

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.

SEARCH FOR ASSISTANT MINISTER Q&A

Q: Who is doing the work?

A: *The Assistant Minister Selection Team (AMST), is made up of Carol Gay (Chair), Nancy Hershey, Jay Leach, Moe Moore, Laura Neff, Laurie Reed and Randy Whitt.*

Q: What is the AMST doing now?

A: *The AMST is currently preparing our Congregational Record telling about our church and what kind of position we are offering. This record will be posted for prospective ministers on the UUA Transitions Office website by October 31. The Selection Team is also preparing a more detailed Packet to be shared with prospective ministers in whom we are interested. Applicants will be expressing their interest in November and December and the Selection Team will evaluate their applications as they come in.*

(Continued on page 6)

"WE CULTIVATE LIVES OF GENEROSITY AND RESPONSIBILITY"

Putting action behind sharing our personal abundance

I've never been successful in shaping another person's opinion by telling her what she needs to do. When I look around at the disparity between lives of abundance and lives of want, I have an urge to say, "We have so much while they have so little. We need to do something about that." Can you picture the eye rolling I'd be met with?

In January, I decided that my family was going to make one hundred sandwiches a month for Operation Sandwich run by Urban Ministries to feed our hungry community members. I sent out an email to six of my neighbors and invited them to join me and my sons, explaining that we would be doing this once a month to help feed the hungry in Charlotte. Each of my neighbors emailed a "YES" and a "Thank you. I wanted to help but didn't know how." They all wanted a turn to host the event and wouldn't even think of allowing me to buy the supplies when they hosted.

(Continued on page 4)

UUCS PARTNER CHURCH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

November 12, 7:30 p.m.

Please plan to join us on Saturday, November 12, at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary for our Fall Fundraiser for our Partner Church. Our goal this year is to raise \$2,500 to support the Szabed congregation this coming year. There will be a Hungarian dessert reception in Fellowship Hall following the one hour program of art and music.

UUCS has a 20 year history of involvement in the Partner Church Program and the Szabed Church. During the last 10 years over \$16,000 has been raised to support the Szabed congregation in various projects and many other critical needs. The UUCS / Szabed partner Church relationship was celebrated and enjoyed with a very successful visit this past June by the minister and his wife, Sandor and Tunde Levente, to meet our congregation and to attend the UUA General Assembly. Their visit helped us put a face on our Transylvania partners, making our support all the more personal and rewarding.



(Continued on page 5)

FROM THE MINISTER

For three long Tuesday sessions, eight members of our professional staff joined by Carol Smith met around the tables in the library. We wrestled with the “big questions,” struggled to put into words what we are about, reflected, deeply, on the challenge and opportunities of our work here.

What might help people here feel more deeply connected to one another?

What exactly are we trying to do in Sunday services?

How might we empower members to feel more confident talking about our liberal religion outside these walls?

How do we foster greater spiritual depth in all of the meetings and gatherings that take place here?

Is it really the role of the UUCC to help shape the way the larger Charlotte community thinks?

If being heard is a key part of the experience we’re trying to create together, how do we cultivate the art of listening here?

It was the most powerful, most profound conversation we’ve had in my more than eight years here.

Our reflection was guided by the direction our Board has set for the coming years. Drawing on extensive input and conversation with the congregation, the Board has offered us a “snapshot” of what they think a thriving UUCC should look like in a few years. They have now instructed us to figure out how we can make that ideal picture a reality here.

So, our big question was: if this is who we are supposed to be in a few years, what will we need to do in order to make that happen? The experience of wrestling with all of this was intense. It evoked strong feelings, far-reaching thinking, outbursts of laughter, moments of profound silence, and a deepened clarity both about who we are and about who we could be.

Now it is your turn. If you are a member of this congregation, there’s an opportunity for you to participate as we continue creating this roadmap toward our future. Each of our program Teams will be led in an exercise that will invite reflection and input. We’ll have focus groups engage in that same exercise. We’ll offer a session for the whole congregation. And, we’ll continue having our “Beacon Box” available in Freeman Hall for anyone with an idea to contribute.

Thanks in large measure to some very hard work that our Board has done in the past few months, we are clearer than ever about a future direction for the UUCC. The process of living up to the vision the Board has set before us will ask a

great deal from the professional staff and the members of the UUCC and will offer a great deal to each of us and to those who will join us along the way.

