



United Church of Gainesville

# ***NEWSLETTER***

WHOEVER YOU ARE, WHEREVER YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, WE WELCOME YOU.

LATE SUMMER 2010

Larry Reimer & Sandy Reimer  
Ministers

Andy Bachmann  
Associate Minister  
Vince Amlim  
Associate Minister  
Lisa Goldstein  
Editor

## ***Sunday, August 15*** ***Annual Gathering of Waters*** ***Services at 9:30 & 11:00am***

At summer's end, from oceans and lakes, swimming pools and faucets, rivers and streams, near and far, we each bring a small bit of water to share as we gather together. We pour that water – of power, of healing, of peace, of homecoming – into pitchers and then into a common urn, blessing it as our individual water becomes our sacred communal water of baptisms and rituals for the year ahead.

- ◆ **Chapel is open for meditation** at 8:45
- ◆ **Nursery care** from 9:15 to 12:15
- ◆ **Children** are welcome at both services. Parents, you may take your child(ren) to Activity time on the playground at any point during the morning, from 9:15 to 12:15. There is a **Potluck Brunch** between the two services, from 10:15 to 11:30. Please bring a finger food snack to serve 8 to 10 folks. Beverages and paper goods provided.
- ◆ **Guide and Pre-K Teacher Training** at 8:00am in the West Wing
- ◆ **Middle School Group Kick-off** at 11am and **Youth United Kick-off** 5:30pm

## ***Sunday, August 22- New Worship Theme*** ***“A New Heaven and a New Earth: Not Necessarily in That Order”*** ***Services at 9:30 & 11:00am***

**“Our Enduring Fascination with the Afterlife.”** Larry Reimer explores images of the after-life from a variety of religions and the draw they have on us. Music by the Hogtown Pickers. 11:00am service includes Communion.

8:45 – **Chapel open for Meditation**

9:45 - **United Tribes Fun Fest and Registration**

11:00 - **Adult Seminars resume:** see page 2 for information

- ◆ **Are We Ready at UCG for the Next Hurricane?-** with Charlie Williams.
- ◆ **Mentor At Risk Students in Gainesville -** with guests from Take Stock in Children.

11:00 - **MSG (Middle School Group)**

noon - **All youth and parents meet for a preview of the year ahead.**

**Campus Ministry Meet for Lunch.**

***See page 6 for information about Sunday, August 29***

# *What's Happening August and Beyond*

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## **Parent's Night Out**

Need a night out? Bring your children, babies through 5th grade, to the UCG church school wing on **Friday, September 10** from 5:30 to 8:30 where they can play, eat pizza\*, watch movies, and have fun with our child care staff. The cost is \$10 for the first child and \$5 for each additional child. **To reserve space for your child(ren), RSVP to [alysonm@ucgainesville.org](mailto:alysonm@ucgainesville.org) by September 7.** \*Due to life threatening food allergies, no outside food can be brought in. Thank you.

## **August Seminars– Sundays at 11:00am**

### **August 22**

♦ **Are We Ready at UCG for the Next Hurricane?** - with Charlie Williams (chair) and other members of the UCG Disaster Response Team (DRT). This church seminar is conducted one time each year to review and discuss UCG's disaster readiness plans. At this seminar, you'll be able to look at our Disaster Response Plan to see where it may help you in case of an emergency and where you may be able to help the church and its members.

♦ **Mentor an At-Risk Student in Gainesville-** with guests from Take Stock in Children. Take Stock in Children breaks the cycle of poverty by providing a post secondary education, mentors and hope for at-risk students. Every child has goals and dreams for their future, but some of them need help in getting there. This program aims to prevent students from dropping out of high school and moving on to becoming a first generation college student. Find out how you can be a part of the solution by finding out more about this program on August 22 at 11am.

### **August 29**

♦ **Meet Your Village People** - with Sandy Reimer – If the church is a village, you are one of the village people! Want to make friends with your fellow UCG members but don't know how? Let us help you get started in expanding your connections! Come for some simple ice breakers and get to know your fellow village people...um...church members...in a setting that's sure to get you smiling! Back by popular demand, this seminar is a great way to start off a new church year!

