

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY

Nov 2013

Volume XII, Issue 11

Religious Freedom — Diverse Perspectives

From the Minister

Well, we finally got it done! The 5-Year Budget Plan has been approved by the overwhelming majority vote of 44 to 1.

This Plan was drafted by the Long Range Planning Committee: Scott Conklin (Chair), Ray Culotta, Jeff Hutchins, Tim Perry, Chuck Shimer, Jill Tagudin, Kim Taylor, Dawn Wilson. Please do not forget to thank these people when you see them for it took a tremendous amount of effort on their part. Thank you, the members of this congregation for believing in this church and the principles we strive to live by! Now we have to put this plan into action. It will take work. It will take sacrifice, but it will work. Nothing is as powerful as an idea whose time has come and this idea, to grow this congregation and to grow our souls, is an idea whose time is NOW!!!

We have so much to be thankful for. Family, friends, a wonderful free and progressive religious community where we can worship and fellowship together. Perhaps some of us have financial and other resources to sustain us. We may even be thankful for those difficult times where we didn't lose the lesson learned in whatever Life situation we found ourselves in.

It's been said where there is no vision the people perish. It's been said that those who wander through Life aiming at "nothing", will wind up hitting "nothing" dead on the head. We here at UUCSV have a vision. We here at UUCSV have a plan. All of us here at UUCSV will make it work. Thank you all for all of your hard work and support.



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Send Newsletter Information to
Norm Kowal, *Editor*
normankowal@bellsouth.net
Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday 19 Nov, 10
a.m., covering December 2013

The words of Max Coots from, *Seasons Of The Self*:

“...These days Thanksgiving is not obvious, as it once was. There is too much artificial distance between us and earth. The squash comes packaged. The Turkey too!

Only our effort is to thaw and bake, to tear along the dotted line conveniently. The paying for it all is antiseptic now, with no smell of earth or human hands to prove these things came from anywhere but some efficient cannery or neon lighted marketplace.

Yet Truth is Truth. The earth abides.”

We must remind ourselves that, though our lives are small and our acts seem insignificant, we are generative elements of this universe, and we create meaning with each act that we perform or fail to perform.

—Kent Nerburn, *Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace*

People say, what is the sense of our small effort? They cannot see that we must lay one brick at a time, take one step at a time. A pebble cast into a pond causes ripples that spread in all directions. Each one of our thoughts, words and deeds is like that. No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There is too much work to do.

—Dorothy Day

Patience is a hard discipline. It is not just waiting until something happens over which we have no control: the arrival of the bus, the end of the rain, the return of a friend, the resolution of a conflict. Patience is not a waiting passivity until someone else does something. Patience asks us to live the moment to the fullest, to be completely present to the moment, to taste the here and now, to be where we are. When we are impatient we try to get away from where we are. We behave as if the real thing will happen tomorrow, later and somewhere else. Let's be patient and trust that the treasure we look for is hidden in the ground on which we stand.

—Henri Nouwen, *Bread for the Journey*

Spiritual Community

A few weeks ago I spoke on the topic of the absence of fear and the need for covenant. The purpose of a spiritual community is to see each other as we really are. Members of the community learn to love and accept each other as they are now. Past mistakes, transgressions, misunderstandings, no matter how seemingly severe are not held against anyone. Each person is seen for who they are and what they are evolving to be. The journey has begun in earnest.

This community attempts to hold a space in which judgments members make about other people can be acknowledged and forgiven. No one attempts to fix or change anyone else. This promotes healing. The instant the individual stops playing the role of victim and takes responsibility for his or her life, healing occurs. The community does not pretend to have the answer for any of its members. It simply extends to each individual again and again the goal of acceptance. All we are willing to do is to love them and each other, not to mention ourselves. All are welcome here. You do not have to robe or wear a special hat to enter the sanctuary. Yet you do have to surround yourself with the awareness of the interconnected web of which we are all a part. You do have to adhere to the Law of One. You do have to at least be open to the possibility of personal transformation. If you do not, your inner guide will take you elsewhere anyway. You will go where you need to be fed. This is the way of Life. This is the very Spirit of Life! We bid you Welcome!

—Michael

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 3 November 2013, 11 a.m.

