



United Church of Gainesville

NEWSLETTER

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

NOVEMBER 2008

Larry Reimer & Sandy Reimer
Ministers

Andy Bachmann
Associate Minister

Lisa Goldstein
Editor

WORSHIP THEME CONTINUES THROUGH NOVEMBER 23

FAITH IN HARD TIMES

“We Are Here to Help Each Other”

“To follow, even imperfectly, the way of Jesus in personal involvement with each other, and, strengthened by this bond, to act in Christian concern for the welfare of all people.” ~ UCG Compact

“We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road. We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.” ~ The Servant Song.

Both the UCG Compact and the Servant Song reveal the possibilities of our church, the ways that we can love God, however known, and care for one another. This year's enlistment campaign focuses on service: the many ways that our congregation comes together here at UCG for each other, and for our world.

Our pledges to UCG support service directly: about \$34,000 of our budget is allocated for others, in support of the work of our regional and national denomination, as well as local outreach. It's also good to realize that this “expenses for others” portion of our budget does not fully represent the scope of our church's outreach. What really makes a difference is the “infrastructure for service” that our pledges build. Our pledges support the ministerial staff who provide pastoral care for our congregation, who inspire and challenge us, and who offer a strong voice for compassion and social justice in our community. Our pledges allow us to host homeless families, to provide meeting space for local groups, and to make room, both literally and figuratively, for our members to come together to serve each other and our world in a myriad of creative and energetic ways.

To meet our 2009 budget, pledges will need to rise by a little over 6% compared to last year. We hope the upcoming enlistment campaign will offer all of us an opportunity to reflect on the ways that UCG enables us to serve each other and the world around us, and to give what we can of ourselves and our resources to support this “infrastructure for service” that we have built together. Cindy Martin & Tim Martin – Enlistment Co-Chairs

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

HAPPENING IN NOV	2
SEVENTH TRUMPET	5
THRESHOLDS	6
MESSAGE FROM ANDY	7
UNITED TRIBES	8
SUNDAYS	11
CALENDAR	13

Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, November 2

Set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.

Oxfam Fast

begins November 12 and ends on November 13th with a shared meal at the church to break the fast.

See page 2

**Thanksgiving
Dinner at UCG** on
Thursday, November 27.

See page 2.

Advent Begins on
Sunday, November 30
with two services in the
morning and an
evening Labyrinth
Service at 6:30pm.

We are blessedly touched not only by having the basics of food, shelter, warmth and safety, but by the sound of children laughing, the joys of loving friends, and a sense of inner contentment. To acknowledge that which has been freely given to us strengthens both our ability to give and to receive generously.

~ Victor La Cerva, *World Words: Global Reflections to Awaken the Spirit*



What's Happening in November ²

- ❖ **Saturday, November 1– Ride the Gainesville-Hawthorne Trail–** 9:30am- Join us for a bike ride out the Hawthorne Trail from Downtown Gainesville to Kate’s Fish Camp and back. We’ll ride about 25 miles round trip, with ample break time, a visit to the Paynes Prairie Overlook and, if time permits, a walk out to the Alachua Sink. The ride is all on hard surface and you needn’t be an experienced cyclist. Just bring a bike, a helmet and some water and we’ll lead the way. Meet at the GRU parking lot located at the SW corner of SE 3rd Street and SE 4th Avenue by 9:30 am. We will return a little after noon in time for a lunch downtown for any who are interested. Questions? Walt Barry (352-378-3353 H or 352-281-7717 Cell) & Pamela Barry (352-262-7813 Cell)
- ❖ **Sunday, November 2– Art in the Library Reception–** 10:30-noon– featuring the water-color paintings of Duane Ellifritt.
- ❖ **Saturday, November 8– Sunday, November 9 - Men’s Overnight** at Camp Montgomery.
- ❖ **Sunday, November 9– Pow Wow Playgroup** for families with children K-5– 4:00pm at the Sperbeck/Burgess home. For information contact Stacey Hoffman at booberdoad@yahoo.com.
- ❖ **Wednesday, November 12– Thursday, November 13– Annual Oxfam Fast for World Hunger-** In these tough and trying times, we are all struggling one way or another. When faced with the realities of global poverty, hunger and social injustice, how often have you thought, “How can just one person make a difference?” Fortunately, through Oxfam America’s national *Fast for a World Harvest*, we at UCG can have an impact on these issues. This is our 29th year raising funds to support Oxfam America’s work with community groups throughout the world. The money we donate goes to programs fostering self- reliance and community leadership so that people can overcome the root causes of poverty. **The UCG fast begins after lunch on November 12th. We will gather for a light supper to break the fast on Thursday, November 13 at 6:00pm in the Fellowship hall.** You may then contribute the money you saved on food to Oxfam America. Your observance of the fast is up to you; it may be partial fasting, skipping a meal, giving up snacks, or total abstinence. All age groups may participate, including children. Sign up in the Courtyard on Sundays, November 2 and 9. You may bring soup, salad, bread, juice, or fruit. Please bring your own bowls, plates, cups, and utensils. Please indicate if you need child care. A light supper of pizza and fruit will be provided for the children.
- ❖ **Friday, November 14- Dances of Universal Peace** - 7:00pm in the West Wing. All are welcome, no previous experience or partner needed. Mary Fukuyama is the info contact at 371-9136.
- ❖ **Friday, November 14- Parents Night Out–** 5:30-8:30pm in the Church School Wing. 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 where they eat pizza, 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 **by Monday, November 9** to alysonm@ucgainesville.org. Pizza and apple wedges and drinks are provided. Due to life - threatening food allergies, we ask that no outside food be brought in.
- ❖ **Sunday, November 16 - Crystal Bowl Meditation** -7:30pm with Cindy Bergbower in the Sanctuary.
- ❖ **Sunday, November 23– Sunday, November 30, IHN Hosting.**
- ❖ **Thursday, November 27 - UCG Thanksgiving Dinner at 1:30pm-** Let us gather together for a UCG Thanksgiving Dinner, sharing our meal of thanks with guests from Interfaith Hospitality Network who will be staying at UCG that week. We will have sign-up sheets at church, and money will be collected in advance so we can know how many turkeys to buy. Cost will be: \$5 for those age 12 and up, \$3 for ages 5-11 and free for kids under five. Turkey, dressing, gravy, tea, coffee and ice will be provided -- other side dishes and drinks will be provided by participants. Everyone is asked to help with cleanup. Please join us for a day of Thanksgiving. Sign-up on November 2, 9 and 16.

