

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.

GIVE LIBERALLY

Stewardship Campaign Kicks off

As he was leaving for sabbatical in June, our minister, Jay, emphasized in his sermon, "Seven Years Together" 2010 that:

"Our work is far from done. We have major issues to address. We must move immediately upon my return to reinitiate the search for a second minister. I cannot sustain what I have been doing without help. We cannot offer what we should be offering without another minister on our staff. We desperately need a broad based small group ministry... we need professional assistance and direction if we are to realize our potential in Social Justice. We need creative professional leadership to assure that we are offering the kind of adult religious education and spiritual development we need. We need another minister to help address personal and family needs within the congregation".

Our Stewardship theme this year is "Give Liberally." To give liberally simply means to give generously, or to give freely. We want all members this year, and every year, to recall the intangible gifts they receive from the church, and what the church can do for your friends, the community, our children and even those we don't know.

About two years ago I assisted Jay in a service relating to generosity. In unison, the congregation read the following by Jack Kornfield from *A Path with a Heart*:

"Compassionate generosity is the foundation of true spiritual life because it is the practice of letting go. An act of generosity opens our body, heart and spirit

and brings us closer to freedom. Each act of generosity is recognition of interdependence."

Kahil Gibran challenged us with his definition of generosity:

"Generosity is not giving me that which I need more than you do, but it is giving me that which you need more than I do."



What a great place we have to open your mind and 'Discover deeper spiritual meaning.' What a great place to bring your children to learn about religions, and to help them discover their own spiritual beliefs. What an oasis: a safe haven for liberal religious thought and action. This is your church, and it is my church, and I am very proud of who we are and what the possibilities are.

In the December 20, 2010 Voices, Dave Smith, a long time member of the UUC, reminded us that our building was DEDICATED TO RELIGIOUS

FREEDOM. He also reminded us that "our church is not a physical place, but a value: perpetuating the opportunity to explore one's own religious beliefs." Does that not seem like the place you want to support and be a part of?

We cultivate lives of generosity and responsibility. Most of us at the UUC have found Unitarian Universalism because we are a thoughtful group of people who do not accept the status quo, but believe things can be better for everyone. We are generous in spirit. We believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and we have respect for the interdependent web of all existence for which we are a part.

Barbara and I have been coming to the UUC for more than
(Continued on page 4)

FROM THE MINISTER

In the pre-dawn darkness every other Tuesday morning, I roll our overstuffed recycling barrel down to the curb for pickup. Between composting and recycling, our trash barrel usually remains close to empty.

It has never occurred to me to walk around our neighborhood to see who else is recycling. I don't try to find out if other people's trash barrels seem much fuller than their accompanying recycling bins. We don't consider what everyone else is doing and then decide whether or not it is worth our time to carefully separate our waste so as to ensure anything that can be recycled will be recycled. We don't even try to assess whether our taking the time to recycle the contents of our one household is really making all that much difference in the big scheme of things.

We recycle. It's just what we do. And we'll continue recycling regardless of what anyone else does. We do it as one very simple effort to embody our professed intent to be faithful stewards of our planet. We do it as a simple way of trying to take the greater good—the commonwealth—into consideration. And we do it to model for our daughter one way of living responsibly.

That's also why we pledge each year to our congregation. We don't ask what everyone else is (or is not) pledging and then determine how we'll respond to the Stewardship Team's invitation. We don't worry about trying to meet some average or fret about whether some others are (or are not) doing their part. We don't try to figure out whether what we can pledge really makes much difference. We don't ask what's in it for us or how much we're getting from what we're giving.

We pledge. It's just what we do. And we'll continue pledging regardless of what anyone else does. As with recycling, we see our pledge as an effort to embody our values, to put what we say matters into some tangible reality. We aspire to be as liberal in our giving as we are in our rhetoric.

As with recycling, we see pledging as an opportunity to contribute to the greater good—the commonwealth. It's not about what's in it for us, or about what we get back for

what we give. It's about embracing the great opportunity we're being given to make life better for a whole community of people we care about.

