

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY

Sept 2013

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Religious Freedom — Diverse Perspectives

From the Minister

As I write this column on August 16th at 8:35 am, it really occurs to me that these past few days have been a preview of Fall it seems, with cooler temps in the morning and evening. Great sleeping weather in my opinion. Just crack the windows and curl up a bit. With all of the rain we've had this summer . . . well, it appeared at times that we really didn't have much of a summer this year. Of course, there are the usual remarks about how fast the summer flew by and how wet it was. I agree on both counts and many times I must confess to wishing that the weather was my only real concern in this life.

One thing that I can attest to this summer, and I am only speaking for myself, is that I really tried to be mindful of the events of each day in a way that I have not been in a very long time. Much of this is because of the life transitions that have been occurring for me during these past few months. Some of these I have shared and some I have not. Some experiences of life one must go through alone. This is not news to me on an intellectual level, but sometimes life has a way of reminding me of this. There are some journeys where you cannot carry anyone with you as you walk the path. This has had a profound effect on my growth and cultivation of a more authentic and deeper inner life.

Because of the impermanence of life (and love, which thankfully, is also a part of life) each moment is more precious and profound. Yes, the summer went by all too quickly for me as well, and I have a feeling that every summer may pass just as rapidly, especially as I get older and hopefully mature a bit. Yet if I am intentional, I will hold on to those snapshots of friends and family, the joys and sorrows, the precious moments and events of those times. The lyrics to one of my favorite songs says, "Nothing must die, only fails to mend . . ."

As Unitarian Universalists, we all strive to live with the mystery of life. We incorporate into our precious lives, "the words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us, to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love, . . . not to mention a free and responsible search for truth and meaning."

As noted above, there are some journeys we must take alone, and yet I am always reminded that at times I may feel lonely, but that I am never really alone. I give much thanks to assistance from friends and strangers both seen and unseen. In the words of Dr. King, "we all have Cosmic Companionship." This is my belief as well. Among many things I am part of a rich, progressive, and deeply dedicated religious community here at UUCSV. A community which attempts each and every day to walk its talk. A community that truly, stands on the side of love! This coming church year, I will continue to explore these themes of journeying within and without. The journey within of course is a journey without distance, but a necessary journey no less.

As the cooler breezes of Autumn blow upon us, perhaps we will be reminded of the Spirit or Breath of Life. A Spirit which blows upon each and every one of us, each and every day, reminding us to be more intentional in the days, weeks, and years of our lives. At the risk of being cliché, each day is a gift, which is why we call it—The Present. May it always be so.

Peace To You,

Michael



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Be patient toward all this is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves, like locked rooms and like books that are now written in a very foreign tongue. Do not now seek the answers, which cannot be given you because you would not be able to live them. And the point is, to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer.

—Rainer Maria Rilke

Every day, think as you wake up, today I am fortunate to be alive, I have a precious human life, I am not going to waste it. I am going to use all my energies to develop myself, to expand my heart out to others; to achieve enlightenment for the benefit of all beings. I am going to have kind thoughts towards others, I am not going to get angry or think badly about others. I am going to benefit others as much as I can.

—H.H. the Dalai Lama

May you awaken to the mystery of being here and enter the quiet immensity of your own presence. May you receive great encouragement when new frontiers beckon. May you respond to the call of your gift and find the courage to follow its path . . . May you take time to celebrate the quiet miracles that seek no attention . . . May you experience each day as a sacred gift woven around the heart of wonder.

—John O'Donohue

Happiness is no more than good health and a bad memory.

—Albert Schweitzer

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 1 September 2013, 11 a.m.

Work: Icon or Idol?

Rev. Chris Andrews

Just in time for Labor Day, we will consider the meaning of work. How do we find balance between work and rest, fulfillment and salary? What is good work?

The Rev. Chris Andrews is a lifelong resident of Louisiana except for stints in graduate school in Missouri and a work assignment in England. Formerly a minister in the United Methodist Church for 42 years, he now leads Jubilee Pioneers, an eclectic group of folks in Baton Rouge seeking ways to practice "good religion." He is not a Christian, but instead calls himself a "follower of Jesus." He and his wife love North Carolina and have a cabin just off the Blue Ridge Parkway.



Sunday, 8 September 2013, 11 a.m., Water Communion Sunday

Covenant and The Absence Of Fear

Rev. Michael Carter

As we begin our second year together, I would like us to begin to think of how we can be in right relationship with one another individually and as a collective. Many challenges are to be faced in the year ahead, exciting times no doubt, but challenging as well. As we move forward, which god will we serve? The god of fear (fear of change and risk) or the god of love (embracing change and risk taking, and a commitment to self awareness and transformation). If the old bromide is correct that freedom is just another way of saying one has nothing left to loose, than to be in covenant is another way of relating to each other with the absence of fear! Lets talk about it . . . See you on the 8th.



