

The Mission of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Charlotte is to inspire children, youth and adults to discover and articulate deeper spiritual meaning evidenced in lives of integrity, compassion and stewardship of the earth.

La misión de la iglesia Unitaria Universalista de Charlotte es: inspirar a los niños, jóvenes y adultos para que descubran y articulen un significado espiritual profundo, evidente en una vida de integridad, compasión y en el manejo de los recursos de la tierra.

“SEE CHANGE”

Stewardship Campaign begins February 19th



Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 19 to see some real change in the way we work to achieve our Mission and in the way we ask you to sup-

port that effort this year. On that day, "See Change," our Stewardship effort for 2012 – 2013 will begin.

About a week before the campaign officially starts, you'll receive information and forms in the mail. Included will be our letter of explanation, a pledge form and something new for this year – an assessment tool. The pledge form will look familiar but the assessment tool will be something you haven't seen before. One assessment will be included for each member of your household over 15 years of age. It is very important that you promptly return all of the forms to us, including your pledge card.

Around the 19th of February, a member of the Stewardship Team will get in touch with you. When your Stewardship visitor calls, take the opportunity to meet with them and to discuss your reflections on congregational participation. Completing the assessment before the visit will help you have a more meaningful discussion. The assessment tool will also help you as you reflect on your financial commitment for the upcoming budget year. You may return the forms to us by giving them to the person who visits you, by mail or by dropping them off at the Stewardship table in Freeman Hall on Sundays.

(Continued on page 3)

ASSISTANT MINISTER SEARCH

Update on our progress with the Assistant Minister Search

The members of our Assistant Minister Selection Team—Carol Gay, Nancy Hershey, John “Moe” Moore, Laura Neff, Laurie Reed and Randy Whitt—have been working very long and hard in recent weeks. They’ve now read hundreds of pages of material from applicants and engaged in hours of telephone interviews. The coming weeks constitute “crunch time” for this Team as we enter the final stages of our search for a new minister for our congregation.

As a reminder, the Team aims to be ready to make an offer to a potential minister on March 15. Should our candidate accept, he or she will be hired by our Senior Minister and will begin here in August.

While you will understand the need for confidentiality in this process, you are encouraged to give the hard-working members of the Selection Team a supportive pat on the back or a quick message of appreciation for giving their time so generously on our behalf.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the Minister	2
<i>The Quiltmakers Gift</i>	3
Carnival Sunday	3
Women’s Moon Circle: <i>New Year of the Tree</i>	4
Our UU Heritage: First Annual Sources Supper	5
UU Summer Camp Opportunities	6
ODS Open House	7

FROM THE MINISTER

The scope of Sidney Freeman's ministry among us--as minister and then as minister emeritus--extended from being called here as a young man in 1957 until his death earlier this month. His memorial service gave us the opportunity to remember the city to which Sid was called. He once described it as "segregated from cradle to grave," a claim that was literally true. Charlotteans had separate hospitals and separate cemeteries, and, in between separate schools, theaters, drinking fountains, rest rooms, churches and neighborhoods. And, of course, separate did *not* mean equal.

At Sidney's memorial service Charles Jones, a civil rights hero, reminded us of the important role Sid and members of our congregation played in changing Charlotte. Charles was leading the sit-ins and boycotts, inspiring mostly young Johnson C. Smith students to act peacefully to break down the barriers that divided this community. Sid invited Charles Jones to come speak to the congregation. Some members were inspired and joined Sidney in walking picket lines, in standing up and sitting down for justice and equality. Charles Jones recognized three of our congregational heroes--Judy Reynolds, Charlotte Watkins, and Ann Wood--in the service, acclaiming them for their acts of courage and commitment.

Thanks to Charles, Sidney, Ann, Charlotte, Judy and many, many others, our city was forever changed. Compelled by the core values of our liberal religion, and unwilling to keep these values private, these members of ours embodied what it means to profess "inherent worth and dignity." They evidenced both integrity and compassion in choosing to act for the greater good. We owe them a deep debt of gratitude.

