

# Universalist Anchor

Newsletter of the Universalist National Memorial Church

May 2004 [www.universalist.org](http://www.universalist.org)

1810 Sixteenth Street NW, Washington DC 20009



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## May Worship and Activity Schedule at UNMC

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### **Bold events occur on Sunday.**

Saturday, May 1. Leland House dinner. Volunteers meet in the church kitchen at 3:00 p.m. and take the dinner over to Leland at 5:00 p.m. For further details, see page 10.

**May 2. The Rev. Wanda Daniel preaching, "The Risks of An Abundant Life."**

**9:30 a.m. Interim Search Committee meets in the library. All interested members invited to attend, share ideas and input for the process of recruiting an interim minister. For further details, see page 5.**

**"Lunch Bunch" after worship to share lunch and discuss "table topics" related to adult spiritual development. In the Weston Room, formerly the Gift Nook, downstairs. All are welcome.**

Monday, May 3. The Board of Trustees will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Romaine-van Schaick room. All are welcome.

**May 9. "The Path to Joy." We celebrate the achievements and aspirations of this year's graduates with a bridging ceremony. Remarks by Sue Mosher and James Estes.**

Saturday, May 15. Leland House dinner. Volunteers meet in the church kitchen at 3:00 p.m. and take the dinner over to Leland at 5:00 p.m. For further details, see page 10.

UNMC's Singing-Visiting Ministry performs at 6:00-7:00 p.m. See page 9 for further details.

**May 16. The Rev. Katherine Jesch preaching, "Hope is in the Dirt." Immediately following service in the Romaine-van Schaick room is the**

**annual parish meeting. Please plan to stay, a light lunch will be served. All are welcome to attend.**

**Leland House collections day. Please leave your donation downstairs in the kitchen on the counter next to the microwave.**

Wednesday, May 19. *Anchor* submissions deadline.

**May 23. The Rev. Mark Schaefer preaching.**

**May 30. Mr. Richard E. Hurst, preaching, "The Spirit and the Deep Heart."**

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## **Toward Improving Stewardship:**

Strengthening  
UNMC 's  
Culture of  
Appreciation  
While  
Embracing  
Our  
Community  
Culture of  
Generous  
Donation

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In a Christian context, "stewardship" refers to the responsibility we have for the gifts that God has bestowed. In a Church setting, stewardship has been characterized as sharing our *time, talent and treasure*.

Pledging/financial offering is the primary way in which members and friends of UNMC share their treasure with our community of faith to fulfill stewardship obligations, but it is not the only way. We have a long-standing tradition in this Church of augmenting our budget by individual

*Continued on page two.*

members quietly stepping forward to meet needs of the Church--whether by underwriting an unanticipated major building expense, in kind donations of unbudgeted-for office equipment, donating professional services that the Church otherwise could not afford, or the like. Newer members of our community may not be aware fully of this fact, and even long-time Church members may at times take for granted the often-unsung generosity that abides in this community.

Similarly, many members of the UNMC family quietly and tirelessly donate countless hours of their personal time and talents for the greater good of our community of faith. Those contributions similarly risk getting lost in UNMC's often shy culture of quiet reserve.

There is always a risk when you give public thanks of leaving someone off the list, but a fear we might forget someone is no excuse for not publicly thanking anyone. Instead, let us just acknowledge up front this list is far from exhaustive. Consider this a "first installment," a way of getting the ball rolling in a concerted community effort to do a better job of letting each other know that we appreciate each other's many contributions to our community. This time of transition presents a real opportunity for our community of faith to step up ongoing efforts of purposeful self-examination and cultural modification and improvement.

