



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

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BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, November 17 • 6:00 p.m.

UUCSV Newsletter

Send newsletter information to

Norm Kowal, *Editor*

normankowal@bellsouth.net

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2008 at 10 a.m.

Covering December 2008

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News from the Board

Our October board meeting this week was again very productive. The finance committee provided us with a revised operating budget that reflects changes in our staff budgets with Sally Beth Shore coming aboard this month as our new Consulting Minister. Consistent with our successful pledge drive last spring, we decided to earmark the anticipated budget surplus this year (due in part to Sally Beth's part-year service with us) for future ministerial salary purposes. Check the bulletin board for the new budget along with the minutes from our board meeting.

Did you receive an email or hard-copy notice from our office regarding your current pledge balances? These letters were sent out last week with information on any remaining pledge balance you may have from last fiscal year (ending June 30th) as well as your pledge status for the first quarter of this year (through September 30th.) If by chance you didn't get a pledge update, please contact our new office at the church to obtain your current pledge status. And if you have any remaining pledge balances due to UUCSV, we encourage you to catch up with your pledge commitment to the church as soon as possible.

Our new Committee on Ministry, comprised of Kim Taylor, Angie Underwood and Scott Conklin will be working with Sally Beth Shore starting this month as well. They will be working with her to pass any feedback you may have regarding our new minister. I encourage you to especially share any good news you have regarding Sally Beth's work with UUCSV. Sally Beth's first worship service will be November 9th. I also encourage you to contact Sally Beth with any pastoral care concerns your or your family may have.

The board will be deciding this month which persons we will recommend to the congregation to serve on the new Search Committee. Our congregation meeting on September 27th made it clear we want to continue to pursue a settled minister. If you would like to serve on this important committee, please contact me right away.

I would like to thank Karen McClelland for agreeing to serve as our Stewardship Team Leader for this coming year's annual budget drive. We had such a successful budget drive last year with many of you serving as stewards and I'm sure we'll do a fine job again this year. Karen is also looking for a few more members to serve on the planning committee for the upcoming budget drive. Please contact her directly if you can serve on this important team for UUCSV.

Finally, I want to again thank Sally Beth Shore for agreeing to serve as our new consulting minister at UUCSV. I encourage all of us to get to know her better and help her feel welcome. Sally Beth's regular office hours at the church are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM as well as after her worship services two Sundays a month. Stop by soon to say hello.

See you in church soon!

~ Jim Carillon, Board President

Sunday Social Hour

Last spring, the Hospitality Committee conducted a survey regarding potluck snacks following the service. The results of that survey indicated an interest in having potluck snacks after the service during fair weather months when snacks can be served in the portico. During the months of November through March, a limited selection of food will be sold by committees following many Sunday Services, as a fundraiser. We will resume potluck snack service in April out on the portico.

Beverages will be located at the back of the sanctuary or in the portico, depending upon the outside temperature. We serve fair-trade organically raised coffee. In the spirit of having a Green Sanctuary, you are encouraged to bring your coffee mug from home. Ceramic mugs will be provided on Sunday's when the coffee hour host chooses to put them out because s/he has time to hand wash them.

Please join us after the service for our social hour.

Sunday Programming

Please join us for Social Hour after each program

Sunday, November 2, 11 a.m. Welcome Home to Health and Wholeness - Part II

Rev. Dick Stennett



This is the second in a series of presentations as Dick shares with us his journey toward wholeness, a journey which he feels is more like home each step of the way. A significant part of this journey is in the discovery of what a wonderful teacher dreams can be when we learn to pay attention. Dick will share with us the way his dreams are becoming a window to the deeper, hidden parts of his being where healing needs to happen. By weaving together his dreams, meditations and journaling he finds that a definite pattern of healing is emerging.

PS: The dates of my ministry at UUCSV are Nov. 2003 through Jan 2006. The previous bulletin had incorrect dates. What do I care? I'm just an old goat farmer.

PPS: How do you spell journaling? My computer tells me I have spelled it incorrectly. [You're cool, my man.—Ed.] Hey! What do I know? An old goat farmer isn't expected to no how to spel.

The UUCSV Board will be introducing Sally Beth Shore, UUCSV's new Consulting Minister, to the congregation today, please come welcome her.

