

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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UUCSV

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BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, Sept. 18 • 6:00 p.m.

UUCSV Newsletter

Send newsletter information to
Norm Kowal
normankowal@bellsouth.net

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2007 at 10 a.m.
Covering October 2007

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Asheville, NC

Call for "This I Believe" Statements and a Favorite

Carolyn Shorkey will facilitate a Sunday Service on October 21st during which we will explore personal philosophies. In 1951 Edward R. Murrow began hosting a weekly radio program called, "This I Believe." On this broadcast, contributors shared their insights about what it is about their beliefs that drives their behaviors and attitudes. Mr. Murrow's show ran for five years and in April of 2005, NPR picked up on this program idea and began accepting and playing essays from it's listeners. Many UU churches make room in their Order of Service on selected Sunday's to provide a platform for person's to read their own "This I Believe" essay. If you have written an essay in the past and would like to share it with us on October 21st, please contact Carolyn at 299-9456 or cashorkey@bellsouth.net. We would love to hear from you and include your essay in the service!

Don's favorite: "The Holy Life of the Intellect" is the title of the NPR web site's account of the "This I Believe" feature on Sunday Morning, August 19, broadcast on 88.1 FM between 8 & 10 am. Canadian poet, George Bowering said, "We experience the mind of another person when we enjoy poetry, jazz or love." The commentary said "He believes this vision of human intellect is the closest thing we have of the divine." Of the hundreds of NPR "This I Believes" I've heard over the years it's the most "UU-provocative" one that I've heard. Whether or not you heard it, please feel free to contact Don Pfister, 255-1932, pfisterdon@yahoo.com, for a possible 'involvement' in a worship service, discussion group or informal conversation arising from what Bowering said.

Congregational Meeting on Sunday September 16

The Congregational Meeting on Sunday September 16, after the service, has two purposes:

1. To affirm that we are a Welcoming Congregation, and to request to be recognized as such by the UUA.
2. To discuss the possibility of expanding our ministerial search to include half-time candidates, as we have not found a quarter-time candidate. Attendance by members and friends of the congregation is strongly encouraged since an aggregate increase of about 50% of pledged income is needed in order to search for a half-time minister.

Congregational Care Committee

The Chair of our Congregational Care Committee is Angie Underwood (phone 669-0869). The Monthly Care Coordinator for September is Frohm Lutvack (phone 669-7649). 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.

Board Secretary Needed

The UUCSV Board of Trustees needs a volunteer for the position of secretary, to take meeting notes and send out the minutes to the board members.

Getting to Know You: Teresa Ballinger

"I was born and raised in Indianapolis. I did a couple of short stints in Kentucky and Germany. I have (as of this month, this year) lived in Black Mtn half of my life (24 yrs). I have an Associates Degree in accounting, coursework in marketing and would like to some day get a bachelor's degree. I have 3 grown children, 2 grandchildren and one grandchild on the way. I live with a wonderful man named Melvin!"

Sunday Programming

Please join us for Social Hour after each program

Sunday, September 2, 2007 11 a.m.
"A Reinvention of Work As Prayer"
Reverend Doctor Calen Rayne
Music by Marina Raye

On this Labor Day, we will explore a new way of looking at our work in light of our spiritual journeys, How can we turn what we do to earn a living, our "work," into a "prayer." How can we best contribute to the "Great Work," that of building a more compassionate world.

The Reverend Doctor Calen Rayne has a MFA from Naropa University and a DMin degree from Wisdom University. Calen is minister of the Wisdom Tabernacle, an interactive, experiential exploration of world wisdom traditions in downtown Black Mountain, and has been a circuit rider for UU congregations since 1995.

Marina Raye is known internationally as the "Feminine Voice of the Native Flute." She was born in Africa where she spent her first ten years. She draws inspiration from her deep love of the Earth as she shares her vision of the awakening of peace in every heart. Her instruments are hand-crafted by her husband, flute maker Charlie Oakwind. Marina and Charlie live in Black Mountain, where they are building a solar-powered home. They are committed to living gently on the Earth.