Universalist Evangelism

Rev. Judith Long

We don't often think of ourselves as evangelists; for many, the very concept runs counter to our way of being in the world. However, our Universalist heritage has a long history of evangelists. In the late 1800s, Universalist "circuit riding" was a common practice. What might we learn from this dimension of our history which we can take into today's world?

Sunday, 10 November 2013, 11 a.m.

Don't You Have Any Manners?

Rev. Michael Carter

Although this sermon will be presented a few weeks before Thanksgiving, I wanted us to think about the proper etiquette for living our lives here on planet Earth. What are the appropriate manners, "we bring to the table," when dealing with each other and the planet? Even Ray Charles would see that we have so much to be thankful for. One thing I have realized since moving here from New York is that Southerners, "appreciate" things. Well, how does such appreciation show up in our day to day existence? I have some suggestions.

A modern day expert on etiquette, Emily Post, offers us a view of manners beyond the dining room table with this:

"Manners are a sensitive awareness of the feelings of others. If you have that awareness, you have good manners no matter what fork you use." See you on Sunday!



Sunday, 17 November 2013, 11 a.m.

That Left Turn at Albuquerque

Rev. DiAnna Ritola

Bugs Bunny, that "wascally wabbit" seemed to have a difficult time with directions. He always complained, after consulting his map, that he "should have taken that left turn at Albuquerque". Yet, he seemed to make the best of whatever place he found himself. We all have maps of our lives. Some are internal: milestones we hope to achieve by a certain age (some of these are unconscious, too). Some are imposed by others. Still others are maps we create out of our own hopes and dreams. And, yet, life often invites (or forces) us onto a path that wasn't on our map. How do we deal with this loss of control and what can we do while we use our new-fangled GPS and "recalculate" our journey? The way we handle these unforeseen shifts in direction can determine how quickly we find our way back to the road.

Rev. DiAnna Ritola received her ordination as an Interfaith Minister from The New Seminary for Interfaith Studies. Her ministry centers on spiritual counseling for intimate relationships, and she is a professional speaker on the integration of spirituality and sexuality. She has lived in cities large and small, explored her inner Earth Mother in rural Vermont where her two children were born, and moved to Asheville in 2001. She has been a member of the UU Congregation of Asheville for 12 years and is now enjoying the joyfully busy teen years with her daughters. She enjoys cooking and eating, yoga and crossword puzzles, and heartfelt conversation. Having never been an athlete and just to prove she could, DiAnna trained for and ran both a ½ marathon and a full marathon in the spring of 2012, and is looking forward to another ½ marathon in the late fall.

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 24 November 2013, 11 a.m.

Thanksgiving Service Celebration

Rev. Michael Carter

Come join us for our fully intergenerational Thanksgiving service! This will be the perfect time to kick off our food drive for the Swannanoa Christian Ministries, as well as our "Guest at Your Table" contributions from our youth and adults as well, at the same time giving thanks for the many blessings we all share with each other, our community, and the world at large. It is so much that we say we are thankful for our blessings, but what we do with them that really matters! See you at church . . .



Sunday, 1 December 2013, 11 a.m.

