



Universalist Anchor

Words by Rev Lillie

TWO WORDS – CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

In the early Christian churches there was historically, a time of fasting and prayer before the celebration of Jesus' resurrection. This observance lasted forty hours.

Sometime during the middle ages, this time of fasting and prayer was extended to forty days and became Lent. According to some scholars, it became a time dedicated to remembering the sacrifice of Jesus and his trials and tribulations. Today, most Catholics and Orthodox Christians, and some Protestants observe Lent by giving up something for the forty days between Ash Wednesday and Easter.



It has not been my tradition, before coming to Universalist National Memorial Church, to observe Lent. The Baptist churches in which I grew up taught that it was "too Catholic" to observe. I have yet to figure that one out! Being here, participating in our Ash Wednesday service, and reading about Lent, have all led me to a spiritually affirming consideration of Lent.

What I said in my few words of "Invitation to Lenten Observance" in our Ash Wednesday service was that it is a time in our religious lives when we have the opportunity to give up something—not something we are already trying to give up, and not something that is especially dear to us—but something that will allow us, when we give it up, to turn our attention to God. If we give up something we are already trying to give up, then we confuse our human desire for better health or diet, etc., with our

desire for a closer relationship with God. If we give up something "too dear," like ice cream, for example, our attention turns to discomfort and, in our humanity, we become more concerned about our loss of ice cream than our effort to become closer to God.

Someone suggested that they intended to give something to God, rather than *give up* something during Lent. They were going to devote more time to prayer and meditation, dedicating a special time for God each day. This fits with the Lenten story.

Historically Lent called for devoting more time to prayer and meditation. I found the following in the Catholic Encyclopedia on the web:

There are traditionally forty days in Lent which are marked by fasting, both from foods and festivities, and by other acts of [penance](#). The three traditional practices to be taken up with renewed vigor during Lent are [prayer](#) ([justice](#) towards God), fasting ([justice](#) towards self), and [almsgiving](#) ([justice](#) towards neighbor).

Lent gives us the opportunity to renew and deepen our relationship with God. It offers us a time to reflect on how we are living this life we've been given, and whether we are living the way we believe God wants us to live. It is also a time for us to respond to Jesus' message and ministry.



For some of us, it is difficult to let go of some of the painful religious experiences of our youth and embrace Lent. For others, it will be a reminder of Lenten seasons that used to be significant, and could be again. In addition, there are others, perhaps like me, who have never considered Lent in any way except that others observe the season.

What I am encouraging each of us to do, is look at our relationship with our God, and ask ourselves some thoughtful, provoking questions about that relationship. If Lenten observance—a kind—will

strengthen and deepen our relationship with God, then think of Lent as a wonderful opportunity to allow that to begin.

God bless you and yours,
Rev. Lillie



Religious Education/Youth Group

We know you have been anxiously awaiting the outcome of the "Souper" Bowl vote . . .



Well, in true Universalist fashion, it ended in a TIE! The Colts and the Bears each received 16 cans of soup. We donated them to



the food bank headquartered in the basement in Perkins Hall, and they were gratefully received: "These are for us? We saw the collection site in the foyer! Thank you so much!"

- R.E. classes have been concentrating on Moses and his Ten Commandments.
- They came up with lists of "commandments" for home and school as well.
- Efforts continue to pronounce and memorize the books of the Bible.

The Youth Group under Dara Petersen's dedicated leadership is organizing a visit to the Islamic Mosque and Cultural Center on Massachusetts Ave. We are all looking forward to the tour of the prayer sessions, the building and the research library. We will have a lot of interesting information to share with you during coffee hour!

We are putting together our next community service project which is support of the Garrison Elementary School on S Street NW. We would like to start by asking you to collect and donate "Box Tops for Education" found on various food packages. Just clip the box top and drop it into the little wood and glass box in the foyer. It's amazing how you will begin to view boxes and labels in a whole new way! Thanks for all your support. The kids really appreciate it.

We're Growing!

APPRECIATION FOR UNMC VALENTINES

Metro riders exchanged smiles and warm appreciation for bags of Valentine's Day treats, which eight UNMC volunteers passed out at DuPont Circle and U Street metro stops Feb. 10. UNMC volunteers also invited recipients to join us for Sunday services.

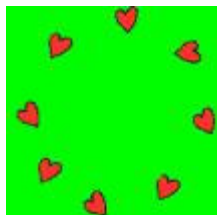
Despite the chilly winter weather, several riders waited in line for their bags filled with Rice Krispie Treats, peanuts, cookies and mini-candy bars, one volunteer reports. Several recipients also stopped to chat with UNMC members and friends about our beliefs. While other riders said they recognized our name and would visit us soon.



