



# The Outlook

University Circle  
United Methodist Church

where all are welcome all the time

an edition of  
The United  
Methodist Reporter

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## chalk talk



BY DR. KENNETH W. CHALKER

May 21st has come... and gone. In spite of predictions of world-wide apocalypse, we are still here. I am not surprised; just continually grateful to God for the gift of life and the privilege of living it.

Harold Camping, who gained international attention because of his prediction that the Rapture would occur—a literal, silly, American, mindless interpretation of Thessalonians, Chapter 4—has gone off to the Cayman Islands with 80 million dollars in “excess” cash from his many followers. He is going there to advance further the message that the world will end; now on October 21, 2011. He is NOT going to the Cayman Islands to shelter the money in an off-shore account. Yeah, right.

Harold Camping is an 89-year-old tragedy of biblical illiteracy, wrapped in the guise of a faithful disciple. He is a religious huckster in a suit who ought to be held accountable for fraud. That will not happen anytime soon because to a degree the American media who “creates” the Harold Campings in our consciousness is anxious to make secularism look sensible, because it sells. Therefore the media needs the Harold Campings of the world to help make the assertion that ALL persons of faith are whackos; just whackos to a different degree.

This is part of the reason that today in America voices applying faith to life in cogent, helpful, hopeful, uplifting, community-building ways all over this nation are not being heard. It is not because there are not such voices. It is that those voices do not get media attention no matter the merit of their message, interpretation and credibility of witness. What gets attention are the religious voices that are, simply put, bizarre, ignorant and criminal. These “out-of-the-ordinary voices” get this attention, I believe, because of the media’s agenda. It is an agenda that seeks to characterize all persons who believe that life and creation are purposeful and stem from a purposeful Creator as ignorant and guilty of criminal neglect of the important and real

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## JUNE 26: Save the Date and Invite Your Friends to *Jazz on the Lawn!*

Please save the date and plan to join us on Sunday, June 26, after church for *Jazz on the Lawn*. This is the first event being put on by the Marketing Council of UCUMC. The purpose of this event is to introduce new people to our church.

While we are publicizing this event a number of ways, we need your help to recruit new faces to our church on June 26. This is a perfect Sunday to bring a friend or two to church. After the service, all are welcome to set up chairs or spread blankets on the church’s south lawn and enjoy listening to American Songbook favorites performed by the Demetrius Steinmetz Band featuring vocalist Eileen Burns. All guests will receive a special gift and have opportunities for guided tours of the church, too. And if that weren’t enough, lunch will also be provided! *Jazz on the Lawn* will take place rain or shine. If the weather does not cooperate, we will move the festivities indoors to the Great Hall.

Please consider bringing a friend to introduce them to UCUMC on June 26. Be on the lookout for announcements and detailed inserts in the church bulletins. For more information please visit [www.churchinthecircle.org](http://www.churchinthecircle.org) or call 216-421-1200.



Baiju Shah and J.B. Silvers

## Baiju Shah Is Guest for “Community Speaks” Forum

On Sunday, May 22, the MEN’S Group welcomed Baiju Shah, founder, president and CEO of BioEnterprise (headquartered in University Circle) and Chairman of the Global Cleveland Initiative as guest speaker. BioEnterprise, a non-profit organization, was created to encourage growth in the region’s health-care economy. In its eight-year history, it can claim a hand in the birth of 89 Northeast Ohio biomedical companies, generating 1,900 jobs and drawing in \$859 million in capital. Mr. Shah gave a very interesting talk about these activities that have benefitted the local economy.

## Changes to Our Outlook

In the next few months, the *Outlook* will move to a monthly publication from its current schedule of every two months.

We have found that our newsletter is an important communication piece for persons who do not use the Internet to keep current with church news. Because of this, the *Outlook* needs to be published on a timelier schedule—capable of announcing upcoming events before they happen.

To accomplish this change, we will soon mail a postcard to everyone on the *Outlook* mailing list requesting an indication if they wish to continue to receive the newsletter via postal mail, or, if they would prefer to receive the *Outlook* as an email attachment.

When your postcard arrives in the mail, please take a moment to complete it and return it to us so we are able update your preference for the best method of receiving the *Outlook*.

