



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, October 16 • 6:00 p.m.

UUCSV Newsletter

Send newsletter information to
Norm Kowal
normankowal@bellsouth.net

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2007 at 10 a.m.
Covering November 2007

*Design and Printing by
American Speedy Printing Center
Asheville, NC*

Congregation Votes 57-0 to Affirm Itself a Welcoming Congregation

On September 16, after the Sunday service, the Congregation voted 57 to zero to affirm itself as a Welcoming Congregation and to request such recognition from the UUA office in Boston.

In the service, titled “What a Journey! A Welcoming Congregation Year!,” Minister Emeritus Dick Stennett summed up beautifully why this vote is so important. Members Robin Tynes, Jim Carillon, Jen Stump, and Tim Perry shared powerfully and poignantly what the year-long process meant to them. The Welcoming Congregation Committee was recognized and thanked by their co-chairs Deb Vingle and Monroe Gilmour. Other members include Peter Boggs, Jane Carroll, Pat Middleton, Tim Perry, Jerry Pope, Carolyn Shorkey, Jen Stump, Angie Underwood, and Emory Underwood.

The sanctuary had been decorated with photos, charts, quizzes, and other mementoes from the nine workshops and numerous other activities. An insert reported on those activities and the Guidelines used by the UUA for BGLTQ Welcoming Congregations. See our web site for details <www.uusv.org>.

Stay tuned for the celebratory party once we get the suitable-for-framing, UUA certificate in the coming months! And thanks to everyone for making this vote and this past year so exciting. Still work to do, of course, but what a great step this is for our Congregation!

UUCSV Ministerial Search

Also on September 16, the Congregation expressed overwhelming support for continuing the search for a half-time minister, including a substantial increase in pledges—sufficient to support such a minister in the 2008/2009 year. The results will be posted on the bulletin board. Consequently, the Board of Trustees charged the Search Committee to resume their search.

Congregational Care Committee

The Chair of our Congregational Care Committee is Angie Underwood (phone 669-0869). The Monthly Care Coordinator for October is Jey Hiott (phone 252-6810). 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.

Orientation to UU

The Membership Committee will hold an “Orientation to UU” session for current, new, and potential members at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 7 at the church, where child care will be provided. New members will be acknowledged at the service on Oct. 14th. If you have questions or are interested in attending the sessions, please contact Jane Carroll at 828-664-1695 or dr_jcarr@msn.com.

Sunday Programming

Please join us for Social Hour after each program

Sunday, October 7, 2007 11 a.m. **"Turning Toward Home"**

Ned Martin

Ned Martin, Outreach Coordinator for the AHOPE Day Center in Asheville, will reflect on what it means to be present with men and women who are homeless. What are the challenges facing them...and us? How can we help those experiencing homelessness begin to turn toward home? Reflecting on his own spiritual journey, Ned will look at the turnings that might occur within those of us who engage in this work and the importance of our and other congregations' ongoing volunteer support of AHOPE and other homeless efforts.

Ned grew up in Roanoke, VA, graduated from William & Mary, and received his M. Div from Duke University. He spent a year in St. Andrews, Scotland, served a Methodist congregation in Haywood County for three years, and is pursuing his interest in Jungian Psychology at the Haden Institute in Flat Rock, NC. Ned and Jennifer McSwain just got married in May 2007. She continues her work as a Methodist campus minister at UNCA, and they both try to apply their experiences to their two cats who, apparently, fight all the time.



with National Public Radio. This radio project was not designed as a springboard for the expression of religious dogma. Rather, it is the telling of one's own personal beliefs, the principles that guide a life. Carolyn Shorkey will guide us through the history of the radio series. We'll witness the reading of several core belief statements. You'll hear selected recorded essays which have been aired on the radio. Guidelines for writing your own essay will also be presented.

Carolyn Shorkey is a charter member of UUCSV and a retired teacher of blind and visually impaired children. She has participated in lay led services addressing such topics as the beauty of nature, prayer, and transition to spring marked by the vernal equinox.

Sunday, October 28, 2007 11 a.m. **"Fallen Leaves"**

Byron Ballard

As we enjoy the bittersweet beauty of autumn in the mountains, we are faced with fallen leaves everywhere. And as more and more Americans are looking to their ancestral past through genealogy and family histories, we begin to recognize the fallen leaves that have made us who we are. We will honor them and the "fallen leaves" that protect our nation's interests [Oil?—Ed.] in Iraq and Afghanistan with a traditional Samhain memorial.

