



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

Sunday, September 5, 2010

Creating Harmony: Unitarian Universalist Principles and The Golden Rule

Mary Frances Comer,
Guest Speaker
Scott Oppenheimer,
Lay Service Leader

Sunday, September 12, 2010

“Taking Risks on the Path of Wisdom”

Rev. Sarah York,
Sabbatical Minister
Martha Kniseley,
Lay Service Leader

Sunday, September 19, 2010

“Who is a God Like You, A Forgiver of Sin?”

Pete Moore, Guest Speaker
Susan Furtney,
Lay Service Leader

Sunday, September 26, 2010

Making a Difference with Words

Cathy Ross, Guest Speaker
Brad Smith,
Lay Service Leader

YOUTH FIND INSIGHT IN THEIR “OWN BACKYARD”

Mecklenburg Ministries, Charlotte’s interfaith organization dedicated to building bridges across differences, offers a 4-day camp for high school youth each summer called *In Our Own Backyard*. Only 18 youth from Mecklenburg County may attend. This year, two UU youth were among those 18. Their reflections on their experience at the camp follow:

Junior Samantha Singer:

“In Our Own Backyard” wasn’t just any camp; it was an Interfaith Social Justice camp where we learned about other people’s religions and customs, as well as problems within our own community. We visited Urban Ministry, Second Harvest Food Bank, Crisis Assistance Ministry, and many houses of faith. I learned about religions such as Islam, Christianity, Judaism, and Bahi’. Every night after coming back from a busy day we brought everything to a close with a worship ceremony where the representatives from the congregations we had visited throughout the day read a prayer or sang a song. The most memorable thing I learned from all of the religions was a belief from the Bahi’ faith. The belief is that men and women are wings on a bird and if they don’t work together then the bird will simply fly in a circle instead of getting anywhere. To say the least, this experience has changed my outlook on life and it has also changed my opinions about life and religions. I’m so glad and honored that I was able to represent our church in this experience.

(Continued on page 5)

FOLLIES 2010

Rehearsals begin September 13th

If you're a fan of serious, thought-provoking theatre, boy are you reading the wrong article. But if you like pure, unadulterated zaniness, read on. The UUCF Follies are coming out of the woodwork and off the wall once again.

Join us on October 16 for our latest foray into the land of irreverence and song. There will be a reception in Freeman Hall at 6:30 pm, with the show to follow in the sanctuary at 7:30 pm. Admission is free and childcare will be provided. So come early and come often. Now, as enjoyable as the Follies is for the audience, no one has more fun than the players. If you are interested in releasing your inner fool, or in helping behind the scenes, contact Mic Elvenstar at dearmic@earthlink.net.



FROM YOUR PROFESSIONAL STAFF

From Kathleen Carpenter, Director of Religious Education for Children and Youth . . .

“Here is my question ... and please don’t take offense ... why are you in the UU church if you consider yourself a Christian? In fact, how CAN you consider yourself a Christian and be UU? Why not go down the street to the _____ (fill in any Christian denomination) church? Wouldn’t you be happier there?”

This question, recently posted on a UU blog, intrigued me as I have often wondered the same thing. I am very aware that Unitarian Universalism has its roots in Protestant Christianity, roots that go back a thousand years or more. And I “get” that Jesus’ ideas around justice and love appeal to many UUs. After all, one of “the Sources of our Living Tradition” is “Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God’s love by loving our neighbors as ourselves.” (Note: if you are not familiar with our Sources, they are listed along with our seven Principles in the front of our hymnals.) But I still wondered how someone could call themselves both a Christian and a UU. They just seemed so different theologically.

