

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY

April 2011

Volume X, Issue 4

Religious Freedom — Diverse Perspectives



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

From the Board

Progress is being made on our budget shortfall by under spending and previously mentioned gifts. Thank you for small and large ways each of us contributes to our financial health.

Jeffery Hutchins and his team captains are finishing up the Annual Pledge Drive. Again, your vision for this community will thrust us into the next phase of our development.

Our Worship Associates are planning services into the next fiscal year. They would like to gain 5 more members. This is a gratifying way to serve our vital and diverse community. You will receive training and support when you become a member of this team.

Your Board and Worship Associates are working together to reduce time spent on Sunday morning in announcements. Only church-sponsored events will be announced on Sunday morning after the other modalities of communication have been used. Also, only the Board Announcer will handle the microphone.

We continue to consider applying for the Chalice Lighter Grant to help us achieve our goal of hiring a ½ time UU Minister. We currently have 53% participation in this program. Your involvement strengthens our application, and UU Congregations in the Thomas Jefferson District.

Life Span Development Committee (aka RE) is organizing a Parents Night Out and child care cooperative. We heard many times during the annual pledge drive that increasing our youth and adult program is a priority. Parents Night Out will support both age groups!

To support our youth's initiative the board approved a three week cupcake fundraiser to be held during coffee hour. All of the proceeds will go to the rainforest preservation organization called Ran.

Yours,

—Heidi Blozan, Board President

UUCSV Board of Trustees

Heidi Blozan, *President*
Teresa Ballinger
David Brown
Roberta Madden
Scott Shaw
Mary Soyenova
Geoff Stone
Emory Underwood

Jim Carillon, *Treasurer*
Sybil Argintar, *Director of Religious Education* 230-3773
Linda Metzner, *Choir Director*
Tricia West, *Office Staff*
(Office Hours: W 9-3, Th 9-2)

Board Meeting: Monday 18 April, 6 p.m.

Send Newsletter Information to
Norm Kowal, *Editor*
normankowal@bellsouth.net

Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday 19 April, 10 a.m., covering May 2011

Good News from Rev. Michael Carter

Your hard working Worship Associates asked Rev. Carter if he would be willing to continue providing us with pulpit supply once a month through December 2011. He said YES! The Board of Trustees assured the Worship Associates that UUCSV would honor our commitment to dedicate our pulpit to him on the second Sunday of every month through December. A big THANK YOU to Rev. Carter and his wife, Rev. Judith Long for their loving attention to all of us at UUCSV.

—*Carolyn Shorkey, Worship Associate*

CANVASS AND PLEDGE DRIVE UPDATE

The annual Canvass and Pledge Drive is now finished, and pledges continue to be received. Based on early returns, it appears the effort has been a success.

The Board set an unprecedented goal of \$80,000 to be raised. As of Sunday, March 20, pledges totaled \$61,215 from just 61 members and friends. Quite a few pledges are still outstanding, so that total is expected to rise substantially and get us close to the goal. A final tally will take about two more weeks.

The Canvass was also a great success. Several themes emerged from the discussions with members and friends about what they like at UUCSV currently and what they hope the future will bring. Comments are still being received and tallied, but so far, the most frequently mentioned "like" is the choir, and the most frequently mentioned "hope" is a minister at least half time.

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 3 April 2011, 11 a.m.

Creating Resilient Communities

**The Black Mountain Transition
Town Initiator Group: Eileen
Hallman, Lyndon Felps, Melissa
Thurmond**

Climate change is resulting in more violent storms, natural disasters, food shortages, and civil unrest, and oil is becoming more expensive and difficult to obtain. Seeing the possibilities of severe energy, climate or economic shocks, local communities around the world are beginning to organize, not only to withstand such crises, but to create a better quality of life for all their citizens. This is the Transition Town approach to community empowerment and change, now in its beginning stages here in Black Mountain.