## **Fall TGIFs—Friday, October 8**

Save this date for one of UCG's fun and relaxing fall events! We're going to have TGIFs in various geographical areas of Gainesville again. It will be a great chance to meet other UCG folks who live in the same part of town! If you are willing to host (provide your home, water, ice, napkins, glasses and nametags), we need hosts in the Duck pond area, the Tower Road-Haile area, Southwest, Midtown/Millhopper area, and the Northwood/Devils Millhopper area. Contact Vince Amlin through the church office.

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### **A Reminder...**

If anyone is interested in joining the LGBT & Friends Facebook group email [bl3@cox.net](mailto:bl3@cox.net) or call 514-5539 .

# A Note From.....

## Larry

Our new theme, “A New Heaven and a New Earth: Not Necessarily in That Order” begins on August 22. You can look up the biblical inspiration for the theme in Revelation 21 where the other visions a time of beauty on earth, God present among us, all things made new and the old things passing away. The sanctuary will be transformed, as it so often is with our visual arts to reflect these images.

We four ministers are poised to explore what, if anything, was wrong with the old heaven and the old earth, just what visions of a new heaven and a new earth might entail, how we catch glimpses of heaven on earth, and how all of these affect our daily lives. Look for art, drama, music, and humor to inform all of this.

The church school encourages parents to make sure their children commit to regular attendance for the first six weeks of church school to forge a solid bond with the church, each other, and their own faith. That’s a good idea for the adult members of the church as well. It’s good to regather from summer journeys to experience something of one glimpse of heaven on earth, true community.

## Sandy

As I listened to our graduating seniors speak to the congregation on June 6<sup>th</sup>, I was struck by their messages to us as a spiritual community. I heard wonderfully unique reflections, and I also heard commonality in their remarks as many of them said how important UCG is and has been to them. Specifically, they appreciated the openness and surprising nature of worship (“*bump-bump-a-rump*” was mentioned several times.) Secondly, these graduating seniors affirmed, and had been changed by, the open acceptance of this church for all people, including differing ideas about God and faith and especially our Open and Affirming acceptance of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people. Third, they value and appreciate the opportunities for service to others that they had through the church and see these Outreach experiences as life-changing. And fourth, they thanked their parents for nudging them, pushing them, insisting that they be part of the church and its programs. They mentioned Activity Time, church school, middle school group, confirmation, high school group, Retreats, and YU’s spring break work tour.

This month, we begin our new year of United Tribes for preschool and elementary school children and our new year of MSG (middle school group) and YU (youth united) for our youth. Based on my experience raising my own children and on watching hundreds of children grow up in this church, my encouragement to you as a parent is simple: bring your child(ren), send your youth, and hang in there through the ups and downs of how your children react and relate to the church. Let UCG be a given in their life and in your life. Make accommodations for who they are and their schedule AND then create a plan for how and when they will be involved here. It matters now and it will matter on that day when they are seniors reflecting on their faith community. If you need help with a strategy, or you need support as a parent, give Andy a call for some help. One tip: it’s easier for your child(ren) and easier for our guides and youth leaders to connect with a sense of belonging and excitement if they are here together consistently during the first six to eight Sundays of the fall.

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*Loving wilderness and open space is important, but it is not enough. We must learn to love creation in its broken places – in places we have broken. Seeing these places and learning their stories can be a first step.*

*~ Fletcher Harper, Executive Director of Green Faith*

# Youth Happenings... Andy Bachmann

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## Youth Groups Kick-off

Our middle school group kicks off the year on August 15<sup>th</sup> at 11 am! Join Casey Kumar and Elisa Lockhart in the Youth Room for opening day festivities!

Youth United, our high school youth group kicks off at 5:30 pm on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Join us for an opening night barbecue at the church! All high schoolers are invited!

## Youth Groups Informational Meeting

On Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> all middle schoolers, high schoolers and their parents or guardians are invited to stick around after the 11 am worship service to hear more about our youth program offerings for the year. Please plan on attending this short meeting to learn more about us!

