

umstead park

UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

a thoughtful and progressive community of faith

May 2018

8208 Brownleigh Drive

Raleigh, NC 27617

www.upucc.org

May 6 - Youth Sunday

On Sunday, May 6, our Youth will lead our worship. This is an especially poignant Sunday for some of us, as the oldest ones in this group were born at the time our UPUCC community was forming.

After worship the youth will finalize a silent auction raising money to supplement their programs, work and ministry among us.

The auctioned items include (among others)-

- * a 17 ft fiberglass canoe
- * yard work & babysitting services
- * A New England Clam Boil by Jane Weidig & Paula Womack
- * a beer tasting event
- * Gift baskets
- * Tree Runner Raleigh climbing gift card
- * 14 seats at an Italian dinner (Sat. May 12) prepared by Chef Todd and served at Doug Long and Janice Odom's home. *Top 14 bids win a place at the table!*

Menu: Antipasti w/ warm fresh Focaccia, Beef Osso Buco on Risotto Milanese topped with garlic breadcrumb gremolata.



Come prepared to join the bidding!! (Auction items are posted on the Friends of UPUCC FB page.)



From Doug:

May 20... On Pentecost Sunday the Spirit will Sing!! A Cantata!

One of the remarkable things about this church (I know, there are so *many* remarkable things!)... but an *exceptional* truth is that we have always

had a wonderful choir. (This is true from Day One because on the first Sunday we met back in 1999 we 'borrowed' the Congolese Choir from Community UCC!)

For whatever reasons- luck, fate, miracle, or a combination of all – our choir always has been well above average. (I can say that with confidence because many visiting clergy have commented on that as fact.)

I can also say that at no time has the bar been higher than the present... and that is due primarily to the steady passion and leadership of Sheila Alderman ...and Sheila's gifts have been magnified through the accompaniment (a multi-layered word) of David Wilson ...and then there are the 30 plus people that bring their voices to the glorious sound! ...and the sound is made yet more meaningful by the clear faith expressed through their voices (as well as the unique expressiveness of Bob Martin!).

I am thankful for this choir is so many ways. Our worship is enhanced dramatically through their beautiful efforts.

On Pentecost Sunday, May 20, our choir will lead in worship presenting Pepper Choplin's cantata on Psalm 23.

Our ears (and hearts) await the musical feast.

The Long Haul

Several of you have asked about the status of Eliseo's legal case. He has been with us now for more than 6 months and I can testify that the wheels of justice are moving very slowly. Bridget Blinn-Spears, Sarah Sydney, Eliseo and I have met with his lawyer and we are hopeful his case will be filed soon. (Yes, you read that correctly. As of the writing of this article, it has not yet been filed, but that should occur very soon.) Once the filing occurs, the likelihood is that this case will work its way through a series of appeals until it reaches Immigration Court where significant constitutional issues can be addressed. (Not that immigration Court is a slam dunk! If you haven't seen John Oliver's insightful piece -though, be warned it is highly irreverent-, you might want to check out <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9fB0GBwJ2QA>. I suggest you skip the first minute or so.)

The take-away from the conversation with Eliseo's lawyer is that we are more aware than ever that we have joined in this struggle with Eliseo for "the long haul." As much as we would wish otherwise, we face the reality that our system is so broken, and mistrust and partisanship so vivid, there will be no quick and easy fixes. At least part of the problem is based in the huge amount of misinformation residing with the wider American public. That the highest office in our land is held by someone who stereotypes immigrants as rapists and criminals is no small portion of that misinformation. If the implications were not so devastating to so many families, such misinformation could be a source of amusement.

In that vein, we received a recorded message in the church office last week that struck me as hilarious. A portion of it went something like this:

"I just wanna say your church is garbage, you're garbage, uh illegals ...are garbage... That's a lot of hate coming out but I'm getting tired of it like ever body else is. ...You're garbage. I'm sayin' it. God'll forgive me for sayin' it. You know what I'm sayin'? He forgives everybody. He'll forgive *you* for being such-a-way. You know that? You are, you're garbage, your preacher's garbage. You know? God bless you there, Garbage People."

