

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY

August 2012

Volume XI, Issue 8

Religious Freedom — Diverse Perspectives

From the Board

And it's August!

How did this happen? While we were busy talking about the weather, summer has been slipping away, and now some of us are starting to think about school clothes and lunch boxes! But summer is far from over, as our gardens will show us....more zucchini! Ripening tomatoes! Cabbages heading up and, if we're lucky, our cantaloupes will be more than little baseballs this lush and green summer.

Activity is swirling around in our congregation as well. In August, many of us will be going to The Mountain, our wonderful UU retreat and conference center in the Highlands, to be with other UUs and to spend time with our own Michael Carter and his family, getting to know our dynamic new minister. Michael will begin later this month, and we're looking forward to a new chapter in our UU lives, with much happy dancing and joy. There is still time to sign up if any in the congregation would like to attend, and we hope that you will. Hendersonville and Brevard UUs will also be there, and it will be a time to get to know our UU neighbors, to say nothing of the beautiful mountains of the highlands.

Many thanks to those of you who provided meals for the homeless women at the Methodist church this month. As an overnight volunteer with Helen Bell, we were able to see how important this service is. A home-cooked meal, complete with home-baked bread, a coconut-lemon cake and an apple pie! (With ice cream.) They are very grateful to be able to come in off the streets and have a safe place to sleep. One woman told me she'd never realized the importance of a toilet. Camping out in the woods until the city razed their camp, she told us how difficult it was to be without hot water. Showering from a 2 liter soda bottle is far from satisfying, so being able to have a clean bed and a hot meal is a huge and wonderful thing for many of these women. Some will go on to break off the grip of homelessness, but many, whom we see over and over seem to be unable to care for themselves. So thank you, volunteers, for giving of yourselves.

Summer camp! What a fun time for the kids who attended. They created, and went on adventures, seeing how coffee is made, checking out the streams and making musical instruments to share with the parents in a jam session at the end of the week. Thank you to all who made this possible.

And....many thanks to the grounds- keepers, for the faithful mowing and care-taking. Sometimes, we don't take the time to say thanks to all those who take the time to do the little (and big) things that make our congregation the wonderful entity that it is.

Love and gratitude,

—Mary Soyenova, Vice President, Board of Trustees



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Board Meeting: Monday 20 Aug, 6 p.m.

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

Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday 21 August, 10 a.m., covering September 2012



WHAT: Minister's Start-up Workshop

WHEN: TBD (~October 2012)

WHERE: UUCSV, 500 Montreat Road, Black Mountain

TIME: TBD (typically 3 – 5 hours)

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: BOT, MSC, Comm. Chairs

AGENDA: The following from Annette Marquis (SED Exec.)

The minister's start-up workshop, usually scheduled within the first month or two of a new ministry, is an opportunity to plan for how the minister and the leadership will work together to assure a successful ministry. During the course of the workshop, we will review working styles, develop a covenant of how you will work together, examine assumptions and expectations, and discuss how you will approach conflict when it develops. It's designed for members of the board, committee on ministry, search committee, and committee chairs (worship, RE, etc). The workshop for a part-time consulting minister typically lasts between three and five hours and can be customized to the congregation's specific needs. It's sometimes helpful to have an hour at the end just with the board and minister to talk about their specific relationship. The start-up workshop is available at no cost to congregations.

Annette S. Marquis

Cell Phone: 804-551-0241

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 5 August 2012, 11 a.m.

Islam and the Significance of Ramadan

Dr. Afaf Omer

Our speaker will be Dr. Afaf Omer. She is currently Associate Professor of Sociology at UNC-Asheville, where she has been teaching since 1996, with the exception of one year spent as a Fulbright Senior Scholar at the University of Qatar and two years as Chief of the Centre for Women at the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for West Asia located in Beirut, Lebanon.

Born in Sudan, Dr. Omer came to the U.S. as a United Nations Fund for Population Activities fellow to Princeton University. While writing her doctoral dissertation at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, an Islamic fundamentalist military coup took over the government in her country. Because of her activism as well as family connections, it was unsafe for her to return to Sudan. She was offered a position at the University of Michigan while hoping the political situation in Sudan would improve. When it did not and her visiting-fellow visa expired, she applied for asylum so she could stay in the United States. She found a position at UNC-A and won a Population Council grant to carry out post-doctoral research at Brown University. She writes, "An economist and demographer, my interests broadened to include Sociology. The changes in my country and my life sparked my interests in the areas of human rights, in particular, women's rights in Muslim societies. Thus adding Islam to my areas of expertise."



Sunday, 12 August 2012, 11 a.m.

Bill Altork

Second Annual Poetry Sunday

The service for Sunday, August 12 involves a variety of poems, most of which are original. Most of them will be read by their authors, who are mainly members and friends of UUCSV. There may also possibly be a song or story. Please come and join us and witness the process of shaping words into personal creative expression.

Sunday, 19 August 2012, 11 a.m.

