



October 2017 Newsletter

from the President...

Taking Political Action

After church on September 17th, the “Action Advocates”, led by Bob Egbert, held a potluck and phone-a-thon to the offices of our elected representatives....from President all the way down to state delegate. About 20 people participated. The process is complicated by the many different districts that each level of government has drawn to different boundaries (many are gerrymandered to bizarre contortions of geography).

I stayed and wrote a letter to Morgan Griffith, who represents Virginia’s 9th district in Congress, and whom I have met several times in the past. Our own City Councilman Bill Bestpitch, who offered some sound advice, said a personal connection and a positive approach is important. In my letter, I spoke of the talents and drive of the “Dreamers”, most of whom wish to gain the education to chase the “American Dream”. How many great Americans, I asked, were sons and daughters of immigrants? I then reminded Mr. Griffith, as a fellow student of history, that walls to keep out desperate people simply have not worked, and that building one on our Mexican border is a very expensive delusion. It serves ONLY to arouse some of our worst emotions. I then appealed to his love of Virginia history and the tragic events in Charlottesville a few weeks ago. I suggested that he, as a scholar and leader, is uniquely positioned to seek a way to honor past Virginians without fueling the flames of hate. In fact, I offered to meet with him to discuss this. I do not know if he will respond to this letter.

The others who participated may or may not receive a response. I do know that just writing is a cathartic exercise. The power of the written word is in our hands; use it. You might feel better.

Your President, Spike

from the Rev...

If you missed being at church Sundays in September, here's what I preached:

1. Vibrant religious community encourages everyone to deeper relationship with their own selves, the selves of others, and the Great Mystery (which many call God).
2. Vibrant religious community identifies the Common Good and strives to make it manifest. In order to do that, self-interests need to yield to the needs of the many.
3. UUCR is showing encouraging evidence of being a vibrant religious community.

In October, I'll strive to move you into deeper contemplation of the Great Mystery. The month is a natural for this type religious endeavor in that it ends with All Hallows' Eve, which we know as Halloween. Here at UUCR, we also begin this month with memorial services to celebrate the lives of two precious men who came and went from our congregation over many years - Bill Patterson, whose service is on 10/7, and Dev Seth, whose service is on 10/8. Both these men, and the many others of UUCR who have died are now part of what I understand to be oUUr Communion of Saints. Our October 2017 will end with our Sunday Worship focusing on what it is to be one of oUUr Saints.

Be religious:

Look to others to help you see and know yourself better;

Strive to help others do likewise and be glad for coming to know them;

Dig deep into the possibility that Great Mystery permeates all our being.

May the beauty of October inspire each of us to greater thankfulness for the miracle of life, especially our own.

Much heart, RevAlex

UUCR Fall 2017 Service Auction



The 2017 Auction brochure is here!! Use the following link to get your copy!

https://gallery.mailchimp.com/0de4a3ee4718a56e2e2021651/files/c356012f-787a-4f3c-ad3c-60e86232d279/2017_brochure.pdf

Please download and print a copy to bring with you so that you will not miss your chance to bid on these great items.

We hope to see you at 5 pm on Saturday, October 14th to kick off our social hour. We'll enjoy finger foods and drinks from our cash-donation bar. The Silent Auction will also begin at 5:00. The Live auction begins promptly at 6 pm.

Come out, bid often to support UUCR, and have a wonderful evening!
Childcare will be provided.

We are looking for a few volunteers! We need some folks to help out at the bar (in shifts), act as spotters during the Live auction, and to help set up on Saturday morning. If you can help, contact Sheri or Spike.

Thanks, from your Auction committee

Youth Religious Education News

Movie Nights

Fall RE Wednesday Night movies are at 7 pm in Olin

Sept 27, 7 pm - "Laugh ology, the acclaimed documentary about why we laugh"

Oct 4 – TBA

RE Friday film night, on the second Friday of each month

Oct 13th, 6:30 - The Harry Potter film series will resume with drinks and popcorn. Pizza will be available for purchase by the slice.

