

Universalist Anchor



May 2007

Words by Rev Lillie

In a few weeks, you will install me as your minister. I will be the eighth settled minister of Universalist National Memorial Church. It is an honor for me to be here in ministry with you.

The act of installation is covenantal and grounded in the rituals of tradition.

In the nineteenth century in New England, it was not uncommon for Congregational, Universalist, and Unitarian ministries to be thirty, forty, or even fifty years long. They were covenantal unions created to share the ministry of Jesus' call to create God's kingdom here on earth.

Our installation means the same to me: a covenantal commitment to each other to share the ministry of UNMC. A ministry that **reaches out** to the greater community in service and **reaches inward** to each other in love, joy, spirit, and support.

To be here as your minister and to share the congregation's mission *to create a loving community for worship and service in the spirit of Jesus Christ* brings me great joy and a sense of fulfilling my call to ministry. To be able *to welcome all and respect individual beliefs as we grow together* tells me that I am at a table with others who believe that love is truly the answer to right relations.

It was UNMC's *Mission Statement* and the Congregational Covenant that brought me back to candidate here when the search committee invited me, and it was the same that led me to accept your

call to settle here.

It is deeply satisfying to me to know that the congregation lives out its Mission and lives by its Covenant.

You demonstrate your service to the greater community each and every week by supporting the Food For All pantry and giving 10% of the Sunday offering to neighborhood non-profits who serve the marginalized and challenged. In one weekend a few weeks ago, you, along with Food For All volunteers and participants in the "Fast-a-Thon" raised well over \$1,700 for Food For All and So Others May Eat (S.O.M.E.). This is from a congregation of about thirty-five active congregants!

And Sunday, April 22, in a much-needed, sometimes tedious, and complex way, you waded through the many issues surrounding the installation of the McKim organ, and in the process respected each person's ideas, questions, and suggestions in the spirit of the Congregational Covenant.

This congregation has weathered many challenges, just as I have weathered many challenges as a person and as a minister. We have faced adversity, trials, and disappointments. Sometimes, I am sure there was only one set of footprints in the sand. Nevertheless, throughout our stories, we kept the faith and trusted in God's love for us.

On June 3, we will formally acknowledge the covenantal ministry we began last August. It is **rooted** in perseverance, challenges, and accomplishments, and **stretches** to the future with heart and hands lifted upward in hope, and joy, and love.

May all our "present moments" be what God would have them be.

God bless you and yours,
Pastor Lillie

Religious Education/Youth Group

We continue to learn about our Faith Ancestors and the development of the Bible. We discussed the parallels between the story of Ruth and our coffee house held in Perkins Hall. The ancient gleaning laws allowed Ruth, who was poor and homeless, to gather grain for herself from the grain that was left on the fields by the reapers. Our coffee house benefited Food for All, an organization that provides emergency groceries to homebound elderly, handicapped and single mothers with young children.

A big round of applause to our young coffee house volunteers. Megan Moore and Irina Pepper were those wonderfully poised and entertaining assistant MCs. They also helped setup the tablecloths and votive candles as we sent Stephen Pepper throughout the church on a hunt for more chairs and small tables! Thanks for all your help! You were great!!

RE handed out palms after service to mark the start of Holy Week. On Easter Sunday, the kids were tickled to find that the Easter bunny had made it all the way upstairs with his surprise delivery. On a bone chilling, windy and rainy Sunday, we sipped steaming cups of hot chocolate while we worked on our lesson.

Thanks for continuing to check food boxes/bags and clip the Box Tops for Education labels. We are raising money to help our neighborhood Garrison Elementary School purchase computers, books or repair playground equipment.

Please deposit all clipped labels in the little box in the foyer. Thanks!

