

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY

July 2014

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Religious Freedom — Diverse Perspectives

From the Minister

I have been musing about many things as we enter the 7th month of 2014. I will be 57 years young this month and of course I enjoy taking the time to slow down and to see where it is I have come from on my life's journey, as well as where I would like to end up on this journey. At the same time I wanted to enjoy the "now" of my life as well. However, I also have been thinking about what it really means to be "free." After all, the 4th of July is all about the freedoms we enjoy in this land of ours, and this is what we celebrate as a nation. What does it mean to be free individually, and as a collective? Can one really be free if one's fellow human beings are not?

Ever since the dawn of civilization, ever since the first humans began to grasp the significant fact that they were individual beings in a universe that seemed to be more or less hostile to them, the entire search of the human mind, its whole endeavor, has been to get free from evil, from bondage and the shackles of lack, want, fear, superstition, uncertainty, pain, disease, poverty, and fear of the hereafter. And because of this, human systems exist—organized philosophies spring up, sciences develop, educational systems are conducted, collective security is sought after, and religions are formulated to allay the fears of humankind.

The great demand in the world today is for a sense of security, freedom, and liberty. But we must be very certain that we do not swap one image of bondage for another. I have read a large part of the religious and philosophic history of the world and I have noticed that almost invariably, when the world traded one kind of religion for another, it didn't get a good deal. The Pilgrims who came to the shores of New England came to worship God in their own way, but the moment they got here, everybody in the colony worshiped God in the way that the strong-minded members of that colony decided was the way to worship God. That was not freedom. The rebellion against this type of religious authoritarianism is how and why UUism was born.

Very frequently we meet people who say they have now found the truth, and then, unfortunately, a large majority of them disclose that they merely have found an idea they liked and called it the truth because they were egotistical, self-conscious, self-righteous people with an attitude of condemnation toward others. That is not the truth. In studying one system of thought after another, I have noted how extremely difficult it is for the human mind to conceive liberty without license, without egotism; and we can only give birth to freedom when we have extend that same freedom to others. This is true of personal relationships as well,



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whether it be between individuals or nations.

True freedom—true liberty—has something cosmic behind it. If the time has come that quantum physics has proved that we cannot move a piece of paper without changing the balance of the entire physical universe; if we have come to the place where we know that the stuff of which our physical bodies are made is the same stuff of which the planets are made; if we have come to the place where such a profound unity is maintained that physicists believe there is no such thing as disunity in the physical world; then we can easily see what the great spiritual leaders of the ages meant when they told us of that greater unity in which we all live and move and have our being, and that the idea of freedom itself is tied up with the true concept of the unity of good. If our nature is one, if God is one (Unitarianism)—and we know that the Spirit of life must be one, for the universe cannot be divided against itself—then we are all tied into an indivisible unity. We shall have to get back to this unity to find the meaning of freedom. Nothing in any part of this cosmic whole could be considered freedom that would destroy the liberty of some other part of it. That would be self-destruction, would it not? As Jesus pointed out two thousand years ago, that would be a kingdom divided against itself. The kingdom of God is one kingdom. So we know that true liberty must spring from true unity.

We are bound into a supreme unity, we are tied into an immutable law of irrevocable cause and effect—that is unity moving into action. Cause and effect is something that happens as a result of the use of unity. Consequently we are one even while we are many, and since each one of us is a part of the whole, if we seek to destroy each other we only ultimately hurt ourselves. That is the great lesson of life.

Freedom, then, will come only in such degree as we no longer do anything that hurts anyone, but that does not mean we have to become spiritual or intellectual doormats. I do not believe in that. Nothing in my belief causes me to feel that God, The Spirit of Life, the Creative Principle, call it what we will, wants me to suffer for myself or for anyone else. How can a Supreme Being or Supreme Intelligence, The First Cause, or whatever one wants to call it, desire my suffering without imposing that suffering, and what kind of a universe has a God who suffers and imposes suffering in a changeless reality? The whole theology and religious reaction of people who believe that arises out of morbidity and fear and superstition and nothing else.

