

Rev. Jacqueline Luck  
Holston Valley UU Church  
May 13, 2011

## The Minister's Annual Report

The congregation can feel proud as well as its Board Trustees and officers that so much has gone well this year at Holston Valley UU Church. The hopes and dreams of all were met with the successful pledge drive. The Board and Lynn Byrd got the sanctuary roofed this spring. The congregation has voted to try an experiment with Extended Sunday Services and having the children above 3<sup>rd</sup> grade in worship services. I am pleased that you are willing to try something so innovative... you are a forward looking congregation. And the congregation voted a 3% increase to its minister's pay. (Since I am doubling up on seminary loan payments, I appreciate the vote especially.)

## Completed Goals for 2010-2011

1. Continuing Education -- This year I attended the Excellence in Ministry Center Days and the excellent preaching seminar of Rev. Dr. Kay Northrup. Last fall I attended the Jesus Seminar, a cutting-edge biblical scholarship seminar, and other workshops on Adaptive Leadership, Program Churches and Policy Governance, Friedman's Systems-based Leadership, and read *Antagonists in the Church* and *Simple Church* among others. I constantly read for sermons.
2. Public/Justice Outreach- I continued leadership in interfaith work in the community to further the cause of religious freedom and peace among people of faith the United Religions Initiative (URI) and in Green Interfaith Initiative (GINI).

Reporter Rex Barber solicited my liberal religious opinion about what I thought of the proposed burning of the Bible and the level of Islamophobia rising in the US, and published my reply in the JC Press.

Last Nov. I spoke to professor John Davison's class at ETSU on religious diversity and religious oppression.

I tutor English as a Second Language (ESL) with the Literacy Council.

3. Congregational Relationships and Well-Being- I continue to cultivate the health and well-being of the congregation, and to encourage healthy relationships between the minister and the congregation. I've worked with the Congregational Covenant Team and the Committee on Ministry. We had some good discussion per perceptions of the congregation's covenant and how the CCT, the CoM and I can support each other in our ministry.

4. Professional Support- I have a professional ministry coach that I speak with once a month.
5. Collegial Relationships are important for a minister's balance, so I make the effort to develop collegial relationships at SEUUMA (South East UU Minister's Association) meetings in the fall and spring, and at Cluster meetings with ministers in Knoxville and when possible in Asheville. I will attend Minister's Days and General Assembly.
6. Personal Spiritual Development I don't honor my Sabbath time as well as I should as I seldom take a whole day "off" from my obligations and concerns. I do focused reading and writing toward personal spiritual growth and maturity.
7. District and UUA Involvement-- I completed my second year as District Ministerial Settlement Representative working both with UUA Office of Transitions and District congregations. This year I had an unusually large number of congregations begin search. This is beneficial to HVUUC as well as the congregations as I return with ideas I glean from working closely with leadership of other congregations. And you support your sister congregations through my efforts.

#### HVUUC WORSHIP SERVICES AND SERMONS

I officiated three Memorial Services, a Union and a Wedding this year. The number of HVUUC Worship Services I officiated and sermons written is lower than in the past –31 services and a pulpit swap. I attended the Sundays not in pulpit for various scheduling reasons— I visited the RE classes, and I attended the SOUL service, and CCT's service with Dr. Pat Robertson, the Neutral Pulpit sermon for a ministry candidate and the Hymn Sing.

In particular I enjoyed our Christmas service on Charles Dickens with Dr. Bobby Funk reading excerpts of *A Christmas Carol*, and Rebecca Smith rose above my hopes with the skit she staged for the Yule, Carol and Candle Light Service! There have been other sermons I particularly enjoyed— To Kill a Mockingbird and some of these latter sermons like Big Mama Earth, The Hope of Progressive Religion, and the study of the parables for Easter Sunday.

#### PASTORAL CARE

After many visits with Ed and Barbara Schell and Linda Jewel we bid them farewell as they moved closer to family. There have been many home and hospital visits this year. I walked with four this year through the valley of death. I send pastoral cards each month. For the first time, I am doing pre-marital counseling with a young couple I will marry next fall.

## THE YOUTH AND CHILDREN

The Senior Highs came to my house to eat pasta and play games with Cindi Huss and Hannah Wetherill...a great success! The youth joined me as I walked in the MLK Parade as is my practice--again thanks to Cindi's and Hannah's leadership. I drove to the Paramount in Bristol to see *Cats* since many of our youth were in the performance. I told an "appropriate" Ghost story at the HVUUC Halloween Party and got told it was not scary enough! I bought books for pre-K and 1<sup>st</sup> grades on UU Prayers and ritual.

## STEWARDSHIP

The Endowment fund continues to grow with donations in honor of others- a practice I initiated here. I support the stewardship of all of HVUUC's assets.

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND HVUUC SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Each month I met with the Board of Trustees, the Religious Services Committee, the Committee on Ministry and the Covenant Group Facilitators. I attend the Finance Committee meeting and the Council of Committees as I can.

Other events I attended include the Silent Auction, Apple Daze, Wednesday Night Suppers, the Pancake and Jam breakfast, the Board Retreat, the Annual meeting, and a couple of musical performances at the church including Jim Scott, and the Dark Side of Chocolate event.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

We got the *Hunger in Our Neighborhood* justice project kicked off..... grateful for Doug Chafin stepping forward to lead the effort.

I helped host the URI Interfaith Gratitude and Thanksgiving Dinner at the Carver Center, and the URI: *Your Neighbor's Faith* discussion at the JC library on Christian understandings of Lent and Easter with Rev Hal Hutchinson of St. John's Episcopal Church and Rev. John Shuck presenting.

## CLASSES

I've conducted Path to Membership and UU History and Theology classes. I look forward to the opportunity to lead more classes next year with the extended Sunday opportunities.

## UUA AND DISTRICT INVOLVEMENT

In March I drove to Knoxville with Gracia and Charlie for the East TN Cluster Covenanting process and attend meetings as I can--the last one I attended via Skype. I participated in 2 ordinations, attended the annual district meeting in Durham

As the districts ministerial settlement representative, I preached at three UU congregations-- Winston Salem, Blacksburg and Eno River (Durham) this year. I've been in phone and email contact with two others in the search process.