



United Church of Gainesville

NEWSLETTER

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

LATE JANUARY 2010

Larry Reimer & Sandy Reimer
Ministers

Andy Bachmann
Associate Minister

Vince Amlin
Associate Minister

Lisa Goldstein
Editor

WORSHIP THEME

“FLIP FLOPS, LOAFERS & BOOTS— HOW IS YOUR FOOTING”

Shoes are a symbol of grounding and balance. This theme explores the variety of ways we travel and are grounded in our life's journeys and on our spiritual paths.



CALL TO WINTER CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 31 at 10:35am in the Sanctuary

Agenda:

- Discuss and approve the final 2009 budget.



Happening this Month

See pages 2 and 3 for details

- ◆ Adult Small Group registration begins Sunday, January 10
- ◆ Visitor's Lunch - Sunday, January 10 12:15pm
- ◆ Lively Arts Party— Saturday January 16. All welcome
- ◆ Adult Winter Party “Fire and Ice” - Saturday, January 23
- ◆ Art in the Library Reception - Sunday, January 24
- ◆ “Flexible Footing” annual women's overnight - Saturday, February 6 and Sunday, February 7

“We must come to see that human progress never rolls in on the wheels of inevitability. It comes through the tireless efforts and persistent work of men and women willing to be co-workers with God, and without this hard work, time itself becomes an ally of the forces of social stagnation.”

~ Martin Luther King, Jr., “Letter from the Birmingham City Jail.”

What's Happening in January and beyond...

2

Adult Small Groups

The Adult Small Group registration begins Sunday, January 10 and runs through Sunday, January 31. After registration closes, an email will be sent to group participants confirming that they are enrolled; then group leaders will contact participants directly before the event. UCG members and regular visitors have first preference for groups with limited participation. For more information, contact Vince Amlin at vincea@ucgainesville.org.

Visitors Lunch

If you have been visiting UCG, you are invited to a **Visitors' Lunch Sunday, January 10 at 12:15.** This is a time for you to meet with the pastors, other visitors, and a few folks from UCG to ask your questions and find out more about UCG. Child care is provided. Call the church office to reserve a place.

A Brush with God: Iconography as Meditation

There are still two spots available for the icon painting workshop on January 15-18. Icon painting, or icon writing as it is traditionally called, has been a spiritual practice for over 1500 years. We will be introduced to the practice in the Byzantine-Russian Tradition by our workshop leader, Mary Jane Miller. Icon painting is a meditative, multi-stepped process that leads us from dark to light, rough to refined, chaos to order. Painting instruction will be given parallel to the explanation of iconic symbolism. No artistic experience is necessary. For more information or to register call or email Jackie at 219-3789 or JAXCHEL@yahoo.com (please put ICON in the subject line) or contact the church office.

Art in the Library

In conjunction with the Icon Workshop, Icons, painted in the Byzantine-Russian tradition, will be featured as the art in the library for January. These icons were painted in the traditional method, which includes prayer and meditation, and every step is imbued with spiritual meaning. Artists are by Mary Jane Miller (www.sanmiguelicons.com), who will be teaching the workshop, Rodopi Constantinidis and Jackie Davis. Icons painted by several church members will be added after the workshop. Join us for a **reception on Sunday January 24 during time for coffee** and ask folks about their Icon experiences!

Lively Arts Party

To celebrate another successful Lessons and Carols season, Lively Arts will host a party at Kathy Funke and Michael Pellett's home on Saturday January 16 at 6:30pm. As always, this invitation is extended to anyone who participated in Lessons and Carols by singing, accompanying, participating as an instrumentalist, being a family member or friend of a participant, or by attending the services. Directions for reaching our home are posted outside the church office.

New Member Service Night

New members who joined last November are invited to cook **and serve a meal for our neighbors at St. Francis House on Tuesday, January 19th from 4:30-7:30.** For more information contact Vince Amlin at vincea@ucgainesville.org

What's Happening cont'd...

3

UCG Adult Winter Party

"FIRE & ICE" - Saturday, January 23rd, 7:00 to 11:00pm. Music! Salsa Dancing! Pot-luck Dinner. Cash Bar. Child care provided. Be there! Tickets on sale for \$10 on Sunday, January 17th between services at 10:30 to 11 and from noon to 12:30, \$15 at the door. T-Shirts are available by order through today. We still need volunteers. Please contact Carolyn von Zabern or Stephen Bottomly at 375-8461 or cvonzabern@earthlink.net if you can help.