Certainly in this congregation, there are plenty of people who do self-identify as “Christian Unitarian Universalists.” And I think some of them would respond to the preceding suggestion with, “Sometimes we DO go down the street.” I happen to know several members here who periodically attend a rather prominent Baptist church over in Myers Park. (And I happen to know some members there who visit our congregation with some regularity.) So do these folks ever find themselves tempted to leave the UU faith? While she certainly can’t speak for others, I like what blogger LaVerne Coan, herself a self-defined UU Christian, shared:

No, I would not be happier for the following reasons:

- *Theology. Even in more liberal Christian denominations, some tenets remain stable. Jesus is divine; Jesus died for our sins; salvation may not be universal; our reward is in Heaven. These tenets may not be overt, but discussions in the church will revolve around the religion about Jesus vs. the religion that Jesus taught. For many of us, who follow the religion Jesus taught, this conversation is not where we are in our journey.*
- *Orientation. This is probably more compelling ... The point of Christian churches is to put Christ in the center. The point of the UU churches is to put a covenant*

of Principles in the center. We are UUs; we are drawn to the covenantal approach of living together.

- *Religious Pluralism. Again, we UU Christians are UUs. We affirm and promote spiritual seeking and we cherish the faith diversity in UU congregations.*

For illustration: *A Methodist seminarian intern working at the UUA and joining the UUCF Revival last year commented that he couldn’t imagine a service in which the Bible was not read. For us UU Christians, we could imagine it, we experience it, and we revel in it.*

As UU Christians, we get a kick out of the spiritual conversations we have with our fellow UUs who see the One Light through a different window. We like being challenged by the UU principles and diverse spiritual paths as well as by other progressive Christians.

“I think Christian UU better describes someone who is first and forth most a UU, rather than the term UU Christian.”

—Kathleen Carpenter, Director of Religious Education for Children and Youth

I really appreciate these words. Our Unitarian

Universalist theological tent has room for all of us - theist, humanist, pagan, Christian, and more. The only place I differ with the blogger above is my preference for placing those identities as descriptors for Unitarian Universalism, not the other way around (i.e., I think “Christian UU” better describes someone who is first and foremost a UU, rather than the term “UU Christian”).

In our August 29 Water Ceremony service, I described the mingling of our water as, “a metaphor of unity in diversity, of a community united across all the usual lines and categories that serve to separate and divide.” Certainly, theological diversity has the potential to divide us. I encourage all of us to view it instead as an opportunity for growth—and an opportunity to discover the commonalities that unite us in our Unitarian Universalist faith.

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.



MUSIC NEWS

Sean McCaffery Represents UUC at General Assembly (GA)

In conjunction with UU General Assembly in Minneapolis this summer, 76 UU youth representing 42 UU congregations gathered at nearby Macalester College for a week of communal choral and other activities culminating in two choral performances before 3000 GA attendees. We are proud and excited to report that Sean McCaffrey, son of Katy Ridnour, who was also a chaperone for the program, and Terry McCaffrey represented the UU Church of Charlotte in this once in a lifetime opportunity. The event was sponsored by the UU Musicians Network in which both John Herrick, our Music Director and Donna Fisher, Children's Choir Director hold leadership positions.

Sean submitted audition tapes last November, was selected to participate and received copies of music to prepare beforehand. The youth also participated in a social justice activity, *Books for Africa*. Here are some of Sean's thoughts about his experience:

My experiences while I was in the UU Children's Choir GA 2010 were fantastic! Besides the singing that we got to do, I enjoyed the experience [of] living in a dorm and having fun with my dorm mates and meeting lots of friends from around the world. When I was in the choir what it meant to me to be a UU was that you were allowed to openly express yourself and have a lot of fun without discrimination. Musically, this experience broadened my understanding of how to make good music. I feel that this experience has changed me in many ways including the way that I sing and make friends. – Sean McCaffrey

Photos and blogs of the event may be found at <http://uucc2010.wordpress.com/>. Sean was so taken with the entire experience that he has since auditioned and been accepted into the Charlotte Children's Choir.

-- Donna Fisher, Children's Choir Director

Music Program Fall Rehearsals Begin!

If you've been wanting to get involved in the UUC Music Program, now's a good time as rehearsals get back in full swing this September. Highlights of the fall season include an all-Music Program retreat October 1-2nd, Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Temple Israel on November 23rd, Music & Poetry Winter Solstice Celebration on December 18th, Holiday Caroling Party, our annual Christmas Eve Service and more!



