

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY

October 2009

Volume VIII, Issue 10

Religious Freedom — Diverse Perspectives



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

From Your Intern Minister . . .

In October we return to having children in the beginning of the worship service on the first Sunday of the month; occasionally we will have a complete intergenerational service. This year, our older youth (Coming of Age) will be having their RE classes before Worship, so that they can attend the services.

Our Unitarian Universalist tradition is different from much of Christian church tradition in that children are generally not included in worship. This is probably due to the fact that we do not have Sunday school for adults, and so children go to Religious Education classes while adults attend worship. Also, we are generally unlikely to see justification for making children sit still for an hour-long worship service. But welcoming children into worship can be challenging for us, especially if they are boisterous or their presence is disruptive. The way that we handle it can either heighten the worship experience or detract from it.

However, our children need to be welcomed into the sanctuary and to know that they belong there, too. If it is our hope that they will continue to value Unitarian Universalism as young people and adults, it is important that we make space for them now and give them opportunities for participation. A few years ago I helped an RE class of high school seniors create a worship service. It was very challenging, in part because most of them had never attended one themselves!

Your support is critical to helping our worship with children be the best it can be. Parents, you can prepare them by talking to them about respectful behavior in a group setting and letting them know what you think is and isn't respectful to others. Also, sit near the front to be close to your child during children's time and gently help them focus. If you need to remove your child from the service for a few minutes and then try again, don't hesitate-- parents aren't the only ones coming and going during the service. If someone else's child seems disruptive to you, try to be patient and supportive in letting them know your perspective and offer to help if you can. Let parents know when you notice their children behaving well, too!

Worship with our children can be one of our richest times together if we plan well and offer each other the grace that our faith calls us to give all people. An excellent way to assure that our children and families feel they belong is to get to know them outside of our worship services. This month offers many opportunities to do that! Please see the church calendar for details . . .

In gratitude--

—Sally Beth



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(Office Hours: TWT 3-6)

Board Meeting: Tuesday 20 October, 6 p.m.

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

Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday 20 October,
10 a.m., covering November 09

Board Notes . . .

Dear Friends,

Our board meetings are going well. At our last meeting we figured out a way to approve and post minutes in a week's time. I hope this will help you to stay informed of the progress being made in your congregation. The board is always looking for ways to improve our efficiency thus giving us more time for matters that transform our congregation and the communities we live in.

I was nurtured and supported by the Thomas Jefferson District (TJD) last Saturday. Our Unitarian Universalist Association district put on a free workshop for Presidents, administrators and Directors of Religious Education. I was able to meet with other presidents to share and hear our successes and challenges. The day was well worth my effort to get there.

At our last congregational meeting we approved a budget. This budget was not able to include full payment of our dues to the Thomas Jefferson District and the Unitarian Universalist Association. We accepted this budget knowing that we would raise the rest of the money so we can pay our fair share. On Saturday October 24 we will be able to accomplish our goal of raising this money! Members of our congregation took it upon themselves to organize such an event. Please plan to attend this Gala Gathering. The money we raise that night will not only allow us to pay our fair share but it also strengthens our ability to make this world a better place. Thank you in advance for your generous contributions.

I am honored to be in the role of President. The board and I appreciate your support and guidance in carrying our mission forward. And as a reminder of our mission I am including it here: to create an open, active and welcoming liberal religious community that: nurtures spirituality, inspires growth and learning in search for truth, and challenges us to live our values conscientiously through service and example.

Sincerely,

—Heidi Blozan



Drum Circle

The UUCSV Drum Circle is official! We meet on the 3rd Friday of the month at 5:30 pm (just before the Friday Fling!) Bring a drum if you can, but there are some available for borrowing as well as other rhythm instruments.



UUCSV member Jerry Sillman, husband of Ann for 57 years, was remembered at a beautiful memorial service on September 19, here shown with Intern Minister Sally Beth Shore is Ann and her son Ed and family. A wonderful lunch and fellowship followed the service.

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 4 October 2009, 11 a.m.

