



TRI-CITIES U.U. REVIEW

The Newsletter of Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church
always available online at www.hvuuc.org

The mission of Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church is to promote spiritual growth, religious freedom, and ethical action.

November 29, 2009

136 Bob Jobe Road Gray, Tennessee 37615 (423) 477-7661

Headlines

- Gracia and Rob Basham invite everyone to their wedding reception this Saturday evening December 5th at 7:00pm here at HVUUC
- Guest at Your Table boxes will be collected this Sunday, December 6th
- The Senior High Youth are meeting for dinner at Rev. Luck's this Sunday Dec. 6th at 5:00pm
- Please plan to attend the December 20th Carol and Candlelight service at 7:00pm

O.W.L. Senior High Class

The Religious Education Committee will be offering Our Whole Lives (OWL) to our Sr. Youth (9th-12th grade). This program is a sexuality education curriculum that has been highly recommended by U.U. churches throughout the U.S. It has been reported by NPR as "the best curriculum of its kind". A parent orientation class will be held on Sunday, December 6 from 12:15 - 2:15. This class is a requirement of all parents who want their youth to participate in this exceptional experience. Please call or e-mail Denee Mattioli, our DRE at 341-9254 or DRE@HVUUC.org or Rev. Luck at 677-8710 or revluck@hvuuc.org.

Upcoming Sunday Worship Services

December 6—Annual Festival of Lights Service

December 13—"A Hanukkah Story of Receiving", Reverend Luck

December 20 - "In the Winter of Our Spiritual Lives", Reverend Luck

December 20 at 7:00PM— Yule Carol and Candle Light Service, Reverend Luck

Bring the family and guests to this lovely evening service. We'll have special music and a readers theater.

Annual Tree of Plenty

The Social Justice Committee will begin the annual Tree of Plenty on December 6th, to help less fortunate students in the local area. The tree will be put up after the service on the 6th. If you would like to help decorate the tree, please stay after the service.

We will be putting paper ornaments on the tree, each of which will have an item that has been requested by a student. Then, each of us can take an ornament from the tree, sign for it, and return to church the following week with the requested item.



The Board Would Like to Hear From You

The HVUUC Board of Trustees welcomes your suggestions, opinions and comments to serve you better. Please drop your card in the suggestion box located on the back table of the sanctuary. We will check them periodically and pass them onto the appropriate committees or person for follow-up. Please write your name, contact information and comments on the cards available near the suggestion box. Please remember your name and contact information are important so we can get back to you.

HVUUC Calendar

Tuesday December 1

5:30pm Yoga
6:30pm HVUUC Sangha
7pm Star Trek Covenant Group
7pm Dream Covenant Group

Wednesday December 2

7pm RE Committee meeting

Thursday December 3

7pm Metaphysical Group
7pm Spirituality Group

Friday December 4

7pm Women's Group

Saturday December 5

7pm Basham Wedding Reception

Sunday December 6

9am Adult RE
9:15am Music Rehearsal
9:30am Caring Team
10:30am Worship Service
12pm Are You Our UU Covenant Group
12:15pm Music Committee
12:15pm OWL parent meeting
12:30pm Choir Recording
5pm Senior High at Rev. Luck's

Tuesday December 8

5:30pm Yoga
6:30pm HVUUC Sangha
7pm Poetry Covenant Group

Wednesday December 9

6pm Young Adult Group
6:30pm Religious Services Committee

7pm Wednesday Music Covenant

Thursday December 10

7pm Metaphysical Group
Saturday December 11
10pm HVUUC Sangha
7pm Coffeeshouse

Sunday December 13

9:00pm Adult R.E.
10:30am Worship Service
12pm Are You Our UU Covenant Group
12:30pm Girl Scout meeting
12:30pm Choir Recording
7pm Music Covenant Group

Monday December 14

7pm Life Stories Covenant Group

Tuesday December 15

10am Buuk Club
5:30pm Yoga
6:30pm HVUUC Sangha
7pm Poetry Covenant Group
7pm Dream Covenant Group

