

NEWSLETTER TEXT FOR OCTOBER 2013

From the Minister

Greetings to All,

Well, we have a new Board Of Trustees and I am beginning my second year as your minister! These are times of excitement and challenge as we continue to serve as a progressive liberal religious voice for this community and for the region. Our adult RE classes are up and running and it appears that attendance is growing as well. We will be continuing to encourage our new members to become more actively involved in our church community as we need your new energy, innovative ideas, your time, your commitment to personal and societal transformation, as well as your financial resources, as they all contribute to the growth of this congregation.

We are in the midst of starting a, Rental Committee, to oversee the rental of our building for events in the community. Our Board Vice President, Ray Cullotta, has been approached on a few occasions by individuals curious as to our rental policy for rites of passage and other events. As a matter of fact on Saturday, September, 28th at 7 pm-8:30 pm, we are having the improvisational group, Asheville Playback Theater, performing for us in our sanctuary. It should be a fun evening for all. We are looking forward to host more events in the not—too—distant future.

By the way, let's not forget our congregational meeting after the service on October 13th. It will be an important one (as they all are) so your attendance is crucial.

You may also be happy to learn that the BOT has been working on a covenant on how to be in “right relationship” with each other as we move forward into the church year. This covenant will give more structure to our meetings each month as well as keeping us focused on the goals at hand, which are modeling healthy servant leadership to this wonderful congregation and to each other. Charity truly begins at home. So you see, change is in the air!

As usual, I would like to close with the words of Max Coots from his book, Seasons of the Self:

Autumn

...It came at night but left the days for self deception. To make us think that Summer stayed.

But Autumn came.

I didn't know it until I saw cucumber leaves closing limp like used yesterdays---one morning after frost.

Cucumbers are better calendars than our calendars. They know when Summer ends. Its life and death to them...

It's hard to let a season go, as Summer went.... I can't help this premature regret for what will be when gold goes brown in some November mockery of Fall. Is Autumn just a colored rag to fling in November's face; an insult to say to December 21st?

If there is any sense to seasons it is this:

That time is timeless and time is Life.

Not Spring nor Summer, not even Fall is gone. Each will be what it becomes, as Winter will be Spring.

The seasons play their walk-on parts, and we can hardly hear the lines, much less know all the plot, except the final line: “Life Abides.”

“Suppose you were an idiot.

Suppose you were a member of Congress,

But I repeat myself.”

—Mark Twain

“Clothes make the individual. Naked people have little or no influence on society.”

“Familiarity breeds contempt---and children.”

“Heaven for climate. Hell for company.”

—Mark Twain

Principles of the Four-Fold Way:

1. Show up, or choose to be present. ... This is the way of the Warrior.
2. Pay attention to what has heart and meaning. ... This is the way of the Healer.
3. Tell the truth without blame or judgment. ... This is the way of the Visionary.
4. Be open to outcome, not attached to outcome. ... This is the way of the Teacher.

—Angeles Arrien, *The Four-Fold Way*

Our beautiful yet delicate planet is at a crossroads. We can either continue to relate to each other with a tribal mentality in which we emphasize the distinctions between us, or we can pierce the mask of duality and embrace our underlying unity. The first choice inevitably leads to conflict, xenophobia, and ecological devastation. The second holds the promise for peace, compassion, and the honoring of our interconnectedness with the web of life.

—Deepak Chopra

As we are together, praying for peace, let us be truly with each other.

Let us pay attention to our breathing.

Let us be relaxed in our bodies and our minds.

Let us be at peace with our bodies and our minds.

Let us be aware of the source of being common to us all and to all living things.

Evoking the presence of the Great Compassion,

let us fill our hearts with our own compassion towards ourselves and towards all living beings.

Let us pray that all living beings realize that they are all brothers and sisters, all nourished from the same source of life.

Let us pray that we ourselves cease to be the cause of suffering to each other.

Let us live in a way which will not deprive other beings of air, water, food, shelter, or the chance to live.

With humility, with awareness of the existence of life and of the sufferings going on around us,

let us pray for the establishment of peace in our hearts and on earth.

—Thich Nhat Hanh

You have no idea of the tremendous release and deep peace that comes from meeting yourself and your brothers and sisters totally without judgment. ...

... The strain of constant judgment is virtually intolerable. It is curious that an ability so debilitating would be so deeply cherished.