Changing the World with Ideas about the Brain, Creativity, and Happiness

Sally Beth Shore

Those of us who attended the August adult education series were exposed to some fairly unconventional ideas regarding creativity, happiness and the human brain. "We believe passionately in the power of ideas to change attitudes, lives, and ultimately, the world," states the website for the Technology, Entertainment, and Design conference, which provided the source material for our discussions. Those who participated in this fascinating discussion series will share their take on how the ideas they heard and shared affected them, and how we might use them to change our world.

Youth in grades K-7 will begin the service in the Sanctuary before going to their classes.

Sunday, 11 October 2009, 11 a.m.

Where Is It Written?

UUCSV Written Word Covenant Group

One year ago a covenant group called The Written Word was formed by a dozen members and friends of UUCSV. Their goal was to share a love of writing, their own or that of others. Some were experienced writers- poets and writers of fiction or memoir. Others enjoyed reading good writers and sharing that work with the group. Others wanted a safe place to try out beginning work.

In this program you will see how the covenant group helped the members grow in their love and creation of writing. Even more significantly, members said, as they worked together, they felt a new sense of trust taking place and the growth of a spiritual bond.

Come hear their writings and see how a covenant group builds lasting bonds both for the individual and our congregation.



Sunday, 18 October 2009, 11 a.m.

Unitarian Universalism: A Prehistory

Sally Beth Shore

Do you know who Michael Servetus was? Or Francis David? Today you will learn about them and many others as we devote a service to the roots of Unitarian Universalism, which go way back-- at least as far as Christianity and maybe farther. You may be surprised to find that people who held values similar to our own have been part of the religious landscape for a long, long time. Could it be that perhaps we aren't as unique as we think we are, and could it be that these ideas increasingly pervade the world?

Sunday, 25 October 2009, 11 a.m.

Remembering Those We Have Lost

Sally Beth Shore and Phil Fryberger

Today's service will be a reflective service of remembering those we have lost to death in the preceding year or in previous years. Worship Committee Chair Phil Fryberger and Intern Minister Sally Beth Shore will lead this service of music, meditation, and sharing. Bring a photograph to place on the altar if you wish.

Sunday, 1 November 2009, 11 a.m.

Loving Yourself as Spiritual Practice

Sally Beth Shore

Having an ego and truly loving oneself is not the same thing. For some of us, seeing ourselves as lovable and worthy doesn't come naturally-- in fact religious doctrine may interfere and diminish that ability, especially as so much of western religion centers around fear, original sin, and guilt.

This is my one-year anniversary of being hired by UUCSV, and I will take this time to express gratitude, learnings, and some thoughts about my call to the Unitarian Universalist Ministry.

Youth in grades K-7 will begin the service in the Sanctuary before going to their classes.

Religious Education Corner

Religious Education Classes

We began our first week of classes on September 13, with fifteen children in attendance, including our five youth in the Coming of Age program. Thanks to all the youth and their parents for getting to church on time, at the earlier hour for the COA class. Youth have attended the service or helped in one of the classrooms as needed after their class time. The first week was mostly a "getting acquainted" time. The preschool has begun learning about famous UUs, beginning with Susan Anthony. Next they'll learn about Clara Barton, James Freeman Clarke, Dorothea Dix, and Ralph Waldo Emerson. The K-3 class will continue learning about the seven UU principles through stories and activities, including *Elijah's Angel*, *On the Night You Were Born*, and *Families* (each person is worthwhile). The grades 4 - 7 class will be focusing on mistakes and forgiveness (tied in with the Jewish New Year), will make chalices, and will visit the Asheville church. The Coming of Age class has begun exploring their value systems. Thanks to the many dedicated teachers who are making this happen!

Coming of Age

Congratulations to Heidi Blozan for winning our rain barrel raffle! Heidi and her family will make good use of that in their garden. We raised \$51.00 from this fundraiser. See below for upcoming COA fundraisers. We have set the dates of June 11-16, 2010 for our Boston trip, which will allow us to be in Boston on a Sunday to attend a UU service, and we hope to be there for the annual Gay Pride

parade. Extras we are exploring beyond our UU explorations include whale watching and a trip to Walden Pond. Stay tuned!