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, October 14, 2007 11 a.m. **New Member Sunday** **"Enlightenment Religion and the Uses of Endarkenment"**

The Rev. Sarah York

Endarkenment—What's that? It is a word Sarah has made up, as she explores our UU heritage of enlightenment religion and transcendentalist spirituality in the context of the 21st century. Children and teens will join us for the first part of the service.

Sunday, October 21, 2007 11 a.m.

"This I Believe"

Carolyn Shorkey

This lay led service is generated from the publication, "This I Believe, The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women," edited by Jay Allison and Dan Gediman, in association



Artwork by Evelyn Carter

Getting to Know You: Joe Haun

Joe was born in the Shenandoah Valley of VA, and lived in CT and PA, where his father was a Congregational minister and finally in TN where he taught in Vanderbilt University (School of Religion).

Joe was an aviator/flight instructor with the navy in 1943-45, a plant physiologist at Dupont in 1951-56, a horticulturist/investigation leader with the USDA in 1957-64, and a horticulture professor at Clemson in 1965-84. He is the author of 65 publications that reported the results of research on the development of new crops for the United States, and on the relationships of environmental factors to the development and yield of major crops. Having reached his 86th year, professional work has about ceased, although satisfaction continues with periodic Google searches of "Haun stage."

Travel has been a major activity. About 35 trips to Europe, including sabbaticals in England and Norway; six trips as host for Southern Living Magazine's garden tours; consulting and professional meetings; and to England visiting relatives of his sons (their grandparents emigrated from there in the twenties). Many camping trips all over the US and Canada were made while the boys were growing up.

He is married to the former Helen Newton Sisk. Since he constructed his last three homes, he believes that this would be considered a significant hobby. Lucas, his Bassidor (Basset/Labrador) pet is a great joy and constant companion.

After a life of contact with "religion" at home, Berea, and UU associations, he has continued with extensive study of the philosophy and history of religion. A very satisfying understanding has been developed for the great questions that have existed for the nature of life and the humanitarian solutions to problems of the world.

Wednesday Night Adult Education Program

Beginning on Wednesday, October 10, UUCSV will host a viewing and discussion of the incomparable six-part Bill Moyers/Joseph Campbell interview entitled "The Power Of Myth." Each recorded segment lasts for one hour, beginning at 7:30pm, with discussion to follow. All are welcome to attend each program as you are able. The series will conclude on Wednesday, November 14.

Autumn Covered Dish Feast

Please join us for a celebration of New Member Sunday! To welcome and honor our new members, the Hospitality Committee will host a covered dish autumn harvest luncheon following the service on October 14th. Won't you bring your favorite slow food casserole or salad to share with your church community? The Hospitality Committee will provide you with a New Member specialty cake, fancy bite sized desserts, and beverages. To reduce the amount of trash we generate, you are encouraged to bring your own place setting. We look forward to welcoming our new members and celebrating our community with you on Oct. 14th!

October Volunteer Greeters

October 7: Bette Bates, Robert Tynes, and Carolyn Metcalf

October 14: Judy Lutvack, Frohm Lutvack, and Jim Carillon

October 21: Evelyn Carter, George LeRoy, and
Friend Skinner

October 28: Esther Miller, Fern Martin, and
Monroe Gilmour

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.

Adult Forum

The Covenant Group led by Bette Bates and Emory Underwood has decided to morph into an Adult Forum to be held before church on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month from 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Our intent is to offer stimulating material followed by an animated discussion, on topics of interest to the group. Our thinking is that this would be an adult RE forum that is open to all interested, and maybe those that come to the forum will take turns coming up with topics of interest.

The kick off for this new (to UUCSV) activity will be focalized by Emory and will consist of a panel discussion on "Should Science Address Spirituality" (?) scheduled for October 14th and October 28th.

Being considered for Nov. 11th is a video "Slave Reparations: The Final Passage" focalized by Geoff Stone. Funding for the creation of this video came from the UUA and is being distributed by the UUC of the Palisades.

Our group has a list of topics that we are considering for this forum, however, we are eager to learn about topics that others would like to focalize. Contact Geoffrey Stone (gfstone@bellsouth.net) with your suggestions.

Birthdays in October

Oct 1st Marilyn Wells

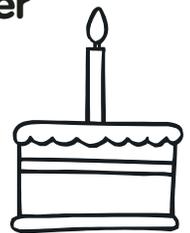
Oct 8th John Burns

Oct 11th Geoff Stone

Oct 12th Bob Baxter

Oct 12th Dawn Wilson

Oct 19th Karen McClelland



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

Warblers Rehearsals

All you singers, don't forget to come sing with the Warblers! We'll rehearse the third Sunday after church, October 21st, and the 4th Sunday at 10:00 AM, before church, October 28th.

