

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

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BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, November 20 • 6:00 p.m.

UUCSV Newsletter

Send newsletter information to
Norm Kowal
normankowal@bellsouth.net

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2007 at 10 a.m.

Covering December 2007

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Search Committee Report

The seven members of this committee have met in October to revise the Ministerial Profile, which reflects the search for a half-time minister. This profile appears on the Thomas Jefferson District website (www.tjd.uua.org) to inform any potential candidates of our search. A copy is also posted on the bulletin board across from the kitchen.

Copies of our ministerial search questionnaire have been distributed to new members and friends. Their information will be added to the results from last year. Our congregational packet is being updated to include our activities of the past year.

A time line of process to obtain a half-time minister is as follows: October – post job description on the TJD website; November/December – exchange packets with potential candidates; January/February – check references, interview candidates by phone; February/March – hear candidates speak in neutral pulpit; April – choose candidate; May – present candidate to congregation. For more detailed information on our tasks, a copy of “The Consulting and Part-time Ministry Handbook for Congregations” is available in the church office.

Comments, suggestions and questions can be directed to any member of the committee: Evelyn Carter - chair; Phil Fryberger, Ursula Goebels-Ellis, Jo Motzko, Robyn Schuster, Kim Taylor, and Angie Underwood.

Welcome New Members!

Welcome to our new members, accepted into our congregation during New Member Sunday, October 14th: Ruh Berg, Patricia Fahey, Sharon (Sam) Hinton, Kathy Munro, Phyllis Palmieri, Barbara Pleasants, Marjorie Starrs, and Scott Traxler.

Congregational Care Committee

The Chair of our Congregational Care Committee is Angie Underwood (phone 669-0869). The Monthly Care Coordinator for November is George LeRoy (phone 669-0188). If you or someone you know in our congregation has a special need or is experiencing a crisis, please contact the Committee Chair or the Monthly Care Coordinator. Our Committee welcomes new members at any time. Thank you

Joys and Concerns: Do It Right!

That is the title of an article in the October 2000 issue of UUA “InterConnections.” The first paragraph reads: “Done well, they show that we’re a caring and reverent religious community. Done poorly, they embarrass us. Joys and Sorrows, or Joys and Concerns, our Sunday morning sharing of the highs and lows of our lives, can be a rich and rewarding experience that builds community. Or it can start the week on a sour note as speakers take off on political and commercial tangents, give too much vacation detail, and share their weight-loss successes.”

At the October Board meeting there was a discussion of this problem, which has been noted by many members of our congregation during our own services. It was concluded that at least a partial solution is to encourage any comments that are more appropriately considered announcements be given to the member reading the announcements at the start of service, so that they may be shared with the congregation.

Some useful guidance comes from the Our Worship section of “The Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide”: “Recently, some of our congregations have developed rituals around the passages in ordinary human life: the birth of a grandchild, the passing of an exam, the loss of an uncle, the visit of good friends, a divorce or an engagement. Some of these rituals involve lighting candles and telling personal stories; others name loved ones in the middle of a silent meditation. Such rituals of ‘joys and concerns’ may serve to deepen real bonds of community.”

Sunday Programming

Please join us for Social Hour after each program

Sunday, November 4, 2007 11 a.m.

(Daylight Saving Time Ends -
set clocks back one hour.)

"Adventures in Mythology"

3rd Principle Covenant Group

Over the past year, our covenant group explored the meaning of the third UU principle, which calls on us to "affirm and promote acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations." Toward that end, and in conjunction with the ongoing presentation of the "Power of Myth" interviews with Joseph Campbell, members of our group will share some of the recollections, "guiding stars", and discoveries that make up our individual and collective spiritual journeys.

Sunday, November 11, 2007 11 a.m.

"My Theological Unified Theory of Everything"

rev. charlie kast

In my 25 years of ministry I focused on encouraging members to articulate their personal (creedal) belief. Since I retired I have continued my own search and recently came up with a personal brief statement which answers for me all questions of religion in one sentence.

charlie kast retired as minister of The Community Church of Chapel Hill UU in August, 2006. He graduated from Starr King School for Ministry (UU) in 1981 and has served three congregations: Lexington, KY; Chicago, IL; and Chapel Hill, and is now honored to be minister emeritus of the latter. In a former life he was a fundamentalist Baptist and a political conservative. He also has single-foster parented 125 youths. His main spiritual discipline is baseball; as a devotee of the Chicago Cubs he has learned the lessons of loss and suffering.

