

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY

March 2010

Volume IX, Issue 3

Religious Freedom — Diverse Perspectives



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

From Your Intern Minister . . .

We have a wonderful line up of Sunday services this month, with Guest minister Rev. Jeff Jones coming on March 7 to speak about opposing the Death Penalty. Wiccan Priestess Byron Ballard will share the story of Brigid with us the following week, making up for a service that was cancelled in January.



March is also the time to think about our UUCSV Budget for next year. 2010 Budget Drive chair Lee Reading and his team are serious about getting our UUCSV pie in the oven, so come out on March 21st to support this effort! (see page 7 for details.) Meanwhile, the board is digesting information from the electronic survey, to which about 75% of members responded. Thanks to all of you who participated, your input will help them as they think about planning for 2011.

At the end of the month, our new Worship Associates will take their places as worship leaders. Four very dedicated people-- Jim Carillon, Ursula Goebels-Ellis, Carolyn Shorkey, and Sue Stone – will be working in the coming year to both assist with some of my services as well as craft and present many of the services when I am not in the pulpit. Having completed a training and interview process, they have each agreed to serve a year in this capacity; opportunities for others to join the team will be announced later in the year. Please support them as they take on this new responsibility and continue to increase the depth, quality, and relevance of our Sunday services.

Given this long and harsh winter, I will be more joyful than ever to see green grass and daffodils emerge. It's a perfect reminder that oftentimes harsh times pave the way for more beauty and appreciation, yet few of us intentionally seek hard times in our lives because we realize that greater insight, happiness, or joy, will come afterward. Still, when the chips are down, I look for ways to remind myself that flowers may yet, finally, spring forth. May spring's coming embed hope in our hearts.

Sincerely,

—Sally Beth

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(Office Hours: TT 10-2)

Board Meeting: Monday 15 March, 6 p.m.

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

Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday 23 March, 10
a.m., covering April 2010

Board Notes . . .

Dear UUCSV Family and Friends,

It is snowing, again. What with the difficult winter and some confusion over previous cancellations, at the February Board meeting we talked about a snow removal plan and how to notify you. If there is ANY question as to whether services will be held please check WLOS and WCQS, or call the church phone number, where Barb will have a message posted if there is a change in regularly scheduled services. Emory will get it onto the website as soon as possible, but the phone will be more reliable (if we have to make a late decision there may not be time for him to get it on).

Get ready for March 21. Bring a pie and don your favorite apron for a Pie Party! This year our Stewardship Campaign will be kicked off with a church-wide party. If you haven't been to a pie party this is not something you want to miss. If you've been to one, you'll be there. So, start thinking of the pie that you will bring to win a prize. Fun for all and all for fun!

The results of the survey are in. Thank you for completing the survey and for the many valuable comments that we received. The board met for an extra session for the sole purpose of starting to digest the information. There is so much data from this survey that we are still digesting and summarizing before we share the results with you. In the meantime we want you to know we are committed to an open process for finding new ministerial leadership. At this point we are in consultation with the TJ District Executive, Annette Marquis, about what our next steps could be, and we will keep you informed as we develop plans.

Probably most of you think that our Minister oversees our four personnel (Music Director, Director of Religious Education, Administrator and Janitor). Well, until the last board meeting you would have been wrong. The board decided that it is time for us to take a step toward maturity and give this responsibility to our minister. She graciously accepted our request. That being said, we still need a highly functioning personnel committee to develop personnel policy and procedure and to work with the minister.

The song "We are family" by Sister Sledge, keeps popping into my head. Maybe because WE ARE FAMILY. Thanks for being part of this congregational family.

—Heidi Blozan



UU General Assembly

The Annual General Assembly, A Meeting of Congregations, will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, June 23-27.

Soon we will be receiving credential information for two delegates to this meeting. Please let our Board President, Heidi Blozan, know if you are interested in being considered for these.

