

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY

Sept 2012

Volume XI, Issue 9

Religious Freedom — Diverse Perspectives



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From the Board

So our summer ends and a new season begins. A new season and a new minister! Rev. Michael Carter gave his first sermon last month, to welcoming cheers and a full house. Eighty-eight people attended--more than we've ever had! It's a wonderful beginning for a new season. Michael spoke about August being a lush month, but September is the month of harvest, where our crops and gardens come to fruition. Amid the plenty, there is still the knowledge that fall is here and winter will come, and we will flow along with the changes.

And changes there will be! Our Chalice Circles are beginning, RE has great things planned for our kids. Michael stressed the importance of staying connected with our youth. Without them, we are a dying congregation, with them we will blossom and grow, watching them and nurturing them as a congregation. It takes a village to raise a child, and we are that village for our kids!

We say goodbye to Phil Freyberger, whom we acknowledge as one of our Founding Fathers, and wish him well in his new season.

We welcome our new minister, we welcome our new members and visitors alike, and we welcome a new season. It's going to be a great time.

—*Mary Soyenova, Vice President, Board of Trustees*

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Board Meeting: Monday 17 Sept, 6 p.m.

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

Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday 25 Sept, 10
a.m., covering October 2012

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY



Michael Carter's first Sunday—26 August 2012.

Hello All,

I cannot begin to tell you just how excited and proud I am to be your new minister! This is our time as a congregation to truly live out the meaning of our principles within our community and with each other. Change is both necessary and frightening. No doubt we will experience both---together! This is the key concept here that we will be growing and changing together. We will rise and fall, making our mistakes---together.

We must also have doable and realistic goals for the future as I am only with you part time for now. Emphasis on "for now". As we grow as a congregation (and we will) we will have different challenges to face. I once heard a speaker remark that life is about moving from one set of problems to a better set of problems. We can do this.

My immediate goals are for us to increase membership and that will include looking at ways that we can be more welcoming. I would also like us to acknowledge and nurture the diversity we already have within our congregation. This is not to say that we will not continue to be an anti-racist and welcoming congregation to our GLBTQ (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning) community, but that we also acknowledge the rich diversity we have already.

I am looking forward to the wonderful season of autumn, with all of the changes that season can bring. Needless to say, I am also looking forward to serving this congregation now and in the seasons to come.

Peace to you and yours,

Michael

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 2 September 2012, 11 a.m.

May God Have Mercy on Your Soul: Some Thoughts on the American Death Penalty and Calling

Kathy LaMotte

How does the death penalty fit with our spiritual lives? Many of us have a fairly intuitive sense about the appropriateness of the punishment, but have we really chewed on it? What do we know about how it all works? Is the process fair and reliable? And what does our faith (whatever that is!) teach us about it? What is our response? I hope to give you a few things to think about as I describe some of what I've learned in my recent journey into and through law school, and into what I believe is my "capital-R Right work."

Kathy LaMotte started Cornell Law School at age 50 and is amazed to find that she is an attorney and fellow of the South Carolina Death Penalty Resource and Defense Center. Her heart still lives in Black Mountain, as do her parents. She is a member of the Swannanoa Valley Friends (Quaker) Meeting. She will not ask you for money, nor attempt to add to the list of things you "should" be doing, but would enjoy the chance to share some thoughts.



Sunday, 9 September 2012, 11 a.m.

The Faith of the Universalist

Rev. Michael Carter

Many times when we refer to our Congregations, Fellowships, and Churches,

we forget to even mention the word Universalist. Why is this? This morning we will explore what the history of Universalism means and why it matters that we refer to ourselves as Unitarian *Universalists*.



Sunday, 16 September 2012, 11 a.m.

The Fall

John Snodgrass

Many religious traditions and mythologies share a notion of humanity being "fallen," alienated from the divine. This is often explained by some hazy myth of a past crime, for which each of us is on trial. In modern times, many people are abandoning this "crime and punishment" approach to religion. This sermon will examine these issues and ask - does 'The Fall' contain anything of value?

John Snodgrass is a wandering preacher, currently teaching at Brevard College. He is the author of "Genesis and the Rise of Civilization," a book about Biblical and mythical echoes of the Agricultural Revolution. He lives with his wife and two children in Hendersonville.

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 23 September 2012, 11 a.m.

Religious Liberalism for the 21st Century

Rev. Michael Carter

What does it mean to self identify as a religious liberal in this post modern world of ours? Have you really ever thought about it? If so, good for you, and I commend you. If not, let's explore this topic to see where we stand.

Sunday, 30 September 2012, 11 a.m.

Hunger and Community – The Lord's Acre

Susan Sides and Steve Norris

The Lord's Acre garden is not simply a collection of plants and food for Fairview's hungry people. In our garden we grow not just food but a community, which consists of an infinity of relationships between people and people, people and soil, soil and plants, plants and the clouds, between everything that is the earth and everything that is the sky, and water, and children and. . . The list is endless, simple, complex. Sometimes it's mostly hard work. Sometimes there are rainbows. Sometimes crops fail. Sometimes we laugh and sing. Often we learn from one another and from the vegetables.