(You'd probably have to listen to the message for yourself to get a sense of how funny it really is. I especially loved the part about God will "forgive you for being such-a-way." I got the sense this fellow's faith was authentic. There's a link to the message, if you'd like to hear it for yourself, on the Covenant Partner page on our website

www.upucc.org

What the phone message drives home to me, though, is the enormous amount of misinformation that exists. The 'phone fellow' spouts about a system that is being sucked dry by outsiders sponging off of it. In reality, the undocumented folk he refers to house most of us, feed many of us, clean our offices and dig ditches to make possible our high speed internet connections. Far from dragging the system down, they offer much of the structure to hold the system up.

We cannot simply laugh at the misinformed. We must take the time and energy and patience to better inform them! (Yes, despite it all, I'll probably call the fellow back.)

We are in this for the long haul.

We therefore renew our efforts to stand in solidarity with Eliseo and Gabriela as well as the thousands of immigrant families caught up in this broken system.

May the truly forgiving God be with us all-



2018-19 upucc officers & committees

At the spring Congregational Meeting following worship on April 29, UPUCC Covenant Partners voted to confirm the following slate of nominees for officers, committee chairs and members. Thanks go to the 2018 Nominating Committee for their efforts: Renate Andrews, Doug Long, Peg Arcari, TJ and Justine Price-O'Neil, and Don Alderman.

Officers

Moderator—Renate Andrews
Moderator Elect—Bridget Blinn-Spears
Secretary—Edward McFarland
Treasurer—Gary Welsh

Assistant Treasurers

Dan Harrell
Lee Harrison
Martha Eller

Youth Representative

Adult Education°

Co-Chair- Tricia Andrews
Co-Chair- Michelle Ellis
Gail Holden
David VandeVusse
Colin McKerrell
Gina Kentopp
Betsy Thigpen

Building and Grounds°

Chair- Chris Ousley
Carol Banaitis
Sarah Hogan
Doug Culver
Roma DeJoseph
Roger Sommer (as needed)

Children's Committee°

Co-Chair- Lori Del Negro
Co-Chair- Margaret Gruen
Kelly Foglia
Rebecca van Dorsten

Worship & Music°

Chair- Bill Coye
Sheila Alderman
David Wilson
Eleanor Smith
Scott Andrews
Jane Weidig
Martha Eller
Julie Schumacher
Miles Schumacher

Stewardship & Finance°

Chair- Mark Stevens
Gary Welsh (ex-officio)
Vickie Teal
Learla Stefanics
Christy Tucker
Richard Frazer

Membership & Publicity°

Chair- Gary Sanders
Bill Yoder
Heather Frink
Robert Richardson
Elaina Richardson
Maria Mauriello (June)

Pastoral Care°

Chair- Nevin Fouts
Dan Harrell
Marilyn Bosley
Julie Heustis
Ada McKerrell
Bob Martin

Youth°

Chair- Coleen Frazer
Youth- Erin Andrews
Youth- Ian Frazer
Scott Andrews
Paul Foglia
Mary Nations
Suzanne Ladd
Michelle Brainard

Fellowship°

Co-Chair- Gwen Vass
Co-Chair- Elizabeth Altman
Nicki Norris
Alcie Jermyn
Robertta Ouellette
Janice Odom
Cheryl Dean
Sandy Ceppos
Courtney Ward

Faith In Action°

Co-Chair- Peter van Dorsten
Co-Chair- Sarah Sydney
Mary Pat Peters
Marcia Welsh
Leslie Langley
Karen Ponder
Kristine Berry
Andy Phillips

Personnel°

Chair- Nick Kentopp
Gail Holden
Frank McKay
Lisa Hoskins
Edward McFarland

Visioning Committee

Doug Long
Todd Smith
Nicki Norris
Renate Andrews
Bridget Blinn-Spears
David Frink

