



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.

## KIDS IN A BOX – AND ADULTS, TOO!

September 23 at 6:00 p.m.



“Kids in a Box” is a multigenerational Social Justice Project, designed to teach our children about homelessness in a safe, non-threatening way. It is scheduled for Friday, September 23 on the grounds of the UCC. Please sign up by Wednesday, September 21. The event begins at 6:00 p.m. and ends the next morning, Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 a.m.

Families must bring their own boxes (appliance boxes work best) or tents. There will be a time to set up and decorate the boxes, which they will sleep in that night, on one of the playgrounds. Sleeping in Freeman Hall is an option, as is staying for activities and then leaving later that night. A meal similar to ones offered in soup kitchens will be served and there will be various activities that will be both fun and educational. The idea is not to scare the children, but to help them develop empathy.

We recommend “Kids in a Box” for families with children ages K-8<sup>th</sup> grade. The middle school youth will have leadership roles as desired. The High School Youth Social Justice Team will provide leadership and spend the night on the other playground.

We need volunteers to help:

- plan the Friday night multigenerational worship service
- plan the Saturday morning closing circle
- shop for the soup and bread
- prepare the dinner
- lead activities on Friday night after the worship

To volunteer, contact Kathleen at [Kathleen@uuccharlotte.org](mailto:Kathleen@uuccharlotte.org).

## THE UCC WELCOMES BELINA PARRY

Belinda Parry is hired as new Administrative Assistant

The professional staff of the UCC is pleased to welcome Belinda Parry as our part-time administrative assistant. Belinda has been a member of the UCC for several years and has been an active participant in the religious education program for children and youth (CYRE). In that capacity, Belinda has produced videos for Spirit Play and has experience in organizing volunteers. A graduate of UNCC, Belinda has been previously working in the banking industry.

Already on the job, Belinda's duties include supporting both the general office and the CYRE program. She will be working approximately 20 hours each week and will be most often seen on Sundays. Please congratulate Belinda when you see her. We're glad she's here!

## FROM THE MINISTER

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To call the friendship between Phyllis Rodriguez and Aicha el-Wafi “unlikely” would hardly begin to describe just how unusual it is. Rodriguez is a native New Yorker who has spent her life in and around New York City. She’s a retired teacher, an artist, the wife of a professor and is Jewish. El-Wafi grew up in Morocco’s Atlas Mountains and later moved to France. She retired as an official with the national telephone company in France and is a Muslim. From these completely disparate places in life, their lives intersected on September 11, 2001.

Phyllis Rodriguez’ son Greg was employed at Cantor Fitzgerald and worked in the World Trade Center. He was among the fatalities of the attacks on those towers. Aicha el-Wafi’s son is Zacarias Moussaoui who is now serving a life sentence as one of the co-conspirators of those attacks.

In November 2002 Phyllis Rodriguez and her husband were in a small group of relatives who had lost family members on 9/11 invited to meet Aicha el-Wafi. From that initial encounter a friendship blossomed and the two women have now appeared together in wide-ranging speaking engagements. They have shared openly from their individual pain and have served as a source of comfort and support for one another.

Aware that by now many of us are fatigued by the recent intense focus on the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy, and having shared a portion of these women’s story in our service on September 11, 2011, it nonetheless seems worth considering this remarkable tale in this setting.

Their story has a precedent in one of Jesus’ curious parables. It’s one he told in response to a particular question. Aware of the injunction to “love my neighbor as myself,” someone asked Jesus, “Who is my neighbor?” So, Jesus told the tale many of us know about the Jewish traveler who was assaulted and left for dead on the side of the road. Certain people saw him but refused to stop and help. At last, along came a Samaritan. The Jews and the Samaritans regarded one another with suspicion, even enmity. But, in Jesus’ tale it was the Samaritan who stopped, tended the wounded man’s needs, and generously provided for his care. Jesus concludes his narrative answer with another question, “Who in the story was a neighbor?”

We don’t know Phyllis Rodriguez or Aicha el-Wafi personally and have no way of knowing the actual depth of their connection. There’s even a recent report to suggest that they may now be estranged. But that they were able to engage in any way, that they were able to find compassion for one another, that they were able both to console and to be

consoled by the other, isn’t that something to consider in our lives?

