

**UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE SWANNANOA
VALLEY**

**500 Montreat Rd., Black Mountain, NC 28711 (828) 669-8050,
www.uusv.org**

Religious Freedom---Diverse Perspectives

November 2014

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Tricia West, Office Staff (Office Hours: Tuesday and Friday 9-3)

Board Meeting: Monday, 17 November, 6 PM

**Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday 25 November, 10 a.m., covering December
2014. Until further notice send submissions to Connie Krochmal
(flora258@isp.com)**

From the Minister

The season of gratitude is once again upon us.

A Harvest of Gratitude

“ ... The work of those who labor has been rewarded; They have sown and reaped, planted and gathered. The crimson apples and yellow pears, and all the colors of orchard and garden, vineyard and field. From Bud To Blossom, from flower to fruit, from seed to bud again, the beauty of earth unfolds. From the harvest of the soil we are given occasion to garner a harvest of the heart and mind. A harvest of resolve to be careful stewards of all Life’s gifts and opportunities. A harvest of reverence for the wondrous power and life at work in things that grow and in the soul. A harvest of gratitude for every good which we enjoy, and all of fellowship for all who are sustained by earth’s beauty.”

---Percival Chubb 1860-1960 (Leader in the Ethical Cultural Movement)

We have much to be thankful for this time of year and always. Yes, it is election season, and although our political system is broken and in need of repair, many give thanks for this grand experiment we call Democracy. For all our faults and challenges, The United States of America remains a great nation. Though my nation has disappointed me greatly on many occasions, there can be no great disappointment where there is no great love. Our nation still serves as a beacon of hope for many. This is at times easy to lose sight of and to take for granted. We are thankful. We are also thankful for our November 23 service this month. First of all it is an IG (intergenerational service) that morning. Secondly, we have a very talented special guest who visited with us last year as well. Story Teller and actress, Becky Stone will be here to get us ready for this season of gratitude. The service is sure to be a delight.

On another note, many (but not all) of our First Nations brothers and sisters speak about their displeasure and sadness over the season we celebrate as Thanksgiving. Some of our Native Americans brothers and sisters still remain wounded this season between “Columbus Day” and Thanksgiving. Why? Because of the genocide and because of the theft of the land and the culture. I too am saddened by this shameful part of our nation’s history, and because I too am a person of color with native ancestry in my lineage, and so their pain resonates with me as well. Yet, I am human, and all pain that is felt by my fellow human beings on some level affects me, and is felt by me. I am not an island unto myself, but a part of humankind. The Bell indeed tolls for all of us. In short, nothing human is foreign to me.

And yet there is still something deep within me that holds the day of Thanksgiving as sacred. Yes, despite the egregious errors of our fear soaked ancestors, I still think and feel that giving thanks is always an appropriate response to this thing we call life when the situation presents itself. This is just my opinion of course. We cannot change the past but we can acknowledge our errors, learn from them, and move on. German Theologian Meister Eckhart was once quoted as saying that if the only prayer we ever uttered was, *thank you*--- It would be enough.

And so it goes. For the beauty of the earth, for the many blessings that we share and for the many blessings that our lives have to offer; may we continue to reap, a harvest of gratitude!

Michael

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

Max Coats, *Seasons of The Self*

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 2 Nov. 2014, 11 a.m.

What Do You Do in There?

Rev. Chris Andrews

Our guest minister will reflect on what goes on when a church gathers for worship. He says, "This comes from a question I was asked once by a man who saw me standing in front of a church as services ended. The building was not very traditional and was not obviously a church. The man asked, 'Hey, what do y'all do in there?'" It got me to thinking, and I believe there is a sermon in responding to the question. Like: we get people to think; we care for one another; we raise questions without easy answers; we sing; we laugh; we cry; we hope; we help.. ..."

The Rev. Chris Andrews is a lifelong resident of Louisiana except for stints in graduate school in Missouri and a work assignment in England. Formerly a minister in the United Methodist Church for 42 years, he now leads Jubilee Pioneers, an eclectic group of folks in Baton Rouge seeking ways to practice "good religion." He is not a Christian, but instead calls himself a "follower of Jesus." He and his wife love North Carolina and have a cabin just off the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Sunday, 9 Nov. 2014, 11 a.m.

Anger, Boundaries, and Saying No

Rev. Michael Carter

What does the concept of personal boundaries (or the lack thereof) and the word no have in common? They can lead us to self-destructive anger in our lives. At least this has been my experience, especially early in my life. For those who are intimidated by anger, saying "yes" is much easier than saying "no," at least for most of us. This Sunday we will explore personal boundaries, the positive aspects and motivations of anger, and the power of the word "No."