Sunday, November 9, 2008 11 a.m. "New Beginnings"

Sally Beth Shore

By the time of this service, our country will be changing directions with the election of a new President. While hiring a new minister might not bring quite as dramatic a change, UUCSV now finds itself on a different path too. Today we'll reflect on making the utmost of exciting new beginnings.

Sally Beth Shore is in candidacy for Ministerial Fellowship with the UUA and began serving UUCSV on November 1st.

The New Member Recognition Ceremony occurs today. See the article below.

Sunday, November 16, 2008 11 a.m. "My Big Fat Theological 'What If . . .?'"

Tim Perry

We will take a look at an alternate, and perhaps broader concept of God—one that UUs might find more palatable than the traditional Judeo-Christian view—and explore what light it might shed on the ancient teachings of those and other religions, as well as how it might provide direction for our lives.

Tim was a conservative Christian for 25 years, in several denominations ranging from Free Will Baptist to Roman Catholic. He was a teacher and a minister of one kind or another for most of that time, until he suddenly found to his surprise that he just didn't buy it anymore. Since that day, he's forgotten most of what he knew about the Bible, given away a heck of a lot of books, learned to like liberals, lost a few friends, gained a lot more, and rethought nearly everything he ever believed.

He was, until recently, UUCSV's Office Administrator, and now looks forward to hiking the Mountains to Sea Trail sometime next year, and generally living as a vagabond on the fringes of society as long as humanly possible. He's also hoping to find someone to hike with him - preferably a woman about half his age, who likes cynical, misanthropic older men with thinning hair, no money, and no ambition.

Sunday, November 23, 2008 11 a.m. "Giving Thanks"

Multi-Generational, Lay Led, Thanksgiving Service

This is an hour of sharing, music, and expressing thankfulness for the abundance in our lives. Everyone is invited to participate by bringing non-perishables for Manna Food Bank and by writing a brief statement on how we show gratitude, especially in difficult times. The Guest At Your Table concept will be presented by youth, and boxes distributed. Preschool children attend first part of service.

Sunday, November 30, 2008 11 a.m. "Waiting for a Miracle: The Season of Advent" Sally Beth Shore

Advent begins! Today we'll explore this traditional Christian holiday and the ways that it is celebrated by Unitarian Universalists historically and today. We'll use this Advent observance to focus on faith, hope and love, "re-engaging with poetry and symbol and mythology." During the service, you will be invited to join in making of our own Advent Wreath, so if you have lovely evergreens or red berries at home, please bring a small piece to incorporate.

Sunday, December 7, 2008 11 a.m. "Evolutionary Manifesto: A Creation Story for UUs" Connie Barlow

Unitarian Universalists teach our children about other religions and to appreciate the religious holy days of a diverse peoples. But it is important that we don't neglect teaching our children THEIR OWN creation story, too. Some argue that Unitarian Universalists need to have some grounding standards that bind us together as a group. One very appealing way is to give our children and youth an exciting, personalized, dramatic sense that we all come from a deep, deep ancestry, as given by the scientific story of evolution (geological and cosmological as well as biological and cultural). Children and Youth will join us for the beginning of the service.

Connie Barlow is a renowned author of four popular science books, including "The Ghosts of Evolution" (2001) and "Green Space Green Time" (1997). She and her husband, the Rev. Michael Dowd, have been itinerants since 2002, when they began traveling the continent presenting programs about unifying science and religion in an evolutionary framework. They have presented at hundreds of churches, congregations, temples and religious centers. And don't miss her husband who will present an exciting public presentation, "Thank God for Evolution" at UUCSV on Monday, Dec. 8 at 7:00 pm. Read more about his program below.

Green Sanctuary

You can celebrate the holidays and remain green. Whether its decorating or gifts, there are many ways this can be done.

Support local merchants this holiday season. For every dollar spent at a locally owned, independent business, forty-five cents remains in the local economy, which is certainly not the case with big box stores.

So far as holiday decorations are concerned, live Christmas trees are the greenest. These can be planted after the holidays. If you're buying a cut tree, these can be recycled. Asheville residents can put the trees out by the curb. In Buncombe County, there will be various drop-off points for cut trees, which will be recycled into mulch.

Folks can create decorations from recycled items. Recycled Christmas fabrics can be wrapped around throw pillows. Scraps of recycled fabrics and ribbon can be used for wreaths and garlands. Instead of buying new ornaments and decorations, shop at thrift stores and rummage sales. This diverts usable items from the landfills. For outdoor holiday lighting, solar and LED are the greenest of all.

