



Unitarian Universalist

Congregation of the Swannanoa Valley

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

Religious Freedom • Diverse Perspectives

500 Montreat Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711

For more information about our
congregation, call

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BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, June 16 • 6:00 p.m.

UUCSV Newsletter
Send newsletter information to
Norm Kowal, *Editor*
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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
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From the Minister: Congregational Polity

I want to acknowledge all of you who attended, participated, facilitated, and prepared for the May 3rd Annual Congregational Meeting. Long meetings can be tough, and large meetings can be unwieldy, but the annual meeting is a prime example of living our Unitarian Universalist tradition. Which principle is it? Well, probably the 5th, the use of democratic process, but those principles were penned in the 1980s. What we are doing is continuing the tradition instituted by the pilgrims! In opposition to the Church of England, they established "congregational polity," a system of church governance which meant that no cardinal, bishop, or archbishop, (or pope!) would control the matters of the local congregation. Its members would elect their own leadership, and call their own ministers. In this way we are similar to Baptists, the United Church of Christ, and Jewish Temples and Synagogues. However, even these congregations have bonded together to form associations, with various magnitudes of authority. The Unitarian Universalist Association, is probably the loosest of the above; its officers and president, like our own congregation's, are directly elected by the member congregations; and this election takes place at the annual General Assembly, the Association's analogy of the Congregational Meeting.

Based on our size, UUCSV gets 2 voting delegates. The board has appointed me as one delegate, and one of the Stones (our denominational affairs couple) as the other. Voting may be done in absentia, but I am fortunate to be able to attend this year's General Assembly in Salt Lake City. The big business this year will be to elect a new President of the UUA. (For more about the candidates, attend a quick video viewing after the service on June 7.) There will be other business, of course, and days of informative workshops and people to exchange ideas with, moving worship and singing and seeing far-flung friends. I encourage you to have a look at the program which is in the office, and plan to attend a future GA. In 2011 it will be just down the road in Charlotte.

As your summer travels begin, I wish all of you safe and healthy journeys, and look forward to our continued journey together in this delightfully sunny season of the year.

In gratitude,

~ Sally Beth

Board Notes...

Thanks to all of you who participated in our annual congregational meeting last month. We made key decisions for the future of our church including revising our bylaws, unanimously supporting the Green Sanctuary certification, electing new board members, and approving our budget for our new fiscal year starting July 1. In true UU fashion, we had a healthy discussion about some of these issues and came away with a clear mandate going forward. With more than 50 members in attendance, we had a great meeting.

However, in the week following the meeting we discovered two errors had occurred in conducting the vote for new Board of Trustees members. First, a procedural error occurred when the Congregation voted individually for the four nominated candidates. According to our UUCSV By-Laws, this vote should have been a vote for the entire slate. Members may only vote for individual candidates when the number of candidates exceeds the number of openings on the Board that year.

Secondly, human error caused a miscount of the ballots. There was confusion regarding the total number of ballots cast which made it appear that one of the candidates did not receive the requisite 67% of the votes for election. This was absolutely not the case. Since the errors were discovered in the days following the Congregational Meeting, all four candidates will assume their seats on the Board of Trustees.

We learned some lessons about good governance following these mistakes and the board assures you we will do our best to avoid these kinds of errors again. Fortunately all four of the newly elected board members will soon be making their transition to your church leadership. Please join me in welcoming Scott Shaw, Mary Soyenova, Geoff Stone, and Emory Underwood to the board in July.

Two more items of success were also just achieved in our May board meeting. We agreed to empower a new FUN-D RAISING team headed up by Evelyn Carter and Jane Carroll. No, it is not a typo -- they will help us raise both FUN and FUNDS for the church. Stay tuned for more details about how you can join in. And secondly, the board approved a major building improvement to put "mini-split" heating and air conditioning systems in the RE and office areas of the church to replace the disabled HVAC system we currently have in those areas. This major capital expense will help us be more green and serve us for many years. We expect this work will be completed in June.

~ Jim Carillon, Board President

Sunday Programming

Please join us for Social Hour after each program

Sunday, June 7, 2009 11 a.m.

"Getting the Logs Out of Our Eyes"

Sally Beth Shore

Valuing the inherent worth and dignity of each individual is our first principle, and a lofty one we aspire to. Yet in our quest to better the world, or even just to better ourselves, we can get so focused on the faults we see that practicing this principle becomes exceedingly difficult. Ironically, when this happens, we risk undermining our efforts and our own happiness. But we can counter this propensity with awareness and spiritual practices that help us to truly honor one another, and maybe even find (and spread!) a little more joy in this life.

During the Children's Time we will be looking at some of the pictures taken by the Hubble Telescope and discuss its amazing history.

Sunday, June 14, 2009 11 a.m.