REPORT FROM THE COFFEE HOUSE BENEFIT FOR *FOOD FOR ALL*

On Saturday night, March 31, a coffee house fundraiser was held in Perkins Hall that was well attended and raised \$750 for our food bank. Food for All food bank volunteers cooked a special meal of vegetarian Jambalaya and our UNMC friend Bill Baker was our feature performer with a program of original and cover acoustic country blues. Thanks to all those who pitched in to help and a special thanks to Irena and Megan who were MC's for the event, to William who played the Native American flute, Bill Baker for donating his time and talent, and to Bob and Sally Segal for their work in coordinating the decorating and door. We will plan other coffee house fund raisers in Perkins in the future.

Inspired Faith, Effective Action

Saturday, May 19 1:00p.m.-4:00p.m.
UU Congregation of Fairfax.

Co-sponsors: the Baltimore Washington Growth Committee's Team for Public Outreach, UUSJ and UUA Washington Office

Can doing justice work foster personal and religious growth while building relationships? Can it be done so that both the ends and the means reflect our principles? Can strategic social justice work energize your congregation and spread UU values in your community? The answer is yes! This workshop—the core training offered by the UUA Washington Office—provides a crash course in how to create inspired faith and effective action in your congregation.



Church Keeping – Saturday, May 19th, Mark You Calendars!

One of the questions on the “Assessing the Ministry of the Church” is: “Does the church look the way you want guests to see it? Is it clean, fresh looking, and inviting?”

We need to candidly answer this question and if we find the church “somewhat dirty, a little dusty, or in some places dingy,” then we need to take ownership of the condition and do something about it.

It isn't enough to be joyful,

It isn't enough to be loving,

It isn't enough to be accepting,

—and this congregation is becoming all those things—

We also have to be “a place” that looks clean and safe—especially safe for mothers and fathers to want to leave their children in our nursery.

Yes, the sanctuary looks beautiful, although it does need some plaster repair.

Yes, the Romaine van Shaick parlor is inviting, warm, and gracious.

Yes, the foyer is welcoming.

But we need some significant cleaning in other areas of the church, especially the basement, which all our guests will see when they come to our Installation of Rev. Henley in June.

Please plan on working one of the two-hour shifts on Saturday, May 19, and come for lunch too.

The shifts are 10:00-12:00 and 1:00 to 3:00. Rev. Henley is providing lunch from noon to one!

Sunday Services

May 6 “Something About Mary” a service about Mary and the feminine presence of God in religion. Traditionally, May has been called the month of Mary, so what better time than now to hear *her* voice. Presenters are Jeff Jacobs and Kirk Perrow. Perry King will be liturgist.

May 13 “Mothers Day” and a special Sunday for mothers. Rev. Henley's sermon will be grounded in John 5:1-9, which teaches us that some are healed and some are not.

May 20 “Universalist Past, Present and Powerful—The Teaching and the Significance” by Reverend Kalen Fristad who is a founding member of The Christian Universalist Association. Rev. Fristad has preached here before when the UU Christian Fellowship had their revival at our church.

May 27 “Judas and The Betrayer” a sermon by Rev. Henley. She will reflect on Elaine Pagels' and Karen King's new book *Reading Judas The Gospel of Judas and the Shaping of Christianity*.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 6: New Member Orientation – For those considering membership and wanting to know more about UNMC, Pastor Lillie and the membership committee invite you to lunch after hospitality. RSVP to Lillie at 301-655-3798 or to the office at 387-3411.

Saturday, May 19: Church Clean-up Day
Gather at the church in two shifts, 10:00 to 12:00 or 1:00 to 3:00, and Lillie will provide a healthy lunch for everyone at noon! So come prepared to work and eat OR eat and work!
Elizabeth Crawford, chair of our Welcome and Membership committee is coordinating the scheduling. Would you please contact her to sign-up, via the office at 202-387-3411 or office@universalist.org.

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



Bread for the City

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 May, the recipient of Sharing Our Plate will be Bread for the City

Bread for the City is a private, non-profit organization that provides vulnerable residents of Washington, DC with comprehensive services including food, clothing, medical care, legal and social services in an atmosphere of dignity and respect.