—A Course in Miracles

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 6 October 2013, 11 a.m.

What's On Your Rear End?

David Carr

“Since moving to Asheville over four years ago, I’ve noticed more cars with bumper stickers than anyplace that I have lived or visited. Sometimes pithy, sometimes witty, sometimes funny, always brief! What would (or does) your bumper sticker say? But before you answer, let me ask you two very powerful questions . . .”

Dave Carr, a self-described facili-edu-tainer, currently works as an HR consultant and trainer with the city of Asheville. His early career was partnering with his father in owning and running a successful distribution business in Ohio. After discovering his passion was really focused in the training field, Dave has gone on to specialize in the design and delivery of leadership development programs that are customized and experiential. He has worked with a large number of Fortune 500 companies, small and family-owned businesses, government agencies, universities and non-for profit organizations.

Sunday, 13 October 2013, 11 a.m.

Goodbye Columbus

Rev. Michael Carter

This sermon will explore the so called, “discovery of America,” by Christopher Columbus, the political vision of our, “Founding Fathers,” and the incredible diversity of this great nation of ours. The democratic experiment may not yet be over. We have come along way since 1492, and yet we still have an even longer way to go. I believe we can get there only by embracing the notion of Unity in Diversity.

E Pluribus Unum!

Sunday, 20 October 2013, 11 a.m.

Spheres

John Snodgrass

Science and Religion: have they always been enemies? We'll be peering into the past to explore the childhood friendship and adolescent breakup of these heavyweight contenders.

John Snodgrass teaches World Religions at Brevard College and is the author of *Genesis and the Rise of Civilization* and *Turning the Tables: Farming and Feeding in the Gospels*. He lives with his wife and two children in Hendersonville.

Sunday, 27 October 2013, 11 a.m.

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Rev. Michael Carter

This Sunday's talk is about the forgotten art of listening. Nothing can be as painful as the thought that the people close to us are not listening to what we have to say. Listening is so basic that we take it for granted, but unfortunately, most of us think we are better listeners than we really are. Being a good listener also ties into our First (affirming and promoting the inherent worth and dignity of every person) and Seventh (respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part) UU Principles.

We have eyes and do not see, and we have ears and do not hear. If listening strengthens our relationships by allowing us to connect with one another, and I believe it truly does, it also fortifies our sense of self. A good listener helps us to clarify what we think and feel, assisting us in the process of becoming better listeners ourselves. Thus, our lives are co-authored in dialogue. As a wise rabbi once said over twenty centuries ago: He or she who has an ear, let them hear! See you on Sunday. Child care is provided.

Sunday, 3 November 2013, 11 a.m.

Universalist Evangelism

Rev. Judith Long

We don't often think of ourselves as evangelists; for many, the very concept runs counter to our way of being in the world. However, our Universalist heritage has a long history of evangelists. In the late 1800s, Universalist “circuit riding” was a common practice. What might we learn from this dimension of our history which we can take into today's world?

Religious Education Corner



Reflections

Fall is in the air. Those cool nights, beautiful clear days. It reminds me yet again why I live in such a beautiful part of the world. Our RE classes are well underway, and our first day we had fifteen children and youth in attendance. We all joined together in the large RE space the first morning back for our own ingathering, and it was standing room only! Keep up the great work, everyone, and I know we'll have a super year together. Many, many thanks to Sue Phillips, RE Committee Chair, Heidi Blozan, Lisa Brooks, Evelyn Carter, Beata Ball, Kristen Ozuna, Sarah Gilmour, and Dorinda Ball for helping to decorate and get our classrooms ready for the year. They all look fantastic!!

Our senior high group has seven youth enrolled and we will consider this an "official" YRUU youth group class this year. YRUU stands for Young Religious Unitarian Universalists. The youth group will not only attend class together, but we hope will get involved in additional service projects and social events, within our own church community and in the wider denomination as well. Watch out for this great group of youth!