Well, it is not so—and still we suffer. Why? Because we do not understand. We might say that the world suffered darkness until somebody discovered electricity. It suffered crawling around on the face of the earth until technology was developed so we could fly and drive. It suffers limitation, not because the Infinite imposes limitation, but because the world does not understand its freedom. And when it begins to develop its freedom, seldom does it do it directly; it generally creates a new bondage. When we kill the old devil we are very likely to give birth to a new and more subtle one. War is more to be feared than ever before because we have more knowledge without more wisdom. And final freedom will come only as it is tied into spiritual wisdom.

What is spiritual wisdom? I am no prophet, but I would suggest that spiritual wisdom must be as simple and profound as this: Jesus said, "The kingdom of God cannot be divided against itself." I think that is all there is to spiritual wisdom. The Kingdom and Queendom of Life cannot and will not be divided; so long as I will seek to hurt, I will be hurt.

We desire freedom. We do not like evil, we do not like pain, we do not like poverty, we do not like unhappiness. Why should we? None of us likes to go to bed and worry all night and get up tired out in the morning. No God imposes it on us. Why do we do it? Because we sense freedom, we sense liberty, yet out here in the objective world we experience limitation; and the argument is between what we feel ought to take place and what we see and the world experiences. It is and always will be this existential tension. It seems as though we are two people being torn asunder; one that

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experiences lack, suffering, disease, war, etc., and one that knows there does not have to really be any of the aforementioned if we really learned to care for one another and got passed this illusion of separateness.

The evolution of freedom in the human mind is a slow process. Many movements in the world that claim to be seeking liberty only produce new kinds of bondage. We should beware of them. They are born out of the idea of depression; they are born out of the spirit of bondage. If we want freedom, we must understand that freedom can never come by the imposition of a will of the minority over the majority. It is born finally, and only in such degree as some system is devised whereby individuals are allowed complete freedom so long as they do not, in their freedom, impose bondage on someone else.

I believe that the true spirit of democracy is a spiritual conception where there is freedom, liberty without license, and a flexibility that makes evolution possible on the foundation of freedom. As we enter into the spirit of the meaning of Independence Day, the day when liberty, symbolically, was conceived, the day when freedom, objectively, in our country was announced, we should think of it not merely as a political system or form of government, but we should think of it as a spiritual conception, an idea of Life Itself, taking form in human experience; perhaps we can learn to love that liberty, and in loving the idea we may learn to tenderly and prayerfully handle the embodiment of that idea and nourish it always to greater strength. And then and only then, we may really conceive once more the great spiritual conception of that wonderfully human man of the ages who said: ". . . that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Happy Fourth of July!

Michael

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 6 July 2014, 11 a.m.

SanKofa

Rev. Michael Carter

SanKofa means revisiting the past so that we one can move forward. This Sunday marks the 10 year anniversary of the purchase of our building. We will have several of our “elders,” or “founding members,” speak on what it was like to finally purchase the building we now gather in and the lessons learned from that time. In this way, we will acknowledge the gifts and dedication that these members contributed to what and who we are as a growing and vibrant congregation, and to take those lessons learned and gifts given to continue to build a bright tomorrow for each other, our congregation, and our community. See you at church!



Sunday, 20 July 2014. 11 a.m.

Yes, and . . . : Relationship as Improvisation

Rev. DiAnna Ritola

How do you improvise in your life? Can you let go of expectations and go with the flow? How can you begin to do this? Tina Fey’s memoir “Bossypants” contains an essay about the “rules” of improvisational comedy. These very same guidelines work when applied to relationships, and specifically intimate relationships between partners. We must learn to respond to each other from a place of true listening without pushing our own agenda. We get to learn how to play with each other and learn new things together if we want our relationships to evolve. Exploring new facets of our relationships with others begins with exploring these within ourselves. Let’s talk about some of these ideas and see where we can start improvising in our relationships with more intention.

