

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY

Sept 2014

Volume XIII, Issue 9

Religious Freedom — Diverse Perspectives



From the Minister

Well, here we are back to the month of September, one of my favorite months of the year. Much is going on here at the church with office renovations and adult education for the upcoming year. As part of our adult education for the Fall, we will have a UU History Class beginning on Tuesday evening, September 30th from 6:30 pm until 8:00 pm and concluding on November 18th. Roberta Madden and I are planning some anti-racism discussions with one of our neighborhood African American congregations beginning in January of 2016. Also in February of next year as part of our Adult RE, I am thinking of presenting the work of author and therapist, John Bradshaw's Homecoming series from PBS here at the church. This education series will be shown on DVD with discussions to follow. Mr. Bradshaw's work focuses much on human growth potential and the care and nurturing of our inner child.

You'll be hearing more about this in the weeks to come. By the time you read this your Board of Trustees will have had the annual retreat on August 16, 2014, and on Saturday, September 13th, from 9 am until 3 pm, our congregational leaders will be meeting with Denise Rimes, a UU consultant in the district, to assist us in crafting a congregational covenant between myself as your minister, and the congregation. This will be a very important event in the life of this congregation. After the workshop we will be presenting our findings to the congregation in order to begin work on the covenant.

September is also a time where our Jewish brothers and sisters celebrate their new year Rosh Hashana. The year on the Jewish Calendar is 5775 beginning on September 24th, 1014.

Just a reminder that our Homecoming Service is Sunday, September 14th and not only is it an Intergenerational Service (RE Teachers and Youth will open up the service) but it is our Water Communion Service as well. So please bring your water from wherever you wish from your travels this summer; from local lakes or streams, or rivers, from wherever. These are exciting times for sure!

I am hoping you can and will participate in at least some of the events above if not all of them. Thanks for all of you for your time, talents, and treasure in nurturing and sustaining this Free Religious Community!

Michael

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Board Meeting: Monday 15 Sept, 6 p.m.

Send Newsletter Information to
Norm Kowal, *Editor*
normankowal@bellsouth.net
Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday 23 Sept, 10
a.m., covering October 2014

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION OF THE SWANNANOVA VALLEY

September...

More an emotion
Than a month
In many ways

More than the sum
Of it's crisp
And bracing days

More so a taste
Of days of wine
And fading roses

More than just the smell
of leaves and smoke
in our noses

More than the changing
Of the guard
Of the seasons

More than the shrinking
Of the freshening days
And e'en less of the reasons

More fond do I grow
As the years come and go...
The Septembers I have left? (Who knows)

More should I taste
And the less
Should I waste

Of the fine
Piquant tang
And remember

Devotion, emotion September is an ocean
That I feel each gust and tremor
And when Winter is nigh
Comes a tear to my eye
And I sadly bid sweet September

...Goodbye...

David Whalen

Sunday Programming

Sunday, 7 September 2014, 11 a.m.

Tidings of Comfort and Joy

Byron Ballard

As the world's troubles continue to baffle, anger and frustrate us, we often forget one important act of courage, even rebellion. We forget to take care of the one person who needs us most—ourselves. Spend some time this morning with Byron Ballard as she outlines some strategies for Radical Self-Care. As advocates and activists, we've been trained to always put ourselves last, which leads to poor judgment, ill health and ultimately to burn-out. If you have been standing as witness and holding vigil without tending your own needs, this is a good opportunity to learn some skills to balance your heart-lived life.

H. Byron Ballard, BA, MFA, is a ritualist, teacher, speaker and writer. She has served as a featured speaker and teacher at Sacred Space Conference, Pagan Unity Festival, Southeast Women's Herbal Conference, Glastonbury Goddess Conference, West Kentucky Hoodoo Rootworker Heritage Festival and other gatherings. Her writings have appeared in print and electronic media. Her essays are featured in several anthologies, including "Birthed from Scorched Hearts" (Fulcrum Press), "Christmas Presence" (Catawba Press), "Women's Voices in Magic" (Megalithica Books), "Into the Great Below" and "Skalded Apples" (both from Asphodel Press). She blogs as "Asheville's Village Witch" (myvillagewitch.wordpress.com) and as The Village Witch for Witches and Pagans Magazine (witchesandpagans.com/The-Village-Witch). Her pamphlet "Back to the Garden: a Handbook for New Pagans" has been widely distributed and her first book "Staubs and Ditchwater: an Introduction to Hillfolks Hoodoo" (Silver Rings Press) debuted in June 2012. Byron is currently at work on "Earth Works: Eight Ceremonies for a Changing Planet". Contact her at www.myvillagewitch.com, info@myvillagewitch.com.