Classes for October 2013

Preschool

Cooperative play time for all

Grades K – 5 Picturebook World Religions

- October 6 Sacred Places
- October 13 Hinduism, "Rama and Sita"
- October 20 Hinduism, "Savitri"
- October 27 Hinduism, "Lighting A Lamp" or "Lights for Gita"

Grades 6 – 8 Neighboring Faiths

- October 6 Judaism—What do we know about the Jewish faith?
- October 11 Field trip to Temple Beth-ha-Tephila in Asheville
- October 13 Judaism—Exploring Judaism with a guest
- October 20 Judaism—Integrating Our Experiences
- October 27 Earth-Centered Traditions—Honoring the Earth

Grades 9 – 12 Building Bridges, YRUU

- October 6 Treasure Everywhere
- October 11 Field trip to Temple Beth-Ha-Tephila in Asheville
- October 20 The Journey Starts At Home

Adult Religious Education Programs for October 2013

Join in on one of these great activities for adults. We have a great program line-up!

October 1 LUUNCH BUUNCH 12 – 1 p.m.
Rev. Michael Carter facilitates

October 8 "How Open the Door: African American in Unitarian Universalism"
Rev. Michael Carter
6:30 – 8 p.m.

October 9 Worship Workshop, 6:30 p.m., focusing upon liturgy, Rev. Michael Carter

Ongoing:

First and Third Tuesdays: Chalice Circle, facilitator Teresa Ballinger, 6:30 p.m.

Second and Fourth Wednesdays: "Wolf Pact" Chalice Circle, closed group, facilitator Dr. Jane Carroll, off-site, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Third Thursdays: Chalice Circle, facilitator Beata Ball, 6:30 p.m.

Boo at the UU Scheduled for Saturday, October 26th!! Fun for All Ages!!

We continue our annual tradition of fantastic Halloween parties! The RE Committee is planning a great evening for everyone, with activities for younger children from 6 – 8 p.m., and for those older youth and adults who are brave enough to stay, a haunted maze from 8 – 10 p.m. (we'll have a "milder" version of the maze for the younger ones earlier in the evening!). Bring your friends and family—more details coming soon, but we'll have face painting, tattoos, trunk or treating, a costume contest (for children, youth, and adults), and maybe you can try your hand at pumpkin bowling.....

Important Dates to Remember

September 29: Classes continue; RE family ingathering picnic at Lake Tomahawk, 12:30 p.m.

October 6: RE Committee Planning Retreat and potluck, 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. at church

October 11: Field trip to Temple Beth-Ha-Tephila in Asheville 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

October 26: Boo at the UU!! 6-8 p.m., for the younger set, with special haunted maze youth activities 8 – 10 p.m.



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

—Sybil Argintar, Director of Religious Education, sybil.argintar@yahoo.com, 230-3773

Choir News

In October, our choir will perform on the 27th. We will rehearse after the service at 12:15 on October 20th, and again on THURSDAY the 24th at 6:30 PM. We will try returning to Thursday rehearsals in order to accommodate more singers with their schedules. We will meet once more on the 27th at 10 AM before the performance.

Many of us enjoyed helping out with Jeff Hutchins' project, the "Bubbleland Anthem." It was a new, fun experience for many to go to George Scott's home studio, put on the headphones and record our voices. Come sing with us - we're friendly!

—Linda Metzner, Choir Director

Re-activating the Green Sanctuary Committee

In 2009 our congregation earned the distinction of being a Green Sanctuary. As such we intend to:

1. make use of our Sunday services and other church activities to identify and address environmental matters.
2. support living the values of the 7th Principle: Affirming and promoting respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.
3. promote responsible collaboration among community and church groups to improve our environment.

I'd like to re-activate this committee by inviting those interested to contact me. We'll take it from there. For more details follow this link and the link imbedded in the link: <http://www.uusv.org/greensanctuary.php>

—Geoffrey Stone, 828-669-0619, gstone@bellsouth.net

Birthdays

October 11th Geoff Stone
October 12th Dawn Wilson
October 15th Diane Graham

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 18 October 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 "Vicky Christina Barcelona" (2008; Javier Bardem, Penelope Cruz, Scarlett Johansson; directed by Woody Allen) will be shown. For further information call Norm Kowal (669-4668).

Committee for Church Rental Space

These are exciting times as our congregation is transforming from a caterpillar into a butterfly. We are growing and we need help from you, the members of this congregation! Recently, there have been several inquiries from the community regarding our church renting space for various activities—weddings, baby showers, memorial services, theatrical performances, etc. Obviously, this is wonderful news as it supports our goals of community outreach, as well as providing potential resources for our congregation.

We are now requiring a committee to oversee the church rental space initiative. This is a marvelous opportunity for those of you who were wondering how to get involved in the life of the church, especially our new members who have recently joined. We need your help! If interested, please contact myself or Ray Culotta and let us know your availability. This is our year so please, if your time permits, give us a hand! I thank you in advance for your commitment to liberal religion in this community and the region.

