

Unitarian Universalist

Congregation of the Swannanoa Valley

Religious Freedom • Diverse Perspectives

500 Montreat Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711

For more information about our
congregation, call

(828) 669-8050 • uusv.org

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BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, December 18 • 6:00 p.m.

UUCSV Newsletter

Send newsletter information to
Norm Kowal
normankowal@bellsouth.net

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2007 at 10 a.m.
Covering January 2008

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Winter Solstice Celebration with Byron Ballard

Saturday, December 22, 7 p.m.

The time around the winter solstice is filled with celebrations of light, celebrations common to many cultures and traditions. It is our human nature to come together for warmth and companionship as the daylight recedes and the nights grow long, as we dig in to what makes us who we are. Join us on December 22nd for a deep exploration of the dark days of midwinter, days that culminate in the joy of new light.

H. Byron Ballard has deep roots in the mountains of western North Carolina where she is active as a priestess of Inanna, Pagan activist, playwright and mom. She holds an MFA in Theatre from Trinity University and circles weekly (and occasionally weakly) with an American Tribal Pagan group. She is a member of WARD, an elder of SerpentStone, an affiliate of the WHISPER community, a founding trustee of the Coalition of Earth Religions for Education and Support and a Willful Harpy. Her interfaith affiliations include the United Religions Initiative and the Interfaith Council. She is also a board member of the local chapter of the ACLU. In her copious free time she is still learning Irish Gaelic and to play the fiddle. And gardening, for the sake of her sanity.

New Year's Eve

The response from our relatively new "tradition" of a New Year's Eve party has been overwhelmingly positive, so we would like to do it again this year. Unfortunately, we do not have a coordinator to pull it all together, as we did in the past. At the Board's request, our Office Administrator has agreed to create a sign-up sheet and accept volunteers at admin@uusv.org or 669-8050. He has not, let me emphasize that: HE HAS NOT, however, agreed to coordinate the event. If you enjoy planning parties, and would be willing to coordinate (or help coordinate) this one, please let him know. The sign-up sheet will be appearing in the foyer soon. Please sign up ASAP and list what you can contribute to make this event once again enjoyable for all.

From the Membership Committee

The Membership Committee welcomes your involvement in UUCSV. We suggest ten ways to feel more at home at UUCSV:

1. Bring a dish for the Sunday morning lunch.
2. Fill out a white information card found in the hymnal racks or on the chest in the foyer.
3. On the white card indicate that you want to receive the UUCSV newsletter.
4. Visit our website at www.uusv.org.
5. Join a committee (info on website).
6. Join a covenant group. For information, see or contact Peter Boggs peter@aspasheville.com; 669-7000; or... Jane Carroll dr_jcarr@msn.com; 664-1695. Pamphlets in foyer.
7. Volunteer to help with RE (Religious Education). See or contact Sybil Argintar merlasybpenny@yahoo.com; 253-1392.
8. Participate in Sisters of Lucy Stone (SOLS) activities. Watch for announcements.
9. Participate in Grounds Committee workdays. Watch for announcements.
10. Volunteer to help Tim Perry, Office Administrator admin@uusv.org; 669-8050.

Sunday Programming

Please join us for Social Hour after each program



Sunday, December 2, 2007 11 a.m.
"The Virgin Mother - The Truth in the Myth"

Scott Traxler

The story of virgin birth is integral to most of the world's religions. The myth of the Virgin Mary continues to be retold in both secular and religious settings. In a look at the origins of the Marian Myth, we'll discover why this story still has meaning in the 21st Century.

UUCSV member Scott Traxler recently moved back to Black Mountain after some 12 years in Florida. He is a retired professor of management and humanities, wonderful husband of Ruh (her description), and habitual procrastinator.....

Sunday, December 9, 2007 11 a.m.
"Whatever You Do Not Know About Judaism and Have Not a Chance to Ask"

Sam and Lulla Shermis

Both Sam and Lulla have been presenting programs on Jewish Studies for past 30 years. Very active in the Jewish community and members of Beth Ha Tephila Congregation since moving here from Indiana a little over ten years ago, they are passionate about dialogue between the Christian and Jewish people and started formal discussions 15 years ago. Sam Shermis was a Professor at Purdue University in Educational Foundational Studies and Lulla was a Academic Advisor. There will be time for questions and answers after their presentation.