As with recycling, we see pledging as a way of educating our daughter about what it means to live responsibly. We talk openly with her about our pledge to the congregation and about why we think it is so important to pledge.

So, we've already submitted our 2011 – 2012 pledge before we had any idea what anyone else will be pledging. Aware that we've asked for each member to consider a pledge of 5% of gross household income and feeling the responsibility to be leaders here, we're continuing this year to pledge well in excess of 5% of our gross household income to the UUCC. So, this year our pledge is \$7000.00.

We don't feel like heroes for recycling. We don't think we're doing anything extraordinary by pledging as we do. It's a whole lot simpler than that for us. It's just about trying to do the right thing.

Peace, Jay

As with recycling, we see pledging as an opportunity to contribute to the greater good—the commonwealth. It's not about what's in it for us, or about what we get back for what we give. It's about embracing the great opportunity we're being given to make life better for a whole community of people we care about.

Rev. Jay Leach, UUCC Minister

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.

Remember Our Friendship Freezer

Our freezer with ready-made meals for those needing them is nearly empty. When you're cooking and baking, make a little extra for our Congregational Care efforts and place it in the stairwell freezer. Stickers are ready for you to indicate the date and contents of your dish.

BOARD UPDATE ON ENVISIONING PLAN AND CHRISTMAS EVE RECEPTION

A heartfelt “Thank You!” to all those who participated in envisioning plan discussion about what our church can and should be in the next five years. The Board presented several opportunities to the congregation to participate and we had great response in small group discussions, dinners, informal conversations, and also the survey. The UUCC Board hosted a conversational setting once a month as well, in order to offer the widest opportunity for involvement. We sincerely appreciate the amount and quality of the feedback, we had a phenomenal response!

We have begun digesting all of the information and will continue to do so over the next month. Then we will move on to our next phase in planning, and begin working with the Coordinating Team to create our next Envisioning Plan.

We will be following up with another article next month to keep everyone up to date as to progress!

I would also like to thank everyone who attended the Christmas Eve Reception that was hosted by the Board. What a fantastic turn-out. Freeman Hall was overflowing with Holiday Cheer, laughter, and plenty of Hot Cider. Thank you to all who brought in food for the reception, we could not have done it without you!

Here is to a year of Living Generously,
Colleen Beale
UUCC Board Chair

For Board Contact
Information
Please contact the office at
704-366-8623

MUSIC NEWS

Adult Choir Open House

Wednesday, February 2 at 7 pm



No experience required – just a love of singing! The 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. rehearsal in the sanctuary will be followed by a reception and an opportunity to meet members of the choir.

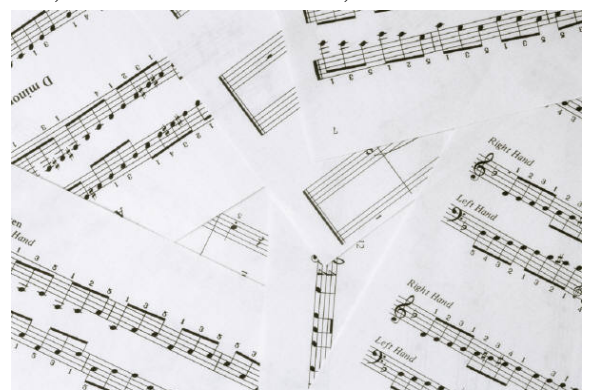
The group rehearses weekly and sings on average three Sundays a month. Weekly rehearsal attendance is encouraged but not required – singers are just asked to attend one of two Wednesday night rehearsals leading up to a Sunday morning performance. For more information, contact John Herrick.

First-time Songwriter Coffeehouse

Saturday, February 12 at 7:30 pm

Mark your calendars for this special musical event on Saturday evening, February 12 at UUCC. Co-sponsored by the Music and Community Building Teams, the coffeehouse will feature songwriters from our congregation performing original works. Musicians include Kevin Edwards, Tim Lemmond, Pete, Colin and Sarah Moore, Michelle and Steven Reines and Scott Whitesell.

