



United Church of Gainesville

# ***NEWSLETTER***

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

**FEBRUARY 2009**

Larry Reimer & Sandy Reimer  
Ministers

Andy Bachmann  
Associate Minister

Lisa Goldstein  
Editor

## **WORSHIP THEME FOR FEBRUARY** ***THE IMPERATIVE OF INTIMACY***

### **GOOD NEWS !**

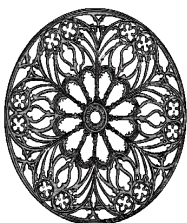
Your supplemental pledges covered the revised budget. Continued donations mean less money will be drawn from reserves. See page 9 for more information.

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### **Four Faith-filled Times during February at UCG:**

- ◆ New Members join UCG on Sunday, February 1
- ◆ Rev. Kent Siladi, Conference Minister of the Florida Conference UCC, will worship with us and bring us news from the United Church of Christ on Sunday, Feb. 15 at 9:30 and 11:00am
- ◆ Sandy Reimer will be ordained as a minister in the United Church of Christ on Sunday, Feb. 22 at 5:45pm.
- ◆ The spiritual season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday Services in the Sanctuary on February 25 at noon and 7:00pm.



When a monk enters a monastery, what is asked of that monk is this: "Are you truly seeking God?" The question is not, "Have you found God?" It is not philosophical; it is existential. It is not satisfaction; it is search."  
~Rembert Weakland

# What's Happening in February<sup>2</sup>

## Adult Small Groups and Workshops begin in February

### Small Groups

- ◆Wednesday Lunchtime Meditation Group (all levels welcome)
- ◆Thursday Lunchtime Meditation Group
- ◆Friends Over Fifty, Sundays, January 25, February 22, and March 29
- ◆Sunday Afternoon at the Movies, Sundays, Feb 1, March 29, April 19, and May 17
- ◆Swing Dancing, Tuesdays, Feb. 3, 10, and 17
- ◆Play Reading, Sunday Feb. 8
- ◆Harvest Moon Rising Drum Circle, Monday, February 9
- ◆Cedar Key Winter Escape Sunset Kayak Trip, Saturday February 14
- ◆Feral Readers bookclub, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday each month
- ◆Dinner and a Good Book bookclub, 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday evening each month
- ◆De-cluttering Your Mind: How To Let Go, Lighten Up and Move On, Saturday Feb. 28
- ◆Introduction to Intuitive Eating, Sunday, March 29

### Workshops

- ◆Journey Of Divorce, Sunday, Feb 1
- ◆Recession-Proof Your Thinking, Wednesdays, Feb. 4, 11, 18, March 4 and 11

## PNO (Parent's night out) on Friday, February 13th

Need a night out? PNO is for parents of babies through K/1 and their siblings. The kids can go to the UCG church school wing from 5:30 to 8:30pm - where they eat pizza\*, watch movies, play games, and have fun with their friends and our child care staff. The cost is \$10 for the first child and \$5 for each additional child. RSVPs are required so we have sufficient staffing for the children. **Please RSVP by Monday, February 9** to [alysonm@ucgainesville.org](mailto:alysonm@ucgainesville.org). \*Due to life threatening food allergies, no outside food is allowed.

## Celebration of the Ordination of Sandy Reimer

### Sunday, February 22 at 5:45pm at the University Auditorium

Reception follows at the UCG Fellowship Hall. Childcare is available at UCG beginning at 5:00pm. For more information, see page 4.

## Supper Club on Saturday, February 28

**Spice Up Your Life** - The next **Supper Club** dinner will be held **Saturday, February 28 at 6:30 pm**, and we'll be conjuring up a menu in honor of Mardi Gras. Join us for a celebration of fine food and conversation. It's a chance to discover new friends in a relaxed, small-group setting. We meet in groups of 8 or so in people's homes, recipes are provided for diners to use to prepare the dishes, and the costs of food and wine are shared equally. Everyone is welcome. Please contact Pat Atkins ([patkins\\_1@msn.com](mailto:patkins_1@msn.com)), Sue Hartman (373-1049, [hart1man@cox.net](mailto:hart1man@cox.net)), or Susan Kirkland (332-2962, [susetack@gmail.com](mailto:susetack@gmail.com)) by **February 16** to sign up or to ask for more information. Let them know if you can host one of the dinners.

*Cont'd on page 12*

# The Seventh Trumpet

What is that Seventh Trumpet again? The Seventh Trumpet is sounded in the book of Revelation 11:15 to signal a moment when the realm of God breaks through the barriers that keep us from understanding it. The gift of heaven is revealed. I am not one who believes that there will be a great cataclysm when Jesus returns and the kingdom of God will be established on earth. I believe rather that there are moments on earth when there are breaks from ordinary time (Chronos) and we catch a glimpse of heavenly time (Kairos) and heaven's beauty.