Sunday, 14 September 2014, 11 a.m., Intergenerational Beginning Service

Welcome Home

Rev. Michael Carter

This Sunday is our "Homecoming Sunday." I hope that most if not all of us found some time for a bit of rest, relaxation, and contemplation. This Sunday will be our IG (Intergenerational Beginning) Service and we plan on having a Flower Communion as well orchestrated by our RE teachers and youth. It promises to be a great way to kick off the church year and the coming of Fall. See you there!

Sunday Programming



Sunday, 21 September 2014, 11 a.m.

Religion's Role in War and Peace

Dr. David Kaylor

Although we frequently look to religion for comfort in times of conflict, often religion itself has caused conflict. On this International Day of Peace, we consider war, peace and religion, and the ways religions have both promoted war and advocated and worked for peace and what that means for those of us who would be instruments for peace today.

Dr. David Kaylor taught Religion and Humanities at Davidson College from 1964 to 2000. He has been active in the Presbyterian Church (USA) as a teacher, speaker, supply preacher, and participant in mission trips. He and his wife, Dorothy (Dot) have five children and eight grandchildren. They recently moved to Black Mountain to enjoy a retirement that includes travel, woodturning, and spending time with family.



Sunday, 28 September 2014, 11 a.m.

Are We Rome?

Rev. Michael Carter

Is the United States the reincarnation of The Roman Empire? Some say yes, some say no. I feel that the answer is yes but we don't have to be. What is a UU response to empire? As we look at the role our nation is playing out in the lives of other nations, the question cannot be ignored. Is this what our nation called to be at this time in history? As you can see, we may have more questions than answers, but that's okay. Sometimes the questions can be just as or even more important. See you on the 28th!

Religious Education Corner



Adult Education—Coming up Fall 2014

September—Adult Education

Luunch Buunch: 9/2 on Tuesday 12-1:00 pm

UU HISTORY ~ Join other Adults for a multi-part series all about UU History

A Discussion and DVD viewing will take place beginning on Tuesday 9/30 at 6:00 pm. The series will be led by Rev. Carter and meets on subsequent Tuesdays: Oct. 7, 14, and 21 (but not on 10/28) and Nov. 4, 11 and 18th.

Info at UUCSV—Coming in a Week— Check out the Adult RE Calendar that will be posted in the foyer plus 2014-15 Curriculum Listings and the Children's RE Calendar that will be available- on-line on our website UUSV.org

SONG AND SILENCE: AN INTRODUCTION TO SINGING MEDITATION

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14TH 12 :45 --- 2:00

The Adult Religious Education Committee offers the congregation a session with Ginny Moreland as she presents Singing Meditation.

Singing Meditation is a contemporary incarnation of the ancient and pervasive impulse to sing in groups for spiritual enrichment. Developed by a UU musician in 2004, it is an intentionally inter-faith practice accessible to anyone. Ginny uses very simple chants, rounds and songs drawn from many cultural traditions or created for this purpose. Songs are taught by ear, with words and music provided for those who would like them.

The session on September 14th begins with an introductory explanation, a period for learning a selection of songs and a short break. The group will then reconvene for a more formal session. During this time songs are begun and repeated, allowed to develop until the group intuitively lets them end. Each song is followed by two or three minutes of silence to deepen the experience. This time is available for prayer, meditation or simply being with the lingering reverberations of our voices. There will be a continuation of alternating songs and silence until Ginny concludes the session.

Sign up by emailing Helen Bell at angel99hb@aol.com. Bring a snack or light lunch to eat after the service and before the session.

Adult RE At Night: Workshops will resume on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in September. Join Rev. Michael Carter as we begin a Seven (7) Session series on the history of Unitarian Universalists.

Ted Talks resume in the fall and will be open to UUCSV members, friends, and the community. Join us on the 4th Wednesday of each month beginning in September.

