

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY

Nov 2012

Volume XI, Issue 11

Religious Freedom — Diverse Perspectives



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

From the Minister

Well, I have been serving as your minister for a little over a month now. Thus far I have attended a Board Meeting, a Sunday Service Associates meeting, I have met with Sybil Argintar and Scott Shaw to plan our RE initiative to have our youth more visible and involved in the life of our congregation. I have also attended a membership meeting and a social action committee meeting. Our Care Committee is up and running again thanks to our dedicated and caring volunteers and to Jim Carillon as the new Care Committee Co-ordinator.

We need to be proud of the good works we do. I commend you! I also want to remind you that if you need to speak to me for any reason, I have office hours on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9 AM until 3:30 or 4 pm. Just call and set up an appointment.

Switching gears slightly, I want to just say how impressed I am with our choir. I have had the privilege of hearing them several times now and they are absolutely wonderful. Kudos to Linda Metzner for her talent and commitment as well as to the beautiful voices of our choir members!

It is an understatement to say that I look forward to our journey together as a congregation. That being said, as we enter the month of November, I will leave you with the words of Max Coats from his book *Seasons of the Self*:

Things balance out. They usually do if you give them time. We have to think in longer terms than one season at a time. There are bad years as well as good. Bad days too, and good.

Right now things are balanced pretty well between two seasons, the Fall and Winter. Someone said, "To everything, a season. To every Purpose, a time."

This time of year it seems that way to me.

Right now, between two seasons, I'd make a holiday of solitude, with that clear view the loss of leaves allows, and with a faith that in its time my life, like the earth, is balanced out. If I have patience enough to see, and if I make a time to touch the earth again and see the sense it makes of seasons and of me.

Peace to you All,

—Michael

UUCSV Board of Trustees

Geoff Stone, *President*
Mary Soyenova, *Vice President*
Helen Bell
Lynn Failing
Tim Perry
Chuck Shimer
Kim Taylor

Dawn Wilson, *Treasurer*
Sybil Argintar, *Director of Religious Education* 230-3773
Linda Metzner, *Choir Director*
Tricia West, *Office Staff*
(Office Hours: Tu, Fri 9-3)

Board Meeting: Monday 19 Nov, 6 p.m.

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

Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday 20 Nov, 10
a.m., covering December 2012

Minister's Start Up Workshop

Greetings and Peace to you,

Well the deed is done! Our Minister's Start Up Workshop was a real success. UUA Regional District Representative Denise Rimes, was the facilitator for the workshop. The attendees were the BOT, Committee Chairs, and invited leaders of our congregation.

The objective was to get us functioning as a congregation, "on all cylinders", as it were, so that we would all be clear about what roles our leaders play in the life of our congregation, and how we can proceed together for the growth of our worship community and each other.

We explored such topics as, what is your style of communication? How do we structure a "covenant" between the minister, the congregational leaders, and the BOT regarding how we will work together now and in the future? We also explored the topic of how we will agree to disagree and how do we negotiate the various communication styles that we have within our leadership? There was also a lively discussion about self care, not only for me as your minister but for all of us as leaders in our worship community.

One of the things Denise spoke about was. Do you love the faith more than the fight?

This question was explored in light of the petty disputes, triangulations, and ego power-plays that we are all subject to from time to time. Leadership at times is the art of compromise. The question that may bring us back to ourselves and can assist us in centering ourselves when we would so, so much rather be "right" than anything else is do we love the faith more than the fight. I urge you to ponder this question in your heart. Last but definitely not least, we spoke about the need for confidentiality and transparency in our interactions as leaders. Sometimes it is difficult to balance the two but as leaders we must sometimes walk a tightrope between the two.

Needless to say, you will be hearing more about this workshop and the ideas that have come out of it in the not-too-distant future. We can all look forward to exciting times ahead!

Having said that, I would like to say a word about gratitude as we head into the season of Thanksgiving. The attendees for the workshop were: Lynn Failing, Jim Carillon, Helen Bell, Carolyn Shorkey, Roberta Madden, Ann Sillman, Diane Hutchins, Geoff Stone, Bill Altork, Tim Perry, Jane Carroll, PhD, Mary Soyenova, Linda Metzner, Sybil Argintar, Scott and Kay-Sea Conklin, Chuck Shimer, and Kim Taylor (if I have unintentionally left anyone out please forgive me).

When you next see them at a service or in the community, I urge you to give them a pat on the back and thank them for their commitment and love for this congregation which knows no bounds. In fact, any volunteer that you meet, please let them know how much you appreciate all that they do. I know I sure do. Where would we be without them?

Again, you will be hearing more about the workshop in the weeks ahead. I would also like to take this moment to tell you just how delighted and grateful I am to be here and to serve this congregation! I give thanks to and for you all!

In Faith,

—Rev. *Michael J.S. Carter*

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 4 November 2012, 11 a.m.

