



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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BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, May 15 • 6:00 p.m.

UUCSV Newsletter

Send newsletter information to

Norm Kowal

normankowal@bellsouth.net

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Tuesday, May 22, 2007 at 10 a.m.

Covering June 2007

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Message from the Board: All A'Board!

Welcome May! During the tumultuous weeks of April so much seemed to turn against us, both elemental and man, let's take a deep breath and hope for better times.

It will be another busy month at UUCSV. The annual canvass is winding down and the Board will be presenting a budget for consideration by the congregation at the annual meeting. The video portion of the new sound/video system is being installed and RE is lining up summer programs and teachers.

The ministerial search committee has recommended we consider authorizing a half-time ministerial position. The search for the quarter-time position has unfortunately not yielded a candidate. They feel the candidate pool will be larger for a half-time position. There will be more information as the canvass results are completed and the budget is discussed at the annual meeting later this month.

In the meantime, the Committee recommended and the Board approved contracting with Reverend Sarah York as a ministerial consultant. Reverend York has been a UU minister for over 25 years and has specialized in interim ministry. She currently serves in a half-time capacity at the Asheville UU church. We believe her presence will reinforce our UU identity and provide continuity and guidance until we can hire a minister.

↪ Margaret Bumgarner, *President, Board of Trustees*

****Notice of Annual Meeting****

Sunday, May 20th, after the service

Agenda: 2007-2008 Budget and Election of Trustees

Considering Membership?

If you are considering membership in UUCSV, or if you already are a member and want to learn more about our denomination, you may want to attend our "Get Acquainted with UUs" orientation that will start on Monday, May 7th and continue on Monday, May 14th from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the church. During our time together we will discuss what it means to be a member of our congregation, listen to what you may have to say, answer questions, and enjoy refreshments. Please contact Jane Carroll, Chair of the Membership Committee, if you plan to attend or want more information. She can be reached at 828-664-1695 or dr_jcarr@msn.com.

We will welcome new members into the congregation at our May 27th service. If you are interested in joining UUCSV, please contact Jane.

UUCSV Newsletter Now on Website

Our monthly newsletter will finally be posted on our website (www.uusv.org). The printed version will still be sent out to those who do not opt out in favor of using the website (by contacting the editor).

Thanks a Trillium

The Sisters of Lucy Stone send a HUGE thankyou to all of the helpers at our 3rd Trillium Festival. We raised over \$1500 for our Partner Church in Medeser, Romania. We ran like a well oiled machine and we really do not know all of the moving parts. Everything seemed to be guided by some invisible organizing force.....Is there a Goddess of Organizing? To those who brought plants, a Big Green Thank You. Hats off to those who donated rummage; it was such good stuff we had nearly nothing left. Big Muscly Thanks to those who toled, priced, carried, organized and sold rummage. Happy Fun Thanks to the helpers with the children's activities. An A+ to our publicity team! Yummy Thanks to those that mixed and baked for the bake sale and cake walk. Remember: When the chicken starts squawkin', you start walkin'! To all my dear SOLS sisters, thanks for all the meetings, emails, hard work, cooperation, patience, persistence and dedication! You made Lucy Stone proud! And to all the customers who opened their wallets, Thanks a Trillium!

↪ Dawn Wilson, *Chair of SOLS*

Sunday Programming

Please join us for Social Hour after each program

Sunday, May 6, 2007 11 a.m.
"Justice Sunday: Darfur Road Map to Peace, and Reconciliation"

Elmoiz Abunura

The UU Service Committee has chosen "Drumbeat for Darfur" as the focus for this year's Justice Sunday. The reality of the Darfur crisis is clear. There has been a vicious civil war resulting in thousands of people killed and hundreds of thousands of civilians displaced inside Darfur and in Chad. Growing up in Sudan, Elmoiz Abunura has a unique perspective and will share his analysis and recommendation for peace and reconciliation.

Elmoiz Abunura is a human rights advocate, a Sufi Muslim, and a former prisoner of conscience in Iraq under Saddam Hussein. He grew up in Sudan and Iraq. He was forced to leave Sudan after the militant Islamic movement, the National Islamic Front staged a military coup in 1989. He was granted political asylum in this country and later became a naturalized citizen. From 1996 -- 2003, he was Director of UNCA's Africana Studies program and a lecturer in the Department of Political Science. He currently works as an economic, and political consultant on Africa, and the Middle East. He is a member of Amnesty International and other human rights organizations. He and his family live in Asheville.