Sunday, September 9, 2007
11 a.m., Ingathering Sunday
"Living in Community: The Most
Difficult Spiritual Discipline"
Sarah York

As we welcome the children for the first part of the service, we celebrate community, and explore the challenges and rewards of being in community together.

Sunday, September 16, 2007 11 a.m.
"What A Journey!
A Welcoming Congregation Year"

Our Congregation began a Journey a year ago to educate ourselves about challenges and issues facing Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender church and community members. Through nine educational workshops and other events, we explored many aspects of their experiences and civil rights struggles. Four members from the Congregation will share what this process has meant to them, Robin Tynes, Jim Carillon, Jen Stump, and Tim Perry. Also, Minister Emeritus Dick Stennett will share his thoughts on the process and why our vote, in the Congregational Meeting following the service, to affirm ourselves as a Welcoming Congregation is important. The sanctuary will be decorated with murals, photos, charts, lists, and other mementoes from the past year's activities, and there will be a slide show collage not-to-miss. Come be inspired and be part of our Congregation's history!

To read more about the Welcoming Congregation process see our web site, www.uusv.org, and the UUA's web site, www.uua.org.



Sunday, September 23, 2007 11 a.m.
"Songs of Woodie Guthrie"
Carl Gombert and Friends

July 14th marked the ninety-fifth anniversary of the birth of Woody Guthrie, America's pre-eminent hard travelin' folk troubadour. Through his many classic songs, Woody championed the underdogs: the working stiffs and immigrants, the disenfranchised and powerless, the homeless, the downtrodden and the poor. With music, he affirmed the inherent worth and dignity of every individual. Join us as we celebrate a man who spent his life promoting the principles that we embrace as Unitarian Universalists.

Carl Gombert is Professor of Art at Maryville College. Member TVUUC, and now steering committee for new Blount County congregation. Wife Anita Blatnik, daughters Elizabeth and Anna. Terry Bunde is Professor of Chemistry at Maryville College. Member New Providence Presbyterian in Maryville TN. Very active in Habitat for Humanity. Wife Pam, daughters Janet and Gretchen. Niki Schrock is systems analyst for Ruby Tuesday's, Inc. Member TVUUC. Husband Chad, daughter Lydia.

Sunday, September 30, 2007 11 a.m.
"Creating a Green Sanctuary"
Green Sanctuary Committee

On this day we officially launch UUCSV's drive to become a UUA-accredited Green Sanctuary. The congregation plays an important role in the design, implementation, and success of this one to two-year-long effort. Our Mission is "to focus on the theological, spiritual, and ethical aspects of human activities that affect the health and sustainability of the living earth." The Green Sanctuary Committee will lead our congregation as we: use our Sunday services and other activities to identify and address environmental matters, live the values described in UU's Seventh Principle, and promote responsible collaboration among various church and community groups.

Sunday, October 7, 2007 11 a.m.
"Turning Toward Home"
Ned Martin

Ned Martin, Outreach Coordinator for the AHOPE Day Center in Asheville, will reflect on what it means to be present with men and women who are homeless. What are the challenges facing them...and us? How can we help those experiencing homelessness begin to turn toward home? Reflecting on his own spiritual journey, Ned will look at the turnings that might occur within those of us who engage in this work and the importance of our and other congregations' ongoing volunteer support of AHOPE and other homeless efforts.

Ned grew up in Roanoke, VA, graduated from William & Mary, and received his M. Div from Duke University. He spent a year in St. Andrews, Scotland, served a Methodist congregation in Haywood County for three years, and is pursuing his interest in Jungian Psychology at the Haden Institute in Flat Rock, NC. Ned and Jennifer McSwain just got married in May 2007. She continues her work as a Methodist campus minister at UNCA, and they both try to apply their experiences to their two cats who, apparently, fight all the time.

Interested in Membership in UUCSV?

When is membership open in the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Swannanoa Valley? We have orientation sessions two times a year that we request new or potential members attend, but we welcome members at any time. If you want to join our congregation officially, please contact any member of the Membership Committee (names below) or any member of the Board of Trustees whose names appear on the front page of the Newsletter. The act of becoming a member is simple: you sign a Membership Book. We also ask that you fill out a white information card that has information for our records. We welcome questions about the responsibilities and benefits of membership.

↪ *Jane J. Carroll, Membership Committee Chair,*
828-664-1695; *dr_jcarr@msn.com.*

Evelyn Carter, Phil Fryberger, Norm Kowal,
Connie Krochmal, Angie Underwood

Something to Think About

We on the Membership Committee have a question to pose: To what extent do you think your participation in the activities of UUCSV reflect the importance of UUCSV in your life? Underlying this question is another: How much does our congregation mean to you, comparatively? Are you a participant-observer or just an observer? The many ways we show our respect and allegiance to UUCSV include sharing our precious time serving on committees that run the church, attending Sunday services, and pledging funds and volunteer hours in the annual canvass. We think that to the extent we participate in our community are we offered opportunities. What sorts of opportunities have we chanced upon? To name a few, we have learned that by being involved with UUCSV we have made new and important friends and acquaintances, discovered a place where our opinions and beliefs are respected, found ways to live the values that govern our lives, provided religious education for our children, and been able to use our talents and interests to be of service in many different ways. In return, we have the satisfaction of being part of a growing and vital congregation where diversity is treasured and social values are more than a catch phrase. We encourage you to find ways to make UUCSV the place you want to be by making full use of your association with us.

↪ *Jane J. Carroll, Chair, Membership Committee*

New Members

UUCSV welcomes Sharon ("Sam") Hinton and Kathy Munro who joined our congregation recently. Sam and Kathy, we are happy you are with us and look forward to our association with you.

Many Thanks to All Our Mowers

The Grounds Committee sends a special thanks to all the folks who signed up to do the mowing and trimming over the summer. We're all in their debt.

These wonderful people include David Brown, Bert Gaines, Monroe Gilmour, Frohm Lutvack, Lee Reading, Phil Rice, Phyllis Robertson, Bill Rouser, John Steele, and Milt Warden. Thanks also to Tom Clay even if he did have to move before he was able to do the mowing. When you see them around, add your personal thanks for their efforts.

↪ *Connie Krochmal, Grounds co-chair*

Warblers Rehearsals

The choir will have rehearsals on September 16th after the congregational meeting, by the piano in the sanctuary. We'll meet again September 23rd at 10:00 AM before the service. All are welcome, Come sing with us!

Tips from the Green Sanctuary Committee

A home's indoor temperature can rise as much as 20° F if the windows are not shaded. Keep your shades and curtains drawn during the heat of the day. Plant trees on the western, southern, and eastern sides of your house. To reduce CO2 emissions if you are using a room air conditioner, place it in the shade, clean or replace the filter, raise your thermostat by four degrees or up to the next highest setting. Replace your old air conditioner with a new Energy Star® model.

September Volunteer Greeters

September 2: Emory Underwood, Angie Underwood
September 9: Tom Motzko, Jo Motzko, Marilyn Wells
September 16: Kim Taylor, Deb Vingle, Joe Haun
September 23: Margaret Bumgarner, Robyn Schuster, Bill Rouser
September 30: Carolyn Shorkey, Sarah Scott, George Scott

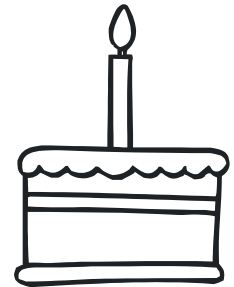
We look forward to seeing our Greeters on Sunday mornings. Their smiling faces are a welcome sight. Thank you, Greeters!!!