Upcoming Local UU Conferences

What: 2010 Western Carolinas Cluster Gathering When: Sat., March 27th Where: UUC of Asheville

Cluster Mission: "To affirm and strengthen our member congregations, to encourage and facilitate greater cooperation among the congregations, and to make Unitarian Universalism better known in the region."

I usually go to this type of event as it meets my need to network with other like minded people. I encourage y'all to consider attending. The keynote speaker is one of our denominations dynamic black leaders. Hearing his message alone will probably be worth your time and energy.

See poster for more info or check out www.wcccluster.org.

Also note that the Thomas Jefferson District will hold its Annual Meeting in Penn Center on St. Helena Island, near Beaufort, SC, on April 30th and May 1st of this year. It promises to be a momentous meeting, as your delegates will consider a number of far-reaching issues, including a change in our district's name.

—Geoffrey Stone – Denominational Affairs

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 7 March 2010, 11 a.m.

Abolishing the Death Penalty: Faith-based Opposition

Rev. Jeff Jones

Many Unitarian Universalists have called for abolishing the death penalty. But what in our faith tradition leads to such a decision? Not every UU will agree with him, but be warned - Jeff speaks with conviction for a position that affirms for him the very core of his religious faith.

Rev. Jeff Jones served the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fredericksburg (Virginia) for nine years (2000-09) and is currently a full-time student at the University of Mary Washington immersing himself in a personal passion: Spanish language, culture, and history. He is appreciative of the opportunity to speak about another passion: his opposition to the death penalty.

Sunday, 14 March 2010, 11 a.m.

Brigid, Ireland's Gold-Red Woman

Byron Ballard

Brigid is an Irish Goddess/saint who is a bridge between so many worlds. Byron Ballard, who is a dedicant to Brigid, will talk about her time in Kildare, share the many aspects of Brigid and teach us a little Gaeilge in celebration of Imbolc. Get your Irish on and celebrate the beginning of spring, old-school.

In addition to being a Wiccan priestess, H. Byron Ballard is a book-seller, organic gardener, and beekeeper. Her writings have appeared in local and national print and electronic media. Byron lives on an urban farmstead in Asheville's historic West End with her husband Joe and daughter Kate. Currently she is working to build a Goddess Temple in Asheville.



Sunday, 21 March 2010, 11 a.m.

Our Slice of the Pie

Sally Beth Shore, Phil Fryberger, Lee Reading

We welcome the Spring Equinox (finally!) today with an annual UUCSV Rite of Spring: the kick-off to our budget drive, which will be over the top and a little different this year with the theme of how we contribute to and receive from our communal pie. Will we be belaboring the pie metaphor as we look ahead at fulfilling our mission in 2010-11? You bet! Bring your best pie if you can [see pg. 7] for the pie potluck after the service, and come prepared to enjoy special music by our choir and guests.

Sunday, 28 March 2010, 11 a.m.

What We Worship

UUCSV Worship Team

"A person will worship something, have no doubt about that. We may think our tribute is paid in secret in the dark recesses of our hearts, but it will out. That which dominates our imaginations and our thoughts will determine our lives, and our character. Therefore, it behooves us to be careful what we worship, for what we are worshiping we are becoming." – Ralph Waldo Emerson

The term "Worship" has diverse connotations, not all of them positive, for Unitarian Universalists. Today, as we inaugurate a new Worship Team for UUCSV, and we'll hear from each Associate about their perspectives on what it means for us to come together on Sunday mornings as a religious community, as well as how our forebears have viewed the subject.

Sunday, 4 April 2010, 11 a.m., Easter

Atonement, Suffering, and Redemption

Intergenerational Service

The highest Christian holiday, Easter, celebrating Jesus' resurrection from death, is a time when Unitarian Universalists might also go deep in examining Easter's themes of redemption, suffering and atonement. Long words, but these are concepts that children wonder about too, so we'll make the topic accessible through story and song to explore these human concerns in this Intergenerational Service.