All are more than welcome!

Friday Fling

October's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on October 19th 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 "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" will be shown, and we can spend some time visiting afterwards. For further information, call Norm Kowal (669-4668).

A Cooperative History

As we explore the future growth of our church, it's helpful to reflect upon our history. About 7 years ago, the Asheville UU Church chose to create and finance a spin off congregation because they were outgrowing their space, Mary Alm (currently Board of Trustee's president of UUCA) and Allie Gooding agreed to go to Boston to get trained in the process of starting a new congregation. Thanks to Mary, Allie and so many others from UUCA who helped the Black Mountain group to get this congregation formed. Today, we are delighted to be able to hire the assistant minister of UUCA, the Rev. Sarah York, to help us during our transition between ministers. UUCA minister, the Rev. Mark Ward, has been in our pulpit and attended Rev. Dick Stennett's final sermon in our church as our minister. Members of UUCA have made and continue to make financial contributions to this church. There is currently and will continue to be a cooperation between the two congregations which benefit the greater good of both churches. There is a role for a big UU church and an equally important role for a smaller UU church in Buncombe County. I wrap myself in gratitude for the relationship between UUCA and UUCSV. Aren't we fortunate?

↪ *Carolyn Shorkey*

UUCSV Library

Check it out: The UUCSV Library is now up and running! Any book, video or tape on the labeled shelves in the Office/Library/Preschool Classroom may be checked out by simply filling out the "card" inside the cover and placing it in the check-out check-in box on the shelf. Items may be returned by placing them in the same box. (Please don't re-shelve or borrow materials from unlabeled shelves, as they are not part of the library.)

We are still accepting donations of books, videos, etc., so if you have items you have been thinking about donating, feel free to bring them in anytime - although if you have lots of them, it might be best to bring them a box or two at a time. It is also possible for members and friends to lend materials to the library, and thus share them with the congregation, while still retaining ownership of them. Of course, we can't absolutely guarantee that they won't get lost or damaged, but we'll do our best.

A complaint or two has been heard about having to step over the preschoolers' toys to get the library. Admittedly, that is a minor inconvenience, but rest assured, as soon as someone decides to foot the bill for expanding our building, we will alleviate that problem. In the mean time, we'll just have to step carefully.

↪ *Tim Perry*

Religious Education Corner

We began our regular RE classes on September 9, with great attendance—over 20 children and youth! For the first time this year, we have our elementary kids separate from our middle school group. We are maxed out on space, using the office for our pre-school, the main RE space for elementary age kids, and the two smaller rooms for middle and high school. Due to only minimal attendance we made the decision to teach the OWL class to our high schoolers in the spring, and teach Truth and Meaning to them this fall. That class will start up on September 30 and will run concurrently with all the other classes.

Our "Chalice Children" preschool group is spending time getting to know each other, hearing stories, and playing. The elementary children are busy exploring their little pieces of the earth. As part of their Experiences with the Web of Life curriculum, each child has adopted a small area on the church grounds that they will explore as the seasons change. They are keeping a classroom journal, and have been learning some earth prayers and chants. The middle school has been working on creative art projects in the You the Creator curriculum, and our senior high youth have met as a covenant group and attended some of the services. Robin Tynes participated in the service on September 16 focusing on the journey to our becoming a welcoming congregation.

We have a fantastic team of volunteers working with your children this year. These include Margaret Bumgarner, Courtney and Philip Constable, Sarah Scott, Krista Brown, Carolyn Shorkey, Sabrina Mills, Evelyn Carter, Jo Motzko, Sam Hinton, Monroe Gilmour, Fern Martin, Bette Bates, Ursula Goebels-Ellis, Trish Byers, Tim Perry, Phil Fryberger, Heidi Blozan, Milt Warden, and Robyn Schuster. Since we have such a big team, these teachers and assistants will get to attend services part of the time and be with the youth the rest of the time. Give them all a smile and a big thank you when you see them!

Mark your calendars now, because these will be coming up quicker than you think! October 26 will be a family dress-up, potluck, and movie night for Halloween, and plans are underway for a musical service on December 16 led by children and youth.

I will be participating once/month in the service led by Sarah York, reading a related story to the children at the first part of the service. The first time we'll do this is October 14. The RE committee is also planning to work with Sarah on some intergenerational worship ideas. We tentatively have some workshop time set up with her in October. Your input is welcome as we begin our work in this important aspect of church life.