The Board of Trustees will get us started this month by offering on behalf of the UNMC community special thanks, in no particular order, to the following individuals and groups:

**Donna Simonton**, for her recent generous donation of much-needed new curtains and drapes

**David Skidmore**, for his longstanding service as Leland Place coordinator

**Our Welcome and Membership Committee** for its many ongoing efforts toward improving our hospitality, and particularly also to **our greeters** recruited as an important part of this effort

**Al Templeton** for reorganizing the Romaine-van Schaick kitchen space

**Paul Hannah & Al Templeton** for their ground-breaking service as Building Usage Coordinators

**Jorn Dakin**, for stepping up to chair the Building &

Grounds Committee in its time of need **Rob Bertram & Richard Hurst** for serving as our Worship Coordinators during this transition time, as well as **our liturgists Richard Hurst, Sue Mosher, Jennifer Sandberg, and David Skidmore** for continued high quality worship at UNMC **David Fox** for representing UNMC at the inauguration of his brother and our minister emeritus Dr. William L. Fox as President of Culver-Stockton College in Missouri

**Kimberly Durham Bates**, our Administrator, for continued conscientious, good-natured service as the glue that holds UNMC's operations together **Donna Simonton** for serving as impromptu "cantor," leading us in hymns when the choir is not present

**Kirk Denton**, who somehow continues to make musical magic for us no matter what we or the Gottfried organ manage to throw his way **David Fox**, who quietly plays various key roles in keeping things running smoothly for us Sundays **Sue Mosher and Richard Zierdt** for transferring the Church web site at <http://www.universalist.org> to a new hosting service and updating it with current material as well as a growing sermon library **Brian Pepper and Clint McCully**, who toil for us endlessly dealing with UNMC's many financial issues **Russell Chapman**, who continues to share his background knowledge and counsel as "Verger Emeritus Extraordinaire" whenever we need him (despite his personal needs to step back and take a break)

**Mary Simmons** for taking over as Chancel Flower Coordinator, thereby easing Russell's burden **David Burton** for his "think piece" suggesting a myriad of activities the Church can undertake to help it grow (several of which already have been acted upon)

Now, for what will become a monthly *Anchor* column, we encourage all parishioners to nominate similar items for public recognition and thanks, whether an item reflects your neighbor's contribution or your own. (And before you say, in typical quiet and reserved UNMC fashion "but how could I ever toot my own horn," just think about this: our UNMC community cannot thank you, if we aren't aware of what you've done.) Recognition may be for recent or past contributions--however the spirit moves you.

*Continued on page three.*

And let's not limit our efforts to Anchor items. Don't hesitate to let anyone in our community know that you've noticed and appreciated something they've done for the good of UNMC, whether by a chat after worship, a quick phone call in a moment of quiet reflection, or otherwise. As part of our ongoing examination of who we are and what we do to promote and encourage community building at UNMC, this purposeful effort to think about and let ourselves acknowledge how much we appreciate each other, will help us be that "loving community" of our Mission Statement.

[See also the separate but related article thanking members and friends for UNMC's improving pledge posture at page 4 of this *Anchor*.]

### Copy of UUA Interview Available for Review by Members

On March 1, under the auspices of the UUA Settlement Office, Joseph Priestly District Executive, the Rev. Richard Speck met with the Board of Trustees and the Committee on Ministry (CoM) to conduct a congregational "Transition Interview." He described this UUA tool as intended to capture UNMC as "a snapshot in time." The Board received for the Church a record copy of the report on this interview, which has been finalized and forwarded to the UUA.

Whenever a minister departs a settled ministry, the UUA's process is to conduct interviews with both lay leadership of the congregation and the departing minister, in order to help the Settlement Office, and ultimately (with respect to a congregation), future ministers assist a departing minister and the Church in moving on and moving forward in their ministries. The Settlement Office seeks candor and self-examination in this process; its interview questions reflect this objective, and accordingly the UUA treats the resulting report with sensitivity.

At UNMC, the elected Church leaders represent and are accountable to the congregation. Accordingly, the Board is making this report available to any member who wants to read it.

However, due to the sensitive nature of this report, the Board has decided to make it available for viewing only by members and only in the church office, with no copies to be made. Please contact Vice Moderator Vicki Pepper or Church Administrator Kimberly Durham Bates to make the necessary arrangements to review this Report.