On a personal level, Kairos moments happen when we, at long last, find love, when a child is born, when we find ourselves doing, often inexplicably, something kind and good for someone else, and when someone else does, often inexplicably, something kind and good for us. On a public level, Kairos moments are times when a whole nation or culture wakes up and abolishes slavery, accepts equality for women as a right, ends child labor, recognizes the rights of people of differing sexual orientation, or chooses to back away from war.

I felt three Kairos moments the week of January 18. The Rev. Kenneth Bradley, Jr. preached at UCG. One of his stories told how this church, both personally and financially, helped him through the University of Florida. The late Jim Button became Ken's mentor and advisor when Ken was severely struggling during his freshman year. Jim stuck with him throughout his four years at UF. Ken graduated and went to the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta where he received his Masters of Divinity. This story was just part of the grace that Ken brought us, but it felt like a Kairos moment, a slice of heaven we got to see.

Second, Barack Obama's inauguration was a Kairos moment in American history. The vision of two million people of all races and ages gathered on the Mall in Washington, D.C. was a glimpse of the way God meant us to be. Regardless of politics or party, we broke a barrier. We are a changed nation.

Third, and I mean this, your extras pledges and supplemental pledges exceeded our \$31,000 goal and made this week a Kairos moment for all of us here in the office, on Board of Business, and Church Council. Enough of us increased our giving so that we will be able to function in 2009. We still have cuts in the budget, and we are still taking money from reserves and designated funds, but not as much as we had feared. We hope your generosity will continue to flow so that our entire 2009 budget could be funded by pledges. Right now your love and commitment to UCG has stilled our fears and rekindled our hope for moving forward. A Kairos moment.

In a way, I believe all three of these moments went together – Ken Bradley's inspiring preaching, Tuesday's inauguration, and your extra pledges. The Seventh Trumpet sounded, and we walked for a moment in heaven's light. Life always returns to the mundane, but that Kairos light is never completely overcome.

The Seventh Trumpet sounds: Ta da da dat ta dah!

Larry

## A NOTE FROM UCG ACCOUNTANT JILL CUNNINGHAM

You should be receiving your 2008 Annual Giving Statements in the mail shortly. Please note that these statements are designed to reflect what you gave in the calendar year 2008. That amount is potentially tax-deductible for you. In many cases, you fulfilled your 2008 pledge by paying part of it early, in 2007, or part of it late, in 2009. These payments are not reflected on this statement but have been applied to your pledge so that you have fulfilled your obligation to UCG. If you have any questions about your statement or your pledge, please email me at [jillc@ucgainesville.org](mailto:jillc@ucgainesville.org). Thank you for your continued generosity to UCG.

# THRESHOLDS

. . . . SANDY REIMER

This is truly a month of thresholds for me! I am so excited about my ordination that I can hardly sit still to write this note. While my call to ministry has been clear, my journey to this moment has been circuitous, like the walk on a labyrinth. For a long time, I never even allowed myself to dream that I might be ordained. So I am just filled with joy as I look forward to **Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Let me tell you a bit about that day!

**Ordination** is the rite whereby the United Church of Christ, in cooperation with a local church, recognizes a person whom God has called to ordained ministry and authorizes that person by prayer and the laying on of hands. The service will be held at the University Auditorium, since our whole congregation cannot fit into our Sanctuary at the same time.

The **service will begin at 5:45** with a musical prelude that you won't want to miss, so plan to arrive at the Auditorium by 5:30. The procession of our UCG Moderators and all attending clergy follows the prelude. Then there will be music, hymns, readings, and prayers. Several people, including Larry and Andy, will speak. The Rev. Raymond Hargrove, our Associate Conference Minister, will conduct the actual vows and ordination, during which all attending clergy will come forward to lay hands of blessing on me. The service will end with a rousing hymn!

There may be some folks, including clergy, from other UCC churches in Florida who could use a place to stay on Sunday night. If you have a guest room and bath and are willing to provide hospitality if needed, please e-mail the church office.

Cam Parker, Shay Huddleston and our regular team of child care aides will provide **child care** at UCG beginning at 5:00pm. *We'll order pizza for the children, so you need to sign up for child care on the bulletin board outside the church office by February 15<sup>th</sup> or by calling the church office during the week.* Older elementary schoolers may choose to stay at UCG or come to the service. I'm hoping that our middle schoolers and high schoolers will attend the service!

You can **park** at UCG and walk to the Auditorium or you can park on campus at the parking garage located south of the Auditorium, close to Museum Road. The parking lots closer to the Auditorium are open on Sunday evenings, but finding a space will be a matter of luck. If you need a ride from church to the Auditorium, or if you need a ride from your home, please sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office or call the church office by Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>, and we'll work with you to provide transportation.

