



United Church of Gainesville

NEWSLETTER

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

OCTOBER 2010

Larry Reimer & Sandy Reimer
Ministers

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Associate Minister

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October Happenings

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I believe that life itself is a prayer. And the prayers we say shape the lives we live, just as the lives we live shape the prayers we say. And it all shapes the kingdom of God, which expresses itself, in us and among us.

~ Ted Loder

Official call to the Annual Fall Congregational Meeting..

~ on Sunday, October 3 at 10:35 in the Sanctuary ~

Child care- and chocolate - are provided

Please join us!



- ◆ The Board of Business will present a proposed budget for 2011 that includes program requests from church boards, committees and staff as well as salary recommendations from the Compensation Committee. We will discuss and vote on this budget.
- ◆ We'll approve a pledge campaign to raise money to fund the 2011 budget. Come and hear the innovative and exciting plans from our Enlistment Co-chairs, Steve Goldstein and Gary Kirkland.

What's Happening in October

Parent's Night Out - Friday, October 8, 5:30 to 8:30pm

Need a night out? PNO is for parents with children infants-5th grade. Drop your kids off at the UCG church school wing on **Friday, October 8th** from 5:30 to 8:30 where they will eat pizza*, watch movies, play games, and have fun with our child care staff. The cost is \$10 for the first child and \$5 for each additional child. **Please RSVP to alysonm@ucgainesville.org by Monday, Tuesday, Oct. 5th.** *Pizza and apple wedges are provided. Due to life threatening food allergies, please do not bring any outside food in.

TGIF Gatherings on Friday, October 8th – 6:00 to 8:30pm

TGIFs are back for fall, a chance to get to know the UCG folks in your neighborhood. All are welcome. Parents, note that this is also PNO, so drop your kids off at church and head for a TGIF. There are three TGIFs, spread around Gainesville, and we hope you will attend the one closest to where you live. You can show up any time between 6 and 8:30pm, stay as long as you can and then head out. You bring a finger-food appetizer or munchie and your favorite Friday beverage to share.

Here are the TGIF locations:

- ♦ **Matt and Larina Hintze** are hosting folks who live east of NW 13th Street - including the NE, SE, Duck Pond and Melrose areas - at their home, 708 NE Blvd
- ♦ **Karen and Jim Archer** are hosting folks who live in the NW, closest to their home, 5706 NW 43 Road.
- ♦ **Tom and Nancy Dana** are hosting folks who live west of I75 and north of the Oaks Mall – including Tower Road, Haile, Williston Road, Archer Road, and Newberry – in their home, 1823 SW 106th Terrace.

Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office, so the hosts have some idea of how many folks to expect. Directions are posted on that bulletin board, so you can take them with you when you sign up.

Crystal Bowl Meditation in the Sanctuary - Sunday, October 10th

from 7:30 to 8:30pm led by Cindy Bergbower. Using the sound of the crystal bowls as a focus of attention, this is an opportunity of deep relaxation of the body and of the mind.

Neighbors in Need Offering – Sunday, October 17th

Neighbors in Need(NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. We will receive our Neighbors in Need offering on Sunday October 17. Checks may be made out to The United Church of Gainesville with "Neighbors in Need" in the memo line. For more information, check out www.ucc.org/nin

UCG Rummage Sale - October 22, 2- 6pm and October 23, 7am-1pm

If you would like to donate items for the sale, **drop off is October 19-21, 4-7pm each day.** Volunteer sign-ups will be October 3rd, 10th & 17th in the Courtyard between services. We're looking for volunteers to help with set up/pricing prior to the sale, cashiers, haulers and general at-large volunteers for the sale itself. **If you would like to volunteer / need more info, contact Salina Kiker at salinabee@hotmail.com, or Shanna Johnson at butterbean1016@gmail.com.**

UCG Supper Club - Saturday, October 30, 7:00pm

Supper Club Sets A Spanish Table – The fall Supper Club dinner will be held **Saturday, October 30, at 7:00 pm** (due to the 3:30 pm Florida-Georgia game). We'll enjoy paella complemented with a wonderful Spanish appetizer, soup, salad, and dessert. We meet in groups of 8 or so in people's homes to enjoy good food and conversation in small-group settings. Recipes are provided for diners to use in preparing the dishes, and the costs of food and wine are shared equally. Singles and couples are welcome. Please contact Sue Hartman (373-1049, hart1man@cox.net) or Susan Kirkland (332-2962, susetack@gmail.com) by **Monday, October 18** to sign up or to ask for more information. Let them know if you can host one of the groups.

Continued on next page

What's Happening in October

Pride 2010

Pam Smith, Pride Parade Committee Chairwoman

Since 1991, UCG has been an Open and Affirming congregation, welcoming lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people into every area of our life and leadership. UCG will be celebrating its Pride this October along with much of the Gainesville community. We will be marching together as a church in the Gainesville Pride Parade on October 23rd at, and we will continue the celebration the following morning in worship at our Pride Service on October 24th. Here are ways you can participate:

Join us for the parade...

The parade will be on Saturday, Oct. 23rd, starting at 1pm, and we want to have a big presence! We will march together along University Ave. from NW 7th St. to the Downtown Plaza. Larry and Sandy will lead us in their antique 1929 Ford with it's rumble seat. We will also have a truck carrying a drumming group which you can sign up for! Our theme is "Gay and Straight Together." We hope to have 100 of us marching: kids, teens, and adults! You can ride in one of the vehicles if you can't walk (let us know ahead of time so that we are sure to have the space).

