



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, 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

Sunday, August 8, 2010

Unpacking Our Religious Histories

Rev. Amy Brooks,
Affiliated Community Minister
Jim Lay, Lay Service Leader

Sunday, August 15, 2010

**Universalism or Pluralism?
Celebrating World Religions**

Rev. Elizabeth Kerman,
Guest Speaker
Katy Ridnour, Lay Service Leader

Sunday, August 22, 2010

It's Courage That Counts

Laura Neff, Guest Speaker
Scott Oppenheimer,
Lay Service Leader

Sunday, August 29, 2010

Water Ceremony

Kathleen Carpenter, Director of
Religious Education for
Children and Youth
Jeter Walker,
Director of Administration

YOUR CHANCE TO INFLUENCE AFFORDABLE HOUSING LOCATION POLICY

One of the central goals of UUC's Affordable Housing and Homeless Action (AHHA) program is the breaking up of concentrations of poverty with more widely dispersed affordable housing throughout our metro area. The Mixed Income Housing Coalition, a leader and collaborator in this effort, and other housing advocacy groups have been pushing for a review of Charlotte's assisted housing location policies, seeking effective action to back up oft-heard statements of good intentions.

The City Council, besieged by interested constituents during recent assisted housing initiatives in South Charlotte, is beginning to listen. They have organized a series of public forums on housing location policy during late July and August, offering Charlotteans an opportunity to weigh in on guidelines for the location of assisted housing projects by the Housing Authority, the C-M Housing Partnership, and others.

(Continued on page 3)

BUSY AUGUST PLANNED

During the month of August, a lot of repair and maintenance work will be going on around the church. As soon as the loan approved by the congregation can be finalized, work will begin on replacing the roofs over the CYRE/ODS wing, the Sanctuary and the vestibule. Replacing the roofs also means that other work must take place as well. All of the ceiling tiles and insulation and the electrical fixtures on the second floor of the CYRE/ODS wing will be replaced as the roof is installed. That area will need to be repainted as well. The ceiling damage in the sanctuary will be repaired and the area will be re-plastered and repainted.

Early in the planning of the needed work, a choice was made to also undertake freshening some of the most important public areas. With so much painting taking place, there are economies of scale that can be realized if we also repaint and refurbish Freeman Hall and the vestibule. A team consisting of Loyd Dillon, Janet Lasher and Mitchell Kearny has agreed to oversee color selection and interior de-

(Continued on page 7)

FROM YOUR PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Considering Silence

Silence: the absence of sound, the end of a phrase, the rest in music, the gesture of finger to mouth, the rose upon the lips, the sound of starlight and sunshine, that which precedes, follows and surrounds our lives.

As a musician, it's fascinating to consider the element upon which music rests. It is from silence that organized vibrations of air – *music* – arise, and it is silence that allows the components of music – melody, rhythm and dynamics – to have maximum impact. The same can be said of speech and poetry. Artful interpretation involves the length of silence between words and phrases.

Silence has and continues to be an essential component of many world religions: Buddhism, Native American spirituality and Christian contemplation. Great value is placed on time spent in silence, such as Jesus' forty days in the desert and Mohammed's cave retreats. Monastic orders offer the opportunity to live in community-supported silence, and silent retreats are offered by retreat centers across the country. Here at UUC, we offer meditations on Sunday mornings and have explored the topic and experience of silence in our services.

In my own spiritual journey, I yearn for more silence. When I quiet my conscious being, I am able to hear the current of life within. This gift of silence allows me to remember who I am and reaffirm that which I hold sacred. Without it I feel disconnected and rudderless. Life is just better when I take time to be still and quiet.

In his work *4:33*, avant-garde composer John Cage explores silence to the extreme in a musical setting in which the performers sit quietly for the prescribed four and a half minutes. As one might imagine, this quickly became one of the most controversial pieces of the 20th Century. With constant aural stimulation in our lives, we don't know what to make of silence. It takes us to places that are unfamiliar and sometimes uncomfortable – yet, I would maintain, rich in possibility.

