



**Sunday Services begin at 11:00 am.
Coffee and Conversation 10:30 - 11:00 am and after the service**

December 7

Gifts of Joy, Gifts of Love: In this time of economic uncertainty and this season of spending, we pause to be reminded of the most precious gifts in this life, and to give and receive them with love and generosity. Presenter: Rev. Sarah York

December 14

Prospects for Peace in the Middle East: We will consider the UU goal of "world community with peace, liberty and justice for all." Dr. Curtis Ryan, Associate Professor of Government and Justice Studies, will return as a guest speaker to address "Prospects for Peace in the Middle East". He will discuss the foundation that has been established for Arab Israeli peace, what the obstacles are, ideas for the new U.S. administration, and possibilities for peace in Iraq and Iran. Presenter: Dr. Curtis Ryan Service Leader: Sandra Oldendorf

December 21

It Must Be Saint Nick! We will celebrate the true spirit of Christmas by sharing vignettes from the legends of Saint Nicholas and festive customs from around the world. Believers of all ages will participate through songs, stories, and stockings. Please bring one stocking per family. Presenters and service leaders: Diane Graham and Connie Green

December 24

Christmas Eve: Join us at 7P.M. for music and readings of the holiday season. Bobbie Austin will lead us in song, and we will share in our traditional cookie communion. Bring the children, your friends and family for this special evening service of celebration.

December 28

Reflections and Hopes for 2009: How do you regard the New Year as it approaches? What are your personal hopes for the future, for our BUUF family, for our local community, and our country? As we share these thoughts with one another, we may find many concerns and hopes in common, and what our aspirations say about us as UU's.

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Namaste,
The Divine in me Honors
and Blesses the Divine in
you.

At this time of the year, my thoughts turn to how I am offering gratitude, compassion and care to not only family and friends but especially to all our brothers and sisters of our local and global communities.

I am reminded of a time I visited my next door neighbor who is an elderly woman. She is of the Catholic faith and I was discussing with her how important it is to do kind deeds, especially for those we do not know. Her response to my words was, "You are more Catholic than I am." I have reflected on her words several times as I find my own meanings to her response. I found it very interesting that her thoughts about good deeds were linked to her understanding of her religious faith. I believe my way of doing good karma has to do with not just being a Christian, Hindu, or even a Unitarian Universalist. I be-

Christine's Corner of the World

lieve it is linked to a strong sense of connection and care of the human spirit, which lies in each one of us.

In my connection to Christianity, I understood helping others that are less fortunate as I, such as sharing my abundance with others, is how Jesus lived his life principles. With Hinduism, I can choose to complete good karmic acts or service/seva, by such example as feeding the hungry and not expecting reward or acclamations for doing so. As a Unitarian Universalist, I can contribute to the human family by donations in the form of collecting items for the Hunger Health Coalition, making a meal at our local homeless shelter, and support justice for all human people through guest at our table project. All of these connections remind me to reflect on my internal intention as to why I choose to have compassion for our human spirit souls.

I believe gratitude for the many blessings I have received is a gift to those I choose to share it with regardless of the form it takes such as food, money, or gifts. All of these are expressions of the sharing of joys I have received. Compassion for me is a heart space understanding with each other of immense di-

vine blessings. This, again for me, is a natural human connection to another person's soul. Human care for me is knowing that whether I choose small or large ways of expressing these feelings; I believe we all need each other to grow and blossom into our highest self. My neighbor's thoughts of being Catholic was a reminder to me that it does not matter so much what I choose to call myself. What are important are my active expressions of my connections to all human spirit souls.

As we come to the end of the year of 2008, I offer heart felt blessings for knowing the human connections to each other and how we choose to express them are what sustains and strengthens each of us. I believe we will continue to be the true peace we seek to see in each other.
Shanti. Have a blessed month of December.

Your President,
Christine Sita Dave



Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and right doing, there is a field. I'll meet you there.

