the mountain
HIGHLANDS CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Vol. VII, No. 3 **SUMMER NEWSLETTER** May 1987

Oh Boy!
Youth Camp

Once again The Mountain will offer nine weeks of youth camp for ages 6 to 18 and additional weeks for organized youth groups from churches across the country.

Although there is still space in each camp at this writing, it is best not to wait if you are considering a camp this summer. We are always full with a waiting list by June 1st.

Dr. Pam Phelps returns this year as Director of the Senior and Junior High Camps. In addition to teaching Early Childhood Development, Pam also owns and directs a pre-school in Tallahassee, FL. Directing the 7 to 11 and 11 to 14 Camps will be Pam Wasalewski of Raleigh, NC, a long time Mountain staff member and public school teacher. The 6 to 8 Camp will be under the direction of Katherine Crum of Tallahassee, FL. Katherine is returning for her third year on our staff and is presently working in a preschool in the Tallahassee area.

We are very pleased to have Scott Buxton and Karyn Machler as Co-Directors of our Ascender Program this year. Scott and Karyn will be running the intensive 6 week program for eight exceptional teen Ascenders as they work on our summer staff.

Denominational Training Scheduled For Two Program Weeks

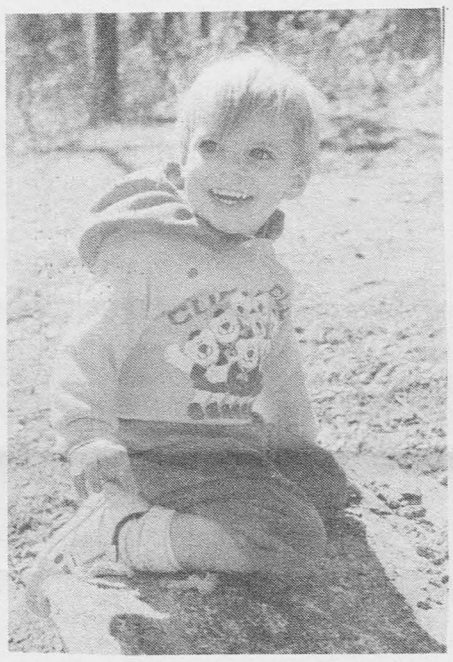
The Mountain will devote two weeks this summer to denominational training.

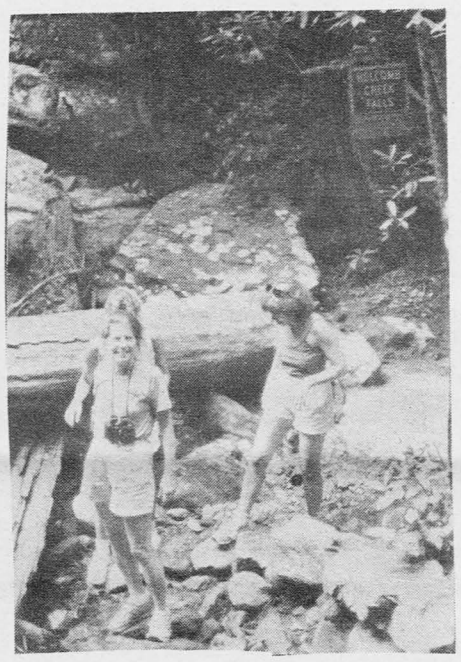
LEADERSHIP SCHOOL - The Mountain's sixth annual Leadership School will be held July 18-25. Coordinated by Interdistrict Representative Roger Comstock, this school is a seven-day intensive program for current or soon-to-be leaders in churches and fellowships. Special registration forms are available.

RE TRAINING - The Renaissance Module on Philosophy will be presented June 28-July4. Religious Educators and their children will enjoy a week of learning and fun led by Eleanor Lamb and Marta Flanigan of the Plainfield, NJ Unitarian Society.

