



United Church of Gainesville

**M A Y** 2008  
Larry Reimer & Sandy Reimer  
Ministers

# ***NEWSLETTER***

**Andy Bachmann**  
Associate Minister  
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Editor

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

## All-Church Rummage Sale– May 16 & 17

See page 2 for more information

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### Official Call to our Spring Congregational Meeting

**Sunday, May 4 – 10:35 am in Sanctuary**

Congregational Meetings are important events in the life of our congregation. Please plan to attend. **Child Care is provided.**

#### Agenda items include:

- ◆ a heartfelt thanks to the officers, chairpersons and board members who have served so well this year
- ◆ election of officers and board members for the new church year which begins on May 5<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ presentation and adoption of our UCG Annual Report
- ◆ information about the Search Committee for an Associate Minister for Adult Programs and Pastoral Care
- ◆ revision of By-Laws Article pertaining to the Endowment Trustees

### UCG IN MAY~ DOORWAYS OF TRANSITION

**Sunday, May 4** - Worship: "Were You Born in a Barn" - Larry Reimer

Spring Congregational Meeting with election of new officers and board members

**Sunday, May 18** - 9:30 Worship: "It's About Love" – celebrating our children and blessing our 5<sup>th</sup> graders as they begin their transition to middle school

11:00 Worship: "Closing Doors" - Sandy Reimer

**Wednesday, May 21** - Annual Planning Conference for new officers and chairpersons

**Sunday, May 25** - begin our summer schedule of one service at 10am. Church school, adult seminars and youth groups resume on August 24<sup>th</sup>.



"Somewhere deep within us, at the back of our brains, so to speak, there is a forgotten blaze or burst of astonishment at our own existence. The object of the artistic and spiritual life is to dig for this submerged sunrise of wonder." ~ G. K. Chesterton

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

- ◆ **All - Church Rummage Sale, May 16 & 17:** Board of Children's Ministry is coordinating the first annual All-Church Rummage sale May 16 & 17. We are seeking your gently used treasures, especially: Large furniture items, home wares, "treasures" like old china, etc., children's clothing and toys (especially outside equipment), electronics. We ask church members to please **drop off their items at the church on Wednesday, May 14, 3-7pm and Thursday, May 15, 11am-7pm.** Start cleaning out your closets and help us fundraise for the new playground equipment in the pre-school play area. If you can help with the rummage sale in any way, please sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office or contact Tracy Bachmann at [tracybachmann@cox.net](mailto:tracybachmann@cox.net) or Shanna Johnson at [butterbean1016@gmail.com](mailto:butterbean1016@gmail.com). Our kids will thank you for it!
- ◆ **Ken Bradley Annuity Collection on Sunday, May 11:** For the past three years we have had a special offering for an annuity for Ken Bradley, our custodian of almost 30 years. On Sunday, May 11 and throughout the month of May, you may designate gifts to UCG for the Ken Bradley annuity. Funds are placed in an IRA at Ken's bank in Hawthorne.
- ◆ **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 on **Friday, May 23rd 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. If pizza does not meet your child's nutritional needs please contact Rae Gitzendanner ([rae@gitz.us](mailto:rae@gitz.us)) before bringing outside foods into the church school wing due to life threatening food allergies. RSVPs are required. Please **RSVP by noon on Friday, May 16th to [info@ucgainesville.org](mailto:info@ucgainesville.org).** In an effort to simplify the mechanics of Parent's Night Out, we are undergoing some changes:
  - There will be 20 slots available each month which will be filled on a first come first served RSVP basis.
  - The church office has agreed to collect the RSVPs
  - As we have already established, once you RSVP you are financially committed to the event.
  - This event is generally scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month but the date may change when necessary to accommodate school and church calendars.
- ◆ **Friendship Group:** Friendship group is meeting on May 4th at 1:00 at the Natural History Museum to visit the butterfly rainforest. Friends and family are invited. Tickets are \$6.50 each for the group rate if there are at least 10 in the group. Anyone interested is asked to call or e-mail Denise Follenius at 332-7831 or [Folleniusd@aol.com](mailto:Folleniusd@aol.com) by the first of May.

## RECURRING EACH MONTH

- ★ **Dances of Universal Peace** meets in the West Wing at 8pm on the second Friday of each month. All are welcome; no partner needed.
- ★ **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.

# The Seventh Trumpet

I completed a big milestone today. I have been working on publishing a collection of Sandy's and my sermons for about three years. It's very difficult to get sermons conventionally published these days, so I decided to use one of the popular "on demand" publishers whom you pay to produce books as you need them. I wanted to write this collection for UCG and not have to tailor it to a publisher's demands. But it has been a long haul. First, it was a much bigger job than I imagined to get the right sermons together, arrange them, and spruce them up for publication. I owe a big thanks to Alyson McElwain who is one excellent editor and proofer. Second, even sorting through the on-demand publishers was a bigger project than I imagined. But after numerous rewrites, I sent the final submission to Outskirts Press about ten minutes ago. I picked Outskirts as much for the name as the publishing packages they offered. All elements of the contract are signed, and we should have The Long Winding Journey Home available for sale here at UCG by the end of the summer.

Aren't the doors for our new "Doorways" theme beautiful? I am simply stunned by the depth and variety of their artistry and spirituality. The artists' reflections on April 13 were wonderful examples again of how when any one person shares from the heart, their story touches all of us. The doors clearly enhance our space and our worship. If you want to see the doors again or would like to show them to friends, go to our website and click the link to the arts. Check out "Sundays" at UCG to see how the "Doorways" theme continues.

The first weekend in May, Sandy, Andy, and I, plus Bill and Angela Hoppe and Ron and Mary Nutter, go to Miami to attend the Florida Conference UCC annual meeting. We'll be back Saturday night, May 3, in time for me to preach on May 4 and for us to be at UCG's Spring Congregational Meeting. And back here at UCG, it's been a blessing to work with such creative boards and such an excellent church council. We'll certainly miss outgoing moderator Ann Gill's deep commitment to all parts of UCG. I'm glad that former moderators get to keep a hand in the church through their position on the Congregation and Ministry Review Board. It's exciting to welcome Bill Hoppe as our new moderator as well as all the new board chairs and members.

I close with a quote I used for the bulletin on April 13 by Rebecca Parker, president of Starr King (I love that name) Divinity School in Berkeley, California. *We are not alone. In the universe there moves a Wild One whose gestures alter the earth's axis toward love...Let this be the time we wake to life, as spring wakes.*

Larry

## **Extra! Extra! Ron Nutter Elected Moderator of Florida Conference, UCC**

We're proud to announce that UCG's Ron Nutter will be elected Moderator of the Florida Conference at the Annual Meeting on May 3. This means he chairs the Conference Board of Directors. We're excited to have his voice in this important position. With a new and creative Conference Minister, Kent Siladi, in place and Ron at the helm of the Board of Directors, the Florida Conference is poised for some very creative and exciting years. Ron has been serving on the board of directors. He and his wife Mary have also been on the conference task force exploring ways to facilitate new UCC church starts in Florida.

# THRESHOLDS . . . . SANDY REIMER

As you see on the cover of this newsletter, in the rhythm of the seasons and the church year, we turn a corner of transitions this month. We celebrate the outstanding job Ann Gill has done as our Moderator this past year. And we welcome Bill Hoppe as our new Moderator. This same transition process is going on with our officers, boards and committees. I deeply appreciate all the wonderful people who have served in these positions, and I am grateful for the new volunteers who are stepping in to keep the vision and the mission of UCG alive and growing. If you have not found a place to volunteer your time and your talents here at UCG, there is a place here for you, a place where your help can make a difference! If you have not filled out a volunteer form for this year, please call 378-3500 or e-mail [info@ucgainesville.org](mailto:info@ucgainesville.org), and we'll get a copy of the form to you. And if you have any questions, I'm only an e-mail away from answering them!

Something new: Thanks to a lovely gift from Travis and Laura Hill, whose wedding we did in March, we have a new candle-holder on the table by the window in the front of the Sanctuary. Beginning on May 4<sup>th</sup>, you may light one of these candles, prior to the worship service, as a prayer for someone you are holding in light. If they are all lit when you arrive, just pause in front of them and say a prayer.

Sum-in-ars are coming in June! Let me know your favorite workshops from Retreat (ones you attended and think would be good to repeat or ones you wished you'd been able to attend). We'll be scheduling Sum-in-ars on June Sundays, from 11:15 to 12:45, with child care provided. Check out information about topics and sign-ups in the Sunday bulletins in May.

In this transitional month, somewhere between spring and summer, as we celebrate the ending of one year, perhaps even one chapter, in the lives of our children and youth, as we move into a new year in the life of our church, remember the words of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, a wonderfully spiritual soul. "Above all, trust in the slow work of God. We are, quiet naturally, impatient of being on the way to something quite unknown, something new. So let your ideas and dreams grow and shape themselves without undue haste. Don't try to force them on, as though you could be today what time will make you tomorrow. Only God can say what this new spirit gradually forming within you will be. Trust that you will know and become who you are." Blessings to each of you!

**PS - A Green Idea!** As you know, Congress passed an Economic Stimulus Tax Rebate Plan. I'm thinking that, when I receive mine, I'm going to use it to mitigate some of the damage caused by the tax cuts in our state. I'm considering a donation to a local school to help replace some of the funding cuts. I'm considering a donation to Alachua County Forever. I'm considering using the money to begin a rain-barrel irrigation system in my yard or as seed money for a solar hot water system. Even if my rebate is small, I can use it to help in a place where the need is great. I encourage all of us to think about these possibilities.

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**PASSAGES:** Trevor Wade Ellis and Carissa Dana Reimer were baptized on Sunday, April 6 at the 9:30 and 11:00 services, respectively. We surround these two babies and their parents, Brad and Carol Ellis and Chris and Morgan Reimer, with our blessings.

**A CELEBRATION .....** Steve Bates and David Dick are affirming their partnership in a special commitment ceremony during the 10am Worship service on Sunday, May 25. They invite you to join them afterwards for a Potluck Brunch in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring your favorite delicious brunch food to share. If you can help them with this celebration, please call or e-mail the church office! We're very excited to share this important occasion with David and Steve!

## MAY MANIA: A MESSAGE FROM ANDY

This years annual Youth United Work Tour was outstanding. Our group meshed well, the work we did was satisfying and appreciated, the connections we made with the homeowners was meaningful to all of us, and we had a great time. Thank you all for your continued help and thoughtful donations to the cause of Katrina relief, and the opportunities you give to our kids to experience a little ‘theology with our sleeves rolled up.’

I wasn’t sure what to expect on this years trip. After all, it has been 31 months since Hurricane Katrina. I expected to see most of the destruction cleared away, and new homes and buildings being built. I was quite stunned to see and learn that only 25% of the needed repairs have been completed. While there are new McDonalds restaurants, and beautiful new casinos now open for business, the unfortunate truth of the matter is that those who are at the bottom end of the socio-economic ladder are still mired in blue tarps and FEMA trailers. The insurance money only covered new vehicles for people. The grant money is harder to come by. The volunteers and donated supplies are less and less in coming, and it shows. There is a new sense of hopelessness settling in, and a quite hidden panic on the faces of the volunteer coordinators who work so hard to help.

This year, for the first time, Mike Myers, Steve Bates and I all commented to each other that the supplies are not as plentiful, and the work we are now tasked to do feels more like putting a band-aid on a broken arm.

All of these experiences have fired us up—now more than ever—to get back to the gulf coast and help out however and wherever we can. That energy is fueled by our wonderful group of Youth United. Youth, united and making a difference. Youth, united to change the world, one home at a time. Youth, united to one another, living out their call to act in Christian concern for the welfare of all people.

If you would like to see a video presentation of our experiences, I invite you to come to the screening of this years Work Tour video on May 11 following the 11 am service. Our kids will be there, and I encourage you to ask them about their experiences. They have some powerful tales to tell.

As we move towards closure on this year’s youth group activities, I also encourage you to come to this years Senior Sunday service on June 1. At this service we celebrate those from our community of faith who are graduating from high school. It’s always a special service, and I encourage you to attend.

### MSG

**May 4** - Walk to local coffee shop, and in the afternoon, serve at Dorothy’s Café with Youth United (please sign up in advance)

**May 11**– Documentary and discussion

**May 18** - Games at JJ Finley

**May 25** - 6:15 service and a hike to Bolen’s Bluff (permission slip required)

### YU

**May 4** - Dorothy’s Café’ outreach

**May 11** - Work Tour video in the Sanctuary

**May 18** - Senior Sunday practice

**May 25** - Memorial Day weekend-6:15 service

**June 1** - Senior Sunday, 10:00am (one service)

## ~ A Little Child Shall Lead Them

### UCG Children's Program

#### Director, Heidi Stein

### Where did the time go?

The Board of Children's Ministry just finished our annual report. Wow! What a great year it has been. We had a goal to increase structured multi-age activities. Two activities jumped to our attention. First, the Underground Railroad really let the older kids care for and watch out for the younger kids. It was an amazing activity. Then new "choices" rotations went really well. The children picked their activities and had the opportunity to be with children of different ages who had similar activity preferences. The BOCM had a goal of increasing music through choice and exposure. New music opportunities included drumming and the Dances of Universal Peace.

There were so many outstanding events and activities this year including Obstacle Course, Pageant, Bible Scavenger Hunt, Pray Stations, Craft Fair, Choir, Easter Story Art, Maps of Israel and much, much more. And all of these events and activities provided by volunteers and staff at UCG. We really are lucky to be in such a talented and giving community. Thank you!

### What's Next?

We will celebrate our last day of church school on May 18<sup>th</sup> with a Family Service in the Sanctuary. We have added a special component to the service where we will celebrate the rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders. We will also have a reception following the service to honor our Guides, Teachers, BOCM, and all of the volunteers that make church school possible. Be sure to come for this fun service and reception.

### What Happened to the Bread?

The church school children received a letter from a local preschool teacher. The letter thanked the children and especially Katie Litchfield for her bread starter. She said she took it into her class of 45 students and they kneaded the starter each day and then shared the bread for snack.

*A special thank you goes to Bobbi Knickerbocker for her generous donation of Curriculum Materials to the Church School Program.*

## Calendar for the Remainder of Church School Year:

- May 4 Fuzzy Making and Church School Satisfaction survey
- May 11 Church School Sing
- May 18 Family Service Celebrating Church School

## Preschool and Nursery News

### ~ Salina Briseno-Kiker, Coordinator

Another church school year comes to an end! This year has been a great success thanks to our wonderful team of teachers, our childcare staff and all of the wonderful volunteers who helped out in the classroom. I want to send out a special thank you to each community member who signed up to be a preschool volunteer this year. I hope you will consider signing up again in the fall. I also want to thank each of our preschool teachers. This year, Candice King, Judy Hunter and Layla Ruffino each gave a large portion of their Sunday mornings to teach our preschool aged children about the wonders of nature and laughter. Thank you Candice for sharing your love of children's literature. Thank you Judy for sharing your expert teaching skills. Thank you Layla for sharing your ability to explain the complexities of the world in terms that preschoolers can relate to.

This year we underwent a big change when we moved the preschool children on to the Nursery playground. This was very successful thanks to the coordination of many minds. I want to especially recognize the contribution that Kathryn King made. Kathryn was crowned our 'Princess of Pre-K' and she did the job with all of the grace and poise of a princess seeing to the logistics of each special event and church school day from a pre-k point of view. Thank you so much Kathryn for keeping track of everything and asking all the right questions. Over the summer, we hope to continue improving the preschool and nursery playground with the funds we will raise at the rummage sale on May 16 and 17, so please consider donating your time and treasures to the sale.



## CHURCH COUNCIL

UCG Church Council met, including both outgoing and incoming officers and chairpersons on Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> for dinner. There were 30 of us all together and the energy was high as we introduced ourselves around the circle.

Sandy Reimer asked for any final additions or corrections to the Nominating Slate for officers and board members, and she circulated this list.

Jim Sarisky, Council Member-at-Large, led a discussion and vote on members for the Search Committee for our Associate Minister for Adult Programs and Pastoral Care. Joanne Pohlman, Chair of the Search Committee, and Ann Gill, are contacting these members for their acceptance before their names are announced at the Spring Congregational meeting. Also, Council approved the new Member at Large, Darrell Hartman, who accepted this position which is a two year term. Trish Thoburn will continue as Member-at-large for one more year fulfilling her two year term.

Jamie Baldwin, chair of CMRB, reported that the Board has conducted their annual Ministerial Reviews. This review culminates a process of discussing with each of the ministers their goals, objectives and activities throughout the year. All three ministers were given approval. Jamie will file the written report with the minutes from this Council meeting, a copy of which is kept in the church office.

Joanne Pohlman, chair of the Endowment Committee requested a change in the By-Laws to call this committee The Endowment Fund Trustees. She also recommended including more specific language about the Trustees' responsibilities in the By-Laws: that the Endowment Fund Trustees are responsible for the oversight of the endowed funds of the church and that such responsibility includes investment of endowed funds of the church in accordance with an adopted investment policy and the encouragement and promotion of special gifts and bequests to the church endowment. The Trustees would continue to report to the Board of Business on a quarterly basis and give a full annual account of their activity at the Fall Congregational meeting. These By-Law changes were approved by the Council and will go to the congregation for a final vote at the May 4<sup>th</sup> Spring Congregational meeting.

Council approved A Book Drive, conducted by the Compassion in Action Committee, on Sundays, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> to collect new or gently used children's books to be donated to the Children's Abuse Prevention Project. Council approval was also given for the annual collection for custodian Ken Bradley's annuity fund, set up by the church for his retirement. Money can be donated by members on Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup> and throughout the month of May.

A discussion and reports from Boards and Committees on the first year of the three year plan was facilitated by Trish Thoburn. Each of the five areas of this plan were covered by recording information on newsprint as council members reported on the progress their board or committee has made. For a complete report of our progress, see the entire minutes as written by Susan McNiel, outgoing clerk for UCG.

The next Council meeting is the Annual Planning Conference on Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup> from 5:30pm to 9pm in the Fellowship Hall. This meeting will be attended by all the incoming Board and Committee members and officers of UCG.

Bill Hoppe, incoming Moderator, thanked Ann Gill, outgoing Moderator, for her outstanding service; Council members responded with a standing ovation. I have appreciated the opportunity to serve as your moderator this year! I have enjoyed learning more about the business and how we "walk our talk" here at UCG. Thanks for a great year!

### **Board of Business**

This budget summary below reflects UCG's financial position for the first quarter of 2008: 25% through the year. Expenses for the first quarter are on track, with less than 24% of our budgeted expenses incurred during the first quarter. On the other hand, we are behind in income, especially pledge collections: we have received only 21% of our budgeted pledges in this quarter (compared to the first quarter of 2007, when we had collected 26% of pledge income).

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## CHURCH BOARDS & COMMITTEES

### Board of Business-Cont'd

Due to years of sound financial management, UCG has sufficient reserves to buffer short-term, month-to-month cash flow imbalances. However, the current imbalance does highlight the importance of timely fulfillment of our pledges. Pledges constitute over 90% of our operating income, so even a 5% "undershoot" in pledge fulfillment will result in a deficit for the year of over \$30,000, a situation that could seriously hamper our ability to fully fulfill our Church's mission.

#### UCG Budget Summary

##### Income

Description	Year to Date	2008 Budget	% Received	% Received this time last year
Pledge+Plate	\$126,916	\$602,960	21.0%	26.0%
Other	\$6,847	\$34,000	20.1%	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$133,763</b>	<b>\$636,960</b>	<b>21.0%</b>	<b>29.6%</b>

##### Expenses

Description	Year to Date	2008 Budget	% Incurred	% Incurred this time last year
Personnel	\$103,132	\$432,311	23.9%	
Operating	\$37,489	\$157,165	23.9%	
Program	\$1,848	\$13,884	13.3%	
For Others	\$7,700	\$33,600	22.9%	
<b>Total Exp.</b>	<b>\$150,169</b>	<b>\$636,960</b>	<b>23.6%</b>	<b>19.0%</b>

**Income to Expenses**      **-\$16,405**

### Phased Transition Plan Update

As outlined in the Phased Transition Plan, establishing a search committee for a new Associate Minister of Adult Programs and Pastoral Care is the next step towards realizing the congregation's goals in the approved plan. According to our By-Laws, the search committee for an Associate Minister is appointed by Church Council. Thus, a slate of potential candidates for this search committee was reviewed and approved by Church Council this month. These candidates are currently being contacted. The members of the search committee will be announced at the Spring Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 4 at 10:35am, as well as in the June newsletter.

The search committee will include 9 to 10 church members and the three ministers making 12 to 13 people on the entire search committee. A wide spectrum of demographics, family status and types of prior church experience related to adult programming and pastoral care were considered in the recommendations for search committee members. Joanne Pohlman has agreed to chair the search committee. They will begin meeting in late August to prepare for recruiting and screening possible candidates. We hope to have this additional Associate Minister in place by August of 2009. Please look for updates about this important process in future newsletters.

Submitted by Jim Sarisky, Member at Large

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# Sundays in May

## Regular Sunday Schedule

9:15 - 12:15	Nursery & Toddler Care
9:30	Worship with Children's Story
9:45 - 10:45	Church School - after Children's Story
10:30	Fellowship Time
10:45 - noon	Children's Activity Time
11:00 - noon	Worship, Adult Seminars, Middle School Group
Noon	Youth United & Post High Group

### *Worship Theme – Doorways*

#### **Sunday, May 4th**

**Book Drive Collection in foyer**

**8:30 Meditation in the Chapel**– led by Mark Burlingame

**9:30 “Were You Born in a Barn?”** – Larry Reimer

**10:35 Congregational Meeting**

**1:00 Friendship Group butterfly field trip**

**1:00 YU Dorothy's Café Outreach**

#### **May 11th - *Mother's Day***

**Book Drive Collection in foyer**

**8:30 Meditation in the Chapel**– led by Mark Burlingame

**9:30 and 11:00 “The Unpainted Door”** – Andy Bachmann-with the UCG Adult Choir (please note, following the second service you are invited to stay and see this year's Work Tour video.)

**7:30 Crystal Bowl Meditation** –led by Cindy Bergbower in the Sanctuary

#### **May 18th**

**Last day of Book Drive Collection in foyer**

**8:30 Meditation in the Chapel**– led by Mark Burlingame

**9:30 “It's About Love” - A Celebration of our Children**– led by the Board of Children's Ministry and Sandy Reimer

**11:00 “Closing Doors” - Sandy Reimer.**

**10:30 Fair Trade Coffee Sales**

**11:00 Adult Seminar- The Bible's Jeremiah as a prelude to Today's Jeremiah** with Larry Reimer- Jane Kenyon said that a poet's job is to tell the truth in such a beautiful way that people can't live without it. This is what the prophet Jeremiah does, naming truths that people don't necessarily want, but can't leave alone. This is a bible seminar on how prophets speak, focusing on Jeremiah.

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

#### **May 25th - *Summer Schedule Begins*– one service at 10:00 am**

**9:00 Meditation in the Chapel**—led by Darrell Hartman

**9:45-11:15 child care for babies-2yrs**

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# Sundays continued

**10:00** “A Tale of Two Jeremiahs” – Larry Reimer

**10:15-11:15** Activity time for 3yrs - 5th graders

**11:00** Potluck Brunch in Celebration of Steve Bates and David Dick

**6:15pm** Evening Worship “Endings”– Youth United, Post High and Andy Bachmann

*Church school classes, adult seminars and youth groups resume on August 24.*

**June 1st - Senior Sunday**

**9:00** Meditation in the Chapel –led by Darrell Hartman

**10:00** Annual Senior Sunday - led by UCG’s Youth United

## CHURCH BOARDS AND COMMITTEES CONT’D.

### Compassion in Action

**Book Drive for the Child Abuse Prevention Project coming in May.** The Child Abuse Prevention Project serves the families of North Central Florida with family support and parent education to alleviate the conditions that cause child abuse and neglect. Social workers, who visit families referred to Child Abuse Prevention Project use the books as a way to engage the children in those families. **CIA would like to support these efforts by collecting new or gently used books for children of all ages.** Please pick up a bookmark/reminder either on Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup> or May 11<sup>th</sup> and drop off your donation in the foyer no later than May 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Social Justice Committee

**Sustainable Note:** We recently visited beautiful botanical gardens and were surprised to see single use plastic cameras in the gift shop. Though the cameras were meant to capture the beauty of the environment, they will quickly join the tidal wave of plastic/chemical trash that could ultimately harm it. It was something that hadn’t been thought through, which prompted us to take a fresh look at our own green efforts. For May, we invite you to do the same – and share your insights with SJC. Diane Farris for SJC

## OTHER NEWS....

### Visitors’ Lunch - May 18

The Board of Membership invites all of you who have been visiting UCG to join us along with Larry and Sandy for lunch in the fellowship hall at 12:15. This is a time for you to ask your questions about UCG and for Larry and Sandy to get to know you. Child care is provided. Let us know if you need it. Sign up on the bulletin board outside the office, call the church office, or e-mail [info@ucgainesville.org](mailto:info@ucgainesville.org).

### New members service (possibly) June 29

Because of Aware Care Share in March, we didn’t have an adult new members class this spring. But if there are enough people (10 or more) interested and available to join on June 29, we’ll have a joining service that Sunday. Call or e-mail the church office and let us know if you wish to join the church on June 29.

### Congratulations

UCG member Sanford Berg was one of three faculty members inducted into the Academy of Distinguished Teaching Scholars at UF. Details are on the church bulletin board in the kitchen.

# MAY 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm	2 Lunch Groups 12pm	3 Florida Conference UCC Annual Meeting
4 Worship 9:30 Congregational Meeting 10:35am Friendship Group 1pm YU/CIA Dorothy's Café 1pm	5	6	7	8 Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm	9 Lunch Groups 12pm DUP 7pm	10 -
11 Worship 9:30 & 11:00am Crystal Bowl Meditation 7:30pm	12 Mostly Fiction* 7:15pm Writing Small Group* 7pm	13 Budget Summit 1:30pm SJC 6:30pm CIA 7pm BCM 7:15pm BoB 7:15pm	14 CMRB 12pm BAP 6:30pm	15 Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm	16 Lunch Groups 12pm All-Church Rummage Sale 3-7pm	17 All-Church Rummage Sale 7am-3pm
18 Worship: 9:30-Church School Recognition 11:00am: sermon Fair Trade Coffee Sales 10:30am Visitors Lunch 12:15pm	19	20	21 Newsletter Deadline 12pm Annual Planning Conference 5:30pm	22 Choir Rehearsal 7:30pm	23 Lunch Groups 12pm PNO 5:30pm	24 Chance-Shiver Wedding 6:00pm
25 Summer Worship Schedule begins- Worship-10am Bates-Dick Commitment and Potluck Brunch 6:15pm Evening Service	26 Memorial Day Office Closed	27 Middle School Team 7:30pm	28 Newsletter Folding 10:30am High School Team 5:30pm	29	30	31

UNITED CHURCH  
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Hours: Monday - Friday

8:30am - 4:30pm

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**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, MAY 21  
FOR JUNE NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**

## *Looking Ahead*

- ♦ **May 25**      **Summer Worship Schedule begins-one service at 10am**
- ♦ **June 1**      **Senior Sunday**
- ♦ **June 29**     **New Members Join**
- ♦ **July 6**      **4th of July Evening Service and Ice Cream Social**
- ♦ **August 17**   **Gathering of Waters - 9:30 & 11:00**

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