Rev. DiAnna Ritola received her ordination as an Interfaith Minister from The New Seminary for Interfaith Studies. Her ministry centers on spiritual counseling for intimate relationships, and she is a professional speaker on the integration of spirituality and sexuality. She also leads workshops on such topics as Sexual Conversation, Healthy Interdependence, and Improving for Intimacy. She has been a member of the UU Congregation of Asheville for 13 years and is now enjoying the joyfully busy teen years with her daughters.

Sunday, 13 July 2014, 11 a.m.

A Matter of Faith

Rev. Michael Carter

I have heard that some UUs are uncomfortable with the word “faith.” No doubt some of this discomfort stems from the wounds of traditional Christianity as well as in some ways “faith” carrying the baggage of somehow being an “unscientific,” concept. But the question remains. Are UUs a people of faith. No doubt some would answer yes, and some would not. If we are a people of faith, does that faith sustain us in times of crisis. This Sermon will explore these concepts. See you at church!

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 27 July 2014, 11 a.m.

Places in the Heart

Shelly Frome

In a sense, today's program is an extension of Joys and Concerns through poetry and music. It's also an extension of Pana Columbus' talk prompting all of us to "venture into the woods" in order to discover "what truly makes your heart sing." The choir will take part along with other members of the congregation who will sing solos, duets and prompt the congregation to join in singing appropriate hymns.



Sunday, 10 August 2014, 11 a.m.

The Seasons of Our Lives

Rev. Michael Carter

The writer of the Biblical Book of Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is a time and place for everything under the sun. A time to live and a time to die. A time to love and a time to hate. A time to harvest what we have planted, or said another way, at time to reap what we have sown. We are told that there is indeed a "season," for everything. What exactly does this mean? Are we even really aware of the season of changes and times of transformation in our lives? How do we cope and recognize when these seasons come and go? When do we hold on and when do we let go. Let's explore.

Sunday, 3 August 2014, 11 a.m. New Member Sunday

Work

John Snodgrass

Modern times press us to re-evaluate our cultural notions about jobs and vocations. Are we backsliding from a 'Golden Age' of thirty-year careers and retirement? How long did this 'Golden Age' of the American workforce exist, and what did people do before it? What did 'Success' and 'Satisfaction' mean in the distant past, and what might these concepts look like in the future?

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 in Hendersonville with his wife and two children.

Religious Education Corner



Happy dog days of summer to members, friends, and parents –

What follows is a summary of the Sunday events from June and the upcoming events for July, plus RE curriculum information and RE needs and wishes.

It was a gorgeous sunny day on Sunday June 8th at Lake Tomahawk when more than a dozen dogs and cats joined the adults for the special animal blessing service. RE youth and teachers led the beginning of the service, and the DRE shared a story about her own experience with rescuing a few of her animals from a local pet adoption agency and whimsically quipped, who rescued who? At the request of Rev. Carter, a few adults and many canines barked and howled their way into one another's memories. UUCSV friends and members also brought pictures of pets to be blessed and Rev. Carter gently touched and blessed each animal spirit brought forward. All told, it was an exceptional service we hope will continue on an annual basis.

The following Sunday, June 15th, Dr. Jim Carillion led the worship for the congregation in a service honoring Father's and the gifts his own father has given. The service was well received. RE's long time UU teacher and former RE director for another UU congregation, Evelyn Carter led a very small group of youth in an activity and discussion honoring fathers.

On the 4th Sunday, only one youth from elementary through high school age was present to participate in an art project that is tied with a Social Action Committee project that is an important part of helping others in the community. A discussion about a name for the project began the activity and this conversation continued as a colorful banner was drafted and a design started to take shape with the name. This project is to help UUCSV collect food in a rolling barrel that we'll be able to move around to different areas of the building as it fills up with food on a monthly basis. This is a vast change from having a food collection only once or twice a year

Religious Education Corner

and the RE program is grateful to SAC Chair, Diane Hutchins, for the conversation we had that began this joint adventure. The banner is not yet finished so this will be an ongoing project that youth and teachers can work on throughout summer time. The name that was selected by Dorinda Ball is: UUCSV and SVCM (Swannanoa Valley Christian Ministries) “Food for Community”.