Justice and Blessings,
Michael

Worship Service Workshop

Interested in learning more about how a Sunday service is put together? The Sunday Service Associates present a workshop with UUCSV minister, Reverend Michael Carter. All are welcome.

Wednesday, October 9th, 6:30 p.m.

"The Importance of Liturgy in a UU Worship Service Context"

The word "Liturgy" means the work of the people. "Worship" means to ascribe worth to something. We also come together in worship to celebrate. In our Workshop, we will discuss what makes a worship service work, and how to avoid the pitfalls of not having the service resonate with a congregation, keeping in mind that we will not be able to satisfy all worship needs each and every Sunday. See you there!

Used Books Galore

The annual used book sale at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Asheville, featuring thousands of good-condition books in almost every category, will take place on October 25-26, 9am-4pm, at 1 Edwin Place, Asheville. For more information, call 828-254-6001.

Congregational Meeting October 13th

The UUCSV Board of Trustees has called for a Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, October 13, 2013 to adopt a 5-Year Growth Plan. In order to qualify to apply for a Chalice Lighter Grant, members of our congregation need to adopt a 5 Year Growth Plan. Please plan to attend this brief but very important meeting. We need your vote to adopt the plan as part of our Chalice Lighter Grant application.

Our SE District of the UUA receives Chalice Lighter Grant requests three times a year. We will be submitting our request to receive grant monies, before the Nov. 15, 2013 grant application deadline. Grants are awarded to a congregation or a cluster of congregations who demonstrate a project which documents an intention to grow a UU faith community. We hope to be selected from other applicants for grant money. The purpose of our grant money request would be to help us to pay for the increase of Rev. Carter's work hours. The 5-year financial projection growth spreadsheet, provided to our members last month, shows how the grant money would fit into our growth plan. Along with other revenue generating initiatives, we will work toward congregational growth in numbers to eventually provide us with the primary revenue source to support Rev. Carter's eventual full time status. Increasing the size of our congregation will add to the strength of Unitarian Universalism in our community.

We are asking for a Chalice Lighter grant of \$25,000. We hope that the funds will be distributed to us over a two year period with the first draw of \$12,500 on July 1, 2014 and the second and final draw of \$12,500 on July 1, 2015. These are suggested figures- we are aware that the grant committee cannot guarantee this specific amount.

An invitation to a Congregational Meeting and copy of the Growth Plan has been sent to members of UUCSV. Please contact our church administrator as soon as possible if for any reason you think you have not received an electronic copy or paper copy of this plan and you are a member of UUCSV. There has been a question and answer session about the plan after the service on Sunday, Sept. 29th. There will be an additional question and answer session after the service on Oct. 6th.

Remember, a Congregational Meeting to adopt the plan will be held on Oct. 13th after the Sunday Service.
—Carolyn Shorkey, Chalice Lighter Grant Manager

MLK Position Open

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Corporation is looking for a part-time clerk to do typing, computer work, etc. to help the President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The position can pay up to \$599/ year and requires someone with the appropriate skills and also the desire to help our mission. To apply, contact Archie Pertiller archie.pertiller@yahoo.com OR Tom Cannon tomcannon45@gmail.com

—Roberta M. Madden

New Interfaith House Kicks Off November 19

You will soon be able to wield a hammer, paint or maybe even carry a box of nails to someone on a ladder. Our annual project to help build Habitat for Humanity's Interfaith House #14 kicks off November 19. And the wall raising ceremony will be Tuesday, November 26.

Those are important dates to remember. Perhaps more important to remember is to contact Susan Culler – 828-779-2120 or susanc7733@gmail.com – if you want to volunteer for the annual congregation-sponsored project. Approximately 15 UUers already have placed their names on the volunteer list – to be a construction or a lunch-provider volunteer. If you have not contacted Susan about this important opportunity to give back to the community, please let her know. This year's 4-bedroom home will be built for the Joneses: Daphne, Annie, as well as Amie's 13-year-old son and Daphne's 3 year-old granddaughter. Annie is blind with other significant health issues, so Daphne is her full-time caregiver. The home will be built in the new Swannanoa subdivision.

Watch the weekly Current for more details about the construction schedule as we get closer to November.