Religious Education Corner



Intergenerational community. Multigenerational community. Meaning the mixing of many generations and how they interact and join together. A big piece of our church community is seeing how all the generations come together in community. Yes, we have several intergenerational worship services every year, and these are wonderful moments for all of us to share. But recently I witnessed two additional gatherings that saw this community engaging in social and learning times together. On Sunday February 21, Ann Sillman shared her stories of becoming a UU with our Coming of Age class. Her journey has been a remarkable one, filled with strength, questioning, and growth. Our youth asked Ann many questions as they begin work towards creating their faith statements. This interaction was so valuable to us all, with much discussion back and forth. Then, after church, thanks to the organization and caring poured forth by the Shaw family, we welcomed our youngest UU, Campbell Francis Brown, into our community with a multigenerational baby shower. This was attended by preschool and elementary children, older youth, parents, and several elders in our congregation. This is what it's all about, in my opinion. The interconnectedness of us all as we join together in love and community to share our knowledge, our experiences, and our nurturing of each other along the way.

Religious Education Classes

Most Sundays, we have two or three in our preschool class, with our two oldest children often joining the K-3 class for their stories or activities for part of the morning. Some of the people they have learned about recently include Malvina Reynolds and Albert Schweitzer. Coming up over the next month we'll read stories about Henry David Thoreau, Juliet Underwood, and William Vaughn. The K-3 class, with about five or six in attendance most Sundays, recently have read "Grandfather's Prayers for the Earth", including a quiet walk outside to hear the sounds of nature, and will next learn about being president and what it means to have a vote in things. The next principle they will begin studying is our fifth one, working for a fair and peaceful world. The grades 4-7 class generally has two or three in attendance each week. They have spent some time learning about our congregation through a survey they conducted about what individual beliefs are about. Next they will create a sculpture reflecting the seven principles of our faith tradition, and will spend some sessions talking about genesis and evolution, the spring equinox, and the golden rule. Our five COA youth are beginning the creation of their faith

statements. They've been interviewing others in the congregation (see above), the minister, and their mentors to learn about their belief systems.

Through March they will begin writing these faith statements, and are free to incorporate music, art, and other media to make their presentations. They have also been spending some of their time in service projects including working with Homeward Bound in the play "Always Expect Miracles".

Coming of Age Fundraisers

We are getting closer and closer to our budget goals for Boston. We have approximately \$1200 to go. Our upcoming fundraisers include the Chill at the UU night on February 27, dessert sale on February 28, dessert and sandwich sale on March 7, pancake breakfast on March 28, and dessert and sandwich sale on April 4. We are in the planning stages for a very special night of professional music by local musicians, and should have the details available for that very soon. All of us appreciate so much how this congregation continues to support our efforts in so many ways. Just a while longer, and we promise we'll give everyone a break!

Gentle Reminder

Parents of preschool and young elementary-age children, anytime we have a Story for All Ages or an intergenerational service, please feel free to join your children up front if they are restless. If that doesn't work well, everyone will understand if you need to take them out in the lobby for a few minutes. We're all in this together and everyone supports you as parents, so even if it's your child "acting out" you can feel comfortable stepping in.

Important Dates to Remember

March 7 Children and youth ages K-7 will join Sally Beth in the first part of the service.

Coming of Age dessert and sandwich sale after services.

Sybil attending renaissance module "History of Unitarian Universalism"

March 14 RE Committee meets at 9:30 a.m.

COA youth meet with Sybil at 11 a.m. to finalize plans for pancake breakfast

March 28 COA pancake breakfast fundraiser 9 -

10:30 a.m.

Suggested donation of \$4/person; \$15/family of four or more

April 4 Intergenerational Easter service

COA sandwich and dessert sale after services

April or May COA coffee house fundraiser featuring local professional musicians; details to be announced soon

—Sybil Argintar, RE Coordinator

(merlasybpenny@yahoo.com, 230-3773)

SOLS News

SOLS wants your rummage and white elephants. They are things you no longer want or use, but are things we can sell at UUCSV's annual rummage sale, a part of "Trillium: A Festival of Follies and Flings" coming in April. Date for donations to be delivered to the church forthcoming. If you will need help with delivery, contact Jane Carroll at 828-664-1695. Just about anything is accepted except junk. We don't sell junk. It is not junk if:

1. The motor is working.
2. The batteries will charge.
3. All parts are present.
4. It is clean.
5. It is mildew-free.
6. The owner's manual (if you have it) is included.
7. DVD cases contain the DVDs.
8. It is free of pet hair and smell.
9. It is unbroken.
10. It is in working order.
11. It is non-toxic.
12. It is an antique.