When the soul lies down in that grass, the world is too full to talk about. Ideas, language, even the phrase "each other" doesn't make any sense.
Jalal al-Din Muhammad Rumi

Boone Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

2008-9 Leaders Executive Board

President

Christine Dave
264-1893

Vice President/Pres
Elect Zan Landowne
262-1600

Past President Connie
Green 264-3341

Secretary Carole Bollini
Treasurer Roland Moy
264-8811

Trustees Pat Wilkie
828-963-3723

Robin Hunt

Diane Graham

Committee Chairs

Campus Ministry Richard
Anderson 828-773-2504

*Congregational Care Co-
Chairs* Diane Graham
264-3058 and Kathy
Parham 262-0533

Facilities Linda Lonon
264-7424

Finance Roland Moy
264-8811

Greening Jim Barbee
336-877-3043

Long Range Planning
Dwight Miller 963-6821

Membership open
Program Susan Miller
963-6821

Publicity Roland Moy,
Kathy Parham, Jerry
Rothschild, Carol Truett

Religious Education
Victor Mansure 263-
8680

Social Action Jane Cherry
268-0191

Special Events Jerry/Judy
Rothschild 264-9095 &
Jean Stillwell 264-3931

Three for the Common
Good Contact Wendy
Nicholson 423-727-8872

Minutes of Fellowship Board

Members present: Christine Dave', Robin Hunt, Derwin Sherwood, Zan Landowne, Diane Graham, Roland Moy, Connie Green. Pat Wilkie Guest: Richard Anderson

Roland reported that our bookkeeper has not completely recovered from her automobile accident. She will continue if needed, but would prefer to be replaced. Richard made a recommendation. Roland and Richard will follow up on hiring a new bookkeeper. Roland also reported on the success of the split plate offering, saying that it is a good option for community involvement. The check from DOT has not been received. Christine will contact DOT about status of check since it has not yet been received. Zan brought up the issue of acknowledging gifts and pledges to the fellowship, asking how we can better respond to those who contribute, but have not pledged in the usual way. We decided to ask the new bookkeeper to find a system for keeping us aware of such donations. Richard reported on his research on the windows in the tower of Fellowship Hall. A window expert looked at them and found places where the wood was rotting. Richard explained the plan for repairing the windows without having to replace them. He does not have the price yet.

It was noted that the minutes had been approved by email. Connie and Diane mentioned that the quotation from Sarah in last month's minutes might be a

little misleading. Not all elements in a service need to follow the same topic. We will continue to review minutes electronically, but do so by a certain date.

Pat moved that the split plate offering for December go to the Heifer Project. Zan seconded the project and it passed unanimously. Richard Anderson provided the board with a comprehensive written report on his accomplishments and suggestions for improving the functioning of our fellowship. We recommended that Richard provide a quarterly membership list to members of the fellowship. Other suggestions included updating of our rental policies and sharing our activities with the TJ district. We also discussed ways to encourage people to volunteer.

Connie moved that a stipend be provided for those who need to be reimbursed for buying snacks for coffee hour. Robin seconded the motion. The motion was amended to include a cap of \$20 for snacks.

Pat reported on her work on the policies and procedures manual and by-laws. Members were given a list of duties of the officers to review.

Derwin moved that CUUPS be allowed to add their name to our sign. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Richard presented the need for petty cash funds to purchase supplies. Pat moved that we begin a \$100 petty cash fund for which the administrator will be responsible. Diane seconded. The

motion passed unanimously. Christine, Connie, Zan and Robin will meet on December 3rd at 5:00 to evaluate the performance of our church administrator. One or more of us will meet at a later time with Richard. Because of the amount of work we have ahead of us, we agreed that the board will meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays and we will meet before the service on Sunday's.

