



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 31, 2010

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

Headlines

- Annual Fund Drive Dinner Party
Saturday February 6th at 6:00PM
- CoM Town Hall meeting Sunday
February 7 at 12:15PM
- New Member dinner February 24
- TJ District Conference The Art of Governance in Congregations will be held at HVUUC on February 26 and 27

CoM Town Hall Meeting

Please plan to stay after the service this Sunday, February 7th to discuss the Committee on Ministry survey findings from the Fall survey. These findings are available on the church web site (both the Summary of the results and the raw frequency data). For those who do not have computer access, a few paper copies are available on the shelf in the sanctuary.

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 7—*"Evolution Sunday: Science and Religion"*, Reverend Luck

February 14—*"Is Gossip Really SO Bad? Spiritual Guidelines for Communication"*, Bill Kirkwood

Bill Kirkwood is Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Executive Director, Office of Planning and Analysis at ETSU. This service is sponsored by the Covenant Implementation Team.

Bill Kirkwood is a long-time HVUUC friend and one of our favorite outside speakers. Each of his talks -- wise and often humorous -- is a discovery, and reminds us of our common and uncommon humanity. Find your way to this service!

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

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

Annual Fund Drive Kick Off Dinner Party

Our annual fund drive dinner party will be on Saturday, February 6, 2010 at 6:00 PM. We will have appetizers,



wine, homemade soups, salad and dessert. There will also be music by some of our very talented members and a fun "swap" game (see the information below). This is very important to the church for the planning of our next fiscal year. To attend, please RSVP to office@hvuuc.org. If you need childcare, please RSVP by Thursday 2/4 so we have adequate childcare coverage.

Swap Game

Each individual please bring 1-3 items of value. The items should be something that you have around the house and no longer use new items, old items, anything.

- All of the items brought will be placed on tables for everyone to view before our meeting.
- Those that turn in their pledge cards at the dinner will get to choose one item, and they will get to pick first
- After that everyone will be turned loose at the same time and get to choose one item each to keep.
- Anything left will be donated.

HVUUC Calendar

Tuesday February 2

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

Wednesday February 3

7pm RE Committee meeting
7pm Simplicity Group

Thursday February 4

7pm Metaphysical Group
7pm Spirituality Group

Friday February 5

7pm Women's Group

Saturday February 6

6pm Annual Budget Dinner Party

Sunday February 7

9am Adult RE
9:30am Caring Team
10:30am Worship Service
12:15pm CoM Town Hall meeting
5pm OWL
7pm Music Covenant Group

Monday February 8

6pm Governance Task Force

Tuesday February 9

5:15pm Yoga
6:30pm HVUUC Sangha

Wednesday February 10

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

Thursday February 11

7pm Metaphysical Group

Saturday February 13

10am-2pm Sangha Meditation
5pm Welcoming Congregation
Workshop

Sunday February 14

9:00am Adult R.E.
10:30am Worship Service
12pm Potluck Luncheon
12:30 Girl Scout Meeting
5pm OWL

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

Luck's Leaf

We have the opportunity to use resources to help care for others and those less fortunate than ourselves as a sign of our gratitude, and the essential question is not how much we can afford to give, but how much we can afford to keep.Stephen Gray

I'm sure that sounds strange to some, but one of the principles of stewardship is that it address people's spiritual need to give. Giving to things we believe to be worthy makes us feel good. Unitarian Universalists give to so many good causes, however our church home is sometimes not at the top of that list for whatever reason.

Healthy faith communities see stewardship as a vital component of their ministry. They understand that stewardship is an act of worship. "Worth-giving" includes the joyful sharing of gifts (aptitude, ability and money). Stewardship is not necessarily the things people do, but the spirit that influences the things they do. Isn't it our desire is to be self-giving?

Supporting your church is not paying a bill; it is contributing to the ministry of the church. You enable it to fulfill its mission. By providing for the operating expenses, you ensure there is a facility and warm sanctuary for sharing the liberal religious message. Many consider that message as life changing and their salvation. You provide for the children of this congregation as you did when you chose to build the religious education building. And you provide for the future of liberal religion in the Tri-Cities area, and those Unitarian Universalists yet to come with your gifts.

I do hope to see every one of you February 6 as we continue our stewardship planning for our beloved faith community. JL



2010 Women's Retreat

Registration and Planning begins soon!

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 rkle-ske@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.

