



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.

January 3, 2010

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

Headlines

- UU Theology and History Class this Sunday RSVP to office@hvuuc.org
- Sign up now for Circle Suppers on Friday, January 22nd and Saturday 23rd. Deadline to sign up is Tuesday, January 12
- Gracia and Rob Basham invite everyone to their rescheduled wedding reception on January 29
- TJ District Conference on Governance will be held at HVUUC on February 26 and 27

Unitarian Universalist Theology and History Class this Sunday

This Sunday, January 10th after the potluck, 12:15-2:00, Rev. Luck will lead an overview of Unitarian Universalist Theology and History in partnership with the Membership Development Committee. This used to be part of the Path to Membership, but is now open to anyone who'd like to attend---visitor, new member, or long-term member. Childcare will be available, but please let us know in advance the ages of your children that will attend. RSVP to office@hvuuc.org or 423-477-7661 if you plan to attend and for childcare.

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.

Upcoming Sunday Worship Services

January 10—*"Humanity's Search for Meaning: Homo Religiosus"*, Reverend Luck

Karen Armstrong's book, *The Case for God*, is about our search for meaning in our lives and will inform several sermons I plan for early 2010; this sermon is the first of them. Regardless of the beliefs we hold today, or do not hold, as members of a faith tradition like ours is important to understand the religious journey of predecessors and how that informs who we are today. Many of us in our UU congregations don't know much about theology and its historical development even though Unitarians used to be scholars on such matters--that's why they came to be dissenters of trinitarian theology. I hope you will join us as we seek understanding of who we are and how we came to be.

January 17—*"Fannie Lou Hamer: Prophet of Hope for the Sick and Tired"*, Reverend Luck

On this Sunday before the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King holiday, I will speak of the life of a woman from the Mississippi Delta who became very instrumental in the struggle for Civil Rights. Mississippi was considered the most dangerous state for Blacks and activists at the time. We've all heard of Rosa Parks, but do you know of Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer, and her activism? The name of a biography and one woman play about Hamer is "This Little Light of Mine". Join us as we see what light her story has to shed on our lives.

January 24—*"Reading Between the Lines"*, Reverend Luck

This is another in the series of sermons I am preaching in an effort to deepen our education us about theology regardless of our individual beliefs. My primary reference is Karyn Armstrong's book: *The Case for God*, an intelligent discussion of theology and contemporary biblical scholarship.

January 31—*"Martin, Mary and Me: Our Lives in Selma"*, Sam Jones

HVUUC Calendar

Tuesday January 5

5:15pm Yoga
6:30pm HVUUC Sangha
7pm Dream Covenant Group
7pm Star Trek Covenant Group
7pm Finance Committee meeting

Wednesday January 6

6:30pm RE Committee meeting
7:00pm Simplicity Group

Thursday January 7

7pm Metaphysical Group
7pm Spirituality Group

Saturday January 9

10am-2pm CUUPS Event

Sunday January 10

9am Adult RE
10:30am Worship Service
12pm Potluck Lunch
12:30pm Girl Scouts
12:30pm UU History & Theology
7pm Music Covenant Group
5pm OWL

Monday January 11

7pm Life Stories Covenant Group

Tuesday January 12

5:15pm Yoga
6:30pm HVUUC Sangha

Wednesday January 13

6pm Young Adult Group
6:30pm Religious Services Committee meeting
7pm Wednesday Music Covenant

Thursday January 14

7pm Metaphysical Group

Saturday January 16

4pm-11pm CUUPS Event

Sunday January 17

9:00am Adult R.E.
9:30am Social Justice Committee
10:30am Worship Service
12pm Church Governance TF
12pm CUUPS meeting
5pm OWL

7pm Music Covenant Group

Tuesday January 19

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

Wednesday January 20

7pm Board of Trustees meeting
7pm Simplicity Group

Thursday January 21

7pm Metaphysical Group
7pm Spirituality Group

Luck's Leaf

A new year and a new title for my column...

Unitarian minister, Robert Fulghum, shared in 2006 his *A Wave In Winter*, which I copied below for you. Piggybacking on his verse I add my "wave" and hope for 2010:

As we move together into the infinite possibility of this new decade, I wish "small pleasant surprises" for all people ...for all the world. I wish for each of you "small pleasant surprises", and for those you love, the same as well. We are "wobbling along" with all the world's people, not as confident as we have been, and in many ways looking through a glass, darkly.

But, my prayer is that we open to expanding the possibility within life with more love, more integrity and more justice as we grow our souls together this decade. Focusing on decline blinds one to the deep well of renewal that has always defined America in difficult times, and defined what it means to be human whether American or not. I believe with Fulghum that possibility is infinite.

My best wishes for 2010,

Jacqueline

I give you Robert Fulghum and...

A WAVE IN WINTER

My greetings to you in the winter of 2006 come from a wordless space.

Between what I know and what I can express.

Between what I understand and what I can articulate.