Those of us for whom the civil rights story is one we learned about rather than lived through may find ourselves wondering: what would I have done? Would I have had the courage to act? Would I have spoken up in the larger community? Would it have mattered enough to show up and stand up in the name of a deep commitment to "worth and dignity?"

If you have been paying attention to what is going on in our state, you know those questions need not be simply hypothetical. We need not transport ourselves in our imaginations back to some prior time in history to speculate about how we might act when our core values are at stake. Last year, the North Carolina legislature approved asking the citizens of our state to add a proposed amendment to our constitution. If a majority of us vote to so alter our state's

guiding document, this new portion will read: "Marriage between one man and one woman is the only domestic legal union that shall be valid or recognized in this State."

What does this mean? It means that if you are not legally married to a person of the opposite sex, then there is absolutely no way for you to be in any kind of "valid or recognized" relationship. There are no other options. You may feel with all of your heart that your relationship has worth but the state will declare it "invalid," "unrecognized." In other words, this addition to our constitution would mean that large groups of individuals and families would experience discrimination simply because of who they are.

I had great admiration and affection for Sidney Freeman. He was wonderfully supportive and encouraging to me. His mantle has now been passed on to us. Inspired, as was he, by the core values of our liberal religion, let us continue the work he was about, striving for justice and equality "until the dawn breaks and the shadows flee away."

—Jay Leach, Minister

This amendment threatens child custody and visitation laws. It creates a conflict with North Carolina's domestic violence laws. It strips public employers of the ability to provide domestic partner benefits like health insurance and potentially denies private businesses control over what benefits they offer their employees. But, let's not kid ourselves: at its core, this

amendment is a specific, calculated effort to blatantly discriminate against lesbian and gay North Carolinians. Not because of anything they have done but simply because of who they are. (If you want to learn more about the amendment and its discriminatory implications, check out www.protectncfamilies.org.)

This isn't the Charlotte or the North Carolina to which Sidney Freeman came as a young minister in 1957. In part, that is directly due to his efforts and to the efforts of some members of the Unitarian Church of Charlotte. Sadly, the fight for justice and equality in the face of blatant discrimination has not been won. So, we don't have to speculate about what we *might* have done. Instead, we can ask ourselves: what am I willing to do *now*?

I had great admiration and affection for Sidney Freeman. He was wonderfully supportive and encouraging to me. His mantle has now been passed on to us. Inspired, as was he, by the core values of our liberal religion, let us continue the work he was about, striving for justice and equality "until the dawn breaks and the shadows flee away."

Peace, Jay

The Quiltmaker's Gift

A Service for the Whole Congregation; Sunday, February 5th

In cultures all over our world, stories are used to teach and entertain us, to help us find ways to understand more – and more deeply – to remind us of what is meaningful. Join us on February 5th when we will hear - and see - the story of *The Quiltmaker's Gift* as part of the morning's worship services. All CYRE classes for our children and youth except those for our youngest preschoolers are canceled to encourage attendance in the services.

"See Change" on Carnival Sunday

Sunday, February 19th



If you've been around for a while, you know that Carnival Sunday has been an occasion for frivolity and foolishness. Service leaders and some attendees have donned costumes and the whole affair has been about letting the good times roll.

In keeping with a whole new focus here, you'll "see change" this year on Carnival Sunday. The service will feature the music of Southern Fried Jazz, a wonderful Dixieland group.

The focus will shift from foolishness to joy, the emphasis from costumes to our "joyful, dynamic community."

If you've loved what we've done in recent years, come see and enjoy the change. If the foolishness of recent years has not been your thing, you might really enjoy this year's change. If you've yet to attend a Carnival Sunday at the UUCC, this just may be the best one yet.

"The best principles of our republic secure to all its citizens a perfect equality of rights."

—Thomas Jefferson

Issues of Joy or Concern may be expressed by filling out a yellow card or by contacting Becky Whittington, Congregational Care Coordinator, at becky@uuccharlotte.org or at (704) 996-9228.

