



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, April 24, 2011

Easter/Passover: "blossom in the shape of your own self" (A Service honoring Passover and Easter)

Rev. Jay Leach, Minister

Sunday, May 1, 2011

Music Sunday: Unitarian Universalist Hymnody (see pg. 3 for more info)

Rev. Jay Leach, Minister
John Herrick,
Director of Music

Sunday, May 8, 2010

Second Sunday: Truth

Rev. Jay Leach, Minister

Sunday, May 15, 2011

The Resilience of the Human Psyche

Rev. Jay Leach, Minister

Sunday, May 22, 2011

"What happens to a dream deferred?"

Rev. Jay Leach, Minister
ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY

BOARD UPDATE

Where we are with the Envisioning Plan and Second Minister Search

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 UUCB 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 several months. We are currently taking your feedback and pulling them into discussions regarding prioritizing our ENDS and Strategic Outcomes. These discussions will guide us as the Coordinating Team works toward a new Envisioning Plan.

We will be following up with another article next month to keep everyone up to date as to progress. I am also excited to announce that the Board has voted to re-instate the Second Minister Search. We voted to re-instate the search on the basis of the financial projection of where we could be. This projection comes from the pledges we currently have and from those whom we haven't heard from yet, and what we expect from those remaining pledges. Thank you to all of you who have given generously. For those who have not yet pledged, your pledge is crucial for the continuing vitality and growth of the Church so please give what you can.

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

"COMING TO AMERICA"

Sandor and Tunde Jenei are Coming to America for General Assembly (GA)

Travel visas were received in the nick of time last Thursday, flights were booked the very next day and now, June 17 through 26, the Minister of our Partner Church in Szabed Romania and his wife will be visiting UUCB and attending General Assembly. After a 20-year relationship with UUCB this will be a momentous event both in the life of the Szabed congregation and personally for our guests, Sandor and Tunde. Activities during the week of their visit will include hosting our guests in the homes of UUCB members, their introduction to

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FROM THE MINISTER

Two perspectives on the complexities of being welcoming . . .

If you've been in our Sunday services in the past few weeks, you may have noticed groups of adolescents visiting with us. I've come to expect these annual visits and recently received this message about these kids and why they've come here:

I teach a world religions course at Charlotte Christian High School and, as you know, I require the students to attend churches of other faiths. They may attend a synagogue, a mosque, Buddhist or Hindu temples, Mormon churches, etc. But, every year your church is the most popular! I think it's so popular for 3 reasons: one, the students hear something that's different; two, your services are entertaining; and three, your congregation is very friendly. Each year, students that have taken the class before recommend that our students attend your church. I hope you are still okay with this. I know we have some different beliefs but I think it's healthy for our students to interact with people that don't believe what they believe. Please let your congregation know that despite our differences our students always have a great time. I hope they're well behaved during the service--they are teenagers, so sometimes they need to be redirected at times. But, Charlotte Christian students are usually decent, good people. Again, thank you for the warmth displayed to our students.

Brian Henson
Junior Bible Teacher
Charlotte Christian School

How could we not be pleased to get such a message? The part of me that wants us to be true to our core message of respect and openness is pleased to hear that we're perceived as a warm place to visit by kids whose religious perspective varies significantly from ours. The part of me that believes so deeply in the power of our liberal religion loves the opportunity each year to expose dozen of kids to who we are. Who knows what may come of seeds planted in their brief visits here with us?

Now, for a less affirming message . . .

On Sunday, April 17, during my "Meet the Minister" conversation, a woman who has been visiting here shared her experience. She appreciates who we are and has found

meaning in her time here with us. She described her husband as a devout Roman Catholic who has his own congregation to attend. However, she said, he is very supportive of her spiritual journey and pleased she has found us.

She explained that she has wanted to invite him to join her here for some of our many activities that are taking place outside of Sunday services. So, what's the problem? Well, she told the gathered group of visitors that she keeps encountering people here who describe themselves as "recovering Catholics." She's very concerned that her husband

Soon it became clear to us: you can't teach disbelief to a child.

**Stephen Dunn from
"At the Smithfield Methodist Church"**

would join her here, in a self-professed open and welcoming congregation, only to hear his chosen faith described as something from which some here are trying to "recover" as if it were a disease or an addiction. So, to date, she has simply opted not to invite him.

