



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 28, 2010

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

Headlines

- Welcoming Congregation Panel Wednesday, March 3 at 7pm
- Women's Group Friday March 5
- Masquerade Ball this Saturday March 6th! Please RSVP to office@hvuuc.org
- 2nd Sunday Potluck Lunch after the service on March 14. Please bring a food donation for Hunger First Food Bank.
- Parents of Young Kids (POYK) brunch on Saturday March 20 at 10:00am
- Sign up now for the Women's Retreat the weekend of April 9-11

Welcoming Congregation Workshop Panel Discussion

What are the similarities and differences among us? How can we be more open to one another? How does it feel to be a minority? What's it like to live with a secret? Have questions you never knew how to ask? Join us from 7-9 PM on Wednesday March 3 for a panel discussion about sexuality: hetero, homo, bi and transgender. You may email questions to Kim Ray at aardvark-art@embarqmail.com ahead of time or ask them in person.



Upcoming Sunday Worship Services

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.

March 21- "Why Vote To Be Welcoming?", Reverend Luck
On April 25 HVUUC will have its Annual Meeting of the Congregation to vote on several issues; one of which is whether to be an official "Welcoming Congregation". We will consider the spiritual impact of such a vote.

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. Please RSVP to office@hvuuc.org. Prices are: \$10 adults, \$15 couples, \$20 families, \$5 youth. There will be fabulous desserts and hors d'oeuvres, music, dancing and mask making. This is a party for the whole family. **Please RSVP ASAP to office@hvuuc.org so the Senior Youth can plan this event!**



HVUUC Calendar

Tuesday March 2

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

Wednesday March 3

7pm RE Committee meeting
7pm Welcoming Congregation
Panel

Thursday March 4

7pm Metaphysical Group
7pm Spirituality Group

Friday March 5

6:30pm Women's Group

Saturday March 6

7pm Masquerade Ball

Sunday March 7

9am Adult RE
9:30am Caring Team meeting
10:30am Worship Service
12pm Welcoming Congregation
Film
12:15pm Music Committee
5pm OWL

7pm Music Covenant Group

Tuesday March 9

6:30pm HVUUC Sangha

Wednesday March 10

6:00pm Young Adult Group
6:30pm Religious Services
7pm Wed. Music Covenant Group

Thursday March 11

7pm Metaphysical Group

Saturday March 13

10-2pm HVUUC Sangha

Sunday March 21

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

Tuesday March 16

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

Wednesday March 17

7pm Board of Trustees meeting
7pm Simplicity Group

Thursday March 18

6pm IHN at St. Luke's
7pm Metaphysical Group
7pm Spirituality Group

Saturday March 20

10am POYK Brunch

Luck's Leaf

The word prayer has almost as many meanings as there are people who pray. For some it is a conversation, a speaking to God; for others it is a speaking to oneself; and for some it is a speaking out loud---to all who are gathered together, or to no one in particular. Prayer has always been an important part of religion. People all over the world pray in their special ways, and it could become important to you. Whether spoken or sung, voiced aloud or inwardly, to God or not, prayer is for the one that prays; a time for speaking one's deepest thoughts; for facing fears, great and small; for celebrating joys with gratitude; and for expressing the dearest wishes of our hearts. Here are some prayers for children.

O' God for the beauty of this day ended,
And for the gift of morning to come, I thank you..... Rev. Burton Carley

Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray to God my soul to keep.
Angels on my left and right,
keep me safe till morning light.... Source Unknown

I am thankful for the night,
And for the pleasant morning light.
For health and strength and loving care,
And all that makes the world so fair. Amen...Source Unknown

Thank you, God for all life brings,
For health and play and all good things,
And help me use my heart and mind,
To make me strong and keep me kind. Amen.Robert and Polly Cooper

Graces

Blessing of the Food (to tune of *Mary Had a Little Lamb*)

Loving Spirit/ Be our Guest
Dine with Us,/ Share our Bread,
That our Table/ Might be Blessed
And our Souls,/ Be Fed ...UU Worship Web

For all we eat, For all we share,
For all good things everywhere,
We thank thee, God.....Source Unknown

God, we thank you for this food,
For rest and home and all things good,
For wind and rain and sun above,
But most of all for those we love. Amen....Source Unknown

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.

March 7 - The Way of the Mystics



President's Corner



Why do we pledge? What is so important about a pledge drive? What if I can't meet my pledge next year? There are always lots of questions about our annual pledge drive. But pledging is such an important part of our church as we plan for the next church year. We have a mortgage, a minister, expenses to keep our sanctuary and religious education building comfortable for our many activities at the church, and many programs and other expenses to take care of. We pledge so we know how much money we will have next year to take care of these things. If pledges are not sufficient, then we have to make cuts before the church year starts on June 1st. After the pledge cards are turned in, a budget will be made and presented to the congregation at the annual meeting on April 25 and a vote will be taken to approve it. What exactly is a pledge? It is reasonable expectation of what your contribution to the church will be during the church year. If you find your financial situation changes and you are unable to pay your pledge, you are not obligated to pay your total pledge amount. Your pledge is an estimate of what your budget will allow you to contribute to the church. It is so important that we get the pledge cards in so that we can plan for next year. I know these are difficult economic times. But I encourage all church members to pledge as you are able and to get those pledge cards in in the next few days. Our church provides a spiritual home, a beloved community and a chance to contribute to our community in a positive way. By contributing to our church you support liberal religion in East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia and ensure our church continues to be a voice for our beliefs. I hope you will join me in supporting our church and our mission.