Sunday, May 13, 2007 11 a.m.
"Wishing You a Divine Mother's Day"

Rhianne Dove

In every culture in age after age, the awareness of a greater Mother love, The Mother of us All, has been an active part of Life. In this era when much is rumbling under the surface, the folly of man is coming to a head of pollution, war, control, and other unpleasant symptoms of the times. This is creating a world that has closed its heart to Life in many ways, and when we close our hearts, our way to the Mother is also cut off. This is because the heart is the portal to the love of the Mother, also known as the Divine Mother or The Goddess (with numerous names to describe her). As our hearts open, in a way that many of us are experiencing at this amazing time in our evolution, a tremendous attraction to the Goddess as Mother is returning.

My experience and journey into the portal of the Mother has been a transformational, continual twenty three year voyage of change and exploration. As the courage to open more, to love more, to nurture and nourish more comes and is realized, I become stronger and more alive. Through poetry, song and words, I can relay some of my experience, and offer to hold open the portal to the heart of the Mother, inviting you to know her more deeply.

Rhianne Dove stood on a mountain top in Sedona, Arizona twenty-three years ago and prayed for the "Magic" to be returned to her life. At that moment she was connected to the Divine Feminine presence of Life within her heart, and a creative well spring flowed forth. As a result, she has devoted her life to the calling of inspiring others to be connected as well. This calling has taken her around the globe, teaching workshops, offering intuitive sessions, facilitating ceremonies, giving Keynote presentations, and performing her sacred theatre and music. Also a prolific writer and artist, Rhianne is currently working on the design of a new form of educational "Play" for all ages, and a model of a teaching festival to be implemented in communities all over the world.



THIS I BELIEVE Class Now in Session

Have you ever heard an NPR This I Believe essay and wished you had time to discuss the essay and hear more of them? Carolyn Shorkey is facilitating four one hour sessions whereupon we will explore numerous essays from this radio project. In each class we will reflect upon the core beliefs that guide daily life from a variety of contributing essayists. Each of the three remaining sessions are independent of the others. So, feel free to come to any or all of the three sessions in May.

The sessions will meet from 9:45 to 10:45 Sunday mornings May 6th, 13th, and 20th. Muffins will be provided, bring your own beverage. Teens and adults are welcome! A two hour class will be offered for those who would like some guidelines and support for writing your own This I Believe essay on Sunday evening, June 3rd from 5:30-7:30.

For more information, contact Carolyn via email: cashorkey@bellsouth.net or by telephone before 9:00 p.m. at 299-9456.



Sunday, May 20, 2007 11 a.m.
"Spirituality, Faith, and Appreciation at Home and Around the World"

Children and Youth of the Congregation,
Sybil Argintar, RE Coordinator

The children and youth of the congregation will lead this service, showcasing what they have learned through the school year. Younger children will present faith traditions and symbolism from around the world, including Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, Wiccan and Native American, Islam, and Unitarian Universalism. The teens will touch upon their work as a covenant group and what this has meant to their spiritual growth. We will take time to honor and appreciate all of our volunteer leaders in the religious education program this year who have given so much of themselves to our children. Please join us for a memorable morning.

Sunday, May 27, 2007 11 a.m.
"Who Are Our Heroes?"

Tim Perry & Kim Taylor

The former Charismatic Episcopal Priest, Tim Perry, and the social worker, Kim Taylor, discuss, debate and muse about heroes on this Sunday before Memorial Day. What, why and who are heroes.

Sunday, June 3, 2007 11 a.m.
Einstein and Technologies of the Sacred

Rev. Dr. Calen Rayne

On this Flower Communion Sunday we will explore holotropic states of consciousness, known as "technologies of the sacred" in world wisdom traditions, and their relation to "Einstein's unfinished symphony," his theory concerning gravitational waves and the primordial sound of our universe. (Don't worry; it's not as complicated as it sounds.) Please bring a flower to share as we celebrate a UU tradition.

Calen Rayne has a MFA from Naropa University and a DMin degree from Wisdom University, where he is a consultant for special projects. Calen is minister of the Wisdom Tabernacle in downtown Black Mountain. The Tabernacle is an interactive, experiential, exploration of world wisdom traditions. He has been a circuit rider for UU churches since 1995.

There will be an RE potluck following the service at 12:30.