My friend and colleague Roger Bertschausen relates: "When I hear a UU identify him- or herself as a 'recovering Catholic' or a 'recovering Methodist,' I want to yell, 'No! Don't identify yourself that way!' Sure, there may be some healing that has to happen if you had some negative experiences in your previous religion, but don't get stuck in the negative!"

In the statement of the Ends to which we aspire, we affirm: "Here people are welcomed, heard, included and respected." The truth of that claim is always being tested. From recent reviews, it sounds like we have reasons to feel good about how we are doing and also like we have ways to heighten our sensitivity and deepen our commitment.

Peace, Jay

CONGREGATIONAL CARE ITEMS

Issues of Joy or Concern may be expressed by filling out a yellow card or by contacting Becky Whittington, Congregational Care Coordinator, at becky@uuccharlotte.org or at (704) 996-9228.

Music Sunday to Focus on Unitarian Universalist Hymnody



On Sunday, May 1, our annual “Music Sunday” service will focus on the hymns of our faith, covering a span of six centuries of sacred music making, from the 1551 *Old Hundredth* tune (used for our chalice lighting choruses) to the contemporary *Standing on the Side of Love* by Jason Shelton. Our minister, Jay Leach, will speak to the history of our movement, providing meaningful context for the hymns that will be sung that day. Leading the hymns will be the UUCU Adult Choir accompanied by brass, chimes, flute, piano and organ. The Chime Ensemble will begin the service with the 1623 hymn tune *Lasst uns erfreuen* (roughly, “Let us with gladness”) as harmonized by Ralph Vaughan Williams and arranged by Charles Maggs. Scott Whitesell and John Herrick will conclude the service with the piano and organ duet, *Gift of Love*, the hymn tune adapted by Hal Hopson from the traditional English melody *O Wally, Wally* and arranged by Joel Raney.

Our hymnody serves as stirring witness to the theological legacy passed down to us from the Unitarian and Universalist faith traditions and from numerous religions and cultures. Our first hymnbook, *Hymns for the Celebration of Life*, was published in 1964, shortly after the 1961 merger between the Unitarians and Universalists that created our denomination. The preface states:

Religion is a present reality; it is also an inheritance from the past, *Hymns for the Celebration of Life* is edited in the conviction that a vital faith must be a singing faith and that each generation needs to express itself freshly in its own idiom through song and the spoken word. ... This book represents a wide gamut of life’s varied experience, since no part of life may be excluded from our religious concern. Here are the utterances representing differing minds, differing approaches to and interpretations of religion and life. Here we celebrate our recognition that truth for living is in all religious traditions.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE NEWS (CONT)

This letter came in from Laurie Reed expressing her gratitude for our support during Tim Lemmond’s illness and death. It’s a great letter and is reprinted here to show the importance of our taking care of each other. Thanks to you, our goal of being a loving, caring and inclusive community is being reached every day. -Becky Whittington

*There are times in our lives when we all feel sad and lonely,
And it’s hard to go on when it seems like no one
understands. But look around and you’ll see, you’re not the
one and only. We will be there. We will be there.
We, in this community of love.*

My husband, Tim Lemmond, wrote these words from “Community of Love” more than a decade ago as his offering to dear friends during a difficult time. I can think of no words more apt than these to describe the outpouring of kindness, generosity and love that our family received from our UUCU community during the sad days of Tim’s failing health, his passing, the memorial service and since then. I think it’s impossible to know what’s the “exact right” thing to do or say to a dying person or a grieving family because, in fact, there’s nothing that can be done to alter a sad, sometimes terrible course of events. And, yet, cards written with

obvious heart-felt care, beautiful flowers, food made and delivered by loving hands, caring gestures, accumulate in such a way as to soften harsh reality. It has helped, in more ways than I can tell you, to feel –because of the time and effort you have taken- that we are not alone, we are not the only ones who miss Tim and that, in so many ways, you have held us with love and concern.

I suspected there might be a large turnout for Tim’s memorial service, but I never worried that things wouldn’t be taken care of. I counted on so many of you to make room for and welcome visitors, to help usher, to prepare food and ready the room for the reception, to make time for extra choir rehearsal and sing beautifully, to show up and help out, even on a beautiful Saturday afternoon. That’s pretty amazing, if you think about it. Through individual and collective efforts you have truly created a “community of love” at the UUCU; the Reed-Lemmonds have leaned and depended on it through this hard time and are grateful for it beyond measure.