I invite you to consider silence and what it can mean for your life. I plan on taking a moment or two each day for quiet reflection, knowing that it will allow me to connect more deeply to the miracle of my life and this beloved community we share.

John Herrick,
Director of Music

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.

**What lies behind us and what lies before us
are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.**

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

Thank You and Goodbye

A personal message from Member Irene Lukens



Many thanks to the UU community for your support for Hal and I from January 4th through May 5th while I was in one of two hospitals or rehab. Members provided meals for Hal and transportation so he could visit me during this difficult time. We could not have managed without our family and UU support.

Following four surgeries to my left shoulder I no longer have use of that side, have limited use of my right arm and shoulder and now get around with the help of a wheelchair. My permanent disability and Hal's second stroke on May 15th necessitates a move to an assisted living apartment in Jacksonville, Florida near to where our youngest daughter and her family reside. We will be moving August 3rd and hope to keep in touch.

MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT TRUST

History of the Memorial Endowment Trust

The Origin 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.

"We have to 'leave home,' in a sense, leave our comfortable ways of being, to find ourselves and our calling. We need to develop a passionate discontent, an anger that picks us up and shakes us by the neck and will not let us go. The Holy Spirit, you know, is not on the side of order and stability."

—Marilyn Sewell, minister

HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE

"To work in the world lovingly means what we are defining what we will be for, rather than reacting to what we are against."

~Christina Baldwin

Blood Drive

Tuesday, August 10th

Despite going into the drive with only 22 appointments, we hit 30 units last Blood Drive! Thank you everyone for helping us make our goal. 30 Units could affect 90 different people. We rock.



The next blood drive is scheduled for Tuesday, August 10th. Please go to <http://www.membersforlife.org/cbsr/schedule/> then click the “search by sponsor code” link right above those colorful golfers. Enter your info and 2636 for the UUCC sponsor code and schedule your appointment or you can

contact me, Brian Trainum, to make an appointment at btrainum@1asmc.com.

(“AHHA” Continued from page 1)

This is your chance to express your support for more housing choices for Charlotteans of modest incomes. Most of you know the arguments for more and better dispersed affordable housing---“workforce housing” closer to jobs, more ethnically balanced schools, reduced pollution from commuters, more inclusive neighborhoods. Come express your views and support those who seek more affordable housing choices for all our neighbors. For further details please come to the Social Justice table on Sundays in Freeman Hall after services.

The **public forums** begin at **6:30 on the following dates** and in the following locations:

- **East Region**---Tuesday, July 27 at Hickory Grove Baptist Church
- **North Region**---Wednesday, August 4 at Vance High School
- **West Region**---Monday, August 9 at Mt Carmel Baptist Church
- **Central Region**---Monday, August 16 at C-M Gov’t Center

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

Mountain Retreat

A joint project of the ARES & Music Teams August 13-15

This event is a gathering and retreat at the popular Mountain Retreat and Learning Center in Highlands, N.C., August 13-15 during the optimum viewing weekend of the Perseid Meteor shower. Total cost is \$160 per person (including lodging, food, and programming.) There are still some spaces left at the Mountain, so register NOW to ensure a place. Forms are available at the ARES table. To register by email contact aresd@uuccharlotte.org.

This I Believe – This I Practice

August 22 at 10:30 a.m. in the Chapel

In these thirty minute sessions the presenter speaks about their personal religious/spiritual beliefs or/and their regular religious/spiritual practices. Do you practice what you preach? Share your insights with us some Sunday soon!"

4th Friday Pot Luck Lunch

Friday, August 27th

Are you not working, retired, or otherwise available on Fridays? Come join with other UUC members and guests for a monthly noontime Pot Luck Luncheon on Friday, August 27 at 12 p.m. Easy to prepare and serve favorite food dishes will be brought and served by those attending.