Congregational Care

Congregational Care, now under the Membership Committee umbrella, 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 February-March will be Kylie Fauth (505-4118). If needs extend beyond those mentioned, please discuss them with the Monthly Coordinator to see if we might have the resources to help.

Room in the Inn

Despite the snow on February 12th Room in the Inn took place as planned. Joyce Parsons and Mary Soynova, our dedicated overnight volunteers, stayed very late the next day until the roads were clear enough for the women to return to Asheville. Social Action sends a special thanks to Joyce, Mary, and all of our other faithful volunteers who helped out. This wouldn't be possible without your dedication not only in Feb. but for the past five years. Your efforts have made such a difference in the lives of these homeless women.

It is also time to begin sign-up for the next Room in the Inn. It will be on Friday, April 16. This time it is at the Bl. Mt. Methodist church annex. As always we'll need morning and evening drivers for the church van as well as overnight volunteers and overnight backups. A sign up sheet is available in the foyer. Please feel free to contact me at 686 3112 or flora258@isp.com.

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

Rise Up and Call Her Name

"Rise Up and Call Her Name" – a woman honoring journey which studies the Goddess cultures in Africa, Asia and the Americas, will begin Wed. Mar. 10, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. for 13 weeks. SOLS (Sisters of Lucy Stone) is offering this UU curriculum as a journey into Global Earth-based Spiritualities. Limited class size, women only, \$20 fee with scholarships available. (UUCSV members get first enrollments.) Supplies include email of 300+ page SourceBook and crafts materials. Facilitators are Linda Metzner, Mamie Hilliard and Byron Ballard. Contact Barbara Rogers, Office Administrator to enroll or for further information. 828-333-2721, blackmtbarb@gmail.com

Hospitality News: Snack Service Resumes April 11th

During the fair weather months of April through October, we will continue our practice of having snacks out on the "carport" after Sunday services. Also, instead of calling our social hour, Finger Food Potluck, we have changed the name to Beverages and Snacks. We continue to urge you to bring food to share which does not require the use of an eating utensil, so we are not using and discarding so many plastic utensils. We will continue to host a few full service Covered Dish Potlucks throughout the year.

Support our youth by purchasing sandwiches and desserts on April 4th, after the Sunday Service. On April 11th please resume bringing a healthy snack to share with others during our Sunday social hour.

—Carolyn Shorkey and Milt Warden, Hospitality Co-chairs



Friday Fling

March's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on 19 March 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 "In America" (2003, a poignant tale of a poor Irish family searching for a better life in America) will be shown. For further information call Norm Kowal (333-4925). And don't forget the drum circle at 5:30.

Choir News

The UUCSV Choir will perform on March 21st this month. We will sing two songs about pie, the theme of the day! We will rehearse as usual at 12:20 the 14th, then the following Thursday the 18th at 7 PM, and then the performing day at 10:15 AM. Please join us!

—Annelinde Metzner

Birthdays in February

- March 4th Scott Shaw
- March 10th JoAnn Hansen
- March 10th Howard Hansen
- March 11th Evan Shaw
- March 13th Judy Curtis
- March 14th Ann Lutz
- March 14th Marjorie Starrs
- March 16th Bertha Baxter
- March 18th Elaine Hamil
- March 18th Linda Metzner
- March 23rd Lee Reading

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

Grounds

It's been a winter to remember here in WNC. Though there may still be some unmelted snow on the ground it is time to begin planning our spring.

