

THE CHANNING CONNECTION

The Newsletter of
Channing Memorial Church

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July 2009

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We are a
Welcoming
Congregation



Ministerial Musings



Most of my career I had "real" jobs - you know, the kind that actually continue all year round, with maybe two weeks vacation, three tops -- if I was working for a particularly generous employer. It still feels quite strange to have the change of pace that occurs in Unitarian Universalist congregations during the summer, a throw-back to the days when Unitarian churches followed the academic calendar of Harvard College, when the faculty and privileged-class congregation members got out of the disease-plagued, hot city of Boston and traveled to Cape Cod and the coast of Southern Maine. Universalists, who tended to be less privileged, with wage-paying jobs and farming as their source of livelihood, did not follow the same calendar, but somehow the "summer off" culture followed merger in 1961.

Of course, for a minister, summer provides the opportunity for in-depth reading and reflection, an opportunity to "go deep" in order to draw on interior resources that feed sermons and ministries throughout the year. Next year's worship themes will revolve around "virtue" and "sin" - offering Unitarian Universalist perspectives on these most complex ethical, spiritual, and theological concepts and what they mean to our lives right here in Central Maryland. Accordingly, my summer study will include *The Iliad* (Greek), *The Bhagavad Gita* (Hindu), *The Talmud* (Jewish), Benjamin Franklin (Enlightenment/early American), various Biblical wisdom literature, and contemporary sources of commentary and poetry. And yes, I hope to break this reading list up with lighter fare - perhaps even some trashy novels!

I will begin the summer with a silent meditation retreat and continuing education class on "Humor in the Bible" at Ghost Ranch in Santa Fe and Abiquiu, New Mexico. Ghost Ranch is where Georgia O'Keefe painted for over fifty years and is known for its beauty and its light. July back in Maryland will be devoted to reading, study, and some day trips. In August, Jack and I head to New England and Cape Cod for reunions with friends and family, particularly daughter Suzanne, her husband Will, and grandchildren Sam and Julianne.

Whatever your summer will be like, remember to look up and around, giving yourself moments (at least!) of joy in the long days. Even if your own vacation
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410-203-0474 (office)
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doesn't happen to fall during the summer, take a moment each morning or evening (or both!) to stop for a moment and look up at the sky. In that moment, allow yourself to simply "be." Vacate the rat race just for a moment and savor the joy of that very moment.

And don't forget to collect some water from wherever your travels take you, near or far, to share when we gather together once again on September 13.

Love, peace, and grace,
Susan

July Worship Services

Summer services are at Bethany Lane at 10 a.m. Keep an eye on the church website, church e-group mailings, and the summer newsletters for more details. For directions to Bethany Lane, see the last page of this newsletter.

July 5: To Be Announced

Check your church email for details!

July 12: Essential Spirituality

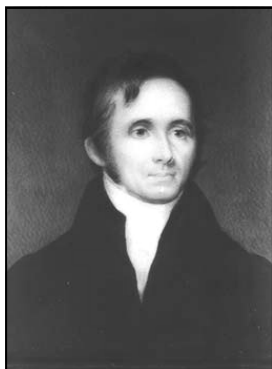
Yearning for teachings that were spiritual, yet not "religious," I found a treasure, *Essential Spirituality: The Seven Central Practices to Awaken Heart and Mind*, by Dr. Roger Walsh. From 20 years of research, he pulls together seven common practices from influential world religions: Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhist, Taoism, Confucianism, and Muslim. From unearthing our "cravings," to reducing anger and fear, to truly understanding and experiencing joy, peace, and wisdom, Walsh's discourse and exercises enlighten minds and lift spirits. This service will stir your "soul" and uplift! — Led by Elizabeth McNeilly

July 19: "You are what you choose to be, and remember to eat your vegetables."

Reflections on food, buying local, and living the 7th UU principle. After the service stay for conversation, and refreshments from a neighborhood CSA. — Led by Kim Metz

July 26: The Spot of Grace

This worship service will explore the writing of Dawna Markova, author of **I will not die an unlived life**. This book is about reclaiming purpose and passion. How do we bring out of our souls those gifts we were given? How do we plant these gifts in the soil of that which we care deeply about, that which matters so much to us it gives meaning to our moments? — Led by Diana Mosley



William Ellery Channing

Minister's Summer Schedule and Pastoral Care Coverage

June 21 - July 5: General Assembly (Ministry Days) and Continuing Ed at Ghost Ranch, Santa Fe and Abiquiu, NM.