"It Can't Be Summer without Baseball"

Jeff Hutchins

Jeff Hutchins and others will lead a service for all ages that reminds us why baseball is such an important part of American life. As if to drive the point home, there will be an all-congregation field trip after the program to see the Asheville Tourists play the Lexington Legends. Please look for the relevant announcement printed in the newsletter for details, and get ready for an afternoon of hits, runs and errors!

Jeff was born in New York City, spent most of his youth in the Middle East, and graduated in 1969 from Boston University with a degree in Broadcasting & Film. He is a lifelong Unitarian, an atheist and humanist. Prior to his recent move from Pittsburgh to Black Mountain, he had been a member of the UU Church of the North Hills. Jeff is a frequent speaker at UU congregations and well known for his book "A Press Conference with God".

Sunday, June 21, 2009 11 a.m.—Father's Day

"The Patience of Job"

Sally Beth Shore

If you listen to Christian Radio, you are bound to hear references to Job, the character in the Hebrew Bible who, in spite of losing everything, didn't abandon his faith in God; the implied message is then that we should "believe no matter how bad it gets and eventually you'll be rewarded." But there are richer and more profound interpretations in this ancient text, and its inclusion in the Bible reflects a fundamental shift in the religious outlook of the ancient Hebrews, who like us were part of the continuing evolution of human awareness.

Today is also Father's Day, and we will recognize our Fathers with a candle-lighting in their honor in place of our usual Joys and Concerns.



Sunday, June 28, 2009 11 a.m.

"Connecting with Parts for a Greater Whole"

Dr. Jey Hiott

Dr. Hiott is excited about her most recent in-depth training in a model of psychotherapy termed Internal Family Systems. IFS offers a clear, non-judgmental method for understanding the problems of being human, and allows therapist and client to enter a transformational relationship where real healing can occur. IFS also offers a conceptual framework and spiritual practice that can be available for our daily lives, helping us to develop love for our own selves and each other. Dr. Hiott is eager to share this approach, which has been enriching for her own life as well as those of her clients, with her home congregation.

Dr. Jey Hiott was raised fundamentalist Southern Baptist in Pickens, South Carolina. She decided during her early high school years that psychology was the field of study for her. Dr. Hiott was happy to discover both Eastern philosophies and Unitarian Universalism soon after graduation from Furman University in the early 70's. Dr. Hiott has studied at Naropa Institute, received a Masters in Humanistic Psychology from West Georgia College and a PhD in Applied Psychology from New York University. She has been in private practice in the Asheville area since 1998.



During the May 10 Sunday service, the Congregation remembered and celebrated a beloved charter member, Dean Alexander, who died on April 30 at age 93. Pictured here with photos of the family are Marge, and daughters, Patti, Jana, and Shari.

Sunday, July 5, 2009, 11 a.m.—Church Picnic

"Faith of our Fathers"

Phil Fryberger and Sally Beth Shore

What were the signers of the Declaration of Independence and other players in the birth of this country thinking about religion back in 1776? Did they really want a separation of church and state? How did they imagine the religious future for the United States of America, and has that vision held fast? On Independence weekend, we celebrate our religious freedoms and look at the work still to be done.

Today we also celebrate UUCSV's fifth anniversary at 500 Montreat Road. We've come a long way in this short time thanks to the vision, faith and work of many, many, people. If you know someone in the area who was part of UUCSV but no longer attends, please reach out and invite them to share in today's worship and in our annual picnic.



Meeting each Wednesday evening during May, our Consulting Minister Sally Beth Shore led a fascinating and spirited 4-session Class for Adults on "The God Within: Unitarian Transcendentalism."

UUA Presidential Candidates' DVDs to Be Shown on June 7

Last month's forum in Asheville between UUA presidential candidates Peter Morales and Laurel Hallman was cancelled due to a family crisis. However, you can still earn more about the candidates by remaining a few minutes after the worship service on June 7 to view their video presentations. Both of the statements offer provocative views about the status and future of Unitarian Universalism.

New Newsletter Format and Policy

We on the board are trying an experiment that we hope you'll enjoy. This month only you will receive the UUCSV Newsletter by email and also by US mail. Receiving the newsletter via email is not only quicker, but less costly for the church. By getting it only electronically you could save the church substantial printing and postage costs. Across 100 members twelve times a year, this adds up to a lot of savings for the church.

So to reduce ongoing communication costs for the church, the board has decided that in July you will be sent only the electronic version. Those without an email address or those who make a special request to the editor to receive the newsletter through the mail will continue to do so. We will also print some extra copies for visitors to the church and for those who might want to pick up a printed version at the church. But hopefully the vast majority of us will receive the newsletter more quickly and with less cost by email. I have been receiving it electronically for months now and enjoy getting it this way. The pictures are better and I choose to print only the information I need right from my computer.

