

“Bridging Sunday”
Quimper Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Sunday, June 6, 2010
Kathy Stevenson, DRE & Bruce Bode, Minister

Lighting the Chalice

We are travelers. We meet for a moment in this sacred place to love, to share, to serve. Let us use compassion, curiosity, reverence, and respect while seeking our truths. In this way we will support a just and joyful community, and this moment shall endure.

(QUUF Covenant Statement)

Opening Words

With change, comes possibility.

We leave our past stretching to reach our future and we will always be made up of both.

We are who we once were, and we are who we strive to become.

Responsive Reading

LEADER: In a house which becomes a home, one hands down and another takes up the heritage of mind and heart, laughter and tears, musings and deeds.

CONGREGATION: Love, like a carefully loaded ship, crosses the gulf between the generations.

LEADER: Therefore we do not neglect the ceremonies of our passage: when we wed, when we die, and when we are blessed with a child;

CONGREGATION: When we depart and when we return; when we plant and when we harvest.

LEADER: Let us bring up our children. It is not the place of some official to hand to them their heritage.

CONGREGATION: If others impart to our children our knowledge and ideals, they will lose all of us that is wordless and full of wonder.

LEADER: Let us build memories in our children, lest they drag out joyless lives, lest they allow treasures to be lost because they have not been given the keys.

CONGREGATION: We live, not by things, but by the meaning of things. It is needful to transmit the passwords from generation to generation.

(Antoine de St. Exupery)

A Time for All Ages (Kathy Stevenson)

On the first Sunday of June each year, we have a Bridging Ceremony. This is when we honor our seniors who are graduating from high school. We call it Bridging, because they are crossing over from being children to being adults. Today we have 6 Bridgers: Julianne, Sebastian, Lisa, & Mikaela are graduating from high school. Evan and Conner will be going to school in other countries, so are bridging to their adult life away from the home they grew up in. Some of them are familiar to you as they help in RE. Others may be new to you.

We aren't saying goodbye to them, although they will be living elsewhere next year as they attend college. We are simply letting them know that we have enjoyed watching them grow up, and we wish them a happy adult life. We expect to see them here in their adult life.

I hope one day you will be part of a Bridging Ceremony!

Julianne wants to speak to you. When she is done the children in 3rd grade and up will stay in here for the service. You will return to your seats when we sing the younger children to their classes.

(Julianne read *Miss Rumphius* by Barbara Cooney. This book was given to her at the time of her Child Dedication. The members of QUUF signed the book.)

Introduction of Bridger	Nils Pedersen
Reflection by Bridger	Sebastian Lyons

Who I am:

I am a Colombian American who was baptized in a Catholic Church in Cali, the town that I was born in. Now I'm a member of this Unitarian Universalist congregation in Port Townsend. I was baptized in Colombia because it is my cultural heritage through my Colombian Godmother. At age 5 I started attending QUUF with my family.

How has QUUF Influenced my life?

My first memories include fun times in RE with snack time, a big draw and amazing story time! Mystery pals, OWL, and Coming of Age were all interesting programs that helped me learn about myself, the world, and connect to my church community. Harvest parties and Christmas ornament-making were family traditions. I especially liked the year in RE when we did Neighboring Faiths where we visited different religion traditions. I remember meditating at the Buddhist temple on Bainbridge and being at the Mosque in Seattle. We would discuss our ideas about these beliefs during an ethnic meal afterwards. My last event was attending my first District Assembly this winter. Stephanie was our awesome youth advisor, and it was the first time that I had ever been around so many UUs in one place. It was pretty interesting!

The members are a big part of my life: In this church are my Doctor, my Hairstylist, my Teacher, and a lot of friends. There are a lot of people that I have just known through Church that I wouldn't have known elsewhere.

What is important to me?

Everything is important to me; it is just that some things are more important. I have always wanted to help the poor people of our world as best as I can. Poverty has been a big concern all of my life. It started when I realized that I was adopted, and the reason for that was because my birth family didn't have the money or ability to take care of another child. From then on I have always wanted to help those in need in any way I can. As a lot of you know, I was chosen last year to go on a Rotary trip to Guatemala to help a Mayan village build a school. A lot of you in the congregation helped me in raising the funds for the trip. I did yard work and other chores. My experience in Guatemala furthered my interest in poverty. Therefore I decided the slogan, "Think Globally - Act Locally," would be the theme for my senior project this year. I researched poverty in Guatemala and, as some of you know, I made ceramic bowls to raise money for our food bank. During my community presentation I explained that through my church I have had a lifelong involvement with the food bank through our HOPE collection. Through the congregation's generous donations in buying the bowls we raised over \$600 to support the food bank. We are lucky in North America to have food banks available to prevent hunger and malnutrition.

