

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.

## YOU'VE GOT QUESTIONS...WE'VE GOT ANSWERS

Activities and Group Fair Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup>

If you've ever wondered how to become more involved at the UUCC, make a difference in the community and create connections to last a lifetime, we've got the answer. Join us for the UUCC Activity and Group Fair Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup> in Freeman Hall. Meet members of the Congregational Care team, Children's Choir, Softball Team, Handwork group, Room in the Inn, Mystics and Metaphysics group and many, many more. The fair will be held after the 9:15 and 11:15 services. Style counts! Attendees will have a chance to vote on the best booth. See you there.

## CLASS MATTERS

UUCC Courses Start October 23<sup>rd</sup>

Many UUCC members learned about the culture of poverty in the 2008 Class Matters course offered by the Social Justice team. Paul Hanneman and Wanda Anderson have extended their class this year with a follow-up course entitled "Building Relationships", focusing on building working relationships across the boundaries of class and financial status. Anyone volunteering in direct services with those with housing needs will benefit from learning to provide support through more effective and real relationships. The original Class Matter course was offered at Providence UMC in mid September.

The follow up course will be at the UUCC on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> from 12-3 pm. The first course (whether taken now or previously) is a pre-requisite for the second course in October. The course is 6 hours. Participants will need to purchase the course materials for \$20. For more information or to sign up, visit the Social Justice table in Freeman hall on Sundays.

*More Social Justice News on page 6*



## UUCC MUSIC PROGRAM RETREAT

Weekend of October 1-2

Are you currently a participant in the music program here at the UUCC, from musical ensembles to providing music in services and special events? Or would like to participate in the music at UUCC -- *or you're the spouse, partner, or significant other of a music participant* -- please plan on joining us for our annual Music Program Retreat to be held at the church Friday and Saturday, October 1-2.

Highlights include a catered dinner/dance on Friday night, "Celebration of Community" service on Saturday morning, followed by an outrageously fun team building activity, Alexander Technique instruction by Dr. Jessie Martin of Wingate University as well as chime technique instruction by Becky Puster, director of the handbell program at the First Presbyterian Church of Charlotte (see page 3 for the retreat schedule).

*(Continued on page 3)*

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## FROM YOUR PROFESSIONAL STAFF

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Even though I serve this congregation, I also spend a lot of my free time in other churches, too. I'm part of a 12-step recovery group and these groups invariably choose to meet in church basements or meeting rooms. Over the years I have found them to be quite helpful and have had the honor and privilege of helping others "work the program."

There are an awful lot of recovery groups. There are groups for overeaters, alcoholics, drug users, gamblers, Internet addicts, people who act compulsively and on and on. Central to all of these groups are the 12 steps developed by and popularized by Alcoholics Anonymous. Each group has modified the steps to more accurately reflect their own needs but all are remarkably similar in their adherence to the originals.

In Alcoholics Anonymous, the Third Step suggests that those who succeeded made, "a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood him." This suggestion that one ascertain a "higher power" is common to every 12 step program. It also is one of the more difficult steps for beginners particularly because so many people have a negative view of either of the religion they experienced as children, what they now hear in some churches or from a personal set of beliefs. Many people hear in this step a requirement to believe in God and to subscribe to traditional teachings in Christian churches.

Old timers in AA are quick to point out that this is pretty far from the intent of the suggestion. There are, they say, no requirements whatsoever that anyone believe in a God *per se*. They do point out, however, that this very personal program will not work if you rely entirely on your own resources for success. "Make your higher power the group, a bread box or a doorknob," I have often heard. "But recognize that you cannot do this by yourself. You will need a power outside yourself and greater than yourself to make this program work."

This concept of a higher power is certainly a subject of passionate conversation among Unitarian Universalists. We UUs make no suggestions to people coming through our doors about this. Instead we offer the community, the support and the encouragement for each of us to discover our own deeper spiritual meaning.

Jay Leach once described the purpose of any church or religious service as the vessel in which our concept of our relationship to the universe may be carried. It is in this crucible in which we also forge our own understandings and make

connections with things we cannot understand. Our connections to each other as we go through this process are vital. These connections are essential not only in our own congregation but in all the 12 step programs as well.

This business of finding our own spiritual way is not for the faint of heart. The work that we do together points the way toward deeper understanding and more significant connections beyond ourselves. It requires that we set aside precon-

ceived notions and that we adopt our own concepts of how we relate to a larger whole. It is not work that is easily done or, like 12-step work, work that is really ever finished.

I cannot find my way to these ends without you. Our

coming together and doing things together makes tangible the deep inner spiritual progress I'd like to achieve. If I glimpse the divine or the holy it is in your faces and in your deeds. Within groups of people committed to finding a higher way I see clear evidence of my own higher power.