Emory Underwood and I have worked together to update the RE portion of the church's website. All of our curriculum offerings are posted on there, and visitors are welcomed to attend at any time. Please take a look if you haven't been on the website lately.

As always, feel free to see me Sunday mornings if you have any questions or concerns!

↪ *Sybil Argintar, RE Coordinator*

Transformational Stewardship - A Guide to Growth, Giving and Gratitude

This year's Fall Leadership Conference will have a single theme where we'll examine stewardship from a multi-dimensional perspective deeply rooted in UU theology and social responsibility. Congregations are invited to send teams comprised of ministers, religious educators, board members, membership chairs, finance chairs, youth and other leaders to participate in this state-of-the art training experience.

October 12-13 Hosted by the Knoxville's Unitarian Universalist Churches at Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church Knoxville, TN. More information is available on the District website (tjd@uua.org). If you are interested in attending this workshop, notify Evelyn Carter (gardenerev@aol.com) for registration details and to make plans to carpool. An identical workshop will be held in Savannah in January, which a couple of board members plan to attend.

Room in the Inn

Our next Room in the Inn is a very special one. This Social Action project will be on Nov 23rd, the day after Thanksgiving at the Black Mountain Presbyterian church annex. Let's all pitch in to help make this a memorable Thanksgiving weekend for these homeless women.

While some folks are out starting their holiday shopping, our volunteers will provide meals for the women, drive them to and from Asheville in the morning and evening, and serve as overnight volunteers. Families are encouraged to participate as this is a child-friendly activity.

A sign up sheet is available in the foyer, or contact Connie Krochmal at 686-3112.

We will need two volunteers to serve dinner as well as backups for all volunteer positions.

↪ *Connie Krochmal, Room in the Inn coordinator*

A Message from the Green Sanctuary Committee

As UUCSV moves toward becoming a Green Sanctuary, I will write on behalf of the GS Committee and take this opportunity to summarize the meaning of our becoming green and our goals for the next one to two years. We hope you will decide to be actively involved in the activities we will undertake in the months to come. ↪ Jane Carroll, Co-Chair, Green Sanctuary Committee

A Green Sanctuary is a congregation that lives out its commitment to the Earth by creating a sustainable life style for its members as individuals and as a faith community. Sustainable living is not about our material comfort (though these choices are an important part of the overall life style); it is about choosing to live in a way that nurtures life, builds relationships, and rejects material consumption as the sole determinant of happiness.

Program Goals:

- To build awareness of societal environmental issues among UUs.
- To generate commitment for personal lifestyle changes.
- To motivate UUs to community action on environmental issues.
- To build a connection between spiritual practice and environmental consciousness.
- To build awareness of and rectify environmental injustices.

One function of the Green Sanctuary Committee is to communicate with the congregation. The following report was brought to our attention by Esther Miller, a committee member. This online report is from the Physicians for Social Responsibility. We hope you will read this report with the mission of the GSC in mind. Thank you.

↪ *Jane Carroll, Co-Chair, GSC*

Having increased by more than 30 percent since pre-industrial times, the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide is now higher than at any point in the last 420,000 years. The United States alone produces approximately one-quarter of global greenhouse gas emissions. Unless global warming emissions are reduced, temperatures will increase by an additional 2.5 to 10.4 degrees Fahrenheit during the next 100 years. A 20% reduction in these emissions is necessary by 2020 with an 80% reduction by mid-century in order to slow, stop and reverse global warming and its catastrophic consequences.

It is clear that global warming is no longer just a prediction. Melting glaciers, rising oceans, prolonged droughts, stronger hurricanes, and more intense heat waves are examples of the impacts already happening worldwide. The potential health effects of these changes are very serious. Death and injury from natural disasters, heat-related illness, pest and water borne diseases, malnutrition, and air and water pollution will affect people across the country and around the globe. Children, the poor, the elderly, and anyone with a weak or impaired immune system are the most vulnerable.

The United States has a greater ability to adapt to and to prepare for these changes than other countries because of our strong health care infrastructure and economy. We must act now to slow and eventually reverse global warming by significantly reducing fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, we need to invest in strategies that will help us to prepare for what may come. It is essential that we formulate and implement plans to improve our public health infrastructure, including disease surveillance and emergency response capabilities. Continued research is needed to better understand the relationships among global warming, the health of ecosystems, and the health of the public.



Unitarian Universalist

Congregation of the Swannanoa Valley
500 Montreat Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711

Monthly Committee Meetings, etc.

(CG = Covenant Group)

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