Deadline for the next *Outlook* issue is July 25, 2011 at 4 PM  
[editor@ucumcoutlook.com](mailto:editor@ucumcoutlook.com)

## Dr. Joan Brown Campbell Leads UCUMC

On Sunday, May 1, University Circle UMC was privileged to have Dr. Joan Brown Campbell lead us in worship with an inspiring sermon. Her presence brought a large congregation including the well-known preacher and Christian leader, the Rev. Otis Moss and his wife, Dr. Campbell also led the Adult Sunday School class before church and then, during the potluck time following worship, talked about the writing of her book, “Living into Hope,” and took time to autograph copies.



Dr. Campbell with Rev. and Mrs. Otis Moss.



Dr. Chalker, Tamir DeBraun Stephens, Constance Elizabeth Chancellor, David Constantine Thomas Blue, Reuben Tirome Williams, Blake Andrew Evans, David DeQuan Craver, Marissa Christine Taylor, Lydia Daphne Ramlo, Emily Suzanne Laycock, Timothy Seyfarth Garner, Rev. Sharon Seyfarth-Garner

## UCUMC Confirms Ten Youth

On Sunday, May 22, with praise and joy University Circle UMC confirmed ten eighth-grade students who each read his/her statement of faith before being confirmed. The service of confirmation included the laying on of hands as family and friends of each young person shared in this special ceremony confirming their loved one.

## News from Missionaries in Italy

Quoted from the newsletter, *Penne & Ink*, written by Reverends Kristin and David Markey "I look upon the world as my parish." When John Wesley spoke those famous words, he could not have imagined that years later, they would be translated into Italian or Tagalog or Twi. Nor could Wesley have foreseen the new layer of meaning that "Il mondo la mia parrocchia" would have for churches in Milano or Novara congregations of immigrants, refugees and hosts—all living together.

"Recent geopolitical events and natural disasters have made these parishes closer to the pain of the world, and the world more poignantly connected to the parish. As protests engulfed Cairo, one Egyptian church member kept the congregation updated by relaying the regular messages he was receiving from his family near Tahrir Square. During choir practice in Milano, SMS texts arrived from former members in a makeshift shelter near Sendai, Japan, where their home had been destroyed by the tsunami. As waves had reached the Filipino and Indonesian coasts, church members in the fellowship hall in Milano frantically called friends and family back home, then traded reports with one another. Other church members recounted their memories from 1986, when radioactive clouds from Chernobyl wafted over their towns and villages."

The Markeys went on to enumerate the many of their congregants who had family and friends being affected by the natural disasters and geopolitical events throughout the world; as we can now relate to the extreme epidemic of tornados that have developed all over our United States. Indeed, Wesley was right to "look upon the world as my parish."

The Markeys ended the *Penne & Ink* with the following announcement:

"After 7 years in Italy, we will be very sad to leave friends here in Italy. Nevertheless, we are excited about the next chapter in our lives. As of 15 August, 2011, we will be living in Dronfield, England, serving two adjacent British Methodist circuits. Our new address will be 25 Holmesdale Road, S18 2FA Dronfield, UK."

A personal letter to Epworth-Euclid/University Circle UMC from the Markeys expressed their deep gratitude for the support we have given them since 1999. The letter ended with the following statement: "Your mission-giving, especially during difficult economic times, is a testimony to your commitment to spread Good News within and outside your community.... We trust that together, we have planted seeds for the Gospel."

### THE UNIVERSITY CIRCLE OUTLOOK

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# KALEIDOSCOPE



The crew UCUMC and Berea UMC that manned the Neighborhood Lunch on Sunday, May 29

Again this month the Neighborhood Lunch under the leadership of Jennifer Bier went on as usual even though it was a holiday weekend. Last month the lunch was actually served on Easter Sunday. Thanks to all those who provide the food and kudos to the devoted crews that show up the last Sunday of each month to serve our neighbors with friendship and good food.



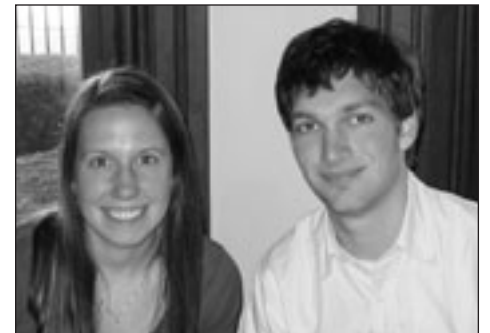
On Sunday, May 22, the Gospel Choir led worship with the anthem "Holy, Holy, Holy" and offertory "I Love You Lord Today."