I’m excited about this stage of our “Envision 2015” work and look forward to the ways the profound staff experience can now expand throughout our congregation.

Peace, Jay

**All manifestations of art are but landmarks
in the progress of the human spirit
toward a thing but as yet sensed
and far from being possessed.**

Robert Henri in *The Art Spirit*

Memorial Sunday

Sunday, October 30

One of the essential roles of the spiritual community is to create a setting in which we can both celebrate those who’ve been important in our lives and grieve the loss of family members, friends, and colleagues together. So, each year in the fall, we offer a Memorial Service, an opportunity both to celebrate and to grieve.

Contrary to what some assume, this is not a morose or depressing gathering. Over against what some seem to think, this is not just for those who’ve had some significant loss this year. One of the gifts we offer one another is that of presence, being here to help create a community for those who may need it most at any given time.

The service will include a litany in which those we’ve lost will be named aloud. Perhaps you’ve lost someone important to you between last year’s Memorial Service and this one. If you would like her or his name included in our Memorial Sunday litany, please email me (jay@uuccharlotte.org) with the name and how you are related to that person. You can also write that information on a note and stick it in my mailbox in our office area.

We’ll also create an altar of remembrance at the front of the sanctuary on this day. You are invited to bring a photograph or other memento of someone you’d like to remember on that day and place it on the table as you enter the service.

Leon Spencer to Speak at Services

Sunday, October 23

On Sunday, October 23, I am honored to be hosting Leon Spencer as Guest Speaker in our service. We'll offer a service together on Leon's chosen topic: "Jazz, God and UU Theology: Improvising, Jamming and All That Jazz."

In 2007 Leon Spencer received the Annual Award for Distinguished Service to the Cause of Unitarian Universalism, the highest award given in our denomination. He has been an important leader in our movement for decades. He was one of the co-founders of the European Unitarian Universalist Conference (a coalition of UU fellowships and congregations in Europe), and has been on the UUA's Board of Trustees, a part of the Black Concerns Working Group, the UUA's Racial and Cultural Diversity Task Force, and the Board of the Meadville Lombard Theological School. He has long been a leader in our own district serving on its Board as our President.

Leon holds a doctorate in psychology and is an associate professor in counseling psychology at Georgia Southern University. Acclaimed for his "warmth and wit and sagacity and stories," it will be a treat to have this opportunity to hear Leon Spencer at the UUC.

Set the Tone for the Holiday Season

All ages are welcomed

Join members of the Congregational Care and the Children and Youth Religious Education (CYRE) teams on Saturday, November 19th at 1:30 p.m. in Freeman Hall, as we prepare crafts



for our holiday care baskets. These baskets will go to members of our congregation who need cheering up this holiday season. It will be an afternoon of food, family fun, and a message about the power of giving; a message that reflects our values as Unitarian Universalists.

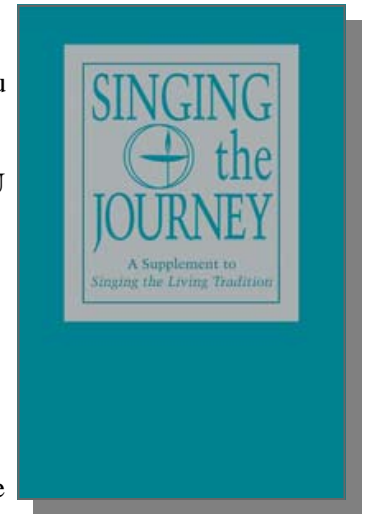
We welcome people of all ages. You don't have to be a child or parent to join us in this multigenerational event! It is laid back and a great way to set the tone for the holiday season. We will need a few volunteers to help with crafts and some donations of food.

If you can help, contact one of the following coordinators: Becky Whittington becky@uuccharlotte.org, Sheila Lay smklay@yahoo.com, Lisa Russell-Pinson lisa@freecloud.com.

MUSIC NEWS

Singing the Journey Is Here

For those who attended the contemporary service on Saturday evening, October 8, you had a chance to witness the vibrant and energetic music from the latest resource in UU hymnody, *Singing the Journey*. The music calls for a fresh approach to hymn accompaniment, and on Saturday night a quartet of piano, flute, drums and string bass accompanied lively singing led by members of our Adult Choir. Members of our Chime Ensemble also contributed to the evening, playing a reflective offertory and accompanying "Blue Boat Home," the closing hymn. Many thanks to members of the Adult Choir, Chime Ensemble, Scott Whitesell on piano, Rich Greene on bass, and guest drummer Meredith Butterworth for your uplifting music. Our appreciation also goes to past Music Team members who advocated the purchase of the supplement: Jim Alexander, Kevin Edwards, Kathy Kraus and Betsey Sesler.