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 September

September 3rd Norm Kowal
September 4th Dan Stupka
September 11th Kyle Schuster
September 11th Bill Rouser
September 14th Carolyn Shorkey
September 14th Milt Warden
September 18th Tim Perry
September 22nd Walter Hoffman
September 24th Cora Blozan
September 25th Olivia Mills
September 25th David Gilmore
September 30th Rebecca Williams



Friday Fling

September's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on September 21st at 6:30 p.m. at the church. Refreshments (red and white) and some snacks will be provided. Bring finger food, so that we can make a potluck supper out of it. The movie "Sideways" (a 2005 romantic comedy, with Paul Giamatti) will be shown, and we can spend some time visiting afterwards. For further information, call Norm Kowal (669-4668).

Missing in Action

First night home after the war,	Staring off across the tomatoes.
The two am freight rumbled by	Where are you? She whispered.
He threw his wife on the floor	In the end she left him.
In the street light	He didn't seem to mind.
She saw his pale blue eyes	All those last years
Darting	He lived alone
It's just the train, she said.	With just a dog for company
Sometimes she would find him	But, we always wondered:
Standing in the garden	What happened to you over there?
Still as an elm in July	↪ <i>Shari Spires 2007</i>



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Religious Education Corner

We are wrapping up our summer programs this week and next, and will begin formal classes Sunday September 9. Children will join the adults on September 9 for the beginning of the service. The summer programs for this past month have included pottery with Trish Byers, trailmaking out at the Gilmour-Martin residence, collage of favorite things with Sam Hinton, and crafts to benefit the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation with Bel Box. Our final summer Sunday on September 2 will be a continuation of pottery with Trish. We've overall had great attendance all summer, including many visitors. That is due no doubt to the high quality of programs offered by so many generous adults in the congregation. Thank you so much to all who have so generously donated your time!

The RE Committee held a retreat the afternoon of August 12th to make more detailed plans for the coming school year and beyond. We have some busy times ahead, but some great ideas. We hope to begin some early fundraising towards the Coming of Age program which we will likely offer in 2009. The culmination of this "confirmation" year for youth is a trip to Boston and money must be raised to send the youth and their chaperones. Some ideas we have include selling cookbooks during the Saturday farmer's markets, bake sales, car washes, and a talent show.

Registration materials for the coming school year have been mailed out and are due to be turned in to me by August 26. Please be sure to get your materials in as soon as possible if you haven't already. If you have questions, feel free to call or e-mail me and I'll be glad to help. I will be conducting a teacher training on Wednesday August 29th from 7 – 9 p.m. Another item the RE committee voted on at our retreat was the inclusion in the teacher packet of an application to be signed which agrees to a background check as part of our safe congregations program. This is critically important to implement as our program continues to grow. In addition to this, we will be routinely making sure that there are two adults present in classrooms at all times. Unfortunately this is a sign of our times that we must undertake these initiatives, but most UU congregations are following these guidelines for the safety of all concerned.

The RE committee also plans to include some social events for families throughout the year, the first of which will be on Friday October 26 as a Halloween dress-up (adults included) and movie night. So mark your calendars now!

Plans are also underway to follow closely the spirit of community service and begin more service projects through the year. Likely the youngest children will be involved in putting their pennies towards a community cause they would like to donate to; middle school and high school youth will have several options, including Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Animal Haven, Manna food bank, and stream and road clean-up. The children and youth will make the final decisions on this.

As always, all parents, friends, and members of the church community should feel free to contact me at any time with questions or concerns.

~ Sybil Argintar, RE Coordinator

Monthly Committee Meetings, etc.

(CG = Covenant Group)

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY		THURSDAY
FIRST	RE Committee 10:00 Congregational Care Com- mittee 12:30			Wed Nite Open Topic CG 6:30-8:15	Third Principle CG 7:00-8:30
SECOND	Membership Committee 12:30			The Creative Life CG 1:00-3:00	Social Action Committee 5:30
THIRD	Warblers 12:30		Board of Trustees 6:00	Wed Nite Open Topic CG 6:30-8:15	Third Principle CG 7:00-8:30
FOURTH	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.