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## From the Trustees

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**April Meetings.** The Board of Trustees met on April 12 and April 26. Among the matters considered were the following:

*Interim Search Committee.* The Board approved the membership of the Interim Search Committee as follows: Chair, Vicki Pepper; Members: Tom Curteman, Georgia McKenna, David Skidmore, Mary Templeton. Information about the opening for an interim minister to start in late summer 2004 is now available on the UUA website to accredited UUA ministers. Other ministers interested in the position can contact Vicki for details.

*Finances and Stewardship.* Treasurer Brian Pepper reported that pledges are up significantly this year, with 18 pledges received by Easter for \$39,500. Last year at the same time, the total was \$22,000. [See Brian's article on page 4 for the latest pledge figures.] The amount per pledge unit also has increased, an encouraging sign. The church recently has also received some significant gifts, including monies for the McKim Organ, which will help reduce the outstanding advance to be reimbursed to the church to \$9,000; additional gifts for the initial phase of the organ project have been pledged and are expected.

Assistant Treasurer Clint McCully reported that the church's insurer has terminated the current coverage, effective this summer, for reasons not given but apparently not specifically prejudicial to the church. Building usage coordinators Al Templeton and Paul Hannah have indicated they will look into options and make some suggestions for replacement coverage.

*Budget Process.* With regard to the May 2004-April 2005 budget, the Board discussed a three-pronged strategy to continue to try to hold expenses down but meet program needs:

- Continue the 3 Sundays/month choir schedule used during 2003-4, but add a soloist for non-choir Sundays and an accompanist for summer services.
- Use the high estimate for the interim minister's salary and expenses package.
- Hold the line on other expenses, except where committees and coordinators know of specific needs.

*Nominating Committee.* The Board discussed potential names for the Nominating Committee, which will present a slate of officer and trustee candidates to the congregation at the annual meeting May 19. Moderator Greg Wigle agreed to contact those suggested for the committee.

*Audit Committee.* The Board agreed that a two-year audit be undertaken, since no audit was done last year, and discussed candidates to serve on the Audit Committee. Vice Moderator Vicki Pepper agreed to ask David Burton and Jeff Jacobs to serve.

*Administration.* Kathryn Desmond agreed to take on the role of Administrative Coordinator, which entails being a contact person for the church administrator on a range of administrative matters.

*Building and Grounds.* The Board briefly discussed decorative matters and display of art. Moderator Greg Wigle agreed to refer Richard Zierdt's suggestions concerning replacing existing bulbs with low-energy fluorescent bulbs and re-aiming the pulpit spotlight to B&G coordinator Jorn Dakin.

*Religious Education.* Vicki Pepper reported that she, Sue Mosher, and Amir Morgan had lunch with Rev. Gina Campbell after Rev. Campbell preached at the March 29th service to discuss RE. Rev. Campbell might be available for further consultation this fall.

*Welcome & Membership.* Chair Sue Mosher reported on the committee's recent "hospitality audit," which identified several problem areas related to building appearance and facilities that have an impact on the impression that first-time guests receive when they visit our church -- accessibility, restrooms, signage, vestibule, state of plaster/paint, and water fountain. The Board discussed recent changes made in the order of worship (some of those changes suggested by the W&M committee and implemented by the liturgists

in an effort to make the service bulletin more welcoming) and made suggestions for further refinements. The Board also discussed what changes in the order of worship might require wider discussion and a formal approval process, but did not come to any conclusions.

Sue also reported that 4-week ad campaign in the *Washington Post* leading up to Easter cost \$625. One guest commented that she attended to hear "The Palms" on Palm Sunday after seeing the newspaper notice. The Board agreed that earlier and wider notice about the music program might help attract more people to our services.

The Board expressed appreciation for David Skidmore's effort to involve some newer members and friends in taking up the offering during the service.

The Board briefly discussed the draft charter for the Committee. Vicki Pepper agreed to provide the Committee with further suggestions for their charter.