Women's Overnight

"Flexible Footing," facilitated by Sandy Reimer, Linda Galloway, Cindy Martin and Jeanne Moberly, Saturday, February 6, 10am – Sunday, February 7, noon. Episcopal Conference Center, Live Oak, Florida. Registration begins Sunday, January 10 and will continue, including the formation of a waiting list if needed, at the church office the week of January 11th. Please note that church members have first preference for registration. For more information, contact the church office.

January Youth Happenings

MSG

January 10 Join Elisa Lockhart for our MSG writers group, or Casey Kumar for a Kickball adventure!

January 17 Please attend worship at the 11:00 service in commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, then join us for a Rock Gym expedition! If there are any CERTIFIED belayers out there, please give Andy a call if you'd like to join us! (378-3500) This is an offsite activity, and we need to know how many will be joining us, so please be sure to get a permission slip at the front office or at group. We will be climbing from 12 noon to 1 pm.

January 24 Let's go out to dinner and see a movie...at church! We will have our meeting in the evening and watch a movie projected onto the "big screen" wall of the fellowship hall. Bring blankets, pillows or whatever you need to be comfy! Meet at 5 pm at UCG. Dinner will be provided.

January 31 As a group we will prepare a meal for the IHN hosting the following week.

Youth United

On January 17th, all PARENTS and YU's are invited and encouraged to attend our evening workshop, led by Kathy Funke and Kathryn Kvols on communication between parent and child! Join us at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall. A light dinner will be served afterwards.

ALL YOUTH GROUPS, Interfaith Hospitality Network set-up is on Sunday, January 31 at 11:45 am!

The Wider Community

Film Screening sponsored by Mindfreedom, Florida

Take These Broken Wings , Monday January 25, 8:00pm at the Civic Media Center, 433 S. Main St. This provocative documentary by Daniel Meckler tells the recovery story of Joanne Greenberg, author of I Never Promised You a Rose Garden, and of Catherine Penney, subject of the book Dante's Cure, as they relate their experiences with schizophrenia, hospitalization, and psychotherapy. Refreshments will be provided, and there will be a discussion following the movie. For more info contact: Jackie Davis, 219-3789, or Frank Blankenship 328-2511.

Other Church News

4

A Note From Sandy and Larry

When you kindly ask us how we're doing, please do not use the "R (etirement)" word. So what should you say? How about "How's your half time schedule going?" We will then say "Thanks so much for asking. We are in the midst of transitioning to half time, as we share the position of Senior Pastor here. We have scheduled an afternoon off each week as well as a long week-end break once a month. We also realize that this process takes time as we continue downloading some of our former responsibilities, but we are definitely moving in the right direction." We'll say all this to you with kind appreciation and a smile. Just remember, we are not retired, (not even semi-retired.)

An Update on the United Church of Gainesville Giving in 2009

What a year it was! UCG once again came through in beautiful ways for so many people in our community. We provided much needed supplies and care items for the Gainesville Area A.I.D.s Program, the Veterans Domiciliary and the Home Van, serving Gainesville's homeless population. We supplied new and gently used books to the Child Abuse Prevention Program, a Christmas gift for every 4th and 5th grade student at Duval Elementary School. And we donated \$36,655 above and beyond our budgeted outreach giving to numerous needy organizations and people. The following is a breakdown of our benevolent giving this year.

Emergency Loan Fund	\$3938
Ray Meeks	\$1283
Ken Bradley Retirement	\$4905
OxFam	\$4347
Neighbors in Need	\$2555
One Great Hour of Sharing	\$2127
IHN	\$1000
Action Network	\$1500
Operation Hope	\$12,000

Thank you all for your generous support and giving during 2009! May these gifts be a blessing to all who receive them.

Help Wanted

UCG's Annual Retreat is April 23 to 25 at Lake Yale Conference Center. We're looking for some enthusiastic folks who would like to be part of the planning committee for this wonderful event. We need planners for adult programs, elementary school programs, preschool programs, an assistant producer and stage manager for the Talent show, adult snack coordinators, a T-shirt Czar and an on-site liaison with the camp. Contact Sandy Reimer if you'd like to be involved! We're going to have an initial meeting on Tuesday, February 9th at 7:00pm.