It was suggested that we ask our pianist if he would like to also direct the choir. Roland will talk with Matt. Roland will also talk with Trudy about the having a separate amplification system for the keyboard. Derwin reported that he and Carole are planning vegetarian/vegan potlucks for one Wednesday evening a month. Robin will organize and announce a soup potluck for one Sunday after church in January. Connie will organize and announce a pizza lunch one Sunday in February. Robin also suggested donations for Hunger Coalition this month to be soup and crackers. We will have designated items to be donated each month and try to share these in an email to the congregation. Zan reported that she contacted the agricultural extension agency about the pine trees. They gave her names of 3 tree experts. Derwin will follow up with calls to several tree experts. We also discussed the need for a chair for the facilities committee. Derwin will talk with Richard Tidymen about sharing this responsibility. Submitted by Connie Green

The Boonitarian

We are pleased to send you this monthly newsletter about the Boone Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (BUUF), because you are a member, friend or simply interested in what we do. BUUF belongs to the National Unitarian Universalism Association, and we pay \$66.00 per member annually to the national and regional organizations for their services. Your annual financial pledge or contributions are invited to sustain the Fellowship and the Boonitarian. Our address is 381 East King Street, Boone, NC 28607 828-264-4456. Please submit any material for the newsletter by the 20th of the preceding month, including announcements, reports, Joys and Concerns, and changes to the membership listing and the newsletter mailing list: Boonitarian Editor Richard Anderson at booneuoffice@gmail.com



Go Green on line

55 people receive the Boonitarian by mail. It costs \$2 per Boonitarian for the paper version versus 35 cents on line. Go Green on line! Go to booneuoffice@gmail.com. We have reduced the mailed version by 18. That's over 30 bucks! The electronic version also includes hyperlinks to background sources and related material.

News from the UUA

President-elect Obama's transition team is preparing for the new administration in January, and they want you to [share your vision with them](#). On the official transition team website, you can submit your ideas about issues the Obama-Biden administration should tackle and how to solve them. You can even upload a photo or a video. Consider mentioning that you're a Unitarian Universalist, a person of faith. Need ideas? Check out the UUA Washington Office for Advocacy on the web at www.uua.org/

December Action of the Month: Pictures of Peace & Feedback on Peacemaking Draft SOC Now, in the Holiday Season and the beginning of a new Government, Unitarian Universalists have the opportunity to envision a world of peace and justice. Throughout the month of December and into 2009, Unitarian Universalist congregations across the United States are invited to create pictures of peace in inter-generational arts and crafts time. Use crayons, finger paints, collages, or any other medium to create your pictures of peace. Congregations are then encouraged to hand-deliver the pictures to the local offices of their local, state or national elected officials. Delivering the pictures, along with a ministerial cover letter, will build relationships between church members and their elected officials.

For more information on the Statement of Conscience and creating Pictures of Peace, including resources on how to organize an in-district lobby visit, [please look here](#).

Statement of Conscience: Give Us Your Feedback The Commission on Social Witness has now released the rough draft of the Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking. We are asking for all congregations to read, discuss and share feedback with the Commission. Your feedback is needed in order to make this Statement dy-

namic, comprehensive and prophetic. The period for conversation is limited though. The comment period will continue to February 1st, 2009. We require at least 25% of all UU congregations to agree this Statement should be discussed and voted upon at General Assembly 2009. Congregations will be able to weigh-in on this process along with their [congregational certification](#). Your participation is crucial to this process. You can find the feedback page at uua.org/peacemaking or uua.org/csw.

ACTION: Send a postcard to Subway and Chipotle for economic justice

The Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) has been fighting for justice for Florida tomato pickers since 1993. They have achieved enormous victories in forging partnerships with Taco Bell and Burger King, but both Subway and Chipotle have refused to cooperate with the CIW. For more information, visit the [Coalition of Immokalee Workers website](#). See photos of the postcards that the UUA Washington Office staff signed on our blog, [Inspired Faith, Effective Action](#)

Your TJ District Rep Report

The UUA Board met in mid-October with Anna Olsen of the Thomas Jefferson District representing us. These are some of the highlights as reported by Anna:

Draft Statements for Policy Values

Wonder
Connection
Transformation

Mission

Grounded in our covenantal tradition, the UUA will inspire people to lead lives of humility and purpose, connection and service, thereby transforming themselves and the world.