*Worship.* The Board made several suggestions to pulpit coordinators Rob Bertram and Richard Hurst for potential preachers. The Board agreed that the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services went well and offered special thanks to Jennifer Sandburg for all her efforts in making them so meaningful. Sue Mosher noted that the liturgists have taken responsibility for the weekly order of worship since last summer, providing the church administrator with material and proofreading the final product.

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## Around Our Church

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### Improving Stewardship: Report from the Treasurer

In keeping with the Church's policy and new practice on more purposely and publicly recognizing contributions to UNMC, and with the explicit approval of the board of Trustees, your Treasurer would like to thank all UNMC members and friends who have made pledges of financial support to the Church listed below. Pledges for 2004 currently total \$52,601.00, a significant increase over the amount pledged in support of UNMC for calendar year 2003.

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As we discussed at last year's Annual Meeting, making that personal commitment to donate your "treasure" in support of the Church by pledging is very important to the Church's ability to plan financially and budget realistically. If you have not gotten your pledge card in for 2004 yet, or if you would like to increase your pledge, it is never too late. For anyone who thinks he/she has pledged but is not on this list, please contact Brian Pepper so we can straighten out any record-keeping glitches.

Rob Bertram  
 David Burton  
 Lynn & Les Cook  
 Tom Curteman & Shannon Loring  
 Jorn Dakin  
 Dennis & Kathryn Desmond  
 Kirk Denton  
 Hope Fogwell  
 Seymour & Esther Fogwell  
 David Fox  
 Ethel Fritts  
 Paul Hannah  
 Richard Hurst  
 Jeff Jacobs  
 Perry King  
 Herb Mannis  
 Clint McCully & Jennifer Sandberg  
 Sue Mosher  
 Jim & Fran Pearce  
 Brian & Vicki Pepper  
 Mary Simmons  
 Donna Simonton  
 David Skidmore  
 Mary & Al Templeton  
 Greg Wigle  
 Richard Zierdt

UNMC's Treasurers will update this report in the June Anchor, and also intend periodically to recognize special purpose donations, e.g., for the Organ Fund.

## Ministerial Interim Search

In late-breaking news, the April *Anchor* reported that, based on the mandate received as a result of discussions at the congregational Open

Forum March 14, the Board approved on March 27 an Interim Search Committee (ISC) Charter and appointed Vicki Pepper Committee Chair. On behalf of UNMC the Board also applied to the UUA Settlement Office seeking an Interim Minister. The ISC Charter is posted on the bulletin board near the UNMC library and can be reviewed at the Church website: [http://www.universalist.org/interim\\_charter.htm](http://www.universalist.org/interim_charter.htm).

In accordance with the Committee's charter, in late March and early April the Chair discussed the Committee's role, responsibilities, and timeline with several interested Church members. After these discussions, the Chair recommended, and at the Board's regular April meeting, the Board approved members David Skidmore, Mary Templeton, Tom Curteman, and Georgia McKenna to join Vicki to serve on this Committee. The Committee will need to be flexible in working together to accommodate diverse and busy schedules over the next several weeks, but all members are committed to discharging faithfully ISC's important assigned task.

The Chair spoke with Nancy Hezlitt, Assistant to the Director of the UUA Settlement Office in Boston, who advised that UNMC was one of the first churches to apply for an interim minister, noting that Director John Weston had extended the April 1 deadline. She also advised that Rev. Weston planned to hold the annual Accredited Interim Minister (AIM) Seminar from April 12-15, and that he hoped to match up available candidates and churches soon thereafter. Therefore, Boston should identify to UNMC a handful of qualified candidates by late April or early May. In a separate conversation with JPD Executive the Rev. Richard Speck, the Chair learned that several ministers already have expressed interest in UNMC's interim position to him. Rev. Speck recommended that the Committee stay in touch through the interim search process, and has offered his ongoing assistance.

Committee and Board preference would be to identify for UNMC a suitable UUA minister who is trained and certified as an Interim Minister, but the paramount concern of Church leadership is finding UNMC the right minister with the best skillset possible to help lead us through this important transitional period in the life of our community of faith. The Committee currently is working on

putting together UNMC's informational package, which will be sent to select interested Interim Minister candidates.