The event is free with attendees invited to bring munchies; coffee, hot and cold drinks will be provided. Childcare for children 3 and up will be available. For more information, contact John Herrick.



(“Give Liberally” Continued from page 1)

30 years. We have many long term friendships that began at the UCC. Our daughter, Christina, spent 15 years in CYRE at the UCC. Loyd Dillon performed the wedding ceremony for Christina. Our four month old grandson attended the Christmas Eve service last month. That was very cool, by the way.

In his first sermon upon returning in January, Jay commented in “Beginning Again, Again” that he needs and wishes to add more depth than breadth to his ministry. The message is quite clear as to what we need to do.

January 30, 2011, marks the official start date for the Give Liberally pledge campaign. The campaign is quite simply our way of discovering how much the membership will support the UCC. Many people dislike talking about money and even fewer want to be asked for money. But this is how we find out what we can afford. The UCC has been here for the past sixty plus years but we can do and be so much more. We have seen what we are capable of when we have a complete staff in place to keep us organized, and we simply must fund a second minister right away.

Please give your canvasser the opportunity to talk with you. Share your concerns, but please talk with them and give your pledge this year, and by all means give liberally.

Randy Whitt
Stewardship Chair

... when someone less privileged challenges the system because it isn't working as it should for everyone, whites are inclined to respond by grabbing hold of what they think they have—and fear they might lose. All too few are ready to say, 'Let's listen. Maybe there is something to what these people are saying.'

from *Open Wide the Freedom Gates* by Dorothy Height

GET INVOLVED

UUCC/Cotswold Community Blood Drive

Tuesday, February 15th at 3:30pm



Our blood drive is scheduled for Tuesday, February 15th. If you would like to donate, you are welcome to go to www.membersforlife.org/cbsr/schedule and click on "Click here to schedule a mobile appointment" our sponsor code is 2636. You may also sign up in Freeman Hall or by emailing Brian Trainum at

brian.trainum@hsl-nc.com.

Habitat for Humanity Work Date

Saturday, February 19th

Our next Habitat date is Saturday, February 19 at 2518 Pitts Dr. We will meet at the work site at 8 a.m. and work until 1 p.m. Our task will be siding installation. No experience is necessary and all skill levels are welcome. Please contact Frank at mcburnett@windstream.net or 704.995.4203 by Thursday, February 10 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.

Furniture Drive a Success

Ron Zick led a very successful furniture drive for Crisis Assistance Ministry on Saturday January 15. Church members and friends donated two large trucks of furniture, to be given to newly housed previously homeless neighbors. Many thanks to Ron for his enthusiastic and competent leadership and to Roger Coates, Zach Connelley, Tommy George, Tiffany Glisson, Jennifer Tormey, Susan Cox and Jeff Barnes for providing the heavy lifting to get the furniture picked up and delivered to the warehouse for distribution to the families. Carol Smith and Sandy Vermillion provided additional behind the scenes support. Several other people had offered their services in the afternoon but these teams were finished by 1:15. Thanks to all who donated and helped make this project another success in our ongoing Social Justice efforts.

DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS

GA is coming, GA is coming!

June 22-26, 2011

What is GA? It's the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly, an annual UU convention, as it were, of thousands of UUs from across the country who meet to connect and network and do the business of our faith. And this year, it will be in Charlotte. The Charlotte Business Journal says that, at 5,000 expected attendees, it will be the largest convention in Charlotte this year.