What are my challenges, talents, passions and joys?

Challenges that I have not grown out of are putting my thoughts on to paper as well as speaking in front of a lot of people. I am going to have to work extra hard in college next year due to my learning disabilities. One of my talents is persistence and a good work ethic. I guess music and sports are both talents, passions and joys, along with service work. Music and sports have been a big outlet for me. I have channeled a lot of energy into soccer. For the past five years I have traveled around our state playing for a team based out of Silverdale. We played at the highest state level and were fortunate to have had the opportunity to travel to the Midwest and Europe. I have a lot of other joys, like snowboarding, hanging out with friends, helping people, backpacking, camping, traveling, learning what I can from anyone I can, and being with my family.

I will be attending Skagit Valley Community College in the fall, hoping to major in Physical Education or a related Health field. I signed a Letter of Intent to play Soccer on the Men's Team and received an athletic scholarship. I am really excited to continue my play at the college level. I am interested in learning more about ceramics and will be taking a ceramics class in the fall. I would like to continue the Community Bowl project as a fundraiser for the food bank there.

How do I want to live my life?

I want to be of service in the world, to live an honest life, and to be in good relations in my community. I want to live by the UU principles that are on a banner that has hung by my bed since I made it many years ago in RE.

Who do I want to thank?

This congregation has been there for me since I was little. You have watched me play violin, drum, do the HOPE collection, and play Joseph while Julianne was Mary in the Nativity play! I started out being a Shepherd, then graduated to a Wise Man, and finally got to be Joseph. Now I am ending my high school years doing child care and hanging out with cool little kids and babies. How fun is that?!

I have felt encouraged and supported over my time here. There are those who have employed me, especially Doris Thurston. Nancy Richards has tutored me in Spanish, which is allowing me to pass Spanish 2, hopefully. I can't express my appreciation enough for this support!

I want to thank all of my RE teachers and youth advisors who have helped me learn and grow emotionally and spiritually. You have helped me learn what is important in navigating current and future obstacles and challenges in life.

I really appreciated my experience with my mentor, Kees Kolff. I enjoyed our time together, talking, working together, and his interest in my life and what was going on for me. I became more interested in taking Spanish through our talks.

Of course I can't say enough about Kathy. I feel like I have known her all of my life since she was my teacher at Rainbow School. Her encouragement and support has always been important to me and it has made me less anxious in trying new things. We are so lucky to have her here at QUUF for all of the kids and families.

My family-I have to thank so much. Throughout the years I have realized that if I hadn't been adopted I could be in any situation bad or good. My parents and sister have supported me in everything I do. And even if I give them a hard time, they have always been there for me. I know that they will always love and be there for me in the future. That is what I am most grateful for!

Of course, I also appreciate that they raised me as an Unitarian Universalist.

Thank you.

Introduction of Bridger Stephanie Anderson

This is my second time introducing a Rowan for Bridging, and I must say that I think the Rowan family should be giving parenting classes, as they seem to turn out the most fabulous daughters. Whether Lisa is coaching gymnastics to kids (some as little as 2!) or becoming the Valedictorian of her school, she clearly does nothing half way. I feel fortunate to know her and honored to introduce her.

Reflection by Bridger Lisa Rowan

When I tell people that I am a Unitarian Universalist, their first response is usually, “A What?”. ‘Course when I mention the church on San Juan with the gorgeous new building, most of them know what I’m talking about. Many of my friends for a long time actually thought that I was not religious at all, which is understandable since I have always been very openly not Christian. However, for me, I feel that being a part of this community here makes me very religious, maybe just in a different way.

When I first came here as a young child in the R.E. program, QUUF seemed a place of color. Everything was decorated. The walls displayed colorful pictures and posters. We did arts and crafts with colorful papers and stickers. We sat on colorful carpet squares to sing lively songs. And everyone’s face was decorated with a smile. A place full of awed and curious children, and the adults that just smiled and smiled and smiled.

As I grew older I became more of an observer of this. Of the adults that unmistakably loved being at QUUF, of the joy and happiness they brought to the children. We started learning about other religions and talking about deeper topics. Christmas time was always my favorite; everyone in celebration and the beautiful tree to decorate. This is when the community of QUUF really felt like a family to me, though I knew only a few people. Singing carols and swaying back and forth to the music seemed so moving and comforting. It was one of those moments you don’t want to leave.

