

Universalist Anchor

Newsletter of the Universalist National Memorial Church

July 2004 www.universalist.org

1810 Sixteenth Street NW, Washington DC 20009

202-387-3411



July Worship and Activity Schedule at UNMC

Bold events occur on Sunday. New earlier time for summer services, 10:30 a.m.

Independence Day, July 4. 10:30 a.m. Informal service of prayers and meditations led by liturgist and deacon Mr. David Skidmore.

July 11. Mr. David Skidmore will be preaching. The sermon topic is "Praise."

July 18. Ms. Jennifer Sandberg, head deacon, will be preaching. The sermon topic is to be determined.

July 25. The Reverend Adam Taylor, a minister at Shiloh Baptist Church, a nearby church on 9th and P Streets, a historically African American church which like our own is committed to cultural diversity and community outreach. The sermon topic is to be determined.

Julio 25. Servicio en español, 12:30 pm. Tema: ¿Está escuchando Dios? Textos: San Lucas 11, Salmo 138. Texto completo del servicio en español y inglés. Topic: Is God Listening? Full text of the service in Spanish and English.

Next Month

August 1. Ms. Donna K. Simonton will lead a brief service that will immediately be followed by UNMC's Annual Picnic. Further details will be forthcoming.

New Interim Minister to be Hired

by Victoria Pepper,
Vice Moderator & Chair, Interim Search Committee

The Interim Search Committee and Board of Trustees are quite pleased to announce that the Reverend Mary Katherine Morn, who has just completed a successful ministry of seven years as Pastor of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville, Tennessee, has agreed to serve as UNMC's Interim Minister for the next year, with an option to extend for an additional year. Reverend Morn and son Caleb, 9, are joining her husband, John Rakestraw, who accepted a position at Georgetown University earlier this year.

Moderator Greg Wagle and Reverend Morn plan to finalize the Minister's Agreement upon her return to Washington after the UUA's General Assembly being held in Long Beach, California from June 24 to June 28, but the Board anticipates that her ministry will begin formally in August, with some vacation time to be taken during that month.

Reverend Morn received her Masters of Divinity in 1987 from the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Texas. She brings UNMC vast experience as a parish minister, and the Interim Search Committee found that Reverend Morn's skills and interests as a minister matched up extremely well with UNMC's current needs as well as with those ministerial skills emphasized by the congregation in response to its recent congregational survey. Reverend Morn's leadership experience includes two long-term settled ministries, during which the congregations she served each won the UUA's Picket Award for contributing to the growth of Unitarian Universalism.

The Board and Reverend Morn will send out letters to UNMC members and friends providing

Continued on page two.

additional information soon, including a schedule of opportunities for the congregation to meet Reverend Morn and her family this summer. Stay tuned--as together we are about to embark upon an exciting new era in the ministry, and history, of this Church.

Around Our Church

Welcome Team

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 July:

July 4

Greeter: Mary Simmons

Refreshments: Donna Simonton

July 11

Greeter: Donna Simonton

Refreshments: OPEN

July 18

Greeter: Sue Mosher

Refreshments: OPEN

July 25

Greeter: Mary Templeton

Refreshments: OPEN

Summer refreshments can be very simple - lemonade and cookies and a savory snack would be just fine. Or, team up with a newcomer to collaborate on a more substantial spread, and make a new friend in the process.

If you'd like to join the greeter team (training available) or have questions about our hospitality hour or other welcome activities, please contact Sue Mosher at (703) 241-9828 or sue@slipstick.com

Special Thanks

The following is a list of our members and friends who have quietly and generously over the last few months helped to make UNMC a warm and vibrant place to worship at and enjoy fellowship.

Mary Simmons, Erin Fox, Mary Templeton, Sue Mosher, and Perry King, for eagerly welcoming congregants new and old into our church on Sunday mornings.

Perry King, Hilda Amacker, Dave Skidmore, Lynn Cook, Donna Simonton, Mary DiQuinzio, Mary O'Connell, Sue Mosher, Greg Wigle, Al and Mary Templeton, and Paul Hannah, for providing nourishment that helps sustain us during our social hour chats.

Jorn Dakin and Brian Pepper, for helping fire up the grill during our barbeque. And thank you **Greg Wigle** for coming up with the brilliant idea of having a front lawn barbeque.

David Fox, for securing the parking lot each Sunday after everyone departs.

As this is now a monthly Anchor column, all parishioners are encouraged to nominate similar items of public recognition and thanks. Recognition may be for recent or past contributions.