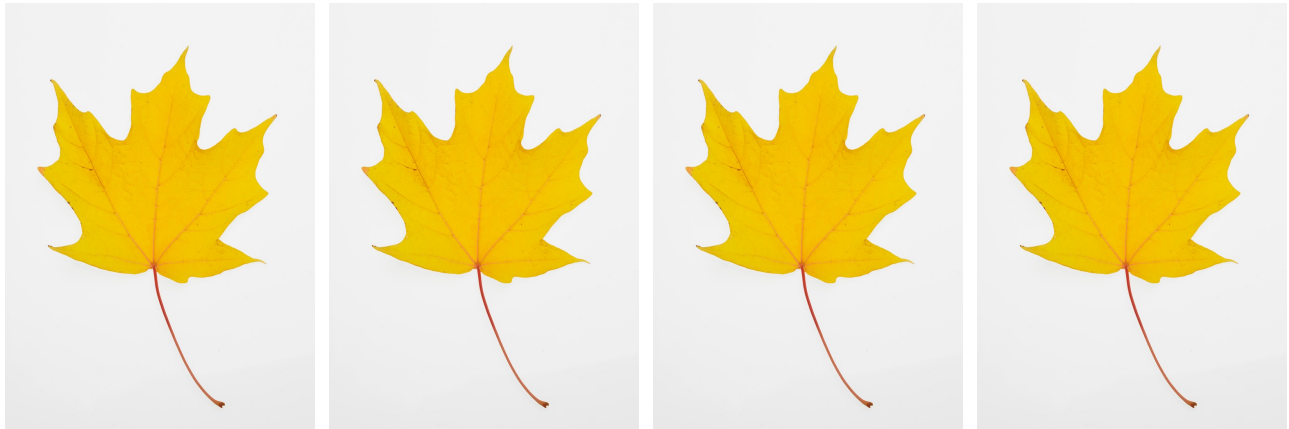
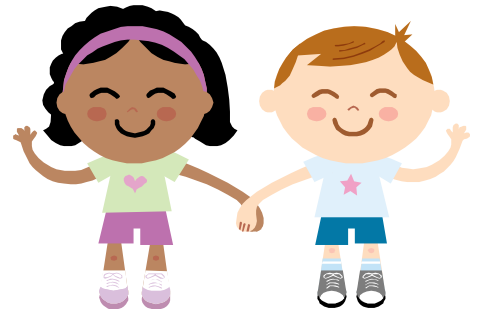
What's With The Zombies?

Michael Carter

In case you haven't noticed, there's a zombie apocalypse happening in our culture. Not that zombie's are new. They have been around since 1935 (Ouanga) and have appeared from time to time in the horror film genre. But lately there has been a tsunami of zombies showing up in theaters and on our home screens (which are practically as large as theaters). From 1991 through 2011, there were close to 900 zombie movies made. Not quite one a week but close enough to ask the question, "What's With The Zombies?" On the Sunday after Thanksgiving (on the eve of Cyber Monday when Americans imitate the "undead" at online retailers across the country) we will be asking why we find ourselves drawn again and again to the undead. Zombies may be less than a century old in terms of their appearance on the big screen but our attraction to them goes back millennia.

Michael Carter (not our regular Michael Carter, but rather that other Michael Carter) is a graduate of the Emory University Chandler School of Theology. He served in the United Methodist Church for eight years working in parishes in Georgia and Kentucky, as well as serving on the staff of one of the oldest statewide peace organizations in the United States. He spent many years in the corporate world and now is a starving entrepreneur living near Brevard.

Religious Education Corner



Reflections

End of October and they're calling for frost and crazy cold temperatures the next few days. There's something energizing about this crispness in the air as we wind our way towards the holiday season and winter. I feel the energy, but also the instinctive sense of inwardness and hibernation as our days get colder and the light becomes less and less every day. We've begun planning for our Thanksgiving and Winter Holiday services. Like many of you, I have mixed feelings about the craziness that sometimes comes in these months. But I hope, as you enter the month of November, that you and your family will begin thinking about the things you are grateful for in your lives. We have each other as community and that means a lot. I know I am grateful for all of you and for the sometimes funny surprises and deep caring and thoughtfulness I experience every Sunday when working with your children and youth. Happy Thanksgiving to all.

Religious Education Corner

Classes for November 2013

Preschool

Cooperative play time for all

Grades K - 5 Picturebook World Religions

October 27 Hinduism, "Lighting A Lamp" or "Lights for Gita"

November 3 Guest speaker Byron Ballard, part of earth-centered traditions

November 10 Earth-Centered Traditions

November 17 Earth-Centered Traditions

November 24 IG Thanksgiving Service

Grades 6 - 8 Neighboring Faiths

October 27 Earth-Centered Traditions—Honoring the Earth

November 3 Guest speaker Byron Ballard, part of earth-centered traditions

November 10 Earth-Centered Traditions—Creating and Leading an Earth-Honoring Service

November 17 Buddhism—Buddhism and Zen

November 24 IG Thanksgiving Service

Grades 9 - 12 Building Bridges, YRUU

November 3 Guest speaker Byron Ballard, part of earth-centered traditions

November 17 Workshop 3: Indigenous Religions

Religious Education Corner

Adult Religious Education Programs for November 2013

Join in on one of these great activities for adults. We have a great program line-up!

November 5 LUUNCH BUUNCH 12 - 1 p.m.