Regarding holiday cards, there are many green choices. Buy cards made from recycled materials. Or, purchase a pack of recycled craft paper, and have your children make the cards. When it comes time to label holiday gifts, create gift tags from recycled materials. Examples include paint chips and swatches, and the fronts of greeting cards you've received. Millions of gift boxes and sheets of tissue paper are used each year for Christmas gifts. Do away with all this, and forget about the usual Christmas wrap. Replace this with green choices, such as reusable bags. Those with sewing machines can make gift bags from scraps of fabric.

So far as holiday gifts are concerned, the best ones by far are things you've made. Encourage your children to join in the fun. Depending on your skills and interest, this can be homemade jams, jellies, breads, fruit syrups, and gifts-in-jar. Hand crafted items, such as woodwork, beaded jewelry, knitted items, etc. are well received. Materials that might ordinarily go to waste can be made into gifts. Pieces of wood can be salvaged and turned into attractive wooden gifts. Old wool sweaters can become attractive felted projects like those in "Warm Fuzzies" by Betz White. This book is available at the public library.

When purchasing gifts, choose fair trade items, organic products, or items made from recycled materials. Examples include a delightful paper birdhouse kit manufactured by Green Bird. When purchasing skin/body care gifts and candles, be sure these are organic. The others typically contain harmful ingredients. Organic brands include Body Organic.

Green art or craft supplies make great gifts. The Green Art line of art supplies has pencils made from recycled wood, non-toxic paints, recycled paper, and so on. Those who knit or crochet would love organic cotton and organic wool yarns. For gardeners, consider Rice Hull Garden kits. These come in a biodegradable pot made from rice hulls.

Organic clothing makes great holiday gifts. Several brands of handbags and fashion accessories use recycled materials. Recycled snack bags and candy wrappers appear in Ecoist handbags and accessories. The fashionable Re-Bagz brand of handbags, laptop carriers, and totes are made from fruit juice packs as well as rice and grain bags.

For baby gifts, there's the Organic Baby Bunch. The gift set includes 100% organic baby clothing in a recycled paper box decorated with wood.

Monthly Committee Meetings, etc.

(CG = Covenant Group)

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

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.

Getting to Know You: Sally Beth, in Her Own Words

First let me say how delighted I am to be serving UUCSV over the coming months. Here is a little bit about me:

Since 2006 I have been a student at Meadville-Lombard Theological School, where I am a little over ½ way through finishing my M. Div degree via its “modified residency program” which means I go at a slow pace, taking most of my courses as “intensives” during short sojourns in Chicago (thus I will be away in January.) In September I completed a two years of serving as Student Minister at the UU Church of Asheville, where I worked under the supervision of Rev. Sarah York, who will continue to mentor me during the coming year. Most of my prior work has been in environmental science field, in which I hold an M.S. degree. For the past few years I’ve taught this subject part-time for UNCA as part of a program offering college curriculum in area prisons. When my children were younger I also had a small (very!) business teaching child/parent music classes.

I live in Asheville with my husband Michael and our three children who are 13, 10 and 7 years old. Michael and I met some 20 years ago while serving in the US Peace Corps in Mali. We feel quite connected to the Black Mountain community as Michael is part of a business based in Black Mountain and until this year my children attended school here.

I experience my calling to ministry not as a turning from my previous work in the environmental field, but rather a deepening of it. Several years ago, I made the decision to become a Unitarian Universalist minister in order to support whole congregations of people who are committed to the 7th principle and making the world a better place for everyone. There’s much more to it than that, of course, but, not space for it here....

I’m very impressed by how much this congregation has accomplished in such a short time. This gives me great hope that even though I will be a short-term minister for you, our time together can be very successful in terms of furthering UUCSV’s goals as a religious community. Please know how grateful I am for the opportunity for invaluable on-the-job training during my student phase. I look forward to working and growing with you all.

Sally Beth’s November Office hours:

Tuesdays and Thursdays: 9:00 am -- 2:00 pm

Wednesdays: 9:00am-3:00 pm

(except the week of Thanksgiving-- out of town)

Preaching Sundays: Nov 9 and Nov. 30

Contact her at Sally_Beth@bellsouth.net;
582-6704.