Warblers Rehearsal

We warblers (aka choir) will meet this month on Sunday, May 20, after the service at 12:30, and Sunday, May 27, before the service at 10:00. Anyone who enjoys singing is encouraged to join us!

Western Carolinians for Criminal Justice

Western Carolinians for Criminal Justice cordially invites you to BIG NIGHT 10. This event to benefit Women at Risk, Healing Path and the WCCJ Men's Program will be held Friday, May 11 at Coleman Place on Montford Avenue. There will be a spring buffet; wine & beer; dancing to the music of Rebecca and the Hi Tones; "Reflections" a short performance piece by Nels Arnold; a silent auction and more. Tickets are \$50 per person. For tickets, contact Kim Taylor or call Jeanie at 252-2485 for credit card purchases.

Friday Fling

May's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups, will be held on May 18th at 6:30 p.m. at Jay & Ursula Ellis's place in Black Mountain (31 Eden Glen Rd, across from the bus entrance to Owen High; 686-6325). Carpooling will be at 6:00 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 "Babette's Feast"—a beautiful tale of life in a small Danish village, and the effect of a newcomer from Paris—will be shown, and we can spend some time visiting afterwards. Billiards, cards, and board games will be available as well. For further information, call Norm Kowal (669-4668).

We need volunteer hosts for June through September. Please call Norm.

News About Evelyn

The Thomas Jefferson District of the UUA, of which we are a part, has created an annual award to honor one of its members for outstanding service in the field of Religious Education. By the time you read this, it will be public knowledge that the winner of the inaugural Laurel Amabile award is none other than our own Evelyn Carter! What follows here is an excerpt from the nomination that was submitted on her behalf:

Evelyn was very active for many years at the Asheville UU church, both in her staff role and as a regular RE volunteer. She also served as Director of RE at the Tennessee Valley UU Church in Knoxville. Evelyn was much beloved at TVUUC and has been a hard act to follow! Evelyn worked very hard at TVUUC to administer a high quality RE program in the midst of building construction and transition. She developed the youth program and established a Coming of Age Program with trips to Boston. Before and since her retirement, Evelyn has also been in active service to the TJ District RE Committee, serving as the committee treasurer for a number of years now. In that role Evelyn has been highly attentive to the details of the committee's budget and expenses, asking questions and providing answers along the way, in maintaining excellent records and good accountability. Evelyn has been willing to represent the RE Committee at TJD board meetings and always pitches in to help organize events. She is the life of the party at our Annual RE Committee retreats, though you'd have to ask her for the details!

Evelyn has been uniquely instrumental in creating, supporting and sustaining the RE program at UUCSV in Black Mountain. She has amazing energy and commitment! In addition to serving on the RE Committee and keeping the nursery on most Sundays, she is a vital member of the Program Committee and the Aesthetics Committee, and is working with the Search Committee as we engage in the process of finding our next part-time minister.

Please join in congratulating and celebrating Evelyn upon her triumphant return from the TJD Annual Meeting, on May 6 after the Sunday service!

Welcoming Congregation Update

April was a busy month for the Welcoming Congregation program.

On April 24, we had our seventh monthly workshop facilitated ably by Jane Carroll and Deb Vingle. "Experiences of Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, and/or Transgender People" was attended by 34 members and community friends. The workshop was an excellent, powerful panel of representatives from the BGLT community sharing their experiences and answering questions. Those present felt privileged and moved to hear their stories and be able to ask questions. We are all grateful to the panel for being with us.

On Tuesday, May 22, 7 PM, we will have our eighth workshop, "How Homophobia Hurts Us All." Angie Underwood and Monroe Gilmour will facilitate. We hope that everyone in the Congregation will participate in these workshops. Only two to go, so if you haven't attended yet, know we'd love to have you be with us for this one! Call 669-6677 if you'd like a ride. Refreshments always served!

The Welcoming Congregation Committee extends our thanks to UUCSV members and friends who provided food for the Soul Force Equality Riders on April 10th. These BGLT Freedom Riders had been on the road for a month and reported that the UUCSV meal was their top-rated feast so far on the trip. One vegan even filled a tupperware container, not knowing when she'd get such a meal again.

We had estimated that we would be serving about 60 dinners. About 75 attended and ate. Thanks to Margaret Bumgarner for getting a few pizzas to fill the extra bellies! The food was fabulous, the conversation lively, and the presentation from the Riders poignant and inspiring! We ARE an extraordinary congregation (not to mention, great cooks)! Special thanks to Carolyn Shorkey for organizing the meal and to hubby Milt for backing her up.