"There are those who say to you - we are rushing this issue of civil rights. I say we are 172 years late."

Hubert H. Humphrey in a speech at the Democrat National Convention, July 14, 1948.

(*"See Change"* continued from page 1)

Please remember that the only way we can make a reliable budget for the next year is by having your pledge of support. Many people also contribute by putting money in the collection plate but this isn't money we can really count on because we never know how much to expect. Your completed assessment will form the basis of our measurements of progress toward fulfilling our Mission and Ends. We need to be able to chart our progress toward changing lives and deepening spirituality both for you and for those around you.

Your support of this congregation and its programs is vital and appreciated. Thank you for making us the kind of vibrant, inspiring place we want to be.

Your Cans Can Make a Difference

With rising gas and food prices, the 25 families we help each month at our Food Bank are facing even more difficulties stretching their food dollars. Your donations of canned goods and other non-perishables can help fill our Food Barrel to overflowing. If everyone would bring *just one can*, we really CAN make a difference!

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

For more information or to register for any of the following courses email aresd@uuccharlotte.org or visit the ARES D table in Freeman Hall after services on Sundays.

Justice: "What is the Right Thing to Do?"

First Sundays at 2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

February 5 –

This Land is My Land & Consenting Adults



Part 1 – The philosopher John Locke believes that individuals have certain rights—to life, liberty, and property—which were given to us as human beings in the “the state of nature,” a time before government and laws were created.

Part 2 – If we all have unalienable rights to life,

liberty, and property, how can a government enforce tax laws passed by the representatives of a mere majority?

Women’s Moon Circle:

New Year of the Tree

Tuesday, February 7th at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel

The current New Moon brings us energies that are delightfully expressed through an ancient Hebrew festival called the New Year of the Tree. Join us as this energy unfolds into fullness at our Full Moon Circle as we contemplate our affinity with trees and what they can teach us about our own lives. This will be led by Estelle Spike, a transpersonal therapist, life coach, and creator of celebratory rituals. Estelle will share an original meditation/visualization followed by hands-on activity that will allow each participant to weave together the energies of this special time of year. This is an open group, and all women are welcome. Tuesday, February 7th, 7:00 pm, in the Chapel.

2nd Sunday Topic Discussion

Sunday, February 12 at 10:30 a.m. in the Chapel

This will be an opportunity to meet with the Minister to share your thoughts, ask questions, and hear other’s views relative to the sermon topic for that day. Begins promptly at 10:30 in the Bernstein Chapel. February Topic: **Generosity**

Documentary Film Series

Showings are at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel and free-of-charge.

February 10 — *Paper Clips*

The "Paper Clips Project" is a project by middle school students from the small southeastern Tennessee city of Whitwell who created a monument for the Holocaust victims of Nazi Germany. It started in 1998 as a simple 8th grade project and evolved into one gaining worldwide attention. At last count over 30 million paper clips had been received. Child Care will be provided, To register for child care email aresd@uuccharlotte.org or call Kathleen Carpenter at 704-366-8623 by Monday, February 6th.

It began
as a
lesson
about
prejudice...

What
happened
next
was a
miracle.



Science Fiction Sunday

Showings are at 2:00 p.m. in the Library and free-of-charge.

February 12 — *Enemy Mine* (1985)

A reptilian-like Drac (Louis Gossett, Jr.) and a human (Dennis Quaid) crash-land on a desolate planet during a space battle. Although they are mortal enemies, the two must learn to rise above their mutual hatred and deep-seated prejudices if they are to survive. Is it possible to see the inherent worth and dignity in a being you’ve sworn to kill?

4th Friday Film Series

Showings are at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary and free-of-charge.