As I grew older and became linked with the youth group, I had more of a consistent connection with the church. At my very first youth group meeting, Mark Gordon had us play Oooka Boooka Buddha. For those of you that don’t know, this is a game where a very tiny, tiny Buddha statue about this big is hidden very discreetly in a large open room. The purpose of the game is to, once you find the Buddha, sit out and laugh at all the others still tediously searching the room. What a way to be initiated into the youth group.

But as I came to each Sunday’s gathering, the youth group offered me so much more. As a shy freshman, I usually didn’t talk much, but it was a place where all the nonsense of everyday life was thrown out the window and there was only pure honesty, kindness and support. It didn’t matter if you weren’t cool or if you came in your sweats. It didn’t matter if your ideas were different or if you didn’t talk at all. Everyone was welcome and no one was judged. And that is what made youth group home. Trips to Mississippi, freezing February polar bear plunges, yoga sessions, fish bowls, and pumpkin carving: I could have done these things with any one else, but they wouldn’t have been the same. And even this year, when my crazy schedule has prevented me from attending youth group no more than four or five times I am still always welcomed and always accepted.

For me, the QUUF is not just a place of many memories, it is a home that has helped me grow spiritually and become a better person. Here, the ideas and emotions that lie underneath everyday activities are brought out and proven real: Love, friendships, community. You can imagine what a huge contrast it is to High School. In such places like high school, these ideas only sort of exist, but no one really takes them on. No one truly believes they are there. And yet my experiences here prove that we can live in a

supportive community where we can love and respect and help each other. I know it is real because you see it here every Sunday.

A couple of weeks ago I was cleaning out my closet and found a shoebox wedged into the back of one of the shelves. The box was decorated with uncooked bow tie pasta and spray painted gold. Inside I had placed worn ballet shoes, homemade cards from my family, and letters from me to myself. I have sand from a trip to Hawaii, and notes from special friends and teachers. The box was made within these walls here a long, long time ago as a treasure box, and that is what it has been for me. When I saw it again this past month, it reminded me that not only has QUUF itself been a treasure for me, but I have also been taught here to appreciate and treasure what is most important to me. And this is a valuable life lesson that will never leave me.

I will be going to college in California next year and possibly majoring in education. I still have a life long goal to attend a UU Con, which is basically a giant Unitarian Universalist Sleepover. I still plan to follow in my belief that such a community that I have found here is possible everywhere in this world, and I hope to bring it to other people. Although you may not realize it, all of you have led me to this point in some way or another. So I would like to thank my Youth leaders, who have brought together fun Sunday evenings and have listened to my thoughts, I want to thank my family here today for putting up with all the up and downs of my growing up and for loving me the entire way, and I want to thank all of you for showing me that such a loving and supportive community is possible. Thank You

Music “Neil Gow's Lament for the Death of His Second Wife,” a Scottish Air; Sebastian Lyons, violin

Introduction of Bridger Kathy Stevenson

Conner is a young man I am proud to know. He is conscientious, kind, and thoughtful. You will hear THAT and his humor, when he speaks to you today. And you will share my awe at what he has learned as a world traveler and teacher. The program he will participate in for the next 2 years is an extremely competitive program. It is for highly motivated young people with great potential for becoming change agents in the international quest for creative solutions to global, regional and local conflicts. I believe they have chosen well. It is a pleasure to bring Conner Roberts before you.

Reflection by Bridger Conner Roberts

I've been writing this speech for 17 years. I realized that up to this moment all of my past accomplishments (and mistakes) have led me to this podium. Crazy thought, isn't it? That every moment, even the time my friend Seiji tripped me back in preschool, have built this stage for me to speak on today.

13 years later I'm still irritated by that trip.

But see there is my point! All of those memories either changed the way I lived my life or have stuck with me till today.

I remember my first years at UU when we were still out at the community center in Chimacum. That seems like ages ago. I remember the dragon out back and pretending I was helping my brother prepare for the play. Though really I was secretly trying to distract him.

But as time moved forward we moved in over here, (or guess over there now). I still remember all of the RE classes I took. We had those pictures on the walls of notable people. I was always surprised at how many famous people were UUs.

Then there were the years I got to move to the next older group room; it was like I was graduating from high school, but in reality...it was just a few feet away.