The Welcome and Membership Committee, which spearheaded the event, would like to extend a special thanks to the volun-

teers who woke up early on a cold Saturday morning to bag and pass out treats including: Sally, Marti, Paula, Brian, Ron, Perry and Lillie.

The Valentine's Day outreach is part of UNMC's larger growth campaign, and comes just a few months after our successful hot apple cider outreach at the dog park next door. If you are interested in future outreach activities, or have ideas one how UNMC can better connect with our neighborhood, please email Liz Crawford at or talk with her at hospitality hour.



We're Growing!!!

In January, Church Registrar, Sue Mosher, reported our official membership as 74. We have seven children & youth enrolled in religious education and an average attendance of 38 in 2006. This means we can send two delegates to the UUA General Assembly June 20-24, 2007



Welcome Back

Welcome back to our new Administrator, **Marguerite Bogle**, returning to UMNC after completing a master's degree in public policy. She is working here part-time so she can pursue her heart's interests. Her core hours will be 10:00 a.m. to Noon.



Ed Safranek reports that his mother, Jeanette C. Safranek, died February 6th, at home, after a long illness. Ed, a UNMC member had returned to Ohio

last year to help with her care. "She did some neat things in her life," Ed writes, "including spending a year (in the 1930's) teaching the children of migrant workers/sharcroppers in Mississippi." Please send donations to the Parkinson's Foundation in lieu of Flowers. <http://www.parkinson.org>

NATIONAL PARKINSON FOUNDATION, INC.

1501 N.W. 9th Avenue / Bob Hope Road
Miami, Florida 33136-1494
(800) 327-4545



Chancel Flowers

Mary Simmons, Coordinator

March 4—Flowers are given in memory Richard E. Fogwell and Richard E. Fogwell, Jr. by Esther and Hope Fogwell.

March 11—Flowers are given in memory of his grandparents Paul F. Hannah, Sr., Elizabeth J. Hannah and The Rev. and Mrs. Floyd J. Paylor by Paul Hannah.

March 18—Flowers are given in memory of her brother Ben Hanford Thompson by Amy Thompson Tipton.

March 25th—Flowers are given in loving memory of Frances Marin Pepper beloved daughter of Vicki and Brian, Beloved Sister of Stephen and Irena Pepper by the Pepper family.

Sunday Services

LENT AND EASTER UPCOMING SERVICE

March 4, Second Sunday in Lent, "Too Busy Too Die" by Rev. Henley. She will ask the questions are we too busy to die, or too scared to die, or waiting to die. Luke 13:31-35

March 11, Third Sunday in Lent, "Lessons from the Past" a sermon by Rev. Henley. 1 Cor 10:1-13 and Luke 13:1-9 Is it true that God never gives us more than we can bear? Is there always a way we can stand up under the pressure of challenges and sorrow in our lives?

March 18, Fourth Sunday after Easter, Rev. Henley will preach "Reconciliation—It's All in the Family" from 2 Cor. 5:16-21. Many of us have challenges and issues around forgiveness. What does it take to bring us all together?

March 25, Fifth Sunday in Lent. Mark Schaefer, known by our congregation will be preaching. New Testament Scripture is John 12:1-8. Rev. Henley will be on vacation.

April 1, Sixth Sunday in Lent and Palm Sunday. We will have a traditional UNMC Palm Sunday and Rev. Henley will preach on the "Wrongly Accused and Fortunate Escape." What would it be like to have your freedom, your blessings, even your life, at the expense of another's loss? Luke 23:1-24

April 5, Maundy Thursday. We will have a very special service this year. UNMC liturgists are planning an integrated service with worship and dinner. More in April's Anchor, John 13:1-17, 31b-35

CLARA BARTON—UNIVERSALSIT

Meet Clara Barton "in person" at The Clara Barton National Historic Site, located next to Glen Echo Park in Maryland. On Sunday, March 18, at 2:00 pm, award-winning actress, Mary Ann Jung presents a one-woman show, "Clara Barton - Red Cross Angel." Visit: www.nps.gov/clba or call (301) 320-1410.

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,
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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).

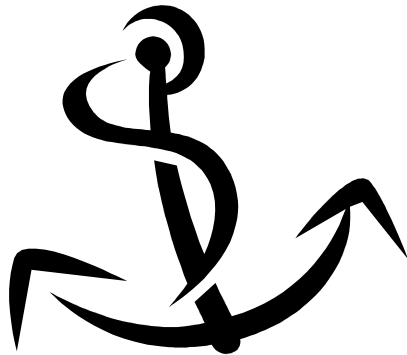
Mr. David Skidmore, Head Deacon
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Mr. Kirk Denton, Organist

Church Administration — email: office at universalist.org
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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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