

## Sichat Rabbanim 2010



**Zvi Altman** serves as lay rabbi and cantor of the Mountain Synagogue in rural western North Carolina. Located in Franklin, in Macon County, the synagogue has been meeting for 30 years. Originally a seasonal synagogue, the congregation now meets year round.

In addition to his work as one of the spiritual leaders of Mountain Synagogue, Zvi writes and teaches classes and workshops on topics related to Judaism, religion and theology. A lifelong student of Judaism and cross-cultural religious studies, Zvi is a popular teacher at Young Harris College's ICL (Institute for Continuing Learning) Program, where he has taught courses such as an Introduction to Judaism, Exploring Job and the Problem of Evil, Examining the Jewish Roots of Christianity, and an Introduction to Kabbalah. These and other courses have also been offered in Clay and Macon counties, NC. Zvi has been a guest lecturer in religion at colleges in N. GA. and W. NC, and a contributor to regional interfaith conferences. He has been invited to speak and lead programs at other synagogues and at local churches, and represented the Jewish community at various public events.

Zvi is the author of "Be Thou Holy: A Heartfelt Introduction to Judaism", published by Pure Heart Press, and the Director of the Teshuvah Institute for Living Judaism, a 501-c-3 non-profit corporation. The Teshuvah Institute promotes increased awareness and understanding of Jewish values, practices and traditions, and seeks to expand interfaith knowledge and dialog to foster cooperation and communication among all faith communities.