

Universalist Anchor

March 2006

LENT 2006

Forty days to prepare— for what? For a resurrection, to be sure! The Lenten Season is for reading, thinking, meditation and for solitude. It is a time to be raised from the ruts and graves we have dug for ourselves and find new life. It is a space in our calendar to be used to nudge us toward God. It has ever been so, from the early Church and on into this century.

Plan to join in the celebration this year and experience a new birth for yourself. One thing is certain— participation in Lent will certainly make Easter a very different and joyful event.

"What We Say Here" = A Lot!

Thirty members and friends gathered over lunch on Feb. 26 to describe what the Declaration of Faith means to them personally, its impact on our worship, and what actions might help the Declaration better meet the shared needs and aspirations of our spiritual community. Statements about the personal meaning of the Declaration were read aloud (and will be distributed in written form to the congregation), revealing that each of the "Five Principles" is deeply cherished by at least some people. Concerns were raised over the specific language in the Declaration and the possibility that some newcomers get from it an inaccurate picture of who is "in" and "out" in our community.

The discussion then moved on to the role that affirmations in general play in worship and in strengthening a spiritual community. Again, a diversity of views appeared. Participants variously said that the Declaration defines us as a community, sets the tone for worship, provides comfort

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March Worship & Activity Schedule at UNMC

Wednesday, March 1

12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Services at UNMC.

Sunday, March 5th

11:00 a.m. Dr William Fox, Pastor Emeritus, Sermon: "Soul Searching"

12:30— Celebration of David Fox's life at UNMC

Wednesday, March 8th

7:00 p.m. Study: "How to Read the New Testament"

There will be New Testament study each Wednesday evening through April 12.

Sunday, March 12th

11:00 a.m. Sermon: "The Yoke" Jeremiah 28

Wednesday, March 15th

7:00 p.m. Study: "Seeing the Gospel Whole"

Sunday, March 19th

11:00 a.m. Sermon: "The Fire and the Hammer" Jeremiah 23

4:00 p.m. Installation of the Rev. Mary Katherine Morn as Minister for Worship of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, Oakton, VA (<http://www.uucf.org>)

Wednesday, March 22

7:00 p.m. Study: "Taking Paul Apart"

Sunday, March 26th

11:00 a.m. Candidate for the Settled Minister, Preaching

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"What We Say Here" = A Lot!

and continuity in its repetition, allows for individual interpretation, may shock newcomers, but doesn't need to fit everyone. To conclude the meeting, attendees brainstormed actions that might be taken around the Declaration of Faith - everything from eliminating it completely or making no changes at all, from updating it to a 21st century context to writing an entirely new, more covenantal faith statement.

The next step is for the Worship Committee to process these discussions and begin consideration of a possible recommendation for the annual meeting in May. Worship Committee meetings are open to all, and the committee members - Rob Bertram, Kirk Denton, Richard Hurst, Sue Mosher, and Donna Simonton - are always interested in your feedback.

White Lent

Lovelier far, far lovelier than the thought
of winter fled

And lovelier still than the mystic raising
from the dead:

O lovelier still is life, and more complete,

More mystical, more surely deep and sweet

Essence of mystery: The seedling through the sod

Proclaims the essential goodness and speaks
plain of God.

By Barbara Owen

Published in The Unitarian Christian, Late Winter, 1966

Worship & Activity Schedule at UNMC

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Wednesday, March 29th

7:00 p.m. Study: "Putting Paul Together Again"

Sunday, April 2nd

11:00 a.m. Candidate for the Settled Minister, Preaching

Wednesday, April 5th

7:00 p.m. Study: "The Other New Testament Books"

Sunday, April 9th - PALM SUNDAY

11:00 a.m. Sermon - "Is It Nothing To You?"

Wednesday, April 12th

7:00 p.m. Study: "What About Revelation?"

Thursday, April 13th - MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:00 p.m. Communion and Potluck Meal

Friday, April 14th - GOOD FRIDAY

Noon - Service Luke 23:32-40

Sunday, April 16th - EASTER SUNDAY

11:00 a.m. Sermon: "Out Of the Ashes"

Other Events

March 31- April 1

JPD Spring Conference, Arlington VA

Chancel Flowers for March

Mary Simmons, Chair

March 5: Flowers are given in memory of Richard E. Fogwell and Richard E. Fogwell, Jr by Esther and Hope Fogwell.