Through the efforts of more than 1,300 volunteers and the contribution of thousands of community members, our staff serves more than 10,000 people each month. All services are free.

Help them feed 11,000 hungry families next year!

BFC uses one truck to transport 90% of the food we distribute in our food pantries to more than 11,000 needy homes. The time has come to purchase a new vehicle, and they need your help to raise the \$31,080 necessary to make this critical purchase.

Reverend Henley's Office Hours
Tuesday and Thursday 10-4
All other times by appointment
301-655-3798

May Update on Ministerial Installation

Planning for this important event in the life of our community of faith scheduled for 5:00 on June 3d continues, and we hope all of you are planning to attend The Reverend Lillie Henley's formal installation as UNMC's minister . We also hope that most of you are finding ways to assist with the Installation, perhaps by working with the UNMC members and friends who already have stepped forward to assist us with organizing different aspects of the Installation: Jeff Jacobs, who has taken charge of organizing the reception (with assistance from Sally Segal and Jennifer Sandberg); the Worship Committee (and particularly Acting Chair Lisa Harris and member Donna Simonton) which is assisting Lillie in organizing the worship service; Liz Crawford and the Welcome & Membership Committee ,who have the lead with respect to "Guest Relations and Hospitality," Brian Pepper, who with help from Al Templeton and Jorn Dakin, is organizing us in the area of "Installation Setup and Cleanup." Mary and I have been working with Lillie and Marguerite on the guest list, and invitations have been mailed. Thanks to our Registrar Sue Mosher and others among you who have helped us fill a few gaps on our list . Feel free to contact us with your ideas or questions about the upcoming Installation, and please contact us or any of the individuals named above to volunteer to pitch in and help out with the many different tasks that are going into making Lillie's Installation a joyous and successful event for all in the UNMC, UUA , and greater community. One upcoming activity that relates directly to Installation Hospitality as well as Setup is the all -church cleanup day scheduled for Saturday, May 19, so we especially encourage everyone to join us on that day to help spruce up UNMC in anticipation of the Installation.

-- Vicki Pepper & Mary Templeton



Chancel Flowers Mary Simmons, Coordinator

May 6—Flowers are given by Mary Simmons in loving memory of her parents.

May 13—Flowers are given in honor of their mother, Mary Kay Simonton, by her children, Donna Simonton, Carla Harrigan, and C. Richard Simonton.

May 20 —Flowers are given in memory of their parents, Sally Tesoriero and John Bertram by Tom Tesoriero and Rob Bertram.

May 27—Open

LELAND PLACE OUTREACH MINISTRY

Our next dinner is planned for Saturday May 19. Volunteers are asked to reserve their spot by calling or e-mailing Dave Skidmore: dave_skidmore@cox.net; 703-237-2145. We meet at 3 p.m. in the church kitchen with the goal of sitting down and sharing the meal at Leland, on North Capitol Street, at 5 p.m. Volunteers divide the cost of the meal -- a per-volunteer amount usually ranging between \$15 and \$25.

Leland is a program of S.O.M.E. -- So Others Might Eat.

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.

1810 Sixteenth Street, NW • Washington, DC 20009

Visit: www.universalist.org • (202) 387-3411

Rev. Lillie Henley, Minister, 301-655-3798, 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

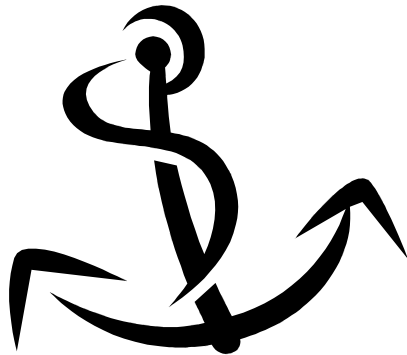
Church Administration — email: office@universalist.org

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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