Ministerial Relations

Reed Altman
Bill Radke
Nicki Norris

Brownleigh Dr. Association

Chris Ousley
Doug Long
Peg Arcari
Vickie Teal

Nominating Committee

Bridget Blinn-Spears
Peg Arcari
Doug Long
Mary Nations

congregational meeting follow up

Brief Summary of Congregational Meeting April 29

After a wonderfully scrumptious BBQ meal provided by Todd Smith:

- The growing Youth program was highlighted with kudos given to Anne Maust and her stellar work. Show your tangible support by attending Youth Sunday May 6th and bidding in the Silent Auction!
- A brief financial report was given... All is well, or **well-enough** ...at this point in the year.
- A slate was approved for new officers and committees. See the complete list on page three.
- In expectation of a Capital Campaign, a great 'envisioning' took place. Great thanks to David Frink and Kristine Berry for facilitating. More will emerge as the input is tallied and reported.

We ended with a complete loss of words in adequately thanking Nicki Norris for her outstanding leadership as Moderator. We also recognized the chairs who have completed their terms: Anthony Neff of FIA, Sarah Hogan Building and Grounds, Paul Buschkemper Pastoral Care, Betsy Thigpen co-Children's, and Michael Lester and Roberta Ouellette of Fellowship.

faith in action

Help Wanted for Out! Raleigh



The eighth annual Out! Raleigh Festival will take place this Saturday, **May 5** from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. This inclusive and action-packed event is family friendly, with activities for all ages. The Out! Raleigh festival is an important way to raise the necessary funds to support the LGBT Center of Raleigh and all of its over 20 amazing community programs. Last year, more than 30,000 people braved ferocious winds at Raleigh's City Plaza to celebrate the LGBT community, their allies, friends and family.

UPUCC once again plans to take an active and visible role at the festival with an information booth (and display of support). **Volunteers to help staff the booth** are still needed. Contact Anthony Neff to assist at anthonyneff@anthonyneff.com As of the publication of this newsletter, there are a few slots left between 3 and 5 p.m.

Wondering Where the 11,000 meals We Packaged Recently Went?

This news just in from "Rise Against Hunger":

"It is with great pleasure that we announce the destination of the Rise Against Hunger meals you helped package on 3/25/2018. A shipping container, holding 285,120 meals, has been sent to Dominican Republic for our partner CitiHope International. CitiHope International is an organization that nourishes lives through food assistance and other services in Dominican Republic. To learn more, please visit our partner/country spotlight on the Impact Stories tab and click and drag on our World Aid Map at <https://www.riseagainsthunger.org/world-aid/>."



children

Children's Program

Children's Church time continues with arts, crafts, games, drama, outdoor fun, and service projects in conjunction with Faith In Action Committee. The groups will explore the teachings of Jesus and the witness of the disciples through the topics of:

- listening, speaking and acting
- friendship
- what it means to be a leader
- choices and consequences

Over the summer the lower and upper elementary groups will merge and focus on the building of community, culminating in our Vacation Church Camp, August 10-12.



Fifth Sunday Fun

A Message to Parents

We are eager to engage a few more parents in assisting with our nursery and children's church classes. As a teacher, all materials are provided to you. As an assistant, we ask that you come prepared to engage with the children and help the teacher in creating an enjoyable experience for all.

Link to summer schedules [here](#).

Need more details? Please contact peg@upucc.org



youth

May Youth Schedule

May 6 - Youth Sunday
Youth Lead Worship
Silent Auction Youth Fundraiser
Youth Picnic & Kickball at Brier Creek Park