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## A Little Child Shall Lead Them

UCG Children's Program ~ Director, Heidi Stein

### What is that noise?

If you were at church during the weekdays of the first two weeks in August you probably noticed the pitter patter of lots of feet, the laughter and the random yelling of "I feel good oh I feel so good." Tribal Campers had an awesome time and it would not have been possible without Cam Parker our Camp Manager, Shanna Johnson our Volunteer Coordinator, Salina Briseno our cook and all of the other many UCG members and friends that popped in to share what they love with the kids and help out. Thank you for making it a fantastic camp. We had nearly 30 campers this year and over a 95% return rate from last year, unbelievable.

### When does the fun start?

Tribes start back up on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will have a fun festival, kids will meet their guides/teachers, and enjoy a bounce house. Registration forms will come in the mail so please complete them and turn it in immediately after the 9:30 service on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### What's New?

We are trying a Montessori type approach in our preschool classroom called Godly Play. It will help utilize the excellent skills of our *teachers and blend nicely with our current approach.*

### Calendar

8-15-10 Guide and Teacher Training

8-22-10 First Day Fun Fest

8-29-10 First Rotation Tribe Building



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## Adult Small Groups are coming soon!

The Adult Small Group brochure and registration forms will be available beginning on Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>, and registration will be August 22 - September 5. Small groups are a great way to meet people while learning something new or doing something you love. Please only register for groups you plan to attend. After registration closes, an email will be sent to group participants confirming that they are enrolled, and group leaders will contact participants directly before the event. Here are a few of the groups that are being offered this fall:

- ◆ The Practice of Mindfulness
- ◆ Empire and Apocalypse: A Study of Revelation
- ◆ Contemplative Prayer
- ◆ Bible Challenge: Read the Bible in 9 Months
- ◆ Dream Groups
- ◆ Myers-Briggs for your Relationship
- ◆ Life is a Tension...Life is Attention
- ◆ Plus bikes, birding, bridge, movies, kayaking, piano, and much more!

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## Calling for Visual Images of Sacred Faces and Sacred Places

The Visual Arts team is preparing wonderful visual enhancements for the Sanctuary for our next worship theme, “A New Heaven and A New Earth.” We need photographs of faces and of places that are sacred to you, that represent for you a concept or quality of a new heaven and/or a new earth. We will not be able to return the photos, so please use copies rather than originals. Photos can be in color or black and white – and at least 4” by 6” and no larger than 8” by 10”. Bring them to the church office or to the service on August 15, 22 or 29<sup>th</sup>. There will be a box in the foyer labeled photos and/or a member of the Visual Arts team ready to receive them from you.

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## Tane’ Dekrey is Our New Youth Music Director

When Tane’ found out that Amanda Garrigues was not able to continue our director of music for youth, Tane’ offered to pick this up. The shape of the youth music program is uncertain at this time, but we are considering all kinds of possibilities. Look for new opportunities for instrumental and vocal music for your middle and high schoolers.

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## Many Thanks

Lesley and Allison LeBaron and Greg Whitford want to thank Vince Amlin for leading the memorial service and the congregation for attending the celebration of our mother, Margaret LeBaron Weeks. We appreciate your cards of sympathy, flowers, delicious food and condolences. The support of the church has buffered our loss with love and gratitude.

To all of you that brought meals to us and to “team Kathy,” your acts of kindness and love are appreciated and the meals were delicious. A sincere thank to you all. ~Julie Thaler

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# Additional Sunday Information

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## *Sunday, August 29*

8:45 – Chapel open for Meditation

9:30 & 11:00 - Worship “Sacred Cows and Screen Doors - Old Earth” – Andy Bachmann

With music written by Zach Neece and dance performed by Jenny Hill.

