



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.

February 14, 2010

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

Headlines

- Please turn in your annual pledge card by the end of February!
- MACHO meeting this Friday, February 19 at 6PM at George Cross' house. RSVP to geocrosstn@yahoo.com
- Bring your gently used shoes to church this Sunday!
- Welcoming Congregation showing of "Southern Comfort" this Sunday at 12PM
- Help us welcome our new members at a special Wednesday Night Supper February 24 at 6:30PM
- TJ District Conference The Art of Governance in Congregations will be held at HVUUC on February 26 and 27
- Masquerade Ball Saturday March 6th! Purchase your tickets this Sunday at coffee hour.

District Conference on Governance to be held at HVUUC

The Art of Governance in Congregations, a workshop sponsored by the Thomas Jefferson District of the UUA, will be held at HVUUC on February 25 and 26. Good governance is essential for a congregation to fulfill its mission. This workshop, designed for board members, ministers, and other congregational leaders, will explore the critical role of governance in congregational life. Sign up for the workshop at: <http://www.tjdistrict.org/newsevents/artofgovernance2010.html>

Upcoming Sunday Worship Services

February 21- *"Did They Believe Socrates and All Those Other Guys?"*, Reverend Luck

I continue to be fascinated by this concept of belief and what is required of people of faith. This sermon is another in the series I am doing from Karen Armstrong's, *The Case for God*. Perhaps you can tell by the title that we will be considering the ancient Greeks and their contributions to the development of religious thought.

February 28— *"Faith as Commitment and Practical Living"*, Reverend Luck

During this weekend HVUUC will host a Church Governance Conference with a focus on best practices for enabling congregations to better fulfill their mission and vision. This sermon, a fifth in the Armstrong series, focuses on Confucianism and Buddhism and their impact on lives and developing religious thought.

March 7— *"A Web of Song"*, Music Committee

At this service we will examine the Interdependent Web of Existence from a different angle, that of sound and song. Humans and their non-human brethren each have their own songs, through which they define their place in their world, and by which they tell their stories. We will listen and learn about all kinds of song, and maybe make a few of our own. Attendees are encouraged to bring a drum or reasonable facsimile thereof, with which to join in the fun. No musical experience is necessary!

March 14— *"Blessing of the Animals"*, Reverend Luck

We'll consider St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals, and his early relationship with animals. Much has been learned about the sentience of animals since Assisi's time, leading us to consider our changing contemporary relationship with animals. An outside Blessing of the Animals will follow.

MACHO Guys Meeting

Our hibernation is almost over, so it is time to gather once again. Please join us for an evening of games and philosophy (philosophic games would be OK if you know any) at the home of George Cross (1005 Woodstone Drive, Kingsport 37663) on Friday, February 19th at 6:00pm. We'll grill hot dogs and hamburgers. Bring a food or beverage item of your choice. Any questions or to RSVP: geocrosstn@yahoo.com (MACHO = Men Achieving Community Helping Others)

HVUUC Calendar

Tuesday February 15

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

Wednesday February 17

7pm Board of Trustees meeting
7pm Simplicity Group

Thursday February 18

7pm Metaphysical Group
7pm Spirituality Group

Saturday February 20

4pm CUUPS Event

Sunday February 21

9am Adult RE
10:30am Worship Service
12pm Welcoming Congregation
Film
12pm CUUPS meeting
5pm OWL
7pm Music Covenant Group

Tuesday February 23

6:30pm HVUUC Sangha
7pm Covenant Group Facilitators

Wednesday February 24

6:30pm WNS
7pm Wed. Music Covenant Group

Thursday February 25

7pm Metaphysical Group

Friday February 26

7pm District Governance Conference

Saturday February 27

8am District Governance Conference

Sunday February 28

9:00am Adult R.E.
9:30pm Social Justice meeting
10:30am Worship Service
12pm Non-Violent Communication
12pm Girl Scout Meeting
5pm OWL