The push to create a new hymn supplement was led by past UUA President William Sinkford, who in 2003 appointed a New Hymn Resource Task Force. For two years a team of musicians and ministers compiled hymns through the UU Musicians Network, the UU Ministers Association and through UU World and the UUA Website. In part, it was an attempt to keep our hymnody fresh, but also an effort to nurture our spirits and breathe new life into our worship experiences. Also, as UU public witness grows, we need songs to remind us who we are and what we can be in the world. *Singing the Journey* was published in 2005, and it serves as a companion to our hymnal, *Singing the Living Tradition*, published in 1993.

—John Herrick, Director of Music

**The good things grow better.
There is always a new surprise
each time you see them.**

Robert Henri in *The Art Spirit*

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.

Mystics and Metaphysics

Tuesday, October 18th at 7:00 p.m. in Schweitzer

This month our presenter, Cheryl Jesitus, will explain Deep Trance Channeling and demonstrate her ability to channel her spirit guide, Moreen. In addition, she will present Susan Cox with a drawing of Susan's spirit guide, which was awarded by lottery last month. Bebe Daniel, our last month presenter (so well received) will be with us also.

This I Believe – This I Practice

October 23 at 10:30 a.m. in the Chapel; speaker: Cindy Thomson

The UU principle that says "A free and responsible search for truth and meaning" resonates with me. However, I am more about meaning than truth because I don't believe I can know the truth or that I'm really supposed to know it. I see myself on a journey through this life. I don't know where I was before I was here and I don't know where I'll be when it is over. All I can know is this life. It means a lot to me to be in the company of fellow travelers. —Cindy Thomson

4th Friday Film Series

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

October 28 (Wonder)
Schultze Gets the Blues
(Germany, 2003)

Starring Horst Krause. Directed by Michael Schorr. Schultze (Krause), a recently retired miner, spends his days drinking with his friends and playing the accordion. But when he hears Zydeco music on the radio late one night, his mundane life is turned upside down. An unusual film about what happens when one's soul is liberated through the power of music. Rated PG. German with English subtitles.



Jesus and Buddha, The Parallel Sayings - Part II

Sunday, October 30, 10:30 a.m. in the Chapel

From the Marcus Borg authored book of the same title, "Jesus and Buddha, two of the greatest holy beings to ever walk the earth and inspiration to billions, are now meeting in an encounter of the spirit in the West". For the second session, we will pick up where we left off with consideration of Jesus and Buddha's sayings on materialism. Also, questions from the first session will be addressed.



What Is The Right Thing To Do?

Sunday, November 6 at 2:30 p.m. Chapel

This program considering justice and equity concepts will be based on a series of popular lectures by Harvard Professor and American political philosopher Michael Sandel. Sandel subscribes to a certain version of communitarianism, and in this vein he is perhaps best known for his critique of John Rawls's *A Theory of Justice*.

**We are not here to do what has
already been done.**

Robert Henri in *The Art Spirit*

(*"Cultivate Lives"* continued from page 1)

We've met nine times now, and each time we are amazed that 100 sandwiches take about 15 minutes to make. That's all. Fifteen minutes and 100 people have sustenance. The kids and the moms have time together and an opportunity to answer the kids' questions, such as "Why are people hungry?" and "Why are people homeless?" These questions are all starting points to further discussion; they are the capital letter needed to start another question and another answer.

It all started with an invitation. As beacons of progressive thought and action, we at the UUC are compelled to look for ways to send invitations as we strive to share our personal abundance. It's fun. Give it a try!

Katy Ridnour, Member, Board of Trustees

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH (CYRE)

UU Parenting Course Offered

Join other UU parents for a class specific to “UU parenting” based on the book, “Tending the Flame,” by UU religious educator, Michelle Richards. The class will be held every Sunday from 1:30pm to 3pm, October 16 – December 11. The 8 sessions will be led by Kathleen Carpenter, Director of RE for Children and Youth and Rachel Fleming, a member of our CYRE Team. While regular participation is strongly encouraged, attendance at all the sessions is not required. All participants should have a copy of the book which can be ordered from the UUA Bookstore at <http://www.uuabookstore.org/searchproducts.cfm>. (Or contact Kathleen who might have an extra copy you can buy.) Contact Kathleen with questions or to sign up.