Following the service, there is a **reception at UCG!** If you would like to help, please sign up on Feb. 1, 8 and 15 to: bring an appetizer that does not need to be heated here; OR bring 2 large bottles of soda; OR contribute \$5 that will go towards the dessert as well as the children's dinner. Bring your soda or appetizer to the fellowship hall on Feb. 22 between 4:45 and 5:15 or you can bring them when you come to the reception.

Allison LeBaron has created a beautiful journal that everyone can sign at the reception. For folks who cannot stay for the reception, portions of the book will be available to sign outside the Auditorium immediately following the service.

**The most important thing you can do is to come!** The second most important thing you can do is to be at the Auditorium at 5:30, so you can be seated in time for the musical prelude at 5:45. This will mean parking at the church or on campus no later than 5:15.

I thank you all for your support, your prayers, and your blessings, not only at this time of ordination but throughout the years I have been here with you at UCG.

## *THRESHOLDS* . . . . .CONT'D

### **The Lenten Season at the United Church of Gainesville**

**February 25<sup>th</sup> to April 11<sup>th</sup>**

Lent is the forty days plus six Sundays prior to Easter. And Easter is the first Sunday (April 12) after the first full moon (April 9) following the Spring Equinox (March 20). Lent is a season of reflection and insight, a time for spiritual focus and practice, as we move through the weeks toward Easter. Observing the rituals of the Lenten season is like preparing the soil to plant a garden, as we prepare our souls for transformation and renewed life.

Our Lenten theme this year is "Melodies of Grace." Larry, Andy and I invite you to catch the tunes of grace in your life by giving yourself the gift of an intentional Lenten journey.

- Ash Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, noon and 7:00pm - two identical services offer three stations for reflection on your own Lenten journey and on a spiritual practice to follow, as well as Communion. Child care is provided for the evening service.
  - Lenten Reflections booklets, with a spiritual reading for each day, available at the church office beginning February 23<sup>rd</sup>, at the Ash Wednesday services, and on the following Sundays.
  - Taize services – with meditation, prayers, and beautiful Taize chants – on **Wednesday** evenings, March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1<sup>st</sup> – from 6:30 to 7:15pm in the Sanctuary. Child care is available with an advance sign-up.
  - The Labyrinth will be in the Sanctuary from Sunday, March 22 through Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. Note that the Taize service on March 25 will include the Labyrinth.
  - Maundy Thursday Service on April 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm includes Communion and the story of Jesus journey through Holy Week. Child care is provided.
- Easter Sunday services on April 12 at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00am.

### **RETREAT, RETREAT, RETREAT**

**April 24 – 26<sup>th</sup> at Lake Yale Baptist Assembly, Leesburg**

The Retreat Committee will meet on Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> to begin planning for this wonderful annual event! There will be a follow-up meeting on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Registration for Retreat will begin Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> and continue through Sunday noon April 5<sup>th</sup>. You will be able to register at church on both those Sunday mornings as well as at the church between 9am and 4:30pm on March 30<sup>th</sup> – April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

I hope that you will consider volunteering to be part of the Retreat Committee. It's a fun and meaningful experience, short-term, with great results! We need an Assistant Registrar; help with Adult Program Planning; Variety Show assistant coordinator; and a Saturday night snack coordinator. We also need a head lifeguard and an on-site coordinator with the camp; both of these positions do not have to meet with the committee and have their full way paid! Please contact me if you'd like to be part of the Retreat committee!

### ***PASSAGES:***

Welcome and blessings to:

- ♦ Catherine Cake and Tom Bittikoffer on the birth of their son, Andrew Wallace Cake Bittikoffer (6 lbs 15ozs) on Saturday, January 24, 2009 at 1:20 PST.
- ♦ Jenny Hill and Scott Nelson on the birth of their daughter, Magnolia Ruth (10lbs 4ozs) on Tuesday, January 27 at 2:58 am.

## *A MESSAGE FROM ANDY*

We are beginning a very exciting stretch here at UCG. It seems like February is an incredibly active month, across the board. From our first ever Youth United Mystery Trip over Valentine's Day weekend, to Sandy's ordination on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, we are all hopping and hoping for a very blessed February.

I wanted to put in a good plug for our Twentys +/- group. Rachele Degraff and Philip Clemons meet with any and all twentysomething's by the church fountain every Sunday after the 11 am service for an informal lunch. Sometimes there are specific topics related to faith discussed, sometimes outreach events are planned, and sometimes they have 'Meet a Member' meals, where different members from UCG meet with them to talk about life issues. If you are twenty +/-, and you are looking to get connected, 12 noon on Sundays by the fountain is a great place to start.

Looking ahead to March, MSG is going to have a number of off site activities, so parents, keep your eyes peeled for those permission slips. We also have some exciting news, that Casey Kumar is now joining forces with our beloved MSG Continuity Person Kit Goodwin to help keep MSG rockin' and rollin' and right on track. Welcome, Casey!