Tuesday March 2

6:30pm HVUUC Sangha
7pm Star Trek Covenant Group
7pm Dream Covenant Group
7pm Finance Committee

Wednesday March 3

7pm RE Committee meeting
7pm Simplicity Group
7pm Welcoming Congregation
Panel

Thursday March 4

7pm Metaphysical Group
7pm Spirituality Group

Luck's Leaf

At the Smithville Methodist Church, by Stephen Dunn

It was supposed to be Arts and Crafts for a week, but when she came home with the "Jesus Saves" button, we knew what art was up, what ancient craft. She liked her little friends. She liked the songs they sang when they weren't twisting and folding paper into dolls. What could be so bad? Jesus had been a good man, and putting faith in good men was what we had to do to stay this side of cynicism, that other sadness. O.K., we said, one week. But when she came home singing "Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so," it was time to talk. Could we say Jesus doesn't love you? Could I tell her the Bible is a great book certain people use to make you feel bad? We sent her back without a word. It had been so long since we believed, so long since we needed Jesus as our nemesis and friend, that we thought he was sufficiently dead, that our children would think of him like Lincoln or Thomas Jefferson. Soon it became clear to us: you can't teach disbelief to a child, only wonderful stories, and we hadn't a story nearly as good. On parents' night there were the Arts and Crafts all spread out like appetizers. Then we took our seats in the church and the children sang a song about the Ark and Hallelujah and one in which they had to jump up and down for Jesus, I can't remember ever feeling so uncertain about what's comic, what's serious. Evolution is magical but devoid of heroes. You can't say to your child "Evolution loves you." The story stinks of extinction and nothing exciting happens for centuries. I didn't have a wonderful story for my child and she was beaming. All the way home in the car she sang the songs, occasionally standing up for Jesus. There was nothing to do but drive, ride it out, sing along in silence. I have been thinking quite a bit about our children and their parents lately. The sermon I preached February 7 presents some ways to inspire children with the wonder and awe of the evolutionary theory of Charles Darwin, and of the relationship of religion and science and our UU values. If you would like me to email it to you I would be glad to. I also collected below a few prayers and graces that might be useful. " JL



Have you taken the Recycling Survey?

A total of 56 people have responded to the 4 question survey currently being taken by the Social Justice Committee concerning recycling and composting at HVUUC. If you haven't taken it yet, here's the link:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5DSR2PW>

The survey will be open until midnight February 21st. We look forward to hearing from you about these matters.



HVUUC Events

Meet our new HVUUC members At the February 24th WNS

On February 24th at the Wednesday Night Supper we will hold our annual welcome to new members who have joined the church since last February. It is a time when we get to know them better and they get to know many of us. The new members are our guests at this event but we still need your reservation to plan the food.

Everyone needs to make a reservation for this highly anticipated event by calling the office at (423) 477-7661 or by email to office@hvuuc.org. If you have any questions, please call Ann Overton, Chair of Membership Development, at 423-247-1736 or annoverton@charter.net.

2010 Women's Retreat Registration and Planning has begun!

When: Friday, Saturday & Sunday April 9, 10, 11.

Times: Friday mid-day through Sunday Mid-Day.

Where: Sugar Hollow Retreat: Lodge and Hemlock House. <http://sugarhollowretreat.com/>.

Registration and Payment: Registration will begin Sunday February 7th. Mary Williamson marybobwilliamson@gmail.com.

There are 24 B&B style single and a few queen beds. Your bed is reserved when payment is made. Cost of registration should not be a limiting factor for attending. Some opportunities for scholarship are available. Contact Mary Williamson to discuss options. All scholarship inquiries will be kept confidential.

Scheduling and activities: Contact Rosemary Kleske rkleske@gmail.com.

If you know you want to attend even for one day, or THINK you might attend, please email or call Rosemary Kleske so she can get you on a separate Women's Retreat mailing list for communication about details.

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. This present ongoing series in on comparative religions.