Youth Group

This Sunday, Oct 1st; 5 pm at Altus Chocolate Lounge

Chocolate lovers! Our youth group will be meeting Sunday evening October 1st at UUCR. We will then travel to Altus Chocolate Lounge. Join us! There is an ongoing need for advisors and drivers. Please contact Alan Moore at amoore@uuroanoke.org to discuss these and other volunteer opportunities. We still have need for teachers and substitutes, too!

Reading Seeds Book Drive

Our young witches and wizards at Hogwarts Roanoke are continuing to collect new books in support of Reading Seeds. Your contributions to the book drive can be deposited in the cloak area across from the nametags.

Kids Food Drive, Oct 29

On this last Sunday of October, our kids will be at the service in costume, seeking treats in support of the 'It's Scary to be Hungry' food drive, continuing thru November. Your support and encouragement are much appreciated. When the service is over, the kids will be collecting food donations in front of the Cave Spring Kroger until 3 pm. Be sure to stop by after service to shop and donate, too.

Nursery

Cheers to our dedicated child care staff for their support of our nursery and adult RE programs. Our urgent, growing need for child care reflects a growing participation in lifespan faith development programs. Please contact Alan to sign up for paid child care shifts.



YRUU News

October 29 from 10 am-3 pm

Cave Spring Kroger

The kids will be at the service in costume, seeking treats in support of “It’s Scary to be Hungry” food drive. When the service is over, the kids will be collecting food donations in front of the Cave Spring Kroger until 3 pm. YRUU is more than welcome to participate if you would like to be there too.

Pack-a-Snack

YRUU youth continue to participate in the monthly Pack-a-Snack program. The need continues to rise, which is why it is so important UUCR continue to donate *snack size nutritional* foods to this worthy cause. Thank you for all the continued support! Contact Bonnie Evans with any questions.

Adult Religious Education

Our Whole Lives (OWL)

Our Whole Lives (OWL) adult sexuality education classes are being hosted by our sister congregation in Blacksburg, beginning October 8th and continuing semi-monthly through April 2018. A few seats remain open for congregants from UUCR and UUC of Blacksburg. Adults 18+ register online at

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfkIJZioJ7jaT3Nwr20gw55t91gDZINLTicnhm4HObEqI43A/viewform>

There will also be an opportunity for **8th and 9th graders** to participate in monthly inter-congregational OWL classes for in Spring 2018. An orientation for parents is tentatively scheduled for the afternoon of December 3rd at UUCR. Please contact Alan to receive updates.



Living the Questions Class

"Waking Up White" by Debbie Irving will continue at 9:30 am in the Olin room at UUCR.

The next series will begin in the middle of October with Lloyd Geering's book "Coming Back To Earth: from gods to God to Gaia." Please join us in the Olin room at 9:30 on Sunday mornings for this intriguing survey of religious history and where he believes the future of religion is headed. Each participant is urged to purchase their own book. Please join us; all are welcome. Contact Gene Edmunds with questions, gene.edmunds@gmail.com.

News from your Connection Committee...

Happy Birthday



Karen Stamper, Richard Rowland, Frank House, Dick Lallman, Sheri Bernath, Nancy Valle, Ronald Willson, Beth Caruthers, Margie Garber, and Bob Egbert

Intro to UU Class with Rev Alex

Sunday, Oct 22, 12:30-2pm (light lunch and childcare provided)

Tuesday, Oct 24, 6:30-8 pm (light dinner and childcare provided)

New to UU or want to learn more about our history and faith? Join RevAlex and your church friends for an informal class and discussion. There are two options for attending. Please RSVP to Megan Brauch by Thursday, October 19.