Middle School Youth

Mountain Con:
All youth must be registered online and money turned into the CYRE Office by October 23. The Con will be held November 4-6.

Challenge Course:
All forms must be turned in along with the \$10 fee by October 23. Class is canceled on October 23 so the group can all participate in the course.

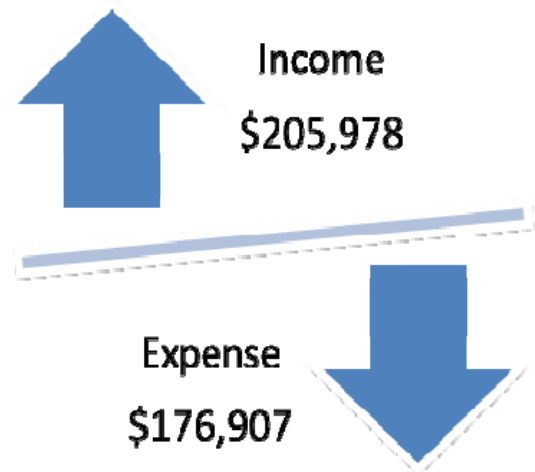
A great painter will know a great deal about how he did it, but still he will say, “How did I do it?” The real artist’s work is a surprise to himself.

Robert Henri in *The Art Spirit*

(“Partner Church” continued from page 1)

Our program will feature two distinguished Charlotte musicians: Tanja Bechtler and Rosemary Furniss. Please see their very impressive biographies at the Partner Church table in Fellowship Hall. To reach our goal of \$2,500, we’re asking for a “donate-as-you can” contribution for tickets which will be available at the Partner Church Table after Sunday services. *Do you have a Hungarian dessert or pastry that you would like to feature for the evening? If so, please contact ekushmaul@carolina.rr.com*

FINANCIAL OUTLOOK IS POSITIVE



Through the month of September, our income was up and our expenses were down. So far this year we have received \$205,978 and have spent a total of \$176,907. October receipts and expenses are shaping up to be on target as well. Pledge receipts continue to come in at a healthy pace and our finance team reports that our books have been reconciled.

Please keep in mind that November and December are ahead and that our most critical income is received during those months. Your keeping your pledges current and making sure that we enter the winter months with a good bank balance will be sincerely appreciated. Thanks again to all those who completed their 2010 – 2011 pledges on schedule. Your support makes it possible for us to offer the programs, services and opportunities that make our congregation a beacon of Liberal Religion in Charlotte.

NURSERY POSITION OPEN

We have an opening in our nursery for an Adult Caregiver. The position pays \$10.50/hour. The Caregiver works two Sundays a month, 8:45am-12:45pm and is paired with a paid youth worker. If interested, contact Kathleen Carpenter at Kathleen@uuccharlotte.org and she will send you a copy of the job description and respond to any questions.

Many thanks to Sharon Roberts for her service over the past year - and to her daughter, Lily, who accompanied her each week and was a huge help in caring for our youngest UUs. You will both be missed.

SEARCH FOR ASSISTANT MINISTER Q&A CONT'

Q: What will the Assistant Minister do?

A: *The duties and responsibilities of the Assistant Minister will be distributed among five major areas: Adult Religious Education/Spiritual Development, Community Building, Congregational Care, Social Justice and Professional Ministry.*

Q: When will the Assistant Minister be selected?

A: *A candidate will likely be selected by late March 2012.*

Q: When will the assistant minister begin working at the UUCC?

A: *The Assistant Minister is expected to begin work in August 2012.*

Q. Where will the assistant minister's office be?

A. *The plans are to reconfigure the work room (between the front office and the library) to provide the Assistant Minister an office and still have a smaller work room space.*

Q: Why does this search process take so long?

A: *The AMST is following a schedule established by the UUA, which, though not required for hiring an Assistant Minister, will provide the highest level of awareness and best pool of candidates.*

SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITIES

Social Justice Opportunities for ALL Ages

New Housing Fund To *CHIP*

Learn About Volunteer and Investment Opportunities---October 22 from 1:30 to 3:30

Our congregation's experiences with, and growing knowledge of, affordable housing issues have prompted two UUCC members to create a new resource for builders of needed affordable housing. Named the **Charlotte Housing Investment Partnership---CHIP**---the loan fund for builders and rehabilitators of workforce, entry-level, and supported housing will be capitalized primarily by low-interest loans from "social investors", with an initial focus on members of Charlotte faith communities. CHIP is being modeled after a successful fund in the DC metro area built largely by a group of UU churches led by Melissa Mummert's uncle.