The fifth Sunday of the month is often a grounds clean-up day when youth help rake, plant or beautify the UUCSV property. But June 29 is a hiking day that will be led by Jim Carillion and Beata Ball as they take youth on a brief adventure, about .5 mile long hiking trail, that runs behind the Black Mountain primary school. It’s an easy trail but bring a water bottle and sweatshirt just in case.

We were looking forward to other summer plans with a field trip but this been modified because I’ve been in contact with Brother Wolf Animal Rescue (BWAR) of Asheville and their volunteer coordinator noted that BWAR has had to make some changes with regard to their visitor policy. The adoption center is very busy on weekends so Sundays are no longer an option for groups of visitors. I will research other possible events where youth can get involved with animals in a service or volunteer capacity. If you have a particular idea or a connection with a local agency, please let me know. You can email me at: redirector@uusv.org



Get your hotdog here! Get your hotdogs here! Those of us who’ve signed up for the baseball game could hear that call as we watch the Asheville Tourist take on West Virginia on Friday, August 8th at 7:05 pm. Well, maybe not in Asheville, but certainly I grew accustomed to it during my years attending MLB games in New York and Boston. At least in Asheville we know we will enjoy a dazzling fireworks display that Friday evening. Those interested, remember to use the sign-up sheet which is on display in the foyer and add your name and the number of tickets you wish to purchase at \$7/each, then we’ll order the tickets (in a group of at least 20). Participants will reimburse UUCSV. On game night, UUCSV will have our name displayed on a billboard in the outfield.

Religious Education Corner

COMING OF AGE

We had a good turnout of youth and parents for the Coming of Age Information and Pizza Meeting that was held on June 11th. Potential mentors joined in and those who have been a mentor shared information about their experiences in working with youth.

This group needs Mentors who are willing to serve on a year long journey with a young person. We are seeking passionate, spiritually grounded adults who appreciate working with this age group 1:1 of rising 6/7th grade through 12th grade. Adults need to commit to meeting with youth in person 1-2 times per month and keeping in contact through email and phone calls in between the meetings.

This COA group will begin meeting in September and go through May. Meetings for youth will be held Sunday mornings at 11am. Mentors do not attend these meetings on a regular basis as facilitators will teach youth during this time. Over the course of the program, Youth will develop a “credo” or a personal spiritual statement of their beliefs and will present this to the congregation. Mentors will be required to attend a Mentor Orientation prior to the start of the program and some mentors may be selected to participate in the trip to Boston next June. Fundraising done by youth and parents will be a heavy part of this commitment. **If you’re interested in serving as a mentor, please email me and I’ll send you additional information.**

PASSING THE TORCH, RE CHAIR and TEACHERS

This past academic year, Sue Phillips served as RE Chair with a dedication only a former teacher could have! We thank Sue for her service and the creativity with which she created signs for events, packaged pictures onto large poster board in an artful way, brought new topics to our attention, taught classes with a zest and curiosity that enriched children’s lives, and the many ideas she brought to the RE table. Thank you, Sue. She will continue to be involved with RE program, but to a lesser degree than this year as she’ll assist with classes occasionally and as her energy and schedule allow.

Fortunately for us, the last RE committee meeting discussed who to pass the torch onto and Beata Ball will begin serving as Chair in July. Beata brings with her experience as a mom of three children, a facilitator for Chalice Circle classes, and teacher for the program. She has also served as the Leader of a local Girl Scouts Troop located in Black Mountain for the past few years, and In fact, that is how she and Patricia met - through Girl Scouts - then one day they ran into each other at UUCSV and realized they had some common interests! Because of these two mutual connections, they are very familiar with each other’s styles and interests in working with you. We welcome you to the Chair position, Beata.