Volunteers Needed!

To assist with the up-coming fundraiser for our Open & Affirming LGBT & FRIENDS Group. We need you! If you can help, please contact Bill Gallagher at bil3@cox.net or 514-5539.

Childcare and Activity Time News

Cam Parker and Shay Hudleston have been caring for our UCG children for 10 years! We will thank them and celebrate their 10 years of dedication on Sunday, January 24th. January 24th will also be our annual childcare training including first aid taught by Bonnie Bean. For more information, contact Joyce Henry Hettel.

A Word of Thanks

Thank you for your December donation of \$200 to the HOME Van. Some of you may remember that the HOME Van began seven years ago with pairs of socks, jars of peanut butter, and dollar bills – 283 of each, donated by you all at the United Church. We're still going, despite tough times, and you're still supporting us. Bless you all

~ Liz McCulloch, *for all the Homies*

Thank you all for your loving concern and healing prayers for us while we were in Arizona this fall going through unexpected eye surgery. The outcome was highly successful and I continue to heal with vision improving. We feel blessed to be part of our amazing UCG spiritual community who, in times of need or celebration, will respond with help and support. You are Grace to us beyond measure. ~Ann Gill and Karen Johnson

Thanks, thanks, thanks and thanks to everyone – every person, every board and committee, every singer and musician and reader and usher and greeter and coffeemaker, every child and youth, every coordinator and arranger and planner and staff member – everyone who made this year's Advent and Christmas season so meaningful, so fun, so bright, so fulfilling, so spiritual, and so able to reach out in action and compassion to others.

~ Larry, Sandy, Andy & Vince

PASSAGES:

Congratulations and best wishes to:

- ◆ Bev Preston on the birth of her granddaughter Dulcie Sue Vanderhoek, born Tuesday, November 24 weighing 7 lbs 11oz.
- ◆ Sally Simonis on the birth of her grandson Avraham, born Saturday, November 28 weighing 8lbs 15oz.
- ◆ Judy Broward on the birth of her granddaughter Terra Sage, born Sunday, November 29 weighing 8 lbs 1oz.
- ◆ Suzi & Noah Kaufman on the birth of their son Henry Kaufman, born Friday, December 11 weighing 9lbs 3oz. Henry joins big brother Jesse.

Our love and best wishes to:

- ◆ UCG members Adam Hill and Ashley Pennypacker who were married on Saturday, December 19th at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. Andy Bachmann, Larry Reimer and Sandy Reimer officiated at the ceremony.

Sundays in January

6

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:15 - 12:15	Nursery & Toddler Care
9:30	Worship with Children's Story
9:45 - 10:45	United Tribes - after the children's story
10:30	Fellowship Time
10:45 - noon	Children's Activity Time
11:00 - noon	Worship, Adult Seminars, Middle School Group

Worship Theme: Flip Flops, Loafers & Boots - How is Your Footing?

Sunday, January 17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend

8:30 – Sunday morning Meditation in the Chapel, led by Ann Gill

9:30 and 11:00 Worship Services – “Marching Shoes - The Underground Railroad Then & Now” - Larry Reimer. Music by the Adult Choir and the Hogtown Strutters.

11:00 - Friendship Group, Winter Party Planning Committee

Adult Seminars:

Step Families 101– Embracing the Journey with Heather Remer. By their nature, stepfamilies function differently than traditional families and they can be complicated. Most people that enter into step-families aren't aware of these differences and are caught by surprise. In particular, the first several years can be especially hard. Join this discussion group, where we will explore ways to build healthy, happy and strong families using components of the Smart Steps program from the National Stepfamily Resource Center.

Icons as Meditation with guest artist Mary Jane Miller. “Painting icons is an uncommon and radical form of prayer,” explains Mary Jane Miller, iconographer from San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. Ms. Miller, here to teach the Icon Workshop, will be doing a seminar to explain Icon symbolism. Icon writing has been a spiritual practice for over 1500 years, with every step imbued with meaning and tradition. Come learn more about this tradition of meditation and prayer.

5:30pm - Youth United

Sunday, January 24 -

8:30 – Sunday morning Meditation in the Chapel, led by Mark Burlingame

9:30 and 11:00 Worship Services – “Tightropes & Telescopes” -Vince Amlin.