Adult Choir

Rehearses weekly on Wednesday evenings, from 7 pm. to 8:30 pm. in the sanctuary. No auditioned required. First rehearsal will be held on September 8th.

Chamber Choir

Rehearses bi-weekly on Wednesday evenings, from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm. in the sanctuary. First rehearsal will be held on September 15th. If interested, please inquire about the audition.

Chime Ensemble

Rehearses weekly on Wednesday evenings, from 6 pm. to 6:55 pm. in the sanctuary. We're in need of a couple ringers this fall, and always in need of substitute players. Ability to read music notation is helpful. First rehearsal of the fall season will be held on September 8th.

Children's Choir

For 1st - 6th graders; rehearses weekly on Sunday mornings, from 10:30 am to 10:55 am in the Priestley Room. Children must register to participate, and can do so at anytime. Rehearsals begin on September 19th.

If you're schedule won't allow attendance at regular rehearsals, there are additional opportunities for you to get involved in the musical life of the congregation. Please contact John Herrick for more information.

-- 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.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Aging: The Golden Years

Starting September 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the Library with Charles Lee

Are you or do you have family who are living or entering the “Golden Years” of life? This will be an opportunity to hear and learn important information and share life’s experiences around aging and retirement. Subjects to be covered will include.

- Joys, fears, angst, and concerns of aging.
- Fiscal and legal issues of retirement: wills, power of attorney, investments, insurance, downsizing
- Health: sustaining a vibrant live, dementia, caregivers roles, resources, home location
- Memorial Service planning: for oneself or a loved one

A notebook of information will be provided for each attendee. The sessions will kept light with participants encouraged to bring a joke or humorous anecdote about aging to the class and share their experiences with travel, continuing education, volunteering, etc. . . .those things that enrich our life. Each week a guest facilitator will be invited to provide expert input. Come and join us!

Science Fiction Sundays

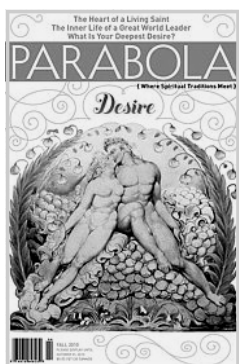
Second Sunday of the month, 2:00 p.m., in the Chapel

September 12 Episode of *Babylon 5*

In the “Believers” episode of *Babylon 5*, an alien couple comes to the Babylon 5 space station seeking medical assistance for their critically ill son. When station doctor Stephen Franklin tells them that a simple operation can save their son, the couple refuses on religious grounds. Are there limits to religious belief and practice when life and death issues are involved?

Parabola Explores "Desire"

Tuesdays, September 14th and October 12th



Join the *Parabola* group in September and October to discuss the latest issue “Desire”. While our baser desires invite catastrophe if left unchecked, the repression of desire can lead to disease and disorder. Read the Buddha’s wisdom as well as insights from sages of myriad times, cultures, and traditions. Pick up a copy of the current issue of *Parabola* at magazine stands, and join us Tuesdays, September 14th and October 12th, 7:00-8:30 pm, in the Library.

Documentary Film Series

Friday, September 17th at 7:30pm

September 17 — “Young At Heart” (2007)

Time revises every taste and loses every gap. To observe the Young@Heart Chorus, a fluctuating group of about two dozen singers whose average age is 80, perform “Stayin’ Alive” by the BeeGees in Steven Walker’s documentary “Young@Heart” is to be uplifted, if slightly unsettled.

Sung by people approaching the end of their lives, the song is no longer about strutting through the urban jungle with your elbows out; it is a blunt survival anthem. These singers, most of them well-rehearsed amateurs, refuse to go gently into that good night. For them music is oxygen.



4th Friday Pot Luck Lunch

Friday, September 24th

Are you retired, not working or otherwise available on Fridays? Come join with other UUC members and guests for a monthly Noontime Pot Luck Luncheon on Friday, September 24 at Noon. 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.