Sunday, 16 Nov. 2014, 11 a.m.

Rev. Michael Carter

Title to be announced

Sunday, 23 Nov. 2014, 11 a.m.

Rev. Michael Carter

Intergenerational Service

Title to be announced

Special Guest Becky Stone

Sunday, 30 Nov. 2014, 11 a.m.

Speaker/Facilitator: Ginny Moreland

Holiday Rx: Sing, Receive, Pause...Repeat as Needed

As we take a deep breath and pause between Thanksgiving and those other upcoming holidays, we will explore sacred song as a path to stress relief and inner calm. Specifically we'll learn about and experience the practice known as "Singing Meditation," which was formulated by a Unitarian Universalist and draws on simple songs from many cultural traditions. No special skills are needed, and you are welcome to enjoy the service even if you prefer not to sing. (But we think you will want to!)

Birthdays

November 7, Aaron Eliot-Gaines

November 9, Roberta Madden

November 10, Mark Manuel

November 28, Aaron Gilmour

From the Board of Trustees

Last Sunday we had a great service about our plans to involve everyone at UUCSV in helping us draft a Covenant Statement with our Minister. We are looking for your input on what you expect of our minister and why, and what we all may do to support the success of our minister and our church. If you missed the service or didn't get a chance to sign up after the service, please join us at one of four covenant drafting sessions as follows:

- 1. Wednesday, November 5th, 7:00-9:00 pm at the church**
- 2. Sunday, November 9th, 12:30-2:30 pm at the church**
- 3. Monday, November 10th, 7:00-9:00 pm at the church**
- 4. Sunday, November 16th, 12:30-2:30 at the church.**

Please call Jim Carillon at 628-1320 or email him at jim@jimaline.com to sign up for the time that best fits your schedule. The Wednesday and Monday sessions especially need more people, so if you can, tell Jim you can come to one of those.

Thank you in advance for your participation and ideas. We look forward to your input.

The Board of Trustees, UUCSV

Choir News

In November our choir will meet on the third Sunday, November 16th, at 12:15, then on Wednesday, the 19th at 7 PM, and then on the day of performance, the 23rd at 10 AM.

We have been enjoying the fun rhythms of "Fire of Commitment" this time around. What beautiful voices in our choir!! Please come join us in song.

We have agreed to go caroling around Black Mountain on Saturday evening, December 13th. We will meet at the church to go over a few songs at 4 PM, then go caroling from 5 to 7 PM. We can sing a few songs in parts, and some of the fun secular ones in unison. Come and sing and represent the UU.

Happy Autumn to you! Linda Metzner, choir director

Friday Fling

November's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups, will be held on the third Friday, November 21st. Red and white refreshments will be provided; please bring a potluck dish to share. The movie "Lee Daniels' THE BUTLER" will be shown. One important change; each person is to bring his/her own table setting (dishes, silverware and glass or mug). We will miss Norm and hope all is going well in WI. Potluck begins at 6:30.

Thank You Blue Ridge Pride Volunteers

The Blue Ridge Pride Festival was held at Pack Square in Asheville. UU Asheville and UU of the Swannanoa Valley shared a table on October 4, 2014. It was a joyous event.

Thank you to the following volunteers who represented our two congregations:

10:30 AM to 1 PM Setup and Greet Jane Carroll and David Reid, Laura Palmero

1 PM to 3 PM Helen Bell, Roberta Madden, Iris Williams

3 PM to 5 PM Greet Patricia Fahey, Michaela, Barb Callaway, Larry Olivier

5 PM to 7 PM Close Greet and Take Down Diane and Jeff Hutchins, Monroe Gilmour

Special thanks to Rev. Lisa Bovee Kemper for her assistance and guidance on this project.

With gratitude, UUCSV Social Action

Habitat Volunteers, Thank You

Thanks to the intrepid souls who are working on the latest Habitat for Humanity home construction project in West Asheville.

We are especially grateful to Jim Carillon for taking on the role of coordinator for UUCSV. Please contact him for further info at jim@jimaline.com.