To obtain congregational ideas and input for our process, the Interim Search Committee invites any interested UNMC members to attend an ISC meeting scheduled before worship at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 2. We will plan to meet in the Library, but can find a larger room if attendance so requires. The Committee also is developing a simple written survey to provide an alternative means of obtaining input from the congregation, and encourages all UNMC members to take the time to respond to this short survey promptly when it becomes available. The Interim Search process is simpler and streamlined as compared with the process of searching for a permanent settled minister, and the Committee's goal is to identify, screen, and interview qualified candidates, and to forward a recommendation to the Board by June 30. Due to the nature of its work, a degree of confidentiality must surround the Committee's process in order to protect the personal privacy interests of individual ministers as well as the sensibilities of congregations particular candidates currently may be serving. But within such constraints, parishioners should feel free to contact ISC members with questions and concerns regarding UNMC's interim search process.

The Committee will continue to keep the Board and congregation apprised of its activities.

As of press time: The UUA had identified the first tranche of candidates for UNMC's Interim Ministry to the ISC. More from the Committee next month.

## **NOTICE of UNMC Annual Parish Meeting**

Please make plans to attend UNMC's Annual Meeting, which will be held on Sunday, May 16, 2004 in the Romaine-van Schaick Room after our worship service that day.

Although only UNMC Members and Associate Members may vote at the meeting, all UNMC members and friends are welcome to attend. A light

lunch will be served. The agenda will include the following items:

### **Election of Church Officers**

Pursuant to Art. III, Section 6 of UNMC's Bylaws, the congregation will elect church officers and trustees.

### **UUA General Assembly Delegate**

Also pursuant to Art. III, Section 6 of UNMC's Bylaws, the congregation will elect UNMC's delegates to Georgia to the UUA General Assembly in Long Beach, California, in June.

### **Registrar's Report**

UNMC Registrar Sue Mosher will make her Annual Report.

### **Other Church Committee and Coordinator Reports**

UNMC's Committee Chairs and Coordinators will make their reports. Of particular interest, Donna Simonton will offer a report on the Organ Project and Vicki Pepper, whom the Board appointed Chair of the ministerial Interim Search Committee (ISC), will report to the congregation on the status of the ISC's work.

### **Consideration of Budget for 2004-2005**

The Board of Trustees will submit a proposed budget for the 2004-2005 Church fiscal year for the congregation's approval. The Church fiscal year begins on May 1, 2004 and ends on April 30, 2005.

## **Changes to UNMC's Bylaws**

Vicki Pepper will again present the pending Bylaw amendments at the annual meeting. The text of the amended sections as they will read after the changes is printed at page 7 of this *Anchor*. Current Bylaws are available on the Church website at <http://www.universalist.org/bylaws.html>; a line-in, line-out comparison of the new and old language was provided in the June 2003 *Anchor* and may be reviewed online in the *Anchor* archives. In your review of these materials, please note that revised section 3 of Article V incorporates language proposed by Al Templeton that varies somewhat from the line-in line-out version published in the June 2003 *Anchor*. (The primary draftsman accepted

*Continued on page seven.*

this alternative formulation as a "friendly" amendment.)

These Board developed and endorsed amendments proposed last year were tabled for further consideration at last year's Annual Meeting. When reconsidered at a special meeting convened 6 weeks later for the purpose of voting on the Bylaws, the Church lacked a quorum and could not take legal action. The congregation similarly lacked a quorum to take formal action at the semi-annual meeting in November, but the sense expressed by the congregation present was that the proposed Bylaws more accurately reflected Church needs and current realities of actual practice, so the Board could operate in accordance with them and should continue to pursue their formal adoption. A synopsis of the rationale for the changes follows:

*PURPOSE: To provide the Board of Trustees and congregation greater flexibility in structuring its operations that will facilitate compliance with the Bylaws in UNMC's current circumstances, while remaining true to the spirit and intent of the original Bylaws provisions.*