May 20 - 11:30a-1:30
Youth Meet at UPUCC

adult education

May Forums

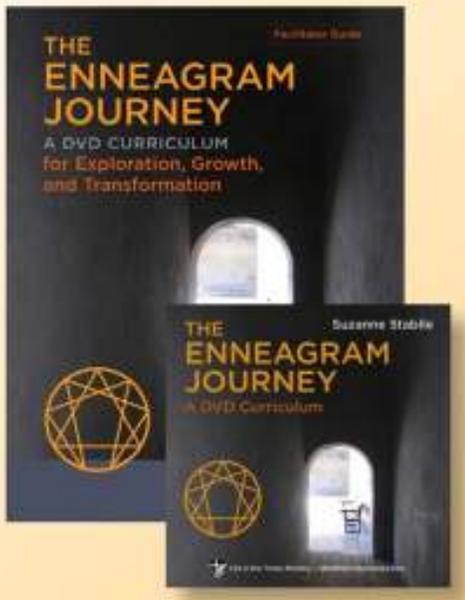
May 6 - 9:30 a.m. - Radical Hospitality

Diverse, inclusive, embracing, welcoming, safe—all terms we use to describe who we are and what we value at UPUCC. Yet, when we look at each other during Sunday morning worship, we see mostly white faces in the sanctuary. Is our “whiteness” a problem? Do we need to try harder to welcome fully persons of every race? How racially diverse should we be? Is racial diversity a shared goal among UCC Covenant Partners? Please come and share in the discussion as we examine these important issues. Gail Holden, facilitator

May 20 - 9:30 a.m. - Faith Journey

Covenant Partner David Fish shares his own personal faith journey.

Childcare provided in the nursery during forums.



'Summer of Self-Awareness'

In light of the favorable response to our Enneagram Forums we have decided to continue the conversation by having a Summer of Self-Awareness! The Adult Ed Committee is offering a 12 week DVD Series from Suzanne Stabile entitled "The Enneagram Journey—a DVD Curriculum for Exploration, Growth and Transformation" beginning on Thursday, May 17th and continuing on Thursdays thereafter from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Even if you were unable to attend the forums, please join us for the DVD series as you do not have to have prior knowledge of the Enneagram or know your number before attending. Please come even if you feel you can't make all the sessions. There will be a slight cost involved to help pay for the curriculum and the amount will depend on how many attend, probably no more than \$30. Let's embark on a summer of exploration, growth and transformation! Contact Gina Kentopp at gkentopp@hotmail.com for further information.

On our path to a closer communion with God, we will:

-Look to the historical Jesus and the present Christ;

-Search the scriptures with open-minded thoughtfulness;

taking the Bible seriously while knowing it cannot always be taken literally;

all in the family

New Baby!



Alyssa & James Hill welcome a new baby. Mom and baby are happy, healthy and doing extremely well.



More New Covenant Partners!

Joining on April 29 were:

Tara Kenyon and Neil Hall. Watch for more about our new members in upcoming newsletters!

New Covenant Partner



Andrea Botelho

After attending a non-denominational, mostly fundamentalist church, I realized that I couldn't run from the doubts and questions that I had. And I knew I wasn't going to get the answers I needed there. I found UPUC through the LGBTQ workshop and felt this is where God wanted me to be. I stayed because this was the first church in many years that made me feel welcome and people took the time to speak to me.

I work full-time, and I also work from home which has its benefits and pitfalls. It's hard to end my workday sometimes. Looking forward to retirement in a few years.

I have two adult children and two grandchildren. I love to read, hike, go cycling and stay active. Being a member of several meet-up groups keeps me busy and gets me out of the house.

Divorced after 41 years of marriage, I am working on trying to find myself again; and so far I like what I have found! I have a great sense of humor, am compassionate, and will be there if you need me. *-Andrea Botelho*

Creativity Group

The Creativity Group will have cards, including Mother's Day cards, available on May 6. Sending a hand crafted card to someone brightens their day, and your donation will go to Haven House Services, a Wake County organization whose mission is to strengthen youth and young adults through effective programs, advocacy, and community mobilization.

Our Very Own Washer and Dryer!

Not only did Hope Kiser and Susan Pierson donate a washer and dryer to the church, they paid for the substantial electrical work required for the installation and oversaw the entire project. To complete the generosity, Nick Kentopp supplied the DIY plumbing. (Along the way, the moving services of Eliseo, Nick and Doug Culver were also required!).

As a result, our table cloths can be laundered here, fewer volunteers are necessary for Sanctuary chores, and JTP is *very* happy!