I made friends that I still have today. I remember it all so fondly... then my mom began to teach there... my 9 year-old self was thinking,

“wait, how could my mom be a teacher?”

See, I still had this view of teachers that they were these all-knowing people. But I was also just old enough that I knew my mom wasn't all-knowing. In fact I thought in my wisdom I knew more than my mom,

“why couldn't I teach the class?”

Of course today, I still know my mom isn't all-knowing, but I also know for a fact that she knows a lot more than I do, and I've got a long way to go to catch up.

From there – those classes and my growing up – I started become even more interested in religion and faith. I tried to dive in Buddhism and read Socrates. Yet in the back of my mind I was telling myself:

“I knew that.”

I mean, if I “Conner the boy Genius” had the all-knowing wisdom to be greater than my own teacher, then of course I should know what Buddha taught his followers.

Right?

Luckily, I eventually found out I was wrong.

I was very wrong... Ideas and lessons I learned in RE and beyond eventually stacked up to make me realize just how much I didn't know. And from that moment on that not knowing has been the greatest part of my life.

That feeling of unknown has inspired me to travel and seek out those things that I want to know. And since then I've been to 7 different countries and spent over 12 months of my life in Thailand.

Four of those months were just in this last year. It can be an eye-opening experience to live in another country by yourself for that long or, better put, living in an area where you're the only who speaks fluent English for 10 miles in all directions.

You don't realize how much you miss telling stupid jokes, till you just can't.

At the school where I taught English, I would be sent off to meetings to meet with high officials from other schools and sit through heated debates by the administrators.

They all, of course only spoke Thai, and I had no clue what was going on.

It was all fast formal Thai, and the first couple times I was so confused. But, gradually, I gained this ability to ignore – I know it sounds bad but hold on – to ignore the words isn't just to nod, but rather nod at the perfect inflections in the voices. I got good at this. It became an art, I'd look like I was involved, but really I was thinking "Did I leave my clothes out to dry?" "Hmm, I wonder if I could eat all of those fruit dishes."

The whiplash from this is that I brought it home with me, and sometimes I'll go into Thai meeting mode and tune out a conversation out of habit. "Conner, can you do the dishes?" I nod, "mhmm."

I did learn other things in Thailand though. I learned a lot about kindness, and more about tradition. Also, I now know how to catch a jumping spider. It's tricky. You got to get around it and...

And most significantly, just how important communication is even without words. The difficulty and effort it takes, because it's no longer just about picking the right words, but how you express them and the timing you do it with.

After I got back to Port Townsend and settled into my normal routine ...waking up, going to school... I realized how important all of my pasts have been. Without Boy Genius Conner or Ignoring Thai Meeting Conner, or The Conner who played on the Dragon after RE, I wouldn't be who I am today. I wouldn't be going to India to study next year.

And eventually all these moments and the moments to come will shape who I become, and I can look back and say, "Man, do you remember Crazy Getting ready to go to India Conner,"

"Boy, was he weird."

Thank you.

Introduction of Bridger Kathy Stevenson

Mikaela is a talented, energetic young woman, with a great sense of humor. If you attend high school musicals, you will recognize her as an actress and singer whose performances are the topic of conversation around town for weeks after a show. She is truly gifted. I am delighted to present Mikaela Euro to you.

Reflection by Bridger Mikaela Euro

Hi, I'm Mikaela Euro. Some of you may know me from the theatre community in Port Townsend, but I'm sure not very many of you know me from this community here.

I felt extremely honored when Kathy asked me if I wanted to be a part of this ceremony, because I haven't been very involved in QUUF for a while. But for most of my life, the things I have learned from this Fellowship have guided the way I choose to live my life. Like what I learned in Kathy's Rainbow School, the RE Classes, and Youth Group, and just being raised in a liberal household where I was given the freedom to ask questions and be who I want to be. I learned to keep an open mind and to be a good person. I want to be caring a treat others with respect and kindness. This is how I want to live. Sure, it sounds a bit corny, but I like keeping things simple.

I would lastly like to thank all of you who have supported me over the years, and that I'll always appreciate all the encouragement you've given me as I move to Los Angeles to follow my dream. Thank you

Music “Let It Be,” sung by Mikaela Euro; Leslie Lewis, piano

Introduction of Bridger Kathy Stevenson

Evan has always displayed an inquisitive mind. He is an original thinker, a wise soul, and a great athlete. As he ventures out, I have no doubt that he will make an impact and make a difference in the world. He is also a part of the United World College Program that Conner is attending. I present you, Evan O'Brien.

