



Unitarian Universalist

Congregation of the Swannanoa Valley

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION

Religious Freedom • Diverse Perspectives

**500 Montreat Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711**

*For more information about our
congregation, call*

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BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, September 16 • 6:00 p.m.

UUCSV Newsletter

Send newsletter information to
Norm Kowal, Editor
normankowal@bellsouth.net

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2008 at 10 a.m.
Covering October 2008

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News from the Board

What a difference this past month has made for the future of our church! Last month we were preparing for a candidating weekend to be concluded by now. Instead we just had a beautiful service on the journey taken by our Search Committee followed by a congregational meeting outlining some alternative next steps for moving forward since our chosen ministerial candidate withdrew.

True to our democratic ideals, our board shared five alternative scenarios for our possible path forward and welcomed your questions, comments and opinions during this amazing congregational meeting. I wish all of you could have seen our democratic ideals in action! A sixth idea emerged from the discussion as many diverse views were shared. Yet with all our remaining diversity at the end of this meeting, what was clear to us on the board listening to you were the following points:

1. There are still many of us highly interested in pursuing professional ministerial leadership of some kind. This could take many forms.
2. We are all tremendously proud of the Search Committee's hard work over the last two years and thank them for taking us so far. Should we continue a ministerial search, we would need to replenish this group with new committee members to carry our leadership search forward.
3. Many of us see now as the opportune time to convene another congregation-wide visioning meeting to guide us in any continued seeking of professional leadership. This would be a great opportunity to take the many diverse opinions we heard at our meeting and collectively reach for consensus about how we proceed from here.

To that end we are currently attempting to schedule just such an all-congregation visioning meeting in the coming month or so with facilitation by a District resource. Soon we'll announce a specific date and time once we get this meeting organized. We wish to strike while our collective energy is hot to learn what we can from this experience and capitalize on the enthusiastic support for continuing forward with our dreams.

Should we decide to move forward with a search of some kind, we'll need new search team members. Let one of us on the board know (our names and phone numbers are on the left) if you might be interested in helping this way. It is an awesome responsibility and interesting journey as we heard from our Search Committee during the 8/24 service. I encourage you to talk with any of them or us about the commitment that this may entail.

I can hardly wait to move forward with all of you during this interesting journey, wherever it may take us next.

~ Jim Carillon, Board President

Room in the Inn

As the economy spirals downward and food costs escalate, the plight of the homeless continues to worsen. We have a chance to do something about that here in Black Mountain. The Social Action Committee encourages UUCSV members and friends to become active in the Room in the Inn program. This program provides homeless women with meals, lodging, and transportation at participating churches in the community.

Lend these women a helping hand on Friday, October 17th at the Black Mountain Presbyterian church annex. UUCSV will be providing all the meals and volunteers that day. A signup sheet is available in the foyer, or contact me at 686-3112. We need van drivers for the morning and evening shift as well as overnight volunteers. Back-ups are also needed for all positions. If you would like to provide food, the women will need breakfast and bag lunches on Friday. For the evening meal, consider providing a casserole, salad, vegetable dish, bread, or dessert. If you're too busy to cook, how about buying pizza or fried chicken? Thanks for helping out with this worthy project.

~ Connie Krochmal, Social Action, Room in the Inn coordinator

Sunday Programming

Please join us for Social Hour after each program

Sunday, September 7, 2008 11 a.m. "The Olive Tree Circus goes to Palestine"



The Olive Tree Circus is a circle of eight non-violent activists, parents, nurses, organic farmers, cooks, artists, teachers and land surveyors united by a love of circus and dedicated to a vision of justice taking root on soils where oppression and occupation exist.

In October, they travel to Bethlehem, Ramallah and Nablus for two weeks, doing circus and puppet-making with Palestinians in support of their struggle. As one of the women in the troupe is from Palestine

and has connections with communities and organizations there, the Circus will work with community groups, in refugee camps, in fields with families harvesting olives, and at the Bethlehem Olive Harvest Festival where they will perform.

During the service, the Circus will share with us part of the show they will take to Palestine: "The Olive Tree and the Wall, a circus about separation and sustainability." Through games and play, they will invite us to join the dialogue about how we can remove walls and repair relationships. For more information about the circus:

www.levantinecenter.org/pages/olive_tree_circus.html and to see coverage of them in the New Haven Advocate: <http://www.newhavenadvocate.com/blogs/home.cfm?aid=8080>.