Thanks, Pat!

In addition to bringing two large hot casseroles and a platter of home-made bread to the Harvest Potluck, Pat Middleton made coffee, set up and cleaned up for our meal. We are very grateful, Pat! Also, thanks to Jim Carillon for helping with the set up and to Scott Shaw who pitched in and helped with the clean up. In addition to the yummy food you contributed, many of you remembered to bring your place setting from home. It was great to be with you on that beautiful afternoon.

↪ Carolyn Shorkey and Milt Warden,
Hospitality Committee co-chairs

P.S.: Pat has agreed to share the recipe for her much-appreciated **Indiana Corn Lovers Casserole:**

1 medium onion chopped
3 Tbsp butter
2 eggs, slightly beaten
1 can cream style corn
1 can whole corn, drained
1 cup sour cream
1 ½ C grated cheese
1 4-oz can chopped green chilies, drained
1 pkg Jiffy corn muffin mix

Cook onion until soft in butter. Combine all ingredients except muffin mix in a bowl and mix. Gently fold in muffin mix until moistened.. Spread in greased 2 qt greased baking dish. Bake 350 for 60-70 minutes or until golden and center set. Serves 4-6

Congregational Care Committee

The Congregational Care Committee is ready to assist our congregation in time of need by providing transportation and meals for those who are facing difficult circumstances. If needs extend beyond those mentioned, please discuss them with the Monthly Coordinator to see if we might have the resources to help. The coordinator for the month of November is Judy Lutvack – home 669-7649, cell (239) 272-3013.

Committee Chair, Kay-Sea Conklin, 686-7502 or (cell) 230-2227, would be glad to tell you about the committee and/or add you to the “Maybe Once In A While” volunteer list.

An Evening with Rev. Michael Dowd Monday, December 8th at 7:00 pm.

In this exciting and richly illustrated program, Rev. Michael Dowd will cover the major themes of his 2008 book, “Thank God for Evolution: How the Marriage of Science and Religion Will Transform Your Life and Our World”, which received endorsements from 5 Nobel Prize-winning scientists, as well as religious leaders across the theological spectrum: from Baptists to Buddhists. Come learn how our modern understanding of this 14 billion year old Universe, as given by mainstream science, builds bridges, provides guidance, and restores realistic hope for individuals and families, for humanity, and for the body of life as a whole. Don’t miss his wife, Connie Barlow, preaching in the UUCSV pulpit on Dec. 7th.

Voluntary Simplicity Discussion Group

A monthly Voluntary Simplicity discussion group will begin meeting on Sunday, November 23 at 9:30 a.m. at the church. The group will be using a discussion guidebook containing readings about various aspects of simplifying one's life. Members will be asked to read a section of the guidebook before the meetings, and leadership will be rotated. However, anyone is welcome to join these discussions at any time without preparation. There will be seven scheduled monthly meetings. Please talk with Evelyn Carter or Sue Stone for further information.

An Invitation

If you were inspired by a poem or a personality during the recent poetry service presented by the committee chairs, and have a little time now and then to help out, we'd love to hear from you! Here is a list of committees and the chairperson's name:

Board of Trustees:

Jim Carillon *jim@jimaline.com*

Social Action:

Emory Underwood *underwoode@charter.net*

Building:

Kim Taylor *kim_taylor28752@yahoo.com*

Congregational Care:

Kay-Sea Conklin *kayseaconklin@charter.net*

Green Sanctuary:

Jane Carroll *dr_jcarr@msn.com*

Finance:

Connie Krochmal *cbk119@hotmail.com*

Grounds:

Connie Krochmal *cbk119@hotmail.com*

Religious Education:

Sarah and George Scott *sgss108@gmail.com*

SOLS (women's group)

Dawn Wilson *dawnwilson@aol.com*

Sunday Programs:

Phil Fryberger *FryPC@aol.com*

Personnel:

Evelyn Carter *gardnerev@aol.com*

Membership:

Barbara Rogers *boardwalkbarb@yahoo.com*

Hospitality:

Carolyn Shorkey/Milt Warden *mediamilt@bellsouth.net*

↪ Submitted by David Reid

Room in the Inn

Special thanks go to all of our wonderful volunteers who helped out with Room in the Inn on Oct. 17th. This program provides food and lodging for homeless women in our community. We expect to participate several times in 2009, and will announce the dates as soon as these are set.