cont'd on next page

What's Happening, Cont'd

Recurring Throughout the Month

- ★ **Football Parking on Gator Home-Game Days: November 15th– Youth United**
November 22nd– Board of Business

BoB needs your help - If you've ever wondered what football parking is all about, join us on Saturday, Nov. 22 as the Board of Business sponsors football parking to **benefit the UCG Retreat Scholarship & Loan Fund**. This is an easy and fun way to spend a couple of hours benefitting one of UCG's most revered traditions. Please contact Cathy Keathley at cathykeathley@gmail.com or 377-3888 if you would like to volunteer!

- ★ **Friendship Group** meets November 2 & 16 this month in Room 8. Denise Folenius facilitates this group for church teens and adults with special needs. For info contact Denise at Folleniusd@aol.com.
- ★ **BYO Lunch Groups** meet at noon on Fridays - All are welcome to these informal gatherings. Contact the church office by noon on Wednesday for child care. *Note there are no lunch groups on November 28 (Thanksgiving).*
- ★ **Post High Group** meets Sundays at noon for lunch. pH is open to all young adults who have finished high school, who are in school, in the work force, or where-ever. Contact Rachele' Degraff at JFsmiley1@comcast.net or Phillip Clemons at slemons@ufl.edu for more information.
- ★ **Lessons & Carols rehearsals** in November:

	<u>Thursday</u>		<u>Sunday</u>
Nov	6 - 7:15pm	Nov.	2 - 12:30pm
	13 - 7:15pm		9 - 12:30pm
	20 - 7:15pm		16 - 12:30pm
			23 - 12:30pm
			30 - 7:30pm

Other Church News...

UCG BOOK SALE A SUCCESS



We did it! We raised \$675+ to support the Associate Minister search. Thanks to the UCG book addicts and volunteers who helped make it happen. And a special thanks to Darrell Hartmann and Susan McNiell for going above and beyond in the book hauling effort. ~ Ellen Louis, UCG Librarian

CHURCH IMPROVEMENTS

We hope you'll notice three significant improvements in the church buildings and grounds. First, peek over the fence at the new sidewalk/racetrack on the church school playground. Board of Children's Ministry used proceeds from the rummage sale to put a tricycle track under and around the climbing structure. BCM volunteers spread the mulch.

Second, in the East parking lot, Erick Smith and partners did a major trimming of low branches and cleared out all the underbrush in the center island to open up the area and let more light shine at night. We also have another street light which was installed the last week in October.

Third, the wall unit a/c heat pump in the kitchen went to its final resting place and has now been replaced. The replacement left lots of holes and damage to the walls, so Doug Whalen and Adam Williams have repainted the kitchen area.

Repairs two and three are possible because our budget has a solid line for building maintenance and repair, funded by your pledges.

THE BEGINNING OF ADVENT at the UNITED CHURCH OF GAINESVILLE

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP on November 30

Advent begins with worship services at 9:30 and 11:00. We will light the first candle of the Advent Wreath at each of these services. **Adult Advent Reflection booklets**, with a reading for each day, and **Family Advent booklets** will be available.