Rev. Michael Carter facilitates

Ongoing:

First and Third Tuesdays: Chalice Circle, facilitator Teresa Ballinger, 6:30 p.m.

Second and Fourth Wednesdays: "Wolf Pact" Chalice Circle, closed group, facilitator Dr. Jane Carroll, off-site, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Third Thursdays: Chalice Circle, facilitator Beata Ball, 6:30 p.m.

Important Dates to Remember

October 26 Halloween Festival 6-9 p.m.

November 24 IG Thanksgiving Service



As always, feel free to call or e-mail me if you have an idea to share or have any concerns.

—Sybil Argintar, Director of Religious Education

sybil.argintar@yahoo.com, 230-3773

UUSC HOLIDAY CARDS HAVE ARRIVED

The UUSC holiday cards are here. For a sneak peak at the gorgeous new designs, please see the color flyer on the bulletin board near the office/nursery door. The designs include Holiday Children, Rainbow Pines, and Peace Dove. Social Action will be selling these in the foyer before and after the Sunday services from November 17 through December 15. They're \$10 for a pack of ten cards. You can pay by cash or check (payable to UUSC). All proceeds go to UUSC for their work around the world.

—*Connie Krochmal, Social Action Committee, Holiday Card Sales Coordinator*

Birthdays

- November 3rd Sam Scott
- November 7th Aaron Eliot-Gaines
- November 9th Roberta Madden
- November 10th Mark Manuel
- 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.

Choir News

In November, the UUCSV Choir will sing on November 24th. We will rehearse the Sunday before that, on the 17th at 12:15 after the service. Our midweek rehearsal is now on THURSDAY at 6:30 PM on November 21st. Then we will meet at 10 AM on Sunday the 24th before the service.



We love getting new singers! Come sing with us.

—*Linda Metzner, Choir Director*

1,500 Cups

That's about how many cups of coffee we serve after the Sunday Services during our budget year. At our current usage, the cost to have beverage service is \$500 a year. Recently, all committee chairpersons were asked to make voluntary budget cuts for the upcoming budget years. I volunteered to cut our budget down to \$250 for Sunday beverage service. If you drink coffee, tea or hot chocolate, we ask that you put a donation into the donation jar, which is placed on the beverage service table. Please help us meet our expenses by making a donation. We hope you are enjoying our locally roasted, fair-trade, shade grown coffee and selection of teas. Also, please thank your coffee hours hosts, they make it possible for us to have a social hour after every Sunday Service: Cilla Becker, Willow Allen, Angie Manuel, Gene Chilton, Jean and Allen Brown, James and Carol Sheeler, and yours truly, Milt Warden.

Yoga by Willow

Wednesdays 10am - 11:30 pm.

Come join your UU friends for gentle yoga in the sanctuary Wednesday mornings. Classes are led by Willow, a 230 hour Yoga Therapist. Movements are tailored to each individual's needs and abilities. A practice of gentle yoga invites oxygen and movement into your body for health and well-being. Class focus is on safe movements, increased balance and flexibility, and breath awareness. Appropriate for all ages. Cost=\$12 per class or \$60 for 6 sessions. Part of class proceeds is donated to UUCSV.

Friday Fling

November's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on 15 November 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 "Quartet" (2012; Maggie Smith, Tom Courtenay; music and romance at a home for retired musicians) will be shown. For further information call Norm Kowal (669-4668).



Social Action Committee

During the first quarter of the church year, the Social Action Committee has sent contributions to the following organizations: Lord's Acre, OUR VOICE, People of Faith Against the Death Penalty, Hand in Hand, Welcome Table, Building Bridges and Habitat for Humanity.

LORD'S ACRE \$200 Located in Fairview, this is a not for profit corporation that builds community to work side by side learning gardening skills and helping to grow fresh local food to feed the hungry. Our own Jim Carillon is a part time manager who helps organize the garden, coordinates volunteers and teaches gardening skills.

OUR VOICE \$100 In pursuit of a community that is free of sexual violence OUR VOICE serves all individuals in Buncombe County affected by sexual assault and abuse through counseling, advocacy and education.

