



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.

April 11, 2010

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

Headlines

- Garden Work Day, April 18th after the service
- Welcoming Congregation Workshop, April 18th after the service
- Annual Congregational Meeting April 25th
- Variety Show May 8th!

Annual Pledge Drive

Have you turned in your pledge card yet? Please let the Stewardship Committee know what you intend to pledge for the 2010-2011 church year. We will vote on next years budget at the annual meeting on April 25th.

Speakers Needed for In Memoriam Service

On May 23rd the Religious Services Committee will be presenting a service called "In Memoriam" where we will be honoring members of our church that have died. We would like members to speak about those who have gone on before us, giving the congregation a sense of the history of the church and the people who made it what it is today. If you hold dear the memory of someone who contributed to this church, and would like to say a few words about him or her, please contact Kristina Runci-man or any member of the Religious Services Committee. If you do not feel comfortable speaking to the congregation, one of us will be happy to read your contribution for you.

Upcoming Sunday Worship Services

April 18 "What Do Unitarian Universalists Believe, and Why?", Reverend Luck
George Cross bought this sermon topic at HVUUC's Silent Auction in the fall. Join us as we consider this great topic; one that eludes many.

April 25 "RE Sunday" and Annual Congregational Meeting

May 2 "Dance into May", Reverend Luck
A May Day celebration of Joy.

May 9 "Mother's Day and Flower Communion", Reverend Luck

Final Welcoming Congregation Workshop

The final Welcoming Congregation workshop will be held in the Sanctuary after the service on Sunday, April 18th.

The topic of the workshop will be "What Now?"

We will discuss what we have learned during the past year and answer any questions before the vote on becoming an official Welcoming Congregation at the annual Congregational meeting on April 25th.

Below is the motion we will vote on.

A year ago, we embarked on a journey together: one of education, self-examination and increased awareness. We started with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender. Along the way we discussed our desire to look at color, age, heritage, and socio-economic status as well. And who knows where else that will lead? We say the words each Sunday morning, but our UU principles call on us to do more than say words. Look around. In many ways we are a pretty homogeneous group. We can do better. It's true: We do not have to think alike...or look alike...or worship alike...or speak alike...or choose a soul-mate alike...to love alike. And isn't that why we're all here?

I move that we adopt the following:

"Whereas we, the members of Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, do truly believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and want to put our beliefs into action, we hereby declare ourselves a Welcoming Congregation."



HVUUC Calendar

Tuesday April 13

5:15pm Yoga
6:30pm HVUUC Sangha

Wednesday April 14

6pm Young Adult Group
7pm Religious Services meeting
7pm Wed. Music Covenant

Thursday April 15

7pm Metaphysical Group
7pm Spirituality Covenant Group

Friday April 16 & 17

Circle Suppers

Sunday April 18

9am Adult RE
10:30am Worship Service
12pm Welcoming Congregation Workshop
12pm Garden Work Day
12pm CUUPS meeting
7pm Music Covenant Group

Tuesday April 20

10am Buuk Club
5:15pm Yoga
6:30pm HVUUC Sangha
7pm Dream Covenant Group
7pm Council on Committees

Wednesday April 21

7pm Board of Trustees meeting
7pm Simplicity Group

Thursday April 22

7pm Metaphysical Group
7pm CIT-COM Meeting

Sunday April 25

9am Adult RE
9:30am Social Justice Meeting
10:30am Worship Service
12pm Annual Congregational Meeting
12pm Non-Violent Communication
12pm Girl Scouts

Tuesday April 27

5:15pm Yoga
6:30pm HVUUC Sangha
7pm Covenant Group Facilitators

Wednesday April 28

6:30pm WNS
7pm Wed. Music Covenant

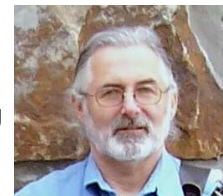
Thursday April 29

7pm Metaphysical Group

Sunday May 2

9am Adult RE
9:30am Caring Team
10:30am Worship Service
12pm Town Hall Meeting
12:15pm Music Committee
7pm Music Covenant Group

President's Corner



On April 25th we will have our annual congregational meeting. This is an important meeting and a great opportunity to participate in some important decisions that need to be made by our congregation. I want to thank the nominating committee for all their hard work and congratulate them on a great slate of nominations for next year's board of Trustees. We will be voting to approve their nominations.

This past year we have been working toward educating our members about what it mean to be a 'Welcoming Congregation' that will be officially recognized by the UUA as a church that welcomes gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people. We will vote on becoming such a congregation at the annual meeting. This is an important vote in which we should all participate.

