



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.

UPDATE FROM THE BOARD

The last few weeks have been very busy for everyone on the Board. As we continue to talk about our dreams for the future and discuss who we want to be as a congregation, we have met several times over that last month and have also engaged in outside conversations with folks who specialize in Policy Governance, ENDS, and Strategic Outcomes.

We have talked in depth about our ENDS (our Dreams) and our Strategic Outcomes (how we will know when we are making progress toward our dreams). The great news is we are where we need to be, and are doing very well in making progress to our goals.

We are at the stage of coming up with a plan on how we are going to monitor our progress in making our vision and dreams a reality. This planning is happening at the same time the Coordinating Team is putting together our next envisioning plan. We are finding our conversations as a team full of depth and delight as we all work together toward our ENDS. What a wonderful time to be Board member.

One of the things we will be doing as part of the monitoring is getting feedback from you. We want to know how you feel as an individual, and as congregation, in how are doing toward our ENDS. We will be asking you to help us by giving your feedback to some questions we will be putting together, and perhaps more importantly, we want to hear your stories. How has this place had an impact on your life? How have you deepened your own spiritual meaning by being a part of this community? The Board will be joining in this story telling as well. Our Voices articles will rotate from regular updates to progress, as well as sharing our personal stories as individuals and as Board members. We hope your voices will join ours as we learn from, and listen to, one another.

All of this work will help us setup a baseline from which to monitor our progress for the years to come. Thank you in advance for helping as we continue to build such a wonderful community, and as we continue to create a sacred place where each of us can deepen our own spiritual meaning.

Peace, Colleen Beale, Board Chair

THE UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
OF CHARLOTTE
PRESENTS

FOLLIES

I WANT MY FTV!

FTV
FOLLIES TELEVISION

COMEDY TRUMPS ALL IN OUR ANNUAL ONE-NIGHT-ONLY
LIVE MUSICAL THEATRICAL PRODUCTION –
IT'S FOOLISH, FUNNY, AND ^{NOT} FCC APPROVED!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2011

SHOWTIME 7:30 PM – UUCC SANCTUARY
PRE-SHOW RECEPTION 6:30 PM – FREEMAN HALL
FREE ADMISSION – CHILD CARE PROVIDED

FROM THE MINISTER

Among the curious items on my overloaded bookshelves is a well-worn copy of an 1868 Unitarian hymnal with the loquacious title *Hymn and Tune Book, for The Church and the Home; and Services for Congregational Worship*. Our religious forebears used this mid-nineteenth-century volume in their Unitarian services.

Some of us might recognize some of what it contains. However, much, if not most of it would be quite foreign to us. In tone, in form, and, most of all, in content, the services of a century-and-a-half ago were dramatically different from what we experience here on Sundays.

That's hardly surprising. Liberal religion has, in general, always given less focus to maintaining the status quo and more attention to the ongoing process of evolving what has been into what can be. That 1868 volume of hymns and services gave way to something new, a collection that, in time, was replaced by yet another approach. So it continued with new collections in 1937 and again in 1964 (some rare few here will remember singing from that blue hymnal, *Hymns for the Celebration of Life*.)

The hymnal we use on Sundays, *Singing the Living Tradition*, was published in 1993. Since a dear friend of mine, Rev. Mark Belletini, chaired the group that was responsible to create yet another new hymnal for Unitarian Universalists, I recall its release vividly. Can that really be almost two decades ago?

Already six years ago now, the UUA published a supplement to our hymnal called *Singing the Journey*. Like every other collection, the choice to put these songs into print reflected the ongoing change in the ways Unitarian Universalists worship (which is why the notion of a *living* tradition is so apt for us.)

With this newest volume, *Singing the Journey*, there's an effort to offer congregational music that supports a more energetic, inclusive, multicultural experience. Many of the selections are less like hymns in the traditional sense and more like chants or choruses. They invite participation from children and youth. They offer an opportunity to continue rethinking how we will plan and lead services here.

We've already been using some of the songs in this volume in our services. Beginning in October, you'll find copies of this new supplement alongside our regular hymnal in the

racks in our pews. We'll begin singing from both in our services.

