

Unitarian Universalist

Congregation of the Swannanoa Valley

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

Religious Freedom • Diverse Perspectives

500 Montreat Road Black Mountain, NC 28711

For more information about our congregation, call

(828) 669-8050 • uusv.org

Volume VII, Issue 5 Published Monthly by UUCSV

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BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, May 20 • 6:00 p.m.

UUCSV Newsletter

Send newsletter information to Norm Kowalski normankowal@bellsouth.net

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Tuesday, May 20, 2008 at 10 a.m. Covering June 2008

Design and Printing by American Speedy Printing Center Asheville, NC

We Did It!

Thanks to almost all of you, we did it! We not only met but EXCEEDED our very ambitious goal for this year's annual budget drive. Our slogan and goal was "80 in 08" -- meaning we hoped to raise \$80,000 in pledges for our new fiscal year of July 2008 through June of 2009. This was the critical amount needed to obtain a half-time minister this coming year. Although we have a couple remaining pledges to be officially received in the office, our annual budget drive planning committee is pleased to announce that we soon will have obtained \$81,000 in this year's drive. With these wonderful pledge results achieved we then signaled our search committee to proceed with the search for our new minister with all good speed. And we also raised separately \$1,765.00 in new capital pledges which together with our existing capital building fund and other church assets will help us pay off our church mortgage this very month. Hurray!

Special thanks go to our 32 stewards who contacted all of us to obtain these generous pledges. Team captains both helping the stewards and canvassing themselves deserve extra thanks for their superb leadership. They include: David Reid, Lee Reading, Karen McClelland, Pat Middleton, Jay Ellis, Howard Hansen, and Jim Carillon. Tim Perry and Connie Krochmal also helped lead this effort serving on our budget drive committee with these captains.

You may remember that these stewards and captains asked each of us about what we valued most and 3 wishes we have for UUCSV going forward. A report summarizing the individual responses to these surveys was presented to the Board at the April Board meeting. Check our bulletin board for a copy of this report - it makes for interesting reading with some consensus and many diverse opinions about our church and where we would like to see it heading.

Thanks again to all of you for your generous pledges of support for UUCSV. It means so much in this all important upcoming year!

Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday June 1st at 12:30 pm in the sanctuary. All members and friends are invited. The two items of business for the meeting will be 1) to elect new board members, and 2) to approve the operating budget of the church for next year (July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009). UUCSV Bylaws specify that this annual meeting be held each year. Members of the congregation are eligible to vote on church business and will be notified of the meeting by mail in accordance with our Bylaws.

A David Reid, President, UUCSV Board of Trustees

Search Committee Report

We are presently in the fortunate position to have more than one candidate to pursue. But unfortunately we encountered scheduling difficulties that make it unlikely to be able to present a selected candidate by mid June. We understand that this is disappointing and appreciate the continued support in a process that has been and still is time-consuming and stressful.

Sevelyn Carter, Phil Fryberger, Ursula Goebels-Ellis, Jo Motzko, Robyn Schuster, Kim Taylor, Angie Underwood

Join the Board of Trustees

New members are needed to serve on the UUCSV Board of Trustees. Those interested in these exciting and prestigious positions should contact Jim Carillon at 628-1320.

Congregational Care Committee

The Chair of our Congregational Care Committee is Angie Underwood (669-0869, underwooda@charter.net). The Monthly Care Coordinator for May is Deb Vingle (674-9515). 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.

→ Angie Underwood, Chair

Sunday Programming

Please join us for Social Hour after each program

"Leaping the Bonfire: Ancient Holydays and Modern Rites of Passage" H. Byron Ballard

"Jack be nimble, Jack be quick, Jack jumped over the candlestick." Ancient people had practical reasons for some of the things that modern folks do, like jumping over a bonfire. We use the practices of our ancestors in new ways, using the transformative power of the classical elements to effect and mark conscious change in our lives. Beginning with the element of fire, we'll explore those transitions and rites of passage that deserve our attention and celebration. Join H. Byron Ballard to learn more about modern Beltane traditions and how they are mirrored in rites of passage.

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.

Sunday, May 11, 2008 11 a.m. "Rites of Passage"

Religious Education Coordinator, Teachers, Youth, and Children

A special, milestone year is celebrated as we honor THREE graduating Seniors – Robin Tynes, Aaron Gilmour, and Joseph Neff. Each youth will be introduced by their parents and recognized in a "Bridging Ceremony" to welcome them to young adulthood. The service will also feature our middle and elementary students, telling us about their curricula for the past year. The toddler/preschool children will also take part and will introduce themselves to the congregation. Young musicians will play, and teachers and other religious education volunteers will be recognized for their time and dedication. Come this special Sunday to celebrate the future leaders of UUCSV and the wider UU world.