I want also to voice deep appreciation to Jay & Melissa for the generous gift of Jay’s time throughout our many epi-

(Continued on page 6)

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

2nd Sunday Topic Discussion

Sunday, May 8th at 10:30am

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. Begins promptly at 10:30 in the Bernstein Chapel. May Topic: **Truth**

Science Fiction Sundays

Second Sundays at 2:00 pm in the Chapel



Sunday, May 8 (Truth)

The Nature of Reality

The Last Wave (1977) A Sydney lawyer (Richard Chamberlain) is selected to represent five Aborigines accused of murder. Through his interaction with his clients, the lawyer is introduced to aboriginal “dreamtime” in which the end of the current age is prophesized. Is a dream a shadow of something real, as the Aborigines believe?

Documentary Film Series

Second Fridays at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Friday, May 13

"Crips and Bloods: Made in America"

Directed by critically acclaimed documentary filmmaker Stacy Peralta and narrated by Forest Whitaker, “Crips and Bloods: Made in America” tells the story of the Crips and Bloods, South Los Angeles’ two most infamous African-American gangs. Contemporary and former gang members offer their street-level testimony that provides the film with a stark portrait of modern-day gang life. Ex-gang members of the Crips and Bloods, gang intervention experts, activists and academics talk.

Throughout the film ex-gang members, gang intervention experts, writers, activists and academics analyze many of the issues that contribute to South LA’s malaise: the erosion of identity that fuels the self-perpetuating legacy of black self-hatred, the disappearance of the African-American father and an almost pervasive prison culture in which today one out of every four black men will be imprisoned at some point in his life. Facilitated by Melissa Mummert.

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People of different religions and cultures live side by side in almost every part of the world, and most of us have overlapping identities which unite us with very different groups. We can love what we are, without hating what – and who – we are not. We can thrive in our own tradition, even as we learn from others, and come to respect their teachings.

Kofi Annan from his 2001 Nobel Peace Prize lecture

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH (CYRE)

Never Again ..

And Yet Again and Again: Stopping the Ongoing Genocides. Wednesday, April 27 at 7:00pm

Several weeks ago, our middle school youth stood before the congregation and shared their horror and anger at the ongoing war in Uganda. Many of them participated in a fund raiser on April 25 in which they agreed to remain silent for 25 hours to challenge the world to end the silence about this 25 year war.

On Wednesday, April 27 , you are invited to join others at Temple Beth El in the Charlotte community at “Never Again ... Yet Again and Again and Again: Stopping the Ongoing Genocides.” Sponsored by Mecklenburg Ministries, Seeds of Hope, and Temple Beth-El, the evening will include a informational program and a Mother’s Day marketplace to help benefit the women and children suffering from the violence of genocide. All items will be crafted by women in countries impacted by genocide. For more information, www.mecklenburgministries.org.

Family Dedications

Our next Family Dedication Ceremonies are scheduled for Sunday, June 5. If you are a member of this congregation and have a new baby (or an older child who has not participated in a previous Ceremony) and you would like for your family to be a part of this UUCC ritual, please contact Kathleen Carpenter, DRE for Children and Youth or our Minister, Jay Leach.



Picnics and Community Service

Sunday, May 1st after each service



On Sunday, May 1 we will hold our annual Spring Picnic on the Playgrounds—followed by a service project to benefit the Urban Ministry Center. The picnics will be held after each service and are covered dish. At 1:15, everyone will meet in Freeman Hall to hear from a staff member

at the UMC and two of our homeless neighbors. After these short presentations, everyone will roll up their sleeves and make sandwiches for the UMC. This project is great for children capable of sitting still during such presentations and of making sandwiches. Volunteers will be needed to purchase food, set up and clean up. Contact Kathleen or Chris in the CYRE office or sign up on the poster on the bulletin board inside the CYRE wing.

**I have grown tired of disbelief.
What once was brave is boring.**

**Pat Schneider from "Welcoming Angels"
in *Long Way Home***

GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA) NEWS

Did You Know . . .

Fun Facts about the Upcoming General Assembly (GA)

. . . you can register for just one day?

