

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY

Nov 2011

Volume X, Issue 11

Religious Freedom — Diverse Perspectives



From the Board

Now that Autumn is here, events are happening as quickly as the swirling leaves falling on our lawn. Have you noticed that the church has been painted? The colors are similar to the previous paint, but in softer earth tones. We loved the sunshine yellow and chocolate brown, but opted for "Rolling Pebbles" to echo the stonework and "Baha" as the trim for our new colors. The committee spent many hours finding just the right shades. Our painting crew, with General Jane at the helm has given our building a fresh new face. Many thanks to those hearty souls who wielded brush and roller and then washed all the windows!

The tally for the congregational vote last Sunday was almost unanimous:

- 1) Change the name of our District in our Bylaws. 29 voted. 28 Yes. 1 No.
- 2) Amend the language regarding a ministerial call. 31 voted. 31 Yes. 0 No.

Thanks to all those who stayed to vote.

Our new chairs are ready and we will be going to pick them up in the next few days! These were purchased with a gift from the estate of Tom Rodman and will be so welcomed---no more hard, cold metal folding chairs!

Just a word about visitors. Lately we've had quite a few visitors to our services and too often I've noticed them standing a little forlornly alone in the portico while we stand chatting with our friends. It is so very important that we recognize and welcome people to our congregation. Take a moment to introduce yourself....offer them a cookie! Many times people come because they are looking for a place to be, or people who have moved to the area and are checking us out, and will respond to a kind word. If they don't feel welcome, they won't come back, so put out your hand and say hello to our visitors and let them know that we're glad that they came, won't you?

Looking forward to the time change and a chance to snuggle in for another hour!

—Mary Soyenova, *Vice President, Board of Trustees*

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

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Board Meeting: Monday 21 Nov, 6 p.m.

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

Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday 22 November,
10 a.m., covering December 2011

The Rev. Michael Carter has let us know that he will not be conducting Sunday services on a regular basis in 2012. He is making this decision due to increased demands at his regular, full-time job, and in deference to our anticipated new minister. We plan on giving Michael a proper "Thank-you!" at his last regular Sunday service on December 11. Please plan on attending to let Michael know how much we have appreciated his steady presence during our search for a new half-time minister. We won't be saying "good bye" to Michael. After our new half-time minister is well established, we fully expect to invite Michael back as an occasional guest speaker.

—*Respectively submitted by Scott Conklin, Sunday Service Associate*

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 6 November 2011, 11 a.m.

To Encourage Compassion—The 2011 Ware Lecture

“To Encourage Compassion” was the second most frequently cited reason for coming to a Sunday Service at UUCSV, according to your input during our Membership Survey (2010). Today, we will view a 58-minute video from the recent General Assembly on “The Challenge of Compassion.” In her Ware lecture, Dr. Karen Armstrong argues that compassion and the Golden Rule have been central to all the major faiths. She explores the reasons for this, and argues that an ideology that does not restore compassion to the center of the spiritual, religious and ethical life fails the test of our time. Dr. Armstrong received a TED prize for her work on compassion in the international religious community, from which resulted the Charter for Compassion (<http://charterforcompassion.org/share/the-charter>).

Please join us after the service when UUCA member, Bruce Larson, will facilitate a discussion about compassion based upon Armstrong's lecture. Bruce convenes the Peace-making Potluck, which meets the second Wednesday evening of every month. The Potluck recently viewed and discussed the video after a four-month series of discussions based upon Armstrong's book *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*.



Sunday, 13 November 2011, 11 a.m.

Rev. Michael Carter

Love, Acceptance, and Thanksgiving

When life is good and we are in the prime of our lives it is often easier to praise our lives and to be thankful.

But what if our lives are drawing to a close, even when we are in our prime, and we must live (and die) with regrets of things left undone and unsaid?

Join me as we explore how two individuals whom I had the pleasure of ministering to in their final days of life came to love, acceptance, and thanksgiving.

At this service we will have an opportunity to meet the family who will be living in the Habitat for Humanity Home our congregation has helped to build.



Sunday, 20 November 2011, 11 a.m.

