



The CommUUnicator

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Waynesboro

Series Examines Faith in Film

By Theresa Curry

When the Wayne Theatre opened in Waynesboro last year, Barrett Owen wanted to find a way to support it. The Rev. Owen had just come to Waynesboro's First Baptist Church, and it seemed to him a film series examining universal spiritual themes was a perfect way for him to learn about the community as well as being part of his mission in Waynesboro.

"I wanted to show contemporary films with theological underpinnings," Rev. Owen said in an interview a few months ago. It wasn't hard to find suitable films, although some of them didn't at first seem overtly religious.

For instance, over the past year, he has chosen "Selma" to examine race and reconciliation, and "Chocolat" to discuss the church and community. Young people coming of age was examined in "Brave" and again in "Moana." Owen said the symbolism of a journey, begun long ago by the Odyssey, is especially relevant to people searching for something greater than themselves, and this theme will also be repeated in the October offering, "O Brother, Where Art Thou."

An important feature of the films is that they are followed by discussion led by community members who have some standing regarding the issues raised. All of the films have been well-attended, and are offered on a "pay what you will" basis. Rev. Owen expects the films to continue after the current season ends.

Besides encouraging honest dialogue on important matters, Rev. Owen said the films have benefited him. "As someone new to the community, this helps me understand city dynamics on a larger scale than I see in my role as pastor."

The screening of "O Brother, Where Art Thou" is Sunday, October 8 at 6 pm. Information on future films can be found at waynetheatre.org. Theresa developed this article in her role as faith and religion writer for the Crozet Gazette.

Upcoming Social Events from the Hospitality and Membership Teams



Don't miss the annual **Fall Fun Festival** complete with bonfire and fireworks, October 7. The last day to sign up for **Circle Dinners** on October 21 is next Sunday, October 8. Look for details of both events in the weekly email blasts. If you are not receiving the UUFW emails, let Marilyn Nash know at mpnash1@gmail.com.

Politics and the UUFW

By Susan Schmidt, Board President

With fall political campaigns heating up, it's a good time to remind everyone that the separation of church and state goes both ways. As individuals, we are all allowed to voice and speak our conscience regarding political candidates. But churches aren't allowed to endorse, or appear to endorse, particular candidates. So feel free to wear a button showing support for your candidate, and talk to your fellow members about your choices. But no pamphlets or buttons can be left on tables, bulletin boards or anywhere in the church for others to see or pick up because that might be seen as an endorsement by the Fellowship and not by an individual member.

Any campaign literature left lying around will have to be discarded, so if you bring things of a political nature to the Fellowship, make sure you keep track of them and don't leave them behind.

New Member Spotlight



Julie Caran (pictured here with her son, Abinet) has been a member of three other UU congregations since 2000, most recently Harrisonburg UUs. When she and her family moved to Staunton they decided UUFW would

be a better choice for regular attendance, although Julie still treasures her HUU friends.

Julie became a full-time elementary teacher at Stuart Hall after earning her Master's at Mary Baldwin. Her husband Kevin Caran teaches at JMU. In addition to Abinet (9) they have a daughter, Colette (2). It is important to Julie that her children grow up guided by UU principles and with respect for people of all faiths and traditions.

Julie and Kevin, along with Sarah Cheverton from HUU, are the music trio Blue Stone Sky, which will perform for us at the picnic service this Sunday at Grand Caverns.

Adult Classes on Racial Equality

Rev. Paul will be continuing his series of classes on racial equality each month through June. The next class, on October 5th at 7:00 p.m., will focus on the first half of *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. This book was selected by the UUA as our common read for this year. You can find a [review from NPR](#) on the Internet.

The schedule for this and other adult classes throughout the year can be found on the UUFW website under the Learning tab.

Member News

Nancy Lay recently lost her mother and is also recovering from knee replacement surgery. Our condolences to her and also best wishes for a fast recovery.

Eric Milnes had a difficult week of multiple emergency room visits. He has appointments with pain-management specialists and is now hopeful of getting some relief. Calls and emails are appreciated.