Getting the newsletter electronically saves paper, is therefore a GREENER way of getting it, and this saves the church substantial costs. I hope you will join me in regularly enjoying the UUCSV Newsletter electronically this month and into the future.

~> Jim Carillon, Board President

Congregational Care Committee

The Congregational Care Committee is ready to assist our congregation in time of need by providing transportation and meals for those who are facing difficult circumstances. The Monthly Coordinator for June is David Reid (686-3211, cell: 713-1607). If needs extend beyond those mentioned, please discuss them with the Monthly Coordinator to see if we might have the resources to help.

Memorial Rose Planted for Bill Rouser

As a joint project with Congregational Care the Building/Grounds Committee planted a memorial rose in honor of Bill Rouser. Robyn Schuster, Bill's partner, took part in the planting. It is planted at one end of the columnar apple trees. This rugosa rose will bloom beautifully throughout the summer and bear delicious, edible rose hips.

UUCSV Field Trip on Sunday June 14

In keeping with this Sunday's sermon, we will converge on McCormick Park in Asheville to enjoy an afternoon of Single-A minor league baseball with the Asheville Tourists and the Lexington Legends. The game starts at 2 pm, so let's plan to car pool from UUCSV leaving at 1:15. We qualify for special group pricing if we can round up 20 people (\$6 adult, \$5 senior or child 3-12), so please RSVP to Phil Fryberger at 713-8942 by Tuesday, June 9 if at all possible so that we can count noses!

UU Buddhist Study Group Discontinued

Due to a limited number of participants attending this study group, we have discontinued the regularly scheduled Thursday 4:00 session at UUCSV. Please let us know if you are interested in having the sanctuary available once a week for a self guided one hour silent meditation. If there is enough interest and consensual day of the week and time of day, we'd like to explore this option. Contact Carolyn Shorkey (cashorkey@bellsouth.net or home phone 299-9456).

Green Sanctuary

Thanks go to everyone for their support during the May congregational meeting. Members voted unanimously for our committee to seek accreditation. The committee expects to have its final reports in by July 4th.

According to the National Weather Service, WNC is no longer in a drought. However we are still abnormally dry. Let's continue to conserve all we can to protect this valuable resource. For landscapes, choose native plants, which tend to be drought resistant.

With summer being a peak time for travel, a green vacation is possible. For help in planning vegetarian meals away from home, there's a wonderful online resource. The Vegetarian Resource Group website (www.vrg.org) has a list of over 2000 American restaurants with vegetarian menus. At the website, you can also vote for your favorite restaurant chain for vegetarians. At this point the top choices are Chipotle, Fresh Choice, Moe's Southwest Grill, Noodles and Co., and Pei Wei Asian Diner.

Any season is a good time to weatherize your home and upgrade to Energy Star energy efficient appliances. Homeowners are entitled to tax credits for 2009 and 2010. The new federal law allows for a tax credit equal to 30% of the purchase and installation of energy-saving upgrades. A maximum credit of \$1500 is allowed. A tax credit comes right off the federal income tax that you owe.

Yeah!, less stuff is being sent to landfills all over the country. This is heartening news. It means people are learning to make do with what they have and reusing/recycling. Buying used merchandise is always a good option since it means less pollution, and less use of energy, raw materials, and other resources by manufacturers.

~> Connie Krochmal

Room in the Inn

Social Action thanks everyone who helped out recently with Room in the Inn. A special thanks goes to the RE youth for providing the bag lunches. This service project wouldn't be possible without so many dedicated volunteers.

The next Room in the Inn event in Black Mountain is tentatively scheduled for the first weekend in October though this is still subject to change. We'll give you an update once we know more.

~> Connie Krochmal, Social Action, Room in the Inn coordinator

Greeters for June

June 7: Lauris Liljestrand, Peter Ronman, and Marilyn Wells
 June 14: Kim Taylor, Deb Vingle, and David Brown
 June 21: Evelyn Carter, Scott Shaw, and Susan Shaw
 June 28: Geoff Stone, Jane Carroll, and David Reid

Birthdays in June

June 3rd Amy Mullins
 June 19th Don Pfister
 June 22nd Lily Hiott-Millis
 June 24th David Reid
 June 25th Jane Carroll
 June 26th Heidi Blozan
 June 29th George Scott



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

June's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on June 18th 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 Cowboy" (1969, Dustin Hoffman, Jon Voight) will be shown. For further information, call Norm Kowal (669-4668).



Chair comes in from the cold! Check out the "new" rocking chair in the nursery-library. When we received it as a donation, it was in weather-worn, almost-throw-away condition. Les Johnson recognized its good inner quality and put hours of skill and love into bringing it back to mint condition. His endeavor also gives us a thoughtful metaphor for life! Thank you, Les!