Susan Sides is the Executive Director and Steve Norris serves on the board of The Lord's Acre, Fairview's answer to helping feed the hungry and building community.



Sunday, 7 October 2012, 11 a.m.

A Sabbath Wholly Kept

Rev. DiAnna Ritola

How do we unplug from the demands of daily life and reconnect

to that which we deem most sacred? Is there a magic formula for finding ways in which to slow down and breathe into the space of wholeness?

Indeed there is—well, sort of. Many faith traditions have spiritual practices that allow us to find our centers, and the tradition of Sabbath is a good place to start.



Rev. DiAnna Ritola is an Interfaith Minister, ordained by The New Seminary for Interfaith Studies in New York. She also has a practice called Authentic Integration: Spiritual Sex and Intimacy Coaching as well as being a professional speaker on the integration of spirituality and sexuality. She has lived in cities large and small, explored her inner Earth Mother in rural Vermont where her two children were born, and moved to Asheville in 2001. She has been a member of the UU Congregation of Asheville for 11 years and is now enjoying the joyfully busy teen years with her daughters. She enjoys yoga, running, singing, acting, and reading for fun and profit.

Religious Education Corner



The cycle of another school year is beginning in RE. We have just a couple more Summer Sunday programs, and then we'll be off into our new school year. I love to watch all of our children grow from year to year. As I always tell my volunteer teachers, go with the flow. The curriculums are wonderful and offer a lot. But so do these children. Sometimes the morning will take a curve that is really important to someone. A need to share, a need to laugh, a need to be together in community. We begin each Sunday with lighting a chalice (even the preschool), and this is one of the most important moments for our children and youth. They don't want to miss it. It's their time to check in, to share the good and the bad things happening in their lives. Just like the grown-ups do, with their Joys and Concerns on Sunday mornings. We are a community, and our religious education program is a place where our children feel safe, feel part of things, and can learn more about our world.

Summer Sundays K-5 Classroom

Many, many thanks to the wonderful volunteers who so generously donated their time this summer! We had some great programs!

August 26 Intergenerational Service with Michael Carter

September 2 Knitting with Heidi Blozan

Thank You Sarah!

Thanks to Sarah G for helping in the preschool this summer! We had lots of visitors and parents loved working with her!

Religious Education Classes Begin Sep-

tember 9

Classes for preschool through sixth grade will begin on Sunday September 9. We'll join all together for a welcoming circle, check-in from our summers, set up a classroom covenant, build a web, and share some rainforest snacks! We look forward to it. The youth and young adult class will begin on Sunday September 16. We welcome visitors to all of these programs!

Classes for the Coming Month

Preschool—Our Natural World

September 9 Opening circle with older children, followed by cooperative play and nature stories!

September 16 Cooperative play and nature stories!

September 23 Cooperative play and nature stories!

September 30 Cooperative play and nature stories!

Grades K-6—Celebrating Rainforests

September 9 Opening circle and building a web

September 16 Life in the Rainforests—Introduction

September 23 Life in the Rainforests—Introduction (cont)

September 30 Life in the Rainforests—Plants

October 7 Life in the Rainforests—Plants (cont)

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

September 16 Being Together, Part 1
 October 7 Being Together, Part 2
 October 14 Seasons

Potluck and Music Jam!!

We're all set for a fun afternoon on Sunday September 16, beginning at 12:30 p.m., at Owen Park in Swannanoa. This will be our annual RE kick-off for families, teachers, and the church community. We welcome everyone to join us. Bring a dish to share and a musical instrument. Owen Park is located at 875 Warren Wilson Road. From Montreat Road, right onto US-70. Right onto Riverwood Road. Left onto Bee Tree Road. Stay straight to go onto Warren Wilson Road.

Important Dates to Remember

September 9 RE Classes begin
 RE Committee meets
 12:30 p.m.

September 16 RE Family potluck and music jam after the service at Lake Tomahawk

Classes for youth/young adults begins

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

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



Grounds Committee Report

The Building, Aesthetics, and Grounds Committee hope that you are enjoying the new additions to the gardens surrounding the church. We continue to work to make our newly painted church more attractive to the eye by installing and keeping maintained the greenery and grounds surrounding it. An upcoming event: If you are interested in helping the committee with one of our projects, come to the church on Saturday, Sept. 22, at 10:00 for "Rock Removal Day." On that occasion we will continue to remove all the small rocks from the grounds. The rocks impede mowing and raking, so we are attempting to allow clear access to all of our property. We will allow you to take home all the rocks you can carry after we have used what we need to continue finishing the grounds.

My deep gratitude is extended to the members of the BAG Committee (in no particular order): Libba Tracy, Ray Culotta and Jill Tagudin, Angie and Emory Underwood, Phil Evanzo and Tina Rosato, Jeannie and Chuck Shimer, Bert Gaines, Evelyn Carter, Sydney Wilson, and Bill Altork.