*Nature of Changes: Article III, Section 2: to allow the Board and congregation greater flexibility in determining appropriate Board size and complement from year to year.*

*Article IV, Section 6: To expand the Charter of the Diaconate to recognize an increased role for the Diaconate to assist the Pastor in matters of congregational concern, under the Pastor's direction and guidance.*

*Article V, Committees: To revise extensively the current mandatory scheme of multiple committees to allow the Board increased flexibility in creation of committees and alternative structures, within a workable framework for their operation.*

*Article VII: Section 2: Clarifying amendment regarding the Pastor's role with respect to building usage.*

(After changes, the changed sections of the bylaws will read as follows:)

## BYLAWS OF THE UNIVERSALIST NATIONAL MEMORIAL CHURCH

[No changes proposed until:]

### Article III.

#### Officers

Section 1. The officers of this Church shall be a Moderator, a Secretary, a Treasurer, an Assistant Treasurer, a Registrar, and a Diaconate consisting of four or more deacons and four or more deaconesses. All of these officers, except the deacons and deaconesses, shall be elected by ballot at each annual meeting. The deacons and deaconesses shall be nominated by the Pastor and elected by vote of the parish and their terms of service shall be at the pleasure of the Church.

Section 1A. No person may hold more than one of the offices of Moderator, Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer.

Section 2. There shall be a Board of Trustees consisting of no fewer than 7 and no more than 16 members, including the Moderator, Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. The up to 12 remaining members of the Board shall be elected from the membership of the Church in such a manner that approximately half of these members of the Board shall be elected annually for terms of two years. Board members may not serve for more than three consecutive terms. The maximum size of the Board for each year should be determined by the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

Section 4. In all elections a majority of the votes cast shall be required to elect, and all officers and Board members shall continue in office until their successors shall be chosen. The Board of Trustees may fill vacancies in its own membership or in any

offices of the Church, however occasioned, until the next Annual Meeting. If a Board member is elected by the Board to fill a vacant officer position in addition to his or her Board position, that Board member shall continue to exercise only one vote on the Board. A person elected to fill a vacancy or unexpired term shall be considered to have served for one term if the period during which that person serves is more than one half of the term. In the event a candidate is identified during the Church year to stand for an officer's position, such individual may be nominated by the Board and elected to the position at any legal meeting of the congregation held in accordance with Section 1 of Article VI.

#### **Article IV.**

##### **Powers and Duties of Officers.**

[No changes until: ]

Section 6. The Diaconate shall make suitable provision for the communion service and assist in its administration. They shall oversee the disbursing of any charity funds and offerings of the Church in coordination with the Pastor. Under his or her direction and guidance and as appropriate, they may assist the Pastor in attending to the pastoral needs of the congregation. The activities of the Diaconate shall be reported to the Board through the Pastor.

#### **Article V.**

##### **Committees**

Section 1. There shall be a Nominating Committee of three members elected by the Board of Trustees.

Section 2. There shall be an Audit Committee to audit the Treasurer's records as soon as possible after the close of the fiscal year that shall make a report on its findings at the annual meeting of the Church.

Section 3. The Board shall establish such other committees and employ such mechanisms as it determines necessary to promote the ministry and effective administration of the Church. The Board may establish standing and temporary committees

to perform various functions, including, but not limited to, those in the following areas: adult spiritual development; budget, finance, and stewardship; building, grounds, and maintenance; building usage; chancel (including memorial flowers); Church administration; Church development; denominational and social concerns; hospitality and membership; ministry; outreach and publicity; programs and activities; religious education for children and youth; strategic planning; and worship and liturgy. The Board shall define the duties and powers of each committee in writing, establishing such requirements for organization, leadership, and membership as it deems necessary. The Board remains responsible for the oversight of all Church committees. The Board shall approve the membership of all Committees and should appoint a Board member to each. The Board shall approve the Chair of all Committees, preferably from among Board members.