For All That Is Our Life

Jeff Hutchins

We will celebrate Thanksgiving in an intergenerational service. Our choir will sing two songs, and our children and youth will participate throughout the service. We will collect food to donate to people in need, and we will break bread together in a spirit of community.

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 27 November 2011, 11 a.m.

Sacred Storytelling

**Rebecca Williams and Members of
UUCSV**



"I came to know my life through the telling of it." —Spalding Gray

November 25th, is the National Day of Listening, a new holiday started by StoryCorps in 2008 to encourage Americans to take an hour, the day after Thanksgiving, to listen to and record the stories of a friend or loved one. But why tell stories? What value is there in telling your own story and listening to those of others? In this service we'll look at what's behind America's interest in first person narratives by examining projects like StoryCorps, The Center for Digital Storytelling, and even The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills. We'll listen to stories from members of our own congregation as we explore the reasons why sharing personal stories are important.

If you would like to participate in this service and share a significant story from your own life, please contact Sunday Service Associate Rebecca Williams at 828-686-3922. Or email- serpentchild@earthlink.net

Sunday, 4 December 2011, 11 a.m.

Trust Me

Jeff Hutchins

Jeff is a regular at UUCSV and one of our "resident atheists." Jeff's sermon, called "Trust Me," examines trust as the foundation of relationships and faith, and the ways in which people trust and mistrust each other.

Religious Education Corner

It's an over-used quote, I'm sure. But from "out of the mouths of babes" ...being a good Samaritan means "helping and being a friend". These were the first words out of Tre's mouth last Sunday when I asked what a Samaritan was. Then I presented to the K-4 group what it means to help others at home, at school, in our community, and around the world. They get it. We talked about ways they help at home and what it would feel like if they didn't have enough to eat, were cold in the winter, or didn't have enough medicine when they were sick. We watched a short video about UNICEF where they could see children just like themselves who weren't always as fortunate. Now they know, when they trick or treat for UNICEF on Halloween, what this means, and where the money goes. Then, if this wasn't enough, we also spent some time talking about creative ways to solve problems with a soccer scenario as the basis. They came up with great ideas, then voted on the solution they thought was best. Maybe we should send our children, rather than adults, as ambassadors out into the world. I was so proud. These are UU children.

A Word About Class Attendance

We know there are often other commitments on Sundays, and sometimes you just want to have a family day at home. We all need that. But regular attendance in RE is so important to your sons and daughters. We love seeing them. They contribute so much. The classroom material is one thing, but so is the connection they feel to this place. Please make every effort to attend—we'll understand when you can't be there sometimes. We

have fifteen children registered—let's aim for a full house!

Curriculum offerings for the coming month:

Infant/preschool Class: We Are Many, We Are One; free play, stories, and songs

Halloween Dress-up Day; We Must Care for Our Earth and Its Plants and Animals; Native Americans Have Taught Us Many Things

Grades K-4 Class: In Our Hands and Moral Tales

Caring and Uncaring for Others; Friends and Enemies; Friendship with People Different from You

Grades 5-8 Class: Race to Justice and Beyond Pink and Blue

Video About Bullying and Prejudice; Racism in the Media; Institutional Racism

Grades 9-12 Class: A Chorus of Faiths

We Need Not Think Alike to Love Alike

Food Drive

This year, due to greater needs in the community, RE is sponsoring, with the congregation, a food drive for Manna and Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministries for three weeks in November. This will take place November 6, 13, and 20, culminating in our annual IG Thanksgiving service where the children will carry donations (as much as they are able) to the front of the sanctuary for collection. On November 20th only, you may donate fresh fruits and vegetables. Watch for more details and collection baskets in the lobby for your donations of non-perishable items.



UUCSV Family Connection Newsletter

In our continuing efforts to connect families outside of Sunday mornings, we have just started a family connection newsletter which will go out to all RE families on a monthly basis via e-mail. If you have something special you would like to share with us, please send to Sybil at sybil.argintar@yahoo.com by the end of the month. This can include things like birthdays, anniversaries, other milestones for not only your children, but the adults in your family as well. Help us get to know each other better!