Sunday, September 14, 2008 11 a.m. "Searching for the sacred without a God" Pat Jobe

Is it possible to be both an atheist and a Christian? Can we follow Jesus and reject the theism of a separate God? If we can, is it a good idea? How do we follow a sacred path?

Pat Jobe is the author of four books. He has read from three of his books at UUCSV in the past, along with Meg Barnhouse and Kim Taylor. His newest book is "Falling In Love With Everything," which is due out in a few weeks. He did Radio Free Bubba on WNCW for 17 years, and has also performed some of those pieces for South Carolina Public Radio. He is the former host of The Connection Independent Television, a former Methodist preacher, a former newspaper editor and currently sells advertising for a community paper in Forest City. He has spoken at Unitarian churches in Hendersonville, Greenville, Spartanburg and Columbia. He has also delivered pizzas for a living, something he says everyone should do at least once.



Sunday, September 21, 2008 11 a.m. "Welcome Home to Health and Wholeness" Rev. Dick Stennett

This is the first in a series of presentations as Dick shares with us the story of the healing journey in which he has been engaged the past several years since his retirement as our minister. The words chosen for the above topic were spoken to Dick by a Shamanic healer of the Huichol Indian tradition. The Huichol Indians have lived peacefully for generations in the Sierra Madre Mountains of central Mexico. The healer had a vision in which Taware, the Huichol name for Grandfather Fire, spoke these words to Dick following a deeply healing experience during a retreat in New Mexico. Dick now sees his cancer as a gift that is leading him to a deeper kind of healing, a healing of the soul.

Rev. Dick Stennett was our consulting minister from 2002 - 2004. He and his wife, Elaine, are members of the congregation.

Sunday, September 28, 11 a.m. "Restorative Justice: 25 Years and Counting" Ellen Clarke

Ellen Clarke is a founder and executive Director of Western Carolinians for Criminal Justice (WCCJ). WCCJ is a non-profit criminal justice and offender treatment agency, committed to the principles of restorative justice and serving western North Carolina since 1983. For over twenty-five years, Western Carolinians for Criminal Justice has been a pioneer in North Carolina's alternative sentencing efforts. Now licensed by the state as an outpatient mental health facility and endorsed by Western Highlands as a Medicaid provider, Women At Risk has gained national recognition for the success of its Program graduates. Ellen will tell us about the founding of WCCJ and we will view the premier of the Women At Risk DVD featuring photography by Benjamin Porter. The DVD features clients and their stories and information about WAR.

Ellen Clarke holds a BA degree from St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg, NC and a MA from Union Theological Seminary in New York City. She is married to John Byrd, a criminal defense attorney practicing in Rutherfordton, NC. They have five children and one grandchild. Ellen Clarke and John Byrd live in Asheville and are members of the Cathedral of All Souls.

Sunday, October 5, 2008 11 a.m. "Gifts of Unitarian Universalism" Rev. Amy E. Brooks

What keeps you in this faith? What holds you, grounds you, gives you meaning? This is a question that I have been thinking about lately. I look forward to sharing some of my thoughts with you as we gather to worship and celebrate our shared life in community.

Amy is no stranger to our pulpit, having served as our consulting minister in 2003. She now is a consultant for the Regional AIDS Interfaith Network in Charlotte, NC. She lives in Huntersville, NC with her husband, Chris Paradise.

Green Sanctuary

Green Sanctuary is delighted to announce that we have been accepted as a candidate for the Green Sanctuary program. Now comes the next phase—completing the action plan.

A quote from John Muir illustrates why we need to make responsible choices about what we eat, and where we choose to buy it. “When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe.” UUA has chosen ethical eating as one of its action issues for 2008-2012, which fits in well with our Green Sanctuary guidelines. They suggest supporting sustainable agriculture and farmers’ markets (which would include tail-gate markets) and encouraging organic community gardens.

Ethical eating guides us to choose organic over conventionally grown foods. On food labels, the word organic is used in different ways. For fresh produce, canned or frozen fruits and veggies, this means the food was organically grown. For eggs, meat, and dairy foods, an organic label means the animals received no antibiotics or artificial hormones. If a processed food label says “100% organic,” the ingredients are from certified organic farms. “Organic” means it has at least 95% organic ingredients. Products that say “Made with Organic Ingredients” only have 70% organic ingredients.