Boo at the UU!!

We had so much fun last year, we're doing it again. The RE Committee will be planning and sponsoring a Halloween Party on Friday October 30 from 6 - 8 p.m. Watch for details in the weekly happenings. If you can donate decorations or food, please let me know. Plan to join us, in costume of course, for a fun evening.

Important Dates to Remember

October 4: sandwiches/dessert after church

October 30: Halloween Party 6 - 8 p.m.

November 1: sandwiches/dessert after church

November 14: talent show and coffee house (youth plan)

December 6: sandwiches/dessert after church

Sybil Argintar, RE Coordinator

merlasybpenny@yahoo.com

230-3773



The Coming of Age program got a great kick-off with a family potluck and sash presentation ceremony on August 28. Pictured here with RE Director Sybil Argintar (center) and Intern Minister Sally Beth Shore are the big five participants, Sam Scott, Aaron Eliot-Gaines, Sarah Gilmour, Emily Eliot-Gaines, and Laine Everly. They will examine their own and UU values and beliefs during the year culminating in the writing of their personal credos and a trip to UUA offices in Boston next June.

Green Sanctuary



It's official! As of September 10 we're now an accredited Green Sanctuary. We'll be receiving a Green Sanctuary certificate, which will be framed and displayed. This will be followed by recognition as an accredited Green Sanctuary at General Assembly in Minneapolis in 2010.

A copy of the letter is reproduced below.

We thank everyone in the congregation for helping us carry out these projects and for all of their support the last couple years.

Green Sanctuary

Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

Congregational Stewardship Services

25 Beacon Street

Boston, MA 02108

617.948.4251



Congregations and congregants working together to restore Earth and renew Spirit.

September 10, 2009

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Swannanoa Valley

Green Sanctuary Committee

Jane J. Carroll, Chair

500 Montreat Road

Black Mountain, NC 28711

Congratulations! With this letter, the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, Office of Congregational Stewardship Services is honored to formally recognize Unitarian Universalist of the Swannanoa Valley as an Accredited Green Sanctuary.

We appreciate your thorough documentation of your Green Sanctuary activities. Descriptions of each activity helped us to understand how much you have accomplished. You have succeeded in integrating the Green Sanctuary program goals into the ongoing life of your congregation through the many projects you have carried out. Your application offers strong evidence of the positive environmental consciousness that has developed in your congregation, resulting in new behaviors and new lifestyle choices by members individually and by the congregation as a whole. We were especially inspired your connections with the Pisgah View Community Peace Garden. You now have a great foundation for continuing action in the future.

We know you are looking forward to celebrating your accomplishments with your congregation. Your Green Sanctuary certificate is being sent under a separate cover for you to display in a prominent place. You will be recognized as an Accredited Green Sanctuary at General Assembly 2010 in Minneapolis, as that time nears I will send you more information.

I do hope you are proud of your accomplishments. You have truly taken the goals of the Green Sanctuary Program to heart. Again, congratulations on successfully becoming an Accredited Green Sanctuary. Your accomplishments serve as a beacon of hope, demonstrating that we can all make a difference!

To a greener faith-community and world,

Robin Nelson

Robin Nelson

Program Manager, Congregational Stewardship Services

Unitarian Universalist Association

25 Beacon Street

Boston, MA 02108

phone (617) 948.4251

fax (617) 742.0321



UUCSVers have been involved in several health care reform rallies and other events this fall. Here (l-r) Sarah Gilmour, Monroe Gilmour, Rebecca Williams, and Fern Martin make their views known. Also, Intern Minister Sally Beth Shore was one of over 80 area faith community leaders signing a public letter calling for health care reform. We showed the film, "Money-Driven Medicine" at the church on October 1.