To unveil this new volume, we're offering a special service for the whole congregation on Saturday, October 8 at 7pm. To make it a celebratory evening, we'll gather for a congregation-wide potluck at 6pm. This service will offer an opportunity for families to be together, for various musicians to lead us, for a different kind of experience than we typically offer on Sunday mornings.

I hope you'll come and enjoy being together both for dinner and for a lively service to follow.

In that musty, old 1868 hymnal, the hope was expressed that singing those old songs would "quicken, warm, and elevate the feelings; and pour into all hearts new tides of joy and gladness." While I wouldn't use those exact words, that intent remains consistent. Join us on October 8 and on upcoming Sundays. I hope

you'll find this a dynamic community in which your feelings are "quickened" and your heart experiences new "tides of joy."

Peace, Jay

**"Celebrating the Journey,"
a Community Potluck followed by
Contemporary Worship
for the Whole Congregation**

**Saturday, October 8,
6 p.m. Potluck; 7 p.m. Service**

**Inside everyone
is a great shout of joy
waiting to be born.**

**David Whyte from "The Winter of
Listening" in *The House of Belonging***

CONGREGATIONAL CARE ITEMS

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.

MUSIC NEWS

All Music Program Retreat

Saturday, October 8, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

The annual Music Program retreat will take place on Saturday, October 8 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and is open to all music program participants. This is an opportunity for UUCC musicians to come together for a time of fellowship, inspiration and a chance to get to know one another better. Highlights of the retreat include a morning worship service with Jay, team building activities, catered lunch, and a fun and in-depth exploration of songs in the new “Singing the Journey” hymn supplement. Music program participants will help in leading the contemporary worship service that evening, so part of the retreat will be spent in preparation. For more information or to reserve a space, please contact Director of Music John Herrick by Wednesday, October 5. There is a \$10 fee to cover food, which can be paid the day of the retreat.



“Celebrating the Journey”

Saturday, October 8; Community Potluck Followed by Contemporary Worship for the Whole Congregation

We’re offering a special service for the whole congregation on Saturday, October 8 at 7 p.m. We’ll gather for a congregation-wide potluck at 6pm in Freeman Hall. Please bring a dinner entrée, vegetable, salad or dessert; drinks will be provided. At 7 p.m., Jay Leach and John Herrick with music program participants will lead us in a lively contemporary music service in the sanctuary, featuring music from our new hymn supplement, *Singing the Journey*. The 75 songs in *Singing the Journey* include UUCC favorites, such as “Lean on Me,” “Comfort Me” and “Siyahamba.” UUCC recently purchased enough supplements for the entire congregation.

The Community Building Team and Music Program will be jointly hosting this event. Childcare will be offered beginning at 6:45 p.m., but must be reserved by contacting Kathleen Carpenter (kathleen@uuccharlotte.org) by Tuesday, October 4. For more information, contact John Herrick, Director of Music.

Be good natured and untidy in your exuberance.

Mary Oliver from “Flare”

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Men’s Shelter Dinners

Since I was very young I've had a place in my heart that ached when I saw and thought of our homeless neighbors. I imagined what it would be like to be homeless. I learned that rarely is it a choice that someone makes, but rather it's something that happens out of harsh circumstances that lead to a downward spiral - mental illness, drug addiction, abuse, extreme poverty. Do some of these people make poor choices? Sure, but don't we all? I was not going to be the person who judged them, and I certainly wasn't going to take the attitude, like so many do, that they should just "get a job" and stop living off others' handouts. I know it's not that simple, and like many of my fellow UUs, I refuse to view homelessness and life in general with such a narrow mind.



I've been lucky in my life because I've always had all of the basic comforts. I've never once worried about where I was going to sleep, where my next meal would come from, or whether someone cared if I even existed. I'm so grateful for that, and helping out at the

Men's Shelter of Charlotte is just one small way I express my gratitude and give to those who haven't been so lucky. Preparing and serving meals at the Shelter has been a wonderful experience. There's nothing like working with a team toward a common cause to develop friendships and camaraderie. I've also learned a lot by just watching and listening to those who come in. My picture of a "homeless person" has changed. They come from all types of backgrounds. Some of them come in dressed nicely. Some of them are even vegetarians. And many of them come through the meal line with a smile and shout out a big "Thank you and God Bless You!" So I think, if they can muster a smile, show kindness and express gratitude, then certainly I have little reason to frown or complain.