Section 4. All committees, except the Nominating and Auditing Committees, should meet monthly, except for those months in which the Board does not meet. Committees may meet more frequently, at the discretion of the committee chairmen.

Section 5. Committees and coordinators shall review policy and operations under their jurisdiction prior to the preparation of the proposed annual budget, and shall make recommendations for the funding of those areas of church operation and activity under each committee's/coordinator's jurisdiction.

Section 6. All committees shall report on the previous month's meeting(s) and activities at each meeting of the Board of Trustees, with the exception of the Nominating and Auditing Committees, which shall report only at the Annual Meeting and at such other times as may be requested by the Board.

Section 7. In any area where the nature of the tasks involved or the needs of the Church do not require or make advantageous a committee structure, the Board alternatively may appoint an individual coordinator or co-coordinators and shall define generally and provide to each their responsibilities and authorities in writing. Such coordinators shall report regularly to the Board on their activities.

Section 8. The Board shall report or ensure reports are made to the congregation at the Church annual meeting on the status and activities of all committees and coordinators, including any created or dissolved during the year.

### Article VII.

#### The Office of the Pastor

Section 1. The Pastor shall have charge of the spiritual life of the Church.

Section 2. The Pastor shall have the power, in coordination with a building usage committee or coordinator if such exists, and subject to the policies and approval of the Board of Trustees, to determine the uses of the church buildings for worship and other suitable activities of a parochial or community nature.

As amended at Annual Meeting May \_\_, 2004.

If you have any questions or comments about the proposed UNMC Bylaw amendments, please contact Vicki Pepper to discuss them before the Annual Meeting.

### Finishing with Faiths

The Über Fellowship of Light youth group is in the home stretch of their year-long study of other faiths, turning their attention to Wicca and Islam. Plans are being made for next year's youth program; parents and other interested members and friends of the congregation are invited to meet on Saturday, May 8 at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Sue Mosher for a planning session. Contact Sue Mosher at (703) 241-9828 or sue@turtleflock.com for more information.

### Singing/Visiting Ministry News:

Our next singing engagement is Saturday, May 15, at 6-7p.m., where we will lead children ages 6-12 in songs with a positive message. We will work with an organization called "Little Friends for Peace" with the children from the Sursum Corda neighborhood

which has a high level of violence and poverty. Some of these children have witnessed violence and have been traumatized so our positive witness can make a difference to them in their perception of persons of different social backgrounds. We will also share food with the children and adult volunteers. Join us to sing or visit and help with the food. Contact Perry King for details at Perikine@yahoo.com; w-202-354-1137 or h-202-667-0376. Performance location: 128 M. Street. N.W., Washington, DC near corner of New Jersey and New York Avenue at the Perry School's Peace Room.

### Welcome Team - Additional Greeters Needed!

Each week, someone from the congregation stands ready at the front door to welcome members, friends, and guests to our worship service, while someone else is busy in the parlor preparing refreshments to accompany conversation after the service.

Here's the welcome team schedule for May:

May 2

Greeter: Mary Simmons

Refreshments: "Lunch Bunch" hot topics and hot soup - Donna Simonton coordinating

May 9

Greeter: Erin Fox

Refreshments: OPEN

May 16

Greeter: Sue Mosher

Refreshments: Board of Trustees (annual congregational meeting)

May 23

Greeter: Mary Templeton

Refreshments: OPEN

May 30

Greeter: OPEN

Refreshments: OPEN

May 9 is Erin Fox's last day as a greeter, as she's moving to California to get married later this month. Additional greeters are also needed to substitute for regulars during the summer months. If you can help the church provide a warm welcome one Sunday per month, please contact Sue Mosher at sue@turtleflock.com or (703) 241-9828. No prior experience necessary; training, including answers to basic questions that guests often ask, will be provided.

## Chancel Flowers

- May 2. In memory of Marcus W. Lewis by members of his family.  
 May 9. In loving memory of her parents by Mary Simmons.  
 May 16. In loving memory of their parents, Sally Tesoriero and John Bertram by Tom Tesoriero and Rob Bertram.  
 May 23. Open.  
 May 30. Open.