2-21 The Way of Faith and The Way of Devotion

2-28 The Way of Action and The Way of
Meditation

3-7 The Way of the Mystics

Upcoming Welcoming Congregation Events

February 21, 12PM—Film "Southern Comfort"

March 3, 7PM—BGLT Panel



Parents of Young Kids (POYK)

Invitation to all HVUUC POYKs (parents of young kids): One of the outcomes of our recent HVUUC Covenant group is a greater awareness of the need for families with the youngest of our HVUUC children to have a chance to socialize without the throngs of adults present at our 2nd Sunday potlucks. Accordingly, we've decided to sponsor a POYK brunch on Saturday March 20th from 10 - 12. Our tentative plan is to get volunteers to supervise the preschoolers in their class area (or playground, depending on the weather) and assist with the babies/young toddlers (in their parents eye range) so that the parents can eat brunch and socialize amongst themselves and with our Minister.

In order to assist with planning both the food and the number of volunteers needed to help with the little ones, please send an email to martharubenstein@yahoo.com (or leave a message at 341-7847) if you think you would like to attend, indicating how many adults and how many little ones you will bring. THIS IS NOT A CARVED-IN-STONE commitment at this point, but an invite to put the date on your calendar, and let us know if you are interested in attending.

Masquerade Ball Saturday, March 6th

It's time to dust off your ball gowns and tuxedos! The Senior Youth will once again sponsor the very popular Masquerade Ball on Saturday evening, March 6th from 7pm—

11pm. You need to purchase your tickets in advance; they will be available during coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall from the Senior Youth. Prices are: \$10 adults, \$15 couples, \$20 families, \$5 youth. There will be fabulous desserts and hors d'oeuvres, music, dancing and other activities. This is a party for the whole family.

Please purchase your tickets early so the Senior Youth can plan this event!



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.

New Simplicity Group Session

March 3rd the Simplicity Group will begin a new workbook/discussion course, called "Discovering A Sense of Place". You can read about the course here:

http://www.nwei.org/discussion_courses/course-offerings/discovering-a-sense-of-place

Workbook orders will be placed in early February. The cost will be \$22 which includes shipping.

Please feel free to join the Simplicity group as they begin their exploration of what it means to protect the place we live. You can come for the video series or the discussion course, or both. No obligation either way.

If you have questions and to order a workbook, email Sam Jones at simpleintn@yahoo.com.

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.

Shoes Still Needed!

The Social Justice Committee has received word from the Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) in JC that there is still a critical need for shoes for the homeless families (and other needy folks in our area) that are made available to them through a thrift store called God's Closet, operated by the Good Samaritans. The committee is asking our church community to help out with this effort by bringing to church any gently used shoes you may have gathering dust in your closets. Of course the need is greatest for men and young children, but women's are needed as well.

There will be a collection box for the shoes in front of the church next Sunday morning, February 21st. Wouldn't it be great if we could take a big truckload of 'em to those that truly need them?

As always, the SJ Committee has no doubts that our congregation will come through on this critical need. It's wonderful that we can count on you that way!

Thanks,
Sam Jones, for the Social Justice Committee

Governance-Ministry Task Force Underway and Seeking Your Ideas

In November, the HVUUC board established a Governance Ministry Task Force to research and analyze data, models, and ideas that could make the work of our church more streamlined, broaden participation, and deepen commitment to our mission. It is looking into the structure and functions of the board, committees, teams, programs and all the work of the church from preparing coffee on Sundays to helping others both in the church and broader communities of which we are a part.

We've surveyed many of the leaders of committees and teams at the Council of Committee meeting and will look for ways to survey a broader section of our congregation. IF you have some concerns about problems that need attention or ideas to improve how we run our church and fulfill our values and mission, send an email, call, leave a note, or talk to any of its members: Charlie Mattioli, Brad Helmer, Raj Mehta, George Cross, Alice McCaffrey, Reverend Luck, or David Kashdan. There's a suggestion box in the front of the church you can also use.