WALKING THE LABYRINTH

A labyrinth is an ancient symbol combining the imagery of the circle and the spiral that relates to wholeness. Walking paths for meditation and prayer in the shape of a labyrinth have been used for centuries by pilgrims and seekers. The Labyrinth is not a maze; it is unicursal, with only one path. The way in is also the way out. To walk the Labyrinth is to take a journey into your own center and then back out into the world. Ted Runions and Diane Farris generously loan us their Labyrinth, so that we can use it on the floor of our Sanctuary for one week during Advent and also during Lent.

Our annual **Advent Evening Labyrinth Service**, led by Diane Farris, Ted Runions and Sandy Reimer, is **Sunday, November 30 from 6:30 to 7:30pm** in the Sanctuary. We begin with an opportunity to walk the Labyrinth, a time to focus on the issues and concerns we carry with us on our spiritual journey toward Christmas. Wherever we are – in sorrow or loss, in joy or anticipation, in fear or fatigue, in uncertainty or hope – is where we begin Advent. Then, in the quiet candlelight, with beautiful songs and the echoing words of scripture and prayer, we join together to experience the support of kindred souls and the light of God that shines through the darkness. Child care is provided.

The Labyrinth will also be open in the Sanctuary at these times:

Monday, December 1 – from 9am to 5pm
Tuesday, December 2 – from 9am to 5pm
Wednesday, December 3 – from 9am to 8pm
Thursday, December 4 – from 9am to 8pm
Friday, December 5 – from 9am to 2pm

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

Tuesday evenings – December 2, 9 and 16 from 6:30 to 7:30pm in the Sanctuary –
led by Sandy Reimer

We gather in the Sanctuary for silence, prayer and reflection on scripture passages that relate to our spiritual journeys during this Advent season. We meet in small groups for the last twenty minutes of each session to listen and to share with one another. We begin and end promptly each week. Join us in the midst of this busy season to make room for Christmas hope in your heart and soul. If you have not already registered and would like to participate, please call or e-mail the church office by November 19th. Participants must plan to attend all three sessions.

PASSAGES:

Our blessings to

- ◆ Leslie Wade and Sean McLendon who were married Saturday, October 11 at Steinhatchee Landing. Andy Bachmann officiated at the ceremony
- ◆ Ryan Murphy and Martina Bauer who were married Saturday, October 18 at Haile Plantation Hall. Andy Bachmann officiated at the ceremony.

UCG member Wick Heath died October 3. His memorial service was held at UCG on October 11. Our prayers and sympathy are with his wife Inez.

The Seventh Trumpet



We recently mounted a Mezuzah on the western doorway of the fellowship hall. UCG member and Fed Ex pilot Pam Mincey found this Mezuzah in the Portuguese synagogue in Amsterdam. She brought it to us to add to our symbols of radical hospitality and gracious welcome.

The Mezuzah is the scroll sealed inside a rectangular case that is affixed to the doorpost of a Jewish home. The scroll contains the Shema, which says, “Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God. The Lord is One. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might...”

In 1492, when Christopher Columbus made his maiden voyage to the new world, Spain ordered all the Jews living in Spain to convert to Christianity or leave the country. Many fled to Portugal, which in 1497 followed Spain’s lead and issued the same decree. A number of Jews found religious liberty in Amsterdam. It is especially appropriate that this Mezuzah comes from the Portuguese Synagogue in Amsterdam, for our own Congregationalist pilgrim forebears also found religious asylum in Holland before they sailed to the new world on the Mayflower.

A Mezuzah at UCG is a fitting reminder of the need to keep our hearts open to the one God who welcomes all. A Mezuzah is meant to be on the door of a home, not just a place of worship or fellowship. Since we house homeless guests through IHN, we believe it is appropriate to have a Mezuzah on our door.

All of November is a pilgrimage toward Thanksgiving. In this church this pilgrimage includes our Oxfam fast and dinner on November 13, our housing of IHN guests, and our revived thanksgiving dinner tradition with these guests on Thanksgiving Day.

When you enter the fellowship hall, notice that physically small but historically large Mezuzah that reminds us to bless and be blessed in ever larger ways. Let it also be a reminder of how much the world needs places of welcome for all people who seek safe havens to practice their faith.

Larry

Visitors’ Lunch Coming December 7

If you have been visiting UCG, you are invited to a special visitors’ lunch on Sunday, December 7 at 12:15. This is the day Youth United prepares a chili lunch for the whole church. Just go through the line and tell the ticket takers that you are going to the visitors’ lunch, and they will give you a free ticket. Get your food and proceed to the West Wing, the room on the other side of the fellowship hall’s folding doors.

This is a time for you to meet other visitors, UCG members, and to ask Sandy and Larry any questions you have about the church. It helps us plan if you call the church office or sign up on the bulletin board outside the office on Sundays. Child care will be provided

Oh the Parking Lot

We realize our parking lot is a congested, frustrating, and often confusing place. You may have noticed the occasional Question and Answer column in our Sunday bulletins about parking lot ethics and etiquette. Please be patient and considerate with each other as we all try to make the best of this limited resource. Don’t block people in.