Thank you for being there for me and for others who will find strength in our community. Thank you for the support you offer and for the chance you give for us to all grow up together. I look forward to more progress on this road to happy destiny.

—Jeter Walker, Director of Administration

**"Our coming together and doing things together makes tangible the deep inner spiritual progress I'd like to achieve. If I glimpse the divine or the holy it is in your faces and in your deeds. Within groups of people committed to finding a higher way I see clear evidence of my own higher power."**

**Jeter Walker, Director of Administration**

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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, our Congregational Care Line.*

## MUSIC NEWS

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*("Music Retreat" continued from page 1)*

### **Friday, October 1<sup>st</sup>:**

6:00 pm: Welcome and Check-in

6:30 pm: Catered Dinner and Dance

### **Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>:**

9:00 am: Welcome and Continental Breakfast

9:30 am: "Celebration of Community"

10:30 am: BREAK

10:45 am: Team Building Fun

11:45 am: Lunch on your own in Cotswold

1:00 pm: Alexander Tech./Dr. Jessie Martin

2:00 pm: Chime Technique w/Becky Puster -or-  
Singing w/Alexander Technique

3:00 pm: Closing Circle

Advance registration is required by contacting John Herrick

## Music Program Rehearsals Have Begun

Please plan on joining the music program this fall – Children's Choir, Adult Choir, Chamber Choir, Chime Ensemble, plus more! Information and a rehearsal schedule can be found on the church website music page, or contact John Herrick directly.

## MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT TRUST

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### Retirement Plans

One of the most popular ways to give to a charitable organization is through the beneficiary designation on your retirement funds. These could be IRAs, 401(k), 403(b), or annuities. The advantages to making this type of gift are several:

- Unlike a family member who will likely have a large portion of the distribution lost in taxes, the charitable organization gets the full benefit. Giving this way can help maximize estate and income tax savings for your heirs.
- This gift can also be arranged without changing other estate documents. Often this change is simply done with a "Change of Beneficiary" form provided by the institution that holds the investment.
- One can designate the charity as sole beneficiary or entitled to a certain percent of the assets at your death.

Questions? Contact one of the Memorial Endowment Trustees: Dana Hershey, Tom Nunnenkamp, Cathlean Utzig or Randy Whitt.

## OPEN DOOR SCHOOL

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### Celebrating the 2010-2011 school year with a fresh look

#### Beautification Day

Beautification Day was held on Saturday, August 21. Families, teachers, office staff and the chair of the Managing Team participated in painting, cleaning, landscaping and general maintenance and upkeep. It was a time of community building with families and staff taking pride in our school.



#### Parent Orientation

Director Amy Schofield Smith welcomed the parents at their **Orientation on Sept. 2**, along with Martha Kniseley from the Managing Team and Gannon Ward from the Parent Council. Amy introduced the newest staff members and announced changes that will improve the quality of education for the children and for mentoring teachers-in-training.

#### New Program Coordinator



Sheila Locklear, our master teacher with 17 years ODS experience, will join the office staff as the **Program Coordinator**. This new position will enable her to interact with parents, teachers & CPPC students. She will continue to mentor and give tours, as well as provide backup support in the office.

#### New Full Time Office Manager and New Teachers

Amy Crew, our office manager, has been promoted to full time and will be taking on many new duties that include accounting and website management. We also welcome new teachers Rose Sprial, Stephanie Jeon, and Pam Mallet!

#### Curriculum Night

All parents are invited to attend **Curriculum Night** on October 14, 6:30 - 8:30. Please check the Open Door School website for upcoming information

# ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

## Women's Moon Circle

### Paint Your Spirit Tree

Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>

The next Women's Moon Circle is about exploring who you are and tapping your creativity. Join us Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7-9 pm, in the Chapel. Under the guidance of artist and art teacher Annie Standish, you'll create a symbolic painting, expressing your roots (where you came from), your present (family, work, your passion) and what you're reaching toward (goals for the future). We'll write down some ideas first to guide us in what symbols and colors-shapes would best represent us. NO prior painting experience required. More info: Carol Smith, [bnsmith@carolina.rr.com](mailto:bnsmith@carolina.rr.com) or (704) 953-4146.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Friday Pot Luck Lunch

Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup>

Are you retired, not working or otherwise available on Fridays? Come join with other UUC members and guests for a noon time luncheon in Freeman Hall. September program: Brown Bag Lunch (bring your own) and Poetry (bring a favorite). Arrive 11:45, Lunch at 12:00, program 12:30, finish at 1:00, Freeman Hall. Please RSVP to [aresd@uuccharlotte.org](mailto:aresd@uuccharlotte.org)

## 4<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 30 minute sessions the presenter speaks about their personal religious/spiritual beliefs or/and their regular religious/spiritual practices. Join us Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. in the Chapel