You may read more about the Bus's travels at www.soulforce.org.

Birthdays in May

May 5th Judith Bush
May 11th Angie Underwood
May 12th Charlie Chilton
May 13th Joe Haun
May 14th Kim Taylor
May 14th Tom Motzko
May 17th Harry Hamil
May 20th Sue Stone
May 24th Jeffrey Carillon
May 24th Trish Byers



May 25th Emory Underwood
May 26th Jay Ellis
May 27th Sue Everly
May 28th Maggie Decker
May 29th Matthew Michalove

Congregational Profile Results

This is the final report of the Ministerial Search Committee's questionnaire for the congregation. The results are based on the responses of 54 members and 14 friends. These are the highlights of the following questions.

The objectives of Sunday services for you are:

- **To encourage spiritual growth and change** – 53, very important; 9, somewhat important; 4, not important.
- **To encourage compassion and generosity** – 50, very; 17, somewhat; 1, not important.
- **To help us better understand ourselves** – 39, very; 28 somewhat; 1, not important
- **To encourage respite and reflection** – 39, very; 27, somewhat; 2, not important.
- **To provide intellectual challenge** – 34, very; 31; somewhat; 1, not important.
- **To spur action on convictions** – 30, very; 33, somewhat; 5, not important.

How do you perceive the importance of the following in your church experience:

- **Children's Religious Education** – 58, very important; 10, somewhat important; 0, not important.
- **Social life/sense of community** – 52, very; 16, somewhat, 0, not important.
- **Sunday services** – 50, very; 17; somewhat; 0, not important.
- **Social action** – 47, very; 18, somewhat; 1, not important.
- **Intellectual stimulation** – 44, very; 24, somewhat; 0, not important.
- **Pastoral care** – 36, very; 28, somewhat; 4, not important.

In which activities do you consider yourself involved:

42, social activities; 28, Sunday hospitality; 22, social action; 21, adult religious education; 19, church administration; 14, Sunday services; 14 covenant groups; 12, Children's religious education.

One area of concern: Although 58 people declared that Children's Religious Education was very important in their church experience, only 12 people stated they were involved in that area of church activities.

Complete results of our questionnaire are posted on the bulletin board across from the kitchen.

↪ Evelyn Carter, for the Ministerial Search Committee

Greeters for May

May 6: Joe Haun, Caroline Metcalf, Geoff Stone
May 13: David and Krista Bown, Howard Hansen
May 20: Esther Miller, Tom and Jo Motzko
May 27: Dawn Wilson

Volunteers?? Please call Connie Krochmal at 664-9286 if something comes up and your date doesn't work out.

Note: Greeters are asked to set up folding chairs before the service.

Final Canvass Update

Many thanks to all those Members and Friends who made pledges during the Canvass. As I write this on April 11, our total stands at around \$44,500 towards our goal of \$58,065. Several members are expected to turn in pledge cards before the Board approves the final budget, which will be submitted to the congregation for a vote in May.

Though the deadline for Canvass was March 31st, we would be happy to receive late pledges you may wish to close the funding gap.

↪ Connie Krochmal, Canvass chair for 2007-08

Room in the Inn Needs Your Help

The return of wintry weather to the area reminds us of the daily challenges that homeless people face. Our congregation has a chance to address the problem through Room in the Inn on May 18 at the Black Mountain Presbyterian Church annex. This program offers food, lodging, and transportation for 12 women. You can help by being a volunteer or providing a dish. A sign-up sheet is available in the foyer. For more information, please contact me at 664 9286.

↪ Connie Krochmal, Social Action Room in the Inn coordinator



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Religious Education Corner

We're staying busy in RE. If you haven't noticed lately, our average attendance in the World Religions class alone has been twelve to fourteen children. This continues to be a wonderful group of kids to work with and we've had some visitors recently who keep coming back. We welcome anyone to join us. Our pre-school group has two to four children every week, and our teens have regular attendance of four or five, either in covenant group or attending services. The teens, every third Sunday, are continuing with their community service project in an elder care facility.