More details will follow, but here's a snapshot of what to expect and what you can do:

- You may register starting March 1 to attend GA (early registration is \$315), which will enable you to have access to all GA workshops, performances, and events, including the Ware Lecture. The Ware Lecturer, a distinguished guest speaker invited by the UUA president, is Karen Armstrong, one of the world's leading commentators on religious affairs and a best-selling author. Another special guest will be Feisal Abdul Rauf, American Sufi imam, author, and activist who has recently received national attention for his plans to build an Islamic community center two blocks from Ground Zero.
- You may choose a one-day registration (\$130) to attend events on just one day. The program schedule will be on the UUA website in March.
- There are a few open-to-the-public events that you may want to take advantage of: the Thursday evening Service of the Living Tradition, the Sunday Morning Worship, and, on Sunday only, the Exhibit Hall.
- And there will be a multitude of volunteer opportunities for committees, tasks, and a variety of roles that will be available, such as offering your home as a B&B. You can also volunteer at GA and have your registration paid; that process starts March 1.

This will be an extraordinary opportunity to be a part of our bigger faith movement. You can get more details at the UUA website: <http://uua.org/events/generalassembly/index.shtml>. Stay tuned as we bring you more of the particulars in VOICES, a table in Freeman Hall and on our website.

Did You Know . . .

Most of you know about our sister church, Piedmont Unitarian Universalist, in the University area. Our congregation helped "birth" that church and support it with our interest and efforts in their first few days in 1988. Now we have a little sister church, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Lake Norman.

Rich Greene visited them at Easter, and Sandra Woolsey visited them in early December. They meet in a building on the Davidson College campus and offer Sunday services at 11:00, including an RE program. Amy Brooks is acting as their consulting minister and is doing one service per month. Their goal is to grow and become an active part of our GA meeting in June. For more information about our big and little sister churches, contact Rich or Sandra. This is a great religion, we need to nurture it and help it grow!

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

Service times

9:15 & 11:15

Sunday, February 6, 2011

**"It is Good to Use/
Best China"**

Rev. Jay Leach, Minister

9:15 Service

Adult Choir sings

"A Beautiful Thing"

by Jane Marshall

Chime Ensemble plays for
both services.

Sunday, February 13, 2010

Second Sunday:

Commitment

Rev. Jay Leach, Minister

11:15 Service

Adult Choir sings

"I Am a Rock"

by Carl Strommen

Sunday, February 20, 2011

**World Day of Social
Justice: Standing on
the Side of Love**

Rev. Jay Leach, Minister

Chamber Choir sings

"Standing on the
Side of Love"

by Jason Shelton

at both services

Sunday, February 27, 2011

Carnival Sunday

Rev. Jay Leach, Minister

Adult Choir sings

"Banquet Fugue"

by P.D. Bach at both services

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Parents as Resident Theologians

With Kathleen Carpenter and Lisa Chisholm

Sundays, starting January 30th at 1:30pm in the Chapel

This will be a six week learning and discussion group based on the UU parenting curriculum, “Parents As Resident Theologians.” Goals for participants: to probe personal theological issues, to gain insight from their religious journeys, explore ways to interact with children in their religious questioning, to reach a deeper understanding of what it is to be a Unitarian Universalist, to appreciate the important role of parents in their children’s religious development, to articulate their personal theology.

Lotus Path

1st and 3rd Sunday at 8:00 am, starting February 6

Schweitzer Room; with Richard Kushmaul



These sessions will involve study of various eastern religious beliefs and philosophies with discussion and consideration of their applicability in modern times. The first session will be based on read-

ings from the book “In This Very Moment: A Simple Guide to Zen Buddhism”. Other sources will be utilized as chosen by the group. The class will be scheduled so that attendees can continue with Sunday Morning Meditation if they so choose.