February 24 —

(Generosity) – *The Road Home* (China, 2000)

The Adult Religious Education Committee is continuing the Fourth Friday Film Series which reflects the core principles embodied in the UUC’s ends statement. Directed by Zhang Yimou. Starring Zhang Ziyi, Sun Honglei. At the insistence of his grieving mother, a young man accompanies the body of his father on a journey to his

home village. Along the way, he recalls how his parents met, a story of true love based on shared sacrifice and generosity of spirit. Rated G. 89 min

This I Believe—This I Practice

Sunday, February 26th at 10:30 a.m. in the Chapel

Speaker: Sagar Sethi

In these thirty minute sessions the presenter speaks about their personal religious/spiritual beliefs or/and their regular religious/spiritual practices. We meet on 4th Sunday of each month. Next Speaker: **Sagar Sethi**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH (CYRE)

An Interactive Celebration of Our Unitarian Universalist Heritage

Join Us for our First Annual Sources Supper on March 3

Join us for a unifying and transforming evening that will connect us to our Unitarian Universalist past and inspire us as we move forward. We're calling it a Sources Supper and it will premier here on Saturday, March 3rd. Our Sources Supper is modeled after a Jewish Seder, the dinner held each year during the Passover celebration. A Seder is an interactive retelling of the story of the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt. If you're ever been to one, you know they are very ritualized and very family oriented.

Leaders in our Children and Youth Religious Education program hear over and over that one of the challenges for Unitarian Universalism is that it doesn't have its own holidays and celebrations – ways to mark important events that help define us as a religious community. With this evening of part theater, part dinner, and part worship service, participants of all ages will learn some of the primary founding events and turning points in UU history through stories. The Sources Supper is intended to be done year after year until it becomes part of the religious identity and collective memories of those who participate in it.

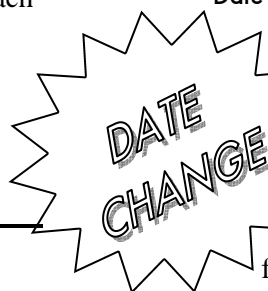
And you can be a part of our first one! It will take place in Freeman Hall and because we will be testing the waters, it will be limited in attendance.



We are finalizing a script but need volunteers to help with the evening: cooks, actors, musicians, and general help. If interested, contact Kathleen Carpenter. We will have more details for the next newsletter.

Pancake Fundraiser Rescheduled

Date Changed to Sunday, February 19th



Please join us on February 19th between services and have pancakes for social justice. We were all ready to set up the grills and make "Pancakes for Justice."

But then – we screeched to a stop when we realized our fundraiser was scheduled for the same day one of the co-leaders of the Social Justice team was scheduled to present in the This I believe program. Since the breakfast was intended to benefit the church's social justice fund, this was a major conflict. Thanks to all the youth and adult pancake workers who generously agreed to move to February 19th for the rescheduled fundraiser.

"The civil rights movement didn't begin in Montgomery and it didn't end in the 1960s. It continues on to this very minute."

—Julian Bond

DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS (DCT)

Multiplying Ourselves in the 21st Century

Cloning UUs Maybe?

The Southeast (formerly Thomas Jefferson) District of the UUA will hold its annual meeting on May 4 and 5, 2012 at First Unitarian Church in Richmond, VA. The theme Multiplying Ourselves in the 21st Century will explore new ways to grow, including use of social media, virtual small group ministry, UU communities, satellite campuses and other avenues.

Keynote Speaker will be Tandi Rogers, UUA Strategic Growth Specialist and was a UUA Program Specialist in NW USA since 2002. If you want to attend, call Phil Sterner (co-chair, Denominational Connections Team) to coordinate carpool arrangements. See again the value of your regional and national connections at www.seduua.org.

UU Summer Camp Opportunities

Options for all ages

North Carolina is a hot spot for UU Summer Camp programs! To the east, the Shelter Neck Youth Camp offer 3 weeks of camps for youth ages 12-17 and to the west, The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center offers sessions for ages 1st-12th grades. Below is just enough information on both to get you excited. Please see the provided links for more information.