September 24 (Doubt) – “The Mission” (1986)

Starring Robert De Niro, Jeremy Irons. Directed by Roland Joffe. Set in the 18th Century Brazil, Rodrigo Mendoza (De Niro) is a mercenary sent to conquer the rain forest Indians. Instead, he lays down his sword to become one with the native population. When Spain and Portugal threaten to destroy his new family, he is forced to choose between peace or war. Rated PG.

This I Believe – This I Practice

Next Speaker: Scott Oppenheimer

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!" Join us Sunday, September 26th at 10:30 a.m. in the Chapel

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH (CYRE)

It was a Great Summer!

This summer marked the third year that we have offered two sessions of CYRE classes, and it was the smoothest by far. One big change was hiring Melissa Schropp as our SpiritPlay Coordinator. She led both the 9:15 and 11:15 classes, freeing staff up to focus on the elementary *World Travelers (WT)* and middle school *Simpsons* classes. Melissa also provided both continuity and an understanding of our SpiritPlay rituals.

Thanks to our presenters in the *WT* class. I mentioned those who presented in June in an earlier *Voices*; here are the others: Katrin Plankenhorn (Germany), Jake & Annie Standish (Ghana), Kathy Jackson (Cook Islands), Katy Ridnour (Ireland), Tom Cole (Switzerland), Doug Murison (S. Africa), Cindy Fox (China), and Mary & Wayne St. John (Italy).

KIDS IN A BOX:

A Social Justice Opportunity for Families

In an effort to provide more opportunities for families to come together around their values, we are offering two Social Justice Family projects this year, instead of the child-only smaller scale projects offered during class time as in the past.

This year's Fall project will be "Kids in a Box." It is scheduled for Friday, October 8th on the grounds of the UUC. It will offer a safe place for children to have a good time while learning firsthand about homelessness in our community and how they can help. Families will decorate their (large cardboard) box(es) which they will then sleep in that night on one of the playgrounds. Tents are also allowed. 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-8th grade. The middle school youth will have leadership roles as desired. Younger children are welcome and families who feel the evening would be great *except* for the outdoor sleeping part, are free to leave at any time. The cost will be minimal – enough to cover the cost of the dinner. Participants will also be asked to bring in items for donation to a local shelter.

As adults, we often reflect on the lessons learned as children from our parents and other important adults in our

lives. This is the kind of experience that we remember. We hope OUR kids will associate the evening with Unitarian Universalism, but more importantly, we hope they will remember that their parents valued their learning about making a difference in the world by having them attend. We will need a leadership team to make this project a success. Please contact Kathleen Carpenter to join in the planning.

Parents as Religious Educators:

Let us help you in that role

Parents are the primary religious educators of their children. As such, we need the help of our parents if we want our program to be successful. For our part, we will do our best to keep you informed and involved:

1. A summary of each class' curriculum will be available on the table in the CYRE hall during the month of September. The summaries will also be posted on the church website.
2. Each Sunday, teachers will have a summary of that day's lesson available for parents. Our goal is to encourage parents to continue the discussions held in class.
3. Parent education classes / discussion groups will be offered throughout the year, as will family social justice / outreach activities.
4. Orientations will be held in September according to the following schedule:
 - **Parents of 3's-5th Grade Children:** September 19th 1:30pm. Childcare provided
 - **Parents of 6th-8th Youth and the Youth Themselves:** September 12th 1:30pm Childcare provided for younger children
 - **Parents of 9th-12th Youth:** September 19th 7pm

(*"Own Backyard"* Continued from page 1)

Senior Anna Utzig:

"The experience was wonderful and I appreciate this church giving me the chance to have it. It put me more in touch with the city I live in by doing community service and learning about the different people living here. On the second night, we campers became homeless for a night and slept in a church modeled after the room in the inn experience. Being homeless for a night can really make you learn to appreciate what you have in life – like a shower, a bar of soap, or even a cold place to stay on a hot summer night. After doing the camp I felt very motivated to do good in the community but not quite sure where to start. Luckily after the camp you are invited to participate in Mecklenburg Ministries' Youth Council. I am very excited about this opportunity to do some good!"

MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT TRUST

Leave a Legacy:

The Memorial Endowment Trust

“There are certain things that are fundamental to human fulfillment. The essence of these needs is captured in the phrase ‘To live, to love, to learn, to leave a legacy.’ The need to live is our physical need for such things as food, clothing, shelter, economical well-being, health. The need to love is our social need to relate to other people, to belong, to love and be loved. The need to learn is our mental need to develop and to grow. And the need to leave a legacy is our spiritual need to have a sense of meaning, purpose, personal congruence, and contribution.”

Steven R. Covey, *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*

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.

OPEN DOOR SCHOOL

Attention All Harris-Teeter Shoppers

Link your Harris Teeter VIC Card with the Open Door School



Please link your H-T VIC card to the Open Door School Account, Code #2752, for this school year. Even if you are linked to another school, you can link up to as many as five schools. Simply present your VIC card to the cashier along with the school code, and the school will receive cash for all Harris Teeter products you purchase through May 31.

This is something you only have to do once a year. It does not cost you anything, but it could really benefit the school if our entire church community participated in the program rather than only the school parents and staff. The school's fundraising efforts make it possible for us to grant scholarships to needy families and to improve the building, equipment, and playground areas. Our church houses a preschool we can be very proud of--let's all help support it!

MEMBERSHIP

The UUCC Welcomes the Following New Member:

Douglas “Doug” Swaim (David, Katka):

Doug says, “We’ve enjoyed attending and participating in youth activities over the past two years. We look forward to making new friends and involving ourselves more deeply in the life of the church.” Doug can be reached by email at douglas.swaim@gmail.com.

VISITOR’S CORNER

“Getting to Know Us”

Sunday, September 5th

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

2010-11 CYRE Registration

CYRE Registration Underway

Registration forms were emailed in early August to all families registered in the 09-10 CYRE program and to new families as requested. If you are new and would like to receive registration information, please contact Kathleen Carpenter at kathleen@uuccharlotte.org. Forms are posted on the UUCC website (www.uuccharlotte.org), as well. Visitors are welcome to attend classes up to three times before registering. Children and youth must be registered to participate in any special programming or off-site activities. Families do not have to be UUCC members to enroll their children in the CYRE program. We welcome everyone!

Audio Copies of Sunday Services

Past Copies Available at Visitor Table

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. Visitors can also check out audio copies of past services at the visitors table on Sunday after services.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

Reminders

Office Closing

UUCS offices will be closed on Monday, September 6th in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

Voices Schedule

Voices is now back on its regular two week schedule.



Next Work Date, Saturday, September 11th

Our next Habitat date is Saturday, September 11th at 4804 Hovis Rd. We will meet at the work site at 8 a.m. and work until 1 p.m. No experience is necessary and all skill levels are welcome. Please contact Frank at mcburnett@windstream.net by Thursday, September 2 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.

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, September 21 st 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
UUCS Women's Support Group	Library	7:00 p.m. 3 rd Tuesday	Karen Achor (704) 847-2081
UUCS Handwork Group	Library	5:00 p.m. 2 nd Sunday	Kat Weisz (704) 321-9067; Vivian Brenner (704) 841-1624.
Yoga	TBA	7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays	Bill Cooke (704) 364-2107

Open Mind Book Club

Monday, September 13th

The Open Mind Book Club will meet Monday, September 13th at 7:30 pm in the Schweitzer Room. We will be discussing *I'm Down: a memoir* by Mishna Wolff. **Upcoming Titles:** October 4th: *Italian Shoes* by Henning Mankell.

Come One Come All....

Activities and Groups Fair, Sunday, September 26th

... to the UUCS Activities and Groups Fair Sunday, September 26th. Did you know there are over 40 activities and groups at the UUCS? Join us after the services in Freeman Hall and learn about the many ways to get involved.

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!



VOICES

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Address Label

The deadline for the next **VOICES** is
Sunday, September 12, 2010 for the next issue which will
be published on **Wednesday, September 15, 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