The Power of Myth

Starting February 7, at 7:00 pm in Schweitzer

Facilitated by Richard Kushmaul

This six week course will be based on the acclaimed PBS video documentary series “The Power of Myth with Joseph Campbell and Bill Moyers”. At each meeting a portion of a series video will be shown with discussion available at any point. Topics to be discussed will be taken from selections from episodes: “The Hero’s Adventure”, “The Message of the Myth”, “The First Story Tellers”, “Sacrifice and Bliss”, “Love and the Goddesses”, and “Masks of Eternity”

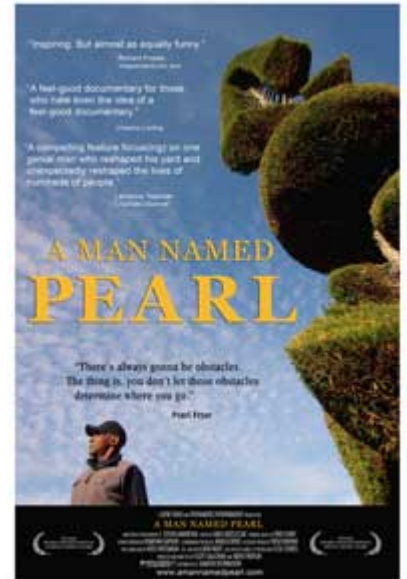
Documentary Film Series

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

February 11: *A Man Named Pearl (2006)*

Theme: Commitment

A MAN NAMED PEARL chronicles the story of Pearl’s dazzling garden as well as his extraordinary life, both of which serve as inspirations to his family, his community, and the thousands of visitors who come to experience Pearl’s world each year. The film traces Pearl’s journey from a small town sharecropper’s son to an internationally-acclaimed artist, and from his initial goal to win the Bish-
opville, SC, “Yard of the Month Award”—a goal instigated by a bigoted remark—to the many accolades that followed, including museum exhibitions and his status as the celebrated cultural icon of his impoverished town. Now 68, the soft-spoken Pearl has just one wish for all those who wander through his living art: they must leave feeling differently than when they arrived.



Freedom isn't the right or ability to do whatever you please. . . . By accepting life's limits and inevitabilities and working with them rather than fighting them, we become free.

from *A Manual for Living* by Epictetus, a New Interpretation by Sharon Lebell

2nd Sunday Topic Discussion

Resumes Sunday, February 13th at 10:30 am in the Chapel

This will be an opportunity to meet with the Minister to share your thoughts, ask questions, and hear others views relative to the sermon topic for that day. This meeting will begin promptly at 10:30 in the Bernstein Chapel. February Topic: **Commitment**

Science Fiction Sundays

Second Sundays at 2:00 pm in the Chapel

Sunday, February 13:

"The Parliament of Dreams," *Babylon 5* Season 1

A weeklong festival celebrates the various religious practices followed by the major races living on the Babylon 5 space station. Station commander Jeffrey Sinclair, at a loss as to how to demonstrate Earth's diverse religious heritage, eventually comes up with an interesting solution

Weaving Dream Catchers

Women's Moon Circle

Friday, February 18 at 7:00pm in the Chapel.

The next Moon Circle is Friday, February 18, 7-9pm, in the Chapel, and will be led by Dawn Stoeckel. We will explore the Native American themes of the dream catcher. We will weave our own willow dream catchers while meditating about the threads of our lives and how our paths cross. Supplies including beads and feathers will be provided. Participants are encouraged to bring any "special" beads or feathers to add to their dream catchers. A small donation to help cover supplies will be appreciated. Please contact Dawn to sign up in advance peace.bwthu@yahoo.com



Dances of Universal Peace

With Emi Miller, February 19 at 6:00 p.m. Sanctuary

The Dances of Universal Peace are meditative, spiritual practices using mantras and sacred dances of the world religions to promote peace. They combine sacred phrases with simple movements and singing, all of which are easily taught in a few minutes, to all levels of participants, by the Dance Leader. The DUP emphasis is on participation regardless of ability, and dances are almost never performed before an audience. Each dance is taught afresh at every gathering so newcomers can comfortably begin attending at any time and feel at ease. Dances are choreographed with movements, steps, and gestures that encourage the dancer to explore a deeper Spiritual awareness and union within each dance. Dances are held on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

**You may have the grace to look up and out
And into your sister's eyes, into
Your brother's face, your country
And say simply
Very simply
With hope
Good morning.**

from "On the Pulse of the Morning"
by Maya Angelou

4th Friday Film Series

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

February 25

(Commitment) *The Straight Story* (US 1999)

When aging Alvin Straight (Farnsworth) learns that his brother has suffered a life-threatening stroke, he undertakes a dangerous and emotional 260 mile journey on a John Deere riding mower to make amends with his estranged sibling. Based on a true story and filmed along the actual route. Rated G. 112 min.