July 5 - August 18: Vacation and Study Leave

I will probably be local during July.

August 5—17: New England and Cape Cod.

In the event of pastoral needs, Cheryl Gwynn-Haymes, Chair of the Caring Committee, is available. She can be reached at 410-645-1247 or csg.928@gmail.com.

In the event of a pastoral emergency (death, life-threatening illness or accident), please call Cheryl. She will be able to reach me or the minister-on-call for the summer. You may also leave a message on my church voice-mail, which I will check regularly.

Social Responsibility

Members of the **Social Responsibility Committee** met at Cindy Williams' home on June 11 to discuss the organizations for which we had collected during "Reaching in for Reaching Out" each month during the past church year. As we enjoyed a wonderful potluck supper provided by the members, we discussed those groups we felt we would consider including in next year's collections. We will be meeting again at the end of the summer and will reveal our decisions at that time. Again, we would appreciate hearing from members of the congregation about any needy groups we might consider.

Margot Vincent

Social Responsibility Committee

Amanda Johnson	Barbara Whorten
Donna Letzsch	Cindy Williams
Warren Letzsch	Sarah Williams
Margot Vincent	

Channing Knitting Party



The next Channing Knitting Party will be held on Sunday, July 12 after church from noon to 4:00 p.m. at the Fu's, 15 Ridge Road, Catonsville, MD 21228.

The theme this month will be "Show and Tell." Bring something to show us! All are welcome!

Setup Help Needed for Next Year



Can you arrive a little earlier and leave a little later on occasional Sunday mornings to help set up our worship space and put it away? This is a great volunteer opportunity, limited to Sunday mornings!

Please contact Mike Hill (Michael.W.Hill@usdoj.gov or 301-854-1289).

Stewardship Expanded Scrip Program

The scrip program has been expanded to cover the stores many of us use locally. We have gift cards in stock for the following stores in the following denominations:

AMC Theaters	\$9.50 and 25
Bob Evans	\$10
Borders	\$25
Giant	\$10, 20, 25, 50, 100
Home Depot	\$25
Jiffy Lube	\$30
Jo Ann Fabrics	\$20
L.L. Bean	\$25
Lowe's	\$25
Macy's	\$25
Marriott	\$100
Michaels	\$25
Old Navy	\$25
Panera Bread	\$25
Safeway	\$100
Sears	\$25
Staples	\$25

Cards for other stores can be ordered from the complete list that can be obtained from Warren Letzsch. The church profits from all sales. The percentages currently range from 4% to 16%.

During the summer, Warren will deliver the cards. You can order by email, phone, or send a check: Warren Letzsch, 4052 Firefly Way, Ellicott City, MD 21042, wletzsch@comcast.net.

We would appreciate it if all of the Safeway shoppers buy their cards on a regular basis, since replacing these cards provides the base load for ordering the less-used cards. A minimum order for scrip at Great Lakes Scrip is \$1000, since there are delivery charges that would make smaller orders less attractive. Our conservative goal this next church year is to double the scrip income.

REMEMBER to buy cards for upcoming shopping (one family specially ordered "Steak and Shake" for their vacation trip) and to use for gifts for family and friends. **REMEMBER** this is a way to give to the church without it costing you anything extra over what you'd ordinarily spend at these businesses.

Flower Committee!



Claire Kim, Lorraine Hughes, Dot Rockstroh, and Peg Carter would like to add to the beauty of our altar table.

If you would like to acknowledge a happy event or to memorialize a loved one through a floral arrangement or plant for the altar, please contact Peg Carter (410-465-8192). A minimum of two weeks notice would be appreciated.

Website Update

Committee Chairs: Please contact John Metz (johnmetz@gmail.com) if you have any special events or information that you would like to appear on the Channing webpage (or if you want to change or delete something that is currently on the webpage for your activity or program area). If you have events, meetings, or other activities that you would like listed on the web calendar, please contact Lorraine Hughes (lhughes102@comcast.net).

Dear Channing Auction Fans



Rare opportunity for vacation!

Barb's pondhouse at Bethany Beach has weeks/weekends in August and September open.

Now reduced to \$1000/wk. with \$100 going to Channing. Families can share.

Sleeps 8.

See it at www.bethanyvacations.com

Again, \$100 will go to Channing for any rentals over 3 days.

