

# Universalist Anchor



Words by Rev Lillie

There are exciting things happening at UNMC. The leadership retreat was well attended with long-time members and friends, as well as newcomers who are already taking leadership roles in the church. There were twenty-four people who participated throughout the day.

The intrinsic benefit of the retreat was the significant amount of sharing—personal stories, hopes for the church, and thoughtful, creative communication. One of the small groups that formed out of our “challenges” was a group that looked at enhancing the spirituality of our congregation. One of their suggestions was to increase adult religious education.

There is one covenant group forming as this is published. It is a group that will explore “Spiritual Practices and Prayer.” Lisa Harris will be facilitating this group.

Someone has volunteered to present “Universalist History,” and another person has offered to facilitate a Christian, Universalist perspective on “A Course in Miracles.” Both will be announced in March and if enough people sign up, they’ll begin in April. I am working on a curriculum for “Prosperity and Abundance.”

If you have ideas or would like to offer some kind of adult religious education at 9:30 on Sunday mornings or at night, please let me know.

Other exciting news is we have two new deacons. Lisa Harris and Marti Martinson were officially recognized by the congregation at our congregational meeting last Sunday. They have been acting deacons for almost a year; and now it is official! We will have a ceremony at a Sunday Service to install them as Deacons, soon.

Another exciting aspect for me is the collaborative ministry we have. The leaders of the committees and the board are eager to work with me to ensure a strong, dynamic, and joy-filled ministry here. We all have our vision for the growth of the church and that is powerful. Working together, guided by UNMC’s

congregational covenant makes the work spiritually and religiously powerful.

So, as I live my second winter in DC and am glad for the kind of winter we have here, I thank God each and every day for the ministry and mission we are living out here on the corner of S and 16<sup>th</sup> NW. I am hopeful that God will call us to a special needs ministry. I do not know what that would look like, but I’m encouraging all of us to be open to God’s call.

See you in Church,

Pastor Lillie

## CANVASS SUNDAY

Mark your calendars! You’re invited to breakfast.

**Sunday morning, February 17**, our *Pledge Canvass* kicks off! The Budget, Finance, and Stewardship (BF&S) committee will host a breakfast in our beautiful, recently-painted Perkins Hall.

For those of you who pledged last year, you will notice that this year’s canvass is later than it used to be. That is because the BF&S committee is positioning the canvass to be linked to the Church’s fiscal year. They are asking everyone to continue giving their past pledge—or even increasing it—until May 1, when our new pledge and budget year begins.

## FROM “G” STREET TO GAZA: FOOD SECURITY FROM DC TO PALESTINE

**Saturday, March 8**, at 7:00 in Perkins Hall, we will celebrate the work of Food For All and the United Palestinian Appeal. There will be a panel discussion on the ministry of *food security* and the effort it takes to provide food for the most vulnerable populations of Washington, DC, and Palestine.

Come hungry—we will have Palestinian food! There will also be Palestinian crafts and music.

Member Marti Martinson will speak on his experience in sponsoring a Palestinian child in Gaza. There will also be presentations and slides from members and friends who have visited Israel and Palestine in the last year.

Contact the church office at 202-387-3411 or office @universalist.org if you have questions or would like to volunteer.

## Children/Youth Religious Education

In Sunday morning R.E., Mike Dillon reports that we have covered issues of responsibility, atonement, and forgiveness as we have looked at the differing stories of Jonah and John the Baptist. Next month we will be looking at the beginning of Jesus' ministry.

**WHO DO YOU THINK WILL WIN?** It's "Soup-er" Bowl season and time to start stockpiling those cans of soup! R.E. has set up voting baskets in the foyer to receive your canned ballots for your favorite football team. Please remember to vote early . . . and vote often! All canned ballots will be donated to Food For All.

### Youth Group is up and running!

Youth Group will next meet on Sunday, February 10, and again on February 24, at 7:00 p.m. at the McCully/Sandberg home. (no meeting Feb 3 or Feb 17, President's Day weekend) Young people in 7th grade and above are welcome. Please contact the office at 202-387-3411 or office@universalist.org if more information is needed.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, February 3: 12:15 p.m.** Fireside Chat with Pastor Lillie in the 2nd floor library.

