



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.

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

Service times 9:15 & 11:15

Summer Series:

**"Bridging the Gaps:
Celebrating Differences,
Creating Harmony**

Sunday, July 4, 2010

E Pluribus Unum

Loyd Dillon, Guest Speaker
Carol Gay, Lay Service Leader

Sunday, July 11, 2010

**Naming Our Struggles—
The First Step in
Creating Harmony**

Mary Frances Comer, Guest Speaker
Brad Smith, Lay Service Leader

Sunday, July 18, 2010

**The Struggle of Living
Into Our Values**

Susan Cox, Guest Speaker

Sunday, July 25, 2010

**Channing, China, and the
Challenge of the Other**

David Mohler, Guest Speaker
Janet Frederick,
Lay Service Leader

Sunday, August 1, 2010

**You Never Get a Second Chance:
Bridging the Gap Between Being
"Welcomed" and "Welcoming"**

Barbara Busey, Guest Speaker
Susan Furtney, Lay Service Leader

NEW DIRECTOR HIRED FOR OPEN DOOR SCHOOL (ODS)

Amy Schofield begins her new role Monday, July 5

After a thorough search and interview process, The ODS Managing Team hired a new director for the Open Door School (ODS). Amy Schofield will be moving from Columbia, South Carolina and will begin officially on July 5. We are very excited about our new leadership for the school while continuing the tradition of progressive education. We look forward to introducing Amy to our church and school community after she gets settled in!

We would also like to thank all of those who participated in this process, including the parents and teachers who provided invaluable feedback, and the search committee members who sorted through countless resumes and prepared a cohesive interview process. Many thanks for your commitment of time and expertise!



WE MADE A DIFFERENCE . . . AGAIN

CYRE Youth Make a Difference at Hartsville Habitat for Humanity Build

For the last four years as their annual mission trip, our CYRE youth have worked with the Habitat for Humanity affiliate in Hartsville, SC. During the week of June 13, our youth worked hard, building a house and doing other volunteer work in the larger community. They were joined for one day by a van load of UCC adults who also pitched in. The following is from a note of appreciation from the chair of the Darlington County Habitat for Humanity affiliate, Richard Cook.

Richard says, "I just wanted to send you a short follow up note to say THANK YOU again for all of your team's work last week. Your church's dedication to Darlington County Habitat over the past four years has truly been amazing. The amount of work accomplished last week was great, and having so many people from UCC involved (including the extra adults who arrived on June 17) made it even more special this year. I hope your team had a great time and felt appreciated. I think all had a good time. Our board wanted to make sure that you all know how much we appreciate what you have done for us over the past four years."

FROM THE MINISTER

“Always we are chasing words,” wrote that great rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, “and always words recede.” A linguistic master, Heschel nonetheless admitted “But the greatest experiences are those for which we have no expression.”

Try as I might, I’ve not captured any words that would adequately express my gratitude at this point. Yesterday’s (Sunday, June 27) sabbatical send-off was a day I’ll not forget. I’m grateful to Martha Kniseley for Chairing the Ministerial Search Committee that called me here in the first place and for sharing in the leadership of these services as we reflected on how we began together and on what has transpired in these seven years. I’m grateful to my colleague John Herrick for once again creating such pitch perfect music for the occasion. I’m grateful to master trumpeter Kevin Clark, to multi-tasker and, on this day, percussionist, Mitchell Kearney, and to the members of our Adult Choir who were even more inspiring than usual. I’m grateful to Carol Gay for crafting such a moving Litany of Departure and for Board Chair Fred Dodson for leading it with such feeling. And, I am grateful to the many of you who were here and was especially touched by your rousing reaction in the 11:15 service.

For several months I have enjoyed working closely with the Sabbatical Planning Team. They more than outdid themselves with yesterday’s receptions. The Walden Pond cake alone was a masterpiece of ingenuity; the beauty and graciousness of the occasion touched us deeply. Janet Lasher’s gorgeous creation that offered the opportunity for you to pen your remarks will be a treasure in our home. We relished reading every word you wrote to us and will do so again and again.

I cherish the opportunity to be the minister of this congregation. When we were in search for a position, this is the one I most hoped for. Even in the most challenging of times, I’ve never stopped feeling lucky to be here. You are a treasure. Objective, numeric information shows this to be one of the largest Unitarian Universalist congregations in the county in terms of membership, participation and financial contributions to district and association activities. My own subjective experience leads me to believe, you’re one of the best, a truly exemplary congregation in so many ways.

