8,000 contacts every year. Over 4,500 of those contacts are with youth under 24.

Three nights a week, from 9:00pm until 5:00am, HIPS staff and volunteers, provide education and counseling, and distribute safety materials, clothing and food to sex workers on the streets. HIPS works to build positive relationships with sex workers on the street through active listening, consistent outreach and unconditional support..

All of our services provide comprehensive, unconditional support, utilizing harm reduction models to assist youth and adults on the street to identify the skills they need or already have to make healthier life choices for themselves.

*From a recipient of Sharing Our Plate*

Lillie received a nice note from Green Door, the recipient of our February Sharing our Plate.

Judith Johnson, President and CEO, "It's wonderful to have our near neighbors care about us and support our mission. I'd love to have any of you come for a tour. Thank you for your caring."

Our gift of \$111.11 will go toward their work with more than 900 women and men with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and other mental illnesses who come to Green Door.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Big changes are coming our way as we begin long-planned renovations on the first floor of the church – including a bathroom – and move closer to an organ decision, according to board and task force members who updated members and friends of UNMC at the Annual Parish Meeting May 20.

While **we fell short of a quorum and, therefore, could not vote** on pending matters, representatives from the congregation reviewed the budget and other pressing matters. Together they agreed in spirit that:

- **Many members and friends UNMC are comfortable and happy with the Declaration of Faith** that we currently recite during service and would like to continue to do so, even though there was no quorum to officially adopt the declaration.

- **Marti Martinson and Lisa Harris will work with the current deacons** in spirit of acceptance until they are formally approved as deacons at the next congregational meeting.

**We will look at new ways to use our sanctuary**, including offering it for funerals.

**Pastor Lillie also reports** that while our church excels at pastoral care, in-reach, liturgist commitments and living out our congregational covenant, we need to move forward with more social activities, more welcome and membership involvement, more adult Sunday school classes and better communication via The Anchor.

The nominating committee also **proposed the changes to the board** including: **David Gatton** as moderator, **Liz Crawford** as secretary, **Brian Pepper** as treasurer, **an opening** for assistant treasurer, **Robert Bertram** to complete the second year of a two-year term expiring in May 2008, **David Burton** for a two-year term expiring May 2009, **Jeff Jacobs** for a two-year term expiring May 2008, **Jennifer Sandberg** for a two-year term expiring May 2009, **Greg Wigle**, for a two-year term expiring May 2009 and **Sue Mosher** as Registrar (one-year term). **Lisa Harris** and **Al Templeton** continue their terms which expire May 2008. Because there was no quorum, the board will "fill itself" at the next board meeting June 4.



## Chancel Flowers

**Mary Simmons, Coordinator**

**June 3**—Flowers are given in loving memory of Reverend Henley's parents, Lillie Margueritte and Clarence, and siblings, Blanche Murphy and James Henley.

**June 10**—Flowers are given by Paul and Lisle Hannah in loving memory of Lisle's father, J. Carlisle Rippard.

**June 17**—Communion

**June 24**—Open

**XXXXXXXXXXXX**

## Congregational Meeting, cont

The **organ fundraising** is under way now that the board reviewed a task force charter. Look for more information about the organ – including sketches of what the organ options look like in the balcony – on a display board at church.

**Other upcoming events** and changes to watch for include:

- **Liturgist training**, in which the Worship Committee will go over what is required of liturgists. The first training is on June 7 and the second will be in July.
- **Summer schedule** will begin July 1 to Sept. 2. During this time services will be at 10:30.
- **Musically gifted volunteers** will participate in Sunday services this Summer.
- **The creation of an archive task force** to go through materials on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.
- **Developing steps to memberships** and greeter trainings.

Please note that these are just highlights from the meeting. A complete account (minutes) from the meeting will be presented for approval at the next congregational meeting.

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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Rev. Lillie Henley, Minister, 301-655-3798, [pastorlillie@universalist.org](mailto: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

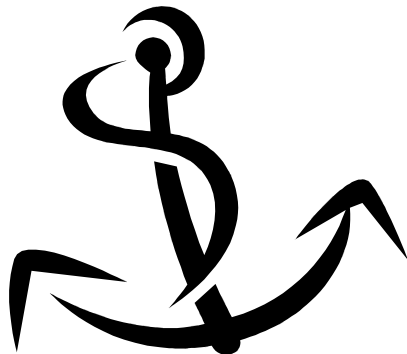
Church Administration — email: [office@universalist.org](mailto:office@universalist.org)

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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