

umstead park

UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

a thoughtful and progressive community of faith

May 2019

8208 Brownleigh Drive

Raleigh, NC 27617

www.upucc.org

FAITH IN ACTION

Moving Forward! Highlights of the April 28th Congregational Meeting

Giving thanks for all the work accomplished by our out-going leaders, the Congregation enthusiastically welcomed a new slate of officers and committee members for the coming year. (See page five for the impressive complete listing.)

As prelude to an additional campaign, Stewardship and Finance (S&F) asked to give a 'green light' to the immediate development of the outdoor 'garden' area utilizing 50K designated from special gifts already collected (plus sweat equity).

Christy Tucker, in-coming co-chair of Stewardship and Finance, explained a proposal to pare down a more ambitious 'full on' Capital Campaign (of about \$900,000) to a scaled back but still substantial campaign of \$200K to complete necessary and desired projects related to our sustainability. Emphasis and priority was placed on youth room upgrades (5K), total roof replacement (90K), solar roof panels (50K), HVAC replacement (27K) and interior LED lighting upgrades (6K). The remainder of money raised would help pay down our mortgage.

The 200K "Count On Me!" Campaign (chaired by Mark Stevens) would begin very soon with commitments sought by the end of July with a celebration to follow.

After a time of good questions and answers, the Congregation voted unanimously to proceed. Stay tuned... as more details are sure to follow for "Count On Me!"

Toward the Creation of a More Just World... Right Here... Right Now!

- ⇒ One of the advantages of being located in the State Capital is the opportunity to make our voices known at the NC legislature. **Suffice it to say there is much that we want to voice there!** The very day this missive hits your inboxes, representatives of UPUCC are joining the NC Educators Association demanding more justice for those who educate our children. **More detail of the day's legislative agenda is here:** <https://www.ncae.org/wp-content/uploads/legislativeplatform2019.pdf>
- ⇒ Later this week, on May 4, we will have an opportunity to raise our voices at **Out! Raleigh**. It's not too late to sign up to assist. Here's the [link](#).
- ⇒ **And just in case you are misled enough to believe that there are still not "miles to go" on LGBTQ+ issues**, in addition to all the well-publicized legislation being introduced on the State level, as of this writing a bill banning so-called "conversion therapy" has not made its way out of committee and onto the Senate floor. Is it possible that our society can allow such public child abuse? Let us use our voices to expose the horrors of telling any young person that they are badly made by their Creator... and then torturing them to 'convert' to a normal lifestyle. <https://www.newsobserver.com/opinion/article229473984.html>
- ⇒ Last, but certainly not least, a major **Lobby Day to address the Gerrymandering of our elections takes place May 7th**.

If gerrymandering is causing you heartburn, as it should, you can meet with your legislators with other members of UPUCC on May 7th and ask for your legislator's support. We have appointments Tuesday morning and come join with us and make a difference by your presence. (A training for all who want to participate occurs following worship, May 5.)

Can't Attend Lobby Day on May 7? More ways to help are listed on page four.

Integral Bits and Pieces...

There was a time when I felt I could keep up with the variety of ideas and projects that bubbled up from the creative mix we affectionately call UPUCC.

Not anymore. Now, I am often pleasantly surprised by projects pretty far down the road by the time I even hear about them. Look for examples scattered among the hodge-podge of 'goings-on' listed below.

-Each April, at the end of the month, we do a great job of electing new leadership for the next year of the Congregation (Why is the committee year May to April? Like Tevye sings: "Tradition!").

You'll find the new officers and committees listed on page five.

What we do not do as well is THANK those who have given time, energy, passion and sweat in leading us in the year just passed. The vibrancy and very existence of our community is dependent on the Covenant Partners who offer their leadership among us. We are immensely in debt to them.

With that at the forefront of my mind I want to thank ALL of you who, through the years, have assumed such positions, but specifically this year I want to thank a couple of folks who have gone over and beyond any expectations: Renate Andrews, our outgoing Moderator, has also relentlessly and faithfully coordinated food and other needs of our Sanctuary efforts; Mark Stevens, who has provided exceptional leadership in Stewardship & Finance for many years, and Gary Sanders, chairing our Membership and Publicity Committee and has additionally coordinated the daily volunteers as Sanctuary Hosts.