Buying local has added a whole new word to our vocabulary—locavore. The recent salmonella outbreak caused by peppers from Mexico is one example of why locally grown produce is superior. In addition to fresh produce and meats, locavores can also buy honey, bread, and other locally produced items at tail-gate markets. Studies have shown that shoppers are willing to pay a premium price for local products. Shoppers also prefer to buy foods direct from the farmer rather than supermarkets.

Sue Stone is providing UUCSV with copies of the Local Food Guide. This handy reference is sponsored by the Appalachian Sustainable Agricultural Project (www.appalachiangrown.org). This lists U-Pick farms, and tailgate markets as well as vineyards, bakers, and local grocers. The guide features several pages of CSAs (Community

Supported Agriculture). A CSA allows you to buy a share of the harvest in advance through a subscription. You pick up your weekly harvest at the designated pickup point for that particular CSA. Learn more about CSA’s in “Sharing the Harvest-A Citizen’s Guide to Community Supported Agriculture” by Elizabeth Henderson et al. This book is available at local libraries.

The local economy benefits when we buy locally. A study found that each \$18 spent at a local food business equaled \$44 of benefit for the local economy, while the same amount spent at a supermarket chain only adds \$25 to the local economy. Locally grown produce tastes better because it is picked fresh and sold the same day. In addition, local growers offer flavorful, heirloom varieties. Compare this with rock-hard, gas-ripened tomatoes and green peaches from supermarkets.

Organic growers avoid genetically modified (GM) seeds and plants. The dangers of GM foods can’t be stressed enough. Bert Gaines recommends the Institute for Responsible Technology website (www.responsibletechnology.com). The June 2008 edition had a Powerpoint presentation on the risks of GM plants.

The manner in which we prepare and serve the food is also an ethical issue. Green Sanctuary members Geoff and Sue Stone are strong advocates for the Slow Food movement. The national website is www.slowfoodnation.org, while the local one for Asheville is www.slowfoodasheville.org.

We don’t consume all of our food at home. This is where the Local Food Guide comes in handy. It lists caterers and restaurants that serve local foods, most of which is grown organically. The Green Sage Coffeehouse and Café opened recently on Broadway in Asheville. This fair trade establishment is open for lunch and dinner.

Ethical eating also applies to pet foods. In Black Mountain we’re lucky enough to have a local shop selling homemade dog biscuits, etc.

~ Connie Krochmal

Voluntary Simplicity

The Green Sanctuary Committee will be sponsoring a 7-session discussion course on Voluntary Simplicity this fall. The goals of the course are to: Gain an understanding of the meaning of voluntary simplicity, Explore the material and psychological distractions that prevent us from caring for Earth, and Consider how life might be enriched through the practice of simplicity. Session themes include: The Meaning of Simplicity, Living More with Less, money, time, How Much is Enough? and Swimming Against the Tide. A discussion guide is required for participation. The guides are \$15-20, though we may be providing them. Meetings will last about 1½ hours.

Please contact Sue Stone (669-0619, sueastone@bellsouth.net) if you are interested in this course, and let us know what days and times you would be available.



The photo was taken outside of the Sudanese Embassy in December 2007. Bev Hoffman is in the center wearing the UUSV Drumbeat for Darfur t-shirt. On Bev's right is Mia Farrow and on his left is a Jasenka Basic, a Bosnia refugee now a student living in Atlanta. To Mia's right is Joey Cheeks, Olympic speed-skating champion, who was just denied a visa to China to voice his concerns about Darfur there.

Confused about Darfur?

Powerful Film, Thursday, September 11, 7 PM on the UUCSV's BIG SCREEN: Here's an opportunity to understand what is really going on in Darfur in Sudan, Africa. "Darfur Now," a 90-minute critically-acclaimed film released by Warner Independent Films, explores the Darfur conflict through the eyes of six people on the ground, including Don Cheadle, star of Hotel Rwanda. <http://darfurnowtour.com/>.

This film, sponsored by the Social Action Committee, will be followed by a discussion led by Bev Hoffman from Atlanta. He was Campaign Consultant for the UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee)'s Drumbeat for Darfur campaign until June when he became National Outreach Director for Tents of Hope (<http://tentsofhope.org/>). Recently, as part of a public UUSC event, Bev went into the Sudanese Embassy with Mia Farrow. He'll tell us about that experience and the reception they received.

Note that the film will also be screened the next day, Friday, September 12, 7 PM at the UU Church of Asheville, corner of Edwin Pl. & Charlotte St. 28801. For more information, 669-6677.