Looking WAY ahead to April, this year Youth United are heading in to New Orleans for this year's Work Tour. If you've got a high school student who has been looking for a way to get involved in our programs here at UCG, Work Tour is a great place to start.

### CALENDAR



**Middle School Group meets every Sunday at 11am in the Youth Room**

#### February

- 1** "Are you out there, God?" with Andy
- 8** The Gospel According to the Simpsons, with Chris Coates
- 15** Cookies and Cards - *we will be making a special card and baking cookies for Sandy and some other friends in the church. Come learn the secret to John's awesome cookies!*
- 22** 5:45 pm at University Auditorium, Sandy Reimer's Ordination!

#### March

- 1** Hike LaChua Trail with Tom Stevens! Permission slip required! 11 am-1 pm. Bring a lunch! Meet and get picked up at UCG.



**Youth United Meets every Sunday at 12:15pm in the Youth Room, unless otherwise noted.**

#### February

- 1** Special event for Sandy's upcoming ordination
- 4** MYSTERY TRIP PERMISSION AND PAYMENT DUE - This is a Wednesday.
- 8** 5:30 pm YU Progressive Dinner! We're looking for a few good houses to host either an appetizer or a main dish. Can you help us out? Call Andy at the church!
- 13-16** MYSTERY TRIP WEEKEND EXTRAVAGANZA! We will be leaving UCG promptly at 4 pm. Preferably before! Get to UCG ASAP!
- 22** Sandy Reimers' Ordination! 5:45 pm at University Auditorium

### HELP SAY THANKS

**Please join us for a reception for outgoing director of IHN of Greater Gainesville Donna Lawson on Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.** Come help show gratitude for all that Donna has given to the Gainesville community and IHN. Questions? Contact incoming director Martha McInnes at [macdean@earthlink.net](mailto:macdean@earthlink.net).

~ **A Little Child Shall Lead Them** ~  
**UCG Children's Program ~ Director, Heidi Stein**

**If Santa Can, Can You?**

We have two special guest teachers this rotation. Mr. and Mrs. Claus came to teach the church school kids about generosity. They demonstrated with games and candles how love grows when it you are generous. They taught the older children about Tzedakah: the Levels of Charity in Judaism. It is a wonderful experience! United Tribes could really use some volunteers right now. As you will see below, we have several guides who are not able to continue this spring. And we need fun and energetic teachers for our next two rotations. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to help out. Our kids are eager to meet the many diverse and talented people of this church. The next two rotations focus on the Gospel According to Seuss and the Environment.

**Guides Needed**

We have lost three guides in the past month due to family illness and work situations. If you would like to be a Guide for our United Tribes program or just like more information, please contact Heidi Stein at [steinags@cox.net](mailto:steinags@cox.net) or 373-3058. Each tribe has two or three guides who are the continuity persons for the children. They are there to greet them, provide an opening and closing each week, and assist the teachers who rotate in to lead the activities each Sunday.

**Patti Cake Party**

Patti Cake will host a pot-luck here at the church on March 15 at 3:30pm. Families with children birth through preschool, and their siblings, are encouraged to come, eat, play, and make connections with other families.

**Schedule**

1-25-09	Friends Rotation Continues
2-1-09	Friends Rotation Continues
2-8-09	Friends Rotation Continues
2-15-09	Extended Activity Time
2-23-09	Sandy's Ordination - No United Tribes
3-1-09	Begin New Seuss Rotation



**A reminder from Salina, Shanna and Tracy, the UCG Rummage Sale gals**

We're gearing up for another successful sale, so start saving your plastic bags, your newspapers and your clothes hangers, because come the second week in May we will be THRILLED to take them off of your hands! Thanks!!!

**Spring TGIF's - Coming Friday, March 20**

**5:30-7:15pm at ? and then 7:15-9:00pm at Lisa and Steve Goldstein's home**

We are looking for a host for the early gathering. Hosts provide their home, ice, cups, plates and napkins. If you are willing to do this please email Sandy at [sandyr@ucgainesville.org](mailto:sandyr@ucgainesville.org).