Because of that, I want to address directly one comment I have heard. A few of you have admitted that you are assuming my choice to take a sabbatical is a part of my decision to depart the UUCC for some other job in the near future. With all due respect, that assumption could not be

more inaccurate. I am taking a sabbatical precisely because I want to garner new inner resources, generate new creative ideas, learn new ways of thinking about and doing things so I can be more effective in the one job I most want--being the minister of the UUCC.

Why are the questions of those who live at ease so different from those who live in constant struggle?

Mark Belletini from “Question Prayer”

The road ahead together has some major challenges. We face serious, even urgent needs. But, I didn’t accept your call in the first place because I

thought it was going to be easy to be the minister here. And, I will not return with the expectation that the hard work is now done. I was attracted to this role because it seemed I’d be working amidst great challenges, great opportunities and great potential. No matter what transpires for you or for me in these intervening months, I expect to return to new challenges, new opportunities and new potential. I’m already excited about being back here in January with my own new vitality and with an open curiosity about the new vitality you’ve discovered during this time I am away.

I end, for now, with a portion of a blessing from the late John O’Donohue:

Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning
That is at one with your life’s desire.

Awaken your spirit to adventure;
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm,
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.

Farewell, my friends; fare very well,
Jay

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, our Congregational Care Line.



Cool Down this Summer with the Adult Choir!

Looking for some fun this summer and a way to cool down? Our Adult Choir is in “summer mode,” meaning we will hold fewer rehearsals (the Summer Rehearsal Schedule can be found on the music page of the UUCC website) and two will

be dedicated to summer fun. The first Adult Choir “summer fun night” will be on Wednesday, July 28, when we follow an abbreviated rehearsal with a screening of the award-winning French film, *The Chorus*, about music and its positive impact on a boarding school in 1930’s France.

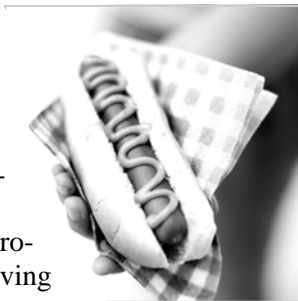
All rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. in our *uberCOOL* sanctuary and are open to anyone interested in singing (No audition and a super supportive singing environment). High school youth are also invited to join. Please contact Director of Music John Herrick for more information.

Music Program Picnic at Latta Plantation Nature Preserve

Saturday, July 25th

If you’ve participated in the music program at UUCC, from singing in one of the choirs to playing chimes and providing music for Sunday services, you’re invited to attend a picnic at the Latta Plantation Nature Preserve on Mountain Island Lake on Saturday, July 24, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The picnic will be potluck, with a hot grill, hot dogs and fixings, ice and picnic supplies provided.

There’s lots to do at Latta – hiking, volleyball, horseback riding, canoeing/kayaking, touring the historic Latta Plantation and visiting the Carolina Raptor Center – so plan on arriving early and making a day of it! Partners, spouses and families are invited. Please contact John Herrick for more information and to RSVP.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2011

Charlotte’s Chance to Shine

I just returned from our denomination’s annual General Assembly (GA), held this year in Minneapolis. It’s always so exciting to see so many Unitarian Universalists gathered in one place... something few in our congregation have ever witnessed. But witness you shall – next year – when Charlotte is the host city for GA 2011!

Mark your calendars now for the UUA General Assembly 2011 which will be held June 22-26 in uptown Charlotte. This is a wonderful opportunity for our congregation to join hands with the Piedmont UU Church and others from around our District to show our southern hospitality. There will be plenty of opportunities for volunteering – and to impact the selection of the GA social justice service project.

Plan to come and enjoy the General Assembly experience of inspiring worship, engaging workshops, powerful lectures, social events, and so much more. I hope every single one of our high school youth will (as able) join the Youth Caucus activities. Oh and did I mention that 2011 is the 50th anniversary of the merger of the Unitarian and Universalist denominations? You can bet this will be a special gathering! More information will be forthcoming here in *Voices* on how to get involved.