**You yourselves must strive; the Buddhas only point
the way.**

from the Dhammapada

This I Believe – This I Practice

February 27 at 10:30 a.m. in the Chapel; Speaker: Ab Promislow

In these thirty minute sessions the presenter speaks about their personal religious/spiritual beliefs or/and their regular religious/spiritual practices. We meet on 4th Sunday of each month. Next Speaker: **Ab Promislow.**

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)

What is "CYRE" Anyway?

Twice in the last month, I've had parents ask me what "RE" stands for and just last week, I had a teacher ask the meaning of the "CY" prefix in the program name.

Like all professions, we in the UU (Unitarian Universalist, of course!) movement love our acronyms and abbreviations. When I'm at professional gatherings, it's almost like we're speaking in a foreign language: "The UUCA BOT voted to change my title so I'm no longer the DRE but am now the LDFD reporting to the CYFD and the ARE/SD committees. LREDA and the UUA support that, so I'm cool. I might poll other religious educators at GA and SUUSI to see what they think."

Crazy. And not very inclusive. It's like switching to a secret language when visitors enter our doors. So in the interest of making sure everyone feels included – and knows what we're talking about – I've listed below some of the more common abbreviations and acronyms you'll hear here at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Charlotte:

UU - Unitarian Universalist

UUA – Unitarian Universalist Association

RE – Religious Education

SD – Spiritual Development

ARESD – Adult Religious Education and Spiritual Development

L as a prefix to RE or FD or SD – Lifespan

CY as a prefix to RE or FD or SD – Children and Youth

GA – General Assembly (this annual gathering of several thousand UUs will be in Charlotte this June!)

SUUSI – Southeast Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute

OWL – *Our Whole Lives* sexuality education program

COA – Coming of Age

BOT – Board of Trustees

CT - Coordinating Team

Of particular interest to our Children and Youth Religious Education (CYRE) Program are the words describing what we do here: religious education (RE), faith development (FD), and spiritual development (SD). Many UU congregations have changed the name of their "education" programs to better reflect their church's goals for its members. Jay and I led a discussion on this topic back in 2005. It was lively and provocative and succeeded in helping members reflect on the experiences they wish their children and themselves to have while here. However, despite support for other program descriptors, the decision was made to not

change the program name at that time.

Since then, our church has undergone a branding process and selected the words "Discover Deeper Spiritual Meaning" to describe our mission. I think the time is ripe to open this debate again – do we want to provide our children and youth with religious education or do we wish to enhance their faith or spiritual development? All of the above? And does the program name matter? Stay tuned for how you can become part of this debate.

Kathleen Carpenter,
Director of Religious Education

**"Here on the pulse of this new day
Look—this is our world for another day.
Reach out to it, it is your own life.
Know, too, that this day is dear
even to strangers you will never know.
Stretch out your arms to embrace it.
Do not go back to sleep.**

from "Morning Watch" by Barbara Pescan



Parent Classroom Assistants:

The new winter/spring Parent Assistant schedule was sent out to all parents with children registered in the CYRE program. Please make sure you show up on the day you are scheduled to assist in your child's CYRE class.

If you misplace your schedule, call the CYRE office. Some classes are small enough that they only need your snack; others really need your presence. Either way, we need you here on your scheduled day. Thanks for your support!