## Open & Affirming Update by Bill Gallagher

At a congregational meeting in 1992, the United Church of Gainesville unanimously voted to become an "Open and Affirming" congregation within the UCC. We adopted the following O&A statement:



*"The United Church of Gainesville affirms that all are worthy of love inclusive of sexual orientation. We welcome all people to participate fully as church members in all aspects of church life. We affirm all members, whether single or in couples. For those members who are in relationships, we support their efforts to be loving and committed."*

For two years prior to this vote a task force worked extensively, developing seminars, taking surveys and helping the congregation understand Gay/Lesbian issues. This was a wonderful period of learning, listening and growth. O&A congregations are called to live out their "O&A" commitment by letting the congregation and the wider community know that the church is affirming to Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals. Our ministers and many UCG members have been actively involved in issues in the community, most notably the passage of a Human Rights Ordinance which protects people from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Sandy and Larry received awards for their work on this issue. Larry and others in UCG attended numerous city and county meetings which often required waiting late into the night before being able to address the commission. Larry helped to organize other ministers in the community to sign a petition supporting the ordinance. We succeeded in having sexual orientation added to Alachua County's ordinance which was subsequently repealed by the voters. Later, in 1998 the City of Gainesville adopted their ordinance which added sexual orientation to its list of protected persons from discrimination.

Now, a group of citizens, called "Citizens for Good Public Policy" through the referendum process has placed a measure on the City of Gainesville March ballot which will repeal the sexual orientation provision. On their web-site (<http://citizensforgoodpublicpolicy.org>) the group states the following:

*"A Note to Local Churches*

*Bulletin Inserts: Don't be intimidated! While Churches are not allowed to endorse a political candidate they are allowed by law to support a political issue or viewpoint. It is a matter of Free Speech as stated in the Federal Election Campaign Act and the Internal Revenue Code [IRS Publication 1828 (2003)]. Therefore, bulletin inserts regarding this issue are permitted to be distributed at church services and to be discussed from the pulpit without fear of violating the law."*

The Alachua County Supervisor of Elections website shows that this group has raised over \$24,000.00 through the end of 2008. Contributions include many large donations from local businesses and churches including \$500.00 from The Rock Church.

Based on my service as Chair of the City of Gainesville's Human Rights Board (which processes discrimination complaints) I have concluded, as have others, that the ordinance has been a positive influence and has had no adverse consequences to businesses, nor has it resulted in any additional costs to the city. From my view point, the measure is largely symbolic, but in a tremendously important way. The rejection that many Gay and Lesbian people experience in our culture is deeply damaging to our mental health and sense of worth and acceptance. I would hate to see all of the work that many of us in UCG and throughout the community did to pass this ordinance be eviscerated by a vote that will be a tremendous blow to our otherwise tolerant community.

**How you can help:** Please become informed on the referendum issue and help us defeat the measure. Gainesville City Commissioner and Chair of "Equality is Gainesville's Business", Craig Lowe, will be at UCG on Sunday, February 1 for an 11:00am seminar. The group will also have a table in the courtyard with information in between services. Please stop by their table.

**Resources:** Equality is Gainesville's Business: <http://equalitygainesville.com>  
UCC Open & Affirming information: [www.uccoalition.org](http://www.uccoalition.org)

*Bill Gallagher has been a member of UCG for over 20 year and served as Chair of the City of Gainesville's Human Rights Board for two years. He was actively involved, with many others in the passage of Gainesville's Human Rights Ordinance. He can be reached at [bil3@cox.net](mailto:bil3@cox.net) or 514-5539*

## Boards & Committees

### Enlistment Campaign

This year's pledge campaign started in October with a goal of \$625,566, an increase of about 6% over the previous year. As we now know in hindsight, at that point our country's economy was well on its way into the worst recession in a generation or two, and the going was going to be tough with our pledge campaign. By January 13, we were still \$76,000 short of our goal, and the Board of Business convened with calculators and red pencils in hand. After trimming the budget and dipping into non-recurring reserves to partially close the gap, BoB recommended and Council approved a supplementary pledge campaign of \$31,000, one of the largest in memory. Over the next week, UCG members opened the floodgates of generosity. As of today (January 21), supplementary pledges totaling \$29,876 have been received, as well as an additional \$17,740 of late-arriving, but still very welcome new pledges.

While sometimes necessary in hard times, it is always a risky proposition to fund recurring costs (our annual budget) from non-recurring funds (our reserves). The revised budget recommended by BoB in their January meeting included the use of \$26,000 in non-recurring funds (from designated funds and from a modest 2008 budget surplus) to help fund the 2009 budget. Looking ahead to 2010, even if our budget was to remain flat, pledges would need to rise by almost 5% just to provide the additional \$26,000 that would (presumably) no longer be available from non-recurring funds. To head off this problem, Council has unanimously recommended that pledges received over and above the supplemental campaign goal be used to reduce the amount of non-recurring dollars used to fund the 2009 budget. If you are able to make a supplemental pledge at this time, your gift will move us toward our goal of a truly balanced budget, funded from pledges and recurring income, not reserves.

In summary, our communal financial commitment to our church is going to enable UCG to weather this economic storm, and to enter 2009 prepared to welcome a new Associate Minister and to continue helping our brothers and sisters inside and outside our church. We thank everyone for your support during this campaign and for your enduring stewardship of our church's financial and spiritual resources.

Tim and Cindy Martin, Enlistment Campaign Co-Chairs

### Compassion in Action

HAPPY VALENTINE's DAY! It is once again time for CIA and UCG's opportunity to support the Gainesville Area AIDS Project (GAAP) and their TREE program (The Replenishment of Everyday Essentials). TREE provides household and personal hygiene products for persons living with HIV/AIDS. They are usually living on disability and food stamps. The supplies provided cannot be purchased with food stamps and would have to be purchased with the limited cash funds available to these folks. Beginning Sunday, February 1 you will be able to pick up a heart in the foyer and return the item on that heart to the church no later the Sunday, February 15. Thank you.

### Board of Membership

Remember when you were new at UCG? How did you get connected? Some of us have been here so long and are so involved with our UCG Family that we forget to reach out to fold in new folks.

This year, in keeping with our UCG plan, BOM has focused on finding ways to help visitors and new members get connected. Visit our Information Station located in the courtyard during fellowship time. You can find brochures and notices about happenings at UCG as well as conversation with a BOM member.

We are also continuing the Contact Person connection. Each new member is assigned a Contact Person who can act as a resource for them as they learn their way around. Some new members already know someone who is a natural fit to be their go to person, but some do not. In that case we try to match them up with others who may share their interests. The Contact Person is asked to make several contacts with the new member and extend a personal invitation to get involved in an upcoming activity. Being a Contact Person is not time consuming and is a great way to get to welcome new people. If you would like to be a Contact Person please call or email the church office.

*Cont'd on page 11*

# Sundays in February

## Regular Sunday Schedule

9:15 - 12:15	Nursery and Toddler Care
9:30	Worship with Children's Story
9:45 - 10:45	United Tribes
10:30	Beverages and Fellowship
10:45 - noon	Children's Activity Time & MSG - Middle School Group
11:00 - noon	Worship, Adult Seminars
12:15	YU - High School Group & Twenty Something +/-

## February 1

**8:30 – Meditation in the Chapel** with Mark Burlingame

**9:30 and 11:00 – Worship** - “Water to Wine: Marriage, Membership & Communion” – Larry Reimer - New Members joining, Communion at both services, UCG Choir and Liturgical dancers

**11:00 - Adult Seminars:**

**Gainesville Charter Amendment Forum, with Craig Lowe, City Commissioner and Chair of “Equality is Gainesville's Business”** - For the past 10 years the City of Gainesville has provided anti-discrimination protections for gay people in housing, employment, credit, and public accommodation. Last fall, the Citizens for Good Public Policy petitioned to place a measure on the March ballot that would repeal these protections for gays, lesbians and possibly others. Join City Commissioner Craig Lowe to find out what the city's charter amendment is all about and how its passage would affect residents.

**Grow your own Veggies: Tips for Gardeners However Known** - You want to grow your own vegetables, but don't know how to make compost. You think you'd like home-grown lettuce, but are not sure how to find organic seeds or what time of year to plant. How much water and sun does an herb garden need? In this seminar, two Florida gardeners, Matthew Palumbo and Jay Bost from UF's Ethnoecology garden will share tips on becoming a locavore by cultivating your own garden.

**11:00 - Friendship Group**

**12:00 - Surviving Divorce** - Participants are pre-registered

**12:15 - Search Committee** – Library

**2:30 - Sunday at the Movies** - Participants are pre-registered

## February 8

**8:30 – Meditation in the Chapel** with Sanford Berg

**9:30 and 11:00 – Worship** “Caring for What Remain” - Andy Bachmann. Special music by Ned Stewart

**11:00 - Adult Seminars:**

**Making Solar Photovoltaics Affordable with Barry Jacobson, President of Solar Impact, Inc.** - This seminar will discuss the multiple benefits of having solar photovoltaics in Gainesville and how to determine if it's right for you. You'll learn about discounts, rebates, tax benefits and the new, nationally-recognized feed-in tariff program offered by Gainesville Regional Utilities, all of which are giving owners of solar photovoltaics an excellent economic benefit

**12:30 - Board of Membership**

**2:00 - Play Reading\***

**7:30 - Crystal Bowl Meditation** with Cindy Bergbower in the Sanctuary

## February 15 - LifeSouth Blood Drive 10am– 1:00pm

**8:30 – Meditation in the Chapel** with Darrell Hartman

**9:30 and 11:00 Worship** - Larry Reimer with Rev. Kent Siladi, Conference Minister of the Florida Conference of the United Church of Christ, sharing “Ten Things I Love About the United Church of Christ”

*cont'd next page*

# Sundays in February

## February 15, cont'd

### 11:00 - Adult Seminars:

**Couples seminar: Making love stay past Valentine's Day** - Do you feel that post-Valentine's Day love hangover? Do you wonder how you'll keep the romance and connection alive for the rest of the year? Join us as we hear from a carefully selected panel of UCG couples who will share valuable lessons for learning how to give out love and let it come in.