Sunday, November 18, 2007 11 a.m.

"A Harvest of Gratitude"

The Rev. Sarah York & Co.

We gather as a community of all ages for an uplifting celebration of Thanksgiving, that will include singing, story, and ritual, plus holiday reflections from Sarah. UU Service Committee "Guest at Your Table" boxes will be distributed. Please bring an offering of non-perishable food for a procession of giving that will occur during the service. Members of the Program Committee and the Religious Education Committee will join with Sarah to plan and conduct this intergenerational service.



Sunday, November 25, 2007 11 a.m.

"Born of the Spirit?"

Tim Perry

I would like to continue our exploration of the notion of "A Kinder, Gentler Christianity" which was presented in my last sermon. This time, I hope to share an odd little synthesis of ideas that occurred to me recently, having to do with the intellectual, emotional, and spiritual evolution of our species. I believe some light could be shed on our current global state of affairs by evolutionary psychology and the Christian concept of the battle between the "flesh" and the "spirit" straight from the words of Jesus and the much-maligned (among liberals) Apostle Paul. You could even bring your Bibles! (Well, let's not get crazy, here.)

Sunday, December 2, 2007 11 a.m.

"High Mom!"

Scott Traxler

The story of virgin birth is integral to most the world's religions. The myth of the Virgin Mary continues to be retold in both secular and religious settings. In a look at the origins of the Marian Myth, we'll discover why this story still has meaning in the 21st Century.

UUCSV member Scott Traxler recently moved back to Black Mountain after some 12 years in Florida. He is a retired professor of management and humanities, wonderful husband of Ruh (her description), and habitual procrastinator...



Hymnals: Please Come Home!

A number of members of the congregation have, in the past, taken home copies of our hymnal for practicing or other purposes. If any of you have copies at home, or have loaned them out, please return them at your earliest convenience. We are getting tight with them because of the increased number of visitors.

Partner Church Committee

A meeting of the committee for the Partner Church program was held at Esther Miller's home at Highland Farms on October 9th. The committee is looking into utilizing the Community Capacity Building Program through the UU Partner Church Council. We would also like to send a holiday box to the folks in Medeser, with a special emphasis on the children. We would like donations of the following items: Sewing machine needles, hand sewing needles, thimbles, Coats and Clark sewing thread, pencils, notebooks, stickers, markers, baseball gloves, baseballs, and adult insulated work gloves. We will also accept cash donations for shipping costs. Please bring these items to the church on Sundays in November. Our next meeting will be November 1st at 10:00 am. Please meet in the upper level of the Fountain Room at Highland Farms.

Getting to Know You: Sharon Ann "Sam" Hinton—In Her Own Words

Born, raised and educated in the Big Easy. Attended Tulane University and the University of New Orleans and graduated in 1968 with a degree in Elementary Education. Moved to the greater DC area in 1970. Lived in Northern Virginia for 13 years, where I taught school in Fairfax County, VA. Did a lot of volunteer work with the county and national park services in environmental education. Married twice, neither took. No children. Acquired about 28 hours graduate credit primarily in psychology and statistics. Taught school for 15 years in three states. Lived in Winston-Salem for 3 years while ex was in law school. Moved to Charlotte in 1985. Lived there for 6 ½ years. Found UU'ism there, on a dare from a friend! Truly. Jumped right into RE there, where I taught Annelies Fryberger and got to know Phil and Dawn. Moved back to New Orleans in late 1991. Last 6 ½ years there, worked as database manager for Louisiana's P&A, the Advocacy Center, which does free legal work for the elderly and disabled. Bought my first house in 2003 and lost it and all I owned in 2005 to the levee breaks from Katrina. Moved to beautiful Asheville in September, 2006. Struggled for a year to find work but am now employed at county DSS in children's services as a support person to the social workers and love it. Hobbies include nature photography which I use in making handmade note cards, making jewelry from natural stones, watching movies, cooking, sewing, and gardening. I have one dog, Maggie, who evacuated with me and was returned to me after 1 ½ years by the wonderful woman who fostered her. Joined UUCSV in August and am teaching RE and loving the community immensely and am deeply grateful for the emotional support found here during this difficult and wonderful period of rebirth in my life.

Hospitality News

A big thank you to MARGE ALEXANDER for baking and decorating a beautiful Pistachio Almond Cake to honor new members on October 14th. We all extend our gratitude to the cooks who contributed food for the Autumn Harvest Food Church Potluck. And, to those members who remembered to bring their own place setting for the potluck, thank you! We generated much less garbage than we usually do during a potluck luncheon. Remember to follow Geoff Stone's good example by remembering to bring your own coffee cup to the Sunday services. Think Green, when you are preparing to come to church!