Learn about Universalism and UNMC

Inquirers' Classes will be held on three Sundays this month - July 11, 18, and 25 - for newcomers, long-time friends, and members interested in learning more about our church. The classes meet before worship at 9 a.m. each week and cover a wide range of topics concerning history, theology, and congregational life. You'll also have an opportunity to tell your own spiritual story and hear those of others; this is most people's favorite part of the classes. A brunch outing is planned after worship on the final class day. For more information and to sign up, please contact Donna Simonton at (301) 897-0166 or dsimonton@cc.nih.gov or Mary Templeton at (202) 333-5059 or marystempleton@aol.com.

Continued on page three.

Trained Wheelchair Lift Operators

The following people have successfully completed training on the Garaventa Super-Trac wheelchair lift:

Tom Curteman
 Richard Hurst
 Shanon Loring
 Clint McCully
 Sue Mosher
 Brian Pepper
 Vicki Pepper
 Donna Simonton
 Richard Zierdt

The lift requires two operators at all times - one at the actual lift controls and one acting as spotter.

If you would like to receive training on the lift, please see any of the lift operators. The training takes about 45 minutes to complete and consists of watching a video that explains the lift's operation, taking a ride in the lift up and down stairs, and operating the lift up and down stairs.

Parish Notes

Vanessa Southern, former minister of this church, now pastor of the Unitarian Church of Summit (NJ), and her husband, Rohit Menezes, are the proud parents of a baby girl, Layla, born in late May.

Paul and Lisle Hannah are expecting a baby in early November, as are Chuck Thomas, who has transferred his membership to River Road Unitarian Church, and his wife, Amy.

Curteman-Loring Wedding -- All are invited. Tom and I would like to announce that all of the congregation is welcome to come and join in our special day, for our wedding ceremony. It would mean so much to us to have all our friends, family, and community there. We would like to thank everyone for their support. We do understand that summertime is a time for family vacations, so if people are unable to attend, it is OK. The ceremony is Saturday, August 7 at 10:30AM. Please join us for the morning Church

ceremony if you are able.

--Shanon Loring

Georgia McKenna writes:

"I want to thank all my friends at UNMC who helped me with my move and provided other assistance. You have gone out of your way for me. I'm unclear now about my next move, but I'm exploring different options."

Chancel Flowers

Sunday, July 4. Flowers are given by Mary and Al Templeton in loving memory of Al's sister, Beth Templeton Leach.

Sunday, July 11. Flowers are given by James Pearce and family in loving memory of his parents, Charles and Helen Pearce.

Sunday, July 18. Flowers are given by Jennifer Sandberg and Clinton McCully and the grandchildren in memory of their fathers, Sandy Sandberg and Edward Nichol McCully.

Sunday, July 25. Flowers are given by Amy Thompson Tipton in memory of her parents Charles William and Virginia Pfeiffer Thompson.

UUCF Bible Chat Online

The Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship has launched a email discussion list that focuses on questions and responses about biblical passages, interpretations, history, theology, how it affects our personal spirituality, and how the Bible intersects with culture. It will include intentional times of studying and sharing specific Bible study as well as general chat based on the Bible. This may include chat about news and issues related to the Bible, films with biblical themes, and resource sharing and book reviews for further individual and small group study.

To subscribe to the UUCF-Bible list, visit <http://www.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/uucf-bible>. If you have questions, contact UUCF Executive Director Rev. Ron Robinson at RevRonRobinson@aol.com.

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.

1810 Sixteenth Street NW · Washington DC 20009
office@universalist.org · (202) 387-3411

The Rev. Dr. William L. Fox, Minister Emeritus
Board of Trustees: Rob Bertram, Kathryn Desmond,
Richard Hurst, Clint McCully (Assistant Treasurer),
Sue Mosher, Brian Pepper (Treasurer), Vicki Pepper
(Vice Moderator), Greg Wigle (Moderator), and
Richard Zierdt (Secretary)

Ms. Jennifer Sandberg, Head Deacon

Dr. Michael O'Brien, Music Director

Mr. Kirk Denton, Organist

Ms. Kimberly Durham Bates, Church Administrator

Don't Forget the Summer Souvenirs!

If you're traveling this summer, don't forget to pick up brochures and other interesting materials from any churches you visit. The Welcome & Membership Committee is always looking for new ways to get our message out. You can share such souvenirs from your travels with any committee member - Sue Mosher, Mary Simmons, Donna Simonton, or Mary Templeton.

The Universalist Anchor
The Universalist National Memorial Church
1810 Sixteenth Street NW
Washington DC 20009