Important Dates to Remember

November 20 IG Thanksgiving Service

December 18 IG Winter Holiday Service

—*Sybil Argintar, Director of Religious Education* (sybil.argintar@yahoo.com)

Membership News

Your Membership Committee is pleased to introduce more new members to our congregation!! Tina Rosato recently interviewed Chuck and Jeannie Shimer who shared a few highlights of their fascinating lives.

Chuck and Jeannie Shimer have crammed more productivity and fun into their years than seems possible. After a long career employed by GTE, Jeannie began a successful consulting firm that provided GTE with contractors. Chuck left a thriving practice in chiropractic to pursue training at Duke University as a Physician's Assistant. Another successful career followed that training.

After being introduced to skiing at Sugar Mountain here in NC, skiing became a passion for the Shimer family. Through the years, they have skied in many places throughout the world including the Canadian Rockies and six different locales in Italy.

Chuck and Jeannie have two adult children. Their son is a VP with Dale Carnegie and has four daughters for the Shimers to dote on. Julie, their daughter, is a Creative Executive with Playtone Productions, a company founded and run by Tom Hanks. Julie works closely with him and that association has provided the opportunity for Chuck and Jeannie to meet Mr. Hanks.

The Shimers were introduced to UU while they lived in Clearwater FL. Active in a political campaign there, they attended a candidates' forum held in Clearwater's UU church. They were impressed by the insightful questions and vitality of the congregants present and decided to attend services.

Introduced to this area through family visits over a period of years, Jeannie and Chuck found their dream location in Bat Cave two years ago. Managing their three-acre wooded property there claims much of their time. Both say it's a labor of love.

Jeannie enjoys the enthusiasm of UUCSV's congregation and the potential of the church. Both Jeannie and Chuck vigorously applaud the excellence of our choir. The quality of the men's voices especially impresses Chuck.

Chuck and Jeannie say they find the people at UUCSV friendly and interesting. The Shimers fit that description to a "T."

Welcome, Jeannie and Chuck.

Choir News for November

This month, the UUCSV Choir will sing on November 20th, right before Thanksgiving. This is the third Sunday, a change from our usual schedule. The young people will be involved in this intergenerational service centered on Thankfulness. We will rehearse on Sunday November 13th at 12:15 PM, the following Wednesday the 16th at 6:30 PM, and then on the 20th at 10 AM before the service. Come join us—we always have fun!



—Linda Metzner, Choir Director
(annelinde@hotmail.com)

Birthdays in November

- November 3rd Sam Scott
- November 7th Aaron Eliot-Gaines
- November 9th Roberta Madden
- November 10th Mark Manuel
- November 28th Aaron Gilmour



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

November's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on 18 November 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 "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" (1975; Jack Nicholson) will be shown. For further information call Norm Kowal (333-4925).



Work on Habitat's Interfaith House Comes to a Close

As the saying goes neither rain, nor sleet, nor snow keeps the mailman away – neither does heat, rain, dust, nor wind keep UUCSVers away from Habitat's Interfaith jobsite.

In total, 17 UUCSVers committed 150 hours to helping build the 2011 Interfaith House. What's more, the entire congregation – through the Social Action Committee – donated \$600 to the construction of the three-bedroom, 1½ bath home located in West Asheville.

For six days during September and October, the Habitat work crew, sawed 2x4s, dug holes for foundations, nailed wall components, and did whatever task the supervisor asked of them. This year's team members included Heidi Blozan, Allan Brown, Jim Carillon, Evelyn Carter, Susan Culler, Monroe Gilmore, Mamie Hilliard, Diane Hutchins, and Jeff Hutchins, Mark Manuel, Tina Rosato, Phil Rosato, Ann Silman, Su Temesrisuk, Milt Warden, and Dawn Wilson. Also, on Oct. 18 Terry Davis and Gail Hyde, members of UU Congregation of Atlanta and friends of Susan and Mamie, joined the crew to paint trim for baseboards and windows.

And Ruthye Lovinsohn, along with Diane and Jeff Hutchins, on Sept 6 served the work crew a delicious lunch.