We will celebrate October, November and December birthdays with birthday cake on Sunday, December 2nd, following the service. If you would like your birthday announced in the church newsletter, please sign the sheet in the foyer.

If you are a new member and would like to meet folks at this church, a nice way to do this is to volunteer to be an occasional host for coffee hour (contact Milt Warden 299-9456 mediamilt@bellsouth.net) or to be a greeter (contact Angie Underwood 669-0869 underwooda@charter.net.) We will be happy to teach you how to do these easy jobs!

Bereavement Support Group Formed

Carolyn Shorkey (UUCSV member) and Peggy Tobin (UUCA member) co-facilitate a Bereavement Support Group. We meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month. There is a social gathering with participants in the group from 5-5:30, followed by a lightly structured sharing time from 5:30-6:30. We meet in Jefferson House, which is the house beside the UUCA main building. Persons who are processing the death of a loved one are welcome to join this supportive and nurturing circle of UU's. FMI contact Peggy Tobin 299-1910/tobinj@bellsouth.net or Carolyn Shorkey (299-9456 cashorkey@bellsouth.net)

Room in the Inn

Many thanks to all those volunteers who have signed up to help with the next Room in the Inn at the Black Mountain Presbyterian church annex on Friday, Nov. 23rd. If you're interested in lending a hand to these 12 homeless women, a sign up sheet is available in the foyer or call me at 686-3112.

↪ *Connie Krochmal, Room in the Inn coordinator for Social Action*

Tip from the Green Sanctuary Committee

The winter will bring no relief from the longstanding drought in WNC. So do all you can to conserve water. Avoid letting the water run all the time while you're brushing your teeth. The same is true when you're washing your hands. Turn it on long enough to get your hands wet. Then, turn it back on to rinse the soap off. Simple steps like these can save gallons of water every single day.

Green Sanctuary Update

We're off to a great start and invite others to join the committee. We've finished the audits, and will be making these available at the UUCSV website, and on the bulletin board. Jane will include the audits as part of our Green Sanctuary application to the UUA Ministry for the Earth, which will be submitted electronically to save paper.

The Green Sanctuary process involves the entire congregation. For that reason, we're putting together a self-assessment questionnaire so Members/Friends can see how they're doing with respect to the 7th UU Principle. This will be ready some time after the New Year.

At our November meeting, Green Sanctuary members will begin the next step—the action plan. For certification, we must complete 13 activities/projects outlined in the action plan.

Each month in this space we'll share highlights from an audit. Here are Grounds highlights:

Our strengths—we very rarely if ever use chemicals, fertilizers, and pesticides, and only water when absolutely necessary. We recycle leaves as mulch, and use recycled wood chips for mulch. Fallen branches and limbs are also recycled. Mowing and trimming is kept to a minimum.

Our weaknesses—whether planted intentionally or self seeded, invasive species are a sore point. In addition, many of the ornamental plantings are non-natives. With all the paved areas, stormwater runoff causes problems in some areas of the landscape.

November Volunteer Greeters

- November 4 Norm Kowal, Marilyn Well,
and George LeRoy
- November 11 Jane Carroll, Jay Ellis, and Teresa Ballinger
- November 18 Geoff Stone, Phil Fryberger,
and Dawn Wilson
- November 25 David Brown, Milt Warden,
Carolyn Shorkey

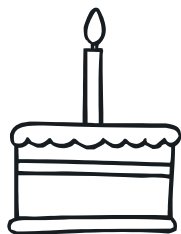
We look forward to seeing our Greeters on Sunday mornings. Their smiling faces are a welcome sight. Thank you, Greeters!!!

Volunteers: call Angie Underwood at 669-0869 if something comes up and your date doesn't work out.

Note: Greeters are asked to set up folding chairs if they aren't already in place.

Birthdays in November

- November 4th Karen Michalove
November 6th Kristy Michalove
November 7th Aaron Eliot-Gaines
November 7th Benjamin Cyr
November 24th Kevin Campbell
November 24th Jennifer Tanth
November 28th Aaron Gilmour



If you would like your birthday announced in the newsletter, there is a sign up sheet in the foyer.