The Green Team Earth Friendly Friday



PIT VIPER NATURAL HISTORY and FIELD RESEARCH

Friday, October 13, 2017

Social time at 6:30 pm (snacks welcome)

Program begins at 7:00 pm

Alex Bentley will present on the biology, behavior, and life history of pit vipers, in addition to how some of his research is being directed towards understanding these mysterious and misrepresented creatures. Pit vipers are a subfamily of the Vipers and are distinguished by their loreal, infrared sensing pits, among other things. From an evolutionary and biological perspective, this taxon represents some of the most highly specialized snakes known to science. Alex will discuss some of the pit viper's most fascinating adaptations, including infrared heat detection, rattles, and venom. Furthermore, Alex will explain several of his ongoing projects, which involve Rattlesnake tracking with GPS technology and the use of camera traps to study the natural history of an uncommon Ecuadorian pit viper.

Alex, a Salem native, has been interested in snakes since a very early age and has since committed himself to learning more about these organisms via field-based research. He earned a BS in Biology and a BA in Spanish from Wofford College earlier this year, and will be enrolling in a doctoral program in the fall of 2018. Currently, Alex is amidst a gap year in which he has hiked 500 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail, is collaborating in the development of a project to track King Cobras in SE Asia, will be returning to Ecuador to continue pit viper research, and will be bicycling from Canada to Mexico on the Great Divide Trail next summer.

This program is sponsored by the **UUCR and the Roanoke Group of the Sierra Club**. Programs are held on the second Friday of each month at the UUCR. **All programs are free and open to the public.**

For more information contact: Bob Egbert at canyonlake76@gmail.com or our website page <http://uuroanoke.org/we-are-on-a-mission/green-team/>



**Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Town Hall Meeting
Sunday, October 8, immediately following the service**

This is your opportunity to ask questions of representatives from the Board on just about anything regarding the workings of the Church. As in our prior Town Hall meetings, we ask that you write your question(s) down in advance. Please hand them to an usher or Shared Ministry team member before the worship service Town Hall meeting day. Paper and pencils will be handed out this weekend, October 1st. Or email to ljyates8@gmail.com.

Board members and others representing Faith Development, Social Justice, and Finance will be on hand to answer questions about issues relating to these areas and any other areas you have questions about. Please plan to join us.

Thanks, Shared Ministry Committee

THANK YOU to all our volunteers



October 1st

Life Lines - Sally Garber
A/V - Adam Honeycutt
Head Usher - Michael Gettings
Leader Greeter - Judy Robertson
Coffee - Ron and Robin Salzbach

October 8

Life Lines - Jane Harrison
A/V - Betsy Biesenbach
Head Usher - Dick Hawkins
Lead Greeter - Auction Committee
Coffee - Dennis McKim
Recycling – Susan Anderson-Hodges

October 15

Life Lines - Judie Lallmang
A/V - Todd Hannabass
Head Usher - Henry Woodward and Anne Perrin
Lead Greeter - Chris Yates
Coffee Team - James Rosar and Nora Smith
Recycling – Pam Fisher

October 22

Life Lines - Sally Garber
A/V - Bob Egbert
Head Usher - Dennis McKim
Lead Greeter - Chris Yates
Coffee - Nora Smith
Recycling – Maya Bohler

October 29

Life Lines - Judie Lallmang
A/V - Adam Honeycutt
Head Usher - Jim Overholser
Lead Greeter - Eileen Lepro
Coffee - Pam Yates
Recycling – Mary Harshfield

Volunteer Opportunities



UUCR Fall Clean Up Day

October 21, 9 am-12 pm

Anyone whom would like to come for all or part of this clean up time would be welcome. Please bring yard tools and remember to bring gloves too. The goal is to remove weeds, trim bushes, clean out overgrown beds, and edge. If you have any questions please email Megan. Thanks

RE

RE is looking for volunteers, especially youth advisors and a few more teachers. Volunteer opportunities at <https://goo.gl/forms/eura8QFJkYE61oPh2>.

A/V Team

A backup AV person is needed. If you are willing, your basic orientation and training can begin immediately. Don't let the equipment intimidate you; it is easy to learn. This is a fun volunteer position. Contact Bob Egbert at canyonlake76@gmail.com.