At a recent memorial service, a few UCG folks directed people and managed to get a lot of cars into the lot in an orderly way. If you think this might be your divine or earthly calling, let us know. If we have enough volunteers, we may establish a cadre of parking lot guides. You would always get to attend worship. We’ll save seats for you. Call the church office or e-mail info@ucgainesville.org.

THRESHOLDS

... SANDY REIMER

As a minister, I'm especially aware of the seasons, particularly now as autumn slips in with subtle signs and landscape colors and with its shortening hours of daylight. At the end of this month, on Sunday, November 28, the seasons will change again as we make the transition to Advent, those four weeks that lead us toward Christmas. The first reading in this year's Advent book begins, "*Surely it's not that time already again!*" I feel a bit that way myself! Christmas seems to be coming really fast.

At the same time, in the rhythm of my own faith journey, I look forward to Advent. The rituals of this spiritual season ground me, nurture my soul, and lay down the bridge that opens up my path to Christmas. The daily readings in the Advent Reflection booklets, the opportunities to walk the Labyrinth, and the prayerful reflections and sharing in the Contemplative Prayer group all make it possible for me to pause and take the time I need to acknowledge what is going on within me as well as what I yearn and hope for. These experiences in the early weeks of Advent give me the breathing space I need to attend to my soul, so that I can open up to the joy, love and hope that is Christmas, the incarnation of the holy within this world and within each of us.

I like to remind people that whatever we are carrying with us - loss, hope, grief, joy, fatigue, anticipation, fear, light - accompanies us on our Advent journey. So I encourage you to make time in your soul during Advent: time to reflect and pray, time to walk the Labyrinth, time to participate in worship and in the church community.

And I'm very excited to share a preview of some wonderful things that are happening in January: opportunities for connections, for supporting families, for spiritual learning and nurture. So as soon as you get your 2009 calendar, please note the dates that interest you and watch for more details in the December newsletter.

- ✦ Sunday, January 4th at 11am and at noon - brainstorming to identify and explore the need for new adult programs and groups, especially to meet the needs of singles, elders, and parents of teens.
- ✦ Sunday, January 11th - 10:45 to 12:45 - "Building Your Own Family Dream Team" - a workshop with Kathryn Kvoles and her son Tyler - for parent(s) and child(ren) who are 6 years and older - limited to 14 families - registration details in the December newsletter.
- ✦ Sunday, January 18th - 11am to noon - "Sacred Conversations about Race-nicity" - small group discussions about our individual family's heritage and experiences of prejudice around race and ethnicity.
- ✦ Sunday, January 25 - Saturday, January 31 - Lama David Boles will be our Meditation Teacher in Residence with multiple opportunities for participation. Registration in early January; details in the December newsletter.

An update on my ordination process: There will be an Ecclesiastical Council, a gathering of ministers and members of UCC churches in our region, including UCG members, on Sunday, November 23 at 3:00 in our Sanctuary. I will present parts of my ordination paper and people will have a chance to ask me questions. Then the assembled group will vote on whether to recommend me for ordination by the Florida Conference of the United Church of Christ.

This Thanksgiving, in the midst of these difficult times, I am reminded of all the blessings of my life, including this church and each of you. I also remember that gratitude and hope must find their home in the midst of the realities of our lives, in the midst of sorrow and pain and disappointment. "*Hope,*" says W. Paul Jones, "*is the simple trust that God has not forgotten the recipe for manna.*" May that manna be the bread that nourishes you this Thanksgiving and into Advent.

NOVEMBER NOTATIONS: A MESSAGE FROM ANDY

Tis' the month of giving thanks, and there is so much that we have to be thankful for. I am so thankful to have been called to this wonderful church, to be your minister. Thank you so much for the special recognition of my five year anniversary last month. Tracy and I both regularly reflect on how blessed we feel to be a part of this community. So from the bottom of our hearts, thank you! It was a wonderful, kind and thoughtful celebration. And I love my new stole. I will wear it with pride and joy.

In the spirit of this month's theme of gratitude, there are a variety of ways I encourage you and your children to get involved!

Both of our youth programs are going to be focusing on the importance of thankfulness this month, in a wide variety of venues.

One thing that we are thankful for is those men and women who have donned our country's uniforms and placed themselves in harm's way for our country's good. On Sunday, November 9th at 11 am we will have a special guest speaker, Staff Sgt. (ret.) Joseph Kowalski, father of church member Trish Gregory, share his experiences during World War II. Mr. Kowalski was in 'the Fighting First' 1st Division of the United States Army.

With the 1st, Mr. Kowalski participated in the invasions of Africa, then Sicily, then stormed Omaha beach on D-Day, then participated in the Battle of the Bulge. Mr. Kowalski will be speaking to both youth groups on November 9th in the West Wing at 11 am.

Other things we are thankful for in November are the opportunities we have to make a difference in the lives of others. Our Oxfam Break-fast supper will be on Thursday, November 13th. We encourage all church members to participate in our fast, beginning Wednesday night and lasting until Thursday evening, when we will gather together for a pot-luck supper to raise funds and awareness about the Oxfam international organization. Please sign up in advance if you are planning to attend!