I would add one more name to theirs as truly exceptional this past year: Gary Welsh (Treasurer, S&F member, general project manager extraordinaire. We will sorely miss Gary.) 'Nuff said.

Well, not really... because when I think of Gary I think of Marcia and she does a LOT! ... and then from Marcia my mind jumps to Gail and then Alice and all the Creativity Group... which reminds me of Mary Nations (Kristel founded the Creativity circle), and Mary is presently outstripping us all in the giving department. Mary connects me to Elizabeth and she to Gwen and Fellowship which leads me to Roberta and then Lori and all the children's teachers... or from Lori I could veer to the choir and then I just get *hopefully* lost in all the goodness there... except Sheila and David emerge, of course and

Well, let's just say that I can spend a lot of time and create multitudes of smiles as I connect each one of you to the other.

Someone who visited their family over Easter and worshipped with us said to me "You have a wonderful congregation."

I could only respond, "Amen."

-And how 'bout those YOUTH!! What a Youth Sunday this past week. To say they are exceptional is an understatement! (For photos worth a thousand words plus, see page six.)

-By the way, have you seen the beautiful new art work by Michael Lester? It's a sunrise with a portion of our affirmation included: "We believe that ALL people are God's people, and that to exclude any person would be contrary to the message of Jesus."

Michael says it's a work in progress. The quote he's incorporated certainly is! (I don't know about you, but there are folks I'm still trying truly to welcome as a child of God!)

-Last month David Wiltshire filled in while I was away, and this month Neil Hall will do the same on May 5th (I'm officiating a wedding in Asheville.) Thank you, Neil!!

-continued on page three...



from doug

-continued from page 2...

-Did you know that David Wilson and Eleanor Smith have written a piece of music that will debut Sunday, May 19th? “Who Is God?” Lyrics, Eleanor Smith. Music, David Wilson.

-Did you also know that Joanne Kennedy Frazer has written a book of poetry, some set to music, and that will anchor our Pentecost worship on June 9? (For details of her book and its debut, see page 10.)

I could go on and on. Without question I am leaving out all manner of good work you are scheming up. I can't wait to find out about it. I love it.

Thank you for being you.

Doug

adult ed

“Getting Your Affairs in Order”

A forum was held April 14 outlining several of the ways you can express your love to those you will one day leave behind by... **getting your affairs in order!** Retired geriatrician, Neil Hall, eloquently emphasized the need for advanced directives and other documents that greatly assist loved ones in a time that is already more chaotic and unsettling than we can adequately anticipate.

For a summer project, research, download and complete appropriate forms found under the ‘Advance Healthcare directives’ tab on the NC Secretary of State site: <https://www.sosnc.gov/forms>
On the second Sunday in August we will have a notary (Thank you, Andrea!) available to stamp your documents.

May Forums *held in the library. Childcare provided in the nursery.*

May 5 - 9:30 a.m. Covenant Partner Stan Yancey shares his faith journey.

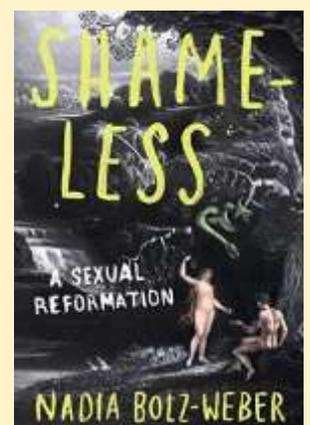
May 19 - 9:30 a.m. Reflections on Lobby Day. See page five for details.

Please note: No forums are scheduled for Mother's Day or Memorial Day weekend.

Upcoming Wednesday Evening Book Study- May 8, 15, 22, 29 & June 5

Bridget Blinn-Spears leads a book study on Nadia Bolz-Weber's recent release, *Shameless: A Sexual Reformation*. “Raw, intimate, and timely, Nadia Bolz-Weber's latest book offers a full-blown overhaul of our harmful and antiquated ideas about sex, gender, and our bodies.” (description found on Amazon)
Wednesday evenings, 7-9 p.m. in the atrium conference room. Childcare provided. (Kids welcome to come in their jammies!).

Contact Bridget with questions babspears@gmail.com



faith in action

More from UPUCC Advocacy Task Force ...continued from page one.