Sunday, December 16, 2007 11 a.m.
"Celebrating the Holidays in Music"
Congregation, featuring RE Classes and Choir

Music inspired by the traditions of December is perhaps the most familiar and beautiful that we know. This service will celebrate the compositions of many poets and musicians, among them Unitarian Universalists of the past, as well as contemporaries. Our marvelous hymnbook is the main source of music to be sung by the Religious Education classes, the Warblers and the congregation. Instrumentalists will also be featured as we learn about the composers and the traditions that inspire them. Come to sing or just listen to the many talents of our congregation as we celebrate in community.

The four RE classes, our dedicated Warblers (choir of volunteer singers), the congregation, and any instrumentalists who want to join us, provide our service today. (See article elsewhere in this newsletter)

Sunday, December 23, 2007 11 a.m.
"Kiss the Joy as it Flies"

The Rev. Sarah York

In this sermon, Sarah York borrows her title from a poem by William Blake, and will reflect on the nature of joy, particularly in its relationship to sorrow.

Sarah York (formerly Sara Moores Campbell) is a Unitarian Universalist minister and author of four books, including "Remembering Well: Rituals for Celebrating Life and Mourning Death" and "Pilgrim Heart: The Inner Journey Home." She also authored three reading selections in the UU hymnal. She has a Bachelor's degree from Wake Forest, a Masters from Duke, a Masters of Divinity from Harvard, and an Honorary Doctorate from Meadville-Lombard Theological School. After serving in settled ministry most of her career, she became an accredited interim minister. Sarah is semi-retired to her farm near Asheville, NC with her husband Chuck Campbell. She serves the Asheville church part-time as Assistant Minister for Pastoral Care, preaches once a month at UUCSV, and consults as needed with congregational leaders.

Sunday, December 30, 2007 11 a.m.
"Pascal's Wager"

Phil Fryberger

As another amazing year draws to a close, we will consider our place in the tapestry of life, and celebrate the disappearance of the old and the arrival of the new in our "traditional" way. What does the title have to do with this transition, you may ask? Let's hope we all find out, before it's too late!

Phil Fryberger is a financial advisor, music lover, husband of Dawn, father of Annelies and Carolyn, and a founding member of UUCSV.

Sunday, January 6, 2008 11 a.m.
"The Promise of Paradox: Our Binary Spiritual Reality"
Dr. Michael Frandsen

Dr. Michael Frandsen is a minister of word and sacrament in the Presbyterian church and a Princeton alum. He is a German immigrant and currently teaches religion, philosophy and psychology at AB Tech. He is a licensed professional counselor and maintains a small consulting practice at his home in Montreat. The father of four grown children, Michael and his wife Diane have lived here just a little over a year.

Congregational Care Committee

The Chair of our Congregational Care Committee is Angie Underwood (phone 669-0869). The Monthly Care Coordinator for November is Karen McClelland (phone 606-8514). If you or someone you know in our congregation has a special need or is experiencing a crisis, please contact the Committee Chair or the Monthly Care Coordinator. Our Committee welcomes new members at any time. Thank you.

Search Committee Report

Our seven member committee is in a holding pattern, waiting for applicants to respond to our position description posted on the Thomas Jefferson District website, with a link to our own website, www.UUSV.org. Our District executive, Annette Marquis, is also circulating our description among ministers in the southeast. In the meantime, Ursula Goebels-Ellis is compiling the various pieces of our congregational packet, with help from Angie Underwood and me. A copy of this excellent packet will be on display in the church office. Stop in to see our congregation written up in all its glory. We look good!

↪ Evelyn Carter, Chair

Musicians Take Note

Instrumentalists and singers are welcome to join with the choir to plan for the music service on December 16. Choir practice will be held on Wednesday evening, December 5 at 6 p.m., after the Sunday service, at 12:30 on Dec. 9, and before the service on the following Sunday. Contact George Scott, sgss108@gmail.com or Evelyn Carter, gardenerev@aol.com or 251-1416 to volunteer or just show up.

Special Events at UU Church of Asheville

Sunday, December 9 – The guest speaker for the two services is Dr. William Schulz, ordained UU minister, former President of the Unitarian Universalist Association and former Director of Amnesty International. UUCSV folks could attend the 9:15 a.m. service and be back in Black Mountain for our service at 11 a.m.

Dr. Schulz will speak on “Restoring America’s Credibility” on Sunday evening, December 9 at 7 p.m. at UNCA Highsmith Student Center. A biography of Dr. Schulz is posted on the bulletin board across from the kitchen.

Christmas Eve Services – Monday, Dec. 24 at 4:00 p.m. (Intergenerational pageant and singing) and 9:00 p.m. (Candlelight, with wonderful music). Car pool from Black Mountain by signing up on the clipboard provided by Tim Perry, Office Administrator. Evelyn Carter invites you to an open house at 136 Kenilworth Rd in Asheville from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. before the late service.

The UU Church of Asheville is located a bit more than a mile north of Charlotte Street exit from 240. Corner of Charlotte St. and Edwin Place. Parking in lot or on the street.

“This I Believe” Writing Workshop

Have the two recent Sunday Services about the development of your own personal belief statement perked an interest in you to write your own? If so, please consider joining us for 2 writing workshops. We will use Rev. Charlie Kast’s suggestions and those from Public Radio to guide us in the writing process. (Check out Rev. Kast’s sermon, it’s on our church website.) During the first class we will explore the guidelines for writing a statement and begin writing. In the second class we will bring our completed rough drafts to share with each other and have time to edit and polish our statement. The classes will be offered from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on January 6th and February 3rd, at the church. Minimum class size is 6. We will explore the possibility of childcare and rides to church if there is a need for these services. Contact facilitator Carolyn Shorkey to enroll in the class 299-9456 or cashorkey@bellsouth.net.

International Foods Potluck

Carolyn and Milt have been coordinating a monthly International Potluck meal for many years at UUCA. Activities at UUCA are open to everyone and we extend an invitation to you to join fellow UU’s for a yummy meal. We meet at 6:00 p.m. the first Saturday of the month (except December). If you would like to be put on our email reminder list to be notified about the potluck meal and the theme please contact Milt Warden 299-9456 mediamilt@bellsouth.net. Our theme for January is International Soups and Breads and will be held in Sandburg Hall, January 6th.

Room in the Inn

Thanks go to all of our wonderful Room in the Inn volunteers who found the time during the Thanksgiving weekend to help homeless women in our community by providing meals, and serving as drivers, servers, and overnight volunteers. Your efforts are much appreciated.

↪ Connie Krochmal,
Social Action Room in the Inn coordinator

Annual Budget Drive Planning Committee Calls for Volunteers

Every year brings new possibilities. 2008 promises to be an exciting one here at UUCSV with the on-going search for a half-time minister for the new fiscal year, which begins July 1st, 2008. Joyful giving from Members and Friends will make this possible.

Following up on the results of the September Congregational Meeting, the Board has established the Annual Budget Drive Planning Committee (formerly known as Canvass). All those interested in serving on the committee are encouraged to contact Jim Carillon, committee co-chair. In addition to stewards (formerly known as Canvassers), we’re looking for those willing to lend their talents. Pat Middleton and Jerry Pope, our graphic designer, are already designing a logo and other materials for the drive.

Holiday Ideas from the Green Sanctuary

By choosing carefully we can have a green Christmas tree. A live Christmas tree (either in a pot or balled-and-burlapped) is by far the best choice if you have a yard where you can plant it after the holidays.



By the same token, a cut tree is still greener than an artificial one. If put through a chipper after the holidays, this tree can be recycled as mulch.

A Norfolk Island pine makes a perfectly beautiful Christmas tree. This houseplant can be kept outdoors during the summer, and brought back indoors before frost.

The least green choice of all is a NEW artificial tree. Often made of plastic, these sometimes have wood trunks, which may have been harvested unsustainably in China. In the past, the trunks were the source of dangerous wood boring beetles that pose serious threats to American forests and trees.

Buying a previously used artificial tree is a very green choice. With this purchase, you're reusing a perfectly good item that would otherwise end up in the landfill.

Need earth friendly gift ideas for yourself or others? The Green Sanctuary Committee is aware of a few websites that may be places to start. See below:

Bags: tote and otherwise: www.BazuraShop.com

Candles made of soy: www.NKDpure.com

Christmas trees selection and care:
www.CES.NCSU.edu/nreos/forest/xmas/ctn_028.html

Foods: www.edenfoods.com

Herbal products: www.ariseandshine.com

Jewelry: www.TarmaDesigns.com

Pet products: www.petsage.com

Recycled glass, cutlery, gardening tools, fair trade cocoa mix, backpack:
www.NaturalHomeMagazine.com

Teapots and other serving ware:
www.TerraKeramik.com

December Volunteer Greeters

December 2: Tom and Jo Motzko, George LeRoy

December 9: Kim Taylor, Deb Vingle, Joe Haun

December 16: Margaret Bumgarner, Robyn Schuster,
Bill Rouser

December 23: Connie Krochmal, George and Sarah Scott

December 30: Emory and Angie Underwood, Tim Perry

We look forward to seeing our Greeters on Sunday mornings. Their smiling faces are a welcome sight. Thank you, Greeters!!!

Volunteers: call Angie Underwood at 669-0869 if something comes up and your date doesn't work out.

Note: Greeters are asked to set up folding chairs if they aren't already in place.

Birthdays in December

December 2nd Phil Fryberger

December 5th Sarah Gilmour

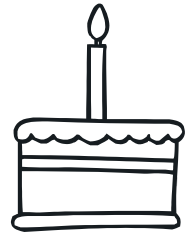
December 6th Rathye Lovinsohn

December 6th Annie Hall

December 11th Kathy Mead

December 17th Gene Chilton

December 31st Kiesa Kay



If you would like your birthday announced in the newsletter, there is a sign up sheet in the foyer.

Cluster Gathering for 2008

The "Western Carolinas Cluster of Unitarian Universalist Churches Gathering 2008: Shaping Our Future - Sharing Our Faith—You - Your Congregation - Your Community" is scheduled for Saturday, March 22, 2008 from 8:15 a.m. till 4 p.m. It is to be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spartanburg, 210 Henry Place, Spartanburg, SC 29305 Tel. 864-585-9230. The keynote speaker will be Gini Courter, UUA Moderator. More detailed information coming in January.

British Unitarian Shares Nobel Peace Prize

A British Unitarian is the shared winner of the Nobel Prize for Peace, along with his colleagues on the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) and Al Gore, in the awards announced on 12 October 2007.

The British man is Geoff Levermore, a UK-nominated Lead Author on the IPCC Working Group that deals with mitigating the effects of climate change. He is Professor of the Built Environment at the University of Manchester, and he helped write and edit a chapter on "Residential and commercial buildings" in the IPCC's "Fourth Assessment Report," due to be published later this year.

UUCSV Warblers! (aka Choir)

All are welcome. Come sing. We will sing for the December 16th service, so we may try to have an extra rehearsal, after church on December 9th, this month. Our regularly scheduled rehearsals will be after church on December 16 and before church on December 23.

Friday Fling

December's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on December 21st at 6:30 p.m. at the church. Refreshments (red and white) will be provided. Bring finger food, so that we can make a potluck supper out of it. The movie "The Sting" will be shown—1973, starring Paul Newman and Robert Redford. For further information, call Norm Kowal (669-4668).



Unitarian Universalist

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500 Montreat Road
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Monthly Committee Meetings, etc.

(CG = Covenant Group)

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
FIRST	RE Committee 9:45 Congregational Care Committee 12:30			Wed Nite Open Topic CG 6:30-8:15	
SECOND	Adult Forum 9:30 Membership Committee 12:30			The Creative Life CG 1:00-3:00	Program Committee 12:00 p.m. Social Action Committee 5:30
THIRD	Green Sanctuary Committee 9:30 Warblers 12:30		Board of Trustees 6:00	Wed Nite Open Topic CG 6:30-8:15	
FOURTH	Adult Forum 9:30 Warblers 10:00 SOLS 1:00			The Creative Life CG 1:00-3:00	

For the dates, times, and locations of specific events during the current month, go to the UUCSV website (www.uusv.org), and click on the UUCSV Calendar.