

Universalist Anchor



May 2006

CELEBRATION OF MOTHERS

May 14, 2006

At our Worship Service on May 14th we will recognize our Mothers and Mothers everywhere by having a special time of prayer for them. Most Mothers have played a crucial role in the development of their children's lives, one that is powerful and continues even after their death. We can honor them by the way we live our lives after their instruction.

Our country has recognized that Fathers also have a significant place in our hearts, so we will honor them on June 18th.

If you have a teddy bear of which you are especially fond, bring it to Church on May 14th and place it on a table near the altar. You will receive it back after the 11:00 a.m. service. The theme of the day will be "Mothers, Bears and Lions."

SAVE DARFUR

The Unitarian Universalists Association, along with a number of other Christian organizations, had a rally to "Stop Genocide in Darfur" on the National Mall April 30th at 2:00 p.m. Our Church participated in it both by presence and by post card. It is a tragedy that has gone on too long for the International Community to continue to ignore. This protest is only one of the many planned across the Nation to call attention to the devastation, starvation and death that this catastrophe has caused to the many innocent people of that region. If you would like to add your name with those who have spoken out, cards will be available to do so in the Narthex of the Church. Let your heart be touched.

May Worship & Activity Schedule at UNMC

Monday, May 1st

7:00 p.m. Board Of Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, May 3rd

7:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting

Sunday, May 7th

11:00 a.m. Sermon: "Knowing Your Time"

Jim Morgan, Preaching

Wednesday, May 10th

7:00 p.m. Study: "Making Sense Of Genesis"

Covered Dish

Sunday, May 14th- Mother's Day

11:00 a.m. Sermon: "Bears And Lions"

Jim Morgan, Preaching

Wednesday, May 17th

7:00 p.m. Study: "Are U A Pomo"?

Sunday, May 21st-

11:00 a.m. Sermon: "Images That Shape Us"

Jim Morgan, Preaching

Sunday, May 28th-

11:00 a.m. Sermon: "Every Battle Isn't Armageddon"

Jim Morgan, Preaching

Third Wednesday Theology

Discussion

"ARE U A POMO?"

"Reclaiming Our Christian Heritage In A Postmodern Era"

For our last discussion we considered the role of Universalist minister Olympia Brown as the first woman ordained to the professional ministry in the US in 1863 and her relation to our current struggle around gender equality and language. Participants marveled at some of her words which also reflected a liberal orientation to science and religion, war prevention, penal reform, child labor, and the death penalty. Olympia Brown remains an untapped source and a goldmine of 19th century liberalism. We agreed to study more of her works and suggest a future sermon on the life and teaching of this remarkable figure from our Universalist heritage.

Have you ever wondered what that fancy word "postmodern" actually means? Well its easy to define if you know the definition of modernity" and try to go beyond it. Modernity represents the post WWII era radical break with traditions that peaked in the 1960's when it was common to question any thinker or tradition not from the current era. It has left us with an arrogance against learning anything from the past and a disconnect with our traditions. Come to our next discussion as we consider these questions:

1. Has our denomination swallowed "modernity" from the fifties onward with the result that we have lost our connection with our traditions?
 2. Has modernist thinking corrupted our denomination and left us with an arrogance towards traditional Christianity.
 3. What is the difference between pre-modern Christianity as preached by fundamentalists and postmodern Christianity? Can we recover our tradition in the light of post modernity?
- Refreshments and fellowship in the parlor at 7:00.

Discussion starts promptly at 7:30.
Wednesday, May 17, 2006

The Pastor's Ponderings

Carl Jung had a dream, when he was about 35. He was entering an old, heavily overgrown temple and walking toward an altar with a candle on it. Just before he arrived at the altar he noticed a monk with his head bowed, praying in the first pew. He stood there for a while wondering who he was. He then lifted the hood of the monk and discovered to his amazement his own face looking back at him. "Ah," he said later thinking about the dream, "there is a part of me inside dreaming me up."

How true. There is a part of us that knows us better than any one else and that part has plans and hopes and dreams for us that will only astonish us. It has plans for us that will take all of our imagination to achieve. We need only to listen with our inner ear and decide to follow.

It is those gentle nudges inside which are determined to get our attention and move us in a hopeful, joyful and positive way.