Please join us for a covered dish potluck following the Sunday Service on May 11th to honor our graduates.

Sunday, May 18, 2008 11 a.m. "Remembering Well" Rev. Sarah York

Drawing from themes in her book "Remembering Well: Rituals for Celebrating Life and Mourning Death," Sarah York's sermon will reflect on how we confront death and grieve in western culture. (See "Rituals of Remembrance for the Seasons of Grief" in the insert for a workshop on this topic.)

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, May 25, 2008 11 a.m. "Between the Lines" The Congregation, with Sue Stone and Evelyn Carter

This is a service of music and audience participation. The title comes from the supplement to our hymnbook "Singing the Living Tradition" that contains information about the compositions. We will feature the works of UU composers and poets, Ric Masten, Shelley Jackson Denham, Mary Grigolia, and Joyce Poley. Included are favorite hymns inspired by William Blake, Carloyn McDade, the Shakers, the African-American tradition and other sources. A ritual of memory and a story for all ages are featured as well. Our children will be present for the first half hour, with the elementary and preschool classes leaving for activities in the RE classrooms for the remainder of the service.

Sunday, June 1, 2008 11 a.m. "Blue Eyes Looking Into Dark Eyes...." Ymani Simmons

In March of 2007 22 Americans went to the Islamic Republic of Iran as civilian diplomats with the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Ymani Simmons, western North Carolina resident, was one of those individuals. Meeting the Iranian people, seeing the beauty and allowing communication and understanding to develop presents a perspective not known before and a quest for promoting peace continues to unfold within a deeply spiritual journey.

Ymani Simmons has called the mountains of western North Carolina home for 20 years. Peace and justice have spoken in undeniable voices since childhood. By accepting responsibility and accountability for what her government has done in her name, Ymani has completely immersed herself as a peace maker. Upon returning from Iran she quit her job as an advertising executive with WNC Woman magazine and devotes her life to living and promoting peace. Ymani has founded Crossroads of Peace (www.crossroadsofpeace.com) where several peace-related programs will be offered - Bridge to Iran Tours, a Peace Pal program (fully translated email pen pal program), non-violence training workshops, a Peace Makers Speakers Bureau, to name a few. She follows the spiritual way of life of the Native American branch of her family tree - Chickasaw and Cherokee.

A 28 minute video, "Listen to Iran's People," a call for peace by video maker, Margot Smith, March 2007 FOR delegate will be shown after the service for anyone interested in viewing.

Sam Hinton

Sharon Ann (Sam) Hinton, age 61, died easily and with full knowledge that she had taken care of every detail of her passing including saying good-bye to her beloved friends, family and pets. Her clarity and presence, as she realized her time was very short, was our gift from Sam. She said, "I am so grateful I am fully conscious to witness this time in my life". She died at the home of a dear friend, who had created a warm and peaceful environment for Sam to spend her last week. On Sunday February 24th of this year, shortly after returning to New Orleans Sam died with family and friends gathered around. A memorial service was held in February at the First Unitarian Church of New Orleans.

Though only a recent addition to UUCSV, Sam had become quite active in congregational activities, especially in the area of Religious Education. Her gifts did not go unnoticed or unappreciated, and those who got to know her personally can say the same about her impact on our lives. We were blessed by her presence, even if only for a short time. She will no doubt be missed by many of us, and particularly by the children she taught.

You may send cards to her mother, Emilie Hinton, at 1940 Rosemeade Drive, Slidell, LA 70461.

Rituals of Remembrance for the Seasons of Grief

In this three hour workshop to be presented on Saturday, June 7,9:30-12:30, Sarah York will invite participants to consider how rituals of remembrance, beginning with funeral and memorial services, and continuing throughout the first year or more after a death, can help promote healing and a healthy grieving process.

Latest New Members

We are delighted to welcome Susan and Scott Shaw and their children to UUCSV. Son, Evan, age 6, participates in the Experiencing with the Web of Life class. Cecilia, age 4, enjoys the preschool room on Sunday morning. We are very pleased you are with us.

→ Membership Committee

Room in the Inn Sign Up

Yes, we just finished Room in the Inn on April 25th. But for some strange reason the next date is in June this time around.