**An Insider's Guide to 'Slumdog Millionaire,' with Pradeep Kumar** - Join in on a behind-the-scenes cultural tour of this Golden Globe Award-winning and Oscar-nominated movie. Your tour guide, Pradeep Kumar, was born and raised in India before immigrating to the United States in the late 1960s. He'll briefly share some of his reflections and insights on the movie's themes and characters and then open up the floor for questions and discussion. Hurry! If you haven't already seen this can't-miss movie, you've still got time to preview it before the seminar.

### 11:00 - Friendship Group

**12:00 - Book Group\*** - Participants are pre-registered

## February 22

### No Morning Worship Services at UCG

**1:00 - Friends Over Fifty\*** - Participants are pre-registered

**5:45pm – Everyone is invited to attend the Celebration of the Ordination of Sandy Reimer** at the University Auditorium on the UF Campus. The service begins with a musical prelude and a procession of UCG Moderators and all attending clergy. The Rev. Raymond Hargrove, Florida Conference Associate Minister, will administer the ordination vows. Reception follows at the UCG Fellowship Hall. You don't want to miss this very special day! Child care is available from 5:00 to 8:15pm. More information on page 4.

## March 1 – Lenten Worship Theme: "Melodies of Grace"

**8:30** – Meditation in the Chapel with Mark Burlingame

**9:30 and 11:00 Worship** – "Forgiveness: A Way of Life, a Path of Faith, A Particular Song of Grace" – Sandy Reimer. The worship service will include a scene from the Documentary Film, "The Power of Forgiveness" by director Martin Doblmeier, which won Best Documentary in the Sun Valley Spiritual Film Festival, 2007. The entire film will be shown on Sunday, March 8, during seminar time, 11:00am to noon.

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## Boards & Committees, cont'd

**Interfaith Hospitality Network** - In February will begin recruiting for our March 8-16 hosting. Please look for the IHN table in the courtyard beginning February 8 and sign up to volunteer the week of March 8th. The Gainesville IHN has hired a van driver to take the families in the morning so there is less of a challenge with transportation, but we still need lots of volunteers to make this week happen for our homeless families. We always are deeply grateful for those volunteers who so faithfully fulfill a need, but would love to see some UCG members who haven't volunteered before choose an activity. We think that you will find it deeply fulfilling!!

If you have furniture or bedding that you would like to donate to IHN, please call Martha McInnes or Lisa Merrill at (352) 378-2030. For those of you who volunteered in the past six months and remember Travera and her four children, there is good news! She recently obtained work and found an apartment. Providing bedding for 4 children and one adult took lots of the IHN resources in bedding and furniture, so if you can donate items, please consider doing so. If you ever have any questions about IHN, please feel free to contact Doris Harvey at (352) 214-0693.

**Ministerial Search Committee** - The committee has now received 28 applications. The applicants are from many denominations and from many parts of the country. They have had many different kinds of experiences and have a wide range of ages. The committee has narrowed the field to 14 applicants, using the job description and the applicants' experiences as focal points for discussion. We will meet on February 1 to narrow the list even further.

## What's Happening, Cont'd.

### RECURRING THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

★ **BYO Lunch Groups** meet at noon on Fridays - Men's in the Fellowship Hall and Women's in the Library. All are welcome to these informal gatherings. Please call the church office by Wednesday if you need child care.

★ **Choir** rehearses Thursday at 7:15pm in the Sanctuary.

★ **Twenty Something +/-** meets for Free Lunch each Sunday after the 11am service

★ **Dances of Universal Peace** meets the 2nd Friday of each month from 7:00-9:00pm in the West Wing. Come join in simple meditative dances and chanting. No partner or experience needed.

## Going Green

### Interesting facts:

1. Unplugging seldom-used appliances saves up to \$10 per month on utilities.
2. Hawaii has become the first state to require solar water heaters in new homes.
3. It costs \$4,000 to process and recycle one ton of plastic bags.
4. The production of one pound of beef requires 2,100 gallons of water.
5. It takes about 22 gallons of oil to make one truck tire.
6. Americans throw away 25% more trash during the holidays than any other time of year.
7. Recycling a stack of newspapers just three feet high saves one tree.
8. One tree can absorb the CO<sub>2</sub> released by a car that's driven for 4,000 miles.
9. It takes about 1.5 million barrels of oil to make the water bottles Americans use each year.
10. Each year, more than 16 million gallons of oil dripping from leaky vehicles runs from the world's streets and driveways into the ocean.
11. Check out this game to see your impact on the earth.