Everyone is also invited to participate in our UCG work day on November 22nd. Working with the Rebuilding Together organization in Gainesville, we'll be swinging hammers and doing some rehab for folks who otherwise would have no one to turn to. Please sign up this Sunday.

Finally, this month, due to the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be no 6:15 Worship Service.

COMING UP IN NOVEMBER

MSG

(Middle School Group)

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Nov. 2 | Church IN State discussion |
| Nov. 9 | Guest Speaker Joseph Kowalski, 11 am in the west wing |
| Nov. 13 | Oxfam break-fast supper! |
| Nov. 16 | Coffee walk with Oxfam theme |
| Nov. 23 | God Talk and giving thanks |
| Nov. 30 | Thanksgiving weekend, no group! |

YU

(Youth United)

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Nov. 2 | Bowling at the Reitz! |
| Nov. 9 | Special time! Guest Speaker Joesph Kowalski in the west wing at 11! |
| Nov. 13 | Oxfam break-fast supper! |
| Nov. 15 | FOOTBALL PARKING |
| Nov. 16 | Chili lunch prep! |
| Nov. 23 | Giving Thanks theme |
| Nov. 30 | Thanksgiving weekend, no group! |

Give us your opinion - We are thinking of getting rid of our soda machine. It is one of our least energy efficient appliances and costs us over \$80 per year to run. We see no profit from it and as far as we can tell, it is not widely used. Do you have an opinion on this? Let your voice be heard! Contact me at andyb@ucgainesville.org.

~ A Little Child Shall Lead Them ~

UCG Children's Program ~ Director, Heidi Stein

Where is everyone going?

On October 5th the United Tribes had an all Tribe event, "Going to the Mountain – Exit Us." The children gathered in tents near the east parking lot. Pharaoh's minions, (Youth United members) had the tribes perform slave labor. Moses (Sanford Berg) played this same role about 30 years ago at UCG. Moses lobbied on behalf of the slaves to Pharaoh (Scott Winzeler) and finally led the escape from Egypt. Middle School Group members created a wonderful Red Sea that magically parted for the Tribes and blocked Pharaoh and his followers. The whole group then walked for what seemed like "forty years" to Mt. Sinai (the activity time playground structure covered in brown tarps). Moses left Aaron (Taylor Stein) in charge as he went up the mountain. Aaron led a wonderful complaining party that ended with everyone cheering for the golden calf. When Moses came down from the mountain, he helped set the whole group straight with a kid friendly version of the 10 Commandments (that had been lovingly translated by Sandy Reimer) and then directed the group to the Promised Land (a giant bounce house). This sweet and condensed event was truly enjoyed by all, with several cheers of delight from Israelites throughout the reenactment. Prior to the event families were asked to share the story with their children at a level that they were comfortable with. A big thank you to the 47+ volunteers that helped make this memorable occasion possible we couldn't have done it without you.

Ten Commandments; as the children received them on October 5th.

- I am the Lord Your God; you shall not worship any other gods: not a golden calf, not money, not games or toys or clothes or anything else.
- You shall not worship pictures or statues as if they were God.
- You shall honor my name and not use the name of God to swear at people or to say bad things when something happens that you don't like.
- You shall remember that one day each week is the Sabbath, the day when you come to church to worship God, to give thanks for the Earth and all its gifts, and to be with one another.
- Honor and respect your mother and father (and your grandparents too!)
- Do not kill another person.
- Be faithful to your wife or your husband or your partner.
- Do not steal from anyone.
- Do not lie about anyone.
- ♦ Do not be jealous of what other people have.

What's Burning?

The United Tribes held their first Bonfire and Marshmallow Roast on Sunday morning October 19th. It was the introduction of Elizabeth Clark, our new Children's Choir Director. The children sang and enjoyed s'mores. Thanks to Wendy Young for organizing the event.

November & December Schedule

- 11-02-08 Day of the Dead: Remembering loved ones and creating an altar.
- 11-09-08 Extended Activity Time - No United Tribes
- 11-16-08 Pageant Prep: Parts & Costumes
- 11-23-08 Pageant Rehearsal
- 11-30-08 Extended Activity Time: Cookie Decorating
- 12-07-08 9:30 - Christmas Pageant Family Service
- 12-14-08 9:30 – Christmas Crafts



COUNCIL, BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Endowment Fund Trustee Committee

The Endowment Fund Trustee Committee is a committee of the Board of Business. One responsibility of the committee is to consider recommendations for the annual use of UCG's Endowment and to forward that recommendation for approval. The Endowment Funds may be used only for non-recurring projects, which must be approved by the Congregation.

This year, the request was for funds to support the search for the new minister and related one-time costs such as building new office space for that minister. Church by-laws require that the maximum amount that can be spent each year is 5% of the average value of the Fund over four quarters prior to October. The recommendation that was approved at the Committee's October 14th meeting stipulated that funds be withdrawn from money market accounts with an increasing or consistent yield and not from mutual fund accounts. The amount available would be \$8,098.