Spend Your Vacation On The Mountain

Here Comes Summer





Just look at the calendar on the back page! "Something for everybody" is a major understatement. We have worked really hard this year to provide Unitarian Universalists with a wealth of choices for summer vacations on The Mountain.

During the summer months, The Mountain is a meeting place for people from all over the country who come to share like views, learn more about themselves, and enjoy our mountains, rivers, streams and waterfalls. In addition to stimulating adult seminars and programs, we always find time each week to be outdoors and enjoy the spectacular scenery.

We are especially excited to have LEE KNIGHT returning this year as our Summer Family program Director. Lee is a highly experienced outdoor leader in addition to his well known skills as a folk singer and storyteller. Spending a week on The Mountain with Lee is a very special experience.

Childcare programs are also an integral part of all summer family weeks and families are encouraged to spend both time together and time apart.

WHICH PROGRAM IS FOR YOU?

June 7-13 - Singles Week

June 14-20 - Inside Out - An exploration of Unitarian universalism or Chamber Music Seminar

June 21-27 - Nantahala Week - Outdoor Fun

June 28-July4 - RE Training Week

July 5-11 - Folks, Lore and Truth

July 12-18 - Life's Purposes

July 18-25 - 1987 Leadership School

July 26-August 1 - Theology Through Biography

August 2-8 - Adventures for All Ages

August 9-15 - Youth Leaders or Single Parents

August 16-22 - Celebrating Unitarian Universalism or Dare To Explore

NEED TO KNOW MORE? Look at the summer program insert of your 1987 Mountain Brochure or give us a call. REGISTRATION can be made on the form in this newsletter, but you do need to send a $75 per adult and $5 per child deposit.

The Mountain's Nature Wonderland Is Ours To Share

We are real proud of our new natural history programming and will be showing off a little this summer as we offer Summer Family Program week participants a chance to enjoy the enormous variety nature has to offer within our 80— acre mountain.

We'll give you a sampling of Highlands history, geology, tell you how and where the Indians lived, survey the incredible number of wildflowers and birds on the property, look for Indian medicine plants, and many, many more interesting things.

This natural history programming is a result of months of work with The Mountain's Elderhostel Program. The Mountain is pleased to be presenting courses taught by our own staff covering a wealth of subjects from forestry to Cherokee Indian culture.

We look forward to sharing this special information with all of guests as we learn from eachother.

SUUSI Decompression Party August 1st

You're going to SUUSI but can't even think about the long drive home?

Why not stop off at The Mountain on Saturday night, August 1st and let us pass out the aspirin, soothing words, cool temperatures, and warm beds.

This will be our 7th annual Decompression Party for SUUSIites. Come join us.

Dare To Explore Real Adventure

If you want to try something a little different this summer, something that has a lot of physical exercise and will challenge your abilities - then **DARE TO EXPLORE** is for you.

Led by our most experienced personnel, this week will give you the opportunity to learn new skills on whitewater rivers, cliffs and trails.

This week is limited to a small number of participants over the age of 18, so don't wait to register for August 15-22.

Director's Corner

by Dr. Gary Blaine

Mort Weisinger, the original editor of the "Superman" comic books was frequently criticized. The critics complained that the Superman story was too fantastic and unrealistic.

In one story it was reported that Superman flew at twice the speed of light. A physics class at MIT sent a letter to Albert Einstein, asking him if it were possible for Superman to fly at twice the speed of light. "In answer to your question", wrote Einstein, "It is impossible for Superman to travel at 372,000 miles a second. According to my theory of relativity nothing can exceed the velocity of light, which as you know is about 186,000 miles a second.

The MIT class sent Weisinger a copy of Einstein's response, who in turn, showed it to his friend Isaac Asimov. Asimov's response to Einstein's answer was, "Professor Einstein's statement is based on theory. Superman's speed is based on fact."