Michael Jones



HVUUC Events

Women's Group Friday, March 5

Don't forget the Women's Group Meeting on Friday, March 5, at Joy Boyd's house in Gray. We will be discussing the Women's Retreat and munching on some goodies in between the bouts of laughter, so please do come. This is a great way to meet some future best friends among a wonderful group of outstanding women. Bring a snack and a sense of humor starting around 6:30. 919 Old Gray Station Road (423) 477-0177 Joy will send you a map and better directions if you email her at boydrnj@aol.com Old Gray Station Road runs parallel to I-26 on the east side between Boone's Creek (exit 17) and 75 or the Bobby Hicks Highway (exit 13)

Parents of Young Kids (POYK)

Invitation to All POYKs—One of the outcomes of a 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 if you think you would like to attend, and indicate how many adults and how many little ones you will bring. Please let me know for sure by Sat March 13th, so we can finalize plans for food and the number of girl-scout assistants we will need to help out. It should be a fun morning. (Both our minister, Jacqueline, and our RE Director, Denee have put this date on their calendars too so they will be available to talk with you, or answer any questions in addition to your opportunity to get to know each other better.) Thanks, HVUUC Covenant group members

2010 Women's Retreat

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 and pay Mary Williamson, contact: 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. No more information will go out to the main HVUUC yahoo group e-mail list. Join the Facebook group- "HVUUC Women's Retreat." or

Subscribe for the Yahoo group at: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/HVUUC_Women

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.

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.

Survey Says!.....

The Social Justice Committee recently asked our members to take a 4 question survey about recycling and composting in the church kitchen. 69 people responded to the survey with the following results:

43 of the 69 said that recycling and composting were EXTREMELY IMPORTANT, while 24 said it was somewhat important, only 2 didn't care either way.

20 of the 69 said they would like to see paper plates used at potlucks, 39 said they prefer to use our glass/Corelle plates, and 2 felt we should use foam disposables.

53 of the 69 said they'd be willing to help occasionally with collecting the recyclables and transporting them to the closest recycling facility, while 15 of the 69 said they would not.

There were 42 comments sent in about all of this, many with great ideas for reducing our environmental footprint at HVUUC, as well as ideas as to how to handle the extra dishwashing that glass plates require. I am still trying to find a way to share those comments with anyone interested without having to retype all of them. Until then, I was eager to let you know the initial results of this survey. The Social Justice committee continues to engage in ongoing discussions about how best to handle our church waste and we will continue to keep you informed. If you have any further comments on the subject, please email Sam Jones, or let any member of this committee know your thoughts. Thanks for your participation!

Chasing Snakes Road Race

The 2010 Chasing Snakes Race will be held Saturday, March 14th, at 8:30 AM in downtown Johnson City. This event is held to raise money for IHN in JC. Our church was asked to put together a team of volunteers to stand at intersections along the race route to direct the runners and traffic, and as always, you really came through with offers of help. We are now up to 10 team members that I'd like to recognize here. They are:

Mark and Corey Ray
Kae Robbins
Sue Cadwallader
Ed Kelley
Lynn Scarborough
Rosemary Kleske
Sam and Michael Jones
Gabrielle Zeiger

Hope to see you on race day!

Membership Corner



March Birthdays

3/2 Bob Barker, 3/2 Virgil Stephens, 3/2 Mary Williamson, 3/9 Chandler Richardson, 3/11 Carmen and Meredith Roberts, 3/12 Duvall Funk, 3/17 Martha Rubenstein, 3/18 Karen Harrington, 3/18 Patty Jo Nachman, 3/19 Michael Jones, 3/22 Lyle Eagan, 3/26 Natalia Munjal, 3/31 Elowyn Annear

Congratulations to Jennifer, Jeff and Fletcher Margeson on the birth of Molly Margeson on February 24th!

Our Condolences to Ed and Barbara Schell on the death of their son Jerry Schell.

Our Condolences to Charlie Mattioli on the death of his cousin Billy Davies.

Thank You! Thanks to your enormous generosity, we collected over 100 pairs of shoes that were taken to the God's Corner thrift store that's run by the Good Samaritans. They in turn will give the shoes to families that are in the IHN program. So we're all blessed by this collective action. The shoeless families, and those of you that gave so compassionately.

Caring Team

Caring Team coordinators for March are Gracia Basham and Deb Helmer. Congregants can reach them by e-mail at caring@hvuuc.org or by calling 423-477-7661 (Press 3).

Thank you to our February coordinators Louise Mayo and Deanna Richardson!

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: 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)

To unsubscribe: send an e-mail message to hvuuc-newssubscribe@yahoo.com

Look for other UUA news and other UU Church newsletters at the UUA Website: www.uua.org