<http://sustainability.publicradio.org/consumerconsequences/>

### A few ways to help the environment:

1. Eliminate a majority of junk mail sent to your home or business by writing today to:
 

Mail Preference Service  
Direct Marketing Association  
P.O. Box 9008  
Farmingdale, NY. 11735-9008
2. Unplug little used appliances which are still sucking up energy even when not in use. UCG has two electricity energy monitors that you can check out to test your appliances for their energy use.
3. Leave earlier for work or leave work later: avoid morning/evening congestion and the stop-and-start traffic that wastes fuel. If you're stopped in traffic, you are getting zero miles per gallon.
4. Turn Off Unneeded Lights. Lighting is responsible for about 11 percent of a home's energy bills. By turning off lights you don't need, you'll begin saving right away, and will extend the lifetime of all those bulbs.
5. You'll save energy and money if you turn your computer off at the end of each day. It will also reduce wear and tear on your hardware, extending its life. According to the Department of Energy you'll save an average of \$90 of electricity a year.
6. When it's time to upgrade to a new computer, think laptop. Laptop computers draw only 15 to 25 watts during regular use, as compared to the 150 watts used by a conventional desktop computer and monitor. Plus, laptops also draw just a fraction of a watt when in sleep mode.

*Look for more suggestions next month.*

# FEBRUARY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship 9:30 & 11 New Members Friendship Group 11am Surviving Divorce*12pm Search Committee 12:15pm Sunday Movies* 2pm	2 IHN Reception 7pm  Writing Group*7pm	3  Staff meeting 11am  Swing Dancing* 5:45pm	4 Meditation* 12pm  Council Exec. 12pm  Recession-Proof Your Thinking* 6pm	5  BPM 6pm  Choir Rehearsal 7:15pm	6  Lunch Groups 12pm	7  Women's Overnight begins
8  Worship 9:30 & 11am  Women's Overnight ends Play Reading* 2pm Crystal Bowl Meditation 7:30pm	9  Harvest Moon Drumming* 6:30pm	10 Budget Summit 1:30pm Swing Dancing* 5:45pm SJC 6pm CIA 7pm BoB 7:15pm MS Team 7:30pm	11  CMRB 12pm  Meditation* 12pm  Recession-Proof Your Thinking* 6pm  BAP 7pm	12  Choir Rehearsal 7:15 pm	13  Lunch Groups 12pm  PNO 5:30pm  DUP 7pm	14  Cedar Key Kayaking* 2pm
15 LifeSouth Blood Drive Worship 9:30 & 11am Friendship Group 11am  Book Group*12pm	16 President's Day Office Closed  Writing Group* 7pm	17 Staff meeting 11am  Swing Dancing* 5:45pm  Retreat Committee 7pm	18 Meditation* 12pm  Newsletter Deadline 12pm Church Council 5:30pm  Recession-Proof Your Thinking* 6pm	19  Choir Rehearsal 7:15 pm	20  Lunch Groups 12pm	21
22 No Morning Services at UCG Friend's Over Fifty*1pm Sandy Reimer's Ordination Service 5:45pm Reception Following	23	24 Staff meeting 11am  Chanting in the Chapel * 7:30pm	25 Meditation* 12pm  Ash Wednesday Service 12pm  HS Team 5:30pm  Ash Wednesday Service 7pm	26  Choir Rehearsal 7:15pm	27  Lunch Groups 12pm	28 De-cluttering your Mind* 9am  Supper Club 6:30pm

\* Pre-Registered Adult Small Group

**UCG Endowment Moment:** "It may be more blessed to give than to receive, but with a life income gift you can do both at the same time," – Bangor Theological Seminary Newsletter. Thank you to each one who has contributed to the UCG endowment fund over the years for their gift which make a wonderful difference now and in the future.

UNITED CHURCH  
OF GAINESVILLE

1624 NW 5th Avenue  
Gainesville, FL 32603

Phone: 352-378-3500

Fax: 352-378-0501

E-mail: [info@ucgainesville.org](mailto:info@ucgainesville.org)

Hours: Monday - Friday

8:30am - 4:30pm

[www.ucgainesville.org](http://www.ucgainesville.org)

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**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18**  
**FOR MARCH NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**

### LOOKING AHEAD

- ◆ **March 4** – Taize services begin, every Wednesday during Lent, at 6:30pm
- ◆ **March 6** – Parents Night Out
- ◆ **March 8** – Hosting for the Interfaith Hospitality Network
- ◆ **March 20-22** – Meditation Retreat
- ◆ **March 22** – Time and Talent Fair, when UCG members sign up for boards and committees other volunteer opportunities for the coming year
- ◆ **March 22 to 27** – Labyrinth in the Sanctuary
- ◆ **March 22 to April 5** – Retreat Registration
- ◆ **April 12** – Easter
- ◆ **April 19** – Earth Sunday
- ◆ **April 24-26** – Annual Church Retreat
- ◆ **May 24** – Senior Sunday

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18**  
**FOR MARCH NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**