4th Friday Film Series

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

August 27 (Faith) – *In America* (2002)



Starring Samantha Morton, Djimon Hounsou. Directed by Jim Sheridan. Still grieving the loss of their son, Johnny and Sarah and their two young daughters come to America in search of a better life. Due to a lack of money, though, they are forced to move into a slum building. There they befriend Mateo, an African painter, a relationship which will restore their faith in the

healing power of love. Rated PG-13 for some sexuality, drug references, brief violence and language.

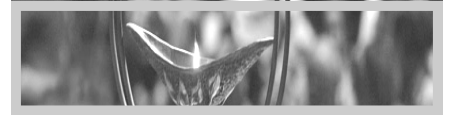
"The aim of education should be to teach us rather how to think, than what to think - rather to improve our minds, so as to enable us to think for ourselves, than to load the memory with thoughts of other men."

~Bill Beattie

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH (CYRE)

The Ninth Biannual Youth UU Heritage Trip to Boston

Where Did We Come From? Who Are We Now? Where Are We Going? Who Can We



Trust and Look to for Support in our Journey? These are questions we challenge our youth to consider for themselves and their place in this world and not just as individuals. We want them to consider these questions in terms of their identity as Unitarian Universalists. What is our history as a religious people? What is our identity now and how has that identity evolved? How do we express our values? How do we worship? What is our UU community? And what is our vision?

Our church offers our high school youth two trips that help them answer these questions: our biannual Boston UU Heritage Trip and our annual Hartsville (SC) Mission Trip. Both trips took place in mid-June this year. The last Voices contained an article on the Mission Trip; below is a write-up on this year's trip to Boston.

"It makes it seem more real"

"It makes it seem more real" was the most common reason the Boston Trip youth gave as to why the trip to UUA headquarters was one of the highlights of our trip to Boston. The 17 teens and four chaperones enjoyed a variety of activities in addition to visiting our headquarters, but one of the most important reasons for a trip like this is for the youth to understand that there really is "a village" - the larger denominational community - there for them.

Processing the Experience

The group stayed at the UU B&B downtown and quickly learned how to navigate one of America's largest cities. Group activities focused on either Unitarian Universalism

or U.S. history. New this year was an expansion of the trip to Concord to include the Orchard House, home of Louisa May Alcott, and the Old North Bridge, along with a trip favorite, the trip out to Walden Pond. Everyone attended Sunday services at either Arlington Street Church with a contemporary liturgy or Kings Chapel for a more “high church” experience.

Each night, the group processed the day’s events through a worship service, focusing on such themes as worship styles, the UU commitment to social justice, and personal challenges and growth. At the last night’s worship, each youth was asked to share how they felt the trip increased their understanding of Unitarian Universalism ... and of themselves. Many mentioned how great it felt to know they are not alone as UUs – to fully appreciate that they are part of something larger, more powerful and, yes, more “legitimate” than they had realized. And as with every single past group, the youth were unanimous in appreciating the trust given to them by the adults that they could handle the free time they were provided without supervision. Below are a few of the comments shared that last night.

I Learned . . .

“I learned that Unitarian Universalism took a while to get off the ground, yet Unitarianism had huge historical significance in Boston and our early nation. Many UUs in history have done great things that have changed the world! The trip made me even more proud to be a UU.”

“It made me realize that the size and responsibility of our religious community is much bigger than I believed. This trip makes me want to live a more UU lifestyle and to really embrace my religion.”

“It made me realize UUism isn’t as new as I thought – or at least the ideas behind it.”

My Favorite Thing . . .

“My favorite thing was touring the Louisa May Alcott House because her family and their way of living is how I would like to live minus the vegan/vegetarianism.”

“The Blue Man Group!”

“Walden Pond and Concord – that trip made me think about all the historical Unitarians and how people viewed them.”

“I loved the stained glass windows in the Arlington Street Church!”

On a Personal Level . . .

