

## Speaker Information

### Guest Speaker List — Sponsored by Thomas Jefferson District

*The Thomas Jefferson District, a regional office of the Unitarian Universalist Association, provides the Guest Speaker List service to its member and emerging congregations. Speakers and the UU congregation/organization are totally responsible for all speaker-booking arrangements.*

Additional information about Guest Speaker List service at [www.tjd-guestspeaker-list-home.htm](http://www.tjd-guestspeaker-list-home.htm)

January 2008

<b>Speaker name</b>	<b>Tim Perry</b>		
<b>Organization/title /affiliation</b>	<p>Member: UU Congregation of the Swannanoa Valley, Black Mountain, NC. Office Administrator and member of the Board of Trustees of the same. Also Office Administrator for a local Catholic parish. Formerly a Fundamentalist and/or conservative Christian for 25 years, and an ordained minister much of that time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Began preaching at age 14 in the Free Will Baptist church.</li> <li>• Attended a Fundamentalist high school and Bible college, followed by a conservative Presbyterian school.</li> <li>• Ordained as a Free Will Baptist ministers while still an undergraduate.</li> <li>• Became a priest in the Continuing (conservative) Anglican movement.</li> <li>• Ministered in the Charismatic Episcopal Church for 6 years.</li> <li>• Left the priesthood to become a Roman Catholic layman.</li> <li>• Taught adult classes and incoming converts for three years.</li> <li>• Was often seen as a candidate for the Catholic priesthood, but wasn't willing to forgo the possibility of marriage.</li> </ul> <p>Found to my surprise one day that I no longer believed the faith I had built my life around, and had no idea how or why I had stopped believing. Resigned teaching positions in the church and stopped attending Mass. Spent about a year with no religious affiliation, trying to figure out what had happened to my faith. Eventually found that I missed church and began looking for somewhere that I might fit in with integrity. Decided that Unitarian Universalist was the only church in which I could be open and honest about my beliefs – or lack thereof.</p>		
<b>E-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:timperry@charter.net">timperry@charter.net</a> or <a href="mailto:heathenpriest@gmail.com">heathenpriest@gmail.com</a>	<b>Phone#</b>	<b>Cell: (828) 712-0984</b>

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<b>Topics</b> <i>Select all that apply</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy
<b>Titles and a brief description</b>  <i>Use additional space if needed</i>	<p><b>“Confessions of a Former Priest”</b> — Autobiographical - the story of my spiritual journey from Fundamentalist Christian to mostly agnostic liberalism. Usually, a talkback or Q&amp;A is good at the end.</p> <p><b>“Verses the Bible-Thumpers Missed”</b> — A look at biblical passages that suggest a broader truth than many traditional Christians are prepared to accept.</p> <p><b>“How Liberal Are We?”</b> — Based in the Third and Fourth Principles - A look at what it really means to be a “liberal religious community.” Includes some thought-provoking exploration of the real meaning of the words “liberal” and “conservative” and how being truly liberal differs from being merely left-wing</p> <p><b>“A Kinder, Gentler Christianity”</b> — Drawing from Marcus Borg’s <u>The Heart of Christianity</u>, an exploration of the two paradigms of Christianity currently at work in many churches, particularly looking at how they differ in their approach to scripture, tradition, God, and Jesus.</p> <p><b>“Born of the Spirit?”</b> — Asks the question, “What is wrong with humanity?” from a psychological and evolutionary perspective, and then explores the possible correlation with biblical teaching about the need for conversion.</p>
<b>Availability</b>	<b>Most weekends, year-round.</b>
<b>Fees (if any)</b>	Customary honorarium and mileage; plus lodging when overnight stay is necessary. (Home Hospitality is fine.)
	Have three references available to give any UU organization that contacts you.
<b>Travel distances and regions</b> (East, West, Piedmont, RTP, NC, GA, VA, SC, TN, etc)	Anywhere in the TJD District.