Monthly Committee Meetings, etc.

(CG = Covenant Group)

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
FIRST	9:45 RE Committee 12:00 Program Committee		6:30 Congrega- tional Care Committee	1:00 Written Word CG		
SECOND	9:30 Adult Forum 10:00 Membership Committee		7:00 Open Topic CG	5:30 Social Action Committee		
THIRD	9:30 Green Sanctuary Committee		6:00 Board of Trustees	1:00 Written Word CG		6:30 Friday Fling
FOURTH	9:30 Adult Forum 12:30 SOLS		7:00 Open Topic CG			

For the dates, times, and locations of specific events during the current month, go to the UUCSV website (www.uusv.org), and click on the UUCSV Calendar.

Religious Education Corner

RE Class Activities and New Families

We wrapped up the school year on May 31st, with all of our classes participating in an end of the year celebration. Summer programs begin June 7. Most of these are open to elementary through middle school ages, but older youth are always welcome to attend the services. Our preschool group will enjoy free play time and stories, and will be able to join the older children for some of the programs.



At the May 17th Sunday service, Middle School RE students Sam Scott and Sarah Gilmour read quotes from the religions they studied this year. Carson Shore holds a poster with photos of their visits to numerous faith communities during the year.

Coming of Age

We will hold one fundraiser over the summer, the Blueberry Market (see below). In the fall we hope to hold a congregation-wide coffee house/talent show which the youth will plan and organize. Additional fundraisers will be announced soon. We have raised approximately \$2000 so far, so keep that support coming!

Coming of Age Mentors Needed

Don't let this opportunity pass you by. We still need several more mentors. As part of the Coming of Age program, each youth is paired up with an adult in the congregation for the year to help them through the program and to serve as a friend in the church community. Yes, this is a year-long commitment, but think of it as a spiritual journey as you guide a young person towards their transition into adulthood within the congregation. There will be a meeting for all mentors later in the summer. Please see me if you have questions about the specific job description.

Seeds of Our Garden

The congregation showed its incredible support of our children and youth with a full house on Sunday May 17. In addition to the overview of the RE year in multi-media format (courtesy of Scott Shaw), eleven of our children and their families participated in our first-ever child dedication ceremony led by Sally Beth. The participants were Cora and Aven Blozan (parents Heidi and Will Blozan), Liza Constable (parents Courtenay and Phillip Constable), Evan and Cecilia Shaw (parents Susan and Scott Shaw), Sophie and Sam Scott (parents Sarah and George Scott), Jeremiah and Saava Etner (parents Kelly and Matt Etner), Tre Brown (parents Krista and David Brown), and Devon Jennings (grandma Sue Miller). Blessings to all of these families as we formally welcome them into our congregation. We will continue to hold child dedication ceremonies in the coming year, for additional families who could not be there on the 17th, and new families in the congregation. Many thanks to the RE committee for a beautiful reception, and of course to all of the tremendous volunteers in the RE program this past year.

Summer Program Presenters, Assistants and Preschool Helpers Needed

We still need you!! Please see the sign-up sheets in the RE room and in the preschool space in the office. We need program

presenters, assistants, and child care for our preschool set. Here's your chance to shine! We are planning to offer a four-week environmental class, focusing on recycling and the building of a recycled creature. If you would like to help with this program, let me know. Other ideas include camping trips, hikes, scrapbooking (we have quite a backlog of photos to document our church community), and music.

Preschool helpers will play with the kids in story times, free play, and outdoor play. We'll need two adults or one adult and one middle/high school youth every week.

Teachers Needed

We need a total of sixteen teachers for the coming school year, since we will offer four separate classes. Age groups are preschool, grades K-3, 4-7, and 8-12. We work in teams of four, so all teachers have two Sundays/month off to attend the service. This is a wonderful way to volunteer your time, and all curriculums are easy to follow and clearly spelled out, so no previous teaching experience is necessary. I will hold a full teacher training later in the summer before classes begin. If you have questions, or want to know more about our curriculum offerings, please feel free to contact me. I can be reached at merlasybpenny@yahoo.com or by phone, 230-3773.

Important Dates to Remember

- June 7:** Nels Arnold, working with all ages in clay sculptures.
- June 21:** Father's Day Gifts
- July 26:** Sign Language
- August 1:** (Saturday) Blueberry picking
- August 2:** Blueberry Market Day (also a fundraiser for the Coming of Age class)

↪ Sybil Argintar, RE Coordinator



Music Director Linda Metzner leads energetic Pre-School and Elementary School students in the May 17th RE Sunday service. Left to right, Jeremiah Etner, Cora Blozan, Liza Constable, Devon Jennings, and Amelia Shore.



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Artwork by Evelyn Carter