From the Minister's Daybook

These humorous and yet important words come from my colleague Jane Rzepka in her meditation manual *A Small Heaven* available from the Church of the Larger Fellowship's office (617-948-6150): The newsletter editor of the First Parish in Weyland, Mass., once ran her favorite New Yorker squib: IMPORTANT NOTICE. If you are one of the hundreds of parachuting enthusiasts who recently bought our Easy Sky Diving book, please make the following correction: On page eight, line seven, the word's 'state zip code' should have read 'pull rip cord.' Adv. In the Warrenton, (VA.) Farquier Democrat I worry about things like this during the holiday season. Had I been a parachuting enthusiast, and had I breezed through Easy Sky Diving during the month of December, I'd still be flying through the air, picking up speed, shouting my zip code.

Zip codes aren't important. Rip cords are. At this time of the year, it's all too easy to confuse one for the other. The "zip codes" of the season—the replacement bulbs, the four sticks of butter, the fruit-by-mail catalogs, and the party shoes—have our attention, and before we know it we're picking up speed and shouting out those zip codes without ever asking why.

Perhaps we should look to our rip cords. Our lifelines, in December as always, are our inner quiet, the love we exchange, and our efforts to make the world more whole. We can slow the descent. We can take in the view. And we can anticipate a gentle landing before the new year begins.

This morning there is so much to say to you as we enter this celebratory and holy season. It is an easy time to get wrapped up in all we think we must do. I remember breaking down in tears one Christmas Eve because I had not baked Christmas cookies with the children. I'm sad today thinking of all the stuff I put before baking cookies with my sons, and of course there are other opportunities for such family joys if we don't make the Christmas Eve deadline. Jane Zzepka's reminder is important during our holidays—anytime, really. May this be a season remembering your rip cords! JL



TJ District Conference Volunteers Needed

The Committee in charge of our Governance Ministry Conference to be held on February 26-27 is looking for volunteers to help us host about 30-40 fellow UU's. We need people to help with food, hospitality, lodging, registration, etc. This is a sort term commitment. E-mail Charlie Mattioli at dcmattioli@chartertn.net if you'd like to help.

President's Corner



One thing the board is doing differently this year is having a Critical Board Calendar. Each month the board has one topic to focus on at the board meeting. Some of the topics for the year included in the calendar are: stewardship, long range planning, church governance, finance and budget, policies, beloved community and membership.

This past month the calendar topic was Social Justice. I would like to thank Betty Kramer for attending our meeting and letting us know about the great work the Social Justice committee is doing. When we started talking about what the committee does, it made me aware of the many things we participate in that relate to Social Justice. One of the board goals for the year was to support Social Justice and to focus on one thing that involves the entire congregation. It was helpful for the board to hear Betty's comments and it gave us an opportunity to hear what they are doing. Social Justice is an important part of our ministry. I would encourage more members to get involved with it in our church. To get more information about the Social Justice Committee please get in touch with Betty Kramer.

Next month the board will be focusing on Stewardship to gauge how effectively we are using the church's resources. Each year the new board will look at the critical board calendar and update and make any necessary changes. That way the board focuses on the important issues facing our church. Again, anyone is welcome to come to the board meeting. Our next meeting will be December 16th in the Fred Ball Room.

Michael Jones,
HVUUC Board of Trustees' President

Women's Retreat 2010

The women's retreat is scheduled for the weekend of April 10th at Sugar Hollow Retreat Center. Reservations won't be taken until closer to that time, but if you're interested, save the date on your calendar.

<http://sugarhollowretreat.com/no-contracts-women-find-relaxing-weekend-shr>

Check out their website and read the blog about our last Women's retreat there!

Questions, contact rkleske@gmail.com.

HVUUC Events

Adult RE

Join us for Adult R.E. from 9AM to 10:15AM Sunday mornings. The class meets in the Junior Youth room in the REZ and is facilitated by Charlie Mattioli.