President's Corner

The board is continuing to record board policies. We keep two copies. The board president keeps one and the church secretary has the other copy. As a board we decided to have two readings at two separate board meetings of policies passed by the board. After the first reading, if it is approved by the board, it will be put in the church newsletter. Members of the congregation are invited to comment on the policy to any board member. These comments will be shared with all board members at the next board meeting and then a second reading will take place, taking into consideration the comments made by the congregation and be voted on by the board. If the policy passes at the second board meeting it will become a policy of the church and be placed in the board policy binders. At the last board meeting we passed the following policies.



- *No illegal substances or activities are permitted on the premises of Holston Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, at any HVUUC sponsored event, or at any event of groups directly associated with HVUUC. Holston Valley UU Church members are expected to abide by the congregational covenant of behavior which binds them as a caring and intentional community at church or church affiliated events.*
- *Recommended board policies will be published in the newsletter for comments from the congregation before final approval by the board.*
- *The president, stewardship trustee and treasurer may approve an advance of up to \$2,500 to a HVUUC committee or church related group upon their request and commitment to refund the advance within an agreed time period.*

If you have a comment on these policies please let a board member know. All board members phone numbers and e mail addresses are listed on the back on the weekly church bulletin as well as being listed at the bottom of each church newsletter. We will take the final reading on these policies on February 17.

Michael Jones, HVUUC BoT President

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 emailing Karyn at office@hvuuc.org. If you have any questions, please call Ann Overton, Chair of Membership Development, at 423-247-1736 or annoverton@charter.net.

Upcoming Welcoming Congregation Events



February 21, 12:00PM—Film
“Southern Comfort”

February 24, 7:00PM—Film “Southern Comfort”

March 3, 7PM—BGLT Panel

March 7, 12PM—How Homophobia Hurts Us All

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

HVUUC Endowment Fund

Among the numerous options for contributing to the HVUUC Endowment Fund is through bequests. Wills are an important mechanism to assure that assets are distributed as desired after we die. If you do not yet have a will, please consider including a bequest to the Endowment Fund when you do make one. Or if you already have a will, it is a simple matter to amend the will to include a bequest to HVUUC. This type of planned giving can be a lasting legacy from you to the future of our church.

There are several options for naming the Fund as a beneficiary in your will.

Here are a few of the more common ones.

- A fixed dollar amount
- A percentage of your estate, which allows you to keep the division of the estate residue in desired proportions, regardless of its size
- A contingent gift, such as one which would go to a certain individual who survives you, or to the Fund if that person does not survive you.
- A bequest of a portion of the residue of your estate. This type of bequest would insure that relatives and friends are provided for before any charitable bequests are distributed.

The Endowment Fund committee would like to recognize those who have designated a bequest to the Fund in their wills. Please contact any member of the committee (Virgil Stephens, Frank Shuler, Richard Boyd, Charlie Stuart, Jo Anne Medlin) to let us know of your planned gift, or if you have questions.

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 scouts¹ 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.

New Simplicity Group Session Begins March 3rd

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.

TJ District Conference Volunteers Needed

The Committee in charge of the Art of Governance in Congregations 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 team commitment. E-mail Charlie Mattioli at dcmattioli@chartertn.net if you'd like to help.

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.

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.

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.

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 wild-life, 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!

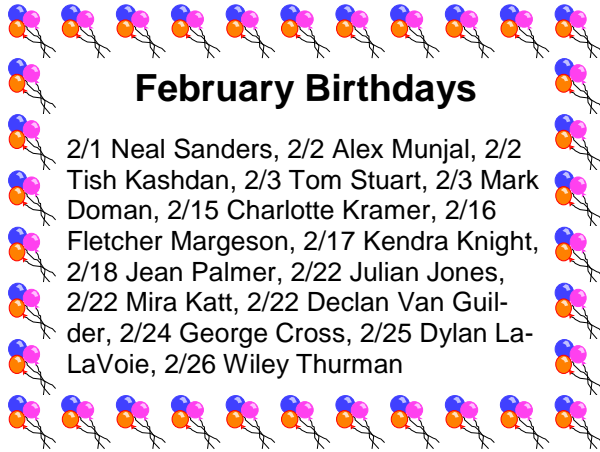
UU Bed and Breakfast Directory

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



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 La-LaVoie, 2/26 Wiley Thurman

Thank You to Circle Supper Hosts

We recognize, appreciate and thank the following people for hosting the Circle Suppers on January 22 and 23:

Jo Anne & James Medlin
Karyn & George Cross
Linda Waltner & Gerald Keep
Jessica & Rob Chittum
Denee & Charlie Mattioli

From our informal survey results, those who participated (34 people) in Circle Suppers had very good time.

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), revluck@hvuuc.org

Church Secretary's Office Hours

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

Upcoming Newsletter Deadlines: February 14, 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@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)

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

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