

Mason Congregational Church April 2018

Please visit: www.masoncongregationalchurch.org or call us 878-1684

The Further Journey by Richard Rohr, OFM Franciscan friar

Adapted from Richard Rohr, *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*

The journey into the second half of our own lives awaits us all. Yet not everyone embarks or continues on the journey, even though most of us get older. The “further journey” seems to be a well-kept secret.

Many people do not even know there is one. There are too few who are aware that there is more to life. After decades as a Franciscan teacher, working in many settings, religions, countries, and organizations, I find that many, if not most, people and institutions remain stymied in the preoccupations of the first half of life. By that I mean that most people’s concerns remain those of establishing their personal identity, creating various boundaries, and seeking security and success.

These tasks are good to some degree and even necessary. We are all trying to find what the Greek scientist Archimedes called a “lever and a place to stand” so that we can move the world just a little bit. The world would be much worse off if we did not do the important work of ego-development.

I believe that God gives us our soul—our deepest identity, our True Self, our unique blueprint—at our own conception. Our unique little bit of heaven is installed by the Manufacturer within the product, at the beginning! We are given a span of years to discover it, to choose it, and to live our own destiny to the full. If we do not, our True Self will never be offered again, in our own unique form—which is perhaps why almost all religious traditions present the subject with strong words like “heaven” and “hell.” The discovery of our soul is crucial and of pressing importance for each of us and for the world.

We do not “make” or “create” our souls; we just “grow” them up. We are the clumsy stewards of our own souls. Much of our work is learning how to stay out of the way of this rather natural growing and awakening. We need to *unlearn* a lot, it seems, to get back to that foundational life. This is why religious traditions call the process “conversion” or “repentance.”

Whether or not we find our True Self depends in large part on the moments of time we are each allotted and the choices we make at those moments. Life is indeed “momentous,” created by accumulated moments in which the deeper “I” is slowly revealed if we are ready to see it. Following our *inner blueprint* or soul and humbly serving others is indeed of ultimate concern.

Each thing and every person must act out its nature fully, at whatever cost. This is our life’s purpose, the deepest meaning of “natural law.” We are here to give back freely what was first given to us! It takes both halves of our life to fulfill this calling.

Gateway to Presence:

If you want to go deeper with today’s meditation, take note of what word or phrase stands out to you. Come back to that word or phrase throughout the day, being present to its impact and invitation.

Upcoming Events

- **Easter Services on April 1st. Greenville Road view of sunrise.** We gather at 6:15 am, for our worship service and watch the sun rise. Afterwards we will walk or drive ¼ mile to be welcomed to Jennie Greenwood’s home for hot coffee and her tasty treats.
- **Easter Worship Service at Mason Congregational Church is at 10 am April 1st.** A traditional Easter service followed by our traditional breakfast.

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- **Community Supper April 12 5:30 to 7pm** Our best cooks bringing the community warmth to body and spirit. Bring a friend, or reach out to a new neighbor. Gluten free, dairy free vegetarian alternative available. Just ask us when you come.
- **Mission: Nashua Soup Kitchen, April 14th at 3:15 meet at Church.** Join in this effort to share our caring for neighbors who need a smile, and the Soup Kitchen staff that needs extra hands. Meet in the parking lot of the church at 3:15 pm for carpooling. This is a mission open to all. Invite a friend or neighbor, and you may open an opportunity for another caring person. Call 878-4993 or email Kathy at chapman.kathy@gmail.com.
- **Conversations with Women Friday April 20th 2-4pm** Join this circle of women for lively conversations on a variety of topics. We will be discussing what I learned at a forum for nonpartisan redistricting to make elections as fair as possible. Bring your knitting if you like. Open to all women, everywhere. If you are interested in a road trip to some botanical gardens in NH, let us know. Miscott39@gmail.com
- **Bystander CPR April** . Please let Kathy Chapman 878-1680, Nancy Richards 878-2190, or Michelle Scott 878-1680, know if you are interested. It will be a Friday night this month, so please contact us if you are interested.
- **Living Room Coffee House April 21 6:30 to 9 or so. Live Music in Mason!** Doors open at 6:30, signups for open mic, and snacks are available, with coffee. <http://www.peaceunited.org/service-trip>
- **Celebrate Earth Week with thousands of other congregations around the country.**
 1. Join the Make A Climate Sign contest and be entered to win \$100 for your congregation. [Download the kit](#) to find out how.
 2. Participate in the Nationwide Climate Prayer at Noon on Earth Day. [Sign up here](#) to pledge to pray.
 3. Have a pizza garden planting day and plant all the toppings you need for your summer pizza parties. [Find the Pizza Garden Seeds here.](#)
 4. **Earth Day in Mason has roadside cleanup!** Get a blue bag from Town Office, and start filling them as you take a walk in the beautiful spring weather. You can tie them off and leave them on the side of the road for Town vehicles to pick up. **Keep Mason clean!** You can continue using the blue bags for trash pickup over the next few months. A really “recycling good” idea is to take an extra bag to take home bottles/cans to up in the recycling center in Wilton or wherever you recycle.
 - **Pie and Baked Goods Auction May 20th** Right after worship service we hold this fun and fund raising event in Fellowship Hall. It’s a lively tradition, and all are invited to bid on the best our cooks have to offer!
 - **Ride Share in Mason** It has come to the attention of the Mason Church Council, Diaconate, and the community, that there is often a need for rides (think ‘public transportation’) here in Mason. Communities around us have this service, and we have found a way to be included. **If you know someone who needs a ride**, to doctor appointments, events, please leave a message on the church

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Please visit: www.masoncongregationalchurch.org or call us 878-1684 phone 878-1684, or speak to Rev Veronica, a Deacon, or a Trustee, and we will put you on an interested list. Meanwhile if you would like to be a **volunteer driver**, call **1-877-428-2882 ext 5** for information on mileage reimbursement, insurance, and more. You can be a driver once or twice a week, or once a month, you decide on what your schedule allows! Call and find out more. We already have 3 volunteers!

- **Lending Library Books and Music, a Blessing and a mission!** Notice the fine bookshelf in Fellowship Hall that has books for lending—all nicely organized, and alphabetized by a church angel. Steve Tamulonis has contributed some CDs for lending/listening. Please sign them out, and return in a reasonable time.
- **Prayer shawls always needed, free yarn available.** Spend some time by joining the knitters of Mason Church in prayerful knitting. Let us know if you need yarn or pattern. If you know of someone who needs the warmth and prayers of a shawl please contact: Susan Suokko at Usercat2@comcast.net or 941-920-0270 or Michelle Scott 878-1680

Attention knitters: Go to <http://twillnh.com/calendar-4/> and check out Sandy's website, and the schedule for activities there. It may be one of our Conversations with Women outings!



Are you listening, caring, sharing?

- ♥ **Wally and Gretchen Brown** Think about a visit, or a meal (gluten free/no dairy), or a card to cheer up Gretchen, and Wally, too. 878-1481
- ♥ **Laila Washburn** Laila lives at Summer Hill Assisted Living in Peterborough. She loves company, and cards. At 99, everyday is treasured. She just had a birthday, and it is not too late to seen birthday wishes. Laila Washburn, Summer Hill, 183 Old Dublin Rd, Peterborough, NH 03458. Call ahead if you have questions. 924-6238
- ♥ **Curt Dunn** and his attentive Karin, enjoy company, and occasional assistance, but check with them first. 878-2675 or eisenhau@aol.com
- ♥ If you have news, questions, or corrections to the newsletter, please contact Michelle 878-1680 or miscott39@gmail.com