Greeters

Greeters are part of a team, usually three people, who come early on Sunday and welcome visitors and friends. This is a fun opportunity to connect to all members and friends, welcome visitors, and bring joy to our community. Contact Nancy Brattain or anyone on the Connections Team.

Coffee Committee

After service on Sunday, the Fellowship Coffee Team makes coffee and tea and helps serve those who wish to stay after services. We are looking for two or three volunteers to help or to fill in when needed. Contact Megan Brauch.



October Calendar of Events

Sunday, October 1

- 9:30-10:45 am Living the Questions class, series begins with a movie.
11 am **"Agreeing About Sin" with RevAlex**
12:15-1:30 pm M&M Fund meeting, Olin
12:30-2:30 pm LFD Council meeting, Broker
12:30-1:30 pm Climate & Clean Energy rally, street corner
5-7pm Youth Group, meet at UUCR to carpool to the Altus Chocolate Lounge

Monday, October 2

- 10 am Building Enhancement team meeting, Fellowship Hall
12 noon Caring Team meeting at 2nd Hand Helpings on Wm Rd
6:30 pm The Good Enough Choir practice, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, October 3

- 6-8 pm Board Exec. meeting, Olin room

Wednesday, October 4

- 6-7:30 pm Clogging class with Nancy Brattain, Fellowship Hall
7 pm Choir practice, Sanctuary
7-9 pm Fall RE movie series, Olin

Thursday, October 5

- 11:30 am-1:30 pm Women's Group, F.H.
12:30-1:30 pm Men's luncheon, Olin
7-8:30 pm Roanoke Rainbow Families & Forums, Broker room

Saturday, October 7

- 4 pm Bill Ferguson Celebration of Life, potluck following the service.

Sunday, October 8

9:30-10:45 am Living the Questions class, "Waking Up White" by Debby Irving, Olin
11 am **Worship Service**
12-1 pm SMC Town Hall, Sanctuary
3-6:30 pm Dev Seth Celebration of Life
5-7 pm Youth Group

Monday, Oct 9

All Day Office closed in observance of Holiday
7-8 pm Tai Chi with Alan Armstrong, Open to all, F.H.

Tuesday, Oct 10

6:30-8:30 pm Board meeting, Olin

Wednesday, Oct 11

12-1 pm Sunday Services meeting, Olin
1-2 pm Staff meeting, Olin
7 pm Choir practice, Sanctuary
7-9 pm Fall RE movie series, Olin

Thursday, Oct 12

11 am Office closes for Program Staff meeting
12:30-1:30 pm Men's luncheon, Olin
6:30-8 pm Vipassna Meditation, open to all, Olin
7-8:30 pm Roanoke Rainbow Families and Forums, Broker

Friday, Oct 13

6:30 pm RE Movie Night - Harry Potter, Olin
6:30-8:30 pm Earth Friendly Friday presents social half hour then presentation on "Pitviper Natural History and Field Research", UUCR Sanctuary

Saturday, Oct 14

5 pm Auction social hour with finger foods, cash bar, & Silent Auction
6 pm UUCR Fall Live Auction

Sunday, Oct 15

9:30-10:45 am Living the Questions class, Olin
11 am **Worship Service**
1-3 pm Non-Theists group presentation, "The Medicine Wheel" with Alan Moore
5-7 pm Youth Group

Monday, Oct 16

7-8 pm Tai Chi with Alan Armstrong, Open to all, F.H.

Wednesday, Oct 18

7 pm Choir practice, Sanctuary
7-9 pm Fall RE movie series, Olin

Thursday, Oct 19

11:30 am-1:30 pm Women's Group, F.H.
12:30-1:30 pm Men's luncheon, Olin room
7-8:30 pm Roanoke Rainbow Families and Forums, Broker room

Saturday, Oct 21

9 am-12 pm UUCR's Fall Clean Up Day

Sunday, Oct 22

9:30-10:45 am Living the Questions class, Olin
11 am **Worship Service**
5-7 pm Youth Group

Monday, Oct 23

7-8 pm Tai Chi with Alan Armstrong, open to all, F.H.