Footnote from the Library

Perhaps the reader will detect a Victorian flavor to the present communication, for only recently did the writer conclude her reading of the 19th century classic "The Woman in White," an imposing literary effort by Wilkie Collins now found, along with other books numbering in the hundreds, on the shelves of the UUCSV Library. Following an electronic transmission of the register of our Library to those homes where such are capable of being received, a generous infusion of reading materials and recorded films were gratefully received by the Library. As the holdings expand, the varied interests and tastes of our members become evident. The Library hopes that readers, including the Young People, will frequently peruse our modest, but impressive collections and thereby benefit from the wide-ranging resources available to them. The Library is adjacent to the Office and close by the area dedicated to the Chalice Children. "Be a good boy, remember; and be kind to animals and birds, and read all you can." Thomas Hardy

↪ Jane Carroll

SOLS

SOLS is the women's group at UUCSV. We will start meeting on our regular schedule in September. We meet on the 4th Sunday of the month at 12:30 at UUCSV. September 28th, October 26th are the next two dates. We have a bit of business to cover, but mostly we just love to get together and be ourselves in a supportive environment. Bring your stories about your summer adventures! All women are welcome. Contact DawnWilson@aol.com for further information.

SHAMANISM: Healing the Earth, Healing Ourselves.

On September 20th, the Appalachian Chapter American Society of Dowsers is holding their quarterly meeting and the speaker is Beatriz Orive, founder, Awakening the Soul Center. It is an all-day meeting with a covered dish lunch. Non-member charge of \$6. If anyone is interested in going, please call Pat Middleton at 777-6368 and we can meet to car pool or I can tell you where the meeting is located. These meetings are really ah ha moments!!!

Hospitality News

Thanks to Ruh Berg for stepping forward to help distribute beverages and snacks at our August 24th Congregational Meeting. We really appreciate your willingness to help out, Ruh! Also, thanks to Connie Krochmal and Marilyn Wells who are longtime loyal coffee hour hosts.

Please keep in mind that beginning November 2nd through the month of March we will discontinue the potluck snack service during coffee hour. Instead, committees will begin selling snacks and other food items during coffee hour as a fundraiser for their committee. So, beginning in November, instead of bringing snacks to share, bring some money and support a committee fundraiser. We'd appreciate it if you would save your plastic cottage cheese/yogurt containers with lids to be used this winter for soup sales. We will call for the containers when we are ready to have you deliver them to church.

↪ Carolyn Shorkey and Milt Warden,
Hospitality Co-chairs

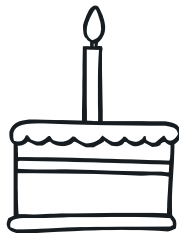
Congregational Care Committee

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. If needs extend beyond those mentioned, please discuss them with the Monthly Coordinator to see if we might have the resources to help. The coordinator for the month of September is George LeRoy (cell: 713-2163).

Committee Chair, Kay-Sea Conklin, 686-7502 or (cell) 230-2227, would be glad to tell you about the committee and/or add you to the "Maybe Once In A While" volunteer list.

Birthdays in September

September 3rd Norm Kowal
September 4th Dan Stupka
September 11th Kyle Schuster
September 11th Bill Rouser
September 14th Carolyn Shorkey
September 14th Milt Warden
September 18th Tim Perry
September 22nd Walter Hoffman
September 24th Cora Blozan
September 25th Olivia Mills
September 25th David Gilmore
September 30th Rebecca Williams



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

Greeters in September

Sept 7: Dawn Wilson, Esther Miller, Norm Kowal
Sept 14: Barb Rogers, Esther Miller, Norm Kowal
Sept 21: Evelyn Carter, Jay Ellis, Eileen Eliot
Sept 28: Susan Culler, Angie Underwood, Emory Underwood
Back-ups: Scott & Susan Shaw

Membership Committee Notes

A gala reception will be held Fri. Sept. 12, at 7pm to welcome our new members and friends (who've joined us in the last year or so). All the congregation is invited to help make these new folks feel at home at UUCSV. Piano music will be provided by Phil Fryberger, and finger food and beverages by the Hospitality and Membership Committees. For our Green consciousness, please bring something from which you like to drink champagne or ginger ale.

Membership Committee meeting times have changed: on Second Sundays to be at 10:00 am rather than conflicting with various after-church programs. This begins on Sept. 14.