Email Barb if you are interested:

bwhorton1@verizon.net

How to Become Involved at Channing

Are you looking for ways to become involved at Channing? Are you looking for fun, opportunities for greater spiritual growth, intellectual enrichment, or just a way to get better acquainted with other members and friends? Following are a few examples of ways to get involved:

Covenant Circles

Led by trained facilitators, these small groups meet twice each month. (Contact Reverend LaMar for further information.)

Chomp, Munch, and Chat (CMC) Dinners

These informal, small-group dinners or other activities are great ways to get to know others. (Contact Evelyn Grim, 410-997-9135, evgrim@verizon.net for additional information.)

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Women's' Spirituality Circle

The Women's Circle explores various spiritual paths and practices. (Contact Donna Letzsch, 410-461-9904, dletzsch3@comcast.net.)

Channing Men's Group

This is a service and social group of and for Channing men. (Contact Eric Aldrich at 443-535-0554, ealdrich@jhmi.edu.)

UU Singles

UUs from Channing Memorial Church and the UU Congregation of Columbia have organized a singles group. (Contact Lindsay Stroh, 410-744-1288, strohlin@verizon.net with UU Singles in the subject line.)

Worship Associates

Participate in worship and learn to lead it! Writers, artists, and poets are particularly needed. (Contact Reverend LaMar.)

Musicians and Music Lovers

Join the choir. (Contact Margot Vincent, 410-730-8206, mvincent@yahoo.com.) Play an instrument. Or help the minister select appropriate recorded music.

Sunday morning

Help set up our worship space (contact Mike Hill, 301-854-1289, Joan.marie.hill@census.gov); usher (contact Carroll Canipe, 410-750-7843, cscanipe@verizon.net); greet (contact Evelyn or Ken Grim (410-997-9135, evgrim@verizon.net or kengrim@verizon.net); host coffee hour after the service (contact Diana Mosley, 410-977-0533, dwmnbr@comcast.net); provide flowers for the chancel table (contact Peg Carter, 410-465-8192, punchjudy@comcast.net).

Children's Religious Education

Enroll your children in Sunday school. Or, you

may wish to teach Sunday school, or be part of the Religious Education Committee. (Contact Lynn Schaefer, 410-465-4310, lschaefer@umbc.edu) or Donna Letzsch, 410-461-9904, dletzsch3@comcast.net.)

Adult Religious Education

A variety of classes and courses are offered each year. Book groups, study groups, classes, pastoral issues, meditation ... we attempt to respond to requests. Or you might like to lead an adult class, or be part of the Adult Religious Education Committee to plan and offer programs. Help organize the church library. (Contact Reverend LaMar, 410-203-0474, minister@channingmc.org.)

Caring Committee

Send cards, give rides, cook meals; whatever someone needs in illness or crisis. Or, if you are the one in need, ask for help. (Contact Cheryl Gwynn-Haymes, 410-465-1247, csg.928@gmail.com).

Membership Committee

Help newcomers get oriented. Help think of activities or needs that will help others become assimilated into the church community. Coordinate greeters, making sure that people are welcomed and that their questions are answered. (Contact Evelyn or Ken Grim (410-997-9135, evgrim@verizon.net or kengrim@verizon.net.)

Communications

Newsletter, website, publicity, Listserve/Yahoo Group. (Contact Rebecca Birnie, 410-730-6454, rebeccabirnie@verizon.net) for help in connecting with the right person to get involved.)

Social Justice

Help organize or raise money for the good of
(Continued on p. 7)

(How to Become Involved—continued from p. 6)

the wider community. Provide meals once a month for the Westside Shelter in Catonsville. (Contact Cindy Williams, 410-480-4660, familywilliams1@verizon.net.)

Stewardship and Finance Committee

Help raise funds and budget church expenditures. (Contact Eric Aldrich, 443-535-0554, ealdrich@jhmi.edu.)

Denominational Affairs

We are part of a larger Unitarian Universalist community. Examples of this community are: Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ), Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), Unitarian Universalist Young Adult Network (UUYAN), Chalice Lighters (funding for the Joseph Priestley District that assists new and struggling congregations), Joseph Priestley District meetings and programs, and Unitarian Universalist General Assembly.

Purposes and Principles

There are seven principles which Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.



Channing Memorial Church How Do I ...

... **Find nursery care and children's classes?** Look for someone at the Religious Education table in the foyer to help you find a class.