Who is my neighbor? The one with whom I agree? The one who shares my religious, social and political views? The one whose perspective poses no threat to my own, who talks and thinks and acts like me? Just how similar do I need to be with someone in order to consider her my neighbor?

At the conclusion of a TED talk that Aicha el-Wafi and Phyllis Rodriguez offered together, Aicha El-Wafi declared: “. . . we have to try to know other people, the other. You have to be generous, and your hearts must be generous, your mind must be generous. You must be tolerant. You have to fight against violence. And I hope that someday we’ll all live together in peace and respecting each other.”

In our own statement of aspirations, we here say that each of us is “working with others to overcome the barriers that divide the human family” and that we are cultivating “lives of generosity, sharing our personal abundance.”

Do you have a story, a personal story of an unlikely friendship? Is there some respectful, compassionate relationship in your life that transcends profound difference? I’d love to hear it. Contact me at [jay@uuccharlotte.org](mailto:jay@uuccharlotte.org).

Who is your neighbor? To whom might you choose to respond with generosity and tolerance? You may remember Lao-Tse’s teaching:

If there is to be peace in the world,  
there must be peace in the nations.  
If there is to be peace in the nations,  
there must be peace in the cities.  
If there is to be peace in the cities,  
there must be peace between neighbors.

Peace, Jay

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## CONGREGATIONAL CARE ITEMS

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*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](mailto:becky@uuccharlotte.org) or at (704) 996-9228.*

## SUNDAYS AT THE UCC

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### The Worship Team

The Worship Team meets monthly with Jay and John to discuss our process of worship. We evaluate services, plan for services in Jay's absence, develop themes for the summer worship series, and contemplate more serious subjects like candle meltdown dangers. We brainstorm and entertain ideas about what will make the experience of worship more meaningful. We'd like to hear your ideas about what has been significant for you in worship services, and/or what didn't work. The following team members are grateful to receive that (mindfully) spoken input: Nancy Cook, Mark Fox, Sheila Lay, Camilla Mazzotta, Pete Moore, Doug Sea, Meghan Van Fleet and Judy Weingarten.



### Commemorate Your Special Occasion with Flowers

Commemorate a birthday, an anniversary or acknowledge a special person or event by donating fresh flowers for the niche. Call Alesia in the office (704) 366-8623 to reserve the Sunday you want. Then send a check for \$43 to the office, and we'll handle the rest.

### Podcasts of Jay's Sunday Sermons Available on UCC Website

If you have missed a recent Sunday service or you would like to hear a podcast of just Jay's Sunday sermons, please visit our website at [http://www.ucccharlotte.org/all\\_podcasts.asp](http://www.ucccharlotte.org/all_podcasts.asp). Sermons are also available on iTunes and our RSS feed.

### Audio Copies of Sunday Services

If you have missed a service and would like to hear it, there is a loaner copy available in the Library that can be checked out. If you would like to purchase a CD copy of any of our Sunday services you may do so for only \$5. Stop by our bookstore in Freeman Hall after Sunday services to request a copy or contact Bill Cooke at (704) 364-2107. If you currently have copies of the Sunday Services checked out, please return them as soon as possible.

At times of despair, we must learn to see  
with new eyes.

South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu

## MUSIC NEWS

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### New Singing Opportunity

For those unable to keep up with the weekly choir rehearsals and any who are looking for an opportunity to sing, we need you. This fall, the music program is launching a new come-as-you-can choir, entitled "Song Leaders." This ad hoc choir will lead hymn singing when the choirs are not scheduled to sing and will meet 15 minutes before the hour (8:45 a.m. and 9:45 a.m.) to go over hymn selections. Song Leaders will sing on the following Sundays (both services, though if only one is possible for you, that's fine too): September 25, October 9 and 30, November 6 and 27, December 4 and 18 and January 1. We have a number of individuals already signed up, so please consider joining us -- the more the merrier. For more information and to sign up, please contact John Herrick, Director of Music.

### Potlucks & Music in the Sanctuary

They're Back!