## The Enneagram: Return to Essence

with Angelina Corbet and Brad Smith

Join us starting Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Chapel for "The Enneagram: Return to Essence." The *Enneagram* is an ancient model that combines centuries-old wisdom with practical application. Based on nine personality Types and their corresponding "views of the world," these *Enneagram* Types keep us behaving out of compulsion rather than conscious choice. The *Enneagram* views the personality patterns from the perspective of the three primary centers of intelligence . . . feeling, thinking and doing. It is in releasing the full potential of all three centers that we release our greatest gifts. Through a variety of experiences,



"The Enneagram: Return to Essence" will provide:

- An overview of the *Enneagram* as a tool for self-awareness
- An understanding of how the nine *Enneagram* types influence relationships with family, friends, colleagues and others
- Practical self-observation to look "inside" to understand the nine Types at a deeper level
- Opportunities to understand and appreciate the unique gifts hidden in the "repressed center"

## Mystics & Metaphysics Discussion Group

Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am in the Chapel



NEW! Mystics & Metaphysics Discussion Group Metaphysics, the so-called "speculative" philosophy, deals with the Nature of Being and explores topics that are beyond the physical and perhaps logical.

Metaphysics has evolved since Aristotle's time into a wide field including spiritualism, parapsychology, mysticism, yoga, intuition, ESP, dreams, Jungian psychology, astrology, positive thinking, holistic healing, life after death, reincarnation, and transphysical science.

The purpose of this new group is to come together to explore topics of a metaphysical nature. Whether you are skeptical, just curious, intrigued, or a believer, sign up to be part of a freewheeling discussion. Stop by the ARES table in Freeman Hall to sign up or come to a preliminary Q&A on Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 in the Chapel. Ongoing meetings will be monthly, 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays, beginning Oct 19<sup>th</sup> in Schweitzer.

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH (CYRE)

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## Toothbrushes, Deodorant, and Razors – Oh My!

As a reminder, a collection is held each Sunday in our CYRE classes at all levels except high school. Preschool and Elementary aged children are given the opportunity to donate money or non-perishable food items. Middle School youth also contribute \$1 a week (to go toward the purchase of calculators for Plaza Place youth) and a food item.

**Please note this change** – we are now also collecting personal hygiene items for the children and youth of Plaza Place, a transitional shelter for families. Our Middle School youth partnered with Plaza Place last year, helping them paint several murals, coordinating social events, and collecting Halloween costumes.



Now, thanks to the continued dedication of Donna Shore and Janet Marx, we are expanding that relationship to include our younger children.

While the youth will be the only ones visiting Plaza Place, we hope the younger kids will get the message via their parents and teachers that if they bring personal hygiene items, they will be helping a homeless child who may otherwise not have a clean toothbrush or enough shampoo or soap to stay clean.

## Kids in a Box – and Adults, too!

Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 6pm

“Kids in a Box” is multigenerational Social Justice project, designed to teach our children about homelessness in a safe, non-threatening way. It is scheduled for Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup> on the grounds of the UUCC. 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 sleep in that night on one of the playgrounds. Tents are also allowed. (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.

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 also assist but will not spend the night. We will provide large boxes and materials for decorating them after the 11:15 RE sessions on both September 26<sup>th</sup> and October 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you want us to get a box(es) for you, you must RSVP to Kathleen Carpenter by September 20. If you will have your own boxes and want to participate, the deadline to sign up is October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

We need volunteers to help with the following:

- To pick up boxes
- To supervise the box decoration on either Sept 26 or Oct 3
- To help plan the Friday night multigenerational worship service
- To help plan the Saturday morning closing circle
- To shop for the soup and bread
- To help prepare the dinner
- To help lead activities on Friday night after the worship

To volunteer, contact Event Coordinator, Rachel Fleming, or Kathleen Carpenter

## Bibles and Bells Needed (but no whistles)

Our older elementary and middle school children are studying our Jewish and Christian Heritage this year. For the younger children, this translates to Bible stories and a working understanding of the Bible. The older youth will learn about the Bible and then focus in on four very different Christian denominations, including visits and visitors. We need more Bibles. If you have a newer one you are willing to donate, please bring it by the CYRE Office. Thanks! We are also looking for 2-3 bells with clangers. If you have a medium sized brass or other metal bell (6”-10” tall) that you are willing to donate the CYRE program, we would be very appreciative. Thanks so much!

## Mt. Con Orientation in the Sanctuary

Sunday, October 3

Mountain Cons are weekend long, age-based retreats held at the UU-affiliated Mountain Retreat and Learning Center in Highlands, NC. Our church sends groups of children to all of them; however, no child may attend from our church without first attending a Mountain Con Orientation coordinated by UUCC volunteers. Parents must attend as well. This requirement is waived if the 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.