The Rock OF AGES

Ann Sillman

I have recently become aware of the extreme age of our two rivers, the Broad and the French Broad. This so excited me that I felt I just had to share my excitement and joy of living here with these ancient mountains and rivers. So I volunteered to give a sermon on this topic, the Geology in our area. It is truly astounding.

Many of you will be at the "Mountain" Sunday August 19. I also am going to the "Mountain", but will be in our pulpit in Black Mountain on the 19th. Hope to see some of you at UUCSV.

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 26 August 2012, 11 a.m.

Intergenerational Service

Rev. Michael Carter



Come join us as we celebrate the beautiful fabric of generational diversity within our congregation. We will set the tone for the Congregational Year with this service as we continue to nurture and support the youth, maturity and experience of our worship community with music

and a story for all ages. See you there!



Sunday, 2 September 2012, 11 a.m.

May God Have Mercy on Your Soul: Some Thoughts on the American Death Penalty and Calling

Kathy LaMotte

How does the death penalty fit with our spiritual lives? Many of us have a fairly intuitive sense about the appropriateness of the punishment, but have we really chewed on it? What do we know about how it all works? Is the process fair and reliable? And what does our faith (whatever that is!) teach us about it? What is our response? I hope to give you a few things to think about as I describe some of what I've learned in my recent journey into and through law school, and into what I believe is my "capital-R Right work."

Kathy LaMotte started Cornell Law School at age 50 and is amazed to find that she is an attorney and fellow of the South Carolina Death Penalty Resource and Defense Center. Her heart still lives in Black Mountain, as do her parents. She is a member of the Swannanoa Valley Friends (Quaker) Meeting. She will not ask you for money, nor attempt to add to the list of things you "should" be doing, but would enjoy the chance to share some thoughts.

Religious Education Corner

As I write this column, we have just finished our summer camp program, Journey for the Earth: Daily Travel Adventures. We had a group of eleven campers this year and it was a busy, but fun and exciting week for everyone. Many of the children who attended were not regular attendees in the religious education program, but were from the Black Mountain and Asheville communities. Perhaps what made me most proud was the way all of these children got along, listened to the counselors, and were so very considerate of each other. It is my hope that we made some great summer memories for all of these children. Many, many thanks to my assistant counselors, Beata Ball, Aaron Eliot-Gaines, and Morgen Cobb (who rocks with all he taught the children about percussion instruments and making instruments from recycled objects!).

Summer Sundays K-5 Classroom

Our Summer Sundays programs continue through September 2. We still have some great programs lined up, so join us, and bring friends if you like!

July 29 Balloon Sculpturing
with Carolyn Shorkey

August 5 Mountainside tire
swing at the Gilmours with the Gil-
mour family

August 12 Finger crocheting and

Knitting with Beata Ball

August 19 Nels Arnold, making a
classroom chalice

August 26 Intergenerational
Service with Michael Carter

September 2 Open. Do you have a
program you would like to share?

Family Programs

Mark your calendars now for Sunday
September 16. We'll have an RE fam-
ily kick-off potluck and music jam at
Lake Tomahawk. So bring a dish to
share and a musical instrument!

Important Dates to Remember

August 5 RE Committee meets
12:30 p.m.

September 9 RE Classes begin

September 16 RE Family potluck and
music jam after the service at Lake
Tomahawk

Curriculum for the Fall

We are focusing this year, for the
most part, upon our seventh princi-
ple, "respect for the interdependent
web of all existence of which we are
a part". Our classes for the fall will
be set up as follows:

Preschool—free play; environmental
stories

K-3 "Celebrating Rainforests"

4-6 "Celebrating Rainforests"

(no 7th graders so far, but visiting
youth this age will join the Grades 4-



6 class)

8 - 12 and Young Adult "Sharing the
Journey: Small Group Ministry with
Youth"

The "Celebrating Rainforests" cur-
riculum will include some time to-
gether as one group and separate
age-appropriate activities for the
older group. During the course of
the year, we will explore rainforests
and build our own forest in the class-
room! "Sharing the Journey" will
bring our high school and young
adults together two times per month
as they learn how to be in covenant
together and select topics for dis-
cussion.

Teachers for the preschool will be
Milt Warden, Carolyn Shorkey, Heidi
Blozan, and Susan Shaw. K-6 teach-
ers will be Beata Ball, Evelyn Carter,
and Lisa Brooks. The high school/
young adult group will be facilitated
by Teresa Ballinger and Scott Conk-
lin. Many thanks to these great vol-
unteers!

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

*Sybil Argintar, Director of Religious
Education* (sybil.argintar@yahoo.com,
230-3773)

Membership Committee

The membership committee is taking a few months off, but if you have any membership questions or concerns please contact me, Ann Sillman, e-mail crugerhansen@gmail.com or phone, 828 335-1588, and I will get back to you and see what can be done. I am delighted to announce that two of our active and supportive Friends have joined our church as full Members. They are: Jane Carroll and Judy Curtis. Welcome.



Social Action Committee

Thanks from the Social Action Committee!