Based on the success of last year's community potluck and music events, the Music and Community Building Teams will again collaborate on several events this year. The first will take place on Saturday, October 8 and is entitled "Sing Fest!," a family-friendly sing-a-long featuring music from the UU hymn supplement, *Singing the Journey (STJ)*. The congregation was introduced to a number of *STJ* songs at our recent Community/Water Ceremony Service on August 28. On December 17, our Winter Solstice Celebration will be held and will feature our own Beacon Street Band and Chamber Choir. Additional events will be taking place in the near year – Jazz Vespers, "Hear My Voice," an Urban Ministry Center and UCC collaboration, and a Songwriter Concert – dates will be announced in subsequent issues of *Voices*. All community potlucks begin at 6:00 p.m. with the music portion beginning at 7:30 p.m. Please plan to join us and invite your friends.



## ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

### 4<sup>th</sup> Friday Film Series

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

#### September 23 (Justice) — *The Lives of Others*

Starring Ulrich Mühe. Directed by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck. When a top agent for the Stasi (Muhe) is ordered to bug the apartment of East Germany's leading playwright, he soon discovers that there is more going on than he initially realized. What is the nature of justice in a totalitarian state? Rated R for some sexuality/nudity.

### This I Believe This I Practice

Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. in the Chapel

"My spiritual journey is a work in progress. I was raised Christian and toured through Episcopalian, Lutheran and Presbyterian denominations for the first 18 years. Then spent the next 20 years away from church. I discovered the UCC in 2008 during a crossroads in my life. I had been searching for deeper meaning in my life and wanted to connect spiritually and socially with like-minded people in my community. That is when my journey really began." Come hear more about **Susan Furtney's** personal journey.

### What Is The Right Thing To Do?

Starting Sunday, October 2 at 2:30 p.m. Chapel  
with *Vivian Brenner and Bob Gorman*



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. Professor Sandel is best known for this course which he has taught at Harvard for the past twenty years.

More than 15,000 students have taken this course making it one of the most highly attended in Harvard's history. 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*.

### Men's Group II

Starting Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>

A second men's group will be forming under the initial mentoring guidance of the current on-going group (I). Goals of this group will include building community and developing closer ties with other UCC members, sharing and support of personal life experiences, religious and philosophical discussion / exploration / study, and service to the Church and the community. A member from group I will participate and help guide the forming group for the initial six weeks. The program of the first meetings will be suggested and guided by the mentoring leaders.

**We should be generous in our judgments of others, for we can never really know all there is to know about another.**

**South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu**

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Topic Discussion

Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> 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**

### Writing Your Spiritual Journey

Starting October 10 (Enrollment Limited to 12)  
with *Kathleen Moloney Tarr*

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. Perhaps you seek continuity between your inner world and the outer world, between your past self and who you are now, or between what you claim to believe and how you live. It is with curiosity and an eye to the sacred in each life that we write our stories.

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.

**Differences are not intended to separate, to alienate. We are different precisely in order to realize our need of one another.**

**South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH (CYRE)

### Tending the Flame: The Art of Unitarian Universalist Parenting

Fall UU Parenting Class

*Sharing our personal religious and spiritual beliefs with our children is not indoctrination. It is offering the wisdom and insight that they eagerly seek from us- just as they look to us for guidance when choosing between right and wrong courses of action. If we are vague and ambiguous when our children ask us theological questions, we lose our opportunity to have a positive influence on them in this area. Eventually, they'll stop asking us religious questions and look for answers elsewhere.*

-from "Tending the Flame"

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 UUC 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 follow the outline of the book and will include teaching the Principles in age-appropriate ways, answering difficult questions on religious matters and dealing with religious disagreements. While attendance at all eight classes is not a requirement, a commitment to attend the majority is appreciated.

The class will be held Sunday afternoons from 1:30-3:00pm, beginning October 16. Register at the Adult RE table in Freeman Hall or by emailing Kathleen at [kathleen@uuccharlotte.org](mailto: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.

## New To Our Church?

Visitors are welcome to bring their children to our CYRE classes; however, we do request that children be registered within three visits so that we can add them to our email list for important updates. To help visiting parents decide if our program meets their goals for their children's religious education, we encourage them to pick up a copy our Program Prospectus. These, along with copies of each class' curriculum summary, are available on the table immediately inside the RE wing. Registration forms are available on that table and on the church website at [http://www.uuccharlotte.org/all\\_religious\\_education.asp](http://www.uuccharlotte.org/all_religious_education.asp). Families must commit to attend one session only (9:15 or 11:15).