Owners

- ~Our member congregations
- ~Generations of UU's
- ~The highest ideals of Unitarianism, Universalism, and Unitarian Universalism
- ~The vision of beloved community
- ~The spirit of life and love or the holy spirit.

Feedback can be collected and sent to Anna. Send comments to booneuoffice@gmail.com and they will be forwarded to Anna.

Working Groups

The Association Working group brought forward recommendations for a new election process for the UUA President and Moderator. Under consideration is terms for 6 years versus 4 years and if the Moderator and President elections should be staggered rather than during the same years. These are new recommendations and would not effect the elections next June since it will require bylaw changes which are voted on during a GA. The Growth Working group and the Congregations Working group met to discuss, "What is a congregation?" Since the Pew Survey reports that basically 3% of adults in the US identify as UU, and other surveys indicate that there are 400,000-500,000 self-identified UU's, how are we responsible to them? What is the role of the internet to form communities of people able to worship and do good works, as well as contribute to our Association?

The Commission on Social Witness

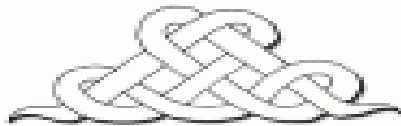
has now released the rough draft of the Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking. Your feedback is needed. The comment period will continue to February 1st, 2009. We require at least 25% of all UU congregations to agree this Statement should be discussed and voted upon at GA 2009. Your participation is crucial to this process. You can find the feedback page at uua.org/peacemaking or uua.org/csw.

Thanksgiving Feast Results Are In

Another Thanksgiving Feast has come and gone with no reported injuries other than the occasional tummy ache from over-indulgence. Once again we recreated the story of the "loaves and fishes". The UU version of that event is that, given the poverty of Jesus' followers, they had brought simple fare but would not have been in a position to share. Having heard the message of unconditional love, they all dug deep and, of course, found more food than was needed. With only 20 people signed up for food....we fed 80. Wow! The pre-feast entertainment was superb and kudos go out to all our RE Volunteers. This pageant was directed by Pat Rusch and had a full helping of "cute".



Karla Rusch solemnly signs on as Faculty Advisor for our pending ASU Student club...UUASU



UUs young and oldish...



A herd of UU thespians



At The Mountain:

A Gift of The Season

Santa's Favorite Chamber Music

December 19 - 21, 2008

In partnership with the Highlands Cashiers Chamber Music Festival

A world class chamber music event that is made for families and the young at heart. "Father Christmas' Favorite Chamber Music" will feature works by Beethoven Mozart, Chopin and others.

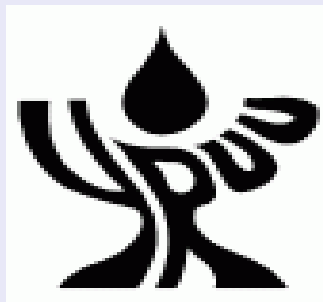
New Years at The Mountain

December 30, 2008 - January 1, 2009

Global, Local and Handmade Music with Elise Witt and Mick Kinney

A tranquil Mountain tradition, featuring musical workshops that bring folks of all ages, backgrounds, cultures and

faiths onto common ground as they 'band' together with voices and instruments to create amazing sounds and songs they never imagined possible! Go to www.mountaincenters.org/ for pricing and registration information



Seasonal Activities

Cookie Communion!

Christmas eve has always been celebrated at Boone UU as a special time of music and fellowship. We have gathered over the years to sing seasonal songs and hear readings from differing cultures that promote and reinforce the giving spirit. Be sure to put this on your holiday schedule. We also have the tradition of the cookie communion. Bring cookies to exchange as part of our beloved, and tasty, communion service. Any cookies will do, but home-made ones are preferred. The service is also appropriate for children. We will even accept screaming infants and will attempt to sing above their cries.

