



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, August 21 • 6:00 p.m.

UUCSV Newsletter

Send newsletter information to
Norm Kowal
normankowal@bellsouth.net

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 2007 at 10 a.m.
Covering September 2007

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A Note from Sarah York, Ministerial Consultant

Dear Members and Friends of UUCSV,

It has been such a pleasure to lead worship on two Sundays this summer, and I am looking forward to being with you once a month for the next several months. Although I had personal and professional commitments that precluded my being able to consider applying to be candidate for the position of Consulting Minister, I agreed with your Board to be available as a Ministerial Consultant for up to ten hours a month in addition to working with the Program Committee to do one Sunday service a month.

What is the difference between a Consulting Minister and a Ministerial Consultant? A Consulting Minister serves the congregation as their minister, and is generally part-time. He or she assumes duties such as pastoral care, worship, staff supervision, and ex-officio membership on the Board and committees, and shares leadership with the Board. A Ministerial Consultant does not serve as the minister of the congregation in these ways, but is available for an hourly fee to help the Board and lay leadership create a strong, vibrant community of lay leaders.

Since there may be various groups or leaders who would like ministerial consulting, the Board will receive requests for my time, and decide how I might best serve you in ten hours a month. If you would like to meet with me, please contact the Board.

My expertise, aside from serving several congregations over the last 25 years, is helping congregations in transition. As an interim minister, I have focused on assisting congregations with several tasks, with the chief goal being to enable the congregation to renew its vision, strengthen its stewardship, prepare for new professional leadership, and engage its future with anticipation and zest.

It is surely disappointing to you to enter another year without a minister, and my hope is that you will use my time to help you strengthen your ability to minister to one another while you seek a part-time minister. I look forward to becoming better acquainted with you and your special community.

Blessings,

Sarah

Congregational Meeting: "Welcoming Congregation" Vote September 16

The UUCSV Board of Trustees approved at its July meeting, the call for a Congregational meeting and vote for Sunday, September 16, 2007 after the morning service. The purpose of the vote will be to vote on whether or not to affirm ourselves as a "Welcoming Congregation." Here is the proposed wording for the vote:

"We, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Swannanoa Valley, having engaged in a process of self-examination and education in accordance with the Welcoming Congregation Guidelines of the Unitarian Universalist Association, do hereby declare ourselves to affirm bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender persons, to be responsive to their concerns, and to celebrate and be inclusive of bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender persons as members of our church community and our community at large; and we hereby request the Unitarian Universalist Association to recognize the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Swannanoa Valley as a Unitarian Universalist Welcoming Congregation."

If approved by the Congregation, we will submit to the UUA documentation of the vote and of our Welcoming Congregation activities and workshops over the past year. Once processed, we will receive a big, beautiful purple certificate to hang in our foyer. When we visited the Clemson UU in May 2006, they told us how meaningful seeing that certificate had been to a visitor, who told them, "When I see that certificate in a congregation, I know I'm safe and among friends." One of their members who is lesbian shared that she felt she was fully part of the congregation when they took the time and made the effort to go through the WC process. We hope you'll come and vote "YES!"

Sunday Programming

Please join us for Social Hour after each program

Sunday, August 5, 2007 11 a.m.
**"From Then Until Now:
 August 6, 1945 Until Today"**

Tomorrow is the anniversary of our dropping the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Sitting in a circle with shared silence, readings and reflections we will seek to remember, grieve, heal and hope. If you would like to help prepare and participate in our service please contact Don Pfister (255-1932, dpfisterdon@yahoo.com).