When it comes to teachers, we’ve had a few changes including Lisa Brooks who has led classes for several

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years and has had a remarkable passion about teaching about world religions. Lisa decided to step down from teaching to spending more time with her son and his activities and Linda Tatsapaugh, another dedicated RE teacher who's been a pleasure to work with, will be involved but perhaps not has often. Thank you Lisa and Linda for your service. Remember, you can always join us again to assist with teaching classes.

We welcome Sarah Kirkpatrick, Theresa Ballinger and Linda Blasky to the RE program to help out in any way that they can (either by serving on the committee and/or by teaching classes). We are grateful that each of them has decided to join us.



The RE Schedule for July will include the first Sunday of Basket weaving with Carolyn Shorkey and Milt Warden; the Intergenerational Service beginning on July 13 (and lesson to be announced in conjunction with the sermon topic); July 20 will bring Crocheting with Beata; and July 27 will be a Garden Exploration and some simple Homeopathy with Linda Blasky. Join us for these exciting summer themed events.

Attendance has been very low recently so we in RE want to encourage the families who may be reading this and the families who have been here this year to join us this summer for some fun activities that will be a welcome break from the world religious lessons that are taught during the academic year. Sunday activities will include hands-on art projects, painting, crocheting, knitting, picnics, walks in nature and other events where most age groups will be combined. We have small projects that youth can get involved with and we also plan to have a social event and a game day this summer. As always, Preschool's cooperative play is available for the littlest RE guests, ages newborn to age 4.

Curriculum for each age group (as of 6/22/14):

A subcommittee has meet a few times to discuss curriculum and we have made some decisions regarding curriculum for next year:

Preschool: Chalice Children by Katie Covey Tweedy

Early Elementary: K-3, Denton the Dragon by Jeff Hutchins

Elementary: Grades 4 – 6, Spirit of Adventure and Traditions with a Wink, by Katie Covey Tweedy

Grades 7 – 12: Coming of Age Group

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Middle School: Grade 7 – 9: To be Announced

High School 9 – 12: To Be Announced

A reminder that RE needs teachers, mentors, assistants! For those of you who may not want to teach but want to help, we have a growing list of projects that volunteers can help with. These include but are not limited to: removing all the art from this past year from our walls and preparing the walls for new displays for next year. We also need volunteers to categorize and make a digital Excel spreadsheet of the books we have in the RE library as well as the books in the UU library. This is a large task that can be completed over several weeks. Beyond these, there are other areas that we need help with, like taking everything out of the closet, shoring up the shelves, add a few hooks and nails, and putting most of it back inside the closet. Printing up a few signs, dusting, painting shelves.

RE Wishes

We are also looking for a desk for the RE Director to use on Sundays and during the week. If anyone has a small to medium size desk that you can loan us, or that we can barter for, or pay a small fee for, please let us know. We thought it would be good for teachers to have an adult height desk where they can store their supplies and materials on the Sunday they teach and go figure, this former teacher would like to be able to sit at a desk anytime I'm in the classroom doing work. Email or let us know if you have an available desk.

As always to all teachers, staff, and volunteers, we thank you for your continued support of the RE program. Please continue to volunteer for us as **we are in need of teachers** who are willing to share a talent with us, showcase a trip they've taken, or be a guest speaker for a topic of their choosing. To sign up to assist on a Sunday this summer or next fall, add your name and area of interest to the RE schedule posted in the foyer.

To all of you, thank you for your encouragement, support, guidance, and grit that you provided to the RE program. It's been an exciting year and we look forward to many more adventures this summer and beyond.

That's it from the RE Corner. Many blessings for a safe summer.

Let yourself be silently drawn by the strange pull of what you really love. You will not be led astray. ~Rumi

Shalom,

Patricia Fahey, Director of Religious Education]

UUCSV Caring Committee

I have been asked by our minister Rev. Michael Carter and by Jim Carillon to take on the responsibility to chair the Congregational Care committee. Jim Carillon is now a board member, thank you Jim for many years of excellent management of the Caring Committee. I have accepted and have resigned my Membership committee involvement.