Billie and John Mc Fadden with daughter, Debbie, and granddaughters Ruthi and Tatyana (seated) on Mother's Day.



On April 19, Larry and Elaine Myers were awarded the prestigious "Grindstone Award" by the Berea Chamber of Commerce for extensive volunteer service within the community.



Justine Jeroski and Nathan Tenley also attended church on Palm Sunday. Justine and Nathan have attended this church throughout their college careers and graduated in May. Congratulations and God speed, Justine and Nathan.



On Palm Sunday, Bill and Judy McCartney attended worship because it was their 40th anniversary as Senior Pastor of Epworth-Euclid, now University Circle, UMC. It was a pleasure to greet old friends.

Vernita Nail  
(Dr. Chalker's  
mother)  
Dr. Chalker,  
daughter Laura  
and wife Grace  
following the  
Mother's Day  
service on May 8.



On Sunday, May 29, the Call to Prayer was "Jesus Loves Me" with an inspirational dance by Michelle Brown accompanied by our organist Joanna Li.



The Singing Children with Sunshine and Cooper

## The Singing Children Lead Worship

On Sunday, May 15, the Singing Children, under the leadership of Sevilla Morse, led the worship with two anthems featuring soloists Gwyneth Howard, Emily Laycock and Brianna McElrath. Then, assisted by Dr. Chalker, they led the congregation in a service of Blessing of the Animals which included Sharolyn Ferebee singing "Bless the Beasts and the Children." Representing all the animals were two handsome golden retrievers: Sunshine, handled by Julie Gielow for owner Sevilla Morse, and Cooper, handled by owner Donna Case, who with her husband, Bob, attended UCUMC for this special occasion.

This bittersweet day was Sevilla's last day

directing the Singing Children. After living in Lakewood for 40 years, she and Sunshine will be moving to a retirement community in Winter Park, Florida, where she will live independently in a home with yard and garage. Sevilla will be close to her son Rob, his wife Nicole, and the three grandchildren: Bailey, 14, MacKenzie, 12, and Jack, 6.

Sevilla extends the following invitation: "I expect UCUMC friends to visit and will have a bedroom prepared especially for northern friends. . . . Leaving my friends and the staff at UCUMC is the most difficult aspect of this move. I feel extremely blessed that my spiritual leader for the past 20-plus years has been Ken Chalker."

## UMW Presents Special Mission Recognition Awards

On Sunday, May 8, the United Methodist Women of University Circle UMC presented three Special Mission Recognition Awards. The following excerpts are from the presentations:

President Marilou Abele said in part: "The first recipient. . . actively participated in UMW by leading circles for 'eons' and supporting the many activities of our local UMW unit. This dedicated lady has attended Epworth-Euclid and University Circle United Methodist Church for eighty years—since she was in the third grade. . . was confirmed here in this chancel, thus she has been a member for 75 years. She has sung in the Chancel choir for 67 years. . . . We salute Norine Sharp."

Treasurer Cathy Day said in part: "Out second honoree, Ruth Wilson, has. . . been a member of Epworth-Euclid, now University Circle Church, since 1941—which is 70 years. . . serving on (many) UMW committees. . . . Ruth not only enjoyed attending UMW mission programs, activities and projects, she continues to be steadfast in her financial support as well. As she celebrates her 94th birthday in July, we wish her

all the best and want her to know how much the UMW appreciates her service and devotion to serving God's people in Mission ministries. Thank you Ruth!" Since Ruth was unable to attend church, her daughter, Carol Shaw, accepted the pin and certificate on her behalf. Later in the day she presented them to Ruth at McGregor Home, where Ruth now resides.

Cathy Day continued in part: "Our third nominee, Marion Homeier, was a member of Epworth-Euclid, now University Circle Church for 76 years and sang in the choir for 47 years. On January 19, 2011, Marion went home to our Lord and Savior at the age of 97 years young. Marion has been described as a 'Handmaiden of the Lord' because of her exquisite sewing and knitting skills that benefited so many UMW mission projects. Her devotion to UMW through so many years was reflected in her service of holding (many) offices. . . She lived her life joyfully serving others and dearly loved this church. . . . Marion was a significant member of The United Methodist Church. Thanks be to God for you, Marion."