On a personal level, “I learned about big city life.”

“I’ve realized that I really like it here but that buying food all the time wastes lots of money.”

“I learned independence and how to read a map. Whenever

we used the T, I was always the one who knew what to do and it was awesome!” “I became more comfortable with people in our group.”

“I feel more connected to Unitarian Universalism.”

Many thanks to the following trip advisors: Boston - Cindy Fox, Pete Greene, Kelly Greene, and Pete Merrill. Harts-ville – Mark Fleming and Greg Schropp (all week), Katrin Plankenhorn, Kimberly Melton, Jim Lay, Pete Parks, Roger Coates, Susan Cox, and Jim Hall (2-3 days each).

Calendar Reminders

- Children and Youth Religious Education (CYRE) Team Meeting August 22nd
- High School Youth Advisors Meeting August 25th
- Teacher Orientation (including new Middle School Advisors) August 28th
- Service for the Whole Congregation – Water Ceremony August 29th
- Middle School Advisor Meeting September 8th
- First Day of CYRE Fall-Spring Program: September 12th



Class Collections Continue into the Summer ...

As a reminder, we continue our class collections in all but our middle school class throughout the summer. We gratefully accept non-perishable food for our Food Bank and / or money for our social justice efforts. Children should bring these items to class with them.

“The further the spiritual evolution of mankind advances, the more certain it seems to me that the path to genuine religiosity does not lie through the fear of life, and the fear of death, and blind faith, but through striving after rational knowledge.”

~ Albert Einstein

Unitarian Universalist Church of Charlotte ENDS Statements

As a congregation, we courageously name these ends to which we aspire:

- We are a joyful, dynamic community of people who care about and are connected to each other. Here people are welcomed, heard, included and respected.
- We are a sanctuary for those on a liberal religious path and a beacon of progressive thought and action in the larger Charlotte community.
- We cultivate lives of generosity and responsibility, sharing our personal abundance.
- We are intentionally growing in our diversity as a congregation, each of us working with others to overcome the barriers that divide the human family.
- We strive for peace, justice and equity in our hearts, our interpersonal relationships, our community and our world.

MEMBERSHIP

The UCC Welcomes the Following New Members:

Eric & Cady Asch (Valen, Kirin):

We are so happy to finally call ourselves members. Five years ago we moved from New York City and while our oldest son attended Open Door School we were sometime visitors at the UCC. We immediately fell in love with the open mindedness and thinking spirituality we found here. Two years ago we moved to Seattle but realized how much we had left in Charlotte (including the UCC) and decided to come back. We're excited to let our roots sink in; to make more friends, be involved, and help build a strong community for us and everyone here.

Tiffany Glisson (Trenton):

Tiffany says, "I am 32 years old and I have 1 child, Trenton. I'm originally from Columbia, SC. I am a social worker and currently pursuing a PhD in Counseling Studies from Capella University."

Barnet Sherman:

Barnet says, "After 21 years in Boston, I decided life was too short not to enjoy more sunshine. Fortunately a job opportunity became available in Charlotte and I came down in March and am now almost totally defrosted. I just wish the beach was closer. Looking forward to being a part of this wonderful UU community!"

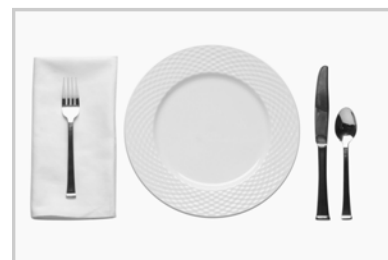
Margaret "Maggie" Walker:

Maggie says, "I moved to Charlotte from Venice, FL to be near my son and daughter-in-law and 1 year old grandson. My former husband and I published 'Homecomings' the UU Bed and Breakfast Directory from 1991-2004. I love reading, movies and playing with my two dachshunds."