The World Religions class this past month studied Islam and Earth-based religious faiths. The children learned about the life of a Muslim, including the five pillars of that tradition. Earth-based religious traditions included those of Wiccan and Native American. We will join guest speaker Byron Ballard this Sunday in the Maypole dance. The children learned about the apple star (try cutting an apple crossways if you haven't ever noticed this), where a five-pointed star hides inside. This fits with the pentacle of Wiccan and the five elements of fire, air, water, earth, and spirit. On Easter Sunday, the children participated in the first part of the service, with many of them reading about egg-decorating traditions from around the world. We created an egg tree for the sanctuary.

Over the next month, we will be planning for our children-led service on May 20th. At this service, the middle group will present the faith traditions they have studied, and the teens will present some features of their work as a covenant group. I'll be sending home in the next week a written commitment form for parents to sign as the planning for this service will require some regular attendance, especially on May 13 and 20, for rehearsals.

May 20th will be our last formal religious education Sunday. Beginning May 27th, through Labor Day weekend, we will have our Summer Sunday programs. May 27th will be a games day, and June 3rd we will make kites and join together after the service for an RE potluck. We hope all of you can attend, to get to know each other and our wonderful children more. If you haven't noticed our sign-up sheets by the RE room and the pre-school room (office), please do. We need your talents to help us out with a dynamic summer schedule. We would like to have a lead teacher and an assistant every week, so please sign up to help!

The RE committee, in our April retreat, set up plans for our curriculum for next year. I will be sending out registration materials very soon so we can get everyone signed up early. We will definitely be in need of teachers for the elementary age children, so if you are interested, let me know. The plan is to have a rotating team of teachers in each classroom so that teachers get a break to attend services through the year. We will also need an assistant every Sunday, which doesn't require any preparation ahead of time. The RE committee has picked out some wonderful curriculums and we are excited about what we can offer to our children and youth in the next school year. Please think about how you can help as a volunteer in the RE program. Our children are amazing.

→ Sybil Argintar, RE Coordinator

Getting to Know You: Esther Miller

Esther Read Miller moved across country from Kansas to the Highland Farms Retirement Community in mid June 2006, two years following the death of her husband, Wilfred T. ("Bill") Miller. North Carolina put her in closer proximity to her nephew and his family in Kearnerville, NC, and to her two step-sons and their families in Pittsburgh, PA, although further from step daughter, Linda, and her family in Tulsa, OK. Another plus in considering the move was the availability of the Unitarian-Universalist Church in Black Mountain since "UU-ism" had come to be an important piece of her life following marriage to a liberal, social activist, long time UU member.

Growing up in the Methodist Church in a small Mississippi Delta town, she took advantage of the opportunity to do her graduate work in Social Work outside the deep South, her first year being at the University of Denver and her second year at Columbia University in New York. She returned to MS to work in the Child Welfare field before moving into the psychiatric field first as a social worker at a teaching and training hospital in Indianapolis, IN, and after four years moving on to Topeka with the renown Menninger Clinic, retiring from there in 1989 as Director of Adult Admissions.

Shortly after retirement she met her husband, "Bill" Miller, a PhD psychologist, who was in the process of working out a volunteer community project in conjunction with the University of Kansas and the University of Costa Rica. The grant fell through but he continued with his plan to volunteer his clinical services for two years in Golfito on the Gulf of Dulce under the auspices of a Psychology faculty member from the University in San Jose. Thus much of their courtship was carried on with trips back and forth from Costa Rica to the States.

Esther and Bill were married in Topeka on April 11, 1992. Much of their energy went into building their lovely home that backed up against 40 acres of woods, to social action projects at UUFT, and to Esther's various gardening activities. They traveled extensively in the States and abroad, and it was on an Elderhostel in Denmark in July 2004 where Bill had his stroke which led to hospitalization in Randers, Denmark until he could be released to travel home. They then had to deal also with a metastasis to Bill's lungs which was the cause of death on the night of his 84th birthday. The children were all there having been invited for Thanksgiving and his birthday celebration the following day.

With the support of long-time friends and the entire UUFT congregation Esther "picked up the pieces" as best she could, but felt no on-going commitment to remaining in Topeka without Bill. Thus during a Christmas visit to her NC nephew in 2005 she began her decision making process to move here, a decision she has had neither second thoughts about nor regrets. She likes the Black Mountain community and is pleased to be affiliated with UUCSV.

[Editor's Note: Attempts to obtain more bios for the "Getting to Know You" section of the newsletter have resulted in a miserable response; thus this will probably be the last one for the foreseeable future.]