### Tennis Lessons for a Good Cause

Joe Spencer is an accomplished tennis player who has given lessons to a number of people at the church. He is willing to donate the fee for these lessons to the Social Justice Auction Fund. It's really very simple. Contact Joe Spencer to schedule a lesson. Make your check out to the UUCC and in the memo line indicate that it is for the "Social Justice Fund" and mail or bring it to the church. You get a lesson from a great teacher, our social justice effort to address homelessness/affordable housing gets a donation, and you become a better tennis player. What is not to love?



UUCC member Mike Long, a student of Joe's, says "Joe Spencer is a true student of the mechanics of tennis and he enjoys fixing your game from all aspects. I have taken lessons from lots of pros over the years, but he has helped my game the most." We welcome any other talented folks out there

who want to donate services. Let us know at the Social Justice Table in Freeman Hall or drop a note in the Social Justice box in the office area.

### Blood Drive

Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm

It is with great pleasure that I share with you that we had 24 productive units of blood donated for the August 10<sup>th</sup> blood drive. While we did not make our goal of 30 units (no doubles machine costs us a few units), we had only 15 appointments scheduled. To collect 24 units with 15 appointments on the books was awesome.

The next blood drive is scheduled for Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. 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@lasmc.com](mailto:btrainum@lasmc.com).



### State PRIDE Parade Volunteers Needed

Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>

It's September again...which means it's time to gear up to rally for LGBT rights and marriage equality at the 2010 NC PrideFest Day - Festival and Parade on September 25<sup>th</sup>. There are so many ways to help "Stand on the Side of Love" with fellow UUs this year. The festival lasts from 10am-5pm on Duke's East Campus in Durham, NC. For information on day-of volunteer opportunities (helping to staff our UU booth, face painting, etc.), please contact me Kate Snyder at [KEF17@duke.edu](mailto:KEF17@duke.edu). The local Charlotte PRIDE event is set for Oct. 2 at the NC Music Factory and we are partnering with the Piedmont (PUUC) Church.

### Outdoor Adventure Group's

#### October Hike

Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>

October's hike will be more of an outdoor adventure! UUCC members Brenny Thompson and Karen Parker Thompson have invited us to hike on their lovely 100 acre property in Bakersville (between Boone and Asheville), NC. We will meet at the UUCC parking lot on Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12noon and camp overnight on their property and then hike on Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> and return around 5pm Sunday night.

In addition to hiking equipment, you should bring camping gear for overnight camping and food/drink you want to eat (or share) while on the mountain. You need not carry your gear on your back to the camping spot, so don't worry about that. Be prepared for cold or wet weather if predicted. We plan to hike up Lightwood mountain at some point, having a campfire Saturday night and other fun activities. We would rate this as a pretty rustic camping and hiking experience...no bathrooms or facilities at all...just spectacular long range views into Tennessee!

For more information please contact Rita Heath-Singer at [jsinger@carolina.rr.com](mailto:jsinger@carolina.rr.com).

### Open Mind Book Club

Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup>

The Open Mind Book Club will meet Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm in the Library. We will be discussing *Italian Shoes* by Henning Mankell. Please RSVP to Gwynne Movius if you plan to attend.

# Straight Spouse Support Group

Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Chapel

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 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7pm. If you would like more information about this group contact Sage Brook at (704) 366-7983.

## 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 currently have copies of the Sunday Services checked out, please return them as soon as possible.

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.

## 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."

## Statement of Ownership

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Total	618	599
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Meeting	Location	Time	Contact
Aging: The Golden Years	Library	7:00 p.m. Thursdays	Charles Lee <a href="mailto:charlee.landings@gmail.com">charlee.landings@gmail.com</a>
Borderlands Discussion Group	Off Site	Tuesday, October 19 <sup>th</sup> 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	Schweitzer	Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.	Elizabeth Kerman (704) 846-7181
Jabberwocks	Library	10:00 a.m. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday	Doris Thomas Browder
QUEST	Sigismund	7:00 p.m. Tuesdays	Paul & Shirley Wagner (704) 364-8855
Parabola Series	Library	Tuesday, October 12 <sup>th</sup> 7:00	Carol Smith (704) 953-4146
Parenting & Aspergers Support Group	Starbucks Cotswold	6:30 p.m. 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	Margie Storch <a href="mailto:mstorch@carolina.rr.com">mstorch@carolina.rr.com</a>
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 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday	Sage Brook (704) 366-7983
UUCW Women's Support Group	Library	7:00 p.m. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	Karen Achor (704) 847-2081
UUCW Handwork Group	Priestley	7:00 p.m. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday	Kat Weisz (704) 321-9067; Vivian Brenner (704) 841-1624.
Yoga	Priestley	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, September 26, 2010** for the next issue which will be published on **Wednesday, September 29, 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](mailto:uucc@uuccharlotte.org)