Are You a New Member? Join Us August 1

New Member Recognition and Potluck

The UCC welcomes its outstanding new members and their families Sunday, August 1st during the New Member Recognition Service at both the 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services. That evening we'll continue the fun and fellowship at the New Member Potluck dinner from 5:15 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Chapel. Childcare will be provided after the meal. If you are a new member and have not taken part in the recognition service or a potluck, or if you would like information about how to join, contact Courtney McLaughlin.



. . . Or Want to Become a Member? Join Us August 1

"Getting to Know Us"

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 on Sunday, August 1st. Hear about another person's journey to finding her/his spiritual home here at the UCC.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

Open Mind Book Club

Monday, August 2nd

We will be meeting on Monday, August 2nd in the UUC Library at 7:30 p.m. Please bring recommendations of up to 4 books that you have read that you think would be interesting for the group to discuss. It can be fiction or non-fiction, but it must be available at the public library.

Outdoor Adventure Group's August Hike

Saturday, August 7

Our next hike will be Saturday, August 7 when we meet at 7:30 a.m. at the UUC Parking Lot and travel approximately 2.5 hours to Mount Mitchell State Park, which has the highest peak east of the Mississippi at 6,684 feet, view up to 100 miles, North Carolina's first state park. We plan on hiking 6-8 rugged miles, we will return back to Charlotte after 7 p.m. Please bring water, lunch, wear appropriate clothing, and snacks. Steep elevation not for beginners.

("Busy August" Continued from page 1)

sign. This group will be meeting immediately and will produce a color board to be placed in Freeman Hall. This will show the colors and other refurbishments that will be most visible.

All of us are extremely grateful for the leadership of Don Faires. Don is once again contributing his years of experience in construction management and will serve as the general contractor for the numerous jobs taking place. Don and Rob Marcy, chair of the finance team, are currently meeting weekly with Jeter Walker to make sure that our projects come in on budget and on time.

Also in August, the ODS beautification day will take place on the 21st. An additional work day for the church will be scheduled as well so that everything will be ready to go by the time we have our water ceremony on August 29. If you have suggestions about other things that need to be done and which could be accomplished using volunteer help please let us know. In the meantime, get ready for a lot of activity in the month of August.

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.

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
Borderlands Discussion Group	Off Site	Tuesday, August 17 th at 7:00 p.m.	EJ Haack (802) 578-5134
Bible Workbench	Library	Sundays 5 mins. after first service ends	George Weir (704) 708-4211
Economics and UU Principles	Priestley	Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.	Elizabeth Kerman (704) 846-7181
Jabberwocks	Library	10:00 a.m. 3 rd Friday	Doris Thomas Browder
QUEST	Sigismund	7:00 p.m. Tuesdays	Paul & Shirley Wagner (704) 364-8855
Parenting & Aspergers Support Group	Starbucks Cotswold	6:30 p.m. 1 st Sunday	Margie Storch mstorch@carolina.rr.com
Song Circle	TBA	7:00 p.m. 3 rd Thursdays	Rich Greene (704) 367-1895 Dale Brook (704) 366-7983
Sunday Morning Meditation	Schweitzer	8:30 a.m. Sundays	Rich Vreeland (704) 290-8620; Debbie George (704) 525-3252
Straight Spouse Support Group	Chapel	7:00 p.m. 1 st Tuesday	Sage Brook (704) 366-7983
UUC Handwork Group	Library	5:00 p.m. 2 nd Sunday	Kat Weisz (704) 321-9067; Vivian Brenner (704) 841-1624.
Women's Moon Circle	Chapel	7:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 24 th	Lisa Walls (704) 400-8628
Women's Support Group	Library	7:00 pm 3 rd Tuesday	Sandy Vermillion (704) 921-0824
Yoga	TBA	7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays	Bill Cooke (704) 364-2107

VOICES

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Address Label

The deadline for the next **VOICES** is **Sunday, August 8, 2010** for the next issue which will be published on **Wednesday, August 11, 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