Share the Spirit

Our friends at High Country UCC along with a new high school group called YAP (Youth Advocates for Peace) are going to participate in the Boone Christmas parade on 12/6/08 with the theme 'Peace on Earth, Good Food for ALL'. They will be collecting canned food and non-perishables DURING the parade. Directly after the parade, they will be having a 'Food for All' meal outside of the Transitional Housing Center of the Hospitality House (beside Tupelo's). They will be handing out hot soup, trail mix, bread and water. We would LOVE to have everyone join us! A special invitation goes out to the Boone UUs. We have been strong supporters of Hunger programs in this community. We delivered a "trunk full" of food in November.

Thanks & Namaste!

Bobbie Willard 963-4828

Yule: The Origins of Christmas

Yule celebrations at the winter solstice predate [Christianity](#). Yule is a feast celebrated on mid winter night. There are many references to Yule in the [Icelandic sagas](#) but few accounts of how Yule was celebrated beyond the fact it was a time for feasting. 'Yule-Joy' with dancing continued through the [Middle Ages](#) in Iceland. The ritual of slaughtering a [boar](#) on Yule survives in the modern tradition of the [Christmas ham](#) and the [Boar's Head Carol](#). Yule was held to be the most holy of holydays among the men and women of ancient Northern Europe. A period of 12 days still remembered in the modern world by

such things as the "Yuletide Season" and "Twelfth Night," Yule was a time between the years, outside of the normal cycle of time and therefore also outside of the normal bounds of the world. At this time of the year the ancestors return to be with us, as well as other spirits and the Wild Hunt. But as a time between times, it was also a time for the most powerful of oaths and rituals, as the other worlds were at their closest. In modern traditions, Yule is begun with Mother Nights. Held on the winter solstice, Mother Nights is a time for the remembering of our ancestors as they come among us again in the darkest of winter. For

twelve days it is traditional to exchange small gifts and to fare forth to meet friends and congregate, both to keep the Utgarth spirits at bay and to revel in the company of one's fellow men and gods. The traditional ending of Yule is Twelfth Night, celebrated on New Years Eve in the modern era. In fact, Twelfth Night is a grand ushering in of the New Year and is essentially an older version of New Years Eve. Join our CUUPs group as they celebrate Yule December 21st. Meet at the Fellowship at 4:30 to car-pool to a beautiful outdoor site to commemorate the winter solstice. Pot-luck at the Fellowship at 6:30.



Over 53 people now receive the *Boonitarian* online instead of on paper. If you think you might be ready for the switch, just email booneuoffice@gmail.com

Caution

On Sundays, children are crossing the parking lot from the Fellowship Hall up to Fulghum House for Religious Education classes. Please drive slowly.



Split Plate for December:



[Heifer International](#) has been chosen for our "Split Plate" charity for December. The second Sunday split plate tradition helps us connect with the larger community. [American farmer Dan West](#), the founder of Heifer International, was serving as a [Church of the Brethren](#) relief worker in [Spain](#) during the [Spanish Civil War](#) when he became frustrated at being forced to decide how to allocate a very limited amount of food aid. Upon his return to the United States, he founded **Heifers for Relief**, an organization dedicated to providing permanent freedom from hunger by giving families livestock and training so that they "could be spared the indignity of depending on others to feed their children." The basic philosophy of Heifers for Relief was based on the proverb, "Give a man a fish; you have fed him for today. Teach a man to fish; you have fed him for a lifetime." West conceived the slogan "Give not a cup, but a cow". According to Charity Navigator, Heifer International "exceeds or meets industry standards and performs as well as or better than most charities in its cause". Heifer is rated as a 3 star charity...A good rating. This charity is also considered a "green" organization.

Vegetarians in Paradise

Starting December 3, a group of Vegans and Vegetarians will host a monthly potluck here at the UU Fellowship. This is an opportunity for you to share recipes and tasty dishes with friends that are on the same nutritional pathway. Meet and greet your fellow UU's in an animal friendly way.