Sunday, 15 September 2013, 11 a.m.

Creating Heaven on Earth

Pana Columbus

How do you maintain a position of optimism and empowerment when

confronting the biggest challenges of creating a peaceful and sustainable planet? Come hear mythological, historical and modern-day stories that will rejuvenate your commitment to realizing your dreams, as you recognize the part they play in bringing heaven to earth.



Pana Columbus is an award-winning and critically acclaimed playwright as well as a private transformation coach. She has been a speaker at a TEDx conference at Acadia University, at churches, women's retreats, fundraisers and board retreats. She has been interviewed on WDIY and WEBE Radio and for the book, "Those Who Walk With Fire". Her own book, "She Wore Blue Invoking the Water" is available in paperback. www.panacolumbus.com

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 22 September 2013, 11 a.m.

UUCSV Intergenerational Service

Becky Stone

Come join us for another UUCSV Intergenerational Service which promises to be a wonderful learning and entertaining experience. Storyteller Becky Stone will be with us on Sunday, September 22nd. Becky Stone became a storyteller after moving South from Philadelphia, PA, 28 years ago. In fact, it was 28 years ago that she first heard a formal storyteller. Among her numerous credits, Becky has performed for The Southern Appalachian Regional Theater, The Haywood Arts Regional Theater, as well as the LEAF Festival and Belle Chere. We are indeed blessed and privileged to have her with us. So join us on Sunday the 22nd for a service that will touch the young, the seasoned and the mature, and the young at heart! See you there!

Sunday, 29 September 2013, 11 a.m.

Beyond Belief

Rev. James McKinley

How do you describe your religious self? How important is that descriptor to how you live your life? Jim understands religion not to be a set of particular beliefs but an orientation for living. As UU's we share a common orientation to living that is much larger than our individual experiences. Let's explore where we are and what we hope to become together.

Jim McKinley is in his 16th year as minister of the UU Fellowship in Hendersonville, NC. Ministry is his second career, following work in conservation biology and land stewardship with the Nature Conservancy. Jim has two master's degrees, the first from the University of Utah in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and the second from the Harvard Divinity School. Jim enjoys paddle sports, has just sent his daughter off to college and is learning how to play the guitar.



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.

Religious Education Corner



Reflections

My husband and I, along with thousands of others from all over these mountains, joined together in downtown Asheville for Mountain Moral Monday on August 5th. I expected a large turn-out, but the size of this gathering was truly amazing. The speakers were inspiring, the mix of people there was incredible, and the sense of community was almost overwhelming. Reverend Barber summed it all up and created a sense of spirit and purpose among the group like only a great leader can do. I think, as I sit here writing this, that our UU principles teach our children every day how to live their lives as truly moral individuals. Our children know the "inherent worth and dignity" of others, no matter what race, background, or economic circumstances they may come from. They know that everyone matters and that everyone has a voice. I encourage you to get involved in these coming months, especially as we move closer to election days. You do still have a voice. Make it heard.

Religious Education Corner

Summer Sundays

We have two more weeks of our Summer Sundays programs, and then we begin our fall services and classes. See below for our schedule.

August 25 Balloon Sculptures Milt Warden and Carolyn Shorkey

September 1 Stained Glass Magic Anna Stearns

September 8 Ingathering and water communion IG service (see below)

September 15 Classes Begin, all ages (see below)

September 22 IG service with renowned storyteller Becky Stone (see below)

Registration for Upcoming School Year

Registration materials will go out the end of July for the upcoming school year. Forms are due back to Sybil by August 25. Even if you filled one out recently, we do these every year to help plan our programs, get updates on any medical or other needs of our children and youth, and keep emergency information current. PLEASE return them as soon as possible!

Religious Education Corner

Teachers Are the Best!!

Below is a list of the wonderful volunteers who have stepped forward to teach, facilitate, and assist in the classroom for our children and youth in the coming school year. Thanks to all!

Preschool:

Helen Bell, Heidi Blozan, Milt Warden, Carolyn Shorkey, Kristen Ozuna

Picturebook World Religions (Grades K-5)

Evelyn Carter, Lisa Brooks, Assistants Jim Carillon, Sue Phillips

Neighboring Faiths (Grades 6 - 8)

Beata Ball, Susan Shaw, Jeff Hutchins, Fern and Monroe Gilmour, Linda Tatsapaugh

Building Bridges (Grades 9 - 12)

Teresa Ballinger, Anna Stearns

Adult Religious Education Program

We have a full schedule of activities lined up for the fall, including the continuation of Chalice Circles. See the full lineup elsewhere in this newsletter and mark your calendars!

