

the emersonian

A Prayer for the Gulf



Infinite Spirit of Life and Love, our hearts are heavy and our souls are troubled by the oil spill in the Gulf. All of us have felt a host of emotions these past weeks as we have watched the tragedy unfold over day after day. We have felt sorrow for those killed and injured and their families. We have felt heartache at the peril of the waters and wetlands, the beaches and marshes, and all the creatures of the Gulf. We have felt concern and compassion for all those whose livelihoods are dependent on the Gulf, many of whom are just now recovering from other disasters. We have felt anger that this happened and anger and frustration at the seeming inability to contain the spill and ameliorate the damage caused. We have felt helpless to do anything. And we have felt concern for those we know who work for BP, who are under such stress and scrutiny, who carry the weight of this tragedy more than we can know, and who feel all that we feel and more.

We pray for comfort and healing for those who are mourning losses and for those who are hurting. We pray for strength and resiliency, for ability and wisdom, for those working tirelessly to contain the spill and to protect the beaches, wetlands and marshes, to rescue the birds and other wildlife. We hold in our hearts all of this beautiful creation now despoiled.

And we pray also to acknowledge our complicity in this disaster. Though the threads be long and even obscure, we are all linked - all of us - in some way or another to this tragedy. We pray for all of us to find the wisdom and courage to live in ways that truly cherish our beautiful planet.

And we pray that, no matter our feelings of the moment, we will remember these feelings and use them to good ends - toward doing what we can to walk in right relationship with the earth, in right relationship with our fellow creatures, in right relationship with one another. As we are all linked with the earth, so all humanity is linked with one another.

Shalom. Blessed Be. Amen. -The Revs E-L

Gratitude Campaign

Email, Facebook & Twitter Your Thanks!

Over the past several weeks, there have been many occasions where members of our congregation have been sources of support both for other individuals and our



community as a whole. Most people don't expect to be praised for doing what comes naturally, but we thought it would be a great idea if we gave you a platform to give thanks to your fellow Emersonians. You can express yourself in a number of ways—

- Email us at thanks@emersonhouston.org
- Like our Facebook Page and post your thanks
- Tweet your thanks to @emersonhouston

We'll compile the thanks and put them on our website so everyone can enjoy them. And, thank you!

Welcome New Staff

Bonnie Wellington & Adrian Rodriguez

Emerson is truly blessed by two new additions to our worship team. First, Bonnie Wellington assumed the position of Music Director on June 1st. She brings a wealth of training and talent to this position and the choir is very excited about working with her. An added bonus, she was raised as a UU and loves our faith tradition. You have already seen her in action as she has been Choir Director this past year and one of our section leads for the past several years.

Second, recognizing the demands on Bonnie's time from her other employment responsibilities, the position of Music Director has been abbreviated, just a bit, and a new position, Head Section Lead, has been created to assist the Music Director. Adrian Rodriguez has agreed to accept the offer of this position. He has served as our baritone section lead and over the past two years has been delighted to find a home with us. Both he and Bonnie are excited about their collaborative potential and we believe the music program, and the entire congregation will benefit from the leadership they will bring.

“Our beloved community of faith, reason, and affection welcomes all to grow in mind and spirit as we build a better world.”

Summer Sunday Schedule & Member Info

11:15 a.m. Worship Topics

July 4—Who Would Want to be MRS. Swamp Fox?

Come celebrate our nation's birthday, sing some patriotic hymns, and learn something they didn't teach you in the history books - the role of women in winning the war for independence!

July 11—...and Service is Our Prayer with Bob Hopkins, Emerson Member

A service celebrating Emerson's commitment to Social Action and community service over the years.

July 18—Love Thy Neighbor, Rabbi Elliot Gershenson, Executive Director Interfaith Ministries

A service celebrating the common goal of world religions and how Emerson's interfaith commitment promotes these words

July 25—Growing Up Emerson

We'll hear from several members who have been at Emerson since their youth about what it is like to grow up at Emerson.

Wheel Of Life

Our heartfelt wishes for speedy recoveries go out to several people who suffered injuries this past month: Gwen Essinger, who fell down stairs breaking her hip and who had the hip replaced; Kris Taylor, who broke an arm slipping in a parking lot; Eric Watson, who broke both wrists, falling off a ladder while cutting a branch during the Grounds Workday; and Mary Ann Stanley, who tripped in her kitchen and broke her wrist. Our care and concern go out also to: Joe Dowlen, who was hospitalized after complications of a viral infection; JoAnn Deforest, who broke her pelvis tripping over a cord in her home, and is now rehabilitating at Parkway Place in Northwest Houston; Margaret Davis, who is recuperating from surgery at Heartlands Nursing Home; and, to deForest Ralph, who is recovering from surgery at home.

Ongoing Sunday Activities

2nd Sunday—Food Sunday-bring non-perishable items / Special Collection

3rd Sunday—Newcomer Discussion, 10:00 a.m., Westwood Hall

4th Sunday—SEARCH Sandwiches, Westwood Hall

Child Dedications

Alice Josephine Watson, daughter of Michaela and Jonathan Watson, born 1/13/10, was dedicated on Sunday, June 13 during the worship service. Levi Faulkner Hager, born, 5/19/03; Sadie Lucille Hager, born, 3/5/07; and Lorelei Mae Hager, born 1/23/08, were dedicated on Sunday, June 20.

IN MEMORIAM

Ted Cloninger, December 30, 1946 - May 29, 2010

Ted and his wife, Cheryl (who died on March 6, 2009) were members of Emerson since 2006. They were both active participants in Emerson's monthly Thursday sandwich making for SEARCH, Houston's outreach to the homeless. Ted was an engineer for Houston Power and Light for many years. He was a hunter and lover of travel. He is survived by his children, Tracy Gorey and Josh Cloninger and their families, including three grandchildren.