I believe the same is true for us as a Church. With a new minister, Rev. Lillie Henley, coming in August who will have a new agenda, some new plans and a dedicated spirit, we need to listen with our inner ear and trust that those "gentle nudges" we experience are the right ones for us. Our future is bright and promising. We need to prepare our hearts for it and determine to dedicate ourselves to it. We can recognize that "it is God who works in us to will and to act according to God's good purpose." (Philippians 2:13)
 Jim

Chancel Flowers for July

Mary Simmons, Chair

May 7: Flowers are given in honor of the Ministerial Search Committee by the Congregation.

May 14: Flowers are given in memory of Marcus W. Lewis by friends and members of his family.

May 21: Flowers are given in memory of her parents by Mary Simmons.

May 28: Flowers are given in memory of their parents Sally Tessoriero and John Bertram by Tom Tessoriero and Rob Bertram.

SUMMER READING BOOK DRIVE

Most of you probably take your reading skills for granted. As a teacher, I realize how important it is to be able to read and how difficult it can be to acquire that skill.

I am proposing, to this congregation, an endeavor that will gain a large and rich reward. I am asking that, we, as a church, donate books for the students at the school where I teach. These books would be distributed to students who do not have access to books in the summer and need to keep up their reading skills.

The school is Occoquan Elementary School in Woodbridge, VA. It is where I teach 1st grade. This school has a majority of students who receive free or reduced lunches. That means that many children live in poverty.

Why should we, a church in the District of Columbia, donate books to these students so far away? Well, first of all, it's where I teach and I see the great need. Secondly, we really need to do some outreach to others, who, granted may not be in our back yard, but none-the-less are in our wider community. Thirdly, what could be easier than donating either gently used books from your own or your children's library or picking up a couple books when you make a trip to your local bookstore?

Whatever you can donate will be given to the students who really need these books. Be as generous as you can possibly be. Books written in Spanish would be greatly appreciated. If you can find a companion book in English, that would be perfect. Please bring books for grades 1st thru 6th in English or Spanish.

My co-conspirator in this endeavor is Sally Segal, who will be helping me with such things as a decorated box to collect the books. I am hoping that our church can really show how much we care about the greater world outside our doors.

Note: Jennifer's book drive is a mission project of our church, similar to that of Dave Skidmore's, Leland House, and our Food Bank. It is her way of bringing God's care to her school. If you have an interest in a particular area in your work or near your home or around the church, talk to Dave Skidmore or our Pastor about beginning a possible mission outreach. Let's think beyond ourselves to spread the love of God wherever we are.

Kelly Murphy Mason Admitted To Fellowship

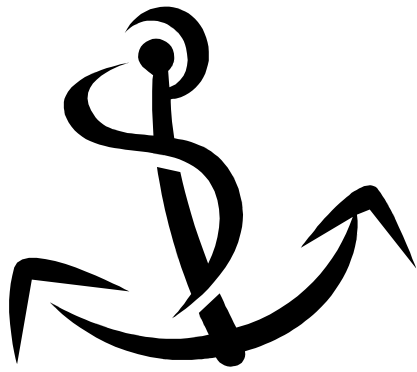
Our own Kelly Murphy Mason - that's Rev. Kelly Murphy Mason - recently was admitted to preliminary fellowship by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Association. She will be welcomed into fellowship at the Service of the Living Tradition at the General Assembly in St. Louis next month.

Kelly has been intern minister at the Community Church of New York in midtown Manhattan since December and will be that congregation's summer minister. She received a joint degree - M.Div. and MSSW from Union Theological Seminary and Columbia University School of Social Work and completed a chaplaincy at Jeanes Hospital in Philadelphia.

Dave Skidmore

Annual Church Meeting May 21, 2006

Our annual church meeting will be held May 21, 2006 after our 11:00a.m. Worship Service. There are several issues of vital importance to us that will be considered at that time. One of these is our Declaration of Faith. Your presence is needed in order for us to have a quorum that will make our voting count. Do come prepared to stay. You can bring sandwiches or a covered dish.



The *Universalist Anchor* is published monthly for the members and friends of the Universalist National Memorial Church in Washington, DC.

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Dr. James R. Morgan, Interim Minister

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

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Mr. David Skidmore, Head Deacon

Mr. Kirk Denton, Organist

Quawanna Thomas, Church Office
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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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