

INTERN MINISTER NEWS

by Katie Romano Griffin, Intern Minister



My family and I moved into our townhouse during my second semester of seminary. We knew the move would be good for us, but it was hard to leave our bigger house in Cape Coral, especially since our lime tree was lush enough to bear fruit. Our townhouse also had a lime tree in its courtyard but it looked like it really needed help and that darkened our mood about the move.

My grandmother is like Demeter, the Greek Goddess of the earth. Everything she touches, blooms. Me? Not so much. Sean and I have plodded along for the past two years nursing our ailing lime tree. It has been a frustrating enterprise. Was there something wrong with us? Was our effort futile?

It's normal to ask these questions, when something we yearn for isn't working out. Feelings, like longing and discontent, are important guides when entering a period of discernment. Sometimes these feelings are telling us to change course and other times, to stay the course. Most times it is hard to tell the difference and that is where my faith comes in. My faith tells me that the lime tree is a living being and deserves to be cared for even when it feels like the caring is fruitless. In this case my faith helped me stay the course until I found hope.

For the first time ever there is new growth on our lime tree and it has flowers! They smell like jasmine and are so fragrant, so full of promise and hope! I'm glad that we didn't give up on our tree and that we stuck it out. We might even have some limes this year, which is so exciting. If we don't, that's okay too. We are going to stay the course of care and continue to hope for next year. It feels good to have hope.

Do you have feelings of longing and discontent? How does your faith sustain you? Where is hope blooming in your life this spring season?



JOYS, SORROWS & MILESTONES

With our apologies for any omissions, here are the joys, sorrows & milestones of our members expressed in April:

Dottie Mayol is now at home and recovering after having hip replacement surgery. We hope that she continues to progress.

Ellie Boyd is in Assisted Living and appreciates having visits by her friends.

Linda Arthur missed the bottom rung of a ladder and broke two ribs. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Dick Nogaj had hip replacement surgery. We hope that his recovery continues to proceed well.

Bill Benyak was hospitalized for a heart valve issue. We hope he has a speedy recovery.



OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN AN IMPORTANT TEAM!

Opening for two individuals who can help save All Faiths more than \$5,000 a year.

The Cleaning Crew has not had an opening in several years but is now accepting applications to join its ranks. Two members clean our lovely building every week. With four teams, each person has to commit to cleaning only once a month. This is light cleaning and usually take less than an hour. The Solo Group handles more in-depth cleaning once a quarter.

We have an occasional get-together with meal provided to be sure everyone knows of any changes to our cleaning routines and to just have a little fun together. Welcoming and orienting two new members will be a perfect time for another get-together.

If you are interested in becoming an official All Faiths Cleaner, call or email Jeanne Ezell:
601-310-6584 or jeannezell@gmail.com

MAY CLEANING CREW SCHEDULE

Before Sunday, May 1	Joyce Ramay & Ed Kleinow
Before Sunday, May 8	Volunteers Needed
Before Sunday, May 15	Bill Snider & Sharon Gray
Before Sunday, May 22	Cloyd & Jeanne Ezell
Before Sunday, May 29	Solos Group

Thanks to these member volunteers who show up month after month, to keep our beautiful building clean.