Religious Education Corner



Covenant Groups: Are you interested in joining a Covenant Groups? We will begin Covenant Groups in the fall. If interested contact Helen Bell after Sunday services.

Adult RE Committee: We are looking for people to join the Adult RE committee to help with adult workshops and seminars. This is a very low commitment to add to your tasks. The committee meetings approximately once a quarter. Two members needed.

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION—The Year In Review

Submitted By Helen Bell, Adult RE Chair

The Adult Education committee is gearing up for a second year of interesting courses and events. If you weren't able to attend any classes in the past, look for upcoming sessions starting in September.

Patricia Fahey is the Director of UUCSV's Lifespan Religious Education, which includes RE programs for both adult and youth. She will include adult RE news in her monthly article in the newsletter and weekly article in the Current.

Lunch Bunch continues, TED talks resume, Rev. Carter teaches a new course, and there will be a different offering one night a month on various topics.

We are very pleased that another covenant group will be starting. This will be an evening group that will meet twice a month. More details coming soon.

Religious Education Program For Youth Pre-K to 12th Grade

To All Parents, Friends, Members and those interested in what Religious Education will be involved with, the curriculum for September 2014 through May 2015 is:

Preschool—Infants through Pre-K Ages 4/5:

Chalice Children

Chalice Children was written by Kate Tweedie Covey in response to the preschool teachers who wanted more connection to our faith when teaching UU Church School for preschoolers. Chalice Children features: 36 sessions and five alternate sessions, simple UU rhymes and finger-plays and introductions to the sharing circle.

Religious Education Corner



Early Elementary – Grades K—2/3:

Denton the Dragon and Picture Book UU. We'll start with Picture Book UU and then Introduce Denton towards the end of September and fluctuate.

Denton the Dragon was written by UUs Jeff Hutchins and illustrated by Jerry David Pope. The website www.dentonthedragon.com, states: Enjoy these Bubbleland books, pictures, songs, videos, and activities designed to teach universal values to young children, ages 4 to 8. Character education woven into amusing character-driven stories and activities.

Picture Book UU: This curriculum is fun, friendly and concise with teachable moments that introduce our faith to young children. It's easy for Teachers to use with:

- 1) Heart melting picture books as the focus of the session.
- 2) A clear and simple session plan.
- 3) Ready to copy parent take home sheets.
- 4) A defined belief, principle and source for each session.
- 5) Multiple options for activities for advance planners and Saturday night

For more information go to: http://www.uure.com/PBUU.html#anchor_86

Upper Elementary – Grades 3/4-5:

Spirit of Adventure and Traditions with a Wink. Teachers needed 2-3 times per month. Beata has committed to teaching this group so you would teach with her and another adult on Sundays when Beata is off.

Spirit of Adventure – we just ordered it and Evelyn Carter is reviewing the Curriculum. This curriculum is 35 sessions with unique themes, such as sports, medicine, architecture, science and food. Active play such as circus arts, a "take apart party," obstacle course, and a treasure hunt.

<http://www.uure.com/traditionswithawink.html>

Traditions with a Wink include 44 lessons, plus 10 Social Night Scripts that teach our U.U. story with the fun that keeps those middle schoolers coming.

Coming of Age Group - Grades 6-8

Teachers needed every other week Sunday 9-11 am and some evening events.

Religious Education Corner



Coming of Age Group - Grades 9-12

Teachers needed every other week Sunday 9-11 am and some evening events.

The Coming of Age (COA) Program will start at the end of September. To kick-off the start of this group, we are having a COA Social/Final Youth Night on

When: Friday, September 12 from 6:00—8:00 pm

Where: At Heidi Blozan's, Black Mountain, NC

We'll give families materials and ask youth to sign a commitment form plus pay a \$50.00 deposit to cover the cost of the book (\$30) and to go toward the COA group.