In addition to working on the Interfaith house, crew members Allan, Evelyn, Jim, and Monroe also assisted with Habitat's newest project, the Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative (NRI). For this project Habitat partnered with Oakley resident Inez Whitson to prep her house, apply fresh paint on all siding, prep and paint oil tank, caulk window trim and siding, and install new foundation vents.

NRI offers affordable exterior home improvements such as painting, minor repairs, and landscape improvements to low income Buncombe County homeowners. Participants make a low monthly payment on a 0% interest short-term loan. Like Habitat's homeownership program, there are requirements for NRI. Applicants must own and occupy the home, have homeowner's insurance, be current on property taxes, and meet income guidelines.

Tanya Presha, partner family and the future homeowner for the Interfaith House, was a joy to work with. Some crew members were able to work with Tanya – a memorable experience. She and her children are personable and so engaged in their partnership with Habitat and the sponsoring congregations that she makes friends wherever she goes.

And Tanya goes a lot of places! She volunteers eagerly in both the ReStore and on the jobsite (she says she really loves working on the jobsite). She often attends services at sponsoring congregations and she and her family are scheduled to visit UUCSV on November 13 to meet our family.



The odd-looking bars and rails surrounding the roof are called “hugs.” Those hugs might look funny, but they prevent volunteers and construction crew from falling when they’re nailing shingles in place. Photo taken Sept. 30.

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Tanya Presha and her three children will soon live in the 13th Interfaith house built by UUCSVers and eight other groups in the faith community. Tanya has worked for the Asheville City School system for 15 years, the last five coordinating the Dropout Prevention Program.

Helen Bell, in pink shirt, and Diane Hutchins, blue shirt, help push the first wall into position at the Wall Raising ceremony on Sept. 3.



The Sept. 23 work crew was l to r, Evelyn Carter, Allan Brown, Monroe Gilmore and Jim Carillon. John Meadows, jobsite supervisor, stands beside Monroe.

Under cold and blustery weather on Oct. 1, the crew showed typical UU resilience as they painted and dug holes for the wheelchair ramp for Tanya's son. Front row, l to r, Dawn Wilson, Su Temesrisuk, Tina Rosato, Tanya Presha, homeowner-to-be, and Rob, supervisor. Bach row, l to r, Phil Rosato, Ann Silman, Jim Carillon and Milt Warden.



Hospitality News

With our seasonal coffee hour hosts heading to warmer climates, we desperately need new Sunday coffee hour hosts. Gene Chilton is stepping in to help, but we really need more volunteers over the winter. Hosting coffee hour during the fall and winter is much easier than hosting during the warm months because coffee is set up inside the sanctuary and there is less hauling to do. It would be a great project for a couple to share the duties once a month or less. Please step forward to help so we can continue to have coffee hour. Milt Warden 299-9456.

Please also thank Lauris, Angie Manuel, Ann Sillman, George Scott, and Gene Chilton for their help with coffee hour. Many thanks to Connie for her many years of service to hospitality. We hope to see her back in church soon.

Room in the Inn

Thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers for making Room in the Inn on Oct. 14 a great success. Special thanks go to Jim Carillon for bringing his grill and coordinating the cookout. The women enjoyed this very much. This was the last Room in the Inn event for 2011 in Black Mountain. When we are notified of the dates in 2012 we will let everyone know.

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

Upcoming Holiday Card Sales

Holiday card sales will begin the Sunday before Thanksgiving. You can purchase these in the foyer before or after the service and pay by check or with cash. These are \$10 for a pack of ten cards. All proceeds go the UU Service Committee. As long as supplies last you will also receive a free stationery gift item with each purchase. This year we'll have more of the blank note card that can be used year-round. By the way they make wonderful holiday gifts for those on your shopping list. Very popular last year, this says on the front "Plant Justice-Harvest Peace."

—*Connie Krochmal, Social Action Committee Holiday Card Sales Coordinator*

Fall Food Drive

This fall the Religious Education curriculum for youth focuses on social justice. In that spirit, RE youth and the Congregational Care Committee are teaming up to sponsor a food drive for local relief agencies from November 6th to November 20th. The food collected will go to Manna Food Bank and the Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministries.