Unitarian Universalists represent a broad theological spectrum that falls somewhere between theory and fact. Whether we are theists, humanists, feminists, or Christian Unitarian Universalists, we are searchers of truth. We seek those values both sacred and human which create and sustain life. We are expected to be responsible for our convictions, exposing them to the disciplines of reason, experience, and imagination. Even with that we are painfully aware that the religious quest is too vital and dynamic to be so easily contained.

One of the tasks of Unitarian Universalist societies is to inform and nurture our religious journer. This is also a responsibility which we share at The Mountain. I want to share with you ways in which we are fulfilling this task.

1. Increased numbers of week long and weekend programs that focus on religious life. These include "The Spirit of The Mountain", led by the Elders Circle of the American Indian Council; "Everything" weekends for junior and senior high kids in the fall; "The Fall Convocation on Unitarian Universalism" featuring Kenneth Patton and Alice Blair Wesley; and "The Christmas Retreat for Young Adult and Campus Ministry" in December.

2. The Minister of the Week is being asked to take a more active role in our summer family and youth camp program.

3. Elderhostel guests are given an opportunity to learn about our movement.

4. Sunday services offered every Sunday.

5. Our UUA pamphlet rack has been expanded, with additional information available on the Church of the Larger Fellowship.

6. Expanding the number of Unitarian Universalist book titles in our Mountain store.

7. Supporting and encouraging fellowship efforts in the greater Highlands community.

8. After the Ministerial Association of Highlands voted to accept a Unitarian Universalist into their membership, I have taken an active part there.

At age twelve, Robert Louis Stevenson was looking out into the dark from his upstairs window. He was observing a man lighting the street lamps. Stevenson's governess came into the room and asked him what he was doing. he replied, "I am watching a man cut holes in the darkness." For all of the tungsten, neon, and flouresence in the world, there is still a lot of darkness. Much of it billows from our religious experience. Like many of you and your societies, The Mountain is also called to cut a hole in the darkness.

Love and Peace,

Gary

More Than Just Babysitting

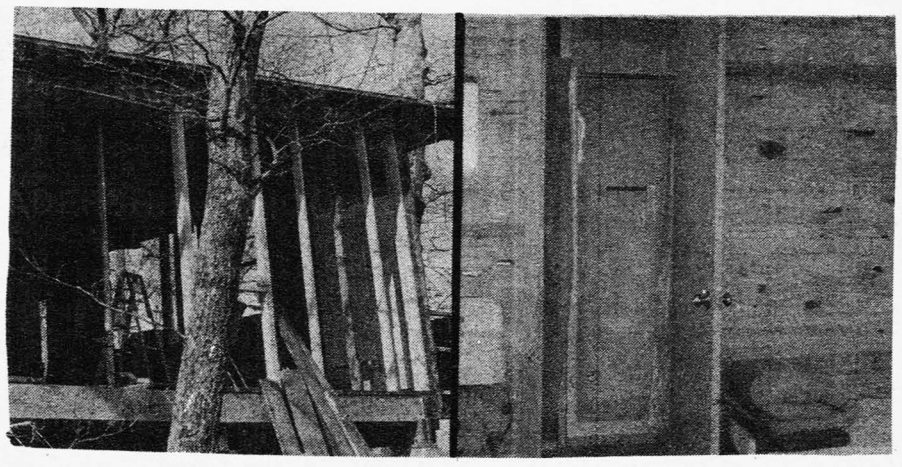
The Mountain has always been deeply concerned about quality childcare. While we strive for intergenerational program planning, the fact is that parents want and need an opportunity for adult time and space. Children also tend to gravitate toward their peer groups. While continuing to plan family activities, we are also working toward quality childcare. Here are some of the plans that are emerging:

1. Virginia Talbott, an education specialist will direct our developmentally oriented summer program.

2. $500 proceeds from our annual Thanksgiving auction will be spent for educational toys and games which will be available for summer and weekend programs.