On a warm, sunny day in June, people from UUCSV gathered at the Lake Tomahawk Pavilion to provide lunch for women from the local prison and other volunteers who spend the week fixing up houses in our community. The Social Action Committee looks forward to this annual event; it is important for our congregation to be a part of a community sponsored, interfaith event. The SAC depends on many not on the committee to contribute food and time. Big thanks go out to Carolyn Shorkey, (Dr.) Jane Carrol, Evelyn Carter, Cilla Becker, Jean Brown, Katharine Petrequinn, Monroe Gilmore, Sarah Gilmore, Tina Rosato, Robbie Madden, Emory Underwood and Helen Bell.

Room in the Inn

A great big thanks to all the volunteers who lent a hand for our recent event on July 20th. We can't thank you enough for your dedication. This is our last event for 2012. We will let everyone know the dates for 2013 as soon as we hear from the Room in the Inn planners.

—Connie Krochmal, Social Action Room in the Inn Coordinator



Just for Fun: Stories and Slides from New Zealand

Everyone is invited to attend a program about travels in New Zealand. David Reid and his wife Jane Carroll will team up with the Carillon's for a trip to NZ this autumn. Carolyn and Milt's friends, Cal and Patti Oppenheim, returned recently from a trip to NZ. Carolyn was there in 2010. Come see the pictures and hear the stories from their adventures at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 6th in the Sanctuary. Free and open to the public, so invite your friends.

Choir News for August

In August we will be part of an intergenerational service on the 26th, welcoming our new minister, Michael Carter. It will be wonderful to be together as a community to make Michael welcome. On the theme of intergenerational connection, we're going to repeat our performance of "Somagwaza," the South African coming-of-age song, and also a new one in Spanish and English, "Somos El Barco." This beautiful song means "We are the boat; we are the sea. I sail in you, you sail in me." We will rehearse on the 19th at 12:15, on the 22nd at 6:30, and on the day of the performance, the 26th, at 10 AM. Come join us!

—Linda Metzner, Choir Director



Friday Fling

August's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on 17 August 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 "Midnight in Paris" (2011; Owen Wilson, Kathy Bates, Adrien Brody, Carla Bruni [former French President Nicholas Sarkozy's wife]) will be shown. For further information call Norm Kowal (458-4537).



Congregational Care Committee

The caring committee is not meeting at this time. If you know of anyone who needs care or needs to talk with someone, please call either Tricia at the church or me at 828 335 1588 and someone will get back to you soon. We are all so glad that Greg Miller is home safe with a new stent. He was diagnosed with a heart blood supply blockage and this is now fixed. He is feeling good and glad to be home so quickly, a one day procedure.

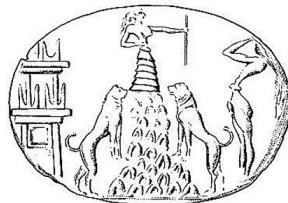
—Ann Sillman,

Birthdays in August

August 13	Joe Motzko
August 13	Sydney Wilson
August 15	Deb Vingle
August 17	Connie Krochmal
August 19	Susan Shaw
August 20	Carolyn Fryberger
August 20	Robyn Schuster
August 21	Dick Stennett
August 23	Ursula Goebels-Ellis



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

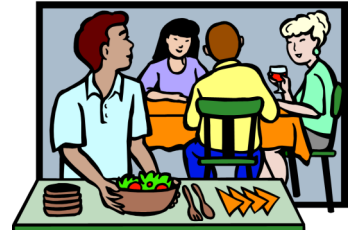


Women's Spirituality Group

Women's Spirituality Group will gather to share our Lammas "first harvest" pot luck on August 1, at 6:30 pm. When our Western European ancestors harvested their first wheat crops (a few years back) they would dedicate the first new loafs (loaves?) to the Source of their bounty, whatever name She might have had. Let's gather something as local as possible and share our harvests together. All women are welcome. For more info, call Teresa Balinger at 828-2275-8453.

Congregation Potluck

Please join us for a church-wide potluck on Sunday, August 26th, after the service at noon. We will be gathering to welcome Rev. Michael Carter as our Consulting Minister. Rev. Carter doesn't eat sweets but he loves vegetables! So bring your favorite nutritious food to share, a serving spoon, and your place setting. As a Green Sanctuary, we try to limit the amount of trash we accumulate. So, by bringing your plate, glass, and utensils from home we can meet our objective of limiting the amount of trash we send to the landfill. Mark your calendar! FMI: contact Carolyn Shorkey,



From the Editor—The Last Word

We humans are often upset about how we are really screwing up the surface of our planet Earth—pollution, trash, deforestation, climate change, fracking, invasive and extinct species, urban decay, trash dumps, etc. But perhaps we should take the long view, and be optimistic about the fate of the Earth. No matter how badly we despoil the surface (down to ten miles or so) of our planet, it will be rejuvenated in the distant future—after we are gone. The mechanisms of plate tectonics will cause almost all of our existing continents to eventually be subducted into the mantle of the Earth, where the whole shebang will be melted down and transformed into mantle material. New, or highly modified old, continents will be produced, and occupied by new species of organisms—perhaps some our descendants. Of course, we are talking about millions and billions of years in the future, but, hey!, all is not lost. Think positively!