From Don: Although you are possibly reading this just a few days before August 5, please feel free to bring something to share whether or not you've contacted me. When I agreed to be responsible for our service on Sunday August 5 I had no idea how challenging my chosen subject would be. It is likely that a "Peace Alliance" newsletter that Evelyn Carter gave me was the only response to my initial invitation in last month's newsletter "to help prepare and participate in our service." [After sharing some of my dilemma on Sunday July 22, a number of you have volunteered to help. Thank You.] But the initial lack of response surprised and disappointed me until, on my own, I tried to "remember, grieve, heal and hope." I'm too young to remember the event itself. I feel at a loss to grieve, to "experience deep mental anguish, as over a loss" for something that I have not experienced or have not allowed myself to experience as a (significant personal) loss. How can I heal? How can I "restore to health or soundness," or "set right or repair" what the mostly dead leaders of my country did 62 years ago? How can I be hopeful in a world that now feels as endangered as it probably felt on August 5, 1945? The newsletter that Evelyn Carter shared with me is from the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance. It quotes a Japanese source: "The message of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is not 'Remember and feel guilty,' or 'Look what you did to us.' It's not 'Take care of us.' It's none of that. It is 'Never Again.' Speaking of the Japanese, the newsletter says, "They have taken the unimaginable death and destruction that came upon them and transformed it as a plea for a future of hope rather than threat."

Sunday, August 12, 2007 11 a.m.
"Heeding the Call"
Melissa Mummert

In this service, we'll consider what it means to be "called." We'll consider how we might tune in and respond to our souls' deepest yearnings.

Melissa Mummert is a Unitarian Universalist community minister located in Charlotte, NC. She coordinates a domestic violence program for female inmates at the Mecklenburg County Jail.



Sunday, August 19, 2007 11 a.m.
"A Kinder, Gentler Christianity"
Tim Perry

Having recently had my imagination jump-started by reading Marcus Borg's "The Heart of Christianity," I began to wonder if there was any way that I could still find meaning in the faith I left - or rather, the faith that left me - after a lifetime of devotion just a few years ago. I'm still not sure, but I thought it might be interesting to explore the possibility of a radically different, non-literalist, non-Fundamentalist kind of Christianity among friends.

Sunday, August 26, 2007 11 a.m.
"Love in the Open"
Rev. Sarah York

What is the role of the religious community when it comes to taking a stand on the rights of same sex-couples? Although we may not all agree on some of the issues, we have an opportunity to offer religious leadership for equality at many levels. As the congregation prepares to vote on becoming a Welcoming Congregation, we will consider what it means to promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

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

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.

Monthly Committee Meetings, etc. (CG = Covenant Group)

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
FIRST	RE Committee 10:00 Congregational Care Committee 12:30			Wed Nite Open Topic CG 6:30-8:15	Third Principle CG 7:00-8:30 Seventh 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 Seventh 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.uucsv.org), and click on the UUCSV Calendar.

Welcoming Congregation Update

On June 26, the Welcoming Congregation program held its 9th and final monthly workshop. Attended by 25 energetic members and friends, the "Where Now On Our Journey?" workshop saw the sanctuary festively decorated with charts, brainstorming lists, drawings, and photos from all of the workshops. We also discussed the upcoming September vote to become an official "Welcoming Congregation."

In preparation for that vote, anyone who has a question about the process or the issue may get the answers in a number of ways: 1. Check out from our library the "Welcoming Congregation Handbook: Resources for Affirming Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, and/or Transgender People" This has been our resource guide throughout the process and gives the UUA history on this issue. 2. Visit the UUA's web site which gives the Welcoming Congregation Guidelines, or 3. Call or email the Welcoming Congregation committee members (Deb Vingle/Monroe Gilmour, co-chairs, Peter Boggs, Jane Carroll, Pat Middleton, Tim Perry, Jerry Pope, Carolyn Shorkey, Jen Stump, Angie Underwood, Emory Underwood) or 4. Ask for our comprehensive photo album of Welcoming Congregation activities this past year to see all the fun and learning.