—Jane Carroll, Chair

Round Robin Dinners Return

Get ready for 3 more months of fine dinners and community fun. Round Robin dinners are back!

Round Robin potluck dinners are the best way for us to build a community here at UUCSV. These dinners are a great way to get to know other people at UUCSV.

In Round Robin dinners, groups of six to ten people gather in someone's home or other locale. The host provides the main course and beverages, and the guests are each assigned a different course to bring. People who agree to host will coordinate and host one dinner in three months, and then will be guests at two other dinners. Many participants do not host (for a variety of reasons), but are scheduled as guests at one to three dinners. We desperately need more hosts!

If you would like to join the dinners for October, November, and January, or if you have questions about Round Robin, contact Jeff Hutchins no later than September 16. Call him at 669-3823, or send him an email: jeff@jeffhutchins.com. He will have a few short questions for you. If you signed up last season, you will be contacted automatically, but you still need to sign up. The schedule will be posted by September 30.

Membership Committee

We are looking forward to a great year of meetings and getting to know our new and "old" friends. We have one new member on our committee, Jeannie Shimer. Our first meeting in September will be on 2nd Sunday, September 9 at 10AM.



We also have one new couple who have joined our church recently. Here is their BIO:

Diane and Richard Graham are new to our congregation but not new to UU's. They joined the Charlotte church in 1976 and, when they moved to Boone, joined BUFF where they were members for 18 years. Diane served in just about every position in the Fellowship including President. They are mega dog lovers and have two Wheaten Terriers, Clancy and Abby.

While in Boone they started a neighborhood book club which now extends well beyond the neighborhood. They also started a social group, HUGGS, which stands for "Honorable Union of Gracious Guzzlers" that presently has 40 members.

Diane looks forward to being as active in this congregation as she was in Boone. Richard looks forward to being the church "curmudgeon" or "neer-do-well". However he loves to do research on a subject he thinks would be of interest to Unitarians and gives a very good talk.

They wish to express their appreciation to Dawn Wilson and Bill Altork (may their tribes increase!) for all the help they have given in getting them settled in their new home.



The UUCSV Choir at the 26 August service.

Choir News for August

The UUCSV Choir was so very happy to help welcome our new minister, Michael Carter, with song in August. In September, we will rehearse on the 16th at 12:15 PM, then on the 19th at 6:30, and on the day of performance, the 23rd at 10 AM. Come and sing with us!



—Linda Metzner, Choir Director

Friday Fling

September's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on 21 September 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 "Fried Green Tomatoes" (1991; Kathy Bates, Jessica Tandy) will be shown. For further information call Norm Kowal (458-4537).



Birthdays in September

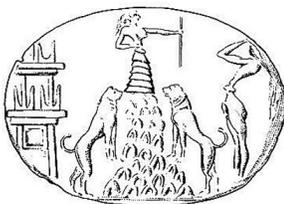
- September 3rd Norm Kowal
- September 4th Dan Stupka
- September 7th Lauris Liljestrand
- September 14th Carolyn Shorkey
- September 14th Milt Warden
- September 18th Tim Perry
- September 22nd Walter Hoffman
- September 24th Cora Blozan
- September 25th Olivia Mills
- September 25th David Gilmore
- 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.

Women's Spirituality Group

Women's Spirituality Group.
*New Day*New Day!* We are now meeting on the 4th Wednesday of the month. So mark your calendar for Wednesday September 26th @ 6:30 for the next meeting. We will center around Native American Goddesses and grandmothers. Bring your knowledge or stories to share if you'd like and items to decorate the altar. Call Teresa Ballinger for info, 275-8453. All women are welcome and hopefully this new time will open up an opportunity for those who have been unable to join us.



Ministerial Transition Committee

The UUCSV Board of Trustees has appointed a committee to assist Rev. Carter's transition into the role of our Consulting Minister. The purpose of the committee is to support him as he gets to know our congregation. The committee is temporary, to be in place until Rev. Carter is ready to select his own support team, with approval from the Board of Trustees. In the meantime, you can ease Rev. Carter's transition by contacting one of the following committee members if you have questions or concerns about Rev. Carter's ministry. The committee members are: Mary Soyenova, representative from the Board, Carolyn Shorkey, Scott Conklin, and Bill Altork.

Rev. Dr. Marc Mullinax

Our recent pulpit supply minister, the Rev. Dr. Marc Mullinax, has arrived in South Korea for his year long sabbatical. He'll be posting his photographs and stories on his blog spot. Here's the address if you are curious about following Marc's adventure. He encourages us to post comments and particularly, to ask questions. <http://allkoreacoisidered.blogspot.com/>

From the Editor—The Last Word

"I want to show you that the real world, as understood scientifically, has a magic of its own—the kind I call poetic magic: an inspiring beauty which is all the more magical because it is real and because we can understand how it works . . . The magic of reality is—quite simply—wonderful. Wonderful and real. Wonderful because real."

—Richard Dawkins, *The Magic of Reality: How We Know What's Really True* (2011)