Here is a copy of the recent schedule:

10/23 Lunch by Alice Wells, crew =David Wells, Mark Manual, Allan Brown, Jim Carillon

11/6 Lunch by Ann Sillman, crew=Monroe Gilmour, Susan Culler, Roscoe Manning, Phil Evanzo

11/13 Lunch by Diane Hutchins, crew= Bob Taylor, Lee Reading, Jim Carillon

11/21 Lunch by Helen Bell, crew= Scott Conklin, Phil Evanzo, James Sheeler, Melanie Ross, Jim Carillon

12/19 Lunch by Jim Carillon, crew= Monroe Gilmour, Heidi Blozan, Katherine Petrequin

The sessions began on Thursday, 10/23 at West Asheville and run through December 19th. The house is for Esmerelda Guzman who of course will be contributing 300 hours toward her own house build.

Thanks to all.

Social Action Committee,

UUCSV

Leaf Raking Parties Nov. 8 and Nov. 30

Don't you just love the trees that surround our church building? Well now is the time to appreciate them.

Please join us for a raking party on Saturday, November 8th from 9 am to Noon. We hope folks of all ages will come and help us rake leaves into piles, perfect for the young at heart to jump in, then stuff the bags into leaves. We have plenty of rakes so bring some work gloves, water, and a few lawn bags if you have them.

All the kids will also be helping with the leaves during the service on Sunday, November 30th. Please join us AFTER the service on the 30th and help us rake some more leaves.

Let's all enjoy the beautiful leaves together. See you then,

Jim Carillon

Social Action Donations

Our fiscal year 2013 -2014 came to a close in June, we of the Social Action committee would like to thank the congregation for entrusting us with a \$2200 budget. We thought you would like to see a summary of the donations we have made on your behalf. As you can see, our focus is local, regional, national and international. Our intention is to contribute mainly to smaller organizations really needing our assistance. It is important we do our best financially and physically to make this world a better place.

July 2013	Lord's Acre	Healthy Food	\$ 200
Aug. 2013	Our Voice	Domestic Violence	100
Aug. 2013	People Against	Advocacy	100
	Death Penalty		
Aug. 2013	Hand in Hand	School Supplies	100
Aug. 2013	Welcome Table	Community Meals	100
Aug. 2013	Swannanoa Val.	Food Pantry	200
	Christian Ministry		
Sept. 2013	Building Bridges	Racial Diversity	100
Sept. 2013	Habitat	Home Building	600
Sept. 2013	Femcare	Women's Health	100
Dec. 2013	George MichieF.	Prison Xmas Meal	100
Dec. 2013	MLK Mem. Corp	Prayer Breakfast	45
May 2014	Oak Ridge Env.	Against Nuclear War	100
	Peace Alliance		

May 2014	Campaign for Same Gender Couples		100
	Southern Equality		
May 2014	Ministry of Hope	Children's AIDES	50
	Africa		
May 2014	WNCCEIB	Institutional Bigotry	50
May 2014	Green	Job Training	100
	Opportunities		
June 2014	Plan. Parenthood	Women's Health	55
Total			<hr/> \$2200

Fiscal year 2014 – 2015 total \$1075 including expenses for Habitat \$600, Hand in Hand \$100, Building Bridges \$100, Homeward Bound \$100 and Blue Ridge Pride Festival \$175.

Please tell us your suggestions for the remainder of the year until June 2015.

With gratitude, Diane Hutchins and the Social Action Committee dmh1211@aol.com

Sunday Service Associates

In a rash moment of questionable judgment Ginny Moreland recently volunteered to take over management of the Sunday Service planning grid, and to serve as chair of the committee. Scott Conklin, after busting some moves from his Happy Dance, will continue as an active member of the committee. We all thank Scott for nearly four years of yeoman service as Grid-Keeper and de facto chair. All members of the committee welcome suggestions about future topics or possible speakers, and likewise invite feedback on services after the fact. However to ensure that suggestions remain in active memory beyond the Sunday coffee hour, we recommend sending comments or requests to Ginny by email: ginnymoreland@gmail.com.

Wild Asheville Community Chorus Event on Friday, November 21st

Several years ago the first rehearsal of the Wild Asheville Community Chorus took place in the living room of Suzannah Park and Nathan Morrison. When the choir performs at the Black

Mountain United Methodist Church, 80 people will take the stage for a dynamic performance of Serbian, Croatian, Columbian, and South African folk tunes as well as American selections of folk and vintage shape note songs.

Co-Directors Suzannah Park and Nathan Morrison have performed their mystical harmony worldwide and the duo will also sing as part of the program.

The performance begins at 7:00 pm. Admission is free. If you have questions regarding the performance call 828-303-1195.

(Note: several of our members are performers).