Seriously, Let's Change the World

Tim Perry

Being a lifelong victim of a condition I call "Puzzle-brain" I can't seem to look at anything without wondering if it can be fixed or improved. Needless to say, the often irrational, self-destructive behavior of humankind has provided endless fodder for my thoughts over the years. I've spent more time than I care to remember thinking things like, "What the h_ll is wrong with people?" and, "Will we ever change?" Well, after 47 odd years, I think I might possibly have an answer (Yes, I'm actually arrogant enough to think that) and I'd love to run it by you and see what you think.

Tim is a former Christian and Priest, a recovering Fundamentalist who was preaching before he could drive, and currently considers himself a "Hopeful Agnostic." He is also very proud to call UUCSV his spiritual home.

Sunday, 11 November 2012, 11 a.m.

Breaking Ranks

Rev. Michael Carter

Sunday, November 11th is Veteran's Day. This morning we will explore the role of the veteran in our society, particularly those who served in Vietnam. What message do these men and women have to teach us about war and its aftermath. Can we honor the veteran and still be against war as a means to solving our problems as a nation? In the beginning I wasn't so sure.....Our youth will join us for a segment of our service as well.

See you there!



Sunday, 18 November 2012, 11 a.m.

Election 2012: Hate Is Easier than Love

Jeff Hutchins

UUCSV's own Jeff Hutchins will lead our intergenerational pre-Thanksgiving service. His homily will reflect on the major national elections just 12 days earlier, and in particular will consider if and how Americans can heal the deep divisions that permeated this election cycle. We will also launch our annual Guest at Your Table project and hear from the UUCSV Choir. There will be a story for all ages, after which our children and youth will remain in the service.

Sunday, 25 November 2012, 11 a.m.

An Attitude Of Gratitude

Rev. Michael Carter

Recently, a good friend of mine was fired from his job in a less than civil manner. He had just gotten married this past summer, traveled to Europe for vacation, and life was being, oh, so kind. The he gets terminated. As we all do when the slings and arrows of life are hurled our way, he had forgotten about all of the good that was in his life. On this Sunday after Thanksgiving, let us revisit what it means to develop and to maintain an attitude of gratitude, and to still be able to fully experience the hurts, losses, joys, and challenges that life has to offer. Happy Thanksgiving to All!



Religious Education Corner



It's hard to believe that I'm already writing about holiday services. Where did the days go this year? I don't have an answer to that, but I know days seem to go faster and faster as I get older. It's nice to remember, as we begin the holiday season, that our children and youth can see the world much differently. Where we adults often get caught up in one deadline or another and have to work really hard to remember to slow down and enjoy the moment, young people often have this outlook all the time. Enjoy the world through a child's eyes when you can. Smell the flowers. Enjoy these beautiful fall colors. Go on a hike. Breathe!!!

Classroom Attendance

We've continued to have great attendance in our Sunday morning classes. We've consistently had two to three in the preschool, five in the elementary grades, and four to five in the senior high/young adult class. Remember you are always welcome to bring a friend to class with you so he/she can see what we are all about!

Classes for the Coming Month

Preschool—Our Natural World

Cooperative play and nature stories

Parents are asked to remain with their children during the November 18 service. The preschool room will be open, but childcare will not be available.

Preschool care will be available on November 25

Grades K-6—Celebrating Rainforests

November 4 Life in the Rainforests—Animals

November 11 Planning for Rainforest Service Project (IG beginning)

November 18 IG Service—Guest At Your Table

November 25 No RE. Children may attend the service

Grades 8-12/young adult—Sharing the Journey: Small Group Ministry with Youth

November 4 Worship

November 18 IG Service

Religious Education Corner

Annual Halloween Party!!

We had about twenty-five children, youth, and adults in attendance at our annual Halloween party, a little early this year due to some scheduling conflicts for the party organizers this time around! Fun was had by all, with a popular new feature, the haunted maze, created by Steve and Stephen Ball. Thank you so much!

And thanks to all the other volunteers who made our scary evening so much fun. Scott and Susan Shaw, Beata Ball, Heidi Blozan, Amy Williams, Evelyn Carter, Cora Blozan, and anyone else I'm forgetting!

November 18 Service

We continue our annual tradition of the Sunday before Thanksgiving being dedicated to our intergenerational gathering service. This is the Sunday when we will give out *Guest At Your Table* boxes, begin our month-long food drive, and spend time together as an intergenerational family. Childcare will NOT be available this Sunday, so that all of our teachers and other preschool volunteers may join in the service. Children of all ages are welcome, but we ask that parents of young children feel free to join your children in the preschool room if you need to leave the service.

Annual Food Drive

Plans are underway for working with Manna and Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministries again this year for our month-long food drive. This will begin as noted on November 18 and continue through the middle of December. Please be generous. This is the time of year when so many need so much.

Important Dates to Remember

November 4 RE Committee meets 12:30 p.m.