LEFT: Honoree Ruth Wilson (seated) with daughter Carol Shaw and Cathy Day. BELOW: Cathy Day, Dr. Chalker, Marilou Abele, Honoree Norine Sharp, Vivian Harris, Carol Shaw



# GRACENOTES

BY NATHAN MOTTA

Wow! What a year!! Looking back on the 2010–11 "church year" it's certainly had many highlights in the Music & Arts program at University Circle United Methodist Church. We had a Beatles Sunday, a Jazz Mass, African drums on World Communion Sunday, and *The Nativity According to St. Luke* as our Advent Cantata. We had a beautiful service on Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday, spirituals throughout Black History Month, wonderful performances by the Singing Children, a new era in the history of our Gospel Choir, some rousing Bell Choir presentations, a moving Sunday of Dance, a spectacular performance of the Faure *Requiem*, and moving worship experiences throughout Holy Week.

As we move into the summer season, we'll continue to work to bring touching, exciting, and

spirit-filled moments to worship as we begin to plan for the fall and new opportunities to bring UCUMC's message to the greater Cleveland community.

Let me take a quick opportunity to thank everyone for their support as I went through a time of transition. I'm excited about the professional opportunities that have presented themselves. I look forward to continue to further the arts community in the Cleveland area, and I've found a reinvigorated energy around continuing to work for University Circle United Methodist Church in this important period of evolution. I look forward to spearheading many new initiatives related to worship and church growth in the coming years and appreciate all the support you give our fantastic church leadership. On behalf of all the Music & Arts staff at UCUMC, have a safe, healthy, and happy summer!

## ~ EASTER ~

As this paper goes to press we anticipate Pentecost and the coming of the Holy Spirit. We remember an inspirational Easter week that inspired solemn worship and joyful praises. The week before Palm Sunday the Chancel Choir with a 30-piece orchestra presented Gabriel Faure's *Requiem*.

Easter week worship was led by Dr. Chalker who, through his dynamic preaching, inspired the congregation to relive the emotional joys, praises and heartaches that comprise the happenings of that eventful week. The Chancel Choir, the Gospel Choir, the Liturgical Dancers and various other musicians enhanced these services.

On Palm Sunday the Chancel Choir processed to "Hosanna" from *Jesus Christ, Superstar*, celebrating Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem then, as the service ended, a liturgical dance depicted our Lord's betrayal for forty pieces of silver. Maundy Thursday Communion Service with the bread and wine reminded us of the body and blood of Christ shed for our sins. The solemn Good Friday service portrayed the crucifixion of Jesus and his crown of thorns by very dramatic liturgical dance and an array of talented soloists.

On Easter, the Son-Rise service and Sunday worship embodied the joy and promise that "Christ is Risen, He is Risen, Indeed!" The benediction was the Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" sung by the Chancel Choir and then, as a final confirmation of the Easter message, the Gospel Choir led the singers in "He Got Up; God Raised Him Up."



## chalk talk

Continued from front page  
issues in life.

Why else would there be national attention given to a self-proclaimed pastor of 35 persons in Florida who burns a Koran? Why else would there be national attention focused on an absurd, self-proclaimed pastor who protests funerals of American service men and women all the while claiming such persons died in the line of duty as a punishment from God on a nation that seeks greater inclusion?

No one is going to answer these questions with anything other than pious rhetoric of politically correct "denial." And as the denials come forward, the media focus will continue to be on more and more religious "wackiness" and ever more inattentive to the voices representing people who are on spirit-enriching journeys of faith seeking understanding and attempting to build a better world.

It is one of the great mysteries of life that the bizarre gets our attention. It is one of the great tragedies of life that the bizarre can be

manipulated by designing minds so it appears to be the standard and the "norm."

It is also one of the great heartbreaks of life that too many people in every age have seemingly little ability to discern the cheap, tawdry and fake in issues of faith and continually miss what is a pearl of great price. Part of this is because there is less and less attention to study, reflection and understanding of heritage when interpreting scripture and then the application of faith principles to life issues. The result is that the world will hear of the beliefs of a religious fraud like Harold Camping and not be familiar with the teachings of a Desmond Tutu.

Here is another reason why being a part of the growing faith family of University Circle United Methodist Church is so very important. We are a group of diverse people committed to faith-seeking understanding. This is a true spiritual rapture with the result being a renewing of our world, not its destruction.

See you in church.