In order to vote on these and other issues, we must have a quorum vote, which means that 30 per cent of members who are eligible to vote must be present. This number goes up to 35 per cent to change the bylaws and for a few other special circumstances. That may not sound like much but sometimes we have had trouble getting that many members at the annual meeting. Who can vote? Anyone who has been a member and signed the membership book 60 days prior to the meeting. All of this is spelled out in our Bylaws. If you have more questions about the annual meeting please refer to the bylaws of HVUUC. An electronic version is available. Contact me in you would like one sent to you. I will be sending out the agenda at least 10 days prior to the meeting. I do hope we can get a great turn out for this important yearly meeting. So put April 25th on your calendar. The meeting will begin shortly after the church service.

Social Justice Committee Needs You!

Sam Jones and Betty Kramer have enjoyed chairing the Social Justice Committee for many years but have decided to step down to pursue other interests at the end of May. We anticipate that our other capable and trustworthy committee members will welcome fresh ideas and new members, so we're hopeful that some of you would like the opportunity to make a difference and will join them as they move forward into this new year of opportunity and challenge. If you have questions about what our committee does, you can talk to Sam or Betty or you can pull a card from the Committee Kiosk pocket located in the Ball room and read what we're all about there.

Easy of the Earth

You don't have to give up meat to make a difference. Instead see how many nutritious, delicious meatless meals you can prepare and enjoy each week. You can find great ideas for this at: www.meatlessmonday.com

Why increase your meatless meals? Because THE PRODUCTION OF MEAT contributes even more to global warming than does our transportation system. And factory farms are a source of serious pollution to our waterways.

New Series of Yoga Classes

A new series of six Yoga sessions will begin on April 20th at 5:15pm in the Sangha Room of the REZ or, if the weather and the mood permits, we may meet on the deck behind the Sanctuary. This series of classes will conclude on June 1st. The cost of this next series of classes will be \$40 or \$10 per class for walk-ins. The class is a mixture of breathing techniques and yoga poses that flow from one into another. You do not need to have attended the last session to attend this session. Contact Tish Kashdan dtkashdan@chartertn.net or 392-4424(home), 534-4856(cell) for more info.

Council of Committees Meeting

The last meeting of the 2009-10 Council of Committees will meet on April 20th at 7:00PM in the Fred Ball Room. Please bring your annual reports with you from your committee or team. Forms were sent out electronically a month ago. If you need one contact Charlie Mattioli vp@hvuuc.org and another will be sent. You may attach to the form any further information such as activities, special concerns, membership lists, etc that you feel would be helpful as the new board plans for the coming year.

The main topics of this meeting will be:

1. Transitioning from one year to the next-- leadership & documentation
2. Getting started in the new year
3. Improving feedback to the board and each other

TJ District Annual Meeting

The Thomas Jefferson District, of which we are a member, will be holding its 2010 annual meeting April 30 - May 1 at historic Penn Center on St. Helena Island, outside Beaufort, SC. HVUUC can send 4 delegates to this meeting. At this meeting the delegates will be voting on the following.

1. Candidates for district leadership positions
2. The 2010-2011 district budget
3. A Policy Manual to support our new Policy-based Governance model
4. By-law changes
5. Changing the name of the district

If any members are interested in going to this meeting or need more information, please let me know. You would have to supply your own transportation and housing. The church would cover the registration fee for the meeting. You would also be obligated to vote as directed by our congregation on the above issues.

Variety Show May 8th!

The HVUUC Junior Youth will once again host (or contain?) a night of talented performers and perplexing conceptual artists in the Third Annual HVUUC Variety Show .

If you missed last year's show, here's how it works: after each act, a plate is passed and the audience "votes" with money. Last year the Junior Youth raised over \$800 that was used to buy materials for the HVUUC amphitheater behind the church. The intermission bake sale brought in over \$90 that was sent to support "Invisible Children" – a nonprofit organization that protects Ugandan children from army conscription and sexual exploitation. So put on a silly hat, screw up your courage, and come make a fool of yourself! The signup sheet for your act will be posted in the Fred Ball Room. Also, watch for our Junior Youth carousing about the church, they'll be eager to sign you up for a performance.

HVUUC Endowment Fund

The HVUUC Endowment Fund has now been in existence for over a year, and contributions are beginning to accumulate. So far, \$1,876 has been donated to the fund. Please consider including the Endowment Fund in your planned giving and to honor or memorialize others. When the Fund has grown to a sufficient size, it will support special items which are not funded by the operating or capital budgets. Following is a summary of donations to the fund to date.