Between what I want to believe and what's really true.

Between what I hope for the world and the way the world is.

In that space are music and laughter and yearning.

In that space are nostalgia and hopes and dreams.

In that space is the feeling one has just before being choked up with tears.

In that space is the delight of knowing the world is always offered up to Our imagination and initiative.

The name of that space is Possibility.

And I believe in infinite Possibility.

Anything can happen.

The world is always out of control.

Unpredictability is the ongoing circumstance of life.

The Earth wobbles slightly in its rotation;

The universe diversely expands in every direction.

Possibility is infinite, and I am part of that,

wobbling and expanding myself.

What would I like to have in this season of gift-giving-and-getting? Something simple.

Out of Possibility, I would settle for a few very small pleasant surprises.

I wish you the same.

Robert Fulghum



HVUUC Events

An Invitation to Spend an Evening with Friends

All HVUUC members and friends are cordially invited to sign up to attend a Circle Supper on either the evening of **Friday, January 22 or Saturday, January 23**.

Circle Suppers are simply potlucks held at the home of a host. Usually, 6 to 10 people will gather and, along with the main dish provided by the host, share edible contributions and a few hours of purely social interaction. Circle Suppers are a UU tradition that has fostered many friendships over the years. Sign-up sheets are available at the church. If you prefer to register for Circle Supper by phone, please call **Sue Shuler (239-3821)** or **Sharmi Mehta (288-5815)**. You can also register for Circle Supper by replying to the invitation you received via separate e-mail. Please register for the Circle Suppers before January 10th.

Basham Wedding Reception Rescheduled to January 29

Come celebrate the Newlyweds! Rob and Gracia Basham invite you to party at HVUUC on January 29, 2010. There will be wine, finger foods, desserts and dancing. Put on your party clothes (or favorite clothes) and wear your dancing shoes! Please bring your favorite CD and we will 'spin it'.

Rob and Gracia have chosen in lieu of wedding gifts to accept donations to HVUUC's Music Program to help keep our Services full of beautiful music. If you wish to donate, it will be gladly received. Bring a plate of goodies if you wish. Festivities begin at 6:30 and end when we are too tired to dance! Hope to see you then!

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.

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.

Upcoming Welcoming Congregation Events



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

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

February 13, 5:00PM—Transgener 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

March 21, 12:00PM—Film "Making Grace"

March 24, 7:00PM—Film "Making Grace"

April 4, 12:00PM—What Now??

New Simplicity Group Session Begins January 6th

The Simplicity group will begin viewing a four part PBS series called "Appalachia" on the first and third Wednesdays beginning January 6th, at 7 pm. in the Jr. Youth room in the REZ. (Our own Linda Waltner played several violin pieces in this series)

APPALACHIA: A History of Mountains and People is the first environmental history series ever made. An all-star cast, including Pulitzer Prize-winning biologist E.O. Wilson and best-selling novelist Barbara Kingsolver, explores the intersection of natural history and human history in one of America's grandest treasures.

This video series will then lead us into a new workbook/discussion course, called "Discovering A Sense of Place". The course will begin March 3rd. 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, please email Sam Jones at simpleintn@yahoo.com.

President's Corner



Each month the board discusses one thing in detail. In March we will be discussing long range planning. As part of this discussion we will be asking ourselves questions about planning for the future of our church. One question is "do we need a long range planning task force?" This church had a long range planning group that met and gave the board several reports. They also asked the board if they were a task force or committee. As a committee they would be on-going; as a task force they would have a task and would disband at the end of that time. The board (2008/2009 board) decided that it was a task force and it was disbanded with the idea that it could be reformed at any time as the board saw a need. As there is always a shortage of committee members, the board felt these members could contribute to other committees in our church. The board has continued to review the reports given to the board by the Long Range Planning Task Force. I appreciate all the comments made to me about long range planning. If you have a thought about this please feel free to discuss it with a board member prior to the March 17th board meeting. The board meetings are open to everyone so if you are interested I encourage you to attend.

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.

Capital Campaign To End In February, 2010

HVUUC has experienced an aggressive building program that greatly increased our building facilities in the past five years. The sanctuary and fellowship space was more than doubled and an unfinished lower level was added at a cost of \$350,000 in 2005. After the completion of the expanded sanctuary, the mobile double wide building that was installed for additional RE and meeting space in 2001 was totally destroyed in a fire in early 2007. The Church quickly responded to this loss by finishing the lower level of the church at a cost of \$25,000 and building the Religious Education building at a cost of \$250,000.

HVUUC spent a total of \$625,000 on these expansions in the past five years and has provided excellent facilities for accommodating growth in our membership. Two three-year capital campaigns were held to pay for a portion of these building costs. The first campaign for the church expansion was essentially completed prior to start of construction. The capital campaign for the Religious Education building included calendar years 2007, 2008, and 2009 and will close in February, 2010.