March 12: Communion

March 19: Flowers are given in memory of his grandparents Paul Hannah Sr, Elizabeth J. Hannah, and Reverend and Mrs. Floyd J. Taylor by Paul Hannah.

March 26: Flowers are given in loving memory of Frances Marin Pepper, beloved daughter of Vickie and Brian, beloved sister of Stephen and Irina Pepper and beloved goddaughter of Pi-Rung.

From the Pastor's Desk

It is our joy to have our Pastor Emeritus, Dr. William Fox, return to our pulpit on March 5th to preach the first Sunday in Lent. He was here for two different stints, one following beloved Dr. Brooks in the 70's and the other a few years later, after a pastorate in California. Presently he is the President of Culver-Stockton College in Missouri.

Dr. Fox is a dynamic man, full of energy and pizzazz. He will bring a challenging and forceful message to us, hopefully to free us from any lethargy or moss we may have accumulated along the way of the narrow Kingdom path. You won't want to miss his message.

His energetic wife, Lynn, will be with him. She will help us remember and be thankful for all the delightful ways she contributed to the life of UNMC. They are legion. We will also honor the life of David Fox, Dr Fox's brother, who has assisted in so many ways in the on-going operation of our church. There are so many taken-for-granted services which our Chief Verger has performed that we must thank him. Be sure to attend these events for the Fox family. They will be long remembered.

You received a Lenten program in the mail last week identifying the New Testament Study on Wednesdays and the schedule of our services for the Season. Lent is the time in the Christian calendar when we take an inventory of our lives over the past year and put in place some decisions and activities which will enable them to be more reflective of the One whom we call Lord. Our speech in the Declaration of Faith confesses that we believe in "the spiritual authority and leadership of His Son, Jesus Christ." To follow Him more closely is an exciting and continuing process. Instead of denying ourselves during Lent, what about the possibility of *adding* something which will make a difference in us. Pray about it.

Jim

Clara Barton - Red Cross Angel

Celebrate the life and work of Clara Barton, whose portrait hangs in the church parlor, on Sunday, March 19, at the Clara Barton National Historic Site by turning back the clock and imagining yourself living in Civil War times or as an early Red Cross volunteer. In her performance "Clara Barton – Red Cross Angel," Actress Mary Ann Jung reflects on Miss Barton's philosophy on disaster relief work as well as her experiences on the battlefields and her remembrances of herself as a timid and restless young girl yearning for a life of duty. The performance at 2 p.m. will be followed by an open house from 3 to 5 p.m. in the home where she lived and worked.

The Clara Barton National Historic Site is adjacent to Glen Echo Park off Macarthur Boulevard. For more information, call 301-492-6245 or visit <http://www.nps.gov/clba/index.htm>.

Joseph Priestly District 2006 Spring Conference

This year's conference theme is "Spirituality of Generosity" Programming provided for all ages. Families are encouraged to attend.

March 31st to April 1st, 2006
Doubletree Hotel -Crystal City
300 Army Navy Drive
Arlington, VA 22202

ONLINE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE AT:
www.jpduua.org

Conference Highlights

Keynote Address by Gini Courter, Moderator of the UUA

Soulful Sundown Service

Friday Night Banner Parade and Opening Worship Celebration Service, including Bridging Ceremony & Award Presentations

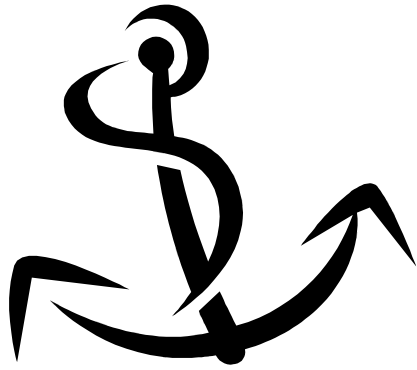
Intergenerational Programming Throughout the Entire Conference

Annual Anti-Racism Service

Annual Meeting

Breakthrough Congregation Presentations from Annapolis & All Souls

Endowment Kick-Off



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Dr. James R. Morgan, Interim Minister

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

Board of Trustees: Rob Bertram, David Burton, Richard Hurst, Perry King, Clint McCully (Assistant Treasurer), Mark McNabb (Secretary), Brian Pepper (Treasurer), Jennifer Sandberg, Greg Wigle (Moderator)

Mr. David Skidmore, Head Deacon

Mr. Kirk Denton, Organist

Marguerite Bogle, Church Office
office@universalist.org

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.