3. Pat Gnagey is coordinating our weekend preschool program for children one to five years of age. Pat has owned and directed her own preschool. We are planning children (ages 6-12) and Youth (ages 13-18) programs each weekend.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP? We need you to register each of your children, and make sure we have their names and ages. This helps us in planning and staffing for weekends. We continue to expect children and youth to either be in a program or with their parents. We are always in need of toys, games, and equipment. Especially rainy day items. We need puzzles, board games, books, craft supplies, and educational toys. Financial contributions for new items can also be made.



BEFORE **AFTER**

Older and Better

We have often heard it said, "the older you get, the better it gets". That is certainly the case for The Mountain. Built in the 1920's, many of our buildings are nearly 60 years old. They have taken a great deal of abuse from kids' feet, wind, moisture, age, more moisture, bugs and more wind. Yet, we're proud to say we're getting better.

Our cabin winterization and renovation is progressing with the winterization and duplexing of Cabin 8. The duplexing allows private bath, bedroom and sitting area which may also serve as a bedroom in each apartment. In the summer, a double door separating the two apartments is removed, making the cabin suitable for youth camp.

Duplexing of Cabin 9 is now underway with plans to duplex through Cabin 12.

During the past several months,



You and your children are always welcome at The Mountain and we appreciate your suggestions and participation in our programs. We delight in the opportunity to share and contribute to the future which our Unitarian Universalist children represent.

The Mountain Construction Company has also been involved with renovation of the Program Center, the addition of a fourth bathroom to the Lodge, and the installation of a modular home for our new Food Service Directors.

Many thanks to Bud Evans, Jake Haun, Bob Polk, Ed Heath and Steve Carter for the planning of these projects and to THE MOUNTAIN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY - Margaret, Chris, Andy, Dave, Kenny, AJ, Shane and Brady - YOU'RE THE GREATEST!

Board of Trustees April Meeting Notes

The Mountain's Board met April 11th and considered a variety of interesting topics. Director Gary Blaine reported that Youth Camp, Adult Summer Family programs, and Elderhostel registrations were doing well, but that the weather and last minute group cancellations had a very bad effect on this winter's drop in business.

Business Manager Ed Heath reported several projects completed and underway. This includes a new bathroom in Room 3 of the Lodge, winterization and duplexing of Cabins 8 and 9, installation of a new mobile home at the base of the mountain for staff housing, refurbishing of the Program Center livingroom, and a new foundation for Cabin 12.

The Board considered a proposal from Development Director Jake Haun for th establishment of 10 task forces to work in areas such as Deferred Giving, Endowment Funds, Ministers' Retreat, 2001 Plan Financing, Retirement Community. These task forces are being set up by Jake and Margaret Evans.

Planning Committee Chairman Walt Pirie reported the recommendation of that committee that we proceed with requests for proposals to design the wastewater system and proceed with MOUNTAINshare. Both were passed.

The next board meeting will be during the Life Members Memorial Day Weekend.

News From The Development Office

MOUNTAIN BONDS

If you have money earning less than 8%, you'll be interested in The Mountain's new 5 year bonds. Early response has been very good from individual's and church endowment funds.

The denomination is $5,000 and the rate is a very competitive 8%. The attractive return on these bonds will help the buyers and the procedes will enable The Mountain to pay off previous loans.

Call Jake Haun, Director of Development, to purchase one or more. (704) 526-4632.

FINANCIAL PLANNING WEEKEND

The Mountain is getting ready for a Financial Planning Seminar November 14. Those who have in interest in including The Mountain in their wills will be invited. Our session will be held on Saturday and will include seminars and personalized asistance by attorneys and financial planners. Board President Margaret Evans is organizing the event.

Ple if Please write or call The Mountain if you are interested.

MEMBERSHIP RECORDS

Barbara Bowles has taken over Membership Records and is doing a wonderful job. Barbara lives on Turtle Pond Road and has worked at The Mountain in various capacities intermittently since 1980.

If Wishes Were Table Lamps...