Congregational Care

The Congregational Care Committee is ready to assist our congregation in time of need by providing transportation and meals for those who are facing difficult circumstances. The Co-Monthly Coordinators for September-December will be Kay-Sea Conklin (686-7502, cell: 230-2227, kay-seaconklin@charter.net) and David Reid (cell: 713-1607; daviddbreid@charter.net). If needs extend beyond those mentioned, please discuss them with the Co-Monthly Coordinators to see if we might have the resources to help.

Grounds

Grounds welcomes new member Bill Altort. What a nice surprise to show up on Sunday and find he did the mowing. He noticed the grass was getting tall and pitched right in. Grounds thanks Bill for his efforts.

Melanie’s flowers continue to flourish, and we thank her for all of her hard work. She is also planting fall veggies and herbs in the edible crops bed, which contains the apple trees and memorial rose bush. This bed is being expanded backwards until it reaches the fence. We’re in the process of sheet composting, which is also called lasagna gardening. This is an earth-friendly way of killing the grass instead of using herbicides. This involves placing flattened corrugated cardboard boxes and thick layers of newspapers on top of the grass, then covering that with a thick layer of wood chips. By next spring the grass should be dead and the paper will begin to decay. When planting time comes, we’ll just make holes in the paper.

Looking ahead we’ll be scheduling a leaf clean-up day some time between the middle of November and the first week of December. We’ll notify everyone through the weekly email as soon as the majority of the leaves have fallen.

Room in the Inn

Our final Room in the Inn project for the year will be on Oct. 2nd. This happens around the same time as the October newsletter should arrive in your mailbox. We thank everyone who has signed up to help. We have a dedicated group of volunteers that have made this possible for the past five years, and we’re grateful. It just wouldn’t be possible without you.

Once we know the dates for next year we’ll keep you posted.

Connie Krochmal, Social Action, Room in the Inn Coordinator

Choir News

The UUCSV really enjoyed singing "Turn, Turn, Turn" for Jerry Sillman's memorial as well as for Sunday service. Thanks to Ann for the suggestion that was so near and dear to her heart. In October we will meet on Sunday the 11th at 12:30, again on Thursday the 15th at 7 PM, and again on Sunday the 18th at 10:15 for the service at 11 AM. It's a good time to join the choir!
—Annelinde Metzner

Harvest Potluck Planned

Mark your calendar for Oct. 18th! We will set up tables for a full church-wide potluck dinner following the Sunday service on that day. Our goal is to generate no garbage, so please bring your place setting from home including plates, silverware, cups/glasses, and cloth napkin. We look forward to tasting your favorite autumn recipe (hopefully made with locally grown produce) brought to church with a serving spoon.

Remember, starting in November we will discontinue serving potluck snacks after the service. We will resume setting up the snack table in the carport in April. During the colder weather months we hope to have a limited selection of food for sale after the service, as a fundraising activity for our youth.

—Carolyn Shorkey and Milt Warden, Hospitality Co-Chairs

Greeters for October

Oct 4: Daniel Morrison, Barbara Rogers, Bill Altork, Alternate: Mary Soyenova

Oct 11: Daniel Morrison, Bill Altork, Pete Ronman

Oct 18: Daniel Morrison, Bill Altork, Mary Soyenova

Oct. 25: Daniel Morrison, Barbara Pleasants, Bill Altork, Alternate: Mary Soyenova

Birthdays in October

Oct 1st Marilyn Wells

Oct 11th Geoff Stone

Oct 12th Dawn Wilson

Oct 19th Karen McClelland

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

October’s Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on 16 October 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 “Dirty Dancing” (1987, Patrick Swayze, Jennifer Grey) will be shown. For further information, call Norm Kowal (669-4668).



Intern Committee Formed

We are delighted that Sally Beth Shore has been approved to work with UUCSV during her 18 month ministerial internship. She will serve as a ministerial intern at UUCSV, on a half time basis, until December 31, 2010. The Rev. Sarah York has agreed to serve as Sally Beth's supervisor. One of the requirements for Sally Beth's Ministerial Internship program is to meet monthly with her Intern Committee On Ministry. Members of this committee include: Scott Conklin (chair), Jay Ellis, Mamie Hilliard, Carolyn Shorkey, Kim Taylor and Robert Tynes. The purpose of the committee is to help the intern hone the personal and professional skills of ministry. The committee members encourage you to contact them with specific examples of what you think Sally Beth is doing well and areas where you would like to see improvement in her ministerial skills. Your comments will be kept confidential. The committee members look forward to working with Sally Beth during her journey as a ministerial intern.