**Monday, February 4: 7:00 p.m.** Board Meeting in Parlor

### Sunday, February 10

After church, newcomers gather with Pastor Lillie and members of the Welcome & Membership Committee to see a video on UU history and share spiritual journeys. Lunch will be provided. In March we will have UNMC 101 for all newcomers wanting to know more about the congregation.

**7:00 p.m. Youth Group** (7th grade and above) at the McCully/Sandberg home

**Saturday, February 16, 2:30** Church kitchen: Leland Place ministry—Meet at the church and cook a meal for those living at Leland Place, transport it and serve it.

**Sunday, February 17 – Canvass Sunday.** Breakfast in Perkins Hall

**Sunday, February 24, 7:00 p.m. Youth Group** (7th grade and above) at the McCully/Sandberg home,

**Saturday, March 8, 7:00** in Perkins Hall, From "G" Street to Gaza: Food Security from DC to Palestine.



## Chancel Flowers

Mary Templeton, Coordinator

**February 3** Chancel flowers are given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Horace Holton, and L. Ashley Rich and Alma Holton Rich, by Alan and Priscilla Rich.

**February 10** Communion.

**February 17** Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of her parents, James L. Benson and Frances Benson, and her brother, James L. Benson, Jr., by Frances Benson Pearce.

**February 24** Open

If you would like to donate flowers for Sunday morning's service, please call the office at 202-387-3411 or email office@universalist.org.

### WELCOME & MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

There will be a **Welcome & Membership Committee meeting on Jan. 27 @ 12:30 p.m.** All are welcome to attend. Leadership Retreat minutes, copies of advertising and published press releases will be available. The agenda will include: committee budget; guest survey; guest follow-up; press releases; advertising; university advertising; public service announcements; brochure for info. centers & bulletin boards; banners; greeters; name tags; DC street directional signs; a new outdoor sign; group activities & a WETA fundraiser. Look for additional announcements in the Order of Service.

### NEW COVENANT GROUP

UNMC is seeking individuals to form a covenant group that will embark together on a deep exploration of Christian prayer and spiritual practice. Our covenant group will:

- Study a range of subjects related to Christian prayer and Christian spirituality.
- Share our joys, sorrows, reflections and prayer practices with one another.
- Serve our church and community with special services and social justice projects

If you think you might be interested in this great opportunity to study, share and serve, contact the office at 202-387-3411 or office@universalist.org.



Pastor Lillie visited long-time members Priscilla and Alan Rich of Eldersburg, MD this past week.

Priscilla was recently in an auto accident and suffered a broken neck. However, the surgeons did some miraculous surgery and she is up and walking already! Keep them in your prayers.

### ***LELAND PLACE***

#### **Jambalaya in January**

Hearty ham jambalaya (ham-balaya?) was the centerpiece of a mid-winter dinner at Leland Place on Saturday January 19. Accompanying the main course, as planned by Catherine Bocskor, were two delicious salads. The first featured grated carrots, raisins and pineapple and the second, beets and artichokes.

Thanks to Catherine B., as well as to assistants Catherine Robbins, Mike and Alex Dillon, Judy Burns and Dave Skidmore.

Our next dinner for Leland, a halfway house on North Capitol Street for men recovering from addictions, is scheduled for Saturday Feb. 16. We gather in the church kitchen at 2:30 p.m. and serve the meal at Leland, a facility of SOME (So Others Might Eat), at 5 p.m. The per volunteer cost of the meal usually runs between \$15 and \$25. Those wishing to volunteer their time, but not contribute monetarily, may see Pastor Lily or Dave Skidmore. Those without spare time, but with spare cash, may donate to the Leland program using one of the blue envelopes in the pews.

### ***SUNDAY SERVICES***

**Saturday February 2:** NO Vespers Service this month

**Sunday, February 3** – “This Little Light of Mine” is a sermon by Rev. Henley that reflects on our Universalist heritage and our message of “Give them hope, not hell!”

**Ash Wednesday, February 6**– Lent begins – Noon and 7:30 p.m. services. We will have a “Liturgy of Tears” and a litany of penitence. We will celebrate God’s healing power.

**Sunday, February 10** – First Sunday of Lent – “The Three Temptations of Jesus” What does it look like to be in the “wilderness?” Was Jesus any different than Moses? How do we answer the temptations of comfort? Should Lent mean anything for us today? Matthew 4:1-11.