... **Find a restroom or drinking fountain?** Both are located in the main hallway.

... **Find copies of sermons?** Paper copies of some sermons may be found at the Congregational Life table in the sanctuary. Others are on line at www.channingmc.org.

... **Learn more about this congregation and/or Unitarian Universalism?** Stop by the welcome table in the foyer to chat, talk with a trustee or the minister. Watch the newsletter, Adult Religious Education brochure, or Sunday bulletin for announcements about "New to UU" classes. Visit the church's website at www.channingmc.org, and explore further at the Unitarian Universalist Association's website at UUA.org.

... **Make an appointment with the minister?** Contact Rev. Susan LaMar directly at 410-203-0474 (church) or 410-772-9144 (home), or email minister@channingmc.org.

... **Get connected to the Channing list-serve (Yahoo group)?** Channing members and friends may send an e-mail request to John Metz at johnmetz@gmail.com.

... **Submit an announcement for the Sunday Bulletin?** Send Sunday Bulletin announcements to Lauren Hilliard at laurentravel@yahoo.com by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday.

... **Submit an announcement for the monthly Newsletter?** Send your news, announcements and articles to Ken Grim, Newsletter Editor, at kengrim@verizon.net, before 7:00 p.m. of the deadline date shown on p. 1 of *The Channing Connection*.

... **Support the church by purchasing SCRIP to use on my grocery and other purchases?** See Warren Letzsch, Treasurer, in the foyer after services or contact him by phone or email (410-461-9904; wletzsch@comcast.net).

... **Send a contribution/pledge check if I am not at church on Sunday morning?** Send checks made out to Channing Memorial Church to our church office at 3230 Bethany Lane, Ellicott City, MD 21042, Attention: Treasurer.

... **Reserve meeting space in the church office or at the school after services?** Contact Rev. Susan LaMar at the church office.

... **Get reimbursed for a committee expenditure?** Contact Bill Shoemaker or Dan Vallone for a voucher form, fill it out and attach your receipt. Get the signature of your committee's chair person if applicable and submit it all to Bill or Dan.

July 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED 1	THU 2	FRI 3	SAT 4 Independence Day
5 Worship Service at Bethany Lane, 10-11 a.m. (No nursery or Sunday school)	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Worship Service at Bethany Lane, 10-11 a.m. (No nursery or Sunday school)	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Worship Service at Bethany Lane, 10-11 a.m. (No nursery or Sunday school)	20	21 Board Meeting at Bethany Lane, 7:30-9:30 a.m.	22	23	24	25
26 Worship Service at Bethany Lane, 10-11 a.m. (No nursery or Sunday school)	27	28	29	30	31	

Channing Memorial Church
Unitarian Universalist
3230 Bethany Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042

On the web:
www.ChanningMC.org

CHANNING MEMORIAL CHURCH'S:

Mission

To build a church of liberal religious worship that assists its members in meeting their own spiritual needs and their responsibilities to others.

Vision

Derive a common spiritual center from Jewish and Christian roots, drawing inspiration from other world religions. Promote religious education for all ages. Provide a welcoming, supporting and caring community. Identify and respond to needs in the larger community.

Office (Bethany Lane): 3230 Bethany Lane, Ellicott City, MD 21042
410-203-0474

Services: Northfield Elementary School, Ellicott City (September to June)

Minister: Reverend Susan LaMar (minister@channingmc.org)
410-203-0474 - office / 410-772-9144 - home
Minister's office hours: Tues, Wed, Fri. 3-5 p.m.
Sat. mornings and other times by appointment.

Directions to Bethany Lane (office/Summer Worship Services): Rt. 40 West. Turn right on Bethany Lane (after Enchanted Forest Shopping Center). Office building is on left, Suite 4 on left of building.

Directions to Northfield ES: *From the south:* Rt. US-29 to Rt. 100E. Exit at first exit (Long Gate Parkway). At second light, turn left (Rt. 103-Montgomery Road, which becomes St. Johns Lane). Go through 3 traffic lights and turn left at "T" intersection, which is Columbia Road. Turn right at next "T" intersection onto Northfield Road and go to Northfield Elementary School at end of street. *From the North:* Rt. US-29 S to Rt. 103 (exit 23), toward St. Johns Lane. Turn right onto St. Johns Lane. After .1 mile, turn left onto Columbia Road. Turn right onto Northfield Road and go to Northfield Elementary School at end of street.