Kudos all around, but especially to Hope, Susan and Nick!



in our wider community

*The Justice Theater Project presents
a family-friendly musical*

Oliver!

June 8- June 24

at Umstead Park UCC

*With a multicultural cast, consider
yourself part of the family as JTP
presents this award-winning
musical adaptation of Dickens'
classic novel.*



For complete schedule and ticket information:
<http://www.thejusticetheaterproject.org/oliver/>

The mission of The Justice Theater Project is to produce compelling theater experiences that create community dialogue and give voice to social concerns.



July 12-15 2018 | Hot Springs, NC

Wild Goose Festival

We are excited that one of our own UPUCC family, Bridget Blinn-Spears, will be at Wild Goose this July in an official capacity, as she will be part of the new Convo Hall round table discussions, leading a session called “Lessons from a Sanctuary Church Trainer.” The Convo Hall will have multiple round table discussions going on at once, and each session will be presented twice to give more people a chance to participate!

The Wild Goose Festival, this year from July 12 -15, is held in Hot Springs, NC. It is grounded in faith-inspired social justice, and can be a transformational experience. Find more information at WildGooseFestival.org, or talk to others at UPUCC who have attended in prior years.

We are getting a group discount this year; email Marcia Welsh, homeofwelsh@gmail.com, to find out how to get this discount. The group discount does NOT mean we have to buy our tickets together or go as a group. It just means we can buy our own tickets at discounted prices.

With our steps toward a mutual relationship with the wider world, we will:

-Share freely of our wealth and resources;

***-Recognize our identity as global citizens, intimately tied to and
partnered with all of God's children in every land;***

may calendar at upucc

Tues.	May 1	9:30 a.m.	Creativity Group meets in the library.
Wed.	May 2	2:30 p.m.	Creativity Group to Healing Transitions.
		7:00 p.m.	UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Sat.	May 5	9:30 a.m.	Yoga with Ellen Beidler in the worship space.
		11a.m.-6:00 p.m.	Out! Raleigh. Fayetteville Street. Downtown Raleigh. See page four.
Sun.	May 6	9:30 a.m.	Forum: Radical Hospitality. See page six.
		10:30 a.m.	Youth Sunday- Worship & Communion. See page one.
		Following worship	Membership & Inquirers Session in the library.
		Following worship	UPUCC Advocacy Group meets in large atrium conference room.
		Following worship	Youth Picnic and Kickball at Brier Creek Park.
Mon.	May 7	7:00 p.m.	The Challenge of Paul meets in the library.
Wed.	May 9	7:00 p.m.	UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Sat.	May 12	10:00 a.m.	Contemplative Group meets in the library.
Sun.	May 13	9:30 a.m.	Committee Meeting Time: childcare provided in the nursery.
		10:30 a.m.	Worship: "Mothers ... and Me, Too," Doug Long preaching.
Mon.	May 14	6:30 p.m.	Evening Creativity Group meets in the library.
		7:00 p.m.	Coordinating Council meets in the large atrium conference room.
Tues.	May 15	9:30 a.m.	Creativity Group meets in the library.
Wed.	May 16	7:00 p.m.	UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Thurs.	May 17	Midnight	UPUCC June Newsletter deadline.
Sat.	May 19	9:30 a.m.	UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Sun.	May 20	9:30 a.m.	Forum: Faith Journey. See page six.
		10:30 a.m.	Worship: UPUCC Choir -Psalm 23 Cantata. See page one.
		Following worship	Youth meet at UPUCC.
		12:00 p.m.	Worship & Music Committee meets.
Wed.	May 23	7:00 p.m.	UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Sun.	May 27	10:30 a.m.	Worship: "Memorial Reflections," Doug Long preaching.
Mon.	May 28		Memorial Day

We come together as travelers on a journey, each bringing our unique histories, traditions, and stories of faith, and we prayerfully establish this covenant, seeking:

A closer communion with God,

A more intimate community with one another, and

A committed, mutual relationship with the wider world.