Getting to Know You: Sue Hibbetts

Sue has lived in Asheville for three years. She was born in Dayton, Ohio, grew up in Los Angeles, and has lived in Kentucky, Michigan, California (San Diego and San Francisco), and Texas. After her divorce she lived in Atlanta for a year before moving to Asheville. Sue is a writer/poet/published author, and has her own web site (<http://faeriewind.tripod.com/faeriesdream/>). She is a loyal Stargate and Star Trek fan. Her hobbies include writing, and she has a sweet three-year-old kitty, Baby.

Sue has had many volunteer activities, including volunteer teaching for the Houston Zoological Gardens, a volunteer at a safe house for abused women, facilitating a great variety of workshops at the First Unitarian Universalist Church in Houston. She has worked for H&R Block as a Client Care Specialist, been a medical actor at Baylor College and University of Texas Medical School (teaching medical students), been an Intuitive Tarot Reader, and been an IV/Admixture Pharmacy Technologist at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, among other positions. Sue is presently seeking part-time employment as a receptionist. This fall she will be starting full-time at Warren Wilson College, majoring in creative writing.

Besides over twenty years as a member of two UU congregations in Houston, Sue has been a Pagan for thirty years, and was a member of CUUPS for several years.

Green Sanctuary Committee Tip

To calculate the fuel efficiency of your vehicle:

1. Fill the tank with gas and record the car's odometer reading.
2. Drive until the car needs refueling. Fill the tank again and record the new odometer reading and the amount of gas it took to fill the tank.
3. Subtract the old odometer reading from the new odometer reading to get the total distance traveled during the period between fill-ups.
4. Divide the distance traveled by the amount of gas it took to fill the tank to get your average miles per gallon during that period.
5. Repeat the process over a long period of time to obtain a picture of your vehicle's fuel efficiency.

→ Jane Carroll, Committee Co-Chair

Greeters for August

August 5: Norm Kowal, Connie Krochmal, and Emory Underwood

August 12: Phil Fryberger, Dawn Wilson, Geoff Stone, and Marty Wynnhoff

August 19: David Brown, Krista Brown, and Marilyn Wells

August 26: Jane Carroll, Carolyn Shorkey, and Marjorie Starrs

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING
AND SHARING YOUR SMILES !!!

*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.

Social Action Project---Room in the Inn

Room in the Inn is only one of the Social Action Committee's outreach projects. These are chosen from the four top concerns selected by the congregation during the UUCSV survey several years ago. Here are the basic facts about Room in the Inn, a nationwide program that started in Nashville during the 1980's.

WHAT IS ROOM IN THE INN?

Room in the Inn provides temporary housing on a rotating basis to 12 homeless women in Buncombe County. An individual can remain in the program for 90 consecutive days. Every night of the year, some church in the county opens its doors to these women. The host church arranges for room, board, and transportation to/from AHOPE (the day shelter and clearing house for the homeless in Asheville) to the church site. Over 28 churches in the area participate in this program.

WHY IS IT NEEDED?

This temporary program intervenes before the women become chronically homeless. Room in the Inn provides temporary shelter while the women look for jobs and a permanent place to live or are reunited with their families.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Sign up to be a volunteer, or provide meals. We need overnight volunteers, drivers, and servers for dinner along with backups for each position. Add your name and contact information on the sign up sheet on the table in the foyer or call Connie Krochmal at 664-9286.

WHEN?

The next date is Friday, August 24th. We participate four times a year. On the selected day, UUCSV members/friends provide three meals and volunteers. We work in conjunction with the Presbyterian and Methodist churches in Black Mountain.

Many thanks for all your support with this worthy project.

Birthdays in August

August 5 Margaret Bumgarner

August 11 Shari Spire

August 13 Joe Motzko

August 13 Sydney Wilson

August 15 Deb Vingle

August 17 Connie Krochmal

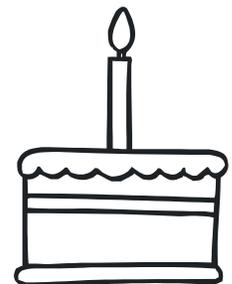
August 20 Carolyn Fryberger

August 20 Robyn Schuster

August 21 Dick Stennett

August 23 Ursula Goebels-Ellis

August 30 Latie Cyr



We will be celebrating July, August, and September birthdays with cake during the finger food potluck on August 26th.



