

Universalist Anchor



Words

By Rev. Lillie

Joy

How much joy is in your life?

Sometimes, when you're driving down the road, or sitting on the Metro riding home, or waiting for the bus, does a feeling of joy come over you? Do you pay attention to the feeling and recognize from what thoughts this joy came?

After 911, I reflected on how we Americans have not had to deal with unrelenting, daily terrorism in our lives. In comparison, most people in the world have terror woven into the "fabric of their existence." I also wondered how terrorism on our shores would affect our ability to experience joy.

Joy adds a dimension and depth to our experiences and allows us to see them as rich and meaningful.

From what I've read about other cultures and from Pakistani and Lebanese friends, people whose lives are woven inextricably with terrorism, war, and threats to personal safety, still find a way to recognize the joy in their lives. My friends tell me that recognizing what they have to be joyful about is crucial to their well-being.

What brings us joy?

Do we recognize those people, events, and circumstances that offer us joy, and do we embrace it with enthusiasm and gratitude?

There are so many small things in life that can give us joy, if we but allow ourselves **time** and **attention** to experience the joy. Some things that can give us joy are: a meeting with a group of collaborative, witty, and dedicated people, a glance at a photograph of someone we cherish, a call from a loved one who lives far away, or even a holiday morning when we can sleep in.

Only you know those things that can give you joy, and only you can stop for a moment and recognize that feeling of joy.

It is like stopping the busyness of our lives to recognize God's presence. "Be still and know that I am God."

It is good for us to be open to joy and it is good for us to be open to God's ever-abiding presence in our lives. We are **always** blessed by this openness.

Joy.

How much joy is in your life? How often do you allow yourself to experience the moments of joy that bless your life and deepen your happiness?

"Extreme Thanks To UNMC"

By Sue Mosher

Faith Crawford of the communications team for Crosswalk America writes, "Please convey our extreme thanks to the members of your wonderful congregation who helped us out when we were 'strangers in your midst'! To all who participated, we say 'Thank You' and hope that we may return the favor when someone else is in need.

Your group may be small, but it's great of heart." Pastor Lillie walked the "final mile" of the Crosswalk group's 5-month journey from Phoenix to Washington on Sunday, September 3, to witness for a more compassionate, inclusive face for Christianity. Dara Petersen and Sue Mosher served water to the more than 100 marchers who walked down 16th Street, past UNMC, to the final Crosswalk celebration at Foundry United Methodist Church. Also attending the celebration to hear speakers like Bishop John Shelby Spong and Bishop Carlton Pearson were Vicki Pepper and Archene Turner, intern minister of the UU Church of Arlington. <http://www.crosswalkamerica.com>

The September *Universalist Anchor* was mailed to everyone, but somehow, it was never delivered. We regret this "non-delivery" and plan to mail the *Anchor* in envelopes as long as we have to use first-class stamps. We all hope, that soon we will be large enough to warrant *Bulk Mailing*.

“A Historic Moment”

By Sue Mosher, Board Member

Between now and the congregational meeting November 12, we are conducting a trial of a new Declaration of Faith during our worship services. This draft Declaration is the result of a congregation-wide process that began in earnest last February, shepherded by the Worship Committee. The trial text reads as follows:

We bear witness to

the universal love of God,
the spiritual authority and leadership
of Jesus Christ,
the trustworthiness of the Bible
as a source of divine revelation,
the need for repentance
and forgiveness of sin,
and the final harmony
of all souls with God.

In faith, we are called
to bring hope and healing to the world,
so that all may rejoice in God's grace.

The Worship Committee held its latest feedback session on September 24. Committee members have also conducted many one-on-one conversations with parishioners about the draft and received a number of written comments. During the feedback sessions, members have expressed what "rings true" for them in the draft Declaration and how they think it might be improved. They have also had the opportunity to ask the Worship Committee specific questions about how the draft Declaration has evolved into its current form. Committee members have

are listening to each other when the Declaration is the topic of discussion and how much they have shared about their personal faith.

A final feedback session will take place after the hospitality hour on Sunday, October 22. You can also share your comments with any member of the Worship Committee -- Rob Bertram (chair), Kirk Denton, Lisa Harris, Richard Hurst, Sue Mosher, and Donna Simonton.

A vote to adopt the new Declaration or go back to using the 1899 "Five Principles" will be on the agenda for the congregational meeting on Sunday, November 12. Please plan to attend this very important event in the life of our church.

Chancel Flowers

Mary Simmons, Chair

October 1: Chancel flowers are given by Mae Combs to celebrate the birthdays in October of Mae and her mother.

October 8: Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of their parents, Dorothy, Leonard, Smith, Bill, and Lynn Fox, by Lynn, William and David Fox.

October 15: Chancel flowers are given in memory of Corinne H. Brooks and Seth R. Brooks, aunt and uncle, by Evelyn Brooks Rowse and James W. M. Rowse, Jr.

October 22: Chancel flowers are given in memory of their cousin Vernie Sampson by Jeffrey, Catherine, and Brian Jacobs.

October 29: Open

Sunday Services

October 1- “Our Unitarian Universalist Principles and What They Mean for Us,” a sermon by Rev. Henley

October 8- “From Darkness to Light” Social justice activist Frank Benedetti from Winston-Salem, NC, will speak today on the need to dialogue with the Fundamentalists who seek to deny equality and justice for all citizens.