December 2008 Events

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1 World Aids Day	2	3 Order of Service Deadline 6:30 pm Vegan Potluck FO	4	5	6 <i>Transact dinner</i>	7 RE Chocolate Sale 10:30 a Beverages, FO 11:00 a Service, FE Noon Coffee hour Parents Afternoon Out 6-8 p <i>Christ's Church</i> Pearl Harbor Day
8	9 <i>Noetics: 7-9pm</i> Eid	10 Order of Service Deadline	11	12	13	14 BUUF Board 10:30 a Beverages, FO 11:00 a Service, FE Split Plate Noon Coffee Hour 5-7 p <i>CUUPS, FO</i> 6-8 p <i>Christ's Church</i> Last day to purchase <i>UUSC</i> Holiday Cards
15	16 60th Anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights	17 Order of Service Deadline	18	19 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">Newsletter Deadline Email: booneuoffice@gmail.com</div>	20	21 10:30 a Beverages, FO 11:00 a Service, FE GAYT Boxes Returned Noon Coffee Hour 6-8 p <i>Christ's Church</i> Yule/Solstice with <i>CUUPS</i> 4:30
22 Hanukkah	23	24 Order of Service Deadline Christmas Eve and Cookie Com- munion Service	25 Christmas	26 Kwanzaa Begins	27	28 BUUF Board 10:30 a Beverages, FO 11:00 a Service, FE Noon Coffee Hour 5-7 p <i>CUUPS, FO</i> 6-8 p <i>Christ's Church</i>
29	30	31 Order of Service Deadline	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">FE Fellowship Hall; FO Founders House; FU Fulghum House <i>Italic items are NOT BUUF sponsored events</i></div>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">To reserve space for any meetings or functions, contact : booneuoffice@gmail.com</div>	

BOONTARIAN

Boone Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

381 East King Street
Boone NC 28607



www.buuf.net

Remembrance

We continue to urge members of the congregation to honor special people places and events through sponsorship of either flowers or refreshments. December's flowers are provided by Connie Green in honor of her parents Dot and Ed Green. December 7th, our refreshments are provided by Richard Anderson in honor of veterans on Pearl Harbor Day. He also commemorates his sons Will and Jan. What a great family activity to prepare refreshments in honor of Grandparents or a favorite Aunt or Uncle. For young families or singles, there is a stipend available to help you defray the costs of performing this service to the group. Contact the office confidentially if you want to utilize the stipend. We're always at booneuoffice@gmail.com.

Things that were hard to bear are sweet to remember... Seneca

Sweet Little Things

There continues to be much activity going on in the RE program. We just completed the Intergenerational service for Thanksgiving. The Guest at Your Table collection boxes have been distributed to be returned 12/21. Parents afternoon out will be 12/7 and the RE chocolate sales will run three Sundays starting the first Sunday in December. Parents past, present, future, parents in spirit and parents by default are all urged to support the RE program with your time and money. These are the seeds we plant that may grow into future Ralph Waldo Emersons, Susan B. Anthonys or even a Rod Serling. The future of the UU philosophy is being planted at the Playhouse and Founder's House. It's our job to tend that garden.

Chance the Gardener: *Yes! There will be growth in the spring!*

Hopeful But Somber

Faith groups such as ours, can often serve as a moderating, positive influence on society. Barack Obama's historic election as America's first black president has led to a surge of racist incidents across the United States, hate-crime monitoring groups and analysts say. Brian Levin, a professor from the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University said the rise in hate crimes appeared to fit into part of a longer term trend. "We don't have exact figures but what I can say anecdotally is that there does seem to be a significant spike in hate crimes from around the election period up until now," Levin said. "Barack Obama is a perfect storm that incites a nerve within the hardcore racist movement in the United States." UUs putting their imprint on the community can act as a salve for these wounds.