While full conference registration (Weds-Sun), is \$315, you can register for a "One-Day" pass for \$130. Wednesday, June 22 and Thursday, June 23 are being offered together at the one-day registration rate. So you can attend the opening ceremony on Wednesday evening in addition to all the rich offerings on Thursday for only \$130, so you get two days for the price of one. This also gives you access to the Service of the Living Tradition in which our very own music Director John Herrick will be credentialed. So take advantage of these rates at <http://uua.org/ga/registration/>. But you must register by the early registration deadline of May 1st.

. . . that there is a GA "app" for your mobile phone?

Now is the time to get the GA "app" for your cell phone at www.uua.org/ga/mobile. The detailed event guide provides participants easy access to the GA schedule, maps, speaker bios, attendee profiles, and detailed exhibitor information.

For more information contact Cindy Fox, Steve Reines or Courtney McLaughlin.



The GA Mobile Guide . . . you can represent the
for your smartphone, tablet or computer **UCC at GA?**

We are still in need of delegates to represent the UCC at GA. To apply to be a delegate from our congregation, please contact Kathleen Carpenter, staff liaison to our Denominational Connections Team (kathleen@uuccharlotte.org) explaining why you would like to be a delegate.

**Perhaps we should realize that our need is not to
"find something to believe"—but rather to discover
that our lives indicate what we believe right now.
This is the place to start.**

**Edith Hunter from *Welcome: A Unitarian Universalist
Primer***

("Coming to America" continued from page 1)

the UCC congregation at the June 19 service, attendance at General Assembly, and, of course, showing them our fair city and culture.

Would you like to help make this happen? A special fundraiser, jointly sponsored by the UCC PC and Community Building Teams will be held Saturday May 7. This is planned to be an entertaining evening of Hungarian music (which has a rich influence on our present day hymnal) and taste-stimulating ethnic food. Approximately \$3,000 is needed to support this project. Tickets for the evening, for the price of a donation, will be available at the Partner Church Table Sunday, May 1 and at the door. For more information contact Richard Kushmaul at richard@uuccharlotte.org.

Habitat for Humanity Women's Build

Volunteers Needed for Saturday, June 11th



The Social Justice Committee is putting together a team of enthusiastic, compassionate, hard working women to take part in Habitat for Humanity's Women Build 2011. Our work date is Saturday, June 11th, 8-4 pm. We need 15-20 volunteers. To join the team and please

contact Jennifer Embs at happygirlje@yahoo.com or (980) 722-3987.

Adult Day at Our Youth Mission Trip

Thursday, June 16

Again this year are offering a one-day opportunity for adults to participate with our Youth for their annual Mission Trip. We'll leave the UCC parking lot in the predawn hours, and spend the day working alongside our youth at a Habitat site and in other projects before returning that evening. There are 14 slots available for adults who, as the youth do, will share the cost of this outing. Please contact Jay Leach (jay@uuccharlotte.org) if you would like to be a part of this fulfilling day.

**It takes a while for the word "neighbor"
As in "Love thy neighbor" to apply to a tribe
Different from yours.**

**Carl Dennis in "Devising Scripture"
from *Callings***

("Congregational Care" continued from page 3)

sodes of challenge, celebration, stress and grief. Not only did Jay show up at important times, his presence added comfort, calm and reassurance to us all, often when we were struggling most to anchor ourselves. Jay's beautiful eulogy captured Tim's spirit, reflective of the time and love Jay freely offered. I say this in thanks, of course, but also to share with each of you that your minister offered us exactly the kind of help you would have wanted him to at our time of greatest need. For the many gifts the UCC community offers, we thank you.

Sincerely, The Reed-Lemmond family

Our Newest Members:

Debra LaMarre & Daniel Clifton

Jorge Sanchez

Harriette Winingham &
Ron Maccaroni

**I think the word inter-be should be in the dictionary.
"To be" is to inter-be. You cannot just be by your-
self alone. You have to inter-be with every other
thing.**

**Thich Nhat Hahn from
*The Heart of Understanding***

VISITOR'S CORNER

"Getting to Know Us"

Sunday, May 1st

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 UCC.

"Meet the Minister"

Sunday, May 15th

You've seen him behind the pulpit...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

Open Mind Book Club

Monday, May 2nd

The Open Mind Book Club will meet Monday, May 2nd at 7:30 pm in the Library. We will be discussing *The Post-Birthday World* by Lionel Shriver (F.) Please RSVP to Gwynne Movius if you plan to attend.

Upcoming title for June 6: *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese.

“Is It ADHD or Just Inattention?”