Join us as We Plan Another Worship Experience for All Ages

- Last year we met Henry as he walked into town from his cabin near Walden Pond, full of wonder about the world around him.
- The year before, we witnessed a little boy accidentally leave his teddy bear on a park bench, where it was discovered by a homeless man. We learned that our homeless neighbors are real people, just like us in many ways.
- Another year, we watched a middle school girl from the wrong side of the tracks fight discrimination at her middle school – and then heard a performance by the band, “Kathleen and the Carpenters!”
- And before that, we took a journey with a little mouse who yearned to move out of his comfort zone. His journey transformed us all.

Each year, the Children and Youth RE Program is responsible for a worship service. A planning team is recruited which meets 3-4 times to discuss goals, brainstorm themes, and think creatively. The service centers around a story chosen by the group and there is always a wide variety of meaningful music (including a performance or two by our Children’s Choir).

While these services include children and youth in them, they are not children’s services; they are designed as true multigenerational experiences. Please contact Kathleen Carpenter, the Director the Children and Youth RE Program at kathleen@uuccharlotte.com if interested in joining this team of planners. We welcome parents and non parents alike. This year’s services will be Sunday, March 6.

Join us as we create worship that celebrates life, challenges people to take action, and touches spirits!

I shall be right glad . . . to hear that you do not hurry yourself, but strive with deliberate energy to produce what in you is best.

Thomas Carlyle in an April 01, 1840 letter to Ralph Waldo Emerson

OPEN DOOR SCHOOL



Open Door School News

Priority Registration is underway!

Registration for currently enrolled families and **UUC church members** for the 2011-2012 school year is underway. Priority Registration will end at 1:00 PM on February 1st.

Open House and General Registration coming soon.

Open House for prospective families will be February 1 from 6:30-8:00 PM. (Children are welcome!) General Registration forms (for non-currently-enrolled families) will be released that night, and General Registration will run throughout February. Prospective parents (who are not alumni families), please note that either attendance at the Open House or a tour are required prior to registering your child.

Link Your Harris Teeter VIC Card to Support ODS

Link up 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 H-T 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 pre-school we can be very proud of--let's all help support it!

MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT TRUST

Chalice Lighters and Chalice Society

The flaming chalice is a well known symbol of our faith, and when first created, it was meant to have connotations of sacrifice and love. As a cherished symbol of our faith, it is frequently used as a part of the name of programs and initiatives throughout the UU organization and churches all across the country.

Let's clear up the confusion about two very worthwhile, distinct "Chalice" organizations we often hear about at the UUCC:

The **Chalice Lighter Program** is a UUA initiative implemented in 1984 to assist **other** congregations in carrying out growth projects such as calling a minister or completing a building. Chalice Lighters commit to donating \$10 or more up to three times per year to aid another congregation. As an example, our own Thomas Jefferson District Chalice Lighters raised over \$28,000 in early 2010 to help a UU congregation in Aiken, South Carolina hire their first part-time minister. For more information about being a Chalice Lighter, contact Nancy G Cook or <http://www.tjdistrict.org/chalichelighters.html>.

The **UUCC Chalice Society** was formed in 2003 to honor those members of our congregation who have named the UUCC Memorial Endowment Trust in their estate planning documents. Common ways of giving to **our** church in this manner include gifts through wills, life insurance policies, and percentages of retirement plans. For more information about becoming a member of the UUCC Chalice Society, contact Dana Hershey, Tom Nunnenkamp, Cathlean Utzig, or Randy Whitt.



January 30 - March 13, 2011

May I have the courage today
To live the life that I would love . . .

from "A Morning Offering" by John O'Donohue in
To Bless the Space Between Us

CHILI COOK-OFF

Gen-X Chili Cook-Off,
Saturday, February 19 at 6pm in Freeman Hall



Do You Remember...
Neon shirts with
matching socks? Ata-
ri? Wham? Parachute
pants? Making a "mix
tape"? If so, you
might be part of Gen-
eration X - or feel like
you are. If so, I hope
you will join us Satur-

day, February 19 in Freeman Hall for a chili cook off. The event is from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. and childcare will be provided. You don't have to participate in the cook off, but there is a prize for the winner - not to mention bragging rights. An information table will be in Freeman Hall Sunday, February 6 and February 13. Please come by to learn more and to sign up for our first event. For more information email Courtney McLaughlin.