October 15- Rev. Henley has been called to Texas to be with her critically ill sister. Rev. Jim Morgan, our recent interim minister will be preaching this Sunday.

October 22- “Women in the Bible” a Feminist Perspective.” Rev. Lillie will preach on the misunderstandings about women in the Hebrew Scriptures and the Christian New Testament.

October 29- Communion Sunday. Rev. Lillie will preach on Jesus’ conversation with his followers James and John about baptism and communion from Mark 10:35-45.

●Proofer Needed●

Volunteer wanted to proof the Anchor.

Need Microsoft Publisher, call
Quawanna at the church office.

Universalist Revival!

This year's Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship Revival will take place in New York City Nov. 2-5, 2006, at the Fourth Universalist Society (<http://www.4thu.org/>), across from Central Park, with the theme "God's Reviving Grace." The historic church is located at 76th St. and Central Park West, close to the Museum of Natural History and many other New York City attractions.

The Friday keynote speaker will be the Rev. Jim Mulholland, co-author of two popular books on universal salvation, *If Grace Is True* and *If God Is Love*; he will also present a workshop on the parallel paths of Quakerism and Universalism. Saturday's keynote speaker will be the Rev. Gary Dorrien, the new Niebuhr Professor of Christian Ethics at Union Theological Seminary and author of the acclaimed series on The Making of American Liberal Theology.

The UUCF has reduced the usual registration fee and is providing a wide list of lodging options to help as many people as possible to attend. The early registration fee is \$100 including a catered dinner. One-day registration for either Friday or Saturday will be available for \$50. The cost of registration after Oct. 2 will be \$150. Complete information is available at the UUCF web site at <http://www.uuchristian.org/2006/register-now-uucf-revival-2006-news/>. Revival weekend in New York City is also the weekend of the New York Marathon.

Community Service, Feeding The Hungry — Food For All

Volunteers needed to meet at UNMC on Saturday morning to pack and deliver boxes of food to local residents. This is fun and fulfilling work, with a great group of people who care deeply for their community. If you would like more information, you can contact Food For All at jsandler@amurt.net.

UNMC serves as a storage center and gathering point for the community program, *Food For All*. This program delivers food to poverty stricken members of the D.C. community. *Food for All* also needs volunteers who are available on Fridays to move food from a local food bank to UNMC.

New Church Directory

A new version of the church directory is available from the church office. It includes a leadership roster, so you can find out who to contact about different aspects of congregational life. If you haven't picked up your copy at the church, you can contact the church office to request that a copy be mailed to you. Please send corrections and other updates to the church Registrar, Sue Mosher, or the church office.

If you already have the September 2006 directory, please note this update:

Under Staff (inside back cover), add Interim Music Director - Donna Simonton.

Remembering Matthew Shepard and Other Victims of Hate Crimes at UNMC

Join Rev. Henley and Marti Martinson, a friend of the church and the Reader for the Roger Bacon Liberal Catholic Church, in a Complin Prayer Service for victims of hate crimes.

The service will be in the tradition of the Liberal Catholic Church International, a Catholic tradition which includes women, and gay and lesbian priests !

Saturday, October 7, at 5:00 p.m.

"Feeding The Multitude"

Thanks to everyone who has hosted our hospitality after Sunday service these past few months.

Of all the volunteer activities around the church, providing refreshments for the congregation and our guests is one of the most meaningful we can offer.

It has long been recognized, that feeding others is a profound act of service. I know from experience, that the feelings of joy we receive from feeding others at our hospitality hour carries over into blessings for our lives well past Sunday.

Thanks, again and God bless you. Rev. Lillie

"Women In The BIBLE"

How many women in the Bible can you name?

How many men can you name?

If you know a lot of the men's names and their stories, and you don't know a lot about the women and their stories, AND you want to know more about the powerful women in the Bible...This is the Bible Study for you! Every Wednesday night in October and November at 7:00. Except for Wednesday night Oct 11, as Rev. Lillie will be out of town. Registration is a \$10.00 donation to UNMC for supplies. Call Rev. Lillie Henley, 301.655.3798, for more information and to reserve your place.

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

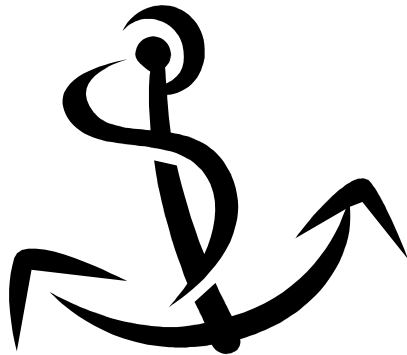
Board of Trustees: Rob Bertram, Catherine Bocskor (Assistant Treasure), David Burton, Elizabeth Crawford, Lisa Harris, Mark McNabb (Secretary), Brian Pepper (Treasurer), Jennifer Sandberg, Al Templeton, and Greg Wigle (Moderator).

Mr. David Skidmore, Head Deacon
Donna Simonton, Interim Music Director
Mr. Kirk Denton, Organist
Quawanna Thomas, 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



Plan on coming to church November 12 for our semi-annual congregational meeting. The *official* notice will be in our bulletins on Sundays.

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