Community Information

Chasing Snakes Road Race Needs Volunteers

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, March 13, 2010 for the Chasing Snakes 10K Road Race/4K Fitness Walk!! St. John's Episcopal Church will again host this fundraiser for IHN. The 2009 race was a success thanks to the huge volunteer effort. This event was able to make a donation of over \$3,500 to IHN last year!

Sam Jones is the volunteer coordinator this year and she needs 4 volunteers from HVUUC to be responsible for intersections that the runners and walkers will be crossing. It only takes a couple of hours of your time. Contact Sam at simpleintn@yahoo.com.

UU Bed and Breakfast Directory

Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?

The UU bed and breakfast directory UU're Home (formerly Homecomings) can fulfill your dream. For 31 years, we've provided a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people.

You can also become a host and be listed in the directory: see www.UUreHome.com for an application. If you have questions, contact us at info@uurehome.com or call 828-281-3253.

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.

Boy Scout Fundraising Luncheon

Troop 387 is having their annual fundraising luncheon on Sunday, February 21 at the Colonial Heights United Methodist Church Ministry Center (in the back of the building facing the Interstate) on Lebanon Road from 11:20am to 2:00pm. The menu consists of homemade spaghetti sauce over pasta, garlic bread, salad and homemade desserts. All profits go directly to the scouts' account to pay for outings and high adventure trips (many of the boys are planning to go to Philmont Scout Ranch in July, 2011). The older scouts will have a bake sale table to raise funds for their High Adventure trips during the upcoming year. Live music will be provided. The cost is \$5.00 per person or \$15.00 per family all you can eat. Tickets are available at the door or can be purchased from Tish Kashdan (392-4424). A number of people from HVUUC have been or still are active with this Troop.

WhaleCoast Alaska 2010

Five Alaskan UU fellowships invite you to experience our eco-cultural and spiritual program this summer in our 14th year! See *REAL* Alaska, with UU homestays in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Sitka. UU's host events and lead tours. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Observe wildlife, including bears, moose, caribou, whales, sea otters and bald eagles. Visit Denali National Park. Dave Frey, a 29-year Alaska resident, leads the programs. Visit www.whalecoastak.org. Don't delay, the program usually fills by March 10. Email dfrey@whalecoastak.org for information, or call 907-322-4966. We would love to share our Alaska with you!

Mindful Ecotherapy Weekend Retreat at The Mountain

April 3-4, 2010 Cost: \$250 per person
Join Charlton Hall, MMFT, LMFT-I, Executive Director of the Mindful Ecotherapy Organization (www.mindfulecotherapy.org) for a weekend of reconnecting with nature, and with yourself. You may register for this event online and see a schedule of events at: <http://www.mindfulecotherapy.org/Workshops/The%20Mountain/Mountain%20April%202010.htm>. Registration is open until January 31, 2010. For more information, please contact Charlton Hall at: chuck@mindfulecotherapy.org.

Membership Corner



February Birthdays

2/1 Neal Sanders, 2/2 Alex Munjal, 2/2 Tish Kashdan, 2/3 Tom Stuart, 2/3 Mark Doman, 2/15 Charlotte Kramer, 2/16 Fletcher Margeson, 2/17 Kendra Knight, 2/18 Jean Palmer, 2/22 Julian Jones, 2/22 Mira Katt, 2/22 Declan Van Guilder, 2/24 George Cross, 2/25 Dylan LaVoie, 2/26 Wiley Thurman

Our condolences to Rodney and Tracy Padgett on the recent death of Rodney's father.

Caring Team

Caring Team coordinators for February are Louise Mayo and Deanna Richardson. Congregants can reach them by e-mail caring@hvuuc.org or by calling 423-477-7661 (Press 3).

Thank you to our January coordinators Wanda Earp and Deb Helmer.

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 Walker, 232-1998 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: February 28, March 14, March 28, April 11, April 25

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@yahoo.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@yahoo.com

(a moderator will reviews it to ensure that the content meets our guidelines)

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