



*Thermal Belt Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship News
April, 2016 Happy Spring!*

Upcoming Services

**April 3, 2016
“Burn, Baby, Burn!”
Rev. Michael Carter**



While doing some research for a UU adult religious education class, I was struck by how frequently and almost casually orthodox Christians burned people at the stake during Medieval times. I know that these things are part of history, but I have begun to dwell on just how cheap life was to those in power at the time, and how casually it was thought of to burn someone at the stake whose theological views were different. Whether it was in Salem where folks were hung, or drowned (I believe it was in Europe that human barbecuing was the favorite mode of execution), there was seemingly no shame. I feel threatened; therefore, you should die! Simple formula. Still happens today. I then thought about the life and death of one Michael Servetus who was executed by John Calvin for his beliefs. Servetus was burned at the stake along with his books. Join us on Sunday April 3rd as we explore the life of this brilliant non-trinitarian (Unitarian) free thinker.

Remember our UU History Workshop after the fellowship hour that Sunday as well. See you there!

Michael is an ordained Interfaith minister and received his BA Degree in Letters from the College of New Rochelle where he graduated cum laude. He received his Masters In Divinity Degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York City (class of 2000).

Rev. Carter now serves as the minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of The Swannanoa Valley in Black Mountain.

Upcoming Service

April 17, 2016

"Buddhism and the I"

Rev. Ernie Mills



Mark Twain once said, "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness". But we need not always travel physically to get beyond our narrow-mindedness. We can "travel" spiritually by exploring new and/or different ideas that have their origins in far-away places. This is exactly what we will do. We will "travel" to the realm of Buddhism and see how it compares/contrasts with Western religion, especially Judaism and Christianity. We might end up discovering our prejudices, bigotry and narrow-mindedness.

Rev. Mills completed a BA in Philosophy from the University of North Carolina at Asheville, a Master of Religious Education from Duke Divinity School, and a Master of Divinity from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University.

Leaving his long-time affiliation with United Methodism was, as Mills has said, one of the most difficult decisions of his life. But in 2002 he resigned his position at Brevard College and became part-time minister to the small congregation of Unitarian Universalists who are now known as the Unitarian Universalist of Transylvania County.

He asserts, "The UUs I have met are dedicated, eager to grow and learn, and are always ready for a new experience. They all have worked very hard to get where we are today and have exciting prospects for their future."

Ernie credits his family -- wife Diane, and daughters Sarah, Joanne, and Libby -- for keeping him grounded and helping him to formulate sermon ideas.

His strong interest in depth psychology and his love of folk guitar and mountain storytelling enhance his theology and has brought an added dimension to his ministry.



Books, Books, Books

At the end of our worship service, please consider picking up one of the brown manila envelopes at the back information table. The envelopes contain a book or two books to be mailed to the prisoner whose name and address are on the front of the package.

Gil Behrend and Annie Ewing donated a large number of books for the Prison Light Project. One evening, Annie and Linda List assisted me in matching books with the various letters and then packaging and addressing the packages.

Our public libraries are again preparing for their Used Book Sale. Possibly you'd be interested in taking a letter from our remaining stack and looking for a gently used book to mail to a prisoner? A book gives us knowledge and, if it is fiction, it gives us the opportunity to "walk in another's shoes." From your response to the Prison Light Project, you've indicated that you know this important for all.
Robbie

History of Unitarian Universalism- April 3rd

On **April 3rd**, immediately following our regular service, Rev. Michael Carter will conduct an informational session on the history of Unitarian Universalism and what it means to become a member. Members, friends and visitors are welcome to attend. A sign-up sheet will be on the Information Table in the rear of the Fellowship hall for those interested in attending. You may also contact Sheila Nungesser at BarNun315@gmail.com or 828-625-3060 to be added to the list.

New Members Sunday

In the spring we traditionally welcome new members into our Fellowship. If you wish to join TBUUF please contact our Membership Chairperson, Sheila Nungesser at 828 625-3060 or BarNun315@gmail.com by April 17th.

Stewardship Drive Continues Through May 1

Thank you to everyone who has submitted a Pledge of Support for the next church year. Pledge forms can be submitted by mail or placed in the collection plate on Sunday. Pledging allows us to forecast revenue for next year and budget accordingly. Thank you again for your support of TBUUF. The pledge form is attached on the next page.

My (Our) 2016-2017 Pledge of Financial Support for the
Thermal Belt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: H: _____ C: _____ Email: _____

My (our) total pledge for the 2016-2017 church year is: \$ _____

My (our) pledge payments will start in July 2016 on the following schedule:

- Four Quarterly Donations in the amount of: \$ _____
- Twelve Monthly Donations in the amount of: \$ _____
- A Single Donation on _____ (date) in the amount of: \$ _____

Your continued support of TBUUF is greatly appreciated.

Comments: _____

Signature(s): _____ Date: _____

Please return this by the Sunday Service on May 1, 2016, or mail to the address below:

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