**Sunday, February 17** – Second Sunday of Lent and *Canvass Sunday*. Rev. Henley’s sermon today will focus on Jesus’ transfiguration and what transformation and faith can mean for our lives. As people of faith, in community, with a mission to live out Jesus’ teachings, we need to ask ourselves, “Is it possible that the transfiguration can be important to Jesus’ call to create God’s kingdom on earth?” Matthew 17:1-20.

**Sunday, February 24 Sunday**, – Third Sunday of Lent – “Jesus and the Woman at the Well” Why does Jesus share with her, a Samaritan woman, the mystery of his calling and why does she understand before the disciples? Are the ones who are most in need the ones who “get it!” first? John 4:5-42.



Children from The Metropolitan Interfaith Conference performing *The Lorax* on our stage in Perkins Hall. There is one more performance, this coming Sunday, January 27, at 3:30 p.m.

### **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 February, the recipient will be RAINN, the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, which is the nation's largest anti-sexual assault organization and has been ranked as one of "America's 100 Best Charities" by *Worth* magazine.

Among its programs, RAINN created and operates the National Sexual Assault Hotline. This nationwide partnership of more than 1,100 local rape treatment hotlines provides victims of sexual assault with free, confidential services around the clock. The hotline helped 137,039 sexual assault victims in 2005 and has helped more than one million since it began in 1994.

#### **National Sexual Assault Online Hotline**

RAINN will soon expand its hotline services with the National Sexual Assault Online Hotline, which will be the nation's first secure web-based hotline that provides live, secure and completely confidential help to victims 24/7 through an interface as intuitive as instant messaging.

#### **Helping Policymakers and the Media**

Innovative partnerships allow RAINN to reach millions of Americans each month with important information about sexual assault prevention, recovery and prosecution. RAINN is a frequent resource for television, radio and print news outlets — as well as local, state and national policymakers, law enforcement and rape treatment professionals — on the issues related to rape and sexual assault.

#### **Educating America to Prevent Sexual Assault**

In addition, RAINN uses its extensive entertainment industry and community-based relationships to put critical information into the hands of young women and men at concerts, on campus and in communities. Through these many close partnerships, RAINN educates more than 120 million Americans each year about sexual assault.

RAINN also publicizes the hotline's free, confidential services; educates the public about sexual assault; and leads national efforts to improve services to victims and ensure that rapists are brought to justice.

### **DREAM A LITTLE**

Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?

The UU bed and breakfast directory *UU're Home* (formerly *Homecomings*) can fulfill your dream. For 28 years, we've provided a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people.

You can also become a host and be listed in the directory. Contact us at [info@uurehome.com](mailto:info@uurehome.com), or at 828-281-3253, and we will gladly send you information about listing your accommodations.

Host listings on the *UU're Home* website at [www.UUreHome.com](http://www.UUreHome.com) are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added. The paper edition is published every year in April (and has some listings different from those on the website). For a copy of the 2008 directory and a year's access to the website listings, please click on "become a member" to pay by credit card or send a check for \$25 and your e-mail address to UU're Home, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806.

### **FOR LOVE OF CHILDREN'S NEIGHBORHOOD TUTORING PROGRAM NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

For Love of Children's Neighborhood Tutoring Program (NTP) is a highly structured back to basics reading and math program for students who are currently performing below grade level. Volunteer tutors are matched one on one with students and they continue to work with one another for the entire school year. Time commitment is about 2 hours/week excluding holiday weeks and school breaks. No experience needed and training is provided! Call or email today for a list of program times (evenings and weekends are available), locations and training dates! 202-349-3512 or [ntp@floc.org](mailto:ntp@floc.org). A child is waiting for your help!

# UNMC's 2008 Leadership Retreat



Above: Elizabeth Crawford, Paula Harrison, Vicki Pepper, Jarod Taylor, Jennifer Sandberg, Clint McCully



Judith Bauer, UUA Joseph Priestly District Consultant who facilitated the retreat.



To the left: Pastor Lillie, Christine Robbins, Rob Bertram



Ron Eanes, Christine Robbins, Rob Bertram, Christine Maly, Lisa Harris, David Burton, Sue Mosher, Jorn Dakin



Sally and Bob Segal, Ron, Christine having a good laugh