



Dear Members and Friends,

July 15, 2015

As summer progresses, we are increasingly aware of the drought that haunts the land and all of its inhabitants. As a drought is a lack or absence of rain, our awareness is then an awareness of what isn't. Even so, we don't stop believing in the existence of rain. But for some reason, the summertime birth, growth and development in the world of nature - evidence of the miraculous - is not attributed to the invisible world of spirit and spirit being. Despite the drought, we can still be awed by the glorious manifestations of nature, whose existence is a reflection of the Divine Logos and provides the arena for our becoming.

As a congregation we are also being asked to believe in what isn't! Namely, in our own future chapel and community rooms, which do exist, but haven't yet been able to incarnate or become physical reality. This has been and will continue to be a process of conception, and will include gestation and labor before anything is visible. At our Community Meeting on September 13, we hope to be so far as to lay out a clear path of development. And it is something we are excited about.

Our fundraising attempts beginning at the end of May, where we wanted to contact everyone on the mailing list, is almost finished, but there are still some who have not yet been contacted. This was also to serve as a necessary winnowing of our "mailing list," which also hasn't been finalized, so if you requested to be removed, please know...it's coming. The good news is that this action, for which **we thank Jennifer Snyder, and all who made the calls, profusely**, has been very successful and we may finish the year with a balanced budget!

In the accompanying program you will see that there are events throughout the summer, because, in Verner Hegg's words, "God doesn't take a summer vacation." Baptisms, talks, meetings and a workshop! We will hold **a workshop on August 14 and 15** on the nature of words, and the **awakening of the inner poet** that lives in each of us. We do this because we are human beings or wordsmiths and our soul lives are forges, within which words are crafted forth. This is not for accomplished poets, although we don't discriminate and they will be most welcome, but primarily for those of us whose poetic feet have long been bound!

Now at the end of this letter, we can turn to the end of life events that have marked this summer already. Both **Tamara Lewis** (d. June 26), wife of Richard Lewis, and **Alice Holme** (d. July 10), who lived with Johanna Frouws and her family for 49 years, will be truly missed amongst us, and we send them our warmest thoughts and prayers and are assured that they will carry us in their spirit hearts and follow our striving.

With warm greetings,

Sanford Miller