

Adelaide Visit of Prof Ann Belford Ulanov September 2014

Professor Ann Belford Ulanov, Professor of Psychiatry and Religion at Union Theological Seminary in New York and a Jungian analyst in private practice, visits Adelaide in September for a series of presentations about her ideas and work, around the theme: *'The Un-shuttered Heart'*.

DATES AND TIMES:

Thursday, 11th September, 7-9.30pm

Friday, 12th September, 7-9.30pm

Saturday, 13th September, 1-4pm

VENUE:

Pilgrim Uniting Church, 12
Flinders Street Adelaide



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Are we still a fair go society?

"The Global Ethic in Australia Today"

Wilks Orator 2014 is Rev Prof Andrew Dutney, President of the Uniting Church in Australia, Professor of Theology at Flinders University and the Adelaide College of Divinity.

Saturday 17th May 7.45pm

Effective Living Centre, 26 King William St, Wayville.

Bookings are essential. You can book [online](#), or by phoning the Effective Living Centre on 8271 0329 during office hours

Tues, Wed, Fri 10:00am - 3:00pm).

PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY NETWORK of SA

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Email pcnet@effectiveliving.org

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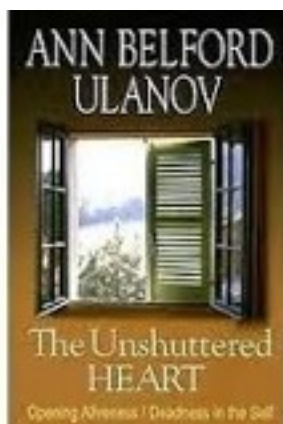
Committee Members 2014

Jonathan Barker	Bruce Ind
Ros Chittleborough	Sue Jarrad
Esmond Dowdy	Rob McPherson
Maureen Howland	Jana Norman

“The Unshuttered Heart: Opening to Aliveness/Deadness in the Self”

Some ideas from Ann Ulanov's 'The Unshuttered Heart - Opening to Aliveness/Deadness in the Self'... (Abingdon Press)

Opening under the shadow of 9/11, our new century must reassess the preciousness of life and what we are living for, what we love and what we find worth dying for. In the face of loss and absence we must again ask what makes us feel connected to the source of aliveness.



- What kills our voice?
- What makes for deadness?
- What is the nature of that generative space where we enhance our capacity to be real?
- To what and to whom do we belong?

The suffering of neighbours friends and victims reminds

us to seize the life we are given with both hands and not dawdle, not delay, but live fully with all our hearts and minds and strength.

- What makes for our sense of aliveness and feeling real as persons and as a people, a country and as part of the whole human family on this earth?
- What puts us in touch with our own voice and confers a sense of finding and creating a path that is true for us, while at the same time recognizing that others take different paths?

Working on the self enlarges us and society. Psychological work and spiritual practice form a kind of social action. **Our heart becomes un-shuttered** making new depths possible for the self and others.

(More details of Ann Ulanov's presentations will be circulated in future publicity.)

Prof Ulanov's visit to Australia is made possible by:

Sponsors: Julian Centre Trust, Jung Society of SA Inc, Pilgrim Uniting Church and Pilgrim Pathways, Sisters of St Joseph, Society of the Sacred Mission, St Johns Anglican Church, Stillpoint Centre for Spirituality, private donations.

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KEEPING IN TOUCH...

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WHAT I BELIEVE - MY FAITH JOURNEYVENTON COOK, PILGRIM PATHWAYS

**From a Talk given to
Pilgrim Pathways' on
Sunday 9th Feb 2014**

by Venton Cook

My Faith

In recent years, whilst being here at Pilgrim I have had new insights and old values reinforced. Learning has been informal, mostly by participation at 9.30 services. New concepts, and the nature of belief and faith have been discussed, which has added to those learned during my upbringing.

The influence of Pilgrim Church has caused me to think more about who or what I understand 'God' to be.