– Craig Miller,
UUCC Member and Men’s Shelter Volunteer

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

Men's Group II

Starting Monday, October 3rd

A second men's group is forming under the initial mentoring guidance of the current on-going Men's group. Goals of this group will include building community and developing closer ties with other UUC members, sharing and support of personal life experiences, religious and philosophical discussion / exploration / study, and service to the Church and the community. The program of the first meetings will be suggested and guided by the mentoring leaders.

2nd Sunday Topic Discussion

Sunday, October 9th at 10:30 a.m.

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

Science Fiction Sunday

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



October 9 —
King Kong (1933)

Guest host Loyd Dillon provides new insights into this film classic rich with Christ imagery and elements of slavery, male chauvinism, miscegenation, greed, environmental damage, and the inherent worth and dignity of non-human species.

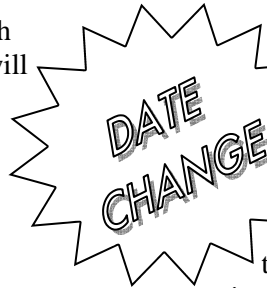
In the joy of your heart may you feel the living joy that sang one spring morning, sending its glad voice across a hundred years.

Rabindranath Tagore in *The Gardener*

Writing Your Spiritual Journey

Starting October 10 (Enrollment Limited to 12)

If you are curious about your spiritual path and the stories of other's experiences, then join us to explore the holiness of the ordinary in our lives. This shared experience offers space to see and make sense of your life experience through discussion, writing exercises, drawing and reading with the intent to produce a short spiritual autobiography. We'll gather for six sessions that include warm-up prompts, individual writing, revising and readings. We'll write three preliminary pieces and create a spiritual roadmap in preparation for writing a draft of our spiritual autobiography.



Parabola Series: *Seeing*

October 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the Library

PARABOLA is a quarterly magazine that explores a theme in our quest for meaning through thought-provoking interviews, essays, poetry, myth and art inspired by the world's spiritual and cultural traditions. The Fall issue of *PARABOLA* explores the critical act of Seeing. A theologian explores how Christianity and Buddhism can shed light upon one another. Other contributors offer further perspectives through essay, story, poetry, and images. We will meet on October 12th in the Library from 7-8:30 p.m. Contact: Carol Smith, (704) 953-4146, smithcarol@gmail.com with questions.

Documentary Film Series

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

October 14 —
Play Again

One generation from now most people in the U.S. will have spent more time in the virtual world than in nature. New media technologies have improved our lives in countless ways. Information now appears with a click. Overseas friends are part of our daily lives. And even Grandma loves the Wii. But what are we missing?

How will this impact our children, our society, and eventually, our planet? At this crucial time in human history, this is an important discussion for all people. Child care provided if registered with Kathleen by Monday, October 10.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH (CYRE)

Is Our CYRE Program Doing Enough to Raise Lifelong Unitarian Universalists?

This is an interesting question, and a good one to ask as we enter a new year of commitment to our children's religious education. For me, the question really boils down to two realities.

The first is that it is often precisely what we do in our program that may lead some young adult UUs to other religious traditions. We support and promote the active search for individual truth and meaning. Of course we hope that that search will occur within the fold of Unitarian Universalism, but it seems inevitable that for some it will lead to other sources of faith, that the doctrine and/or tenets of other traditions may resonate on a deep and profound level which can best be nurtured and expressed within the confines of those faith communities. And when that happens authentically and deliberately, how can we do anything but honor and celebrate that choice?

The other reality, however, is that we too frequently lose our youth and young adults in a way that is neither authentic nor deliberate, but more because they lack any real connection to Unitarian Universalism. This is the essence of the question for me as a religious educator, and for us as a faith community.

An important goal of our religious enrichment program is to help our children and youth form their identities as Unitarian Universalists. This happens on Sunday mornings, certainly, and our programming structure and content are all designed to build strong connections to our faith.

And yet – I still see youth who enter their teen years thinking they can believe anything they want as Unitarian Universalists. Some of these youth are new to UUism, but some are not. These youth misunderstand open mindedness for total freedom of belief. They either haven't heard or haven't internalized the messages that have been presented in their RE classes year after year. They don't seem to "get" that their freedom to believe is modified by their professed values, including respect, fairness, and compassion.