↪ Connie Krochmal,

Social Action, Room in the Inn Coordinator

Grounds

Someone who hadn't signed up was kind enough to mow during the last half of September amidst the worst of the gas shortage. When I went to water the trees, I found someone had mowed and weedwacked. Whoever you are, thanks so much for pitching in.

↪ Connie Krochmal, Grounds Co-Chair

New Member Recognition Ceremony

On Nov. 9 we will welcome new members as part of our Sunday Service. If you have joined UUCSV since our last "new member recognition ceremony" please come take part in this short recognition ceremony with all the congregation. If you are considering joining our lively small church, please contact anyone on the Membership Committee or the Board to find out how to do this.

↪ Barbara Rogers,

Chairperson, *boardwalkbarb@gmail.com*

Birthdays in November

November 7th Aaron Eliot-Gaines

November 7th Benjamin Cyr

November 24th Kevin Campbell

November 24th Jennifer Tanth

November 28th Aaron Gilmour



If you would like your birthday posted in the church bulletin, please fill out the form located on the table in the foyer.

Greeters in November

Nov. 2: Connie Krochmal, Barb Rogers, Marjorie Starr

Nov 9: Pat Middleton, Norm Kowal, Geoff Stone

Nov 16: Geoff Stone, Emory Underwood,
Angie Underwood

Nov 23: Susan, Scott, Evan, and Cecilia Shaw

Nov 30: Barb Rogers, Geoff Stone

Social Action Committee Grants

Contributions to date:

OREPA\$200

Olive Tree Circus.....\$100

UUA Darfur\$200

Pridefest.....\$150

Approved

Planned Parenthood\$100

Pisgah Legal Service\$100

Clean Water for NC\$150

Homeward Bound\$150

Western Carolina
for Criminal Justice\$150

Total to date\$1,300



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Friday Fling

November's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on November 21st 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 "Das Boot" (1997; an anti-war movie like "Letters from Iwo-Jima," but with much less violence, mostly interactions among the crew members of a German U-boat) will be shown. For further information, call Norm Kowal (669-4668). And don't forget Open Mike Night on the first Friday of the month.

Religious Education Corner

RE Class Activities

We have had a busy beginning to our school year. We've had several new students join our middle/high school group, so we now have a total of twelve students in that class. Enrollment in the elementary class is eleven, and we have three enrolled in the preschool. We also have visitors join us periodically.

The preschool Chalice Children class, over the past month, has been learning about our church environment, making clay and cookie chalices, planting flowers on the grounds, and learning about helping others. They will have a Halloween Party in class next week. The elementary school Timeless Themes class has been busy learning about bible stories of the Old Testament, with discussion focusing on how they pertain to our UU values. They've built an ark, a tower of Babel, gardens of Eden, and made Jacob and Esau puppets. Learning how to creatively solve conflict related to the Cain and Abel story was one of the best discussions the group had. They learned how to talk things over and avoid angry solutions to conflict with their siblings and others around them. The Neighboring Faiths class has been focusing on Judaism in the last month, and will be visiting the temple in Asheville in early November. Last Sunday they started their study of Catholicism, with a field trip to the St. Lawrence Basilica in Asheville scheduled to take place on October 26th. Tim Perry will lead the group in a tour, followed by the Mass, and lunch together downtown. The group will also spend some time with a discussion group

comprised of church members and friends focusing on the differences between cultural and religious Judaism.

Don't Forget Our New Class Times

Since we have such full curricula for our elementary and middle/high school youth, the RE Committee has decided to extend class time to 12:15 for these two groups. Preschool class will still end at 12 noon. Parents, please pick up your children at these times. This is so children and teachers can finish up projects and processing of the week's lesson. A very light snack will be served in class, but children and youth will join the adults for coffee hour at the end of class time.

Weekly Snacks

Parents, please remember to bring a plate of healthy snacks to share during coffee hour, so we are sure we have enough for everyone.

Important Dates to Remember

November 2—Meeting at 12:30 p.m. with youth and parents who will be in the Coming of Age program next year (all rising 8th – 12th graders). ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY!!!

November 9—Middle and high school youth at 12:30 p.m. to finish painting our rain barrel for the contest. All materials provided, but wear old clothes!

November 23—Intergenerational Thanksgiving Service

— Sybil Argintar, RE Coordinator