Tourists Ballgame A Great Success!!

We had over forty members and friends attend the baseball game on August 9th. Even though the Tourists lost, we had a great evening of camaraderie, eating way too many hotdogs, and enjoying a great fireworks show after the game. Thanks to all who joined us—maybe this can be a new summer tradition!

September 8 Water Communion Service

Don't forget to bring a small vial of water to our water communion intergenerational service. This can be from your summer travels, or from your own back yard. It should represent a place where water is important to you.

September 29 RE Family and Teacher Picnic—All Ages Welcome!!

Join us after the service on September 29 at Lake Tomahawk for an afternoon of getting to know each other. Bring your own picnic lunch, games, toys. We'll gather about 12:30 p.m. and have the shelter area reserved for the afternoon!

Religious Education Corner

Important Dates to Remember

August 25 Teacher Training 12:30 - 3:30 p.m. Lunch provided.

September 8 IG Water Communion service and ingathering; RE Committee meets 12:30 p.m.

September 15 Classes Begin

September 22 IG service with storyteller Becky Stone

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

Religious Education Corner

Adult Religious Education Programs Fall 2013

- September 3 LUUNCH BUUNCH 12 - 1 p.m., Michael Carter facilitates
- September 3 Chalice Circle, Teresa Ballinger, facilitator 6:30 p.m.
- September 10 "UU: A Heretical History", Michael Carter 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
- September 11 "Wolf Pact" Chalice Circle, Dr. Jane Carroll, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.
(off-site, closed group at present time)
- September 17 Chalice Circle, Teresa Ballinger, facilitator 6:30 p.m.
- September 19 Chalice Circle, Beata Ball, facilitator 6:30 p.m.
- September 25 "Wolf Pact" Chalice Circle, off-site, closed group
- September 25 TED talk led by Barb Rogers; world religion topic 6:30 p.m.*
- October 1 LUUNCH BUUNCH 12 - 1 p.m., Michael Carter facilitates
- October 1 Chalice Circle, Teresa Ballinger, facilitator 6:30 p.m.
- October 8 "How Open the Door: African Americans in Unitarian
Universalism", Michael Carter 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
- October 9 "Wolf Pact" Chalice Circle, off-site, closed group
- October 9 Worship Workshop, Michael Carter facilitates 6:30 p.m.
- October 15 Chalice Circle, Teresa Ballinger, facilitator 6:30 p.m.
- October 17 Chalice Circle, Beata Ball, facilitator 6:30 p.m.
- October 23 "Wolf Pact" Chalice Circle, off-site, closed group
- October 23 TED talk led by Linda Tatsapaugh; world religion topic 6:30 p.m.*
- November 2 "A Call to End Corporate Personhood", led by Geoff Stone, 6 - 8 p.m.*
- November 5 LUUNCH BUUNCH 12 - 1 p.m., Michael Carter facilitates
- November 5 Chalice Circle, Teresa Ballinger, facilitator 6:30 p.m.
- November 13 "Wolf Pact" Chalice Circle, off-site, closed group
- November 19 Chalice Circle, Teresa Ballinger, facilitator 6:30 p.m.
- November 21 Chalice Circle, Beata Ball, facilitator 6:30 p.m.
- November 27 "Wolf Pact" Chalice Circle, off-site, closed group
- December 3 LUUNCH BUUNCH 12 - 1 p.m., Michael Carter facilitates
- December 11 "Wolf Pact" Chalice Circle, off-site, closed group
- December 17 Chalice Circle, Teresa Ballinger, facilitator 6:30 p.m.
- December 19 Chalice Circle, Beata Ball, facilitator 6:30 p.m.

Check with group presenters and facilitators for date changes, especially around the November and December holidays!

*Open to the public

Upcoming Events

Unitarian Universalism: A Heretical History

September 10th, 2013

6:30pm-8pm

Come join us as we view our “Heretical History,” and discuss the journey Unitarian Universalism has traveled from Europe to America. Discussion to follow.

Please note that if you could not attend the New UU Class in the winter, this will cover much of the same information.

How Open The Door?

October 8th, 2013

6:30 pm-7:45 pm

Join us as we view the film, “How Open the Door.” The DVD covers material regarding our sometimes troubled history in the welcoming of African Americans into our denomination. The film was made by retired UU Minister, Mark Morrison Reed, who is also the author of, *Black Pioneers in a White Denomination*, *Darkening the Doorways: Black Trailblazers and Missed Opportunities in Unitarian Universalism*, and *In Between: Memoir of an Integration Baby*.

