



# *Thermal Belt Universal Unitarian Fellowship News*

*June, 2016*

Services: First & Third Sundays  
835 N. Trade St. Tryon, NC  
Phone: 828-513-0570 Web: TBUUF.org  
Address: P. O. Box 653, Tryon, NC 28782

Upcoming Services  
Sunday June 5, 2016

?

Reverend Michael Carter

There is a joke that Unitarian Universalists should have a question mark as a religious symbol instead of the chalice. Like many people, UUs are generally curious by nature and we want to know “why?” Why is the world the way it is? Why am I the way I am? Why are you the way you are? Why do bad things happen to good people and why do good things happen to bad people? Why am I here? Why do I care? Why is this happening to me? Why am I asking why?

Nietzsche was once quoted as saying that the Western Tradition of analytic reasoning was tantamount to adding more unknown to the already known or is bent on asking what the Buddha referred to as “unprofitable questions.” Life is a process, an adventure, an overcoming, an exploration, a ride, a journey. We are all works in progress and at times we ask for more information, but not more wisdom. Many of us are curious by nature and yet we sometimes forget the words of the French philosopher, playwright, Christian Existentialist, and music critic, Gabriel Marcel (December 7th, 1889-October 8, 1973) who said that “life is not a problem to be solved but a mystery to be lived.” Marcel’s work focused on the individual’s inner life and struggle in a technological and dehumanizing society. Let’s explore the questions of life and see if we cannot be more engaged in living the questions as well.



**This Sunday Reverend Carter will also conduct the Child Dedication Service for Justine Taylor, daughter of Heather Taylor.**



## **Why We Are the Way We Are Don Amon**

The field of Evolutionary Psychology has provided significant insight into why we are the way we are. The basic idea is that we are born with a brain that has information in it that has helped previous generations to survive. It includes a strong attachment to others in our tribe and provides a basis for why we have racial bias, even though we usually do not act on this bias. Other characteristics will also be explored. Dr. Donald Emon has

presented this program a number of times, and it has resulted in new insights for many people.

Don is excited about introducing you to this subject. It has given him a framework to understand his life and the lives of others. This is primarily been accomplished by getting in touch with his roots. Remember how excited and interested you were in finding your roots, perhaps a few generations back? He has found his roots hundreds, if not thousands, of generations back by understanding what characteristics he has inherited. Using this information and being sensitive to the present environment, you will be able to better understand your behavior and the behavior of others.

Here is a quote from Robert Wright's book *The Moral Animal*: "...altruism, compassion, empathy, love, conscience, the sense of justice—all the things that hold society together, the things that allow our species to think so highly of itself. These things can now confidently be said to have a firm genetic basis.....In the new view human beings are splendid in their array of moral equipment, tragic in their propensity to misuse it, and pathetic in their constitutional ignorance of the misuse."

# TBUUF Outreach Projects Report



## Books for Prisoners

Did you purchase one of Michael Carter's books several months ago? If so, are you ready to gift it to a prisoner who is requesting a book about extraterrestrials? We have four requests left to fill for such books. If you are ready to pass on your copy of Michael's book, at our next service you'll find a letter and a mailing envelope already addressed. All you need to do is add the book to the envelope, throw away the prisoner's letter, and pay the postage—media rate.

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, Annie Ewing, Linda List, and Judith Gosser, came to my house with gently used books for the Prison Light Project. Marie King contributed books but was unable to join us. We addressed and filled 27 envelopes with books for prisoners from all over the country. Most of their requests had been made almost a year ago. **Please take one or more of these envelopes and send them on their way with a blessing included.**

Thanks, Robbie ter Kuile

### *Silent Pain*

*(This poem was in one of the envelopes sent from a prisoner)*

*I went for a walk,  
In an early morning rain,  
When I realized with a shock,  
And a deep inner pain,  
That man is destroying,  
What is dearest to him,  
He's putting himself out,  
On a very shaky limb.  
With pollution and toxin,  
And silent acid rain,  
The world must surely,  
Be crying out in pain.  
We must all work together,  
We must all cry out loud,  
Or someday our children,  
May never see a white cloud.*

*Jeffrey P., prisoner*

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, Robbie delivered 23.4 pounds of food from our Fellowship to the Thermal Belt Outreach Ministries.

## Sharing Our Joys \_\_\_\_\_ Tryon graduate featured in June Southern Living

Dano Holcomb, son of William and Margaret Holcomb of Tryon, owner/operator of the Root Down Food Truck, [www.rootdownfoodcart.com](http://www.rootdownfoodcart.com), and a 1987 graduate of Tryon High School, represents western N.C. in the "South's Best Food Trucks" section of the June edition of Southern Living.

A graduate of UNC-Asheville, Dano spent two years studying at the Delgado Culinary Institute in New Orleans before returning to western N.C. with his wife, Julie, and their two sons, Felix, 6, and Arlo, 4.

In addition to this recent recognition, he has been featured in an interview at WLOS and taken first place at the Asheville Food Truck gathering for three consecutive years, and twice in Charlotte's roundup.

-Submitted by W.S.T. Holcomb