



Thermal Belt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship News

March, 1916

Services: first & third Sundays at 10:30 AM
835 N. Trade St. Tryon, NC
828-513-0570 www.TBUUF.org
P. O. Box 653, Tryon, NC 28782

Upcoming Service

March 6, 2016

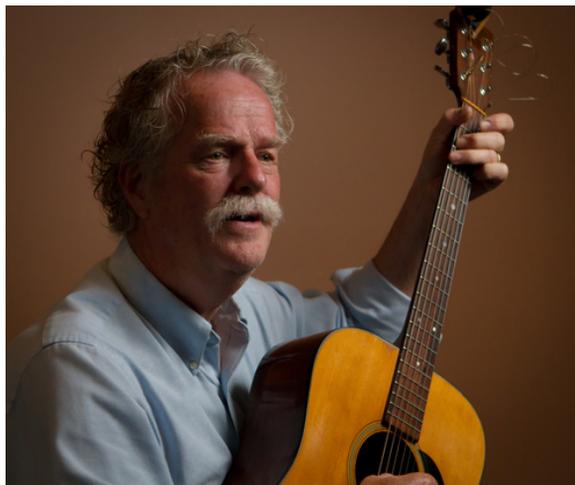
“To Whom Much Is Given....”



As Winston Churchill stated: “We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.” March 6th, 2016 is Canvass Sunday for The Thermal Belt UU Fellowship. Please don’t stay away this Sunday. When we think of Canvassing Sunday, we normally think of the Sunday where the minister gives a “fundraising” sermon to raise funds for the church. The minister, if he or she is good at it, is supposed to do it like a dentist, first gently putting in the right amount of Novocain in to numb the pain and then doing the tough stuff about raising money but in a painless way so the patients won’t feel it. This is a chance for you to walk your talk, to walk your prayer, or however you want to put. Can you imagine your community without this Fellowship’s existence? Good. Neither can I. Join us as we take the time to show our gratitude and to put our money where our mouths are. As the philosopher William James once said, “The greatest use of life is to spend it on something that will outlast it.” See you on Sunday, March 6th. Until then, peace to you!

Michael speaks at TBUUF once a month and serves as the minister for Unitarian Universalist Congregation of The Swannanoa Valley, in Black Mountain.

Upcoming Service
March 20, 2016
“A Copernican Revolution of the Spiritual Kind”
Rev. Ernie Mills



We will explore the radical and revolutionary nature of Unitarian Universalism's First Principle: "the inherent worth and dignity of every person". I will set this principle within the context of the dogma of Original Sin which has dominated western thought since its inception in the theology of the Apostle Paul and its subsequent development throughout church history. The doctrine of Original Sin culminated in what I consider the most damaging and destructive view of human nature in the history of humankind. No other doctrine has done so much damage to the human soul. Our First Principle counters this dogma and offers an entirely different and radical view of who we are and what lies at our core. It is no less radical than the Copernican revolution.

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, according to Mills, 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 Universalists 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 they 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 psychology and his love of folk guitar and mountain storytelling enhance his theology and have brought an added dimension to his ministry.

You Are Cordially Invited...

If you hunger for spiritually without dogma...If you long to put yourself to work healing a suffering world...If you want a faith community that helps you deepen into life's questions even when there are no final answers...Unitarian Universalism may be your religious home.

Rev. Kathleen McTigue

The Thermal Belt Unitarian Universalist Fellowship welcomes all Friends and Visitors into this Fellowship. If you feel that this is your faith home, you may wish to consider becoming a member. Membership does not require renouncing any other religious affiliation. It is open to all who wish to support this community with their time, talents, treasures, hearts and wisdom to whatever extent possible.

Unitarian Universalists are not bound by creed but by the common purpose of human betterment through the never-ending search for truth. This Fellowship is committed to freedom of belief. We are unified in spirit but hold a diversity of opinions. We believe in the importance of a faith community that recognizes the dignity and worth of each human being.

In the words of Victoria Mitchell, "Unitarian Universalism is a non-judgmental religious home that will accept and support you wherever you may be in life's journey. It is a safe place to stand out, stand up, and change your mind, particularly during life's transitions. Our only doctrine is love."

By signing our membership book you will be given the opportunity to vote on Fellowship decisions and will receive a subscription to the *UU World* magazine. Becoming a member also involves making an annual contribution of record.

If you are interested in joining this Fellowship please contact our Membership Chairperson, Sheila Nungesser at BarNun315@gmail.com or 828 625-3060. Rev. Michael Carter would like to meet with interested individuals following a service this spring. Please contact us if you wish to attend this meeting and/or wish to join this faith community.

*Love is the doctrine of this church,
The quest for truth is its sacrament,
And service is its prayer.*

I am always somewhat amused when it comes to the election season in this great land of ours...especially this year. There are many reasons for this, but for me personally, I am always intrigued when Americans seem to think that one individual will change all of the social, economic, political, ecological, and yes, even military challenges that face our nation and the world.

Now, voters will never really come out and say that this is what they expect, but it sure seems to me that this is what they are asking. It's an impossible and unrealistic expectation in my humble opinion. We have a two-party system in this nation. You have more choices when you purchase a pair of jeans. We have two political parties in this country and both of these parties, are beholden to corporations, and are supposed to somehow satisfy all of the needs of the people of this nation (and if you believe in the myth of "American Exceptionalism") the entire globe. "Tis a consummation devoutly to be wished," to coin a phrase from Shakespeare's, *Hamlet, The Prince of Denmark*.

Be that as it may, many of us get so caught up in the passion of the politics of the day, that instead of focusing on *what* is right, we argue over *who* is right. We can all respectfully disagree as human beings, can't we? I'd like to think so. As a member of the Unitarian Universalist clergy, I am reminded every day that we don't all have to think alike to love alike. There is an inherent worth and dignity in each and every human being. Let's not lose sight of this as citizens of this nation and as citizens of the earth.

As Universalist Minister Hosea Ballou so insightfully phrased it:

"If we agree in love, there is no disagreement that can do us any harm, but if we do not, no other agreement can do us any good."

Reverend Carter is minister of the Swannanoa UU Fellowship in Black Mountain where he speaks twice a month. He is also a regular speaker at the Thermal Belt UU Fellowship in Tryon.

Announcements

Food Pantry – Outreach Service project: Please remember to bring food pantry items to church first and third Sundays. In February we had 15.4 pounds of food. Thanks to Robbie ter Kuile for taking them to the pantry.

Prison Light Project: This project is progressing very well, but there are still a few letters from prisoners requesting books. Who knows, maybe your gift of a book will bring that spring ray of sunshine just when it's needed for someone who is incarcerated.

"I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catchers mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back." -Mayla Angelou