Kathleen Carpenter, staff support for the newly revised UUCC Denominational Affairs Team

**I open my mouth in astonishment.
Praises fall forth with my every breath.
I bless that I am not the first,
nor shall I be the last,
to wonder under the stars that everything is.**

Mark Belletini from “Simple Amidah”

Help us have fresh flowers in the Niche

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.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

Science Fiction and Religion Film Series

Concludes Thursday July 8, 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

This six-session course explores the various ways that science fiction speaks to the issues of religion and faith. A variety of science fiction movies were examined, all designed to present differing viewpoints and perspectives. The final course will feature *The Nine Billion Names of God* by Arthur C. Clarke and excerpts from "Contract" by Carl Sagan. Can God Speak to 21st Century Mankind?

Documentary Film Series

"Spellbound" Friday July 9, 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary

Who would have thought that a documentary about spelling-bee contestants could be as suspenseful as a Hitchcock thriller? "*Spellbound*", which follows eight kids from their early victories in regional spelling bees to the national competition in Washington, D.C., is an out-and-out nail-biter. Each of the kids - who range from a quietly driven African American girl from a run-down D.C. neighborhood, to a genial Connecticut girl who talks about bringing her *au pair* to a previous competition, to an almost zombie-like boy whose immigrant father has paid a thousand people back in India to pray for the boy's success - gets captured so vividly that you can't help but get emotionally immersed in their brave, nerve-wracking struggle to spell slippery, treacherous words. Along the way, "*Spellbound*" contrasts the crazily different populations that make up the U.S. and shows how this facet of intelligence truly makes everyone equal on the podium.

4th Friday Film Series

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



July 23 (Reverence) – *Kundun* (1997)

Staring Tenzin Thuthob. Directed by Martin Scorsese. Chronicles the life of the 14th Dali Lama, from childhood to adulthood, as he fights to lead his people in the face of Chinese oppression. Rated PG-13 for violent images.

This I Believe – This I Practice

July 25 at 10:30 a.m. in the Chapel; Speaker: Nancy G. Cook

In these thirty minute sessions the presenter speaks about their personal religious/spiritual beliefs or/and their regular religious/spiritual practices. Read below as UUC member, Laura Hamilton describes her experience:

Let there be stillness in my heart for a moment, the balance point between breathing in and breathing out, like the pause of a dancer between movements in the music.

Mark Belletini from "Slower and Slower"

"It was SRO, until a folding chair was opened for this late arrival. We had crowded into the Sybil Bernstein Chapel eagerly awaiting another T.I.B./T.I.P. gathering, a very special interlude between the more formal Sunday morning services. We, seekers all, wanted to gain insights from another who had puzzled over and wrestled with the mysteries of this life. Someone who has given, not lip-service, but real service in light of what she or he believed . . . very much like Sybil: Regarding our church community as her family, she did so much. Many others have taken her example to heart and to action:

One had seen injustice writ large, knew it was terribly wrong, and brought the images to the public arena.

Another had expressed a heartfelt compassion for others less fortunate, and helped to build a house.

Someone else had realized that to value this life isn't enough, and taught that appreciation by example in the classroom.

- *One had seen injustice writ large, knew it was terribly wrong, and brought the images to the public arena.*
- *Another had expressed a heartfelt compassion for others less fortunate, and helped to build a house.*
- *Someone else had realized that to value this life isn't enough, and taught that appreciation by example in the classroom.*

Do you practice what you preach? Share your insights with us some Sunday soon!"

Women's Moon Circle

Let Your Light Shine Sunday, July 25th

Join us Sunday, July 25th, 6-8pm, in the UUC Chapel, as we celebrate the sun being at the near apex of its emergence, we will explore 3 goddesses: the **Black Madonna/Isis, the Angel of Hope**, and **Amaterasu** (the Japanese Sun Goddess). These goddesses represent all aspects of Feminine Light from the deep respect of our inner truth to playfulness and bawdy irreverence. They show us how to let our light shine and our true soul emerge from the Night Sea Journey. For the altar, you can bring an item that represents any of these qualities you have in your life or want to manifest. For more info, contact Lisa Walls, llovgren@carolina.rr.com or (704) 573-3558.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH (CYRE)

Age of Reason Program

For our Second and Third Grade Children

I would like to implement a 6 week special program for our second and third graders this coming year called “Age of Reason, A UU Religious Becoming.” This is from the introduction to the program:

Our children have age mate peers who are participating in programs in their own faith traditions, typically in the spring and often in second grade. Culturally and developmentally, this is a stage of growth and faith development, when children begin to explore religion with a new sense of awareness.... UU teachings have for many years, done an excellent job of providing Wings. This program was created as a vehicle to foster that sense of having Roots, of belonging to, being valued by and identifying with a loving faith community. Unitarian Universalists are reclaiming the importance of marking and honoring the milestones of our religious lives. The Age of Reason program is an example of this renaissance in defining and creating ritual and ceremony that is meaningful for us.