Many of us are attending Lobby Day sponsored by Common Cause on Tuesday May 7 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Our issue is redistricting reform we are meeting with our legislators asking them to support HB 69 and HB 140. It is not too late for you to join us. Please call Ted Frazer at 919-361-0730 or email FKAssoc@aol.com to be a part of this effort.

If you cannot make this date, we are asking you to call your NC Senator and ask them to support HB 69 and HB 140. Your legislator can be located at www.ncleg.gov/RnR/Representation and click on NC Senator for his or her contact information. Descriptions of each bill can be found at: <https://openstates.org/nc/bills2019/HB69> and <https://cleg.gov/BillLookUp/2019/HB140>

Finally please put **Sunday, May 19** on your calendar for the Adult Education Forum at 9:30 a.m. in which folks who attended lobby day will share their lobby day experience and answer any questions you may have from their

Clothing Drive for Healing Transitions

Faith In Action is sponsoring a May clothing drive for the residents of Healing Transitions. This center, located down the street from UPUCC, provides shelter and help for women who are battling substance abuse issues and who often arrive at the facility with very few personal items. For the first three Sundays in May, there will be a collection box near the back of the worship space.

Items requested include new socks and underwear along with gently used casual tops and slacks (e.g. jeans and t-shirts). Various adult sizes are welcome. Let's fill the box!



You shop. Amazon gives

An Additional Way

... to give to UPUCC. Clicking on the link will reveal instructions for enabling amazon purchases to yield a % to go directly our church. Thanks for your help! <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/56-2202519>

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;***
- Demonstrate our concern for neighbor through service and prophetic voice;***
- Claim our inescapable connection with the sacred earth and all of creation;***
- Live justice as the social expression of love, and peace as the present manifestation of the world to come.***

upucc officers & committees 2019 - 20

At the spring Congregational Meeting following worship on April 28, UPUCC Covenant Partners voted to confirm the following slate of nominees for officers, committee chairs and members. We thank the 2019 Nominating Committee for their efforts: Bridget Blinn-Spears, Mary Nations, Doug Long, and Peg Arcari.

Officers

Moderator- Bridget Blinn-Spears
Moderator Elect- Edward McFarland
Secretary- David Frink
Treasurer - Sue Hathaway

Assistant Treasurers

Dan Harrell
Lee Harrison
Miles Schumacher

Committees

Adult Education°

Co-Chair- Joanne Kennedy-Frazer
Co-Chair- Ted Frazer
Anthony Neff
Janice Odom
Meredith Pope
Brian Spears
Betsy Thigpen
David VandeVusse
Stan Yancey

Building and Grounds°

Chair- Rebecca van Dorsten
Carol Banaitis
Doug Culver
Sarah Hogan
Eliseo Jimenez
Jeff Poupart

Children's Committee°

Co-Chair- Margaret Gruen
Co-Chair- Lori Del Negro
Laura Duval
Shawn Holmes
Learla Stefanics

Congregational Care°

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

Faith In Action°

Co-Chair- Peter van Dorsten
Co-Chair- Sarah Sydney
Renate Andrews
Kristine Berry
Maria Mauriello
Karen Ponder
Marcia Welsh

Fellowship°

Co-Chair- Gwen Vass
Co-Chair- Elizabeth Altman
David Brainard
Tim Champion
Andrew Crisman-Kleczeck
Jennifer Crisman-Kleczeck
Alice Jermyn
Neil Hall
Linda Hébert
Michael Hébert

Membership & Publicity°

Chair- Gary Sanders
Mike Heavey
Arlene Peters
Maria Mauriello
Bill Yoder

Personnel°

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

Stewardship & Finance°

Co-Chair- Richard Frazer
Co-Chair- Christy Tucker
Sue Hathaway (ex-officio)
Bonnie Shook-Sa
Mark Stevens
Vickie Teal

Worship & Music°

Chair- David Wilson
Sheila Alderman
Scott Andrews
Bill Coye
Carol Fouts
Gustavo Sa
Eleanor Smith
Marcia Welsh

Youth°

Chair- Michelle Brainard
Youth-
Youth-
Scott Andrews
Colleen Frazer
Heather Frink
Mary Nations

Brownleigh Dr. Association

Rebecca van Dorsten
Doug Long
Peg Arcari
Vickie Teal

Ministerial Relations

Reed Altman
Bill Radke
Nicki Norris

Nominating Committee

Chair- Edward McFarland (*Moderator-Elect*)
Peg Arcari
Doug Long
Yet to be named
Yet to be named

Visioning Committee

Renate Andrews (*1st Past Moderator*)
Nicki Norris (*2nd Past Moderator*)
Bridget Blinn-Spears (*Moderator*)
Edward McFarland (*Moderator-Elect*)
David Frink (*At-large*)
Doug Long

May Youth Schedule

May 5 - 12:00 p.m.