I have a list of many members and friends who have, in the past, signed up to be called if needed to do various jobs that someone from our church can not do themselves.

Cook or make meals delivered, if they are too sick to do so, emergency transportation, temporary, if someone's car is inoperable. You can figure out for yourself all the many things you may be able to help with. I urge you to contact me at 828 357 5206 to offer your help, however small a help you can offer is welcome. At this time I feel we need more people to sign on, who have a pickup truck, also people who have a strong back to lift heavy things, something occasionally needed. The more people I have on my list the less often any one of you will be called to help out. I have already had to call someone on my list to help with both heavy lifting and a pickup, and got a willing response, thank you so much. With everyone willing to help out, this job will not be too much for me to handle, thank you all.

—Ann Sillman, Caring Committee Chairman

Choir News

We enjoyed singing to welcome all the new members in June! In July, we will rehearse on Sunday, the 20th at 12:15, then on Thursday the 24th at 7 PM, and then on the day of performance, July 27th at 10 AM. This will be a service of music and poetry organized by Shelly Frome. The choir will be singing the old Appalachian song, "The Water is Wide" and the African-American hymn, "More Love Somewhere." Come sing with us!



—Linda Metzner, Choir Director

Birthdays

- July 13th Elaine Stennett
- July 14th Betty Bates
- July 15th Laine Everly
- July 15th Judy Lutvack
- July 22nd Bob MacDicken
- July 26th Jey Hiott



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

July's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups, usually every third Friday of the month, will be held on the 1st of August (because of my July travel to my brother in Wisconsin) 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. Back by popular demand will be the movie *The Big Chill* (1998)—last shown at FF five years ago! (Fear not! There will also be an August FF.) For further information call Norm Kowal (458-4537).



Money Talk

We celebrated the awarding of our Chalice Lighter grant last month. This is a good time to look into some of the details of this exceptional honor for our congregation. The Chalice Lighter program is designed to help UU congregations fund new growth initiatives, usually focused on personnel or bricks and mortar. Examples have included purchasing land or a building, expanding an existing facility or bringing in a called minister or Director of Religious Education. We were the fortunate recipients of a Chalice Lighter Grant in 2005 that helped pay for our building at 500 Montreat Road.

Our grant proposal was written by Carolyn Shorkey. She needed to incorporate lots of membership and financial data, along with our five-year strategic growth plan into her well-crafted application. The total award is worth \$27,000; the payout will be done over three years @ \$13,500 in 2014, followed by \$8,500 in 2015 and \$5,000 in the final year. This draw down is intended to help us build our internal financial capacity to pay for our full-time minister by 2016-17 fiscal year.

How is the Chalice Lighter Grant program funded? By hundreds of small gifts made by individual UU's from all over the Southern Region, particularly the South Eastern District, that is made up of about 140 congregations (VA, NC, SC, GA, FL). Typically two calls go out each year asking folks to donate for a specific congregation's grant request. If you would like to learn more about the Chalice Lighter Program please refer to the UUA and/or Southern Region websites.

This program is an exciting opportunity for each of us to share our time, talent and treasure with other UU congregations who share our dreams and values. Thanks to all of you who are already supporting the Chalice Lighter Program.

—Lee Reading, Treasurer

Social Action Committee

The church year of July 2013 through June of 2014 has been a productive one for our congregation's Social Action Committee.

Many of you helped out with our annual participation with Room in the Inn when we provide food, transportation and overnight supervision for area homeless women and Habitat when we volunteer to build houses for deserving families. A potluck dinner was held at our church for Habitat workers who came to this area from all over the country to work on Asheville area homes. UUCSV also hosted a luncheon for thirty workers, some of whom are prisoners from the Swannanoa minimum security prison, who spend a week repairing homes of people in Black Mountain who cannot afford to do so. Every fall our congregation has a booth at the Blue Ridge Pride festival in Asheville in support of our LGBTQ sisters and brothers. In November we sell holiday cards with the monies raised going to the UU Service Committee. We are trying to do more than talk the talk and we are grateful for your contributions of time and talents to help us walk the walk. Most of the mentioned events are out in the community and help educate the public about our values and principles.