- Ted Stanin estate
- In memory of Hubert Hill - Frank and Sue Shuler; Nancy Shackelford
- In memory of Catherine Dick - Frank and Sue Shuler; Virgil Stephens
- In memory of Frances Hamilton (Karen's mother) - Mike Corey
- In memory of Sarlaben U. Mehta - Raj and Sharmi Mehta; a friend of Raj in India; Frank and Sue Shuler; Andrea Sawyer; Ashok and Brinda Gala; James and Jo Anne Medlin
- In memory of Mary Bingman - Frank and Sue Shuler

Adult Religious Education

Join us for stimulating presentations and discussions in Adult R.E. from 9AM to 10:15AM Sunday mornings in the Junior Youth room in the REZ (first room on the right). This present ongoing series in on comparative religions.

Bylaw Change to be Voted on at Annual Meeting

"Beings have gathered for centuries seeking a higher purpose and deeper life than they could find alone." —Rev. Victoria Weinstein, adapted

Membership within our HVUUC community means so much to us. We donate our time, our talents and our treasure to ensure that our church is healthy and continues into the future. HVUUC pays dues to the Unitarian Universalist Association and to the Thomas Jefferson District for each Member. We have benefited twice by generous grants from the District's Chalice Lighter Fund to expand our sanctuary and to build our new Religious Education building.

Sometimes Members find that other things take the place of attending church and they stop pledging and disappear without resigning Membership. It is important to keep the Membership List up to date and accurate for many reasons, including determining who is eligible to vote at HVUUC's Annual Meeting, how many Members we need to make a Quorum, determining the amount of dues we pay, and the number of Delegates we receive for voting at General Assembly and the District Annual Meeting.

In order to keep our Membership List accurate, the Board proposes the following sentence to be added to the Membership section of HVUUC Bylaws:

"Members who do not participate or contribute to the church for one year can be removed from the Membership Book."

HVUUC's current Bylaws section on Membership is below for comparison:

Article IV. – Membership

A member shall be any person at least sixteen (16) years of age who is in support of the Church purposes stated in these Bylaws, and has demonstrated a commitment to enter into covenant with the congregation by signing the membership register. In order to show said support, and a full understanding of their commitment, prospective members must follow a "path to membership" program offered by the Church or have a discussion of the Unitarian Universalist faith tradition with the Minister or such other person(s) as the Board of Trustees may designate.

New members will be eligible to vote 60 days from the date that they signed the membership register.

A member who has not participated in the life of the Church over a twelve month period by actively participating in church activities and making a recorded financial contribution to the Church shall be contacted and asked whether they intend to continue as a member. If they indicate that they do not so intend, or do not respond within one month, their name shall be removed from the membership roll. This procedure may be waived by the Minister or designee of the Board of Trustees on a case by case basis.

A member may also be removed from the membership roll by reason of: (1) the member's death, (2) written request by the member to the Church Secretary, Minister, or any Board Member, or (3) by 2/3 majority vote by the Board of Trustees for member actions that threaten the well-being of the Church.

Membership enrollments and terminations shall be recorded promptly. The Board shall provide for the maintenance of a current membership roll, and make it available to members of the congregation.

Please take some time to consider this issue and be ready to vote at our Annual Meeting.

Thank you,
Gracia Basham, HVUUC Trustee of Membership

New HVUUC Policies

The following policies have been approved by the board on a first reading. Please send any comments to Louise Mayo, the church secretary (boardsecretary@hvuuc.org). The board will do a final reading of these policies at an upcoming board meeting.

HVUUC Board shall endeavor to progress towards being a policy-based board by adopting policies as it deems appropriate in order to enhance the continuity, effectiveness and efficiency of HVUUC's governance. A policy may be proposed to the board by any member of the board and any member of the board may sponsor a policy proposed by any member of the congregation if the board member chooses to do so. The following process will be used by the board to adopt a policy once a policy has been proposed to the board:

- The board approves a first reading of the policy.
- If a first reading of a proposed policy is approved, the proposed policy will be communicated to the congregation via means the board deems appropriate.
- Any interested party may comment on the proposed policy by responding to the Board Secretary in writing prior to the board meeting following the Board's approval of a first reading of the policy.
- The Board Secretary shall communicate to the board comments received on the proposed policy prior to the board voting on the second reading of the policy.
- The Board may modify or revise the proposed policy (without soliciting additional comments) prior to the second reading and final approval of the policy.
- An affirmative vote by a majority of board members is required to approve the first and final reading of a proposed policy or to modify, revise or rescind an existing policy.