PEOPLE OF FAITH AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY \$100 PFADP is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, interfaith organization whose mission is to educate and mobilize faith communities to act to abolish the death penalty in the United States. Founded in 1994 in North Carolina, PFADP focuses its programs on organizing among faith communities.

BUILDING BRIDGES \$100 Building Bridges was founded by a small group of Asheville citizens in 1993. Since then more than 1000 people have attended the program. BB is an organization whose mission is to overcome racism through compelling dialogue, community building and a call to action. Sessions are held twice a year and UUCSV's Robbie Madden is working to bring a session to Black Mountain.

WELCOME TABLE \$100 Black Mountain Welcome Table is a not for profit group of individuals who provide high quality meals once a week free of charge. The WT is staffed by volunteers who welcome everyone and reach out to the less fortunate.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY \$600 Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit ministry that fosters community by partnering with qualified families and individuals to build new homes and preserve old ones. Houses are built and preserved by partners together, knowing that people need capital, not charity. Ownership of a decent, safe house is the key foundation for realizing human potential. Our congregation, under the leadership of Susan Culler and the help of many members, has participated in the building of houses for several years.

The Social Action Committee meets at 5:30 on the second Wednesday of every month. Please join us so we can continue the social justice work of this congregation. Everyone welcome.

“TELL A WOMAN”: Poetry and Song by Annelinde Metzner at the UUCSV

On Saturday evening, November 16th at 7 PM, Black Mountain poet and composer, and our choir director, Annelinde (Linda) Metzner will present "Tell a Woman," an exciting evening of her poems and songs, with special guest, poet Susa Silvermarie, and Sahara Peace Choir. The two poets are celebrating the launch of We'Moon 2014, a datebook of women's writing and art, which features their poems. We'Moon datebooks can be purchased on site, as well as Annelinde's songbooks, poetry books, CDs and DVDs, for excellent holiday gifts! A portion of ticket sales will go to the UUCSV, as well as refreshment sales.

Admission to "Tell a Woman" is \$10.00 at the UUCSV, 500 Montreat Road in Black Mountain. Call 669-2293 or email annelinde@hotmail.com for more information, or see "Tell a Woman" on Facebook.

New Member Bios

Anna Stearns

My question to Anna is this: Do you ever sleep? This bundle of energy keeps a schedule that would exhaust two people. Besides herself, Anna's household consists of two sons, Dylan and Daniel, a domestic partner Rick and his daughter Taylor. They consider themselves a family living in two houses.

Politics and the law play a big part in Anna's life. Need proof? Her two cats are Arabella, named for the first female attorney; and Atticus, named for the character in "To Kill A Mockingbird." The family dog Holly isn't law-related, but is much-loved nonetheless.

Sixteen-year-old Dylan now attends Owen after spending most of his school years at the Artspace, where Daniel is a student who plays trumpet in the band. Anna has lived in Black Mountain for most of her life, graduating from Owen High in 2000. For the past 13 years, she's been employed in the office of local attorney Rick Snead, most recently as a paralegal. She will take the LSAT two days after this is being written, aspiring to career as an attorney.

When I asked Anna about her volunteer activities, her reply forced me to use two pieces of paper. I'll list them: genealogy, Secretary of the Young Democrats of NC, Secretary of the Young Democrats of Buncombe County, Member of the Black Mountain Housing Commission, Minute-taker for the Black Mountain Board of Aldermen, Social-Media Coordinator for Ratify ERA-NC. These are in addition to her responsibilities as a mom, her political science classes at UNCA, and her work with our own RE Committee. Anna hopes to implement a Teen Youth Group at UUCSV. Indeed, seeking a church community for her sons was a prime reason for joining UUCSV.

We're so happy to have you with us, Anna, Dylan and Daniel.

Rick and Marsha Ott

Rick and Marsha, who live in East Asheville, came to our area from northern Ohio and Indiana respectively. Rick retired from a career at General Motors. Marsha's work as a CPA continues. Semi-retired, she works part-time for Jubilee in Asheville.

Marsha's three grandchildren live in Chicago, where she visits them frequently. Having another son in Hilton Head offers Rick and Marsha travel opportunity closer to home. They traveled to Italy together too.

Rick and his duet partner perform a dozen times a month at area nursing homes. Involved in all aspects of music, Rick's favorite musical activity is leading group singing. Marsha's volunteering is broader based. She sits on the Board at Meals on Wheels, where she also volunteers in other ways; works with Hospice; and also with Ten Thousand Villages; plus she is a member of the UUCSV Finance Committee.

Rick and Marsha followed Michael to UUCSV from UU Asheville. We're so glad they did!

New Member Bios (continued)

Sue Miller

If you walk by Sue Miller's house these days, be prepared to hear barking. Her new dog, Happy Jack, will be glad to greet you. Sue has lived in Black Mountain for seven years; Jack is a newcomer. Sue's adult son William is in his last year at Columbia Law School.

For the past few months, Sue has been supervising major repair and renovation at her home, necessitated by last spring and summer's heavy flooding.

Born in Indiana, Sue lived for many years in historic Lexington MA, long a bastion of UU. There she was a member at First Parish in Lexington, a congregation extant since the Revolutionary War. She was married in King's Chapel in Boston, which she describes as a UU/Episcopal blend. Having had enough snow and seeking a simpatico lifestyle, Sue chose the Asheville area as her new home. Once here, she attended UUCSV a few times but found UUA to be more compatible. However, when Michael became our minister, Sue became a member here.

Sue's career as a project leader in the high-tech industry culminated in a graduate-school program at Harvard University designed to move successful people from quantitative careers into education. Sue worked for five years in a school setting, both teaching and supplying technical support. She then operated her own tech support business.

After facing a health challenge earlier this year, Sue is now busy with cardio rehab. Once she is able, she hopes to resume gardening. She also enjoys classes at the Olli Center.

Welcome, Sue!

Ginny Moreland

Ginny is a gifted singer, as we know from hearing her in our own choir. What you may not know is that she also performs with the Asheville Chorus Society and the West Asheville Community Chorus. Ginny's latest effort is as co-director of a relatively new organization, Threshold Chorus. This group offers comfort by singing at deathbeds during the passing of individuals. So you see, music is a big part of Ginny's life.

Ginny met her husband David while contra-dancing in Atlanta. As they moved toward marriage, they decided they wanted a church home. UU of Atlanta became that home. From Atlanta, Ginny and David moved to Hickory. From there, they came to Black Mountain and—lucky for us—to UUCSV.

Born in NY, Ginny's career was as a college librarian. David, from Ohio originally, was in sales in the automotive industry. Both retired now, they each pursue an artistic endeavor. Ginny marbles on paper and silk; David does stained glass. They manage to fit in a couple of art shows a year.

Their household contains two shelter cats: Tahiti and Stretch. With the cats as their only responsibilities, Ginny says that she and David are footloose and fancy free.

They are happy to be part of UUCSV and we're happy to have them.

SOLS Report

Below is part of the correspondence between SOLS at UUCSV and our partner church in Medeser, Romania. Monika is the minister of the partner church:

5/9/13: This is a portion of the letter we sent to our Romanian partner church following our spring festival "Trillium" where we earn the money that UUCSV sends to Medeser:

Last Saturday we held our annual festival where we earn the money we send to you [Trillium]. This year we were bothered with rain and cold so we did not earn as much as he had hoped we would. We do not know yet how much we will be able to send you this year, but I will let you know as soon as possible. What would be your greatest needs? How could we help the most? [UUCSV will send \$1000 from our Trillium proceeds to Medeser].

5/24/13

This is a portion of the unedited letter I received from Monika in response to my letter of the 9th in which I explained that we were not able to send someone from UUCSV to visit them in the year past:

First of all let me say I am so sad because you could not come to visit us.

I am sure the face to face contact further strengthens our relationship.

We hope too, next year you will have better luck.

We have no possibilities to go there, you most to come :)

I hope everything is going well in the Black Mountain, and your new minister finds his place in the congregation. And hope the atmosphere is good in your Church.

Our Church, is more and more smaller and really orphan. We depend on ourselves.

Many people have died in recent times. Most basic people. This really sets the mood in the church. The people are a little discouraged but not without hope.

They are working a lot on the fields, and they are quite depleted. They are living modestly.

I am glad, because I can strengthen their spirit, and I can give back their hopes.

The weather is against them, too. After a big winter comes a really dry spring.

Not rained for months, thank's God in this week we got a little rain.

Everybody was so happy, because became more drinking water. As you know,

we have not plumbing water system, only wells. The water was a great need for the vegetables, trees and grass, too. Last weekend we celebrated the Pentecost holiday. It was a nice holiday, there were many in the church. We prayed for our community spirit, and for our brothers and sisters in faith, for you, too.

And now about your plans. First of all I would like to thank you, that you offered your help again. The truth is besides you, we can not expect help from someone else. You helped us so much, and therefore we are very grateful. As you know, last year we renovated almost full the parish house (inside). This was burdensome for the church, but your help greatly contributed to the success. After the renovating works, we organized a children camp in the parish. About these I wrote in my last letter. In this year we would like to finalize the inside works. We want to separated the chamber and make a little kitchen and a bathroom. And for this case must to resolve the water management and the sewage problem. Besides we would like to make a fence around the parish, and a gate on the front. Hope, we can continue the children

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camp in summer, too.

Last year we started the work at the church, too. The engineering plans are done, but it costs so much. I think we could not start the work there in this year.

So plans we have, maybe too much. We will do what we can. The rest remain to the last year.

Please you decide, which activities you would like to support.

Our daughter, Borbála is growing well, and she is waiting her little sister. We all are really excited.

Now I am preparing to the Mother's Day, what will be next Sunday, and for the Borbala's birthday, what will be on first of June. She will be 5.

I am always working and praying for a better future. I am wishing you the best. Please Jane, transmit my best wishes for the SOLS members, and for all the congregation members, who think of us!

Love,

Monika

9/10/13

This is a portion of the unedited letter we received from Medeser in September. We will copy the pictures Monika sent and post them on the Medeser display in the rear of the sanctuary:

Dear Jane,

Thanks God we are finally at home. It is a really long one month behind us. But we are so happy now, because on eight of August was born our second daughter, Rebecca. She is so beautiful and kind. She was really big baby (3.5 kg, 57 cm), but I gave birth in natural way (not cesarean). We spent one week in the Hospital. After this we moved to my mother-in-law, because I was very weak, and we needed some help. As you know the first weeks are really difficult, moreover Rebecca is so convulsive (or spastic?), and she is crying much, night as well. Fortunately, Borbala loves her sister much and understand the situation. Of course she wants to be in focus, especially if somebody comes to us.

I took only one month maternity leave, because we have a lot to do in the congregation. Last month I have devoted to my child, to my family. I had neither time, nor energy to other. In the recent days I have strengthened much, and I started my work. In the last months I was unable to organize the work in the church. But now we must to start the renovation of the parish house. As I wrote earlier in this year we would like to make a kitchen and a bathroom from the chamber. So we moved back home yesterday. We have made clean in the house, lit a fire and furnished it to the nursery. Fortunately my husband is helping me much.

I am very glad you have written. I wondered what happened with you, what can be the problem, why you are not writing us. I realized that your summer was full, and you are so busy, too. We hope your church's life is going well. The people from Medeser asked me about you. I told them that you can't visit this year. Just so you know, they, we, are waiting you so much. We would like to thank your lot of help. Please, tell us how we can reciprocate your kindness! What we could send, which makes happy our brothers and sisters? I think some homespuns or embroideries will be fine. Please voice your opinion!

You are asking me about the transfers. This is in the following way: the UU Partner Church Council is sending the money to the Transylvanian Unitarian Church's bank account in Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca). And they (the episcopate) is forwarding to us the money in RON (our currency) to our church's bank account. Last year we got 910 dollar corresponding RON (minus the treatment costs). This is satisfactory transaction for us. I think this method is fine. I hope this

is helpful answer. I am asking you, write me, for what goal we can use the support. We are very pleased and grateful for the support, because this year we did not receive other assistance.

Sorry, if I wrote too much, but I had to say all these things. Of course, my husband translated this letter. If you see fit, you can give us your phone number, and we can call you. I think it will be fine and more personal. We would like to hear your voice.

Thanks for your effort, and your kindness! Please transmit our best wishes to the SOLS members, to the congregation, to the partner church council and to the minister. (!Attached pictures: Rebecca, Borbala and me!)

Blessings,

Rev. Mónica

—Jane J. Carroll, Chair

From the Editor—The Last Word

Sadly, I am at a loss for words.