Funds from the Endowment Fund have supported the following projects:

- 2001 – Church activities during the ministers' sabbaticals.
- 2002 – Church playground renovations.
- 2003 – Seed money to bring in J. Phillip Newell as a visiting lecturer to UCG.
The lecture event paid for itself and the money was returned to the fund.
- 2004 – A new church sign at the corner of 17th Street and 5th Avenue.
- 2005 – Support for the national UCC campaign "God is still speaking."
- 2006 – A water fountain for the playground.
- 2007 – An AED (Automatic Electroshock Defibrillator) and seed money for the publication of Larry and Sandy's book, The Long Winding Journey Home.
- 2008 – Two special projects that are still in progress include: purchase and installation of energy efficient lighting for breeze-way outside fellowship hall and the acoustic improvements for sanctuary and fellowship hall.

Submitted by Karen Archer, Committee Member

IHN News

We had a great bake sale on October 12, 2008 and raised \$234 for the greater Gainesville IHN. On October 20, 10 people participated in the IHN Golf and Walk Marathon at Haile Plantation. We had three golfers, Ron Nutter, Tom Bergbower and Kevin Putansu and seven walkers, Sally Simonis, Tanya Koropeckyj-Cox and her daughter, as well as Ann Gill, Deoyani Sarkhot, Judy Broward and Chuck Broward. There was an awesome dinner served afterwards. The golfers met at Libby Dunn's home in Haile, and Libby then graciously escorted everyone over to the event. IHN raised over \$53,000 from this event, but this was a significant decrease from past years. The needs are greater now than they have ever been due to economic pressures on families. If you wish to donate, you can go to the IHN website and donate on line or by check. The website is www.ihngvl.org/donate.shtml. Their shelter and transitional housing programs cost approximately \$220,000 to operate. With these funds and with the efforts of many wonderful volunteers, they are able to provide 3500+ nights of Shelter and 3700+ nights of transitional housing. IHN also provides comprehensive case management, life skills, parenting, financial management classes and group counseling.

The UCG IHN group is also preparing to host during the Thanksgiving week. This is a week where the need will be great and we hope to have anyone who is in town during this holiday week to consider a few hours of volunteering with IHN. We are also going to celebrate Thanksgiving dinner with UCG members and our IHN guests. Please visit the IHN table beginning October 26 and sign up to help with this important hosting.

Compassion in Action - CIA would like to thank the wonderful people at UCG for their support in our first cold weather clothing drive to support the Home Van. We had a response better than we anticipated. In fact, Home Van was able to fill their needs for the winter, and we had so much left over that we donated the remaining clothing and cold weather gear to other homeless shelters.

Social Justice Committee - In the spirit of a cleaner, healthier Gainesville community, the Social Justice Committee is requesting donations of slightly used bicycles. Members will be able to “check out” these bicycles for use from UCG to go to work, campus, run errands, exercise, etc. Our new “loan a bike” program will be starting soon and we would like your donations. We need just five bicycles to get the program started! Bring your bicycles to church on Sunday, November 23rd. We can do a limited amount of refurbishing, but we hope you’ll bring bikes in basically good shape. Our plan is to have this program in place and bikes ready for check out in January. Please bring bikes only on that day, because we do not have the ability to store them. If we get too many bicycles, we will donate them to Florida farm workers for them to use to get to and from work. If you have any questions, call Maureen Cox or Lindsey Dedow, Social Justice Committee Co-Chairs.

Ministerial Search Committee - The committee met on October 21 to complete the church profile and prepare final documents for the advertisement of the Associate Minister position. Information about the position will be posted on the United Church of Christ (UCC) National Office website where potential candidates can find it. This posting will include a one-sentence description of the position: *Dynamic, multi-generational, theologically diverse and inclusive, ONA congregation of 600+ members in a university community seeks energetic Associate Pastor skilled in pastoral care and in coordination of adult programs, to join our ministerial team.* Other advertisements will be posted in the UCC News, a monthly national newspaper and in Christian Century a weekly publication which is distributed widely. The committee anticipates reviewing ministerial profiles in January.

Upcoming Events

Holiday Supper Club

The next Supper Club dinner will be Saturday, December 13 at 6:30 pm and will showcase a holiday-themed menu featuring Duck a L'Orange. Join us for a celebration of fine food and fun conversation. It's a chance to discover new friends in a relaxed, small-group setting. We meet in groups of 8 or so in people's homes; recipes are provided for diners to use to prepare the dishes and the costs of food and wine are shared equally. Everyone is welcome. Please contact Pat Atkins (patkins_1@msn.com), Sue Hartman (373-1049, hart1man@cox.net), or Susan Kirkland (332-2962, susetack@gmail.com) by **December 1** to sign up or to ask for more information. Let them know if you can host one of the dinners.

