



September 2006

# Universalist Anchor

## Some Thoughts About Transition:

### “Where We’ve Been”

By Al Templeton, Board Member

We are currently moving out of a two-and-one-half year period in which we went several months without a minister and spent two years with two interims, and into a new beginning with a settled minister. We've been busy transitioning and busy with the work of church life, including completing a series of important strategic tasks which are interrelated and which provide a solid rounding for the work ahead.

In the fall of 2004, the congregation identified three immediate goals for UNMC:  
 1)increase worship attendance to 100 people;  
 2)improve the building so it meets our needs and is a viable source of rental income -- e.g., renovated parlor, upgraded and wheelchair accessible restrooms, new HVAC system(s);  
 3)have a greater sense of peace and joy at church.

In May of last year we approved a Congregational Covenant guiding our behavior and commitment in community with one another, thereby furthering our 2002 Mission Statement. These introspective steps, which have had us look within the church about the church, have followed our values around congregational polity and inclusive behavior. In each case a process for input was established, a recommendation or report was received from a subgroup of members, debate occurred and

then policy was agreed upon by a congregational vote.

These steps in no way represent the totality of activity within the church. (Consider, for example, current undertakings by the Hymnal Task Force and the Worship Committee's work in drafting a new Declaration of Faith; or, to focus on work between the church and broader community, Leland Place and Food For All.)

These steps, as well as others, provide a view of who we have been and who we are. And they constitute the grounding for our life growth as a church community.

We are blessed with new leadership. Rev. Lillie Henley brings experience, energy, and great joy. As we enter this period of transition together, we've the opportunity both to carry our successful introspective work forward, and to open ourselves to the opportunities which lie ahead with settled leadership.

## ***Declaration of Faith***

### **Trial Starts This Month**

In keeping with the process outlined to members and friends, on Rally Sunday, September 10, we will begin to use a revised Declaration of Faith in place of the "Five Principles of 1899" in our worship. This trial period will culminate in a vote at the congregational meeting on November 12 either to adopt the new statement for our liturgy or to return to the traditional "Five Principles."

The Worship Committee held two feed-

back sessions last month on the draft statement, at which all enjoyed a lively discussion of the meaning of particular words and phrases and experienced some true "aha!" moments together.

Another feedback session is scheduled for this month, after worship on Sunday, September 24. There will also be a feedback session in October. In addition, you can also send comments to the Worship Committee, via the Church's mailing address or by email to committee chair Rob Bertram.

## **Parish Notes**

Tommy Jones (son of Tom and Julie Jones) and his wife, Nok, have moved to Williamsburg, VA, where Tommy has entered the College of William and Mary as a transfer student planning to major in international relations and economics.

Addie Forman's sister, Alice, died in July at her home in Charleston, SC. A scholarship has been established in Alice's memory for women students of chemical engineering at the University of Maryland. Contributions may be made in the form of checks payable to the University Of Maryland College Park Foundation, Inc., Gift Acceptance and Receipting, c/o Alice Gillette Forman Memorial Scholarship Fund, 3126 Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742-153

## Events Opportunities

**Sunday, 3rd**

2:00pm **CrossWalk America**, Walk with Rev. Lillie and others in the 1-mile walk from Meridian Hill Park to Foundry Methodist. CrossWalk is an emerging Christian movement that seeks to share the values of Jesus' ministry. A "Take back Christianity movement," said Rev. Lillie.

If you don't want to walk, would you serve water to the walkers going by? Contact Sue Mosher if you can serve water, [sue@turtleflock.com](mailto:sue@turtleflock.com).

Everyone who will participate can bring a sack lunch and eat it at the church before we leave for the walk or begin serving water.

4:00pm **CrossWalk Worship Service**  
@Foundry Brochures & flyers in foyer.

**Sunday, 10th**

2:00pm **Unity Walk**, Walk with Rev. Lillie and others in the Annual DC interfaith walk. Gather at the Washington Hebrew Congregation, Mass. Ave and Macomb Street, NW and walk to the National Cathedral, Islamic Center, and then the Ghandi memorial. [www.911unitywalk.org](http://www.911unitywalk.org)

**Saturday, 16th**

2:00pm **Brunch** with Rev. Lillie, Calling Hours from 10:00am-2:00pm. RSVP to Donna Simon-ton.

**Thursday, 21st-**

7:30pm **Candlelight Service** in front lawn of UNMC to observe the International Day of Peace, instituted by the United Nations in 2002, to promote ideals of peace.

**Saturday, 23rd-**

9:00 am **Teacher Training** for Children's RE. If you're interested in working with the children and youth this year in any capacity, whether it is on Sunday, or maybe even a one-time event, or want to know more about the program, you're invited to join us.

## "Living in the Kingdom" A Benedictine

### Retreat With Carl Scovel

Join Karl Haakonsen, Carl Scovel, Linda Stoker, and Nan Stone at Glastonbury Abbey, a Benedictine community in Hingham, MA, is offering a retreat that will include reading, reflection and discussion of the New Testament texts on "Living in the Kingdom." The retreat begins Friday evening, October 13, and finishes Sunday morning, October 15. Cost is \$130 for the retreat program, lodging, meals, plus a freewill contribution to the Kings Chapel Ministers Discretionary Fund. For more info and registration contact Linda Stoker at [lindastoker@comcast.net](mailto:lindastoker@comcast.net).

## Sunday Services

**Sunday, September 3rd-**

10:30am Sermon: "Mother I Wash My Rice Now," A sermon by Reverend Lillie about the life lessons Margueritte, a country woman, taught her daughters!

**Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>-**

10:30am Sermon: "To where do you come when you need the unconditional love"? Rally Sunday, a homecoming sermon by Reverend Lillie.

**Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>-**

10:30am Sermon: "The Principle of Paradox" A sermon on the irony and contradiction of life's situations. Not only are the last first and the first last, but the rich are poor and the poor are rich.

**Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>-**

10:30am Sermon: "Ramadan and Rosh Hashanah, What Meaning Do They Have for Us?" These most sacred holidays of Islam and Judaism, respectively, share a commonality from which we can take meaning. A sermon by Reverend Lillie.

## Chancel Flowers

Mary Simmons, Chair

**September 3:** Chancel flowers are given in respectful and appreciative memory of Lillie Margueritte Peveto Henley and Clarence Milton Henley, my parents, by Rev. Lillie Henley.

**September 10:** Chancel flowers are given in memory of Florence W. and John T. Brooks by Evelyn Brooks Rowse and James M. Rowse.

**September 17:** Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of H. Jerome Graham, organist, emeritus, his daughter Sally and son-in-law Douglas Simon.

**September 24:** Chancel flowers are given in honor of their parents, Ruth and James L. Salmon and Audrey and Alton Templeton by Mary S. and Al Templeton.

## "Council of Christian Churches To Meet"

The Council of Christian Churches in the UUA will hold its Convocation XV October 15 at King's Chapel in Boston (<http://www.kings-chapel.org>), from 1 to 5:30 p.m. The program - for both lay people and clergy -- includes lunch, a panel on "Roots of Religious Liberty: Sebastian Castellion, Roger Williams, William Penn and Thomas Jefferson," a brief business meeting, and a communion service. To register, leave a message at the King's Chapel Parish House at (617) 227-2155. Suggested donation is \$10 (\$6 for seniors, students, the unemployed, and the disabled).

## UUCF Publishes *Universalism Then and Now*

The recently published 60th volume of the UUCF Christian theological journal of the Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship is a special issue devoted to Universalism. See the UUA Bookstore Website for ordering information.

## Words

By Pastor Lillie

*Namasté* is a [Hindi](#) word (pronounced Nah-mah-stay) when translated literally means "reverential salutation to you." In Hindi and Buddhist countries, it is commonly accompanied by a slight bow made with the hands pressed together, palms touching, in front of the chest.

In a religious context this word can be taken to mean any of these:

The Spirit in me meets the same Spirit in you.

I greet that place where you and I are one.

I salute the Light of God in you.

I recognize that within each of us is a place where [Divinity](#) dwells, and when we are in that place, we are One.

Greeting someone with *Namasté* recognizes and pays honor to their sacredness and our interconnected relationship. As long as we can fully recognize the goodness of others, and can focus ourselves on their value as a sacred human being, we are very close to the enlightened state of mind, which is the focus of Buddhism and what Jesus of Nazareth asked us to do.

What we need to do in our relationships—congregational, communal, work, social, personal, and intimate—is be intentional in our recognition of the other person's sacredness.

We pay lip service in our culture to the value of humanity, but, systemically, it is rare to see it lived out. And, on an individual level, we are so busy living our lives and taking care of our families, that it is often difficult for us to take the time to recognize our loved ones' sacred value. It follows then, that it is even harder for us to recognize the value of individuals we do not know, and harder still to be in relationship with them.

Take for instance, the homeless men who sleep on our church steps. They do not always smell or speak pleasantly, and it is hard to foster a relationship with them. There are many others, people we've never seen or met, who live differently from us and with whom it is difficult for us to relate. Nevertheless, we know all of us have

the same value to God.

We may, or may not, have the ability to help the homeless men who sleep on our steps, or any other person who lives so differently from us, but if we pray for them that is a significant step in recognizing their sacred worth.

One practice that can facilitate this ability to relate and connect is prayer. Prayer makes a difference in our lives, and it makes a difference in the lives of those for whom we pray.

Practicing the theology of *Namasté* allows us to live out our religious beliefs—to recognize the divine in each other.

Practicing daily prayer allows us to live out our religious calling.

Take the time each day to pray for others; we never know how, or when, or why the loving energy of prayer will make a difference in their lives and in ours.

## Community Service, Feeding The Hungry

### Food For All

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 needs volunteers who are available on Fridays to move food from a local food bank to UNMC. Volunteers also meet at UNMC each 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](mailto:jsandler@amurt.net).

## UUCF Revival In New York City

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 so you may want to book your lodging as soon as possible.

## Security Changes at the Church

An alarm system is now installed at the church to protect the administrative suite. We need everyone who has a key to come in to the church office and re-sign for your key, get an alarm code, and train on the alarm system. Quawanna Thomas, our administrator will be here on Sunday, September 17th to facilitate the process. You can also come in Mon-Fri from 9-12 to get your code and training.

**IT IS CRUCIAL THAT THIS TRANSITION BE SUCCESSFUL, AS FALSE ALARMS**

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

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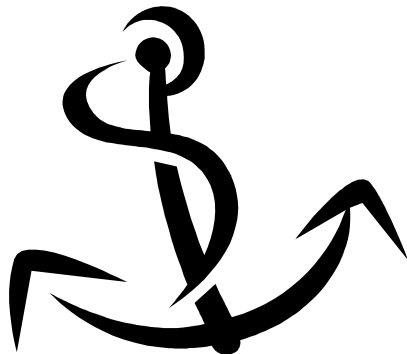
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### **Our Mission (adopted May 2002)**

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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