Condolences can be sent to Tracy Gorey, 1705 Russet Wood Land, Hoover, Alabama 35244. Ted's memorial service was held at Emerson on June 10.

Don Whittaker, February 20, 1962-June 13, 2010

Don was a member of Emerson since February 2008. Don was a very active and visible presence at Emerson. He was a member of the choir, the instigator and director of the Emerson Players, the chair of the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration, a regular at the Wednesday Stitchers, and everybody's sweetheart. A memorial service was held at Emerson on June 19.

Recurring Events

Stitchers

Every Wednesday, 10:00 a.m., Delaney Hall

Contact: Phyllis Burchfiel

Sandwiches for SEARCH

Thursday, July 8, 10:30 a.m., Westwood Hall

Sunday, July 25, after church Help make 50 sack lunches for SEARCH. We welcome all volunteers. Contact:

Barbara Hopkins

Women's Evening Book Group

Wednesday, July 14, 7:30 p.m., Library

The book this month is The Geography of Bliss because we had a month we didn't meet and so the schedule slipped back a month. Contact: Jill Rose

Men's Book Club

Wednesday, July 14, 6:30 p.m., Lambo's Restaurant, 6159 Westheimer. July's books is Crude World: Violent Twilight of Oil, by Peter Maass. Contact: Bill Burchfiel

Book Club

Thursday, July 15, 10:30 a.m., Westwood Hall This month's book is Until I Find You: A Novel, by John Irving. All book lovers are welcome! Contact: Jo Irwin

Covenant Group

Wednesday, July 28, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., Library Please join us for a conversation on a spiritual topic. Contact: Nancy Lipp

Social Action Council News

READ for success—Are you enjoying some good books this summer? Want to check out something different? How about buying a book for the Emerson Book drive for Jones High School? Read the book and then donate it to help build class sets for an English class. A list of the requested books can be found on the SAC page of the Emerson website or in the Gathering Place with the correct ISBN. Please remember if you shop at Amazon through the Emerson website, the Church is rebated a percentage. Please drop off any books, new or gently used, in the clear plastic tub located in the Gathering Place and labeled BOOK DRIVE. Be sure to tally your book on the list provided. Reading is fundamental to success. Thank you for helping us to stimulate an interest in reading with these uniquely relevant books for Jones High School students.

Adult Education on June 20—Social Action Council hosted the Adult Education hour on June 20. This program included an overview of Emerson's 2010 Social Action goals and programs. We also discussed why Emerson as a church and you as a Unitarian Universalist should participate in Social Action. These reasons include that Social Action 1) supports our UU principles, 2) is an important function of our church on par with worship and child and adult education, 3) is part of Emerson's new Statement of Identity and Purpose, and 4) feels good to assist others. If you were unable to attend this Adult Ed contact a SAC member to learn how you can participate more in Emerson's Social Action and to share your perspective on what emphasis you want for Emerson's Social Action program in the next year.

Christel Collins & Phil Richardson, Co-Chairs SAC

Religious Education for Children and Youth

Summer Sundays for Children and Youth June 6 – August 29 – Classes for children 4 years - 5th grade - 11:15 am – 12:15 pm. Children under 4 must be accompanied by a parent. Youth 6th grade and up may join us as class assistants or attend the service with family. Childcare provided for Infants up to age 4.

Culture Camp Summer Sundays., Teaching Peace Thru Play—Come join us as often as you wish this summer as we explore various cultures throughout the world.

July 4 No Class this Sunday – but childcare will be available during the service.

July 11 We're off to Guatemala to learn about the Mayan culture. We'll create a Mayan codex and learn how to carry weight using our Brains and not our Backs. Hmm!

July 18 We leave Central America and fly all the way over to Iraq today. We will focus on the people of Iraq and the Rights of Children to have food, shelter, families, education and more in their lives. We'll make calligraphy bookmarks and play a game of trust.

July 25 Onward to Japan. We'll explore the gentle ways of behaving with other people that is so much a part of life in Japan. Any karate kids out there that can say: "Konnichiwa Sensei."

In August we'll travel to Romania, South Africa, and Tibet!

Save a Tree - If you would prefer to receive newsletter by email or not at all, contact Molly, 713-782-8250

For more information on any item in the newsletter, please consult our website at www.emersonhouston.org

Anniversary Book Sale

Bring Your Books to the Library in Delaney Hall

As part of the 50th Anniversary bazaar, the Library Committee is having a book sale.

Any books you wish to donate would be greatly appreciated.

Please leave them in the Schulman Library.

Caregivers Support Group



Are you primarily responsible for taking care of a family member who is ill or disabled? A group of Emerson members in similar situations meet regularly for mutual support, information

sharing, and fellowship.

If you think you might be interested in joining this group, contact Becky or Mark Edmiston-Lange, Co-Ministers, or Dick Cheney, Coordinator of our Lay Pastoral Ministry Team.

Note from the Revs

July 4 will be our last Sunday in the pulpit until August 22. We will be on vacation and study leave from July 5 to August 17. During this period of time, Karen Van Horn, our Business Administrator, will always know how to reach us should you need us for a pastoral emergency. Our area UU colleagues and Emerson's own Lay Pastoral Ministry Team are also on call. We are grateful for this time away from our routine duties so that we can recharge our batteries and refresh our spirits. The summer is typically when we get some of our best reading and studying done; but, we will also look forward to being in your presence again, dear sweet people. *The Revs E-L*

Public Relations News

Follow us on Facebook (just search our name) and Twitter (@emersonhouston).

Newsletter submission deadline: Tues, July 20.