

United Church of Gainesville

Larry Reimer & Sandy Reimer  
Ministers

# NEWSLETTER

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Editor

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

## "Putting the Flesh on the Bones of Faith" Our Lenten Journey



- **Sunday Morning Meditation** – 8:30am in the Chapel
- **Sunday Morning Worship** - 9:30 and 11:00am in the Sanctuary. Adult seminars at 11:00am.
- **Candlelit Taize Services** – Taize services every Wednesday evening, 6:30 – 7:15pm, in the Sanctuary, with chanting, silence, prayers, and the light of over 100 Taize candles. Call the church office to reserve child care.
- **Labyrinth in the Sanctuary** the week of March 14 – 19. See schedule on page 2.
- **Confirmation group in March for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders** who can choose to join the church on Sunday, March 28. Keep these young people in your prayers this month!

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Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 14  
Set your clocks ahead one hour the night before!

## Celebrate the Service of Installation for Vince Amlin as our Associate Minister

Sunday afternoon, March 21 at 4:00pm in the Sanctuary. Child care is provided.  
A reception in the Fellowship Hall follows the service. See page 3 for details.

What matters is to be at one with the living God,  
to be a creature in the house of the God of Life,  
Sleeping on the hearth of the living world,  
yawning at home before the fire of life,  
feeling the presence of the living God  
like a great reassurance, a deep calm in the heart,  
a presence in one's own being in the house of life.

~from "Pax" by D. H. Lawrence

### "On the Journey"

All Church Retreat, April 23-25, 2010  
Registration begins on Sunday, March 28 from  
10:30 to 12:30. Check out the Retreat information on page 5.

### Annual Time and Talent Fair

on Sunday, March 21!

See page 9 for details

# What's Happening in March

## **Taize Services – Wednesdays in March – 6:30 to 7:15pm in the Sanctuary**

Our evening Taizé services continue on March 3, 10, 17, and 24 from 6:30-7:15 in the Sanctuary. Taizé is a style of worship borrowed from the ecumenical Christian monastic community in Taizé, France, which intersperses periods of silence and reflection with readings and beautiful meditative singing. March 17<sup>th</sup> will be our special labyrinth service. There will be no Taizé service on March 31 because of the Maundy Thursday service on April 1.

## **Art in the Library Sunday, March 7 at 10:30am**

This month's Art in the Library features the work of UCG member Peggy Mixon. Her show displays works in oil, pastel and watercolor and includes a few giclee' prints. Winner of numerous major awards, Peggy has taught privately and judged regional shows. Join her for a reception on Sunday, March 7 at 10:30am

## **Oscar Party at UCG**

The Open and Affirming Task Force invites everyone (adults) to come to a party in the West Wing on Sunday evening, March 7th, to watch the Oscars. Bring a snack, a dessert, or finger food to share. Wine and beer will be sold (\$3). We look forward to seeing you there. 7:30 is start time. Call Carol Barron if you have questions: 335-9276

## **Walk the Labyrinth as part of your Lenten Pilgrimage - March 14-19**

The circuitous path of the Labyrinth is a symbol, a metaphor, for our life's journey. It is a path that takes us sometimes near the edge, sometimes in the middle, sometimes through 180 degree turns, always walking in a spiral pattern toward the center. Walking toward the center provides a time for letting go, clearing the mind. Standing or sitting in the center is a time of prayer and blessing, of opening to the Spirit. The return walk provides a time of re-entry, of reconnecting with the world with a sense of renewal and healing.

When you come to the Sanctuary for your Lenten walk, there will be information on a table in the foyer that can help you focus your time on the Labyrinth. In the Sanctuary, you'll find a CD player and several CDs to choose from if you would like to have music while you walk. The Labyrinth we use belongs to Ted Runions and Diane Farris, who generously allow us to borrow it twice a year. It is designed to replicate the Labyrinth laid in the floor of the Chartres Cathedral in France in the early 1200s.

The Labyrinth will be available in the Sanctuary:

Sunday, March 14 from 6:00 to 8:30pm. You can walk to the sounds of Cindy Bergbower's crystal bowls from 7:30 to 8:30pm.

Monday, March 15 from 8:30am to 5:00pm.

Tuesday, March 16 from 8:30am to 8:00pm.

Wednesday, March 17 from 8:30am to 8:00pm. The Taize service this evening, from 6:30 to 7:15pm, includes walking the Labyrinth with Taize chants, surrounded by the light of all our Taize candles. Child care is provided from 6:15 to 7:30pm.

Thursday, March 18 from 8:30am to 5:30pm.

Friday, March 19 from 8:30am to 2:30pm.