According to the spring forecast there'll be plenty of rain. This will mean mowing should be done about every two weeks. Otherwise it gets too tall. A sign up sheet is available in the foyer. Self propelled mowers and weed eaters are in the shed for our volunteers to use. Grounds will pay for the gas. You can mow any time during the week that you choose. Time slots will start in mid-May and run through early September. The goal is to have two volunteers per slot.

We will also schedule an annual spring clean-up day, which will likely be in early May. This date will be announced in the next newsletter as well as emails and the usual sources. We'll also give an alternate make-up date in case of bad weather. During the clean-up all the broken tree limbs and branches on the ground need picked up or raked. This should be done before the mowers can safely begin their work.

This year we're requesting that mowers wear the safety goggles hanging in the shed. These will protect your eyes from flying debris as you mow and trim the grounds. Please use them for your own safety and for our peace of mind.

—Connie Krochmal, Grounds co-chair

Pancake Breakfast!! – Sun, Mar. 28 – 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM – Before Church



The COA class is sponsoring a PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER before church on Sunday, Mar. 28. The Coming Of Age youth plus volunteers will be dishing out fresh-made pancakes, sausage, fresh fruit, coffee, and juice! All you care to enjoy from this hearty and hand-crafted breakfast for a suggested donation of only \$4 per person (\$15 per family)

Show up early (we'll begin serving at 9AM) and have breakfast at church while catching up with your friends. You DON'T want to miss out on this fun event!! (To help us maintain a Green Sanctuary, please consider bringing your own place setting to breakfast.)

****This is a COA 2010 fundraiser – 100% of the proceeds will go into a fund to pay for our Coming Of Age youth trip to Boston in June 2010****

UUCSV PIE PARTY

Contributing my slice of the pie!
March 21st after church.



What: Pie and apron judging event. Everyone gets to eat lots of pie and be a judge. Once ballots are cast, we will have a closing ceremony with prizes awarded.

When: Arrive at church early to register your pie in one of the categories listed below. Party begins after the service and will end by 2:00 p.m.

Bring: A pie (or two) (homemade preferred), pie server, and a place setting. Wear your favorite apron.



Category Awards

Store-Bought Pie
Children's Pie (Age 12 and under)
Men's Pie
Custard Pie
Fruit Pie
Savory Veggie Pie
Savory Meat Pie

Meringue/Cream Pie

First Homemade Crust

Party-wide Awards

Favorite Children's Apron
Favorite Woman's Apron
Favorite Men's Apron
Best of Show

UUCSV Library Use Increases

It pleases the Library Lady to no end to see our library serving more patrons than ever before. We also have received recently some new contributions of books and DVDs. Did you miss Walkin' Jim Stoltz when he was here? Not a problem --Connie Krochmal donated his DVD and book to our library.

Are you not sure about how to check out an item? Just look for the instructions on the wall to the right of the shelves.

There is no rule about when to return items to the library, but some books have been out for close to a year. If you know you have a book with the card pocket labeled "UUCSV" and you are finished with the book, please return it to the big basket that contains the red folder on the shelf. Thank you.

—Jane Carroll

Used Books Galore

The annual used book sale at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Asheville, featuring thousands of good-condition books in almost every category, will take place on April 9-10, 9am-4pm, at 1 Edwin Place, Asheville. For more information, call 828-254-6001.



One Take, by Bill Altork

I love the scene
where the blind woman is leaning over
the anesthetized tiger,
her ear pressed to it's huge rib cage.
She cries very slowly and quietly
as the beast's breath pulls the room in and
out,
it's heart pounding
like the pulse of a dying star.

From the Editor—The Last Word

Recent news indicates that the subject of *climate warming* has been added to *evolution* by religious and political conservatives, who want to eliminate these subjects from the standard science curriculum in our public schools. As I write this, having just returned from two weeks in the Bahamas, I am greatly disappointed with the continued presence of snow and ice in my local landscape. However I am not quite ready to give up on climate warming as being scientific fact, but, as to the legitimacy of evolution (at least the human sort), these people make me wonder.