Choir News

In September, the choir will sing on the fourth Sunday, September 22nd. We will rehearse on Sunday September 15th at 12:15 PM after the service, and then on Wednesday evening, September 18th at 6:30 PM. Our final rehearsal is on the day of performance, September 22nd at 10 AM.

Please join us and add your joyful sound to ours! We're a very friendly group.

—Linda Metzner, Choir Director



Birthdays

August 23 rd	Barbara Rogers
August 23 rd	Ray Culotta
September 3 rd	Norm Kowal
September 4 th	Dan Stupka
September 14 th	Carolyn Shorkey
September 14 th	Milt Warden
September 18 th	Tim Perry
September 24 th	Cora Blozan
September 25 th	David Gilmore
September 30 th	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.

Flowers Needed for the Front Bed

Does anyone have brown-eyed Susans they would like to share? Tina and Phil would like to plant them in the front bed at church. Please phone 828-686-0530.

Friday Fling

September's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups every third Friday of the month, will be held on 20 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 “Doubt” (2008; Meryl Streep, Philip Seymour Hoffman) will be shown. For further information call Norm Kowal (669-4668).



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!

UUCSV Outreach at Sourwood Festival 2013

This year, UUCSV participated in the annual Black Mountain Sourwood Festival running the "Duck Hero" Game as an outreach activity to families with children. In the game, kids toss rubber ducks "back to the safety of their pond" to win prizes. The game teaches "Respect for Nature", one of our 7 U.U. Principles. Along with their prize, each child received a little flyer with real life "Duck Hero" tips: 1) Don't feed the ducks at Lake Tomahawk and 2) Brake for Ducks when they're crossing the road. (The flyer also had contact information for UUCSV!)

"Duck Hero" was a very popular "free activity" and kids lined up 8-10 deep eager to play the game. It was a fun & busy weekend and I want to thank everyone who helped out. Hat's off to this year's "Charter Member Duck Hero Team": Lee Reading, Bill Altork, Su Temesrisuk, Sarah Kirkpatrick, Helen Bell, Susan Hurley, Chuck & Jeannie Shimer, Beata, Dorinda & Stephen Ball, Dr. Jane Carroll, Heidi & Cora Blozan, Tina Rosato, Jeff & Diane Hutchins, Ann Sillman, Rev. Michael Carter, James & Carol Sheeler, Teresa Ballinger, Michael & Dora Ross and Angie & Mark Manuel. Special thanks goes out to Ray Culotta for designing and building the "Duck Hero" game. We had so much fun, we hope to participate again next year, in Sourwood 2014!

Building Bridges Program Begins September 10

Building Bridges of Asheville announces its 42nd session, beginning September 10 and continuing every Tuesday through November 5, from 7 to 9 pm. This program helps folk deal with racism through compelling dialogue, community building, and a call to action. It will be held at First Congregational Church UCC, 20 Oak Street in Asheville. The \$30 registration fee includes materials. A special discount is offered for public school teachers. Continuing education units are available for health professionals, clergy, educators, and others. Register online at www.buildingbridges-ashevellenc.org. For more information call (828) 777-4585.

Building Bridges will be offered in Black Mountain/Swannanoa in the fall of 2014, according to Roberta Madden, a Building Bridges board member.



—Jill Tagudin

Library News

A few years ago some UUCSV congregants thought it would be a good idea to use as a library some of the shelf space in the room we alternately described as a "nursery," and an "office." Shari Spires, our dear friend and an early member now deceased, used her handiwork skills to make drapes for the windows. The Aesthetics Committee (the "A" in BAG), saw to it that the floor was re-carpeted, the shelves were painted, and a bulletin board was hung. We took on the responsibility of giving structure to the new library by formalizing the categories for book donations, establishing a written inventory, and setting up a book check-out and return procedure. Then we invited donations.

Now our library is bursting at the seams. To rectify overcrowding, the covenant group who calls themselves the "Wolf Pact," of which I am the leader, is making plans to cull the library holdings. In the near future you will see in the foyer and on the portico boxes of books for adults that will be for sale for .50 each. A container in which you may put your quarters and dollars will be nearby. We will offer mainly the books that have not been checked out or in which we have seen little interest. We will welcome your participation.

In the meantime, please continue to check out books and to donate others. We look forward to providing this service to UUCSV and hope it will be both useful and profitable.

—Jane J. Carroll

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 27. 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 on or about September 29.

“The greatest scientists are artists as well. Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination circles the world.”

—Albert Einstein