Carolyn Shorkey

UU-101 Classes

These informal classes about our Unitarian Universalist congregation are scheduled on 2 Monday nights, October 19 and October 26 at 7:00 p.m. (They cover different topics each night, so it is recommended that you attend both of them). These classes are available to anyone, not just newcomers.

Do you have questions about what UU is all about, or how this small group of dedicated people formed UUCSV? Did you know how many others have walked similar paths to get here? We will discuss our UU principles, the congregational history, committee opportunities, as well as share our spiritual journeys. Facilitators include Sally Beth Shore, Heidi Blozan, Mary Soyenova, and Evelyn Carter.

To become a member, our By-laws state that an interested person will follow several guidelines:

- a.. To support the UUCSV "purpose and its covenant with the other member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association;"
- b.. to declare "an intention to support the Congregation with time, energy and finances according to ability, in value exceeding the amount of the Congregation's fair share contribution to the UUA and the TJ District, and subsequently continues such support;"
- c.. and then "sign the Membership Book in the presence of the Minister or a Trustee, and receive an orientation."
- d.. Membership in UUCSV "is open to all qualified persons regardless of race, color, sex, affectional or sexual orientation, age, or national origin."

To celebrate and welcome anyone who chooses to join UUCSV, we will have a special short ceremony, "New Member Recognition" on Sunday, November 15 during the church service.

Senior Companions

The UUCSV now serves as the contact organization of Senior Companions in Black Mountain and Swannanoa. This will be overseen by Land of Sky Regional Council of Asheville, NC. Senior Companions means seniors working with "seniors in need," for services such as transportation to doctors, home visits and help around the home.

Please learn how to get more seniors signed up for the services of this program. It is funded by the government through the Senior Corps but needs your ENERGY to assist in reaching more seniors who can benefit from this project.

There is no cost to the seniors who sign up for these services and its main function is to help keep seniors in their homes. This program, in order to be successful, requires 20-40 hours each week and for the service to be ongoing we need to use these hours.

Daniel Morrison is ready to answer your questions at 686-0578 and dhm45@charter.net. Who among your neighbors can benefit from a senior companion?

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY

Fun-D Raising for UUCSV's Operations

The economy is taking its whack at us, and we are fighting back. An ad hoc committee has been formed to meet the challenge. The Fun-D Raising Committee will be offering activities to our congregation throughout the year. Below are the details of the first exciting offering:



Where: UUCSV Church Building

When: Saturday, October 24th (replacing earlier date of Oct. 3rd)
7p.m. - ?

Who: Adults, Children, Friends, Family
Childcare provided (free). Y'all Come!

What: Food, Drink, and Merriment.

Silent Auction and Live Auction of wonderful things.

Also Available for purchase: donated services, parties,

meals, special foods, and . . .

ALL PROFITS TO GO TO UUCSV

How It Works: You provide a donation of a wonderful white elephant, professional or unprofessional service, specially made food, a party or meal at your home, or whatever you can think of. At *The Galax Gathering* we will put them up for auction or sell them outright, depending on the item.

You help in the success of "Trillium: A Festival of Follies and Flings." Now we ask that you also support "*The Galax Gathering*." Please call or email Evelyn Carter, Marilyn Wells, or Jane Carroll for information or to join the committee.

To make donations, contact dr_jcarr@msn.com; 828-664-1695.

Deadline for donations: September 30, 2009.

From the Editor—The Last Word

Might we consider adopting the practice of sitting, listening, and thinking during the last portion of our Service—the Postlude? I have always felt that it was rude to walk about and chatter while the pianist (usually Sue Stone) was playing some lovely piece of music—sort of uncivilized. Just a thought.