Basham Wedding Reception December 5th

Rob and Gracia Basham invite you to celebrate their wedding by having a party at HVUUC! We will have music, dancing, wine and finger foods, so put on your fancy (or not so fancy) duds and come ready to boogie. (someone is going to have to teach Gracia to dance) Feel free to bring any favorite CD's and we will spend lots of time talking and fellowshiping. Rob and Gracia have chosen to, in lieu of wedding gifts, collect donations to be given to HVUUC's Music Program, so we can keep our Services full of the beautiful music we all enjoy. If you would like to make a donation, that will be gladly received. The party will be held Dec. 5th from 6:30-8:30 pm. Please bring your spouses or significant others and enjoy the night with friends. Anyone who is willing can bring a plate of finger foods.

Upcoming Welcoming Congregation Events



December 6, 12:00PM—LGBT History

December 20, 12:00PM—Film
"Before Stonewall"

January 3, 12:00PM—Bisexuality and Biphobia

January 24, 12:00PM—Film "Gendernation"

January 27, 7:00PM—Film "Gendernation"

February 13, 5:00PM—Transgender Identity: What it Means

February 21, 12:00PM—Film "Southern Comfort"

February 24, 7:00PM—Film "Southern Comfort"

March 7, 12PM—How Homophobia Hurts Us All

UU History and Theology Class

Sunday, January 10, 2010, Reverend Luck will teach a class on Unitarian Universalist History and Theology after the potluck. Please email the office or call to say you will be attending and if you need child care. You are invited to attend if you are a new member, considering membership, or one of Holston Valley's long time members.

Social Justice

Recycling & Composting Program

As part of this church's effort to produce ZERO WASTE please remember to do your part by disposing of any waste item in the proper bins located in the Fred Ball Room or better yet, by taking home to your own recycling bins what you bring in. We currently are using Social Justice Committee members to take the recyclables and composting items home each Sunday, but we don't have Fifth Sundays or Wednesday night suppers covered. If you can do this occasional job, we'd sure appreciate your help! If interested, contact Sam Jones.

Stewardship

HVUUC Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund Committee wants to keep you informed of ways you can help the fund grow. There are a number of ways you can help:

- Gifts "in honor of" an individual who is still living
- Gifts "in memory of" a person who has passed away
- Outright donations to the Fund
- Bequests
- Designating the Endowment Fund as the recipient of gifts to be made in remembrance of you

If you would like further information, please don't hesitate to contact any member of the committee. Virgil Stephens (chairman), Frank Shuler, Gerald Keep, Richard Boyd, and Jo Anne Medlin .

A Cozy Concert with the Robinson's

Join Dana and Susan Robinson for a special house concert at Simple Abundance Yoga, 4411 N. Roan Street, Suite 23, Johnson City (across from Boone's Creel Middle School) December 12th at 7:00pm. Admission is free.

Looking to buy an affordable home? Check out Eastern Eight Community Development Corporation, a community-based housing and community development agency whose mission is to fulfill housing needs for low-to-moderate income families at www.e8cdc.org.

Music Committee

The Music Committee needs YOU! (Even if all you can play is the radio)

Our beloved HVUUC community is deeply appreciative of the many ways that music enhances their worship at our church. Good music is also attractive to newcomers and contributes to their desire to return and eventually become members.

Our committee organizes the many fine performances of talented people within and beyond our walls. We are all passionately interested in music, and have the desire to create for our church the finest musical experience possible. Our goal is to offer greater and more varied high-quality programming, but we can't do it without you.

Here's how YOU can help:

- Take turns planning and implementing performances for our regular Sunday services.
- Assist with non-Service musical events, such as our monthly Coffeehouse.
- Discuss and set policy on the musical life of HVUUC as needs arise.
- Bring us fresh ideas on how to expand and enrich musical programming.
- Maintain and improve resources, such as hymnals, our piano, and other instruments.