Reflection by Bridger Evan O'Brien

When I was eight years old, I was convinced that I never wanted to leave home. By middle school, I was starting to doubt that idea, and in high school, after two life-changing expeditions to Thailand and a two month trip to Mexico, I knew I couldn't fool myself any longer. Now, as I stand on the edge of the biggest, scariest, and most exciting leap of my life, I can feel my curious, teenage self tugging at that eight year old boy. As difficult as it is to leave such wonderful familiarity, I know I am not leaving that boy behind, but instead taking him into whole new realms of discovery, and in spite of the sadness that comes with moving on, I have never had a greater feeling.

This past summer, I spent five weeks living with host families and teaching English in Mexico. I built many meaningful connections, but there were times, especially early on, when I felt very alone. Among all these times, there is one moment that will stand out in my mind forever. It was later in my trip and I was walking down a dusty dirt road in the small village of Chacala Beach when a young boy came peddling towards me on his rusty, undersized bicycle. His bare feet and chest were beacons of the joyous simplicity that I will admire forever. When he saw me, his face shone and his mouth spread into the most genuine smile I have ever seen. “Hola Evan!” he yelled as he sped past. I waved back and felt my mood instantly lift, my heart swelling with a sense of belonging. There was nothing particularly special about this interaction, but in that moment, I knew that I could feel at home anywhere in the world. That no matter how out of place I feel, home is just a smile away. It is this feeling that gives me the confidence to step into a future of such extreme unknowns and know that I can thrive, that we all can thrive, if we take heart in those tiny moments.

I believe in community at all levels. From a circle at Jefferson Community School, to the unique blending of culture at United World College and, of course, to all of you in this QUUF sanctuary. I remember looking in my cubby during my early R.E. years and finding a faded, slightly torn peace sign stapled onto a paint stirrer. It was from my mystery pal, Doug Milholland, a man whose face I can barely remember, but whose kindness and authenticity still have an impact on me today. I remember playing golf with Bob Logan, my coming of age mentor, on a sunny weekend, thrilled that a near stranger was willing to spend hours of his time encouraging me as I chunked shot after shot down the fairway. The potential is always there to build a connection with the least likely person you could imagine. This is the power that can unite warring nations, that can allow an Israeli and a Palestinian to become the closest of friends in the heat of conflict. This is what draws me to United World College and what eases my fears when I think too hard about the realities of change. I am deeply grateful for the communities that I have grown up in, and I take great happiness in knowing that I am not leaving them, but rather expanding to a much wider range, connecting my beloved web here in Washington state to a new one 3500 miles away in Costa Rica.

I can't say I know exactly what I want in life, where I want to be or who I want to be with, but I do know that I believe in the value of connections, both local and global, that are possible simply because of who we are as humans, and can be as easy as a genuine smile. This QUUF community is as accepting as any I have ever known, and as much as I may have disliked getting dragged out of bed at eight o'clock for Sunday services, it has been worth every minute I have spent in these buildings. There is no greater gift than to see at a young age many of the virtues that I will value forever, and for that I am deeply grateful. You have all helped me realize, along the winding road of teenage development, that I truly can take leaps like the one I am about to take, and know that I will land exactly where I should: somewhere in the beauty and complexity of this world.

Introduction of Bridger Ellie Forbes 9:15, Nils Pedersen 11:15

Reflection by Bridger Julianne Gurnee

When I think back on my time here at Quimper Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, I see many things. I see burning chalices, and children sitting on their little rectangle rugs, I see Bruce shaking hands with familiar faces, and Kathy herding a bunch of kids through an archway of arms to the sound of, "Go Now in Peace". I see parents crowded up in front of the podium with their new babies for Dedication, adults sitting in circles of chairs in discussion, and friends at Youth Group sitting around a table of food on a Sunday night. Some of these memories are clear, and others are blurred by time. There is one memory that has stayed with me for a long time. I don't know why this specific moment struck me, but it has served in shaping my impression of who we are here at QUUF and what we think is important.