Tuesday, Oct 24

6:30-8:30 pm Shared Ministry Committee meet, Olin

Wednesday, Oct 25

7 pm Choir practice, Sanctuary
7-9 pm Fall RE movie series, Olin

Thursday, Oct 26

12:30-1:30 pm Men's luncheon, Olin
6:30-8 pm Vipassna Meditation, open to all, Olin
7-8:30 pm Roanoke Rainbow Families and Forums, Broker

Sunday, Oct 29

9:30-10:45 am Living the Questions class, Olin
11 am **Worship service**
10 am-3 pm Youth Group Food collection, Cave Spring Kroger

Monday, Oct 30

7-8 pm Tai Chi with Alan Armstrong, open to all, F.H.

Tuesday, Oct 31

All Day Happy Halloween

Upcoming Worship

01 October 17 - Agreeing About Sin

08 October 17 - "Chaos!" with RevAlex

You've heard it before - everything falls apart (entropy always!). Good religious folk have throughout time been pretty matter-of-fact attitude about this insight. Today we wrestle with the question of what we, UUCR'ers, yearn to be in light of this possibility. Come, come to celebrate the gifts of congregational chaos!

15 October 17 - Guest Speaker

22 October 17 - "The Great Mystery!" with RevAlex

Vibrant religious community always engages the possibilities of The Great Mystery. It's the first of a two-part Worship series on the possibilities of their being much more to life than that of which we are conscious. We'll also begin familiarizing ourselves with what might lie ahead for our congregation's efforts to better realize The Common Good. Come, Come to enjoy our Congregation!

29 October 17 - "It's Scary..." with RevAlex

Our children help us begin worship today with our Annual Halloween Parade of Costumes! (Children and Adults are encouraged to come to church this Sunday in costume). It's our "Scary to Be Hungry" Sunday on which we'll learn about the incredible food drive that our children are mounting to insure that no one in the Roanoke Valley goes hungry in the upcoming winter months. In adult worship, we'll ponder gifts of fear - especially the gift of sainthood. Come, Come to laugh with our wonderful children! Come, Come with gifts of food and money for our children's food drive. Come, Come to face the fears of our time and ponder the possibility that great gift does lie in them!

05 November 17 - Pulpit Exchange!

RevAlex will be exchanging pulpits today with his beloved colleague, Rev. Paul Boothby. Paul serves our congregation in Lynchburg and is delighted to be speaking at UUCR this Sunday. Pack the place for Paul!

Caring Committee - Joys and Concerns

Contact Sally Garber with joys, concerns, or questions at jcssgarber@comcast.net.

Bill Ferguson's Celebration of Life -

Bill's daughters, Carrie and Elizabeth are planning a Celebration of Life for Bill. It will be on October 7th at 4 pm in the UUCR Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. Bill loved a good church potluck, and asked that there be one at his memorial service. Carrie and Elizabeth hope many of us will attend, and bring much good food for the potluck that will follow the service. Condolences can be sent to them at 3218 Woodland Drive, SW, Roanoke, VA 24015.

Dev Seth's Celebration of Life-

Dev Seth's wife Charlotte and daughter Anjeli are planning a Celebration of Life to honor Dev on October 8th at 3 pm in the UUCR Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. The family will have a catered reception for family and friends following the memorial. If you have any questions, call Sally Garber. Condolences can be sent to 2922 Merino Dr. SW, Roanoke VA 24018

RevAlex's Uncle

RevAlex's uncle, the last surviving of 14 siblings of his mother passed away on September 20th. Cousins from across the country joined Alex at the funeral held on September 25th. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers.

If you have a confidential joy or concern you would like to share with the minister, please put your request in the locked box on the podium. It is located in the alcove next to the name tag board.