11:00 - Adult Seminars

◆ Meet Your Village People - with Sandy Reimer

11:00 - Middle School Group

4:00 - All-Board Kick-Off in the Fellowship Hall– see page 7

## LATE AUGUST 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Teacher / Guide training 8am Worship 9:30 &amp; 11am-Gathering of Waters 10:15-11:30am Potluck Brunch MSG &amp; YU Kick-off 11am &amp; 5:30pm</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>3rd Monday Project Night 6pm</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Budget Summit 1:30pm Lessons &amp; Carols Planning 4:30pm Alzheimer/ Dementia Support Group 7pm BoB 7:15pm</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Council Exec 12pm</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Lunch Groups 12pm</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>
<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Meditation 8:45am Worship 9:30 &amp; 11:00am United Tribes Fun Fest Youth Groups Informational Meeting 12:15pm Feral Readers* 12pm</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Newsletter Deadline 12pm SJC 6:30pm Dodd-Sanders Wedding 7pm</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>Lunch Groups 12pm</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>
<p><b>29</b></p> <p>Meditation 8:45am Worship 9:30 &amp; 11:00am All-Board Kick off 4 - 6:30pm</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Newsletter Folding 10:30am Council Exec 12pm</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>BPM 5:30pm</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Lunch Groups 12pm</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>UF vs Miami (Ohio) 12:15pm BCM Football Parking</p>

# BOARDS, COMMITTEES, ETC...

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## **All –Board Kick-off**

Calling all UCG officers, board chairs and board members! Please join us from 4 to 6:30pm on Sunday, August 29 in the fellowship hall to make connections, meet new folks, and write our board goals and action plans for the coming year. It is the only time that all our UCG leaders are in one room at the same time, and it's very impressive and fun! We will share dinner together and then close with Communion. The cost of the dinner is \$8 per person. Please RSVP to the church office.

## **Board of Outreach**

**Food 4 Kids** - Last spring, with the combined support of our Outreach committees and Church Council, we started a weekend backpack program at Duval Elementary School. Through our pilot program, 58 children from 20 different families were given enough food for every child in the household for the weekend. The program was a wonderful success, and met an important need in our community. Often it seems like the Duval community is the forgotten community in Gainesville. It can be hard for us to believe that 90% of the children in that school qualify for the free or reduced fare lunch program. It is difficult for us to comprehend that hunger issues affect 9 out of 10 families in east Gainesville. But it is true.

This August, our Outreach Committees invite you to participate in an important and worthwhile new ministry opportunity. This is one little way that we can make a difference in the lives of hungry children living right here in our community. On August 15, 22 and 29<sup>th</sup> we are doing a Food 4 Kids sponsorship drive. For \$200 you can sponsor a child, giving them the gift of food every weekend of the school year. All contributions are welcome, and we will sponsor as many children as we possibly can.

Won't you join us in this important new ministry?

## **IHN**

**Thank you, UCG, for another successful hosting for the Interfaith Hospitality Network in July.** We are very grateful to all the UCG folks who volunteered and gave their time, money and energy to help our families have a comfortable time while staying at our church! If you have not volunteered for Interfaith Hospitality Network, please consider doing so. We have two hostings coming up in the fall, beginning October 24 and December 5!

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## **PASSAGES...**

- ◆ Blessings to Kelsey McNeil who was baptized at the evening service on Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. We surround her with care on her faith journey and on this new chapter of her life's journey as she moves to Austin, Texas this month after graduating from UF this spring
- ◆ We hold in prayer Margaret Weeks, mother of Lesley LeBaron and Allison LeBaron, who died Wednesday, July 7. Our love surrounds her family and friends.
- ◆ We are saddened by the death of UCG member Kathy Cantwell on Tuesday, July 20. Our prayers and love surround her family and friends. A memorial service was held in the Sanctuary on Thursday, July 22 with Sandy Reimer and Larry Reimer officiating.

UNITED CHURCH OF  
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**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: TUESDAY, AUGUST 24 AT NOON  
FOR SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**

## Looking Ahead:

- ◆ **Sept. 12**      **Humor Sunday**  
**Visitor's Lunch at 12:15pm**
- ◆ **Sept. 26**      **LifeSouth Blood Drive**
- ◆ **Sept. 29**      **New Members orientation at 7:00pm**
- ◆ **Oct. 8**        **Annual Fall TGIFs**
- ◆ **Oct. 10**      **New Members join**
- ◆ **Oct. 22-23**    **UCG Rummage Sale**
- ◆ **Oct 23**        **Pride Parade at 2:00pm**
- ◆ **Oct. 24**        **Pride Sunday**
- ◆ **Oct. 24-31**    **IHN Hosting**

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