Cinco-de-Picnic! Youth & Parents Day
Brier Creek Park

May 12 - No Youth Group. Happy Mother's Day!

May 19 - 11:30 a.m.
Youth Outdoor Service Project

May 26 - No Youth Group. Memorial Day Weekend



*Photos
from
Youth
Sunday*



children

Thank you!

As summer approaches, we offer our continued, heartfelt appreciation to our teachers and leaders, who generously and faithfully give of their time to our children. In addition, we thank our Children and Youth for regularly providing leadership in worship as well. Looking forward to our upcoming camp (details below)!

Children's Church Camp - Love of Creation

Friday, May 31, 5:30-8 pm, June 1, 9 am-noon, Sunday, June 2 Worship

Celebrating our love of creation and our dreams for our church environs!

With Faith In Action Committee, our summer service project-school supply collection.

- * **May 31- 6 p.m. Friday night** All are welcome! Meal catered by Carroll's Kitchen. Greg Whitt of Drum for Change will lead activities after.
- * **June 1- Saturday morning-** Creating stories, building mosaic tiles for our outdoor space, stretching with yoga session, interaction with wildlife!
- * **June 2- Worship** an opportunity for children to share their weekend experience with the congregation.

Children are welcome to invite their friends!-registration required.

Evite [here](#).



Our colorful Easter morning worship space and earth-friendly egg hunt that followed.

we love our upucc volunteers!

May 5

Altar Prep: Eleanor Smith
Communion Prep: Trish Breen
Coffee Set-Up: Elaina & Robert Richardson
Greeters: Elaina & Robert Richardson
Ushers: Alice Jermyn, Beth Mastick
Sound System: Peter van Dorsten
Auditor: Gwen Vass
Assistant Treasurer: Lee Harrison
Clean-Team: Edward McFarland, Shawn & Jessica Holmes
Mark and Melanie Stevens, Linda Hébert



Want to fill in some of the TBD's?
[Link to volunteer sign up here!](#)

May 12

Altar Prep: Leslie Heavey
Coffee Set-Up: TBD
Greeters: TBD
Ushers: Sue Hathaway & Laura Duval
Sound System: TBD
Auditor: Tim Champion
Assistant Treasurer: Dan Harrell
Clean-Team: Mary Pat Peters, Eliseo Jimenez,
Elaina & Robert Richardson, Vickie Teal

May 19

Altar Prep: Eleanor Smith
Coffee Set-Up: Lori Del Negro & Roger Sommer
Greeters: TBD
Ushers: Leslie & Mike Heavey
Sound System: TBD
Auditor: Leslie Heavey
Assistant Treasurer: Sue Hathaway
Clean-Team: Tim Champion & Dan Harrell,
Chris Ousley, Ada & Colin McKerrell

May 26

Altar Prep: Michael Lester
Coffee Set-Up: TBD
Greeters: Maria Mauriello & Mark Schurtman
Ushers: TBD
Sound System: Peter van Dorsten
Auditor: Tim Champion
Assistant Treasurer: Dan Harrell
Clean-Team: Nevin & Carol Fouts,
Scott Pope, Janice Odom &
Doug Long

all in the family

New Covenant Partners



Joining in February, Jeff Poupart and Nicole Olivieri have lived in the Raleigh area for over 20 years. Jeff is from Detroit, and Nicole is from Pittsburgh; and both made their way to Raleigh after college. Nicole says they believe and support the values of UPUCC, including the focus on social justice, diversity, tolerance and inclusion for ALL, care for the environment, and in general, the openness and community spirit.

Nicole is a Learning and Development Consultant at Red Hat and partners with leaders to improve their team's performance, build capabilities and develop individuals. Jeff advocates for the environment every day in his job at the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for the state of NC. Nicole says,

“Jeff and I love to hike and be outdoors.”

