



Dedication of Past MMUUS Ministers' Photos

August 12, 2007

Lighting of the Chalice

UU Heritage written by Elizabeth M. Strong

Our Unitarian heritage bids us light our chalice
In the name of freedom,
In the light of reason,
In actions of tolerance.
We gather in community to celebrate a heritage of freedom, reason, and tolerance.

Our Universalist heritage bids us light our chalice
In the name of faith,
In the light of hope,
In actions of love.
We gather in community to celebrate a heritage of faith, home, and love.

Let us bring this Unitarian Universalist heritage into our world and our lives today.

Gathering Words (Italicized words read by those in attendance)

We gather here today to honor those ministerial leaders of past generations.
But we also look to the future as well as the past.

We are thankful for all our past leaders as well as those ancestors who led the way.
We go forward in anticipation that we and our church descendants will continue to guide this institution with love, devotion, and dedication.

Piano Solo

Dedication by Granados

Nancy Pease

The Memories Wall (Description, its history, thanking those involved)

Remembering our Past Ministers (the names of our past ministers are at the bottom)

[Each minister's name, title, and years of service, in chronological order, was read by a Volunteer from among those in attendance – the chalice was lightly rung after each name]
Words sent by Elizabeth Strong and Scott Tayler were then read:

Liz Strong's Words

I consider my thirteen years as your Minister of Religious Education as some of my most enjoyable and memorable. My seven years as Nick Cardell's colleague were fun, energizing, filled with my own growth as a minister within a congregation where this was all supported and encouraged. During my time in Syracuse I branched out into the wider community, especially through my work with the Planned Parenthood affiliate and Peace Child. I was supported in this work by the congregation who

understood this as part of ministry to the community as well as being part of my ministry to the congregation. My work on the Meadville Lombard Theological School Board and Modified Residency Committee were also seen as part of my ministry to both communities, and proudly supported as well.

I was especially gratified when you all chose to change the name of May Memorial to be inclusive of my faith tradition, Universalism. It was an affirmation of the future of our faith as a "head and heart" religion. And we did have heart!! I shall always remember with great exhilaration our productions of Yanamamo and the incredible work done by so many in the congregation to bring them off with such success. We did have our fun times in RE and that is a major part of building a community for all ages and to the creating of May Memorial as an educating congregation. My interactions with members in the Building Your Own Theology courses, the Bill Moyers programs, and the World Religion seminars with local faith leaders developed mutual faith journeys for all of us, and built a stronger commitment to Unitarian Universalism, May Memorial, and to one another.

We had our tough times as well, but we stayed in community together and came through them with bumps and scratches, but together nonetheless. And we learned how not to do things, and slowly, from that, how to do them better. And I am grateful for the work I was called to do and for the work you were called to do because we all did grow our faith during that time.

So, enjoy this day of dedication and celebration of the ministers and ministries of this congregation. I wish you well long into the future.

PS: I still am having difficulty finding a good Christmas tree!!!!

The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth M. Strong
Unitarian Universalist
Minister of Religious Education

Scott Tayler's Words

Annie Dillard wrote, "When people come to church they should not be handed an order of service with a smile, but should be given hard hats and life preservers; because church should be a dangerous place, a zone of risk, a place of birth and new life." Gandhi famously said, "Be the change you wish to see in the world." May Memorial taught me and proved to me that Dillard and Gandhi are right.

May Memorial's genius is that it understands that none of us walk into a religious community yearning "for help staying exactly the way we are." We are looking to be different. We yearn to be better. We want to be changed. I am glad May Memorial is a dangerous place. This world needs more dangerous places!

My thoughts and joy are with you all as you look back on such a wonderful history of striving to be the change you wish to see in the world.

Best Wishes,
Scott

Dedication (Italicized words read by those in attendance)

This east wall with its ministers' photos is hereby designated as a place of important connection to the Memorial Room and to May Memorial. Therefore, we solemnly and joyfully recognize these 12 photos of our past ministers and dedicate them as a place of honor.

May our memories serve us well as we welcome our next minister into her leadership at May Memorial. So be it!

Closing Words

Past Ministers of May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society

Rev. John Parker Boyd Storer
Parish Minister
1838-1844

Rev. Glenn Owen Canfield
Parish Minister
1946-1952

Rev. Samuel Joseph May
Parish Minister
1845-1868

Rev. Dr. Robert Lee Zoerheide
Parish Minister
1952-1961

Rev. Dr. Samuel Robert Calthrop
Parish Minister
1868-1911

Rev. John Channing Fuller
Parish Minister
1961-1973

Rev. Dr. John Henry Applebee
Parish Minister
1911-1929

Rev. Dr. Nicholas C. Cardell, Jr.
Parish Minister
1974-1995

Rev. Dr. Wendelin Waldemar Weiland Argow
Parish Minister
1930-1941

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth May Strong
Minister of Religious Education
1988-2001

Rev. Robert Eldon Romig
Parish Minister
1941-1946

Rev. Scott E. Tayler
Parish Minister
1997-2004