Melissa Thurmond is an educator and a member of Earthaven Ecovillage, where she tends the Forest Garden, a future learning center. Eileen Hallman has been a weaver of organic cotton for over 20 years, and is the owner of New World Textiles in Black Mountain. Lyndon Felps is a Permaculture designer, also a member of Earthaven Ecovillage, who has been involved in Transition Town movements in both Asheville and Austin TX.



Sunday, 10 April 2011, 11 a.m.

Whom Do You Say That I Am?

Rev. Michael Carter

While Standing in the checkout line in Ingles one Sunday Morning to get coffee for my wife, a woman noticed my Union Theological Seminary sweatshirt. She

then proceeded to grill me about my relationship with the Jesus in whom she lived, moved, and had her being. After a brief, but tense exchange, I left the store thinking about the many interpretations our culture and local community have about this man. This sermon is a result of that conversation. The title is taken from the question Jesus asked his disciples on his way to Jerusalem and his impending death.

Sunday, 17 April 2011, 11 a.m.

A Hopeful Agnostic

Tim Perry

Tim has been describing himself as a hopeful agnostic for some time now, and was recently challenged to explain what he meant by that. After all, what does a true agnostic have to be hopeful about, and where would that hope come from? This sermon is largely the result of that challenge.

Tim Perry began preaching in Fundamentalist churches when he was too young to drive. He passed through several conservative denominations on his journey from Free Will Baptist to Roman Catholic, and has been a minister of one kind or another for most of his adult life. Then out of the blue, he realized that he no longer believed the faith around which he had built his life, so he walked away from traditional Christianity. Today he considers himself "a hopeful agnostic," and is a member and recurring speaker at UUCSV.

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 24 April 2011, 11 a.m.

Come Alive! An Easter Celebration for Skeptics

Rev. Dick Weston-Jones



"Come Alive!" will be an Easter Celebration service. Rev. Dick Weston-Jones will explore the joyful response to Easter in Greece. He'll then tell what really happened on the first Easter and how it is echoed for us today when we recover from the deaths of those we have loved.

Rev. Weston-Jones has been a UU minister for 47 years. He is minister emeritus of the UU Church in Ventura, CA, and speaks frequently to UU congregations around the country. A service he wrote, "Letting Go of Anger" was presented to the fellowship by Sally Beth last April when he had to cancel at the last minute because of his wife's illness. She died peacefully at home in December after a 13 year battle with breast cancer.

Sunday, 1 May 2011, 11 a.m.

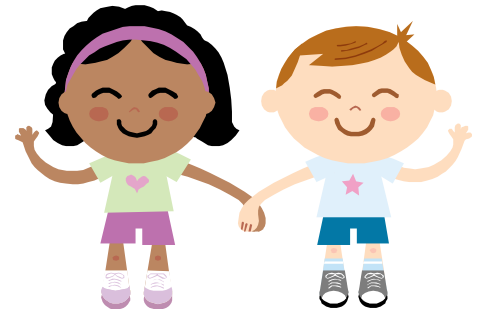
Standing on the Side of Love ... Against Racism

Rev. Aubra Love



The theme of our May 1 service, in collaboration with the national YWCA Stand Against Racism, will be "Standing on the Side of Love ... Against Racism." Special guest speaker will be the Rev. Aubra Love, an ordained minister with the United Church of Christ. She currently serves as executive director of Building Bridges of Asheville.

Religious Education Corner



Friendships and connections. That really is what we're all about. The March 6 service made this abundantly clear as our little ones read stories to each other, adults, teens and preschoolers shared time, and parents in the RE community explored how they connect. It was a wonderful morning showcasing so much intergenerational love and relationship. We are making a difference in all of our children's lives!