As we expand and remodel, our need for additional items grows. Thanks to Lois Berkowitz for the donation of a portable typewriter and Micki Grant for the donation of beautiful brown carpet.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP US OUT, here are some specific things we really need:

TABLE LAMPS
CARPET
VEHICLES - TRUCKS, VANS, AND STATION WAGONS
STEP LADDER
EXTENSION LADDER
CHAIRS
SOFAS
FOLDING TABLES
PING PONG TABLES
DRESSERS
TWIN BEDS
BLANKETS
DOUBLE BED SHEETS
SPORTS EQUIPMENT
35MM CAMERA
BOOKSHELVES
TRACTOR
FILE CABINET
VIDEO CAMERA SYSTEM

Fall On The Mountain

Kenneth Patton To Headline October 11-16 Convocation On Unitarian Universalism

Our most exciting fall program will be a full week devoted to an exploration of Unitarian Universalism.

October 11 - 16, a week of prime leaf color in the North Carolina mountains, will feature Rev. Kenneth Patton, noted Unitarian Universalist minister and author. Rev. Patton will be presenting a program entitled "Seeing Is Believing".

Kenneth Patton has served the ministry for 30 years including associations with churches in Ridgewood, New Jersey, The Charles Street Meeting, and Madison, Wisconsin. Rev. Patton has authored numerous books including *A Religion For One World, A Sense of Life, A Religion of Realites* and many volumes of poetry. He was also an editor for Hymns for The Celebration of Life. With a background in the arts, painting, poetry, sculpture and music, Kenneth has sought to express the meaning and mysticism of naturalistic and humanist religion.

Also taking part in the week's program will be the Rev. Alice Blair Wesley who will lead a workshop entitled "Practical Theology for Unitarian Universalists".

The week will also contain lots of opportunities to enjoy the outdoors with hikes, nature walks, and camp fires.

their values, beliefs and wisdom, including the sacred nature, ecology and special relationship between human being and the land. Representatives of the Eastern Cherokee, the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, the Hopi, the Rio Grande Pueblo, and the Six Nations will be with us for this weekend.

This program represents a unique opportunity to participate in a very special program. We expect registrations to be enormous. If you are interested, you should register now.

LABOR DAY

SEPTEMBER 4-7

Everybody enjoys Labor Day except the pig. Yes, it's our annual pig roast and end of summer party on September 4-7. We always look forward to Labor Day, when we say goodbye to summer programming and officially enter into our fall season.

Come help us give summer a send-off and enjoy a full three days of outdoor and indoor fun ending with a pig roast and dinner on the grounds on Sunday night.

THE SPIRIT OF THE MOUNTAIN

OCTOBER 2-4

The American Indian Circle of Elders will be our special guests for this weekend.They will share

OKTOBERFEST

OCTOBER 9-11

Oktoberfest is one of our most popular fall weekends and is always full. The weather is fantastic, and our Oktoberfest party is famous.

Plan now to join uf the THE party of the fall with German music and food, a real German beer party, wonderful hikes and outdoor fun.

LEADERSHIP SCHOOL ALUMNI

OCTOBER 16-18

Leadership School graduates spanning the six years of The Mountain's leadership programming will be invited to attend an alumni reunion the weekend of October 16 - 18. Special programming will be planned and there will be lots of time for socializing and outdoor fun.

If you are a graduate of our school, look for a special invitation to this weekend to be mailed in July.

We do have other weekend dates available for church retreats and indivudual reservations. Give us a call.

Life Members Memorial Day 2001 Weekend

The Mountain's almost 500 Life Members have received a special invitation to join our Board and staff as we finalize the "2001 Plan" - a 15 year growth and improvement plan - during the May 22-25 Memorial Day Weekend.

In addition to spending time reviewing the plan and touring the grounds with planners and naturalists, the weekend will feature a "2001" Ball on Saturday and a day of field games and dinner on the grounds on Sunday.