The key partners are in place, the initial borrower has been identified, and the fund is readying for start-up. Come learn about this exciting new AHHA-inspired initiative in the sanctuary on the afternoon of October 22 . Help Roger Coates, Doug Swaim, Fred Dodson, and members of the Social Justice team welcome invited guests from other congregations and institutions to the launch of this promising venture. *Put your assets where your values are!*

Gleaning

Saturday, October 22

Gleaning, the old biblical practice of picking the leftover crop from a harvested field and donating it to the hungry, is alive and well in the Charlotte area. Join UUCC members, young and old, as we head out to an outlying county to a farm to pick turnips and turnip greens. We will meet at the church at 10 am, drive about an hour to the fields, pick veggies, and return around 3pm. Email Beth Kinny at bkkinny@carolina.rr.com if you plan to attend for carpooling purposes.



Sandwich-Making

Sunday, October 23

Join other volunteers of all ages as we engage in another hour or so of sandwich making. All 400+ sandwiches are donated to the Urban Ministry Center the next day. If you can help with set up (12:45-1:15), contact Kathleen Carpenter.

Urban Ministry Center Needs Volunteer Job Counselors

The Urban Ministry Center is an interfaith organization that serves poor and homeless people -- *our neighbors* -- with love, compassion and many basic services and programs in Charlotte. They are seeking volunteers to help neighbors search and apply for jobs and create or improve their resumes in the center's computer lab any weekday morning or afternoon. Training is provided as well as information about other agencies and organizations where people can get further help and skills training. Questions, contact Stacey Irwin at (704) 926-0610 or volunteer@urbanministrycenter.org.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

Open Mind Book Club

Monday, November 7th

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

**There are mighty few people who think
what they think they think.**

Robert Henri in *The Art Spirit*

New Member Potluck

Sunday, October 23rd

There will be a New Member Potluck for all of our members on the evening of Sunday, October 23rd at 5:30 pm. Anyone who considers themselves a new member is welcome to come and get better acquainted. New members who plan to attend, please RSVP to Courtney McLaughlin at courtney@uuccharlotte.org.



Mark Your Calendars, UU Womyn: Luna Rising 2012

To be held on January 28

January seems a long time away, but we know how calendars magically fill up. Please mark your calendars now for the *Third Annual Luna Rising: A Celebration of Womyn and Girls!* This daylong event is scheduled for Saturday, January 28 and is open to both UUs and likeminded women and girls (7+ years). Registration will begin in December.

We're starting early this year to make this the best Luna Rising ever. We've already recruited some dynamite new workshop leaders – but we need more! We're increasing the number of workshops offered to provide more diversity and to accommodate the anticipated increase in participants. Past workshops have included Yoga, Baking Sacred Bread, Drumming, When God was a Woman, Creating your own Credo, Nia, Qiqong for Clarity, Confidence and Courage, and Meditation. Send your workshop ideas to Kathleen Carpenter (Kathleen@uuccharlotte.org).

We are also looking for a few good leaders to serve on our planning committee. If interested, please contact Kimberly Melton kmelton@kmelton.com or Marsha Pepper Marshpep@aol.com.

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 (November 10 th)	Rich Greene rkgreene66@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)
Preschool Parent Support Group	Freeman Hall	6:00 p.m. 3 rd Friday (October 21 st)	Mark Fleming (704) 299-6134 flemingma@gmail.com
Sci-Fi Sundays November	Chapel	2:00 pm. 2 nd Sunday (November 13 th) Reading "Hell is the Absence of God"	Bob Gorman gormanr@winthrop.edu
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	Schweitzer	7:00 p.m. Thursday, November 10 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

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Address Label

It is necessary to work very continuously and valiantly, and never apologetically. In fact, to be ever on the job so that we may find ourselves there, brush in hand, when the great moment does arrive.

Robert Henri in *The Art Spirit*

The deadline for the next **VOICES** is **Sunday, October 23, 2011** for the next issue which will be published on **Wednesday, October 26, 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