A Visitors Chat Room (not virtual) will be a place where new folks, as well as other curious people, can come and chat about UU topics, and especially our own congregation. This begins on Sept. 14 during the social hour. Come check it out!

For those who want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism, or perhaps are considering joining the congregation, a class will be held Oct. 6 and 13th, the first 2 Mon. evenings in Oct. We're calling it Getting to Know U Yous. Time will be announced later.

The Membership Committee is welcoming new members to help with other projects at this time! Come to one of our meetings to see if you'd like to help serve UUCSV in this way. Barbara Rogers, Chairperson, may be contacted at boardwalkbarb@gmail.com or 828-333-2721.

Religious Education Corner

Who says it doesn't take a village?

It does take a village of caring, committed adults and older youth to get the job done! Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make our already heavily-used playground a reality. Thank you to Evelyn Carter, Will and Heidi Blozan, Bob Box, Monroe Gilmour, Aaron Gilmour, Tom Motzko, and our middle school youth. Everyone played a part and it's so exciting to see our children having so much fun climbing, swinging, sliding, and pretending. I hope I haven't forgotten anyone, but know that all of us in RE are so grateful!

Summer Programs

A big thank you to everyone who has worked with our children and youth this summer. The following individuals donated at least one Sunday morning of their time to provide a great summer of activities for our children and youth, and to help out in the preschool: Evelyn Carter, Angie Underwood, Jim Carillon, Sarah and George Scott, Rebecca Williams, Aaron Eliot-Gaines, Bette Bates, Robin Tynes, Andrea Vollrath, Heidi Blozan, Marjorie Starrs, Connie Krochmal, Emily Paulsen, Carolyn Shorkey, Barbara Pleasants, Jo Motzko, Dawn Wilson, Dorian Jennings, Krista and David Brown, and Susan and Scott Shaw. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

RE Kick-off Party September 7

We'll begin our school year with everyone together in the first part of the service, with the children and youth then together for an RE kick-off morning. All teachers will be there and we'll just have some social time together with snacks and

games after that. A full teacher orientation and training session will take place from 12:30 – 2:30 that afternoon.

RE Classes Begin September 14

Regular RE classes begin September 14, so mark your calendars! All current RE families and visitors we've hosted through the year should have received registration packets. PLEASE RETURN REGISTRATION FORMS TO ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!!

Rain Barrel Contest

As part of the RE program's continuing work with the Green Sanctuary Committee, we've signed UUCSV up as a sponsoring organization for the rain barrel contest being sponsored by New Earth in Black Mountain. We've already constructed the barrel, but we'll have our children and youth finish decorating it, and there will be some essays and photos we'll submit to New Earth. UUCSV has already been quoted in the newspaper as to the importance of involving youth in this environmental program, so some good publicity for us. Stay tuned for more details!

Intergenerational Programming

It is one of the goals of the RE Committee for this school year to continue with intergenerational worship and social connections. We will designate several Sundays for intergenerational worship and hope to implement two programs to connect our children and youth with others in the congregation. These will include an Elder Partners program and Family Greeters. Stay tuned for more details!

↪ Sybil Argintar, RE Coordinator



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Warblers

Hey, Warblers! We meet on the 3rd and 4th Sundays. September 21st at 12:30 after the service and September 28th at 10:00 AM. Come join in and sing with us!

Friday Fling

August's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on September 19th 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 "Letters from Iwo Jima" (2006, Directed by Clint Eastwood, poignantly depicting the grisly WWII battle from the hopelessly-outgunned Japanese point of view—a powerful antiwar movie) will be shown. For further information, call Norm Kowal (669-4668). And don't forget Open Mike Night on the first Friday of the month.

Monthly Committee Meetings, etc.

(CG = Covenant Group)

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
FIRST	RE Committee 9:45 Congregational Care Committee 12:30 Program Committee 12:00			Written Word CG 1:00		Open Mike Night 7:00
SECOND	Adult Forum 9:30 Membership Committee 10:00		Open Topic CG 7:00	The Creative Life CG 1:00 Social Action Committee 5:30		
THIRD	Green Sanctuary Committee 9:30 Warblers 12:30		Board of Trustees 6:00	Written Word CG 1:00		Friday Fling 6:30
FOURTH	Adult Forum 9:30 Warblers 10:00 SOLS 12:30		Open Topic CG 7:00	The Creative Life CG 1:00		

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.