The Mountain

“The Mountain places a strong emphasis on being an inclusive, non-competitive environment where youth can develop a deeper understanding of themselves and form lifelong friendships. Some of the exciting activities and workshops campers experience include: arts and crafts, drama, music, campfires, outdoor survival skills, field games, low and high challenge courses, whitewater rafting, swimming, canoeing and hiking.” <http://mountaincenters.org/pages/youth/mountaincamp.php>

Shelter Neck

Shelter Neck Youth Camp is located in Burgaw, NC and aims to connect youth from small, mid-size and large congregations across Eastern and Central NC. Middle school-aged youth are invited to join us July 8-14th for a fun-filled week of workshops, music, games, campfires and more. High school-aged youth can choose from two camps – a week of fun, relaxation and friendship July 22-28th, or come to our Leadership Camp, June 24-30th to learn community leadership skills and become part of creating camp programs for the future. March 1 priority deadline. www.shelterneckuucamp.org/2011/youthcamp.htm



SUUSI

And if you want a week of UU fun for the whole family, check out the Southeast UU Summer Institute (SUUSI), located right over the border in Virginia. “You’ll be challenged intellectually and nurtured spiritually. You can stay up all night dancing or making music, and spend all day communing with nature or exploring your personal growth. We have special programs for youth, teens and young adults, so be sure to bring the whole family.” <http://suusi.org/>.

Welcome to Our Newest Members

John and Linda Hall

Maria “Catalina” Ramirez

Dara Whittle

“Every segment of our population, and every individual, has a right to expect from his government a fair deal.”

Harry S. Truman in a speech to Congress
on September 6, 1945

VISITOR’S CORNER

“Getting to Know Us”

Sunday, February 5th

Every 1st Sunday after each service, visitors are invited to an informal Q&A with a long-standing UU Church of Charlotte member. Grab a cup of coffee from Freeman Hall and meet downstairs in the Chapel immediately following either 1st or 2nd service. Hear about another person’s journey to finding her/his spiritual home here at the UUCC.

“Discovering the UUCC”

Saturday, February 11th

Attention Visitors and New Members, do you want to learn more about the Unitarian Universalism and this congregation? Join the Rev. Jay Leach and other presenters Saturday, February 11 from 9:15 until 12:30 p.m. for Discovering the UUCC. This half day program includes a light breakfast and free childcare. Join us and meet new people, have your questions answered and learn if this special place is right for you. Please RSVP at the upstairs Visitor’s Table or email Courtney McLaughlin at courtney@uuccharlotte.org.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

Outdoor Adventure Group's February Hike

Saturday, February 4th

Our next hike will be Saturday, February 4, when we will meet at 8:00 a.m. in the UUCS Parking Lot and drive to Greensboro, NC. We will hike 3 easy flat miles at the Guilford Courthouse National Military Park, and then visit the International Civil Rights Center and Museum in Greensboro (the museum does have an admission cost). Great day for beginners, children, and history buffs, no dogs please! We plan on arriving back to Charlotte after 6:00 p.m. Please dress appropriately, bring snacks, water, and lunch. Questions contact Rita Heath-Singer.

Open Mind Book Club

Monday, February 6th

The Open Mind Book Club will meet on Monday, February 6th at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel. We will be discussing *Still Alice*, a novel by Lisa Genova. Please RVSP to Gwynne Movius if you plan to attend. Upcoming Title for Monday, March 5th: *Gods of Greenwich* by Norb Vonnegut.

OPEN DOOR SCHOOL (ODS)

ODS's Annual Open House

Open Door School's annual Open House will be Tuesday, February 7th from 6:30-8:00 pm. General Registration for the 2012-13 school year begins that night and runs through February 28th. The Open House is for adults only, please. UUCS members are given a higher priority for registration than the general public, and pay discounted registration fees. Please note that attendance at the Open House or a personal tour is required for registration.



We are delighted that the Sue Riley tree, which died early this year, has been replaced by a healthy fringe tree. Much gratitude to Laurel Holtzapple, Anne Standish, and Lib Jones for making this happen. We look forward to continuing to honor Sue Riley in this way for many years to come. In February, Open Door Summer Camp registration will begin. UUCS members receive a tuition discount. Look for brochures available at the church or check the website (http://uuccharlotte.org/ods_camps.asp) for more information.

ONGOING GROUP MEETINGS

Newcomers and drop-ins are welcome! For more information about these groups please visit www.uuccharlotte.org and select "Programs/Get Involved."

Meeting	Location	Time	Contact
<i>Bible Workbench</i>	<i>Library</i>	<i>Sundays 5 mins. after first service ends</i>	<i>George Weir (704) 708-4211</i>
<i>Economics and UU Principles</i>	<i>Schweitzer</i>	<i>7:00 p.m. Wednesdays</i>	<i>Paul Gubert (704) 554-0611</i>
<i>Exploring Humanism</i>	<i>Library</i>	<i>7:00 p.m. 2nd Thursday (February 9th)</i>	<i>Rich Greene rkgreene66@gmail.com</i>
<i>Jabberwocks</i>	<i>Library</i>	<i>10:00 a.m. 3rd Friday</i>	<i>Doris Thomas Browder</i>
<i>Lotus Path</i>	<i>Schweitzer</i>	<i>8:00 a.m. Sundays</i>	<i>Richard Kushmaul (see staff listing p.8)</i>
<i>Mystics and Metaphysics</i>	<i>Schweitzer</i>	<i>7:00 p.m. 3rd Tuesday (February 21st)</i>	<i>Judy Reynolds</i>
<i>Preschool Parent Support Group</i>	<i>Freeman Hall</i>	<i>6:00 p.m. 3rd Friday (February 17th)</i>	<i>Mark Fleming (704) 299-6134 flemingma@gmail.com</i>
<i>Raising Elijah</i>	<i>Priestley</i>	<i>7:00 p.m. Thursdays thru February 9th</i>	<i>Richard Kushmaul (see staff listing p.8)</i>
<i>Second Sunday Series Topic Discussion</i>	<i>Chapel</i>	<i>10:30 a.m. 2nd Sunday (February 12th)</i>	<i>Richard Kushmaul (see staff listing p.8)</i>
<i>Sunday Morning Meditation</i>	<i>Schweitzer</i>	<i>8:30 a.m. Sundays</i>	<i>Rich Vreeland (704) 290-8620; Debbie George (704) 763-2193</i>
<i>Straight Spouse Support Group</i>	<i>Chapel</i>	<i>7:00 p.m. 1st Wednesday</i>	<i>Sage Brook (704) 366-7983</i>
<i>What is the Right Thing to Do?</i>	<i>Chapel</i>	<i>2:00 p.m. 1st Sunday</i>	<i>Bob Gorman gormanr@winthrop.edu Vivian Brenner socklady@aol.com</i>
<i>Women's Moon Circle</i>	<i>Chapel</i>	<i>7:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 7th</i>	<i>Cindy Thomson (704) 442-2915</i>
<i>Women's Support Group</i>	<i>Priestley</i>	<i>7:00 p.m. Monday, February 13th</i>	<i>Karen Achor (704) 847-2081</i>
<i>Yoga</i>	<i>Sigmund</i>	<i>7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays</i>	<i>Bill Cooke (704) 364-2107</i>

VOICES

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Address Label

"We are confronted primarily with a moral issue . . . whether all Americans are to be afforded equal rights and equal opportunities, whether we are going to treat our fellow Americans as we want to be treated."

John F. Kennedy
in a June 11, 1963 radio address.

The deadline for the next **VOICES** is **Sunday, February 5, 2012** for the next issue which will be published on **Wednesday, February 8, 2012**. Please include your name and phone number on your submissions in case there are questions. The *Voices* editor reserves the right to edit all submissions to the newsletter for brevity, grammar, clarity and consistency as space will allow. The preferred submission is by email to: uucc@uuccharlotte.org