RSVP to redirector@uusv.org

Save the Date - RE Fall Festival — Saturday, October 11, 2014. We need volunteers from 3 – 9 pm the day of the event and before-hand to manage events, tickets, drinks, craft areas, check in and help with specific tasks to make this event successful. Beata Ball is lead organizer. To volunteer for the festival on October 11th. Email Beata at: hereitsmine@gmail.com

In Grateful Service,

Patricia Fahey

Happiness

UUCSV was well represented at the 2014 Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute in Radford Virginia. A good time was had by all! Ask Carolyn about the classes she took, Milt about driving the courtesy golf cart and the dining room, Ginny about the Artisan's Bazaar, David about the music, and Ann about the coffee shop and nightlife! Be on the look out for an information session this winter when we shall tell you stories and information about how you can be part of this fun-filled week in July of 2015.



Committee Chair and Publicity Meeting

When your committee is sponsoring an event what is the best way to spread the word within the congregation? Who needs to know what? And when? What if you want to encourage people from outside the church to attend?

Please join Board Of Trustees members Jim Carillon, Sue E Miller and Rebecca Williams Sunday Sept 7th at 10:00 am for a committee chair meeting as we discuss communication and publicity protocols for UUCSV.

For more information, please contact Rebecca Williams: 828-280-6235 or serpentchildfilm@gmail.com

Friday Fling

September's Friday Fling, a fun party for grown-ups, every third Friday of the month, will be held on 19 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 *Thelma & Louise* (1991; Susan Sarandon, Geena Davis) will be shown. Next month we are planning *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom*. For further information call Norm Kowal (458-4537).



September 26 Room in the Inn Sign-Up

Our last Room in the Inn for the year will be on Friday, Sept. 26 at the Black Mountain Presbyterian Church annex. UUCSV is providing all volunteers and meals for the day. To sign up as a volunteer, see the sign up sheet in the foyer or contact me at 828 686 3112 or flora258@isp.com. Many thanks to all our faithful volunteers who have helped over the years.



At this point we still need back up van drivers for morning and evening, backup overnight volunteers, bag lunches and some items for the evening meal, including drinks, a dessert, salads, and one more veggie/side dish.

—Connie Krochmal, Social Action Committee Room in the Inn coordinator

Choir News

We enjoyed the jazzy new arrangement of "What the World Needs Now is Love" in August. In September we will be rehearsing on the 21st after the service at 12:15, on the 25th at 6:30 PM, and then on the day of performance, the 28th at 10 AM. Come sing with us!

—Linda Metzner, Choir Director



Money Talk

Many folks who have made a pledge to financially support our congregation wonder where exactly does the money go? A detailed line item budget is posted on the bulletin board in the foyer if you would like to drill down for a closer look into the operation. Of course most of our budget goes towards personnel—our minister, administrative assistant, RE Director and the music program. We also pay for a cleaning service for the building, and we need to keep the lights on and pay the town for our water and sewer service. We recently made our “fair share” payment to the UUA to help support the work of our association and regional offices. This annual allocation is based on a percentage of our operating expenses and is called the Program Fund.

Some of our money directly recirculates in the local community. Our Social Action Committee makes a number of small payments to several not for profit organizations to support their work. The Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity Chapter is one of the organizations we have supported for quite a few years. Our dollars this year went into a larger pot to help build the 15th Interfaith House for the Jones Family. Nineteen faith organizations collaborated to help fund and provide the volunteer labor to build this green, solid, beautiful home in a lovely neighborhood in Swannanoa. I had the pleasure of attending the dedication ceremony where the key is passed to the new home owners on Friday August 1st. We salute all the folks who have helped in this mission with your time, talent and treasure.

Another way our resources support the local economy is by investing some of our excess cash with the Self-Help Credit Union. This money gets pooled with thousands of other depositors and is loaned out in our region to help small businesses and first-time home buyers. Economic opportunity for everyone means having a decent place to live and having access to capital. We are helping to make it happen here in the Swannanoa Valley!

—Lee Reading, Treasurer

Birthdays

September 3rd Norm Kowal
September 4th Dan Stupka
September 14th Carolyn
Shorkey
September 14th Milt Warden
September 18th Tim Perry
September 24th Cora Blozan
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.



From the Editor—The Last Word

“My Guide and I crossed over and began
to mount that little known and lightless road
to ascend into the shining world again.
“He first, I second, without thought of rest
we climbed the dark until we reached the point
where a round opening brought in sight the blest
“and beauteous shining of the Heavenly cars.
And we walked out once more beneath the Stars.”

[Not the conquest of depression, but Virgil and Dante in the last lines of *The Inferno*.]