Energetic people from all backgrounds with a passionate interest in music are encouraged to help us make the musical life at HVUUC the best it can be! Contact Teri Sandoval at tfsandoval@gmail.com if you are interested in learning more about serving our congregation on the Music Committee.

Community Information

Songfest 2009

A Bluegrass/Gospel Musical Extravaganza benefiting the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Greater Johnson City.

Sunday, December 6, 2009 3PM-5:30PM
VA Memorial Theatre, Building #35

Featuring:

Ed Snodderly

Raymond McLain

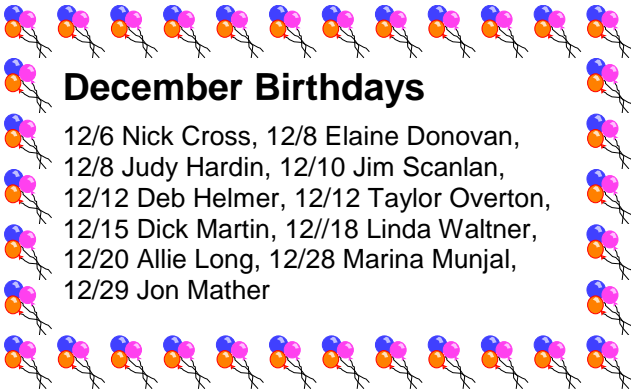
ETSU Bluegrass Band

Rockingham Road and more!

Tickets are \$15.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children and are available from Sam Jones.

Gray Community Chest Party for Senior Citizens

The Gray Community Chest is having a party for all Senior Citizens in the area at the Crossroads Christian Church in Gray (next for Daniel Boone High School) from 12:00PM to 3:00PM on Saturday, December 12th. If you need a ride you can call Tony Barnes at 913-2695.



December Birthdays

12/6 Nick Cross, 12/8 Elaine Donovan,
12/8 Judy Hardin, 12/10 Jim Scanlan,
12/12 Deb Helmer, 12/12 Taylor Overton,
12/15 Dick Martin, 12//18 Linda Waltner,
12/20 Allie Long, 12/28 Marina Munjal,
12/29 Jon Mather

Membership Corner

Congratulations to Ann and Larry Livengood on the birth of their daughter Madeline Emily Livengood, 8 lb. 4oz., 20 1/4" born on November 17th at 1:52pm.

Our Sympathies to Sandra Gray on the death of her father Homer Dean Gray. He passed away on Monday, November 23rd.

Congratulations to Inge and John Franjone on the birth of their daughter Anna Beatrice Franjone, 7 pounds, 12 ounces, 21 inches born on November 25, 2009 at 9:38 am.

Caring Team

Caring Team coordinators for December are Gabrielle Zeiger and Betty Kramer. Congregants can reach them by e-mail caring@hvuuc.org or by calling 423-477-7661 (Press 3). Thank you to our November coordinators Lynn Scarborough and Gabrielle Zeiger.

2009-2010 Board of Trustees

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Minister

Rev. Jacqueline Luck: 477-7661 (office), revluck@hvuuc.org

Church Secretary's Office Hours

9:00am-3:00pm, Tuesday & Thursday - office@hvuuc.org

Upcoming Newsletter Deadlines: November 1, November 15, November 29, December 13, January 3

Please send any items for the newsletter to the church office at: office@hvuuc.org

The HVUUC web site can be found at: www.hvuuc.org

HVUUC On-Line News Group: Our yahoo news group is an online service that provides our congregation the quickest method of communicating news, announcements, and schedule changes. To join, or update to a new e-mail address, send an e-mail to hvuuc-news-subscribe@yahoogroups.com indicating your full name, address and phone number where you can be reached. Someone from HVUUC may contact you before your subscription becomes active. If you don't have e-mail, please call the church at 423-477-7661 to receive the newsletter by US mail. Announcements and changes between newsletters are not mailed to recipients of hard copy of the newsletter.

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