

I hear that you want testimonials. Here is mine. The weather is gorgeous today. I am happy because I am inspired by the beauty of nature; my zinnia flowers are still in full bloom and the birds are singing.

My life has been full of blessings: almost fifty years of marriage to my wonderful husband, Bob, and our loving family. My lifelong passion for Unitarian Universalism has been paramount. Aside from my work life as a teacher and a writer for Tufts magazine and other publications, I have been totally immersed in the life and activities of MUUC for the past forty years. I have had some successes and pleasures: speaking from the pulpit (sermons and homilies) and expressing myself in writing (many essays through e-mails for several years.) Frequently I have been fulfilled by the reception to my thirty-two displays during coffee hours.

I have held every administration position in the church including board president. There were many major challenges. Due to my lack of financial acumen, I never wanted to be treasurer. I have been energized working with the children in Religious Education.

I have had outright failures: trying to play the handbells, doing crafts for the fair, sewing quilts, cooking naan bread in the church kitchen, and arranging floral centerpieces for the chancel. Because of my limited mobility now, I can no longer participate in walks in the woods, marches in Boston, and Ell Pond clean-ups.

In the past, we participated in many church field trips such as attending theater productions at Brandeis and touring Drumlin Farm with bees out on a warm February day. We did not get stung.

Bob and I have made the difficult decision not to attend Sunday morning worship services at our church. We are not physically and constitutionally able to do so. We will miss you. Please come here to visit. According to my kidney doctor, the nurses, and the dietitian, my dialysis treatments are going very effectively. I am fortunate that I reached the age of seventy-five before having to go on dialysis, but it is a tedious and time-consuming procedure (Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays). I look at it as a learning experience. Although I am optimistic, I do have a pervasive feeling of sadness which I find hard to shake.

We are constantly reading and thinking and sometimes watching movies, talking with people, and trying to enjoy what we can. Our family provides support; we always have laughs with them.

What do we do now on Sunday mornings? We listen to the worship service on radio, broadcast from First Church Unitarian Universalist in Boston. Our sofa is comfortable.

I have a huge collection of recent and past sermons from MUUC ministers since the 1970's. I read them to help me remember what I have heard. I just read one by Rev. Addison Steeves, "How Do You Think About God?" Rev. Steeves was our minister from 1967--1980. I have heard that there is now some controversy about how to use the word "God" and whether to use the word "God" in our printed covenant. This controversy is longstanding in UU circles. I could provide copies of this sermon by Rev. Steeves. It was brilliantly expressed and could be enlightening for many of you.

Thank you to Rev Susanne and all of you members and friends who are working so hard to keep MUUC flourishing. We need our liberal faith now more than ever. Let us keep in touch.

Love to all,  
Phyllis B