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Hospitality Committee

We extend a big thanks to everyone who contributed food and participated in the All Church Picnic. Special thanks to Emory Underwood and Milt Warden for grilling; gratitude to Evelyn Carter for leading the Human Bingo Game; and hugs to Pat Middleton for helping set up, clean up, and purchase the ice. What would a picnic be without Pat's bread, yummy bean salad and the chipolte chocolate cake? It was a beautiful day to celebrate our community!

We look forward to seeing your name on the sign up sheet in the foyer, to help with Sunday coffee hour. Please drop into the kitchenette (it's just beyond the coat closet) on Sunday morning and meet the coffee volunteer. That person would be happy to show you how easy the KP duty really is!

There is an article in the 2007 edition of the UUWorld publication. The author discussed the notion that hospitality is something we can all practice by smiling, greeting, and generally making our church community a welcoming place. I think we do this very well at UUCSV!

Warblers

Please come join us to sing! Rehearsals this month are August 19, after the service, and August 26 at 10:00.

Friday Fling

August's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups, will be held on August 17th 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 "The Fountain" (an ethereal romance of a thousand years duration) will be shown, and we can spend some time visiting afterwards, including the selection of future movies. For further information, call Norm Kowal (669-4668).

Black Mountain Youth Chorale

Aline Carillon, music teacher at the Learning Community School, is directing the Black Mountain Youth Chorale, at the Black Mountain Center for the Arts. This is a new program in choral music from a variety of styles, eras, and traditions, for students from the Swannanoa Valley in grades 4-8. Organizational meetings are on Thursday, August 30th. For more information call the Center (225 West State St.) at 669-0930.

Religious Education Corner

July in RE has continued to be filled with fun summer adventures. Sam Hinton led the children in making banners for Independence Day, Bette Bates taught the children about printmaking, I led the group in a Crazy Games Day (very bonding!), and Trish Byers brought her talents as a potter to the children. Coming up in August we will be trailmaking, singing songs, and beginning a service project for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, led by Bel Box. The children will make craft items that will be sold to raise funds for the Foundation. If the middle school children are willing, we will continue this as an ongoing service focus this coming year.

On July 15 we held the first of our two parent orientations for the OWL (Our Whole Lives) human sexuality program. We had good attendance for that. The second one will be held August 5th. Anyone with a child entering middle or high school next year **MUST** attend an orientation or meet with me individually in order for your child to participate in this program. This is a requirement of the OWL program only that parents must clearly understand what we are teaching and to know that communication is a vital part of the process. I encourage the Board or anyone else in the congregation who is interested to sit in with us. This is an excellent program and we are so glad we can offer it to our children. That would not be possible without the dedicated group of volunteers who have either already spent time in training or who will be training in late August in Charlotte. Many thanks ahead of time to Tim Perry, Heidi Blozan, Amy Mullins, Phil Fryberger, Milt Warden, and Trish Byers. I will be taking the training also and will fill in as needed to help these folks.

Registration packets for the coming year will be going out by the end of July. Classes begin September 9th. That's sooner than we think! I have some teachers lined up and will be talking to more folks in the coming weeks. There will also be a teacher planning/orientation meeting towards the end of August.

We still need a few good folks to help out in the preschool room the remainder of the summer. We need folks for August 12 and 19. Please let me know how you can help! Our little ones need lots of care in the summer too, and you'll have fun with them. Guaranteed. See me on Sunday mornings or contact me at merlasybpenny@yahoo.com if you think you can help one of these two Sundays.

Enjoy what's left of a rapidly passing summer! Summer has been a great time to get to know your children more and hopefully for them to bond together.

~ Sybil Argintar, RE Coordinator