This will be on June 30th at the Black Mt. Methodist church annex. For that day UUCSV will provide all volunteers and meals. We are eagerly looking for folks to provide the food as well as volunteers and back-ups for all positions (morning and evening van drivers, overnight volunteers, servers for evening meal). A sign-up sheet is available in the foyer, or you can contact me at 686-3112.

Social Action's Room in the Inn Coordinator

Warblers! We sing! Join us.

Warblers will meet after the service, around 12:30, on Sunday, May 18th and before church, at 10:00 AM. on Sunday, May 25th. If you enjoy singing, join us anytime!

Religious Education Corner

Rites of Passage

Please join us as we celebrate all the accomplishments of our children and youth on Sunday May 11th at our annual intergenerational RE service. Come get to know our kids, from preschool through high school. We will honor our graduating seniors, and recognize our tireless, dedicated RE teachers and volunteers. We will also showcase the work of our children and youth with a display to be set up in the RE space. Let's make this a full house and show our kids how important they are to our church community!

Curriculum for 2008-2009 School Year

The RE Committee met on April 13, and voted on curriculums to be offered for the next school year. Nursery care will continue to be provided on an as-needed basis, and the preschool will continue utilizing the Chalice Children curriculum along with free cooperative play.

The Elementary class (grades K - 5) will follow the Timeless Themes curriculum, which focuses on the morals and values presented in traditional bible stories, in the context of UU principles and values. A more detailed description from the UUA follows: "Introduces children to religious literature that is central to North American culture and to Unitarian Universalist heritage. Children become familiar with their cultural heritage, and to the human issues that inspired these scriptures: the timeless themes of transcendent power, human responsibility, love of freedom, speaking out against injustice, respect for the beliefs of others, love of one's neighbor, and forgiveness. The Bible stories are taught from a UU value structure. God is referred to as "God," not "he." The stories, drawn from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, are gender-inclusive. Violence is not avoided, but recognized and used to guide participants toward an understanding of non-violent ways to resolve conflicts."

The Middle School and Senior High School classes will study Neighboring Faiths. The bulk of this program involves visiting neighboring religious faith communities and discussing in class what was learned.

Summer Programs

Yes, it's already time to start planning for our Summer Sundays. If you have a special talent you would like to share with the youth please let me know as soon as possible. To get you thinking, past programs have included science experiments, printmaking, hikes, kites, holiday banners, and making sock puppets. It's wide open, waiting for your creative input. Here's your chance to contribute to RE!

∽ Sybil Argintar, RE Coordinator

Friday Fling

May's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on May 16th at 6:30 p.m. at the church. Refreshments (red and white) will be provided. Bring some simple food, so that we can make a potluck supper out of it. The movie "American Graffiti" (1973, Richard Dreyfuss, Ron Howard, and, of course, Wolfman Jack) will be shown. For further information, call Norm Kowalski (669-4668). And don't forget Open Mike Night on the first Friday, and the Sing-Along on the Fourth Thursday.

Getting to Know You:

Susan K. Culler

Susan lives in Black Mountain, but grew up in Rural Hall, NC. She has also lived in Norfolk, VA, Atlanta, and Bald Head Island, NC. She has one son, Josh Culler. She has a pet Cardigan Welsh Corgi, named Burnie, whom she takes to the Black Mountain Neurological Center for volunteer visits with the residents. She enjoys running, hiking, swimming, music, and most outdoor activities. Susan is now retired, but was in the corporate communication field for 30 years, and real estate for about four years. Until joining the UUCSV she was a member of various Methodist churches for 50-some years, but had not been regularly going to church for the last six to eight years.

Getting to Know You:

Mamie Davis Hilliard

Mamie lives in Black Mountain with her partner Susan, but grew up in Clayton, NC. She has also lived in South Carolina, Brooklyn, NY, Heidelberg, Germany, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Kansas, and Kentucky. She has three children: Lynne H. Talbot, Hank Hilliard III, and Christine Hilliard. She has a small pet red husky, named Barnabus, and enjoys all outdoor activities (especially campfires). Mamie is a retired hospital chaplain, and has worked in public education and adult education. She volunteers with Room in the Inn, Christmount, and the Black Mountain Neurological Center.

Getting to Know You:

Phyllis Ann Palmieri

Phyllis lives in Morganton, NC, but grew up in Easton, PA. She has also lived in Pittsburgh, Farmington, NM, and several towns and villages in West (By Gosh) Virginia. She has three children: Neil, a chef in Boston, Morgan, a journalist in Pittsburgh, and Seth, a teacher in Morganton. She also has four grandchildren. Phyllis has three pets: Gussie, a mostly Golden Retriever, Lil' Sheeb, a tortoise shell cat, and Winslow, Son of Sheeb. She enjoys studying German and Spanish; reading and learning in the areas of peace and justice, spirituality, immigration law, and progressive politics; herb gardening; photography; civil war political and social history; visiting civil war historical sites; good, bad, and classic movies; and Mediterranean cooking (especially biscotti!). Phyllis is an attorney at law, currently licensed to practice in NC, NM, and WV, and is retired with a disability, learning to live well with MS. She volunteers with the MS Society of America, does pro bono work in immigration law and other areas, and is active in political organizations and peace groups. Phyllis has also worked as a coal miner in West Virginia for ten years (1978-88). She is also working on learning adaptive hand controls for her automobile to increase mobility and productivity, and apologizes "to any and all whom I have blocked, bumped, or otherwise obstructed while attempting to navigate at church with rolling walker (Hugo)."

SOLS

The Sisters of Lucy Stone, our women's group, will next meet again on April 27th and May 25th at 12:30 following the Sunday service. We will be planning our Summer activities and budgeting the money made at the Trillium Festival. Questions? Call Dawn Wilson at 669-0214.

May Volunteer Greeters

May 4: George LeRoy, Connie Krochmal, Milt Warden May 11: Norm Kowal, Jane J. Carroll, Barbara Rogers

May 18: Dawn Wilson, Marilyn Wells, Carolyn Shorkey

May 25: David Brown, Geoff Stone, Jay Ellis

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 May

May 11th	Angie Underwood Cecilia Shaw Charlie Chilton Joe Haun Kim Taylor Tom Motzko Harry Hamil Sue Stone Jeffrey Carillon	
May 14th	Tom Motzko	
May 17th	Harry Hamil	
May 20th	Sue Stone	
May 24th	Jeffrey Carillon	
May 24th	Trish Byers	
May 25th	Emory Underwood	
May 26th	Jay Ellis	
May 27th	Sue Everly	
May 28th	Maggie Decker	
T.0		

If you want your birthday recognized in the newsletter, there is a sign up sheet in the foyer.

Hospitality News

You have spoken! The results of the Hospitality Survey show that most of you value having food with beverages after the Sunday Service. During the fair weather months of April through October, we will continue our practice of having the snacks out on the "carport." To alleviate the crowding on the carport, the beverage table will be at the back of the sanctuary. Also, instead of calling our social hour Finger Food Potluck we have changed the name to Beverages and Snacks. We continue to urge people to bring food that does not require the use of an eating utensil so we are not discarding so much plastic. We will continue to host a few full service Covered Dish Potlucks throughout the year.

During the winter months, the majority of you prefer beverage service only or food for sale by committees. The Hospitality Committee will work diligently to have food for your purchase on most Sundays. We will be contacting committees in October to get folks to sign up for food sales in November. Lastly, we will make an announcement each Sunday, requesting you to hold yourselves back from the food tables a few minutes until guests and our elders have served themselves. An added bonus: The RE folks will teach children appropriate social hour etiquette. The children will be developing a covenant relating to their involvement in the Sunday Beverages and Snacks Social Hour. Be sure to compliment the children when you see them using their good manners at the table.

A Carolyn Shorkey and Milt Warden, Hospitality Co-chairs

Green Sanctuary

Energy plays such an important role in our lives. As consumers, the choices we make really matter, particularly with respect to energy use. There are many reasons to conserve energy and use renewables whenever possible. One energy expert stated it very well recently in the Asheville-Citizen Times, "You're always going to win by consuming less energy." This is a great way to reduce the need for new power plants—coal or nuclear. Reducing reliance on coal-fired plants will ultimately mean less pollution and greenhouse gases, and decreased demand for coal. There is also the dirty little fact of mountain top removal by coal companies in the Appalachians. If solar and other renewable energy sources are impractical for your home, support NC Green Power through donations.

If you haven't already done so at home, do an energy audit to see how to reduce your consumption. Be sure your home has proper insulation and weather stripping. Here are a few energysaving tips:

When cooking, use the proper size pot or skillet for each burner. Counter top appliances (microwaves, toaster ovens, etc) use much less energy than the range's oven.

So far as refrigerator/freezer combos are concerned, standard types with the freezer on the top are generally considered more energy efficient.

Run full loads in the dishwasher. Avoid using the dry cycle as this takes a lot of energy. Many models now have an air-dry option.

One way to cut energy use is to wrap your hot water heater. Compared to ordinary water heaters, on-demand systems are much more efficient.

For laundry, do full loads. You can safely mix colored and white items if you use a Dye Grabber. This is good for 30 loads of laundry. It absorbs loose dyes that come out in the wash.

Unplug instant-start TV's and similar items when they're not in

use. Otherwise, they're consuming energy all the time. Plug them into a power strip, and turn the strip off. Turn off home computers when no one is using them.

Consider replacing old appliances as these tend to be very inefficient. Replace them with new Energy Star models. Before you purchase a large screen tv, consider the fact that these use as much energy as an average size refrigerator.

For outdoor lighting, choose solar powered or LED versions if possible. Also, consider automatic on-off controls for outdoor fixtures that you normally leave on all the time. These will turn the lights on automatically at dusk and off in the morning.

Turn lights off in empty rooms. There are controls that can do this automatically.

Summer is a peak season for energy use due to air conditioning. Close off unused rooms and shut the vents in those areas if you have central air. Lower the thermostat. Either use a programmable thermostat, or turn the system off when no one is home.

Use drapes, blinds, or other window treatments on the sunny side of the house. Keep these closed during the day to keep the house cooler.

Well-planned landscape plantings on the south side can also help. Deciduous trees provide shade during hot summers, and allow the warmth from the sun to heat buildings during the winter.

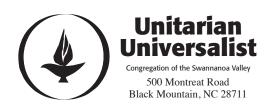
On the subject of compact fluorescent bulbs, these do contain a small amount of mercury. So, be sure and recycle them properly. Wrap carefully so they don't break during this process. The good news is that they contain the least harmful type of mercury.

One fun way to learn about the consequences of our personal actions is to join the Consumer Consequences Game. This American Public Media's interactive game is available at http://sustainability.publicradio.org/consumerconsequences.

Trillium Festival a Huge Success!

In spite of light showers all day long, the SOLS-sponsored Fourth Annual Trillium Festival of Follies and Flings was a huge success! The children enjoyed hat making, Feed the Elephant and other activities, headed up by Evelyn Carter. We had many winners in the Fancy Hat Contest and Cake Walks. The youth sold some Coming of Age Cookbooks and Aaron Eliot-Gaines helped with moving, cleaning up, assisting customers and children, lifting, toting and anything else that was asked of him. We are most grateful for his help! Robyn Schuster headed up a scrumptious bake sale, which was totally sold out! Connie Krochmal showed us how well-placed publicity can really pull in a crowd and used her horticultural and sales skills to nearly sell out the plant sale. Jane Carroll organized the rummage sale into a sleek retail department store, bringing in over \$1,800! We thank the congregation for the magnificent donations of rummage, baked goods and

plants! We had significantly more donations than any other Trillium Festival. Phil Fryberger and George Scott provided live music, which really added to the joyous atmosphere that many attendees commented on. Karen McClelland made bright signs to keep the traffic flowing and everyone well-informed. Marilyn Wells was our competent cashier. Phil and Kathy Rice, Belinda Box, Ann Lutz, Emory Underwood, Tom Motzko and all the SOLS sisters helped with set up and clean up. Milt Warden made fresh sandwiches to order, so tasty that we look forward to them all year. Jo Motzko, Angie Underwood, Caroline Metcalf, and Sybil Bowers helped all day with sales, set up, clean up and everything in between. Ruh Berg, Scott Traxler and Milt Warden helped Jane Carroll during the week before the festival to get the rummage picked up, sorted and tagged. Huge thanks to all of you and everyone who came out to support Trillium!!



Monthly Committee Meetings, etc.

(CG = Covenant Group)

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
FIRST	RE Committee 9:45 Congregational Care Committee 12:30 Program Committee 12:00					Open Mike Night 7:00
SECOND	Adult Forum 9:30 Membership Committee 12:30			The Creative Life CG 1:00 Social Action Committee 5:30		
THIRD	Green Sanctuary Committee 9:30 Warblers 12:30		Board of Trustees 6:00			Friday Fling 6:30
FOURTH	Adult Forum 9:30 Warblers 10:00			The Creative Life CG 1:00	Sing-Along 6:30	