Youth Becoming Covenant Partners



Understanding the Big Picture of Women's Health

Wednesday, May 22

10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Pilgrim UCC (Durham)

Free (but RSVP required) Follow this link: <https://www.ncchurches.org/event-single/understanding-the-big-picture-of-womens-health-a-call-to-action-for-men-and-women/>

Join the N.C. Council of Churches to learn more about the erosion of women's health and the potential for restrictions on reproductive health. Panelists will offer different perspectives, all of which will provide important knowledge for faith leaders who seek to walk alongside women and the people who love them.

This event is free and open to the public, but you must RSVP. For questions, email info@ncchurches.org or call 919-828-6501.

Join us for the introduction of

Being Kin

A book of poetry by
Joanne Kennedy Frazer



Sunday, June 9, 1-2pm

**Umstead Park United Church of Church
8208 Brownleigh Drive, Raleigh, NC 27617**

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Guest performers: Seattle-based soprano Liz Frazer will sing selections from "Resistance," a five song cycle of "Being Kin" poetry put to music by composer Steven Luksan. David Wilson, pianist.

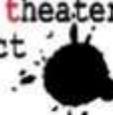
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Proceeds from book sales will benefit the UPUCC Sanctuary Fund which helps support Eliseo Jimenez who lives in sanctuary as part of our UPUCC family.

Author inquiries: frazer.poetry@gmail.com

Creation Dawning Publishing
Durham, NC

the
justice theater
project



**Coming to UPUCC
in June!**
Details [here](#)

CAROLINE,
or Change
June 7-23

upucc may calendar

Wed.	May 1	NCAE Educators Day of Action. See page one. 2:30 p.m. Creativity Group departs for Healing Transitions. 6:15 p.m. Music Literacy Group in the library. 7:00 p.m. UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Sat.	May 4	9:30 a.m. Yoga with Ellen Beidler in the worship space. 10:00 a.m. Meditation Group in the library. 11 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Out! Raleigh- Fayetteville Street. Downtown Raleigh. See page one.
Sun.	May 5	9:30 a.m. Forum: Faith Journey. See page three. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Communion: Neil Hall will review the story of Job and draw conclusions we might apply to our lives. Janice Odom and Stan Yancey assist in worship. Following worship Membership & Inquirers Session in the library. Following worship Lobby Day Training in the large atrium conference room. See pages one and four. 12:00 p.m. Cinco-de-Picnic! Youth & Parents Day. See page six.
Tues.	May 7	Lobby Day on Gerrymandering at the NC Legislature. See page one and four. 9:30 a.m. Creativity Group in the library.
Wed.	May 8	6:15 p.m. Music Literacy Group in the library. 7:00 p.m. Book Study in the large atrium conference room. See page three. 7:00 p.m. UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Sun.	May 12	9:30 a.m. Committee Meeting Time. 10:30 a.m. Worship: "Mother's Day/Mother Earth," Doug Long preaching
Wed.	May 15	6:15 p.m. Music Literacy Group in the library. 7:00 p.m. Book Study in the large atrium conference room. See page three. 7:00 p.m. UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Thurs.	May 16	7:00 p.m. Coordinating Council in the library. Midnight Deadline for items to be included in the UPUCC June Newsletter.
Sat.	May 18	9:30 a.m. Yoga with Ellen Beidler in the worship space.
Sun.	May 19	9:30 a.m. Forum: Reflections on Lobby Day. See page three. 10:30 a.m. Worship: David Wilson, Eleanor Smith and the UPUCC Choir debut their anthem, "Who Is God?" Doug Long will offer reflections. Following worship Youth Outdoor Service Project 12:00 p.m. Worship & Music Committee meets.
Tues.	May 21	9:30 a.m. Creativity Group in the library.
Wed.	May 22	6:15 p.m. Music Literacy Group in the library. 7:00 p.m. Book Study in the large atrium conference room. See page three. 7:00 p.m. UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Sun.	May 26	10:30 a.m. Memorial Day Worship: Doug considers "A Necessary Sacrifice."
Wed.	May 29	7:00 p.m. Book Study in the large atrium conference room. See page three.
Fri.	May 31	6:00 p.m. UPUCC Children's Church Camp at UPUCC. See page seven.
Sat.	June 1	9:00 a.m. UPUCC Children's Church Camp at UPUCC. See page seven.