I will need special leaders to make this program happen. If you are interested, please contact me, Kathleen Carpenter, at Kathleen@uuccharlotte.org. Asking for more information on the program does not obligate you in any way.

We’re Traveling the World Seeking out the Spiritual

Our elementary children are enjoying their travels this summer – in our Sunday elementary “World Travelers” class. Passports have been issued, complete with their owners photos, and are “stamped” each week with a flag of the country visited.



Many thanks to Phyllis Bertke for sharing her memories of Peru and her thoughts on spirituality, to Laura Truesdell for her reflections on the Islamic country of Tunisia where she lived with her Tunisian husband and his family, and to Michael Lovett who led the kids through a quick historical

and religious tour of Mexico. Congrats to the winners of the Mexican sombrero game! I like what Laura shared in her presentation: “We learn as much about ourselves as we do about others when we travel.”

Coming up: presentations on the African countries of Ghana and South Africa, the European nations of Ireland, Germany, Romania, Switzerland, and Italy, and down to the middle of the Pacific for a visit to the Cook Islands. Our 7th UU principle reminds us that we are all part of the interconnected web of life. We certainly feel more connected to other people and their cultures when we get to know them better, personally or through the stories of others. Visitors are welcome in our World Traveler classes, held at both 9:15 and 11:15.

**When our ancestors spoke of heaven,
they were speaking of this moment.
When they went on about nirvana
they imagined a time like this.
When they sang of paradise,
it was this morning they imagined.**

Mark Belletini from “In Heaven”

MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT TRUST

More Reasons to Make Changes to Your Will

- **Your loved ones have different needs.** Over time, the needs of your heirs may differ. With thoughtful and periodic reviews of your will and other plans, you can assure that your loved ones continue to be provided for appropriately.
- **You have younger heirs.** While you may wish to provide for loved ones, you may also recognize the need to delay the receipt of inheritances by younger heirs until they are older and better able to manage the assets. Through careful thought and planning, you can decide exactly when heirs will receive the property you leave them.
- **Your relationships change.** In the past you may have included special friends in your estate plans. Through periodic reviews, you can make certain that your wishes have not changed and you don’t unintentionally “disinherit” anyone.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

- **You have already given assets away.** If you intended to leave special items to certain persons, a periodic review of your plans can ensure you have not already given that property away. If you have given away such property, you may wish to make other provisions to assure that a loved one is not mistakenly left out of your plans.
- **Tax laws change.** Congress periodically makes changes in federal estate and gift tax laws. It is important to check with your advisors to review applicable federal and state laws and to make sure your plans still provide for the reduction or elimination of taxes that could otherwise be due.

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

We can breathe. We can refuse to sign our lives over into the service of panic or hand-wringing self-righteousness. We can breathe. We can get clear on our most basic values.

Mark Belletini from "During Wartime" from *Sonata for Voice and Silence*.

MEMBERSHIP

The UUCC Welcomes New Members:

James Hill

James says, "I came to Charlotte 6 months ago to take a job at the Salisbury VA Hospital. Before that I had been retired on the Texas Gulf Coast. I am about to be divorced and starting my life over."

Rebekah & Evan Vicso (Lance, Adam)

The Viscos recently relocated from the Philadelphia area with their two boys, Lance, 12, and Adam, 7. Evan is an experienced automotive technician and Rebekah plans to go back to school to become a nurse. They have been involved with Unitarian Universalist congregations for many years and are excited to have found a new spiritual home."

Nametags

As a courtesy to our visitors and other members, please wear your nametag on Sunday. We are a large and growing congregation, and this practice benefits us all. Taking a moment before you leave to place your nametag back in the storage cabinet in the Vestibule will help us use our financial resources in more productive ways.

UUCC member Bill Pace has offered to upgrade any "pin" back name tag to a "magnetic" back name tag for free. If you wish to have your name tag upgraded, please contact Bill Pace.