*Continued next page*

## **What's Happening**

### **PNO (Parent's night out) on Friday, March 12th**

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 Tuesday, March 9 to [alysonm@ucgainesville.org](mailto:alysonm@ucgainesville.org). \*Due to life threatening food allergies, no outside food is allowed

### **Annual UCG Book Sale Sunday, March 14, 10:30 - 12:30**

To make the Book Sale successful, we need three things: **1) Books.** By Sunday, March 7th, please bring your donated books, DVDs, CDs, etc., to the collection area in the Foyer. Consider donating materials that other UCG members would enjoy; especially popular are novels, children's books, and books on health, spirituality, cooking, environment and social justice issues. **2) People to Buy Books.** That's you! Books will sell for \$3 or less. Unsold books ultimately are donated to Friends of the Library. **3) Volunteers.** There will be a sign-up list outside the church office on Sunday, March 7. Note that volunteers who help with the sale get first opportunity to purchase books. All proceeds are used to buy new books for the UCG Library and media materials for various church programs. Also, this is a good time to check your shelves for the UCG Library materials that need to be returned (they have a number or letter taped to the outside spine). ~ Ellen Louis, Librarian

### **Visitors' Lunch – Sunday, March 14 at 12:15pm**

If you have been visiting UCG, you're invited to attend a visitors lunch with the ministers and the Board of Membership. This is a chance for you to get to know us better and ask any questions you might have as we get to know you. Sign up at church or call the church office. Child care is provided.

### **TGIF Gatherings on Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup> –at 6, 7, and 8pm**

TGIFs are back! For the spring we have three parties with staggered times so you can choose the one that fits your schedule, or **party hop to all three!** Hosts provide nametags, ice, water, napkins, plates and glasses. You bring a finger-food appetizer or munchies and your favorite Friday beverage to share.

The party begins from 6-8 at Janet and Allan March's, continues from 7-9 at Anne and George Casella's, and the last hosting is TBD. Sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office, so the hosts have some idea of how many folks to expect. Directions will be posted on that bulletin board, so you can take them with you when you sign up.

### **Installation Service for Vince Amlin as our Associate Minister Sunday, March 21 at 4:00pm in the Sanctuary.**

This service recognizes that, while ministry is a profession, it is also a sacred call to serve, a covenant between the minister and the congregation and authorized by the Florida Conference of the United Church of Christ. Our Regional Conference Minister, Dr. Raymond Hargrove, will participate in the service, as well as Larry, Sandy and Andy. Child care will be provided from 3:45 to 5:45. A reception in the Fellowship Hall will follow the service. Please sign-up on the bulletin board outside the church office if you can bring a finger-food appetizer or dessert.

*Cont'd on page 9*

# The Seventh Trumpet

Sandy and I are getting into the rhythm of half time. We took off a few days at the end of January and again from February 24-March 1. The end of March, however, runs a little too close to Easter, so our next week off will come the week after Easter, April 5-12, which also happens to be our Duval County grandchildren's spring break. Retreat comes at the end of April, so we'll take off the week after retreat which also connects with the Florida Conference of the United Church of Christ's annual meeting, May 1. I share this to let you know that I think that both you and we are getting the hang of this.

Ask anyone at UCG how they're doing, or anywhere else for that matter of pretty much any age, and they will most likely say, "busy.. tired.. stressed out..." or any combination thereof. On top of this, it's Lent, a time to go deeper into our spiritual journey. On the one hand, none of us needs yet another thing to do to clutter up our lives. We don't need to add Lent to an overly full schedule. On the other hand, the spiritual practices of Lent are meant to slow us down and quiet our souls. What would it mean to come to a Taize' service or two and have forty five minutes of music, prayer, and reflection? Imagine the release of taking a half hour to walk the Labyrinth. Reading the daily Lenten reflection book takes about three minutes, and it will stay with you all day.

What are we doing with our lives if they do not have time for silence?

*Days pass when I forget the mystery.*

*Problems insolvable and problems offering  
their own solutions*

*jostle for my attention...*

*And then once more the quiet mystery*

*is present to me, the clamor recedes,*

*the Mystery that there is anything,*

*anything at all, let alone cosmos, joy, memory*

*everything, and that, O Lord, Creator, Hallowed One,*

*You still, hour by hour, sustain it.*

*(Denise Levertov, in "Lenten Reflections", March 9, Sandy Reimer, ed.)*

Larry

## *Passages...*

- We welcome with joy Haley Jeanne Chance, daughter of Dean and Kristin Chance and granddaughter of Sandi and Mike Chance, born Friday, February 19 at 2:24am. She weighed 7lbs 14oz and is doing great!
- Gwendolyn Lein-Mai Wendling, was baptized at the 9:30am service on Sunday, February 28 by Andy Bachmann. We surround her and her parents, Linda Le and Adam Wendling, with our blessings.

# THRESHOLDS

. . . . SANDY REIMER

We're at the threshold of **Retreat (April 23 – 25)**, that wonderful annual gathering of UCG folks of all ages at Lake Yale Conference Center, south of Ocala and north of Leesburg. It's an astounding week-end filled with fun and laughter; spiritual focus and personal discovery; a rich diversity of adult workshops; nurturing child care; great activities for children and youth; music, dancing and an awesome array of artistic expression; abundant ways and times to connect with other UCG folks; and the blessing of a beautiful lakeside setting with ancient spreading oaks, star spangled night skies, and a flock of nearly tame resident sand hill cranes. Grace surrounds us on Retreat. It is a true celebration of who we are as a church community.

The theme is **“On the Journey.”** After the Retreat Committee set the theme, we discovered that there will be a truly new journey on Retreat this year. As in life, so with Retreat, we have the opportunity to experience the blessings and surprises of change and of helping others. The Florida Baptist Convention, which owns and operates Lake Yale Conference Center, has long-standing ties with the people of Haiti and is involved in post earthquake relief work there. The leadership of the Baptist Convention has asked the staff of Lake Yale Conference Center to keep South Camp available from the end of February to the end of May for refugees, including children, from Haiti, who may spend a little or a lot of time there for temporary shelter and/or for relocation.

In turn, we have been asked by the Conference Center to help by relocating some parts of our Retreat. All activities for children and youth will be in North Camp. Families with children and middle schoolers, and all high schoolers (and space-permitting, their parents), will stay in North Camp this year. The cabins are similar to South Camp, with two dormitory rooms and two semi-private rooms in each cabin. The semi-private rooms are slightly smaller; it would be difficult to put more than 1 mattress or pack 'n play in these rooms. The buildings where our families with babies and toddlers stay are similar to those in South Camp, with slightly smaller rooms. Here's the good news for folks staying in North Camp:

- There will be no increase in fees over last year; adult fees and semi-private room fees will be slightly less.
- North Camp is the girls' summer camp, so all the bathrooms in the cabins have long countertops between the sinks.
- We will have great child-care, supervised by Shay and Cam, with an increased staff of thirteen child-care aides!
- You'll have a good place, called the Lodge, for morning coffee & adult gathering/chatting during the day.

All adults who do not have children at Retreat will stay in motel rooms in the central conference area. The good news for these folks:

- You'll have a motel room, shared with one other person, with a private bathroom for only \$10 more per person for the whole week-end. And scholarship money will be available to supplement this motel fee as needed. Note: there is no price break over last year for one person staying alone in a motel room.
- You don't have to bring bed linens or towels.
- You don't have to deal with anyone's snoring other than the person you have voluntarily agreed to share a room with.
- And yes, there will be early morning coffee available in the Maguire Auditorium building as well as gathering space for all the motel folks.

All meals will be served in the North Camp cafeteria, which is identical to South Camp. Adult workshops will meet in various rooms of the Maguire Auditorium building. Friday night check-in and the introductory session as well as snacks and the Variety Show will be in Maguire auditorium as usual. We'll have use of the pool as usual. At the moment, we'll have other free time activities and the Sunday morning worship service in North Camp. There is no change in site or fees for adults who choose to camp in tents or RVs.

Continued next page

The Retreat Committee is working on all logistics of this new configuration. We'll have more information as we get closer to registration on March 28<sup>th</sup>. While it's not like this on every Retreat, for all of us who have wondered what we might do to assist with relief for the people of Haiti, this is one very small and simple way we can be of service. We also want to be as helpful as possible to one another in keeping our footing during this change and calling forth our positive and willing spirit. When we face change together as a loving community, it can bring us closer to one another and closer to the covenant of care and service that is the foundation of UCG

On **Sunday, March 14, from 10:30 to 11:00am, there will be two informational sessions.** Jamie Baldwin and Hal Smith will meet with anyone who is considering coming on Retreat for the first time. Sandy Reimer will meet with returning retreaters to answer questions and listen to concerns about the changes in location. There will also be a meeting of **parents of preschoolers and elementary schoolers** with the child care and program coordinators on **Sunday, April 18 at 10:35am.**

Retreat information brochures and registration forms will be available on **Sunday, March 21** during fellowship time. **Registration happens:**

**Sunday, March 28** – 10:30 to noon in the courtyard

**Monday, March 29 – Friday, April 2** – 9:00 to 4:00 – at the church office

**Sunday, April 4** – 10:30 to 11:00 in the courtyard

**Sunday, April 11** – 10:30 to noon in the courtyard

Note that cabins with elementary and preschool children fill up quickly, so please register early if your children are in these age groups. Our waiting list is created in categories according to the ages of the children.

**Retreat fees:**

Adults in North Camp - \$118

Adults in shared motel rooms - \$130

Twenty somethings - \$85

Adults in single motel room - \$195

HS & MS youth - \$80

Adults in RVs - single: \$126

Elementary schoolers - \$65

double or triple: \$106 each

3 & 4 year olds - \$55

Adults in tents - \$86

Infants to 2 year olds - \$30

*Most families with children two years old and under will have a semi-private room for which there is no extra charge. Some additional semi-private rooms are available, on a first sign-up-basis, for families with older children for an extra charge of \$15 for the room for the week-end.*

*Children and youth attending Retreat must have a parent present and may not stay in motel rooms or RVs/tents.*

**The Peterson-Currie Scholarship Fund**, in memory of Hulda Peterson and Gaylon Currie, provides financial aid to church members, so that no one misses Retreat because of financial concerns. You simply indicate on your registration form how much financial aid you need, above the basic minimum amount, as a scholarship or a loan.

**Questions, concerns, information:** call (378-3500) or e-mail ([info@ucgainesville.org](mailto:info@ucgainesville.org)) the church office and Alyson will direct you to the person who can provide you with the best information.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at Retreat this year as we share where we've been, where we are, and where we are going "On The Journey."

Sandy

## MARCH MUSINGS FROM ANDY

When I used to live up north, March was always one of my favorite months. The winter snows and ice would begin their death grip on the land, and the signs of spring would begin to be seen and heard. Best of all I loved the scent of March. The mud thaw and condensation winds were a delight.

March marks the beginning of many things at UCG, too. Youth United gears up for another great work tour experience. Our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders learn about our church and religious heritage through confirmation, and make some good connections with some older members of our community through our Sponsor program.

If you are asked to be a Confirmation sponsor this year (and, yes, it is the confirmands themselves who will be doing the asking) I hope that you will prayerfully consider what an honor and a blessing this can be. Sponsors are simply meant to be older pilgrims from our community, called to mentor a young person in the church. It doesn't require much. Our first meeting with sponsors will be on Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> (after Vince's installation) at 5:30 pm, where we will spend a bit of time getting to know each other. After that, our hope is that you and your confirmand can find some time in the months and years ahead to deepen your friendship; whether it's through invitations to lunch or coffee or (if you're lucky) a Gator game. Past participants have remarked how nice it has been to simply be aware of each other through our church

interactions, and what fun it is to be a part of a young person's life. If you are asked to be a sponsor, and you have any questions, please give me a call.

As YU gears up for another great Work Tour, please keep us in your thoughts. I know a number of adults have asked to come along, and unfortunately at this time we are all filled up with a great contingent of adult volunteers; but if this continues to be an area of interest for folks, we'll gladly set up another adult work tour. We depart at 9:45 on Easter Sunday morning for WT 2010. This year we head to Bay St. Louis, Mississippi to continue the rebuilding efforts post-Katrina. Did you know there are still over 200 people living in FEMA trailers in Bay St. Louis? Hard to believe.

Finally, as Time and Talent is fast approaching, I want to invite you to prayerfully consider where YOU may be called to share your gifts. We're always looking for good folks to help our with our Middle or High School teams. And we can use some compassionate givers on Compassion in Action, to help us oversee the benevolent giving of UCG. If you've got some fire in your belly for the work of justice, then check out the Social Justice committee. And if you like an occasional outreach that is really an INreach, then help us welcome and care for the families of the Interfaith Hospitality Network. All our Outreach and Youth committees are looking for some good volunteers. Are you called?

### Important dates

#### CONFIRMATION

March 7<sup>th</sup> 5:30-7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. What does it mean to join the church?

March 14<sup>th</sup> 11:00-12:00pm in the Youth Room. The Bible, However Known.

March 21<sup>st</sup> 5:30-7:00 pm Tools for the Trade, with our Confirmation Sponsors.

March 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Overnight at the church, with joining at the 9:30 service on Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>!

#### ALL YOUTH EVENT

March 6<sup>th</sup>-Day of Outreach. Come help us paint a home in Micanopy! Morning shift: 8:30-1 pm, Afternoon shift 12 noon -4:30 pm. All shifts depart and return from UCG! Permission slips required!

#### MSG

March 7<sup>th</sup>- Wall of wii! In the youth room

March 14<sup>th</sup>- The Bible, However Known

March 21<sup>st</sup>- Retreat skit practice, Games However Known

March 28<sup>th</sup>-Confirmands join UCG at 9:30! reception follows.

#### YU

March 6<sup>th</sup> Day of Outreach

March 21 SPECIAL TIME- 2pm Work Tour prep and skills build. (ALL FORMS AND PERMISSION SLIPS MUST BE TURNED IN BY THIS DATE)

In 1991, UCG voted to become an “Open and Affirming” (ONA) congregation of the United Church of Christ. As the UCC states on its website, “The central affirmation of an ONA congregation is that ‘people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions’ (or ‘lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people’) are welcome in the full life and ministry of the church.”

For almost twenty years, we at UCG have been living into this identity and living it out in a variety of ways including Pride services, seminars and workshops on LGBT issues, and participation in the Gainesville Pride Parade. UCG’s Open and Affirming identity is part of what attracted Rachele and me to the church, and I know that it is an important reason why many of you are part of this community.

This winter we at UCG formed an Open and Affirming Taskforce to be more intentional about the way we plan and carry out our Open and Affirming ministry, welcoming and including people of all sexual orientations in every aspect of our life together. While the ONA Taskforce will be planning events, the Open and Affirming ministry of UCG needs everyone’s participation!

The Taskforce will host two events in March. First, we’ll have an opportunity for fun and fellowship at the Oscar Party on March 7, at 7:30. This gathering is a potluck with cash bar. We will project the Oscars on the big screen and watch together. Sign-up sheets will be at a table in the courtyard after services on Sunday.

The second event will be a Sunday seminar on March 14, at 11am on the Bible and homosexuality, given by our own Rev. David Dean. This seminar will look at how scripture can be read to demonstrate God’s love for all people, including those who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender.

We are also planning a workshop for retreat, a fundraiser in May, and lots of Pride festivities for the fall. Open and Affirming events are not just for LGBT folks but for our entire church community as we seek to live into God’s vision of a true community of love and justice for all people. So, as you read about upcoming events, I hope you will join us and continue the witness of this amazing place!

## A Little Child Shall Lead Them

### UCG Children’s Program

**What’s New?** This month started a new rotation focusing on Lenten Lessons, created from a curriculum brainstorming session. In February the children heard an overview of the life of Jesus and learned that Lent is a time that calls us to reflect and to love one another. They also learned “Spirit of the Living God” a song and prayer being used by the whole church this Lenten season. In March the children will hear some of the miracle stories of Jesus as well as participate in a Palm Parade and look at Jesus’ last days.

**When’s Camp?** Mark your calendars. United Tribes will host a summer camp here at UCG weekdays August 2<sup>nd</sup> thru the 13<sup>th</sup> with our own Cam Parker as camp manager. Look for registration forms and brochures to come in the mail soon.

### What’s Next?

- 03-07-10 POW-WOW Camp Out
  - 03-14-10 Children’s Choir Practice for Easter Sunday
  - 03-21-10 Guide and Teacher Appreciation; Lenten Lessons
  - 03-28-10 Palm Parade; Lenten Lessons
  - 04-04-10 Special Children’s Story at the 9:30 Easter Service followed by an Easter Egg Hunt
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## **What's Happening, cont'd**

### **Time & Talent Fair Sunday, March 21 10:30am**

What is your call to share your gifts with this church, your community of faith? We ask you to consider that question thoughtfully this month. Where can you share your time, your energy, and your talents at UCG in the coming year? Our annual Time and Talent Fair is Sunday, March 22 from 10:15 to 11:30 in the Memory Garden. Members of our Boards and Committees will be available at tables with information about their ministry and yummy snacks to entice you to stop and chat a while. You'll have a chance to sign up for boards, committees and volunteer tasks at the Time and Talent Fair and on the following Sunday as well. If you have questions, please contact Tim Martin, our Moderator-Elect.

### **Special Offering for One Great Hour of Sharing on Sunday, March 28**

Our annual One Great Hour of Sharing Offering works for international development and relief in partnership with Church World Service and other denominations. Because you gave last year, that money was available when it was needed for Haiti and Chile. Beyond disaster relief, OGHS funds also provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, micro-credit loans, advocacy and resettlement for refugees. When we care for God's treasured children, we ourselves are transformed. We see more clearly what matters most in life and are inspired to live courageously. Hope rises as we realize new life is possible.

### **PattiCake Gathering Sunday, March 28**

Families with babies-K/1 and their siblings are invited to join us at Morningside Living History Farm at 3540 E University Ave. on Sunday, March 28 from 2:30 to 5pm. Morningside Nature Center has a farm and on Sundays, youngsters with an adult can meet and greet animals by helping staff with afternoon feeding. With a sheep here—and a cow there—learning about heritage breeds is fun! The program is free. Bring a snack if you would like, in addition to water, sunscreen and cameras!

### **Thursday, April 1 – Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service. 7:00 p.m.**

Our candlelight, meditative service with communion led by Larry Reimer with the Board of Parish Ministry. Tenebrae is the Latin word for darkness or shadows, symbolizing that moment of Jesus' death when a shadow fell across the earth. For centuries, Tenebrae has referred to ancient monastic late night and early morning services held during the last three days of Holy Week. The Tenebrae service at UCG includes scripture readings of the arrest and crucifixion of Jesus. After each reading a candle is extinguished until only one candle, symbolic of the last hope, Jesus, remains. This is a powerful way to participate in the ancient tradition of holy week. It is appropriate for older elementary, middle and high schoolers to become familiar with and reflect upon the last hours of Jesus' life and ministry. It is an important way for all to prepare for Easter.

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### **We welcome our new members who joined Sunday, February 21**

Sally Adkins	Gretchen Howard	Shane Philhower	David Ryan
Patrick Burger	Allan March	Tanja Philhower	Katie Ryan
Matt Hintze	Andrew Milman	Holly Prugh	Jennifer Stuart
Larina Hintze	Marjorie Milman	Peter Prugh	

## ***This and That.....***

### **New Arrivals at the UCG Library**

Two books that Larry has used in recent sermons are now in the UCG library. The first is The Hemingeses of Monticello, by Annette Gordon-Reed, a history of Thomas Jefferson's relationship with his slave/mistress Sally Hemings which offers some groundbreaking insights into slavery, Jefferson, and the American revolution. Larry referred to it in his January, Martin Luther King, Jr. service on the "The Underground Railroad Then and Now." The second is In the Sanctuary of Outcasts, by Neil White, the memoir of White's incarceration at the Federal Prison in Carville, Louisiana, which was also a federal leprosarium. Larry used this for his sermon on February 7

### **More Haiti Assistance**

At a recent meeting of the UCC Conference Board of Directors, one of our Churches (First Church of North Miami Congregational) pointed out that one of the small but important things that is needed in Haiti is clean, unlabeled prescription pill containers. As one might suspect there has been a lot of medicines flowing into Haiti. But you wouldn't think about the means to dispense the medications. This need struck me as so profound and requiring such a simple response that I thought that we at UCG could help out. I hope that you agree. During the month of March there will be an empty bag placed in our church office as a receptacle for any clean, unlabeled pill containers that you would like to donate. I will collect the donation and send them to the First Church of North Miami Congregational and they will forward the donation to Haiti. Thanks for your help. ~ *Ron Nutter*

### **Green Reminders at UCG**

As the weather returns to near perfect, **remember that we have two bicycles for anyone to borrow** at UCG. If parking at church and biking to campus, downtown, or school is something you'd like to try, just stop by the church office to get the combination to the lock, and a helmet. Also, **we have two "Kill-a-Watt" electronic meters** that can help you determine which of your electronics is a vampire, sucking the money out of your account while you sleep. You may check this out at the church office. Both are services provided by the Social Justice Committee.

### **Haitian Relief Tax Year Implications**

According to a bill passed in Congress, contributions for Haiti earthquake relief made between January 12th and February 28th, 2010, will be allowed as a deduction on 2009 tax returns. Taxpayers are not required to claim a 2010 contribution in 2009 but have the option to do so.

### **Save the Date**

**Dream Workshop with Jeremy Taylor, "Exploring Dreams and Our Evolving Spirituality" on Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 4pm.** Jeremy's workshop will explore some of the archetypal patterns that emerge in all dreams, such as the Divine Child, the Trickster, the Shadow. We'll learn how projection of these archetypes onto others can confuse, as well as enlighten, our life work and our relationships with others. There will be a balance of presentation and experiential work, with the perspective that all dreams come for our health and wholeness and if we remember a dream, it means we have the tools necessary to understand it. In addition, Jeremy will offer a separate afternoon session on **Sunday, June 27<sup>th</sup> for therapists and counselors** on incorporating dream work into counseling sessions. Informational brochures and registration forms for each of these workshops will be available in April.

# Sundays in March

## Regular Sunday Schedule

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

***Our Lenten Theme: "Putting the Flesh on the Bones of Faith"***

## March 7

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

9:30 and 11:00 – **Worship "If They Do These Things When the Wood is Green, What Will Happen When it is Dry?"** - Larry Reimer. Special music with David Evans and Ensemble

11:00 – **Adult Seminars:**

**Making Our Own Death More Satisfying** with Bob Atkins - In a group discussion, we will explore how each of us might anticipate our own death and attempt to make that death better, more acceptable, meaningful, even fulfilling. Each person will have the opportunity to talk about her or his own attitudes, beliefs, and feelings relative to the psychological and spiritual meaning of her or his life and death. The usual end-of-life legal, financial, and medical issues may well come up, but will only be discussed in terms of our own attitudes, beliefs, and feelings about them.

**Gleaning for Good** with Leslie McClendon - Traditionally, gleaning referred to going through fields which had been harvested and picking up the crops which had been left to rot. This was an early form of social welfare in some societies, including biblical society. Today, many people designate a portion of their garden or harvest for donation to soup kitchens or other feeding programs. Come learn about hunger and nutrition issues in our community. We'll discuss local food programs and how you can help with gleaning.

11:00 - **Friendship Group** - Room 8

**Board of Membership** - Seminar B

12:30 - **Friends Over 50\***

5:30 - **Confirmation Group** - Fellowship Hall

7:30 - **Oscar Party** - West Wing

## March 14 – Daylight Savings Time Begins, Spring Ahead (Everything is an hour earlier)

### IHN Hosting begins

8:30 – **Meditation in the Chapel** with Mary Fukuyama

9:30 and 11:00 - **Worship** - Vince Amlin

10:30 - **Annual UCG Book Sale** in the Courtyard

10:30 to 11:00am – **Retreat Information sessions:**

**"So You Are Thinking of Going on Retreat for the First Time?"** – with Jamie Baldwin and Hal Smith with information and answers to your questions.

**"So You Are Coming Again to Retreat and Wonder What it Will be Like without South Camp?"** with Sandy Reimer who will answer questions and listen to concerns about the changes in location.

11:00 – **Adult Seminars:**

**The Bible and Homosexuality** - UCG member David Dean will be leading an informative discussion with a close look at selected Bible passages that have been, and continue to be used to exclude gays and lesbians from Christian denominations around the world.

**Creating Emotional Safety for You and Your Young Adult** with Kathryn Kvols - Communication can be challenging those last years of being a teen and into early adulthood. This workshop will teach communication approaches that encourage openness, responsibility and cooperation. Learn successful strategies to hear and be heard respectfully.

**March 14th continued...**

12:00 - **Middle School & High School Teams**

**IHN Steering Committee**

**Board of Children's Ministry**

12:15pm - **Visitor's Lunch in the Fellowship Hall**

6:00 to 8:30pm – **Labyrinth in the Sanctuary. *Crystal Bowls with Cindy Bergbower from 7:30 to 8:30pm.***

Child care provided

**March 21**

8:30 – **Meditation in the Chapel** with Vince Amlin

9:30 and 11:00 - **Worship “A Pebble in My Shoe”** - Sandy Reimer

10:15 to 11:30- **Time and Talent Fair** in the Memory Garden

10:30 to 11:15 - **Retreat information brochures and registration forms** will be available

11:00– **Adult Seminars:**

**Gospel of Matthew Bible Study** with Vince Amlin - Fresh from our reading last month, this bible study will offer you a chance to go deeper into the gospel of Matthew (whether you came to the performance or not). Matthew contains some of the most beloved pieces of scripture for many but can also be read as successionist and anti-Semitic. This bible study will offer an historical perspective to help us better understand (and perhaps even enjoy) the book by examining the time in which it was written and the concerns of its author.

**Spring into Gardening** - Broccoli or beets?, romaine or rhubarb?, what does a backyard vegetable garden in Gainesville look like in spring? UCG member Matt Palumbo invites vegetable gardeners new and experienced to share your successes, failures and leaps of faith. Matt brings a wealth of personal gardening stories and solid science to the subject of gardening in north Florida.

11:00 - **Friendship Group**

4:00pm – **Service of Installation for Vince Amlin as our Associate Minister** - Sanctuary. Reception follows.

**March 28 – One Great Hour of Sharing, UCC Denominational Offering, Palm Sunday**

8:30 – **Meditation in the Chapel** with Jackie Davis

9:30 & 11:00– **Worship** - Andy Bachmann- The 9:30 service will include the 7th and 8th Grade confirmation class joining the church.

10:30 to noon in the courtyard – **Retreat Registration begins** and continues on Monday, March 29 through Friday, April 2 from 9:00am to 4:00pm at the church office, as well as Sundays, April 4 and 11<sup>th</sup>.

11:00 - **Adult Seminars:**

**The Ethics of Eating** with Tom Martucci.- What is ethical eating? Eating is a choice we make daily. Everyone chooses what ethical eating is to them. Like most things, the first step is being aware that you want to be more ethical in your lifestyle. This seminar will heighten your awareness and allow participants to learn and share new ideas about eating ,whether your choices are eating meat or being a vegetarian.

2:30 – **Patticake Potluck** at Morningside Nature Center

**Sunday at the Movies\***

**April 4 - Easter Sunday Service at 8am, 9:30am, & 11am** – Sermon at all three services by Larry Reimer and Sandy Reimer

8:00am - Worship Service with Sermon and Communion

9:00am - *Coffee and Fellowship; please bring a finger food to share*

9:30am - Worship Service with Children's Story, Children's Choir, Sermon and “Hallelujah Chorus”

Blessing of YU Work Tour group, departing for Mississippi at 9:45am

10:30am - *Coffee and Fellowship; please bring a finger food to share*

11:00am - Worship Service with Sermon, Adult Choir and “Hallelujah Chorus”

\* Pre-registered Adult Small Group

## *NEWS FROM BOARDS & COMMITTEES*

### **2010-2011 Moderator-elect**

Five years ago, Church Council added a Moderator-elect position to Church Council in order to ensure that incoming Moderators are adequately oriented to the expectations for the position. At the Tuesday, February 16 meeting, Church Council selected Sally Simonis as next year's Moderator-elect. Sally is currently a Council Member-at-Large and was previously the Chair of the Board of Membership. We are very pleased to have such a capable church member willing to take on this leadership role.

### **Interfaith Hospitality Network**

IHN wants to thank each of you who contributed so generously to our drive for suitcases!! We had over 40 suitcases donated and guests will have a much more dignified way to transport their belongings rather than throwing them in various plastic bags. We also appreciate the blankets donated to the UCG IHN closet, and could still use a few more if you have one to spare. Our next hosting begins on March 14, 2010. If you have not signed up to volunteer, please think about doing so. We will be recruiting through March 14th. Also, if you would like to consider being on the IHN steering committee, we definitely could use some active committee members who could help with the hostings, so stop by our table on March 21st. If you ever have any questions, or are unable to get to the recruiting tables, please give Doris Harvey a call at (352) 214-0693. Thank you, UCG, for consistently supporting this important ministry!

### **Enlistment Grand Prize Winners!**

Congratulations to UCG members Stephanie and Justin Bennett for winning the awesome two-night stay at the historic Casa Monica Hotel in St. Augustine! Their name was drawn from the pool of those folks who returned a supplemental pledge card as part of our 2010 Pledge Campaign.