Fourth Annual Family Christmas Pageant

It's that time of year again, and I am SO excited! This year promises to be just as fantastic as the previous years, and of course there will be a few surprises thrown in to keep all attendees intrigued and on their toes! For those of you that haven't experienced the "UCG Family Christmas Pageant However Known" yet, this would DEFINITELY be the year to attend! The kids have a blast putting it on for their friends and families, audience participation is integral to a successful performance, plus I can guarantee you've never seen anything like it! **For you parents, please keep a few dates in mind, as they are key to having a Pageant that's smooth sailing:**

Nov. 16th During United Tribes the children will work on their costumes and possibly on learning the songs.

Nov. 23rd Dress Rehearsal!! Please, please try to have your child(ren) come to church at 9:30 on this day.

Dec. 7th PAGEANT DAY!!! We are again fortunate to be able to perform the Pageant in the Sanctuary at the 9:30 service

Thanks in advance to all involved, this is going to be GREAT! ~ Shanna Johnson, Pageant Coordinator

A message about the Children's Christmas Craft Fair

Please help us collect items for the UCG Christmas Craft Fair! We need baby food jars with or without lids, sweet gum balls, and pine cones. We will be collecting these items on Sundays during November. There will be a blue recycle bin by Seminar B.

Sundays in November

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
12:15	Youth United High School Group Post High Group

Worship Theme: Faith in Hard Times

Sunday, November 2 - Daylight Savings Time Ends

8:30—Meditation in the Chapel with Sanford Berg

9:30 & 11:00—“All Saints Day– Families, Healing, Estrangement and Reconciliation” - Larry Reimer.
Both services include Communion

11:00 – Adult Seminar

- ◆ **Lean in Closer: How to Pass on Family Values** with Gretchen Howard.
To love a child is to have many wishes beyond the ones we discuss on their birthday. Parents and families “however known” are invited to join in on this discussion about passing along family values through seven special wishes: peer influences, spirituality, sharing, gratitude, loving someone and making and repairing mistakes.

11:00 - Friendship Group

Sunday, November 9

8:30am—Meditation in the Chapel with Mark Burlingame

9:30 & 11:00— “The Question that Won’t Go Away: Suffering” - Sandy Reimer
Special Music “Another Train” by a UCG Women’s Ensemble

11:00 – Adult Seminars

- ◆ **Empowering Yourself in the Fight Against Holiday Fatigue and Insomnia** - Dean Chance of Chance Chiropractic Center offers advice on how you can re-energize and revitalize yourself during the hectic holiday season. Dean will show a PowerPoint slide presentation and provide handouts for those who attend.
- ◆ **Why Bad Things Happen To Good People-** UCG member Kathy Cantwell, injured in a bike/auto accident 20 years ago, will talk about her life-changing accident, her near death experience, dealing with paralysis and the grace that just happens.
- ◆ **New to UCG? Connect Here!** with the UCG Board of Membership - Whether you are a new member looking for ways to connect with your new church community or have been at UCG for a while but want a fresh look at what's happening, you are invited to this seminar. We will explore ways that UCGers can get involved and make connections. Also, we will help you find answers to any lingering questions you may have about how things work around the church.

12:30-2:30 - Lessons and Carols Sectionals

2:30 – Friends Over Fifty, a pre-registered Adult Small Group

2:45 - Women’s Overnight Committee

4:00 - K-5 Pow Wow Potluck at the Sperbeck-Burgess home

Sunday, November 16

8:30—Meditation in the Chapel with Mary Fukuyama

9:30 & 11:00 — “Faith in Easy Time” - Andy Bachmann

11:00 – Adult Seminars

- ◆ **Women’s Seminar: Creating Our Own Personal Rituals-** UCG member Janet Karlix has encountered comfort and spirit through simple ritual acts that engage the mind and the senses. Come explore and develop your own personal rituals through the use of sights, sounds, textures and smells that move you.

continued next page...

Sunday's Cont'd

- ◆ **Men's Seminar: Thoughts on My Father** - Join Erick Smith and Tom Martucci for a thoughtful seminar that explores the dynamic relationship between father and son. In this seminar, modeled after one of the workshops in the "Hero Sandwich" Men's Retreat, we will write for five minutes and then have a roundtable discussion.

11:00 - Friendship Group

12:30 - Lessons and Carols Rehearsal

2:30 - Sunday at the Movies- A pre-registered Adult Small Group

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

Sunday, November 23

IHN Hosting begins

8:30am—Meditation in the Chapel with Dave Byrd

9:30 & 11:00 - "Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism: The Psalms" Larry Reimer and Andy Bachmann

9:45 - Family Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

11:00 - Adult Seminars:

- ◆ **Soul S-t-r-e-t-c-h** - Physical therapist and UCG member Maria Fiedler will lead you through a series of stretches and movements that engage every part of your body for a refreshing mind/body experience that energizes your heart and rejuvenates your soul.
- ◆ **Giving Gifts from the Heart with Kathryn Kvals and Frederic Desmond.** Frequently the most meaningful gifts are those that are not purchased. Join us for a lively exchange of ideas and practical tips on how to make special memories this holiday season by creating your own gifts. By making gifts, you not only experience the joy of giving, you also gain a sense of satisfaction in making the gifts. Both of these are great values for your children to learn.