## Family Picnics on the Playground

Sunday, September 25 after both services

Join other families for a brunch (after the first service) and a lunch (after the second). Bring a dish to share; drinks and paper products will be provided. This is a great way to meet other families and parents while the kids play.

No need to RSVP; just show up! However, if you can help set up the tables and chairs before the first service, please email Kathleen Carpenter.



## Mountain Conference (CON) Orientation

Sunday, September 25 at 1:15pm

Cons are weekend-long, age-based (grades 3<sup>rd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>) retreats held at the UU-affiliated Mountain Retreat and Learning Center in Highlands, NC. Children and their parents must attend this Orientation in order to participate in one of our wonderful youth cons. Attendance at the Orientation is waived if a child is NOT moving up to the next age level (6<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup>) and has attended a previous orientation.

*For more information about the preceding information or our Children and Youth Religious Education (CYRE) program contact Kathleen Carpenter at [kathleen@uuccharlotte.org](mailto:kathleen@uuccharlotte.org).*

Many people ask me what I have learned from all of the experiences in my life, and I say unhesitatingly: People are wonderful. It is true. People really *are* wonderful.

South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu

## OPEN DOOR SCHOOL



### ODS School Year Kicks Off

The 45<sup>th</sup> year kicked off on September 6<sup>th</sup> and everything is running smoothly. Our half-day program is completely full, but we still have several open spaces in our Full Day class (A 3, 4, and 5 year old mixed age classroom that runs M-F 7:00-5:45.) If you or someone you know may be interested in full time child care with a progressive philosophy, please spread the word. For more information call (704) 364-1521.

### Fundraising News

UUCC members are invited and encouraged to participate in the ODS fundraising efforts. The vast majority of money made through fundraising goes directly to the Financial Aid Fund. Here are ways you can help:

- We currently have **Citipass books** for sale in the office. Citipass books are full of valuable coupons to be used for significant savings at area restaurants, activity spots, and stores. The books are \$25 each, and if you purchase five you get one free!
- Link your Harris Teeter VIC card! Our number is **2752**.
- The Open Door School autumn **T-shirt sale** is kicking off and will run through October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Outside the ODS office (in the CYRE hallway) are shirt samples and images. We're offering tie-dyed t-shirts, black and white t-shirts, hoodies and thermal lunchboxes. If you are interested in ordering a shirt or lunchbox with the ODS logo on it, the order form and ordering instructions can be found on the front page of the ODS website at [www.opendoorschool.org](http://www.opendoorschool.org).
- We also have **car magnets** and **bumper stickers** on sale in the office for \$5 each.
- In November we'll have our annual Harvest Bake Sale between services, as well as a Crafter's Sale. More information to come.

2011/12  
UUCC CHILDREN'S CHOIR



Begins Sunday, September 25  
10:30 am Priestley Room  
K - 5<sup>th</sup> grade

## DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS

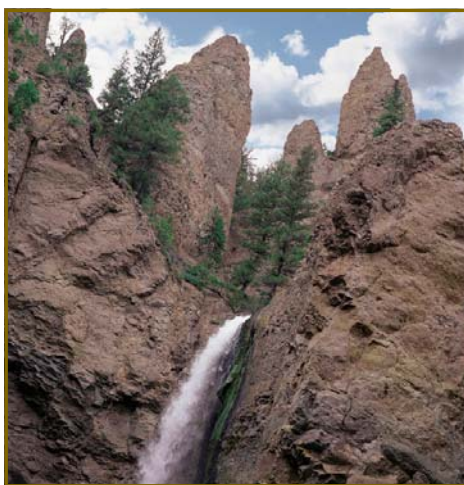
### "Budrus" Showing Piedmont UU Church

Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

"Budrus", the film chosen to be shown at General Assembly last June, will be shown at Piedmont UU Church on Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Edie Garwood, Amnesty International country specialist for Israel/Palestine, will update us on current attempts at nonviolent resistance in the West Bank. An "Official Selection" in 21 worldwide film festivals; it won awards in 9 of them, making it one of the most honored recent documentaries. For more information contact Mimi Davis at (704) 499-3918 or [davisxyz@hotmail.com](mailto:davisxyz@hotmail.com).