The Board Secretary shall be responsible for ensuring that an electronic and two hard copy files of Board policies are updated and maintained. One hard copy of all current board policies is to be present at all Board Meetings and the other hard copy is to be maintained and stored in the office of the church office administrator.

1. The Treasurer's signature along with that of two of the following four Board members (President, Vice President, Past President, or Stewardship Trustee) will be on all HVUUC financial accounts. The Board may also designate other church members to be on an account. The Board will authorize at its June meeting each year those that have signature authorization for each account that has an account balance.
2. A review and/or audit of church finances will be conducted in May, June, or July of each year. The Stewardship Trustee will be responsible for arranging for the review and/or audit.
3. The Stewardship Trustee shall approve and coordinate all fund raising activities of the church.
4. Only one "passing of the plate" for collections will occur during a worship service. Envelops will be provided for any special collections (5th Sunday, Minister's discretionary fund, etc.) by the originator of the special collection.
5. All selling of items or fund solicitations should take place in the location indicated by the Stewardship Trustee. Selling items or fund solicitations are prohibited at the front entrance of the church or in the foyer before or after all worship services.
6. Posting of any notices on or near the front doors of the church is prohibited unless approved by the Board President or the minister.
7. The Board Treasurer may accept or reject any monetary restricted donation of \$250 or less. A group consisting of the President, Stewardship Trustee and Facilities Trustee may accept or reject any monetary restricted donation of greater than \$250 and all non-monetary donations. The Stewardship Trustee shall determine the value of all non-monetary donations if the donor request that a value determination be made.
8. The consumption of alcohol by anyone not of legal drinking age is prohibited on church property and at church activities. All alcoholic beverages on church property will be under the supervision of an adult and no alcoholic beverages may be left or stored on church property.
9. During periods of inclement weather the minister and board president (vice president in his or her absence) will jointly make the decision to cancel or move the start time of church. They will then post it to the yahoo newsgroup list and on the web site (assuming the web site has this capability). They will also notify by phone the vice president and past president. Members are encouraged to check the yahoo group and web page during inclement weather. Members without internet access will need to call the minister, the president, vice president, or past president to check for changes in the church schedule. The minister and president will attempt to get someone to church to notify those who don't find out about the change in time or cancellation of church. Committee chairs are responsible for making the decision about the cancellation of committee meeting and are to notify all members of the committee.

Membership Corner

A donation to the endowment fund in the name of Mary Bingman has been made by Frank and Sue Shuler.

A donation of *Singing the Journey* (turquoise) hymnals has been made by Kara Clouse.

HVUUC has received a donation from Kara Clouse in honor of Alma Smith for a Singing the Living Tradition (blue) hymnal.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Mattioli's as Charlie and Denee's son Michael has been in a car accident in Texas. They will be there with him for some time. Their mailing address in Texas is:
1110 Jordan Lane
Round Rock, TX 78665
And please send e-mails to DRE@hvuuc.org



April Birthdays

4/1 Haven Richardson, 4/3 Paulette Byrd,
4/5 Sam Benedict, 4/12 Ben Kashdan,
4/21 Amanda Alom, 4/27 Powell Foster

Caring Team

Caring Team coordinators for April are Gabrielle Zeiger and Lynn Scarborough. Congregants can reach them by e-mail at caring@hvuuc.org or by calling 423-477-7661 (Press 3).

Thank you to our March coordinators Gracia Basham and Deb Helmer!

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.

2009-2010 Board of Trustees

President: Michael Jones, 349-6119 president@hvuuc.org
Vice President: Charlie Mattioli, 543-1962 vp@hvuuc.org
Past President: Ramesh Munjal, 239-4561 pastpresident@hvuuc.org
Treasurer: Frank Shuler, 239-3821 treasurer@hvuuc.org
Stewardship Trustee: Richard Boyd, 477-0177 stewardship@hvuuc.org
Programs Trustee: Scott LaVoie, 753-6422 programs@hvuuc.org
Facilities Trustee: Bryan Kleske, 913-2928 facilities@hvuuc.org
Secretary/Historian: Louise Mayo, 282-9290 boardsecretary@hvuuc.org
Membership Trustee: Gracia Basham, 571-5035 membership@hvuuc.org

Minister

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

Church Secretary's Office Hours

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

Upcoming Newsletter Deadlines: April 25, May 9, May 23, June 6, July 4, August 1, August 15

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.

To post a church related message send an e-mail to: hvuuc-news@yahoogroups.com (a moderator will review it to ensure that the content meets our guidelines)

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