Classroom Activities

Our youngest UUs have fun playing together on Sundays, with two or three present most weeks. The K-4 class, Picturebook World Religions, has finished their study of Buddhism, with a favorite story, *Tenzin's Deer*, about how we love and care for our animal friends. We are wrapping up the year in that class talking about our own UU faith traditions. The Neighboring Faiths class has been studying Islam, and on March 13 took a field trip, along with senior high youth, to the Islamic Center in Asheville. They will close their year with two units, one on Earth-based traditions, and one on A.M.E. Zion traditions. Tentatively, the April

10 senior high covenant group will host three exchange students to talk about similarities and differences in cultures.

Summer Camp

Sign up now for our summer camp program! We have one child registered, and only have space for twelve total. Counselors for the camp week will include Aaron Eliot-Gaines, Heidi Blozan, and Sybil. We'll be planning out all the fun daily details of each camp day experience over the next few weeks. Aaron has completed the Red Cross infant/child CPR training class, which the RE committee felt was an important safety piece to complete. Registration packets have gone out to all RE families, and we will be publicizing within the larger community over the next couple of weeks. Tell your friends! Here are the details again:

Journey for the Earth: Daily Travel Adventures. This half-day program, scheduled for July 18 - 22, 2011, will be open to rising first through fourth graders, and will focus on our seventh principle, the interconnected web of life. Each day's adventure will focus on a different topic of water,

energy conservation, sustainable gardening, recycling, and the animal world. Cost is \$85 per child for church members and friends.

Annual RE Service Scheduled for May 22

It's not too early to mark your calendars for a special intergenerational service wrapping up our school year. All children and youth will play a part in a service themed around *Our Sources of Inspiration* (the many faith traditions we have studied this year plus the inspiration we all feel from our RE community).

Important Dates to Remember

April 3 9:30 a.m. RE Committee meeting; intergenerational beginning

April 10 Senior High Covenant Group—international exchange students

April 30 Trillium!

—Sybil Argintar, Director of Religious Education (sybil.argintar@yahoo.com)

Greeters

Thank you members and friends of UUCSV for signing up to be greeters and ushers for every Sunday. We need to continue to fill out the empty spaces for the rest of the church year. This allows us to share the workload and be active members. When you are signed up, we will contact you in advance to remind you and give instructions. If you are worried about signing up so far in advance, please do not worry, there will be plenty of time for you to find an alternate or for us to do so if need be.

Thank you.

—Ann, your friendly greeter coordinator

UU 101

Are you a New(er) Member??

Thinking of becoming a Member??

Want to learn more about UU??

If any of the these apply to you, please join us for our UU 101 class in April. We'll meet at the church on Monday and Tuesday, April 11 and 12, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. There will be refreshments and drinks.

Please call Angie Underwood at 669-0869 to register!!

Room in the Inn

Social Action thanks all of our wonderful volunteers who helped out with Room in the Inn on April 1st. The women always enjoy their time in Black Mountain. UUCSV has taken part in this program for five years or so, and this wouldn't be possible without our dedicated volunteers. The next date is expected to be during the last week of June.

—Connie Krochmal, Social Action Room in the Inn Coordinator

Choir for April

In April, the UUCSV Choir will perform for the Easter service on the 24th. We will rehearse on Sunday the 17th at 12:15, then the following Thursday the 21st at 6:30 PM, and then once more on Sunday the 24th at 10 AM. Please join us if you like to sing!

—Linda Metzner, Choir Director
(annelinde@hotmail.com)

Birthdays in April

- April 7th Fern Martin
- April 10th Pat Middleton
- April 13th Angie Manuel
- April 15th Noah Box
- April 16th Bobby Decker
- April 17th Jim Clayton
- April 18th Monroe Gilmour
- April 28th George Leroy

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

Friday Fling

April's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on 15 April 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 "Me and You and Everyone We Know" (2005, Miranda July, "Hilarious and Heartfelt"—Rolling Stone) will be shown. For further information call Norm Kowal (333-4925).



It's Time to Pitch In for the Yard Sale at Trillium: A Reminder from the Sisters of Lucy Stone

Let's get started on our spring cleaning! Attack your closets, cupboards, and garages! SOLS will soon be collecting all your "toss-outs" to sell at UUCSV's huge yard sale at "Trillium: A Festival of Follies and Flings."