I must've been about three or four years old, because what is now our Fellowship Hall was in the process of being built. There was a celebration for its construction, even though it wasn't completely finished. I remember the golden light and the thrum of voices, and wandering through a forest of legs. I looked up at the ceiling and, from the perspective of a small child, it felt like I had walked into a beautiful cathedral. We were all gathered under a roof that we were all helping to build. I remember a feeling of amazement at the fact that this was where we got to go to church, that we had suddenly become something more. The emotions filling the building that night reached even me, as a little girl. And as I grew up and our original sanctuary seemed grow smaller, we continued to gather and expand. But despite our size, the feeling of a small community remains to unite us in our dedication to learning, personal growth, and caring for people and things inside and out of our congregation. This community is the foundation on which I have built my life. It wasn't purposeful. I don't think, "What would QUUF do?" every time I make an important decision. I don't consciously ask those questions. The values that I have grown up with here have imprinted themselves so deeply into my mind that to make right decisions in my life has become more natural.

It is natural for me to offer help to those in need, because I have seen it done here. And I'm ready to accept the opinions and feelings of others because I have learned to accept them during Youth Group... you learn a lot of lessons in Youth Group. I have seen our congregation help build houses and clean up beaches, and I've developed a higher awareness for my community and the environment because of it. Out of my thousands of memories, from my childhood and my growing up, I have absorbed the essence of what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist, and that has shaped my character and my future.

In a month and a half, I will be moving out of my house for the first time. My family will be driving me down to Mills College in Oakland, California and moving all my things into a dorm room that will be my new home. With only a mini-fridge, a hammock chair, and a laptop to my name, I will conquer new classes, make new friends, and make new experiences into a familiar life. I think this is a very easy time to lose yourself. To be plunged into a place where you don't quite know how to function like you did back home. But if I never forget what it is like to be home or who I want to be, I will remember that image of the ceiling soaring over my head and the familiar people who were gathered there to celebrate new growth and true values. Because if there were a time

when I would have to face new growth or forget what I believe in, it would be now. And if I find I am losing my way, I will remember the things I've learned here.

I probably won't ask myself, "What would QUUF do?" But I will think back on the discussions and laughter, and the families sitting together in the rows of chairs, the children playing in the garden, and the friends gathered around a bonfire on a Sunday night. I will remember the values of awareness, acceptance, and kindness that have been inlaid into my foundation and I will ask myself, "What can I do to make the world more beautiful?" Because that is what I have learned here at Quimper Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, and that is what I have found to be truly important.

Song "Circle Game" (see words in insert)
Guitar: Kees Kolff (9:15) Paul Becker (11:15)

Gifts

Gifts from YRUU
Gifts from Congregation

(Kathy) We have 2 small books for you, good for tucking in your travel bags. One is a UU book called, *Our Principles in Story and Verse*. This other one is titled, *100 Ways to Keep Your Soul Alive*. We also welcome you to adulthood with a new name badge, our adult color.

Blessing by Minister

It is our tradition to present each Bridging youth with a chalice. And so on behalf of the congregation, it is my privilege and pleasure to present each of you of six bridgers with a special chalice made by Carol Long from our congregation as a token of our love and care for you. It also carries our wish that your future life be rich and rewarding.

Blessing by Minister

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It is my privilege and pleasure, on behalf of the congregation, to present each of you with a chalice as a token of our love and care for you. It also carries our wish that your future life be rich and rewarding.

(After lighting the individual chalices):

May the flame of your chalice,
which I have lit on behalf of this congregation,
always represent for you a renewal
of your faith in the holiness, goodness, and beauty of life.
May it always be for you a re-affirmation

of the way of the open mind and the full heart,
And may this flame always recall for you
the deep wish of this congregation that your life
may be filled to overflowing with love and joy.
So may it be.

Congregation, please recognize these fine young people.

Closing Hymn #118 “This Little Light”

Closing Words & Extinguishing the Chalice

Following the conclusion of our service, our Bridgers will be present in the Foyer outside the sanctuary to receive your greetings and congratulations. However, they will also wend their way through the Arch of Blessing one more time. And so, following the Benediction and the Extinguishing of the Chalice, please form an arch along the aisle for our closing song, “Spirit of Life,” as we sing our Bridgers on their way.

And now may the faith we nourish here
And the memories we gather here
Give us hope for the future.
May the love that we share
And the companionship we feel
Strengthen us and bring joy to our hearts.
And may the blessings of our Fellowship rest upon us,
This day and forevermore.

Extinguishing of the Chalice

We extinguish this flame,
but not the light of truth,
the warmth of community,
or the fire of commitment.
These we carry in our hearts
until we are together again.

* **Closing Song** “Spirit of Life” (#123)

(NOTE: This is a manuscript version of the Bridging Service at the Quimper Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on June 6, 2010. The spoken sermon is available on CD at the Fellowship.)