Consider this quotation from Hugh Mackay (*The Good Life, what makes life worth living*, 2013) about faith itself:

" ... from an entirely rational point of view the only way to respond to the idea of God, whether considered as an out-there force, an in-here loving spirit, or a deity in any other form, is by remaining agnostic, committing oneself to neither theism nor atheism. To abandon that position by moving in either direction - toward theism or toward atheism - is to take a step of faith".

My belief these days is along the lines of these words of Richard Rohr, a Catholic theologian, "...God is the Divine Flow under, around and through all things.... more a verb than a noun; relationship itself." Building on that are words of



Stephen Post, Christian humanitarian. God to him is 'Ultimate Reality' by which he means *'the essence of all being, that which underlies all that is, perhaps even as an undiscovered energy field, one that may even include an emotional dimension'*. There are shades of John Robinson (*'Honest to God'*) in both these quotations.

I have vastly less biblical knowledge than religious writers and theologians through the centuries but the above is the best description of my concept of God that I can muster at the moment.

Who are believers these days? I seem to recall Rachel Kohn, (ABC religion broadcaster) saying something like "everyone is a believer these days, in thing or another!"

For those who are Christian believers, I think it's a matter of what we believe God to be like; for example, one with whom we can have a relationship, a Personal Being; or an Impersonal One, a spirit in the sky perhaps, one with whom, it seems to me, a personal or emotional relationship is problematic.

So, to the here and now. Two years ago I was offered a fitness class at Clarence Park Community Centre. Jenny came with me as a co-instructor. At first I felt strange amongst the small number class members none of whom I knew. As we got to know each other, some of them began inviting their friends and neighbours, until the hall was full. Each week there was a very good feeling in the room. During the last five minutes of each class I shared homilies and messages of encouragement.

Cont...

What I Believe-My Faith Journey

After I became ill in December I retired from fitness classes. We had a 'Christmas' lunch at the Torrens Arms Hotel at which I struggled to express my thanks to them and what the class had really meant to me. Later, I received a letter from a class member thanking Jenny and I for our efforts. This lady is a committed Christian and she knew my background from long ago through a mutual friend. I sometimes thought that she wanted me to show my Christianity more overtly. In her kind letter there was no reference to faith and belief, except that in the bottom left corner of the sheet of note paper on which she had written her letter were the words '**Amazing Grace**'.

In a reply to her I said "The words on your notepaper have pinpointed for me what was going on in the Clarence Park Class - Amazing Grace! That is what I, perhaps all of us had been experiencing and I have not been able to articulate, until receiving your letter.

Without wanting to draw too long a bow, I consider that Clarence Park experience to be an example of 'heaven here and now', 'the eternal now', to use a phrase of Paul Tillich. In each of our lives, I'm sure we can point to those delightful times which we could describe as 'heavenly' and as Christians we put them down to 'Amazing Grace'. Having been given such gifts what more dare we hope for? Why should we hope for more?

If we accept that 'heaven can be here and now' and consider God to be a rather Impersonal Spirit or Presence, it follows that we are challenged to think hard, or rethink, several issues associated with the Faith: prayer, worship, the Person of Jesus and the Trinity.

Conclusion

What I have said here has been mostly in my own words, except for a couple of quotations to leaven the loaf! I have sought to avoid dogma and I have not tried to summarise, or explain, the theology of great theologians such as Barth, Bultmann and Tillich; let alone St Augustine, Calvin or Luther. However over the years I have dipped into books by some of these, and John Robinson's 'Honest to God' and I gained some understanding of them. I am even quite fond of some of their writings, in particular the intriguing, and frustrating, sermons of Tillich.

I have been influenced by them, some more than others, and this may have been evident as I have shared my beliefs with you. I have niggling issues about my faith that continue to concern me, and I have unanswered questions about the implications of my ambiguous feelings when trying to take a firm position. I have not by any means reached the end of my faith journey and I look forward to what else I may find.

Venton has been a member of Pilgrim Church for 12 years and an Elder there for much of that time. He is presently a Pilgrim Council Elder. He is inspired and encouraged by Pilgrim members' commitment to social justice, their concern for the environment and Pilgrim's forms of worship.