We are always happy to have guests attend our meetings and inform us of activities and projects that we can help with. During this last year we have heard about GO, a jobs training enterprise that offers low-income residents a pathway to self-sufficiency, Transition Black Mountain, and Move to Amend. These presentations offer us a link to the wider community.

We co-sponsored an ERA presentation made one evening in our sanctuary, a series of anti-racism discussions given at the Black Mountain Carver Center, and three Move to Amend evenings held here at UUCSV. All of these events were open to the public.

Once a year the SAC is in charge of a anti-racism service. Sermons have been given by guest speakers and our own Rev. Carter.

We enjoy working with the youth when we collect food for local food banks and monies for Guests at Your Table.

Our committee meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 5:30 in the small RE room and we invite you to join us. Committee members are Helen Bell, Monroe Gilmour, Connie Krochmal, Roberta Madden, Emory Underwood and chair Diane Hutchins.

New Members

The new members of UUCSV who have joined in the past year are listed below. Bios for the first five have appeared in earlier newsletters, but updated bios may be coming in the near future. We look forward to a bunch of new bios in the newsletter starting with the August edition.

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|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Rick & Marsha Ott | Allan & Jean Brown |
| Kathleen Cantwell | David Groce |
| Kathy Phillips | Rosemary Ostertag |
| Megan Miller | Gerald Kuester |
| Cheryl & Roscoe Manning | Linda Blasky |
| Dave & Alice Wells | Beata Ball |
| Janine Wiltshire | Beverly Valentine |
| Pam Sain | Jesse & Michael Figuera |
| Beth Murphey | Linda Tatsapaugh |

Video Series about Corporate Rule

Sponsored by Move to Amend, Buncombe County, and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation Swannanoa Valley Social Action

Where: Unitarian Universalist Congregation

When: Thursday, June 5th “The United States of ALEC”

Thursday, July 3rd “Legalize Democracy”

Thursday, Aug 7th “The Story of Citizens United v FEC”

Doors Open at 6:30 PM, Event at 7:00, Q&A Session at 8:00

Learn about the nationwide campaign to amend the Constitution to return corporations to their earlier state when they were not given the rights of citizens, when money wasn’t speech and Congress could regulate money in politics.

For more information call: Geoffrey at (828) 669-0619 or Susan at (828) 669-1785

In Time of Need

Eleven years ago Milt and I got a call from a hospital doctor, that Milt’s Mom had been transported to the emergency room after having suffered a massive stroke. It was a busy, sleepless and chaotic 24 hours waiting for the call telling us that she had died. The following week was spent driving up to Michigan, taking care of financial and legal matters, emptying her house, meeting with a realtor and planning her Memorial Service. Although her minister was available to us, the church building was not, due to a problem with the furnace and their preparations for the annual rummage sale. The membership of her church had dwindled, there were no parishioners available to care for us. They did not send over a meal nor were they able to host a Memorial reception for us in the community. It was a lonely feeling to be up there without the support of her small and tired congregation.

I have since vowed to be available to family members of my church who arrive in town for the death of their loved one. It has been my pleasure to help organize several Memorial Service Receptions at UUCSV. Recently, the family of Sharon Schuster was well taken care of by members of our church. I am deeply grateful to the following among us who stepped up to the plate and offered to help with the reception following Sharon’s June 7th Memorial Service: Jim Carilion, Tina Rosato, Sue Miller, Ann Sillman, Milt Warden, and Cilla Becker. This caring circle of members, in very short notice, provided Sharon’s family with nourishment for their bodies and souls during their time of need.

With deep felt gratitude,

—Carolyn Shorkey

From the Editor—The Last Word

“Love alone is the true seed in you of all virtue, and of every action that deserves punishment.”

—Dante: The Divine Comedy, Purgatorio, XVII, 104-5