What can we do to help them understand this? To help them see that the principles we talk about all the time are important, powerful, and have real meaning? That their values should frame what they believe not leave a void which they think they can fill with beliefs of any kind?

I have several recommendations, all requiring some level of parental commitment.

First, I recommend participation in our Coming of Age program (high school youth). Through a series of evening discussions, the process of writing their own credos and the experiences imbedded in the two retreats, the youth participants learn that they have the power to determine what they believe and to shape their faith. They "get" what the search for truth and meaning is all about. I highly recommend this program for all high school youth.



Second, I remind parents that their interest in their child's faith development is critical. Attendance in RE classes more than once or twice a month is important, but attendance without parental interest is still

not enough. Parents should use the class summaries handed out after each class to facilitate conversations with their children. Our children must know RE is important to their parents. But that's not enough.

In order for children to develop a real and lasting Unitarian Universalist identity, they need to see that what they do and say in their classrooms on Sundays has real meaning and relevance to all the other parts of their lives every other day of the week. They need to see their faith in action. This happens in ways both big and small. I urge parents to talk about groups in the church acting on their UU principles - like the Congregational Care team which provides receptions for memorial services and organizes meals for "needy" members, the volunteers who produce the annual fundraiser to benefit our partner church in Romania, the youth who spend a week building a Habitat house, and the families who come together to make sandwiches for the homeless several times a year. Then I encourage them to find ways to get involved for it is in such involvement that parents and their children can find deeper meaning in their faith.

Go beyond the abstract and make Unitarian Universalism relevant and useful. Then, when your children are asked what UUs believe, they will respond from their hearts and minds. They will get it.

Kathleen Carpenter,
Director of Religious Education for Children and Youth

MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT TRUST

History of the Memorial Endowment Trust

- The Unitarian Church of Charlotte was founded in 1947.
- A Memorial Endowment **Fund** was created in 1958 “to be an additional pillar of strength in providing for the financial support for many of the worthwhile avenues of service.”
- The Memorial Endowment **Trust** was established in 1980 as a successor to the Memorial Endowment Fund with the tax advantages of a charitable organization.
- The Chalice Society was formed in 2003 to honor those members and friends who have chosen to leave a legacy to the UUCC by naming the Memorial Endowment Trust in their estate planning documents.
- Today the Chalice Society includes over 60 individuals who have made such a commitment to our congregation.

For more information about the Memorial Endowment Trust and/or the Chalice Society, feel free to contact any of the 4 board members: Dana Hershey, Chair, Tom Nunnenkamp, Cathlean Utzig or Randy Whitt.

The Memorial Endowment Trust provides a perpetual, prudently managed fund for generous legacy giving to support the UUCC, its present and future members, and its liberal religious mission.

One must liberate oneself, at least to some extent, from complexities, from taking one's fate too much to heart, before being able to rejoice simply because one is alive among the living.

Czeslaw Milosz in *Unattainable Earth*.

VISITOR'S CORNER

“Meet the Minister”

Sunday, October 16th

You've seen him behind the pulpit...now here's an opportunity for visitors to get to know Jay Leach on a more personal level. Stop by the minister's study for an informal chat on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 10:30 AM.

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome New Members!

Takiyah Nur Amin

David “Dave” & Jennifer “Kristie”
Lauderbaugh

Peter & Patricia Lima

Suanne & Lindsay Morris

Mary & Mike Walker

Kathleen Walsh

Denise Weldon



I like to live my life intensely . . . I am the type of person who loves his life passionately. Of course, someday I will die, but I have the impression that when I die, I will die intensely as well. I will die experimenting with myself intensely. For this reason, I am going to die with an immense longing for life, since this is the way I have been living.

Paulo Freire from “Learning to Question”

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

Open Mind Book Club

Monday, October 3rd

The Open Mind Book Club will meet Monday, October 3rd at 7:30 pm, in the UUCC library. We will be discussing "Lottery" by Patricia Wood. Please RSVP to Gwynne Movius if you plan to attend. Upcoming Title for November 7th: "Making Toast: a family story" by Roger Rosenblatt (NF).

Tending the Flame:

The Art of Unitarian Universalist Parenting; Fall UU Parenting Class

Parents, grandparents, and anyone else interested in parenting children: you are invited to join Kathleen Carpenter, Director of Religious Education for Children and Youth, and UUCC member, Rachel Fleming, in an eight week class based on the book, "Tending the Flame" by Michelle Richards. In this first-of-its-kind guide to Unitarian Universalist parenting, religious educator Michelle Richards encourages a practical and proactive approach to raising Unitarian Universalist children. The class will be held Sunday afternoons from 1:30 p.m., beginning October 16. Register at the Adult RE table in Freeman Hall or by emailing Kathleen at kathleen@uuccharlotte.org. Participants will need to purchase the book. Orders will be taken in the CYRE Office through October 2 or by emailing Kathleen. After that, you must purchase one on your own from the UUA Bookstore. Childcare is provided if requested. The registration deadline is October 12.

Kids in a Box

Will Be Rescheduled

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to help with this event and who signed up to participate. Unfortunately, we had to cancel at the very last minute due to flooding on the playground (where we planned to sleep) and the cancellation of a couple of last minute volunteers. We plan to reschedule for the spring. I hope you will join us. As soon as we have a date, it will be advertised here and in e-blasts.

Women's Retreat

A Weekend of Rejuvenation at the Mountain

The Mountain is hosting a Women's Retreat October 28-30, 2011.

Some of the activities include Music, Yoga, Dancing, Writing and Creative Expression.

For registration or for more information, go to www.mountaincenters.org/pages/calendar.php and select the Women's Wellness Retreat or call (828) 526-5838.



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
Bible Workbench	Library	Sundays 5 mins. after first service ends	George Weir (704) 708-4211
Dances of Universal Peace	Sanctuary	7:00 p.m. Quarterly; (November 19 th)	Rev. Emi Miller (704) 910-5880
Economics and UU Principles	Schweitzer	7:00 p.m. Wednesdays	Paul Gubert (704) 554-0611
Exploring Humanism	Library	7:00 p.m. 2 nd Thursday (October 13 th)	Rich Greene rkgreen66@gmail.com
Jabberwocks	Library	10:00 a.m. 3 rd Friday	Doris Thomas Browder
Lotus Path	Schweitzer	8:00 a.m. Sundays	Richard Kushmaul (see staff listing p.8)
Mystics and Metaphysics	Schweitzer	7:00 p.m. 3 rd Tuesday (October 18 th)	Judy Reynolds
Parabola Series	Library	7:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 12 th	Carol Smith (704) 953-4146
Preschool Parent Support Group	Freeman Hall	6:00 p.m. 3 rd Friday (October 21 st)	Mark Fleming (704) 299-6134 flemingma@gmail.com
Sunday Morning Meditation	Schweitzer	8:30 a.m. Sundays	Rich Vreeland (704) 290-8620; Debbie George (704) 763-2193
Straight Spouse Support Group	Chapel	7:00 p.m. 1 st Wednesday	Sage Brook (704) 366-7983
Women's Moon Circle	Chapel	7:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 11 th	Cindy Thomson (704) 968-1404
Women's Support Group	Priestley	7:00 p.m. 2 nd Tuesday	Karen Achor (704) 847-2081
UUCC Handwork Group	Priestley	7:00 p.m. 3 rd Tuesday	Kat Weisz (704) 321-9067; Vivian Brenner (704) 841-1624
Yoga	Nursery	7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays	Bill Cooke (704) 364-2107

VOICES

Volume 36, Issue 17

USPS 346-850

Published biweekly by the

Unitarian Universalist Church of Charlotte

234 N Sharon Amity Rd

Charlotte NC 28211-3004

Postmaster: Please send address corrections to above.

Periodical
Non-Profit Organization
Postage Paid
Charlotte, NC

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I keep my heart flaming, courageous, restless. I feel in my heart all commotions and all contradictions, the joys and sorrows of life. But I struggle to subdue them to a rhythm superior to that of the mind, harsher than that of my heart — to the ascending rhythm of the Universe.

Nikos Kazantzakis in *The Saviors of God*

The deadline for the next **VOICES** is

Sunday, October 9, 2011 for the next issue which will be published on **Wednesday, October 12, 2011**. 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