VISITOR'S CORNER

"Getting to Know Us"

Sunday, February 6th

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.

"Meet the Minister"

Sunday, February 20th

You've seen him behind the ...now here's an opportunity for visitors to get to know Jay Leach on a more personal level. Stop by the minister's study for an informal chat on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 10:30 AM.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

Outdoor Adventure Group's

February Hike

Saturday, February 5th



Our next hike will be on Saturday, February 5 when we will meet at the UUCC parking lot at 8am and travel a short distance to Kings Mountain to hike the Browns Mountain Trail, a round trip, loop hike that is rated as moderate to difficult. We plan on arriving back to Charlotte after 5pm. Please dress appropriately, bring a lunch, water and snacks.

Open Mind Book Club

Monday, February 7th

The Open Mind Book Club will meet Monday, February 7th at 7:30 pm in the Library. We will be discussing *Zoo Story: life in the garden of captives* by Thomas French. Please RSVP to Gwynne Movius if you plan to attend.

Upcoming title for March 7th: *Half-broke Horses* by Jeanette Wall.

Women's Support Group

Tuesday, February 8th at 7:00 pm in Priestley

We will be changing our meeting time to the 2nd Tuesday of the month, starting on Tuesday, February 8, in the Priestly room. The time will remain 7-830 pm. All women attending UUCC are welcome to join us.

"Let us Be Counted"

National Gathering of UUs for Jewish Awareness

February 18-20th at UU Congregation of Atlanta (UUCA)

The UU Congregation of Atlanta is now getting registrations from all over the country for the upcoming *Let us Be Counted*, to be held Feb.18-20, 2011 at UUCA. This is the first national gathering of Unitarian Universalists for Jewish Awareness in more than 20 years! Join them for this exciting, engaging and enjoyable weekend of presentations, workshops and worship. For more information and registration instructions, go to www.uuja.org.

Office Closing

UUCC offices will be closed on Monday, February 21st in observance of Presidents Day.

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
Bible Workbench	Library	Sundays 5 mins. after first service ends	George Weir (704) 708-4211
Economics and UU Principles	Schweitzer	7:00 pm. Wednesdays	Elizabeth Kerman (704) 846-7181
Jabberwocks	Library	10:00 am. 3 rd Friday	Doris Thomas Browder
Mystics & Metaphysics	Schweitzer	7:00 pm 3 rd Tuesday	Judy Reynolds jlcreynolds@bellsouth.net
QUEST	Sigismund	7:00 pm. Tuesdays	Paul & Shirley Wagner (704) 364-8855
Sunday Morning Meditation	Schweitzer	8:30 am. Sundays	Rich Vreeland (704) 290-8620; Debbie George (704) 525-3252
Straight Spouse Support Group	Chapel	7:00 pm. 1 st Tuesday	Sage Brook (704) 366-7983
Walking with the Enneagram	Chapel	7:00 pm 4 th Thursday	aresd@uuccharlotte.org
Women's Support Group	Library	7:00 pm. 2 nd Tuesday	Karen Achor (704) 847-2081
UUCC Handwork Group	Priestley	7:00 pm. 3 rd Tuesday	Kat Weisz (704) 321-9067; Vivian Brenner (704) 841-1624
Yoga	Nursery	7:30 pm. on Wednesdays	Bill Cooke (704) 364-2107

VOICES

Volume 36, Issue 2

USPS 346-850

Published biweekly by the
Unitarian Universalist Church of Charlotte
234 N Sharon Amity Rd
Charlotte NC 28211-3004

Postmaster: Please send address corrections to above.

Periodical
Non-Profit Organization
Postage Paid
Charlotte, NC

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Address Label

The deadline for the next **VOICES** is
Sunday, February 6, 2010 for the next issue which will be
published on **Wednesday, February 9, 2010**. Please in-
clude 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