## **A Note from Sandy about Prayer Concerns**

Many church members have told me that, when they are unable to be at church on a Sunday, they miss hearing about prayer concerns and are thus unaware of important issues in the lives of church members. I'd like to address this by listing prayer concerns that are related to UCG members and their immediate family in "This Week at UCG". Beginning the week of March 7<sup>th</sup>, when you receive your weekly e-mail, it will include prayer concerns from the previous Sunday. So, if you tell us of a prayer concern that you have (whether you tell us by phone, e-mail or by handing us the prayer concern form on Sunday morning), you need to let us know at that point if you do NOT want your concern to be included in This Week at UCG. Otherwise, we will include it. Let's see how this works for the next six months, and you can give me feedback.

## **Your Help Needed**

Please contact the church office ([info@ucgainesville.org](mailto:info@ucgainesville.org)) if you would be willing to oversee the food delivery and clean-up for the finger-food brunch on Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>

## **Community Interest**

"Hurry Tomorrow" a classic documentary filmed in a locked psychiatric ward at Metropolitan State Hospital in Los Angeles resulted in a major investigation of conditions in California's state institutions. Film followed by discussion about changes since, and changes still needed in mental health care. Refreshments provided. On March 22 at 8PM at Civic Media Center, 433 S. Main St. For more info call Jackie Davis 219-3789 or Frank Blankenship 328-2511.

# MARCH 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1	2 BAP 7pm	3 Taize Service 6:30pm	4 Crystal Bowl Meditation* 12pm  BPM 6pm  Choir Rehearsal 7:15pm	5 Lunch Groups 12pm  Pow Wow Camping Trip through Sunday, March 7	6 Prairie Creek Canoe Trip* 8:30am  YU/MSG Day of Service 9am	
7 Meditation 8:30am Worship 9:30 & 11am Art in the Library 10:30am Friendship Group BOM -11am Friends Over 50 Confirmation 5:30pm Oscar Party 7:30pm	8	9 Budget Summit 1:30pm  SJC 6:30pm CIA 7pm BOB 7:15pm	10  CMRB noon  Taize Service 6:30pm  Herstory*7:30pm	11 Quieting the Mind* 7pm  Choir Rehearsal 7:15pm	12 Lunch Groups 12pm  PNO 5:30pm  DUP 7pm  Food for Thought* 7pm	13 Drama & Dessert* 5pm	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
	<b>IHN Hosting this week</b>						
Worship 9:30 & 11am Book Sale MS/HS Teams IHN Steering BCM Visitor's lunch Labyrinth open 6-8:30pm Crystal Bowls 7:30	Labyrinth Open 8:30am-5pm  Ceramics* 5:30pm  3rd Monday Project* 6pm	Labyrinth Open 8:30am-8pm  Retreat Committee 5:30pm  Alzheimer/ Dementia Support* 7pm	Labyrinth Open 8:30am-8pm  Taize Service 6:30pm  Church Council 7:15pm Herstory*7:30pm	Labyrinth Open 8:30am-5:30pm  Choir Rehearsal 7:15pm	Labyrinth Open 8:30am-2:30pm  Lunch Groups 12pm  Spring TGIF's		
21 Meditation 8:30 Worship 9:30 & 11am Time & Talent Fair 10:00am Friendship Group 11am YU 2pm Vince Amlin's Installation 4pm Confirmation 5:30	22	23	24  Newsletter Deadline 12pm  Taize Service 6:30pm	25  Quieting the Mind* 7pm  Choir Rehearsal 7:15pm	26 Lunch Groups 12pm  Drama & Dessert* 7:30pm	27 Full Moon Canoe Paddle* 6pm  Confirmation Overnight at UCG 7pm	
28 Palm Sunday Worship 9:30 & 11am Retreat Registra- tion begins 10:15am Sunday Movies* 2:30pm PattiCake 2:30pm	29	30	31	1 Crystal Bowl Meditation* 12pm  BPM 6pm  Maundy Thursday Service 7pm	2 Lunch Groups 12pm	3	

\* Pre-registered Adult Small Group

# “Flexible Footing”

## Women’s Overnight - February 6 & 7, 2010



UNITED CHURCH  
OF GAINESVILLE

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Gainesville, FL 32603

Phone: 352-378-3500

Fax: 352-378-0501

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

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 8:30 - 4:30

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**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24  
FOR APRIL NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**

**LOOKING AHEAD:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Sunday, April 1</b>                         | <b>Maundy Thursday service – 7:00pm – Child care provided.</b>  |
| <b>Sunday, April 4</b>                         | <b>Easter services at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00am with coffee and finger food brunch at 9 and 10:30am.</b> |
| <b>Sunday, April 18</b>                        | <b>Earth Sunday – Services at 9:30 and 11:00</b>  |
| <b>Friday, April 23 -<br/>Sunday, April 25</b> | <b>UCG Annual Retreat</b>   |

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24  
FOR APRIL NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**