"Getting to Know Us"

1st Sunday of each month

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 Library immediately following either 1st or 2nd service. Hear about another person's journey to finding her/his spiritual home here at the UUCC.

But, no one is really alone, even if they feel lonely. All of us are together, different, yet woven intricately into the whole. Each one, a face of reality, no more. Each one, important, and no less.

Mark Belletini from "First Principles"

Got food? Share your bounty!



Did you know that we distribute non-perishable food to nearly 25 needy families and 75 individuals every month? We need your help. You can help by bringing a can of soup, tuna, vegetables, fruit or beans, a box of pasta or cereal or how about some pasta sauce, dried fruit or peanut butter. (Please try to bring healthy choices!)

You don't need to make a special trip to the store, check the shelves in your pantry as you head out the door on Sunday morning!

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS



Office Closing

Monday, July 5th

UUCC Offices will be closed on Monday, July 5th in observance of Independence Day.

Is E-Mail Leaving You Out?

More and more of our communications are being sent out electronically instead of in print. There's a lot of information, too, and much of it isn't repeated in Voices.

If you can't use e-mail or if computers don't seem very friendly, call the office (704) 366-8623 so that we can add your name to a list we're making of those for whom e-mail doesn't work. We'll try to get the word to you another way.

Straight Spouse Support Group

First Tuesday of each Month

This is a group to provide personal, confidential support to straight spouses or partners, current or former, of gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender mates and mixed-orientation couples. We meet in the library on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7pm.

Habitat for Humanity Work Date

Saturday, July 10th at 7:00 a.m.



Our next Habitat date is Saturday, July 10 at 4800 Hovis Rd. We will meet at the work site at 7 a.m. and work until 12 noon. Our task will be framing and sheathing. No experience is necessary and all skill levels are welcome. Please contact Frank at mcburnett@windstream. by Thursday, July 1 if you will be able to help. Volunteers that are 16-17 years old need to fill out a minor's release form http://www.habitatcharlotte.org/images/stories/pdf/Vol_Minors_Release.pdf.

Open Mind Book Club

Monday, July 19th

We will be meeting on Monday, July 19th at Books-A-Million Cotswold to discuss *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. RSVP to Gwynne Movius planning to attend.

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>Borderlands Discussion Group</i>	<i>Off Site</i>	<i>Tuesday, July 20th at 7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>EJ Haack (802) 578-5134</i>
<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>Priestley</i>	<i>Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.</i>	<i>Elizabeth Kerman (704) 846-7181</i>
<i>Jabberwocks</i>	<i>Library</i>	<i>10:00 a.m. 3rd Friday</i>	
<i>QUEST</i>	<i>Sigismund</i>	<i>7:00 p.m. Tuesdays</i>	<i>Paul & Shirley Wagner (704) 364-8855</i>
<i>Parenting & Aspergers Support Group</i>	<i>Starbucks Cotswold</i>	<i>6:30 p.m. 1st Sunday</i>	<i>Margie Storch mstorch@carolina.rr.com</i>
<i>Song Circle</i>	<i>TBA</i>	<i>7:00 p.m. 3rd Thursdays</i>	<i>Rich Greene (704) 367-1895 Dale Brook (704) 366-7983</i>
<i>Sci-Fi Movie Series</i>	<i>Sanctuary</i>	<i>Thursdays 7:30pm</i>	<i>Bob Gorman gormanr@winthrop.edu</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) 525-3252</i>
<i>Straight Spouse Support Group</i>	<i>Chapel</i>	<i>7:00 p.m. 1st Tuesday</i>	<i>Sage Brook (704) 366-7983</i>
<i>UUCC Handwork Group</i>	<i>Library</i>	<i>5:00 p.m. 2nd Sunday</i>	<i>Kat Weisz (704) 321-9067; Vivian Brenner (704) 841-1624.</i>
<i>Women's Support Group</i>	<i>Library</i>	<i>7:00 pm 3rd Tuesday</i>	<i>Karen Achor (704) 847-2081</i>
<i>Yoga</i>	<i>TBA</i>	<i>7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays</i>	<i>Bill Cooke (704) 364-2107</i>

VOICES

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Address Label

The deadline for the next **VOICES** is
Sunday, July 18, 2010 for the next issue which will be published on **Wednesday, July 21, 2010**. 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