### Women's Retreat

A Weekend of Rejuvenation at the Mountain



Could you use a Weekend of Rejuvenation? Would you like to spend a gorgeous weekend in the refreshing, cool North Carolina mountains? The Mountain is hosting a Women's Retreat October 28-30, 2011. Some of the activities include Music, Yoga, Dancing, Writing

and Creative Expression. The Rev. Amy Carol Webb will be there to share her talents as a song weaver and storyteller. For registration or for more information, go to [www.mountaincenters.org/pages/calendar.php](http://www.mountaincenters.org/pages/calendar.php) and select the Women's Wellness Retreat or call (828) 526-5838.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

### Charlotte's International Day of Peace

Wednesday, September 21, 7:00 p.m. at Shalom Park

Charlotte will join the world for the International Day of Peace on September 21, 2011. Over 100 million people from all faith traditions around the world create a twenty-four hour Circle of Prayer for Peace by participating in local celebrations. Several hundred people will gather to listen to speakers, including Rev. Jay Leach. Representatives from Charlotte's Religious and Spiritual Traditions, including Christians, Buddhists, Hindus, Jews, Moslems, Unitarians and others will present "Pathways to Peace: How our Diverse, Interfaith Community Can Work Together to Create Peace in the coming year."

Local choirs led by John Herrick will provide music from many traditions which will entertain attendees and inspire thoughts of peace. The event will take place at 7:00 p.m., at the Sam Lerner Center for Cultural Arts, Shalom Park. International Peace Day is presented annually by United Religions Initiative of Charlotte. For more information, please call Dr. Emi Miller at (704) 804-3353 or visit <http://internationaldayofpeace.org>.

### Open Mind Book Club

Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>

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

### "I Want My FTV!"

Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>

What's the best entertainment deal in UU town? No, not a meeting of the Board of Trustees, although that's close. For the past 18 years, it's been the annual UUCU Follies, and it's coming again on October 15<sup>th</sup>. This year's show ventures into reality TV with programs such as "Jay and Melissa at Home," "The Real Gays of Mecklenburg County," and much more! We begin with a reception in Freeman Hall at 6:30 p.m. The show follows at 7:30 in the Sanctuary. Admission is free--a bargain at twice the price! Childcare will be provided.



### AHHA EVALUATION

As we reach the end of the third full year of involvement in our Social Justice initiative, Affordable Housing and Homelessness Action (AHHA), it's time to evaluate what has been accomplished so far. We are all continually learning how to do social justice work more effectively, and we would like to have your input. If you have something to communicate to the Social Justice Team and you have not already been contacted, please email either Linda Sterner or Marsha Kelly with your thoughts.

### ONGOING GROUP MEETINGS

Newcomers and drop-ins are welcome! For more information about these groups please visit [www.uuccharlotte.org](http://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 <sup>th</sup> )	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 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday (October 13 <sup>th</sup> )	Rich Greene <a href="mailto:rkgreen66@gmail.com">rkgreen66@gmail.com</a>
Jabberwocks	Library	10:00 a.m. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday	Doris Thomas Browder
Lotus Path	Schweitzer	8:00 a.m. Sundays	Richard Kushmaul (see staff listing p.8)
Parabola Series	Library	7:00 p.m. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday (October 11 <sup>th</sup> )	Carol Smith (704) 953-4146
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 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday	Sage Brook (704) 366-7983
Women's Moon Circle	Chapel	7:00 p.m. Monday, October 10 <sup>th</sup>	Cindy Thomson (704) 968-1404
Women's Support Group	Priestley	7:00 p.m. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	Karen Achor (704) 847-2081
UUCU Handwork Group	Priestley	7:00 p.m. 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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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Phone: (704) 364-1521

Sheila Locklear, Interim Director

e-mail: [sheila.locklear@opendoorschool.org](mailto:sheila.locklear@opendoorschool.org)

Address Label

**A time of crisis is not just a time of anxiety and worry. It gives a chance, an opportunity, to choose well or to choose badly.**

**South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu**

The deadline for the next **VOICES** is

**Sunday, September 25, 2011** for the next issue which will be published on **Wednesday, September 28, 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](mailto:uucc@uuccharlotte.org)