12:00 - IHN Steering Committee

12:30 - Lessons and Carols Rehearsal

3:00 - Florida Conference, United Church of Christ, Ecclesiastical Council for Sandy Reimer

First Sunday in Advent, November 30

Worship Theme: Through the Eyes of a Child

IHN Hosting Ends

8:30 - Meditation in the Chapel with Mark Burlingame

9:30 & 11:00 - "Childhood Longing: Don't Forget the Cookies" - Sandy Reimer. Advent reflection booklets will be available.

6:30 - Evening Labyrinth Service

7:30 - Lessons and Carols Rehearsal

Sunday, December 7

9:30 - Children's Christmas Pageant, a family service, in the Sanctuary.

11:00 - Worship Service - "Palling Around with the Divine Child and My Best Christmas"- Larry Reimer
Annual Chili Lunch prepared and served by YU

Visitors' Lunch with the Board of Membership

12:00- Decorating the Sanctuary and Courtyard, coordinated by the Board of Parish Ministry

12:00 - Rehearsal for Lessons and Carols Readers

Where's the Defibrillator?

Just a reminder that UCG does have an Automatic Electronic Defibrillator. It's hanging on the north wall of the room immediately next to the kitchen. It has simple instructions for use.

NOVEMBER 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Art Quilting*9am Gainesville-Hawthorne Trail ride 9:30am Cedar Key Kayaking 2:15pm
2 Daylight Savings Time ends Meditation 8:30am Worship 9:30 & 11 Art in the Library 10:30am Friendship Group 11a	3 Writing Group* 7pm	4 Council Exec 12:00pm	5 Meditation* 12pm Personal Inquiry* 6pm Grief Support* 6pm	6 BPM 6pm BCM 7:15pm Lessons & Carols rehearsal 7:15pm	7 Lunch Groups 12pm	8 Art Quilting*9am Men's Overnight thru Nov. 9
9 Meditation 8:30am Worship 9:30 & 11 Friends over Fifty* 12pm L&C rehearsal 12:30pm K-5 Pow Wow Playgroup 4pm	10	11 Budget Summit 12pm SJC 6:30pm CIA 7pm BOB 7:15pm MS Team 7:30pm Chanting*7:30pm	12 Meditation* 12pm CMRB 12pm OXFAM fast begins Munnis-Connelly Wedding 4pm Personal Inquiry* 6pm	13 OXFAM Dinner 6pm Lessons & Carols rehearsal 7:15pm	14 Lunch Groups 12pm Parent's Night Out 5:30-8:30pm Dances of Universal Peace 7 pm	15 Gators vs. S. Carolina YU Parking
16 Meditation 8:30am Worship 9:30 & 11 Friendship Group 11am L&C reh. 12:30pm Sunday at Movies*2:30pm Crystal Bowl Med.	17 The Morita Principle* 5:30pm Writing Group* 7pm	18	19 Meditation* 12pm Church Council 7:15pm Personal Inquiry* 6pm Grief Support* 6pm	20 Newsletter Deadline- Noon Lessons & Carols rehearsal 7:15pm	21	22 Gators vs Citadel BoB Parking Poser-Wipke Wedding 4:30pm
23 IHN Hosting Meditation 8:30am Worship 9:30 & 11 Pageant Rehearsal 9:45am L&C reh. 12:30pm Ecclesiastical Council for Sandy Reimer 3pm	24 —————>	25 —————>	26 —————>	27 —————> Office Closed Happy Thanksgiving UCG Thanksgiving Dinner 1:30pm	28 —————> Office Closed No Lunch Groups	29 —————>
30 IHN Hosting ends Advent Begins Meditation 8:30am Worship 9:30 & 11am Evening Labyrinth Service 6:30pm L&C rehearsal 7:30pm	* A Pre-registered Adult Small Group					

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

8:30am - 4:30pm

www.ucgainesville.org

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

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

LOOKING AHEAD AT THE UNITED CHURCH OF GAINESVILLE:

- **November 30 –December 14** - Christmas Angels
- **Sunday, December 14** - 11:00am - Children's Christmas Craft Fair
11:00am & 7:00pm – Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
8:00pm - Reception following the evening Lessons & Carols service
- **Wednesday, December 17** – Church Council Christmas Dinner at 6:30pm
- **Sunday, December 21**– All-Church Band
- **Wednesday, December 24** – Christmas Eve Services at 6:30, 8:00 and 10:30pm
- **Saturday, February 7 - Sunday, February 8** - Women's Overnight at Camp Weed
- **Sunday, January 25th** - Winter Congregational Meeting

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20