If you would like information on becoming a Life Member of The Mountain and attending this weekend, just give us a call.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Address _____

_____ _____

Youth _____ Age Sex Phone _____

_____ Age Sex

_____ Age Sex

Anticipated Arrival Date _____ For First Meal _____

Anticipated Departure Date _____ Last Meal _____

Rooming Preference (Give First, Second and Third Choices):

Category I
___ Double Occupancy/Lodge
___ Bedroom - 2 BR Cabin
___ 1 Bedroom Cabin

Category II
___ Lodge Dorm Style
___ Living Area-2 BR Cabin
___ 1 Bedroom Cabin (Shared)
___ Program Center or Staff Cabin

Category III
___ Unheated Space

Roommate Preference _____

Any Special requests or needs _____

Weekend reservations require a $15 per adult deposit.

JUNE

JUNE 7 - 13	SINGLES WEEK - THE SINGULAR LIFE
JUNE 14 - 20	6 TO 8 YOUTH CAMP (1 WEEK) FAMILY PROGRAM: INSIDE OUT
JUNE 21 - 27	SENIOR HIGH CAMP (1ST WEEK) FAMILY PROGRAM: NANTAHALA WEEK
JUNE 28 - JULY 4	SENIOR HIGH CAMP (2ND WEEK) FAMILY PROGRAM: RE TRAINING MODULE "PHILOSOPHY"

YOUTH PROGRAMS provided each week except Singles Week June 7 - 13.

JULY

JULY 5 - 11	JUNIOR HIGH CAMP (1ST WEEK) FAMILY PROGRAM: FOLKS, LORE, AND TRUTH
JULY 12 - 18	JUNIOR HIGH CAMP (2ND WEEK) FAMILY PROGRAM: LIFE'S PURPOSES
JULY 18 - 25	LEADERSHIP SCHOOL
JULY 19 - 25	11 TO 14 CAMP (1ST WEEK) WORK ADVENTURE CAMP (1ST WEEK)
JULY 26 - AUGUST 1ST	11 TO 14 CAMP (2ND WEEK) WORK ADVENTURE CAMP (2ND WEEK) FAMILY PROGRAM: THEOLOGY THROUGH BIOGRAPHY

YOUTH PROGRAMS provided each week except July 18 - 25 Leadership School Week

4th of July Fireworks

The 4th of July has become quite a tradition here at The Mountain.

We will have plenty of space on Saturday night and this makes a great mini-family outing for those of you bringing your camper to the Junior High Camp which starts on Sunday, July 5th.

Fireworks? Of course. We will have our own fireworks display (what a show!) and be able to watch fireworks from Highlands as they break over Chinquapin Mountain.

This holiday is very popular and always crowded, so don't wait to register.

AUGUST

AUGUST 2 - 8	7 TO 11 CAMP (1ST WEEK) FAMILY PROGRAM: ADVENTURES FOR ALL AGES
AUGUST 9 - 15	7 TO 11 CAMP (2ND WEEK) FAMILY PROGRAM: YOUTH LEADERS/ SINGLE PARENTS YOUTH GROUP CAMP
AUGUST 16 - 22	YOUTH GROUP CAMP FAMILY PROGRAM: CELEBRATING UUISM DARE TO EXPLORE

YOUTH PROGRAMS provided for all weeks

Can You Come For Just A Day or Two During The Summer?

Yes and No - Or, Maybe.

Here's how it works. We do reserve our space for weeklong guests during the summer. But, if a particular program week is not full, then we are glad to have anyone come for just a day or two. The catch is, we don't know if the space will be available until about 10 days before.

SO, if you think you might want to come see us for a few days in the summer, the thing to do is wait until you just can't wait any longer and call us. We'll do our best to fit you in.

WE WOULD LOVE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE SUMMER - call us.



2001 DOLLARS FOR THE MOUNTAIN - Long time Mountain supporter Sally Bellamy presents Director Gary Blaine with a check for $2,001 in support of our 15 year plan.

THE MOUNTAIN
HIGHLANDS CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER
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Highlands, NC 28741

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