## Growing in Service

### Leland Place

Leland Place, a residential facility on North Capital Street for men in recovery from homelessness and addiction to alcohol and other drugs, needs your help this month. We are scheduled to cook and share dinner with the men of Leland Place on the first and third Saturday of the month — May 1 and 15. We meet in the church kitchen at 3:00 pm and serve the meal at Leland at 5:00 pm. Volunteers share the cost of the meal, usually \$10 to \$20. As always, we will be collecting groceries and men's toiletries on Sunday, May 16, so bring your groceries to the church kitchen and place them on the counter by the microwave. To sign up, in advance of the scheduled events, please contact Dave Skidmore at (703) 237-2145 or dave\_skidmore@mindspring.com. Leland Place is a program of So Others May Eat, Inc. (SOME), which is designate #8189 in the CFC/United Way Campaign.

## Let's Make UNMC Fully Accessible!

Richard Zierdt

While I like to think UNMC is fully accessible to people of many faiths, physically the church is not. We're talking wheelchairs, bathrooms, and mobility here.

I was initially confronted with the issue because of my upcoming wedding at UNMC. Several disabled friends would not be able to attend because our church cannot be entered by persons in wheelchairs. Like most buildings built before 1970, UNMC was not designed with disabled people in mind. In fact, my sense of the time is that the disabled were in a separate world of their own. Times, attitudes, buildings, and people have changed to where the disabled are recognized as a part of all of us.

While remodeling UNMC to add ramps or elevators would be prohibitively expensive, donations have been received to purchase a rather clever machine that carries a person, while in her/his wheelchair or motorized chair, up and down stairs, both inside and outside the church. Thanks are due the Pepper family, who donated a substantial amount of the purchase price.

As I write this, a final demonstration is expected April 21 at UNMC. By the time you read this, the portable wheelchair lift will hopefully be in the building and ready for regular use.

We can now build on this progress, and start the "next phase" of this project to remodel at least one bathroom (or re-make a closet, etc) to be wheelchair accessible. Stay tuned.

**Update:** the wheelchair lift is now in the building and in use.

## Buildings and Grounds Report

Jorn Dakin

Things have been relatively quiet on the B&G front this past several weeks. The winter heating season is now just about over, and soon it will be time to use the air conditioning. That gets checked out

annually. Under the leadership and initiative of Al Templeton, we have made some discoveries about being able to get the heat distributed in a more satisfactory fashion, so that we hope to have the sanctuary warmer on cold days next winter.

Speaking of summer, the grass has started to grow very nicely on the church lawns. We have put a sign-up sheet for mowing the lawns in the Romaine-van Schaick room where it is available for those who want to sign up for lawn-mowing and other yard work during hospitality hour after worship service. I want to take this opportunity to thank Brian Pepper for the mulching projects that he has been carrying on in the flower beds and areas next to the sidewalks. In addition, I would like to thank again Donna Simonton for the bulbs and other perennials that she planted last year. They have come up nicely, and are part of the beauty of the church's exterior that makes us grateful for spring. Finally, I would like to thank again all who have been taking part in our joint effort to maintain and improve the church, both inside and outside.

Let me end on a positive note with the news that the church's trash collection effort has been meeting with greater success recently. The firm that picks up the church's trash seems to be doing a better job, and I want once more to thank all who have eased the load on the church's system by taking trash home with them for disposal through their own means. On the lighter side, I continue to be amazed at what some people will do - such as the anonymous individual who apparently carried their old newspapers about a half mile down from the Meridian Hill neighborhood to leave them in the alley in back of the church. Happily, they don't seem to be making a regular thing of it.

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**Our Mission**

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.

**Our Goals**

We want to grow as a spiritual community, both in numbers and in the depth of our faith experience.

We want to revitalize our building to make it a welcoming house of worship, study, fellowship, and service with the potential to contribute financially to the long-term viability of this congregation.

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

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