In a landmark study released in 2010 from Feeding America, 106,600 different Western North Carolinians (one in six) receive emergency food each year through MANNA Food Bank's network of emergency food provider. Many of the people served by Feeding America food banks report they are struggling with unemployment, difficult choices between food and other basic necessities, and the pressures of healthcare costs. Across the US, 1 in 8 people received food help from a food pantry, soup kitchen or shelter served by a Feeding America food bank, while the WNC data shows 1 in 6 sought that help.

Please bring non-perishable items to the church for the food drive on November 6th, 13th and 20th.

MOST NEEDED ITEMS IN A FOOD DRIVE:

- Canned Meats (beef, chicken, tuna)
- Peanut Butter (plastic jars only, please)
- Dried/Canned Beans (pork & beans, pinto, kidney, black)
- Hearty Soup (low sodium and pop-top cans preferred)
- Meals in a Box or Can (beef stew, chili, mac & cheese, hash)
- Canned Fruits (fruit cocktail, raisins, apple sauce)
- Canned Vegetables (green beans, carrots, corn)
- Cereals and Grains (rice, pasta, cereal in a box or bag)
- Fruit and Vegetable Juice (100% juice preferred)
- Dry Milk (instant non-fat)
- Toilet Paper
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Soap
- Shampoo (small bottles)

UUCSV Supports Blue Ridge Pride

The Social Action Committee and our Welcoming Congregation on October 1 shared its principles and lots of Halloween candy with about 200 attendees of the Blue Ridge Pride (BLURP) festival. Coordinating and staffing the booth during the day-long festival were Susan Culler and Mamie Hilliard, while Monroe Gilmore provided much-appreciated help and staffing relief during the day. Thanks also go to David Reid for his canopy and to Peter Boggs for the eye-catching UUCSV sign. During the day the temperature dropped and the wind howled, but many visitors dropped by for a chat about what Unitarian Universalism is all about. Old and young alike enjoyed a brief visit and to ask questions. Members of the UU Fellowship of Franklin (NC) staffed the booth next door, which proved an excellent opportunity to renew friendships.



SOLS Announcement

SOLS is adding an activity to our Spring calendar: We are planning an educational and fun TRIP for UUCSV MEMBERS, FRIENDS, and FAMILIES to Washington, DC for five days and three nights, leaving on Friday, March 23, 2012 and returning on Monday, March 26.

Diamond Tours will provide for \$369 per person:

- motorcoach transportation
- lodging (add \$120 for single occupancy)
- guided tours
- 3 breakfasts and 3 dinners

See the flyers on the bulletin board in the church foyer for more detailed information. Call Jeannie Shimer at 828-625-2777 for questions and reservation information.

—Jane J Carroll, SOLS Chair

Library Inventory to Take Place

It is time to inventory our library to be sure the list is correct that we post on our website under "News & Publications." If you have books or other items you borrowed from our shelves and are ready to return them to the basket, please do. I will shelve them. Thank you.

New books are added almost weekly. We hope you are finding what you need.

—Jane J. Carroll, *The Library Lady*

From the Editor—The Last Word

“Schools nationwide have rushed to supply their classrooms with computers, and many policy makers say it is foolish to do otherwise. But the contrarian point of view can be found at the epicenter of the tech economy, where some parents and educators have a message: computers and schools don’t mix.

“This is the Waldorf School of the Peninsula, one of around 160 Waldorf schools in the country that subscribe to a teaching philosophy focused on physical activity and learning through creative, hands-on tasks. Those who endorse this approach say computers inhibit creative thinking, movement, human interaction and attention spans. . . .

“And where advocates for stocking classrooms with technology say children need computer time to compete in the modern world, Waldorf parents counter: what’s the rush, given how easy it is to pick up those skills?

“ ‘It’s supereasy. It’s like learning to use toothpaste,’ Mr. Eagle [a Google computer scientist and Waldorf parent] said. ‘At Google and all these places, we make technology as brain-dead easy to use as possible. There’s no reason why kids can’t figure it out when they get older.’”

—Matt Richtel, NYT, 22 October 2011