Religious Education Corner

Classes are going smoothly and we're averaging an attendance of 20 children and youth each week. The preschool class is working together and are learning about being UUs. They've made playdough chalices, and have planted tulips around the church. The elementary class is busy with their "little piece of the earth", adopting small plots of ground to explore and discover the diversity of life. They're making a journal about their discoveries, have made a compost pile, and have gathered fall leaves to decorate the classroom. We also learned at circle time about UNICEF and trick or treating for UNICEF. This is the beginning of more focus on service for this age group. We'll begin an offertory soon in circle time, with the kids voting where they would like to donate the money at the end of the year. That will be a local charity where we can actually take the money so it is less abstract for them and they can see where the money is going.

The middle school class has finished several lessons within the You the Creator curriculum, alternating with Race to Justice. This group has had a lot of fun creating artwork and talking about their own family heritages. The group is a dynamic group of young people with lots of energy and much to offer. The high school group is currently not meeting on Sunday mornings but is working with lead teacher Robyn Schuster on world religion and belief system topics outside of class as much as possible. Since many of these youth are seniors this year, meeting every Sunday is more difficult with all their other commitments including applications to college!

I, along with several other members of the RE and program committees participated with Sarah York in an intergenerational worship workshop in early October. Heidi Blozan and I will continue working with Sarah in preparation for our first fully intergenerational service on November 18. Children and youth will be present the entire time in what promises to be a moving, energetic service focused on ways we are thankful in our world.

Evelyn Carter, our RE teacher, committee member, and volunteer extraordinaire, and George Scott, parent of Sam and Sophie Scott, have met to begin making plans for our musical service on December 16 led by children and youth. We'll have lots of singing, some readings, and as always, a lot of happy energy from all of our children and older youth.

On a personal note, I will be getting married December 29 to Gary Boyer, who is a member of the Asheville church. Gary teaches second and third graders in their early service RE program, but beginning in January will likely be coming more often to UUCSV. I will not be at church December 2, 9, or 30 for vacation and wedding time. I will be here every week until and around then, however, and look forward to working with the children on several special Sundays during the Thanksgiving and Winter Holidays.

~ Sybil Argintar, RE Coordinator

RE for High-Schoolers

If you have, or are, a high school age person interested in joining our RE program, please contact me. I would like to set up a UU young adult blog (web-log) to have open and safe discussions on the many topics our UU curriculum for high school students offer. —Robyn Schuster (robyncookschuster@yahoo.com)

Hey, Warblers and All Singers!

We have rehearsal on the third and fourth Sundays. This month we'll meet after church on November 18th and before church at 10:00 on November 25th.

Hope to see you there. Come try it, you'll like it!

Friday Fling

November's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on November 16th at 6:30 p.m. at the church. Refreshments (red and white) will be provided. Bring finger food, so that we can make a potluck supper out of it. The movie "Pan's Labyrinth" will be shown—a story of a little girl maintaining her fantasies within the context of fascist Franco Spain. For further information, call Norm Kowal (669-4668).

News from SOLS, the UUCSV Women's Group

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER MEETING:

Because of the busy holiday season and the fact that the last Sunday in both November and December fall on holiday weekends, only one event will be held for the two months. The meeting will be a holiday brunch on Saturday, the 8th of December, 10:00am. We will do a Croning ritual and share some goodies. All church women are welcome. Dawn Wilson has offered her home for this event. E-mail dawnwilson@aol.com for directions.

ANNUAL RETREAT TO HOT SPRINGS:

Our winter camping retreat to Hot Springs will be January 11th - 13th. All women from the church are invited. Details to follow in the December newsletter.

TRILLIUM:

A meeting to plan Trillium will be held on Sunday, January 27th at 12:30pm at UUCSV. Saturday, April 19th will be our 4th annual Trillium Festival. Save your "qualified" (that means stuff in pretty good shape) rummage for the Rummage Sale and set aside some perennials for the plant sale. Details to follow in the Spring.

Monthly Committee Meetings, etc.

(CG = Covenant Group)

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
FIRST	RE Committee 9:45 Congregational Care Committee 12:30			Wed Nite Open Topic CG 6:30-8:15	
SECOND	Adult Forum 9:30 Membership Committee 12:30			The Creative Life CG 1:00-3:00	Program Committee 12:00 p.m. Social Action Committee 5:30
THIRD	Green Sanctuary Committee 9:30 Warblers 12:30		Board of Trustees 6:00	Wed Nite Open Topic CG 6:30-8:15	
FOURTH	Adult Forum 9:30 Warblers 10:00 SOLS 1:00			The Creative Life CG 1:00-3:00	

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.



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Artwork by Evelyn Carter