From the afternoon on Sunday, April 24th through the evening of Thursday, April 28th we will be at the church to collect, sort, and price your stuff. Just bring it by. If you cannot transport your donations, please contact me (828-664-1695; dr_jcarr@msn.com) and we will arrange for one or two of our strongest volunteers to be at your house, with a truck if need be. Remember, we do not sell junk.

It is not junk if:

The motor is working.

The batteries will charge.

All parts are present.

It is clean.

It is mildew-free.

The owner's manual (if you have it) is included.

DVD cases contain the proper DVDs.

It is free of pet hair and smell.

It is unbroken.

It is in working order.

It is unopened cosmetics.

It is non-toxic.

It is unopened paint, fertilizer, cleaning products.

It is an antique.

Proceeds will be distributed among UUCSV, a Buncombe County charity or non-profit, and our partner church in Romania.

—Jane J. Carroll, Chair



Trillium Plant Sales Donations Needed

Thrilling Trillium is coming up and we will have a booth for plant sales. Do you have irises that need to be thinned, or hosta...or any plants that you'd like to pot up and donate to the Trillium sale. The plant booth is always popular and a good seller. Last year I got rid of 2 dozen raspberry bushes that had started taking over my asparagus patch! So now that the weather is warming and we're spending more time in the garden, think about putting some of your extras in pots. It's a good way to share your plants and also help out with Trillium!

—Mary Soyenova, Plant Booth Volunteer

Apples, Peaches, Pumpkin Pie. . .

I Like Bread and Butter,

I Like Toast and Jam. . .

How Sweet It Is. . .

If these musical excerpts remind you of a BAKE SALE, you're so right!! Our SOLS Trillium Festival on Saturday, April 30th, will include our famous Bake Sale, If all of us provide the goodies from our kitchens. Brownies, cakes, breads, and muffins are welcome donations.

You may drop your baked items by the church on Friday, April 29th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Note: Call Jane J. Carroll on her cell phone at 273-7361 for other times that day). You may also leave your donations at the church on Saturday, April 30th, starting at 6:30 a.m.

Ann Sillman and Angie Underwood will be selling these sweet delights made by our UUCSV baker volunteers.

Final Note: Trillium will have the Cake Walk, and we'll need extra cakes and cupcakes to award to the Winners!!



It Takes a Village to Grow a Garden

We have big plans this year for the Church grounds and gardens. This year we would like to have the flower garden next to the parking lot filled with lots of tall flowers, that can be seen from Montreat Rd.! We are asking everyone to please contribute one six-pack of flower starts, hopefully tall ones and bring them to Church in early May. It takes at least 25 six packs to fill the space, so any donations, including thinnings from your own garden, would be great! Please help us plant a welcoming garden for the front of our church!

—Thanks, Melanie Ross, Grounds Committee Chairperson

From the Editor—The Last Word

Mark Twain, "The War Prayer," c. 1904

"O Lord our Father, our young patriots, idols of our hearts, go forth to battle—be thou near them! . . .

O Lord our God, help us to tear their soldiers to bloody shreds with our shells, help us to cover their smiling fields with the pale forms of their patriot dead; help us to drown the thunder of the guns with the shrieks of their wounded, writhing in pain; help us to lay waste their humble homes with a hurricane of fire; help us to wring the hearts of their unoffending widows with unavailing grief. . . . For our sakes who adore Thee, Lord, blast their hopes, blight their lives, protract their bitter pilgrimage, make heavy their steps, water their way with their tears, stain the white snow with the blood of their wounded feet! We ask it in the spirit of love, of Him who is the Source of Love, and who is the ever-faithful refuge and friend of all who are sore beset and seek His aid with humble and contrite hearts. Amen."

Twain's caustic words still have significance in our time.