November 11 Intergenerational beginning with Michael Carter

November 18 Full intergenerational service with Jeff Hutchins; *Guest At Your Table* and food drive

As always, feel free to call me if you have an idea to share or have any concerns.

—*Sybil Argintar, Director of Religious Education*

sybil.argintar@yahoo.com, 230-3773

Membership Committee

We are starting to plan with our Minister Rev. Carter, the so called UU 101, and our minister will do this maybe toward the end of this year or early next year. We are also starting to plan to get a new Church picture directory and will let everyone know when and where this will take place.



We are always glad when we get a request for membership in our congregation. We have not had any lately, but have had many new visitors and return visitors to our great services. Rev. Carter's Sunday services seem to draw especially large crowds into our small church.

—Ann Sillman, Membership Chair

Social Action Committee

What do Emory Underwood, Connie Krochmal, Diane Hutchins, Monroe Gilmour, Robbie Madden and Helen Bell have in common? They are all members of this congregation's Social Action Committee, meeting once a month to carry out activities/projects and decide how to spend the SAC's budget. However, six people can not do it alone so they depend on UUCSV members and friends to help them out. At the recent PRIDE CELEBRATION the following non-committee members helped to staff the table - Sue Stone, Geoff Stone, Teresa Ballinger, Angie Underwood, and Jeff Hutchins. David Reid lent us his tent. Without the aid of these people, the committee wouldn't have been able to support our LGBT friends/family and represent UUCSV in the community. Thanks, you all.

—Helen Bell



Choir News

In November we will move to the third Sunday, performing on the 18th. We will sing one song with the RE children in honor of Thanksgiving. So we will meet on Sunday November 11th at 12:15 PM, on WEDNESDAY (not Thursday) the 14th at 6:30 PM, and again on the day of performance, Sunday the 18th at 10 AM.

Come sing with us!

—Linda Metzner, Choir Director



Birthdays

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



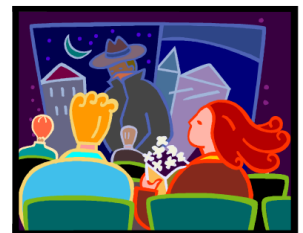
If you would like your birthday posted in the church bulletin, please fill out the form located on the table in the foyer.

Friday Fling

November's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on 16 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 "Hairspray" (2007; John Travolta, Michelle Pfeiffer, Christopher Walken) will be shown. For further information call Norm Kowal (669-4668).

The original "Hairspray" was a 1988 movie directed by John Waters, and was the first movie we showed at our Friday Fling series many years ago. A Broadway musical was created on the basis of that film, and this version is based on the musical. John Travolta plays the part that Devine played in John Waters' original film!





Under sunny skies, the 14th Interfaith House “officially” got underway. Homeowner-to-be Doris Pacheco was all smiles as were the staff, volunteers, Interfaith community members, and Doris’s supportive co-workers who came out for the event. (Doris, holding a hammer, is pictured here with some of the Interfaith supporters and volunteers—you may recognize some of them.)

The Coffee Cup Covenant

Some of us have marked ceramic cups as our own for use during coffee hour, and we do appreciate your desire to not use paper coffee cups which saves the environment and the budget. If you have seen our kitchen, formerly known as a closet, you will understand that we can not officially offer reusable cups to the congregation because we can not be certain we are cleaning them to the standards of the county health department. There is no dishwasher or other required equipment to clean cups to the high standards required, so, yes, you are taking a risk to use ceramic cups, but that was part of the original covenant for those that inscribed their name on the bottom of a cup.

The other part of the covenant was that the coffee hosts would take cups out to the table, but the idea was that individuals would clean their own cup and replace it on the rack. Lauris and Pete installed a separate sink in the office to make this possible, and added hooks and storage space for the cups above the sink. So, if you are using a ceramic (or even a plastic) cup on Sunday, please help the host by taking it into the office and washing it to whatever standard you feel appropriate for your health and well being. If you are still using disposable cups each week, we encourage you to bring a ceramic cup or grab an unlabeled cup and put your name on it, and we will set it out each Sunday.

—Milt Warden

UUSC Holiday Card Sales Begin Nov. 11th

Make plans to buy your UUSC Holiday cards early while supplies last. Sales will begin on Sunday November 11th before and after the service, in the foyer. Card sales help to support UUSC human rights work around the world.

This year you can choose from five exquisite different card packages. All packs are \$10 for ten cards (except as noted below). We will also have appealing Winter Penguins Blank cards to bring cheer throughout the winter months. The Winter Penguins pack contains three cards each of four designs for a total of twelve, which is like getting two cards for free. You can pay by cash or check made out to UUSC.

—Connie Krochmal, Social Action Holiday Card Sales Coordinator

From the Editor—The Last Word



ON THE EIGHTH DAY, GOD FOUND A LOT OF ASSEMBLY PARTS LEFT OVER.