Wednesday, May 4th at 6:30pm in the Chapel



The Open Door School and the UUCC are pleased to welcome Dr. James MacIntyre on Wednesday, May 4 at 6:30pm for a presentation on ADHD in children and teens. Dr. MacIntyre is a child and adolescent psychiatrist at CMC-Randolph Behavioral Health Center. His talk, titled, “Is It ADHD or Just

Inattention?”, will last about 30 minutes, after which he will open up the floor to questions and general discussion about ADHD and any other emotional and psychiatric problems in children and teens raised by the parents who attend.

Unfortunately there will not be child care available, and we will be in the Chapel which is small, so bringing children is discouraged. Please RSVP if you plan to attend:

amy.crew@opendoorschool.org.

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
3 rd Saturday Dances of Universal Peace	Sanctuary	3 rd Saturday of each month 6pm Potluck/7pm Dance	Richard Kushmaul aresd@uuccharlotte.org
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
Lotus Path	Schweitzer	8:00 am Sundays	Richard Kushmaul (see staff listing p.8)
Mystics & Metaphysics	Schweitzer	7:00 pm 3 rd Tuesday	Judy Reynolds (704) 554-7011
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
Women’s Support Group	Priestley	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

Community Conference on

Restorative Justice

Hosted by the Piedmont UU Church; Saturday, May 7th at 8:30 am

On Saturday, May 7th, from 8:30 – 4 pm., The Piedmont UU Church will host a Community Conference on Restorative Justice: a different paradigm for understanding and responding to crime, injustice and conflict. Cost of the conference includes light breakfast, lunch, beverages, snacks, a copy of *The Little Book of Restorative Justice* by Howard Zehr and other printed material. Register for the conference by May 4th by sending a \$15 check, your complete contact information including your mailing address to: Piedmont UU Church, 9704 Mallard Creek Road, Charlotte NC 28262. Contact Melissa Mummert for details

melissa@changedchoices.org

Mother’s Day Weekend Canoe Trip

Saturday, May 7



On Saturday, May 7th, we will meet at the UUCC Parking Lot at 7am and drive to the New River State Park. We

leave on Sunday, May 8th and you will be back in Charlotte in time to take mothers to a late lunch or early dinner.

Please bring your own food, camping supplies and suitable clothing. Questions: Please contact UUCC Member, Rita Singer at (704)364-6333 or jsinger@carolina.rr.com

VOICES

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Church Office hours:

Monday – Friday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Phone: (704) 366-8623 / fax: (704) 366-8812

E-mail: uucc@uuccharlotte.org

Website: <http://www.uuccharlotte.org>

Kathleen Carpenter: *Director of Religious Education for Children and Youth*

ext. 225 e-mail: kathleen@uuccharlotte.org

Donna Fisher: *Children's Choir Director*

email: donnfish@bellsouth.net

John Herrick: *Director of Music*

ext. 230 e-mail: john@uuccharlotte.org

Alesia Hutto: *Administrative Assistant*

ext. 221 e-mail: alesia@uuccharlotte.org

Richard Kushmaul: *Adult Religious Education/Spiritual Development Coordinator*

ext. 229 e-mail richard@uuccharlotte.org

Rev. James C. Leach: *Minister*

Ext. 223 e-mail: jay@uuccharlotte.org

Rev. Melissa Mummert: *Affiliated Community Minister*

Chris Robertson: *Administrative Assistant*

ext. 224 email: chris@uuccharlotte.org

Courtney McLaughlin: *Membership Coordinator*

ext. 231 (messages only)

e-mail: courtney@uuccharlotte.org

Jeter Walker: *Director of Administration*

ext. 222 e-mail: jeter@uuccharlotte.org

Scott Whitesell: *Accompanist*

email: seguenc@aol.com

Becky Whittington: *Congregational Care Coordinator*

Congregational Care Line: (704) 996-9228

email: becky@uuccharlotte.org

Open Door School (ODS)

Phone: (704) 364-1521

Amy Schofield, Director

e-mail: amy.smith@uuccharlotte.org

Address Label

When you see the earth from the moon, you don't see any division there of nations or states. This might be the symbol, really, for the new mythology to come. That is the country that we are going to be celebrating. And those are the people that we are one with.

Joseph Campbell in *The Power of Myth*

The deadline for the next **VOICES** is **Sunday, May 1, 2011** for the next issue which will be published on **Wednesday, May 4, 2011**. 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