Through the generous capital campaign contributions from our members, along with Chalice Lighter grants and insurance proceeds from the fire, we have a remaining mortgage of \$225,000. A TRULY REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT: a total capital expenditure of \$625,000 and \$400,000 of these expenditures have been paid by a congregation of our size. Yet today, it is difficult for the church to make the payments of the remaining mortgage out of operating funds.

Our mortgage lender has given us the unusual opportunity to pay off a portion of our principal and reduce our monthly mortgage payment as opposed to reducing the length of our loan. To those of you who have so generously supported our capital campaigns and to all others, any contributions to the capital campaign prior to its closing will help reduce our mortgage payments and thereby its impact on the operating budget for the next fourteen years.

Please consider a one-time contribution to this capital campaign prior to the campaign ending in February, 2010. If you wish to make such a contribution, please note that the contribution is for the capital campaign. Also, please be aware the pledge drive for the 2010 – 2011 fiscal year will begin in February, 2010 and contributions to the capital campaign should not diminish your important contribution to the operating budget.

Frank Shuler, Treasurer

Community Information

Dinner with Keith Kron

Saturday, January 9, 2010 6:30 p.m.

Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

West Side Unitarian Universalist Church Sanctuary
616 Fretz Rd. Knoxville, TN 37934

Our guest of honor will be Rev. Keith Kron, Director, Office of BGLT Concerns, UUA

Entertainment by Clara Landau, Lady Wolf

Childcare will be provided.

\$12.00 per person

RSVP by January 3, 2010

865-777-9882

emg01@comcast.net

Home hospitality is available for out-of-town guests upon request.

2010 TJD Anti-racism Conference: Building the World We Want: Race, Place & Community

- ◆ *On Sunday morning, do you see the multicultural congregation you've imagined?*
- ◆ *Do you wonder why we don't attract a more diverse membership?*
- ◆ *Does your congregation feel out of sync with its community?*

Attend this conference to acquire practical ways to answer these questions with actions...

Keynote Address: Professor John A. Powell, J.D., Executive Director of the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity and Williams Chair in Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Moritz College of Law, will present a provocative keynote address on the impact of race on where we live, work, and worship.

Dates: February 5-7, 2010

Where: The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Richmond, 1000 Blanton Ave., Richmond, VA.

For more information: <http://www.tjdistrict.org/newsevents/antiracismconference.html>

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.

The Green Interfaith Network

On February 24 at 4:00pm The Green Interfaith Network (formerly Caring for Creation) is meeting at First Presbyterian, Elizabethton.

United Religions Initiative

On February 25 from 7:00-8:30pm The East TN Co-operation Circle of United Religions Initiative (an interfaith group) is meeting at the IHN office 208 W. Fairview, Johnson City.

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.

Mindful Ecotherapy combines Mindfulness and Ecotherapy in a program to help students and practitioners achieve a less stressful and happier lifestyle. This weekend retreat will help you to learn how to reap the healing benefits of nature, and how to live Mindfully in your True Self.

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.

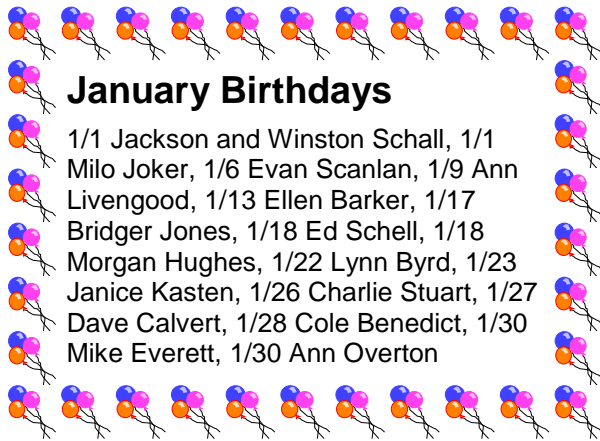
UU Bed and Breakfast Directory

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.

Membership Corner



January Birthdays

1/1 Jackson and Winston Schall, 1/1
Milo Joker, 1/6 Evan Scanlan, 1/9 Ann
Livengood, 1/13 Ellen Barker, 1/17
Bridger Jones, 1/18 Ed Schell, 1/18
Morgan Hughes, 1/22 Lynn Byrd, 1/23
Janice Kasten, 1/26 Charlie Stuart, 1/27
Dave Calvert, 1/28 Cole Benedict, 1/30
Mike Everett, 1/30 Ann Overton

Reverend Luck received a Holiday letter from Ann and Russell Armentrout with their greetings to the church. The letter is posted on the cork board in the Fellowship Hall.

Caring Team

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

Thank you to our December coordinators Gabrielle Zeiger and Betty Kramer.

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.

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), revluck@hvuuc.org

Church Secretary's Office Hours

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

Upcoming Newsletter Deadlines: January 17, January 31, February 14, February 28, March 14

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 reviews it to ensure that the content meets our guidelines)

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