11:00 – Adult Seminars

Bullying Behavior in the Workplace with Kathleen McKee. Bullying behavior has similar psychological impact to domestic violence or sexual harassment and in some countries there is legislation protecting people from such abuse. Bullies project their inadequacies onto others to divert attention away from their own inadequacies. We'll discuss how adult bullying goes unidentified in the workplace and the damage it can cause and talk about actions one might take as a target or witness of bullying.

Genetics, Epigenetics, Nutrition and Your Health with Peter W. Vogelaar, M.D. The new science of Epigenetics shows that there are many influences, including nutrition, which can determine if a gene is expressed or not. The gene itself is not changed, but its expression is regulated, like a dimmer. This seminar will explain the relationship between Epigenetics and nutrition and discuss the consequences for your health.

Sunday, January 31 Winter Congregational Meeting

9:30 – One Worship Service “Those Shoes No Longer Fit” - Sandy Reimer and UCG Writers. Special Music with Andy Bachmann and UCG musicians

10:35 – Winter Congregational Meeting

JANUARY 2010

7

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
10 Worship 9:30 & 11:00 Women's Overnight Registration 10:45am Visitor's Lunch 12:15	11	12 Budget Summit 1:30pm Lively Arts Planning 5:30pm SJC 6:30pm CIA 7:00pm BOB 7:15pm	13 CMRB 12pm	14 Choir Rehearsal 7:15pm	15 Icon Workshop* begins 6:30pm—runs through January 18	16 Lively Arts Party 6:30pm
17 Worship 9:30 & 11:00 Friendship Group 11am Book Group* 12pm YU 5:30pm	18 Office Closed Martin Luther King day 3rd Monday Project Night 6pm	19 November New Members Service Project 4:30 - 7:30pm	20 Church Council 5:30pm	21 Choir Rehearsal 7:15pm	22 Lunch Groups 12pm	23 "Fire & Ice" Adult Party 7:00pm
24 Worship 9:30 & 11:00am Art in the Library Reception 10:30am Child Care Aide Training 12pm	25	26	27 February Newsletter Deadline 12pm Dinner & a Good Book* 6:30pm	28 Choir Rehearsal 7:15pm	29 Lunch Groups 12pm	30 Drumming* 6:30pm
31 IHN Hosting Begins Worship 9:30am Congregational Meeting 10:35am Sunday Movies 2:30pm	1	2	3 IHN Hosting this Week Newsletter Folding 10:30am * Pre-registered Adult Small Group			

Enlistment Update

As the pledge campaign for our 2010 budget winds down, we have to date collected regular and supplemental pledges totaling \$624,287, which is 96% of the proposed budget. First, a resounding thank-you to everyone who have pledged. This is a statement of your faith in the value of UCG. However, to fund our proposed 2010 budget we still need to collect \$20,263 in pledges. So close but still not there. How do we do this? If you have not done so, please return your supplemental pledge card quickly so we can begin 2010 with a balanced budget and move forward with all that UCG does. Remember we started this campaign with the Hebrew saying, "To save one life is to save the world." Through all that we do at UCG, we save the world over and over again. And don't forget, as soon as we balance the budget, we are giving away another two night stay at the Casa Monica hotel in St Augustine, the winner chosen from those who have turned in a supplemental pledge card!

UNITED CHURCH OF
GAINESVILLE

1624 NW 5th Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32603

Phone: 352-378-3500
Fax: 352-378-0501

E-mail: info@ucgainesville.org

Hours: Monday- Friday
8:30 - 4:30

www.ucgainesville.org

NON PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
GAINESVILLE, FL
PERMIT NO. 285

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27
FOR FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

Looking Ahead:

- ◆ **Wednesday, February 3 at 5:30pm** - The ONA/LGBT Programming Committee meeting.
All welcome to attend..
- ◆ **Wednesday, February 10** - New Member's Orientation at 7:00pm
- ◆ **Wednesday, February 17** - Ash Wednesday services at noon and 7:00pm
- ◆ **Sunday, February 21** - New Members join at 9:30 & 11:00am
- ◆ **Sunday, March 14** - UCG Book Sale
- ◆ **Friday, March 19-** Spring TGIF's. Contact Vince Amlin if you would like to host.
- ◆ **Sunday, March 21** - Time & Talent
- ◆ **Sunday, April 4** – Easter Services at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00am
- ◆ **April 23-25**– Annual Church Retreat at Lake Yale

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27
FOR FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS