

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY

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Religious Freedom — Diverse Perspectives

From the Minister



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Summer is almost half over and once again the old adage that “Time Flies,” rings true. I have now been on this planet for 56 summers and if the next 56 years go by as rapidly as the first, well . . .

In musing on the seasons of my life I always try to remember that life is cyclical and not linear. What goes around really does come around and that hopefully, as each life cycle and lesson comes to me I am a different person during the next encounter, or next cycle, and that I will handle and learn the lesson presented to me, where perhaps I had not quite “gotten it” before. There are times when I despair not so much that I had, “not gotten it,” but that I had not “gotten it again.” Perhaps despair too strong a word but I think you get my drift. There are times when I frustrate myself and need to learn to be more patient and gentle with myself as well as others.

The old bromide still rings true that when the student is ready, the teacher will come. This teacher may not be some guru with long flowing robes, but may be the person who annoys me so much that I can only think of fingers on a blackboard when I encounter that certain individual and hear their voice. It has always seemed to me that when I need to learn a life lesson such as cultivating patience most in my life, that the cycle of life will send people, places, situations, or things, that will encourage me to learn and to practice patience in my life encounters. The same can be said of forgiveness, love, feelings of anger, etc.

If the truth be told, I really would not have it any other way. It’s just that I need to be reminded of it from time to time, that there really is an intelligence in the Cosmos and in the cycles of nature. And if I am willing to learn the lessons life has to offer, these lessons are simple and profound, if only I take the time to be still and listen. Indeed these lessons are a wealth of wisdom, a “price above rubies,” the psalmist reminds us. As usual I will leave you with the words and wisdom of author, Max Coats, from his book, *Seasons of The Self*.

(continued)

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. . . Summer is too full of itself in August—self satisfied. We want shade and tall cool times. Summer seems like that to me, although I know it's not.

I'm glad September had to come and that I have no choice in it. I might choose only August if I could, and then have only a season and not a year . . . I could not live only in Summer's Great Deception, as I could not live in Spring alone. I need to know of time and feel its passing motion on my face in some September wind, and know that life has time and time is life. And I, like days and seasons, am passing, being, and yet to be. Amen.

My prayer for you as I head off for my vacation is that you really take the time and enjoy this glorious season of summer, and that you all have many more seasons of summer in the seasons of your lives!

Shalom,

Michael

“If you treat an individual as he or she is, he or she will remain how they are. But if you treat them as if they are where they ought to be and could be, they will become what they ought to be and could be.”

“If you have never eaten while crying you do not know what life tastes like.”

—Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 4 August 2013, 11 a.m.

A New Mythology

Tim Perry

It seems that almost nothing else has the power of religion to inspire people (for good or ill) to commit themselves to a larger cause. If my hunch is right, what the world needs most is a new religion: one that has the wisdom to learn from the others and not repeat their mistakes; one not based on some long-dead individual's supposed encounter with the Divine, but instead, rooted in the human experience we all share. That religion will need a mythology. How else will we instruct our children before they achieve the complexity of thought required to grasp an entire philosophical/religious construct? But where would we find a mythology not easily dismissed by rational adults as a mere fairy tale? Again, I believe it must come from our human experience. I'd like to explore one possibility with you today, along with its moral and societal implications.



Tim's original religion and first love was free thought – as it was for all of us. Then he encountered and became infatuated with Christianity, and committed his life to her. After a 25 year marriage to that faith, including several ordinations, he realized he'd never quite gotten over his first love. He secretly returned to her and found her patiently waiting for him to tire of his domineering bride. He began to question what his well-meaning spiritual leaders were offering him, and he found it wanting. The marriage ended amicably (so far), and today Tim considers himself a hopeful agnostic and a heathen priest.



Sunday, 11 August 2013, 11 a.m.

Why?

**Rev. Michael
Carter**



The German Philosopher Frederick Nietzsche was once quoted as saying that if one could find out the “why” of life, they could endure any, “how.” We as Unitarian Universalist are a rare breed. We love to question. Why? I don't know. But let's explore how living the questions of life can enable us to become more loving, more fulfilled, more forgiving, more authentic human beings. Why else would you want to attend this service? I don't know. That you will have to answer on your own (smile). Child Care is provided...See you there!

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 18 August 2013, 11 a.m.

Cathedrals and Crop Circles: An Interdependent Web

Rev. Dr. Calen Rayne

What makes a particular site “sacred.” We will explore why there are places on our planet considered sacred, whether a centuries old cathedral or an overnight crop circle, and why people of all religious and spiritual backgrounds are drawn to them. Might there be an interdependent web of spiritual energy?



Calen is a Community Minister in Asheville, has an MFA from Naropa University, and a DMin from Wisdom University. He is currently the Director of DMin program for Community Ministry at Wisdom School of Graduate Studies, Ubiquity University, and serves as President of Healing and Expressive Arts chapter of UU Society for Community Ministries.



Sunday, 25 August 2013, 11 a.m.

What’s In A Name?

Rev. Michael Carter

Just what is so troubling to us as Unitarian Universalist about the word “God”? No, this question is not meant to bait you in anyway. I too was once filled with anger and confusion whenever I heard the word, but I was later to discover that this was more about my own personal theological journey and pain than by the word itself. This sermon may not be for the faint of heart, but if you are willing, let’s ex

plore for the second time (my first sermon on the topic was “The G Word” a little over a year ago, before you called me as your minister) the human quest to make sense of our existence here on planet earth, and to discover what some of us may mean as Unitarian Universalist when we use the word God. Child care is provided!

Sunday, 1 September 2013, 11 a.m.

Work: Icon or Idol?

Rev. Chris Andrews

Just in time for Labor Day, we will consider the meaning of work. How do we find balance between work and rest, fulfillment and salary? What is good work?

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.

Religious Education Corner



Reflections

Water communion will be the focus of our ingathering service on September 8th, with Michael Carter. As I sit here on yet another rainy summer day, I know that bringing water to this service won't be a problem for most of us who are feeling just a bit soggy this season. But I must also reflect upon those out west who suffer from intense heat, dry conditions, and fires. And those around the world who don't have their basic needs for clean drinking water met on a daily basis. We take our water for granted. It truly is the source of life, yet so many go without. Take a moment, if you will, and reflect upon water and those in need. We will join together in September to celebrate and experience this great source of life.

Religious Education Corner

Summer Sundays

We have all of our Sundays filled with great activities! See below for our schedule.

July 28 Cat Scratch Pads and Dog Collars Beata Ball

August 4 Clayworks! Nels Arnold

August 11 Flower Press Pictures Scott and Susan Shaw

August 18 Field trip to Brother Wolf Animal Rescue Beata Ball, Sybil

August 25 Balloon Sculptures Milt Warden and Carolyn Shorkey

September 1 Stained Glass Magic Anna Stearns

September 8 Ingathering and water communion IG service (see below)

September 15 Classes Begin

September 22 IG service with renowned storyteller Becky Stone (see below)

Intergenerational Services

Plan to bring a small vial of water with you for our water communion service on September 8th. It can be from a local source or from somewhere you have traveled during the summer. We will join together in community to share these resources and reflect upon our need for water.

Join us on September 22 for a memorable experience with storyteller Becky Stone. Currently a Fairview resident, Becky is a native of Philadelphia. She is well known for her storytelling in local libraries, schools, churches and festivals. She is a member of the readers' theater group, Thrice-Told Storytellers, and has performed WNC history-based story programs regionally through the Center for Diversity Education. She is also known for sharing folk tales, African-American tales and leading sing-alongs. Expect a fun morning in this intergenerational service.

Registration for Upcoming School Year

Registration materials will go out the end of July for the upcoming school year. Forms are due back to Sybil by August 25. Even if you filled one out recently, we do these every year to help plan our programs, get updates on any medical or other needs of our children and youth, and keep emergency information current. PLEASE return them as soon as possible!

Preschool will offer cooperative play time with music and songs, Grades K - 5 will follow Picture Book World Religions, Grades 6- 8 will follow Neighboring Faiths, and Grades 9 - 12 will participate in the Building Bridges Tapestry of Faith Curriculum.

Religious Education Corner

Teachers Needed!!

We are getting there for teachers, but still need a few more to cover our classes. Here is what we need. Please consider teaching or assisting one or two Sundays/month. It truly takes all of us to make our RE program work!

Preschool: Third Sundays teacher needed

K-5: Fourth Sunday assistant teacher needed (no prep ahead, just be in the classroom)

6 - 8: Teacher needed for two Sundays/month

9 - 12: Facilitator needed for one Sunday/month

Full training will be provided in August. See Sybil if you would like to discuss further or have any questions.

Religious Education Committee 2013 to 2014

At our July transitional meeting, we elected a new committee chair and secretary. Thanks so much to Sue Phillips for stepping forward to lead this committee, and to Anna Stearns for agreeing to keep our minutes as secretary. Your time is so appreciated!

Adult Religious Education Program

The adult religious education committee met in July and are planning several activities. The respondents to the survey chose the following topics as highest areas of interest:

Transcendentalism, Other Faith Traditions, and TED talks. A close fourth choice was Social Justice issues. There was also a resounding "Yes" to continuing Chalice Circles. This committee is in the process of developing the following classes and programs:

Multi-week class related to Transcendentalist thought

TED talks related to faith and other faith traditions

Facilitator training for classes and chalice circles

Continuation of LUUNCH BUUNCH

Continuation of some chalice circles and organization of new ones

Religious Education Corner

Tourists Ballgame!! Everyone welcome!!

We have reserved a spot for UUCSV at McCormick Field the night of Friday, August 9th. We will have a sign for our group, and our attendance will be announced during the game. What a great way to have some fun and let others know about us! Hotdogs are \$1 that night, and there are fireworks after the game. Meet in front of the entry gates at 6:30 p.m., game starts at 7:05 p.m. ***You must let Sybil know how many tickets you will need***—we only have 20 reserved (but can get a few more if we need them). Adult tickets, at the group rate, are \$6/person and children/seniors are \$5/person. This is a church-wide event, so all are welcome!! Bring your friends!!

Important Dates to Remember

- August 4 Religious Education Committee meets 12:30 p.m.
- August 9 Tourists Baseball Game! Meet at 6:30 p.m. Game starts at 7:05, fireworks after!
- August 25 Teacher Training 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. Lunch provided.
- September 8 IG Water Communion service and ingathering
- September 15 Classes Begin
- September 22 IG service with Becky Stone
- September 29 RE family ingathering picnic at Lake Tomahawk, after church



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

—Sybil Argintar, Director of Religious Education

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Social Action Committee Recognizes its Room in the Inn Volunteers



Not too long after our congregation moved into this building in 2004 a Social Action Committee was formed. One of the first activities we took on was Room in the Inn, a program for homeless women. We've taken part ever since whenever this was taking place in Black Mountain.

Every week throughout the year, Room in the Inn is hosted by a church somewhere in Buncombe County. Two times a year, this is in Black Mountain. On those occasions, our congregation provides all the food and volunteers for one day.

This would never be possible without all the help of our dedicated volunteers over the years. Some of these individuals have been doing this year after year. For that reason, we wish to recognize their valuable contribution. Our volunteers have included Beata Ball, Helen Bell, Heidi Blozan, Dr. David Brown, Jim Carillon, Dr. Jane J. Carroll, Evelyn Carter, Susan Culler and Mamie Hilliard, Judy Curtis, Monroe Gilmour, Ann Lutz, Roberta Madden, Caroline Metcalf, Linda Metzner, Sue Miller, Tina Rosato, the Shaws, James Sheeler, Carolyn Shorkey and Milt Warden, Mary Soyenova, Marjorie Starrs, Su Temesrisuk, Deb Vingle, and Angie and Emory Underwood.

—*Connie Krochmal, Social Action Room in the Inn Coordinator*

Birthdays

- 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 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.

Friday Fling

August's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on 16 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 "Calendar Girls" (2003; Helen Mirren; "The Full Monty . . . Female Style!") will be shown. For further information call Norm Kowal (669-4668).



Message from Social Action Committee

It's been 90 years since the Equal Rights Amendment was introduced, and women are still waiting for full constitutional protection. Now we have the best chance in 30 years to make the ERA part of the Constitution. Pending in Congress are Senate Joint Resolution 15 and House Joint Resolution 43 to remove the deadline for ratification, so that only 3 more states need to ratify. Both measures have bipartisan support. Here's what you can do:

1. Please thank Senator Kay Hagan for signing on to co-sponsor SJR 15; then contact Senator Richard Burr and urge him to cosponsor it.
2. Call your respective House member, Rep. Patrick McHenry or Rep. Mark Meadows, and urge him to co-sponsor HJR 43. It's a free call to the U.S. Capitol: 1-877-762-8762. If enough people contact them, it will pass. So please make those calls.

—*Roberta Madden*

Choir News

In August, the choir will sing on the fourth Sunday, August 25th. We will rehearse on Sunday August 18th at 12:15 PM after the service, and then on Wednesday evening, August 21st at 6:30 PM. Our final rehearsal is on the day of performance, August 25th at 10 AM. Please join us and add your joyful sound to ours!

—*Linda Metzner, Choir Director*



New Member

Mini-Bio: Betsy Stobbs

I have been married for 48 years to my husband Dwight. I have 3 grown children: Mark, Susan and Karen and 3 teenage granddaughters. I grew up in Michigan and Ohio and have since then lived in NY, NJ and California. I have lived in NC for 14 years. I was a first-grade teacher and secretary.

My hobbies are reading, knitting and walking. I volunteer every week helping first-graders make creative writing booklets. I knit items for charities. I am in a book club and in 2 knitting groups. I am enjoying my new friends at UU and the great variety of sermons by Michael and oth-

Save The Date – Sunday, August 25, Save The Time – 12:15 PM

. . . for an informative meeting about Habitat for Humanity's Circle of Faith project in Swannanoa, including the upcoming Interfaith House. We'll also provide a lite lunch and answer your questions about a new way—and a new opportunity—to work with Habitat.

Come see and hear what all the news is about. More details to follow.

—*Susan Culler*

GA News

The General Assembly website is now ready. Go to <http://www.uua.org/ga/2013/index.shtml> and you can watch videos of speeches, plenary sessions, and worship services, read the statements of conscience, even hear the music. Check it out!

—*Susan Stone*

From the Editor—The Last Word

[This, recently sent to me by a friend, is a fascinating report, from a UU conference on how the Pentagon Papers came to be published. The video, from a recent program on Democracy Now, is an hour long, but well worth watching and enjoying the story---some of it quite humorous. The story is obviously very relevant to what is happening today in our country.]



How the Pentagon Papers Came to Be Published by the Beacon Press, Told by Daniel Ellsberg and Others

Forty-one years ago, Beacon Press lost a Supreme Court case brought against it by the U.S. government for publishing the first full edition of the Pentagon Papers. It is now well known how The New York Times first published excerpts of the top-secret documents in June 1971, but less well known is how the Beacon Press, a small nonprofit publisher affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association, came to publish the complete 7,000 pages that exposed the true history of U.S. involvement in Vietnam. Their publication led the Beacon press into a spiral of two-and-a-half years of harassment, intimidation, near bankruptcy and the possibility of criminal prosecution. This is a story that has rarely been told in its entirety. In 2007, Amy Goodman moderated an event at the Unitarian Universalist conference in Portland, Oregon, commemorating the publication of the Pentagon Papers and its relevance today. Today, we hear the story from three men at the center of the storm: former Pentagon and RAND Corporation analyst, famed whistleblower, Daniel Ellsberg, who leaked the Pentagon Papers to The New York Times; former Alaskan senator and presidential candidate Mike Gravel, who tells the dramatic story of how he entered the Pentagon Papers into the congressional record and got them to the Beacon Press; finally, Robert West, the former president of the Unitarian Universalist Association. We begin with Ellsberg, who Henry Kissinger once described as "the world's most dangerous man."

Watch the video from the July 24th program at Democracy Now!:

http://www.democracynow.org/2013/7/24/how_the_pentagon_papers_came_to