Buy a T-shirt...

We are printing up T-Shirts (designed by Tracy Bachmann) that we can all wear on Saturday and/or Sunday. These will be on sale (for \$10) in the courtyard between services on Oct 3rd, 10th, and 17th. Please join us in standing up for unity and compassion and show everyone how fun it can be!

Come to worship...

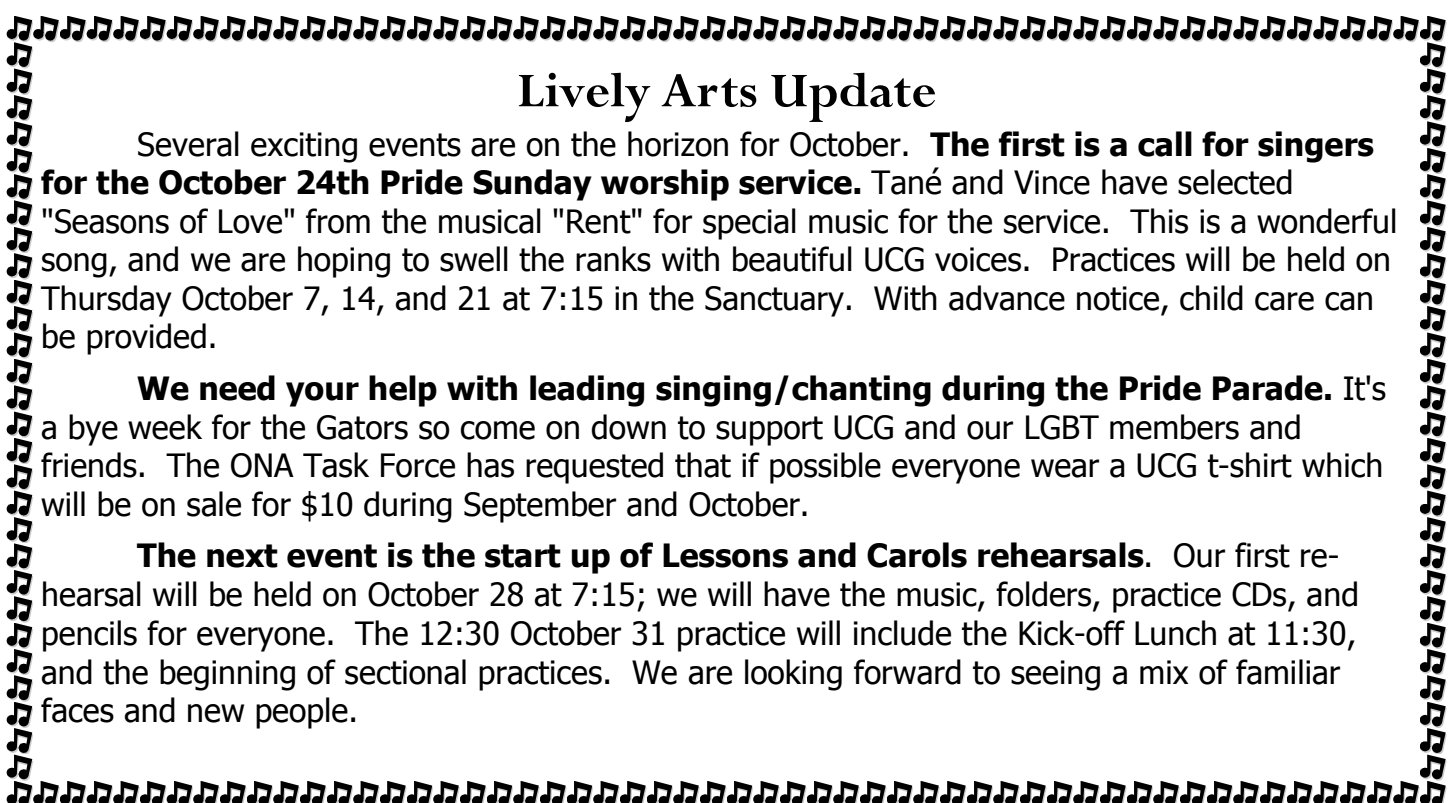
The Pride Services will be celebration in the true UCG style with the choir singing "Seasons of Love" from *Rent*, a combined Pickers and Strutters megaband, and reflections on spirituality and sexuality from UCG members. Wear your T- shirt for this exciting service.

Lively Arts Update

Several exciting events are on the horizon for October. **The first is a call for singers for the October 24th Pride Sunday worship service.** Tané and Vince have selected "Seasons of Love" from the musical "Rent" for special music for the service. This is a wonderful song, and we are hoping to swell the ranks with beautiful UCG voices. Practices will be held on Thursday October 7, 14, and 21 at 7:15 in the Sanctuary. With advance notice, child care can be provided.

We need your help with leading singing/chanting during the Pride Parade. It's a bye week for the Gators so come on down to support UCG and our LGBT members and friends. The ONA Task Force has requested that if possible everyone wear a UCG t-shirt which will be on sale for \$10 during September and October.

The next event is the start up of Lessons and Carols rehearsals. Our first rehearsal will be held on October 28 at 7:15; we will have the music, folders, practice CDs, and pencils for everyone. The 12:30 October 31 practice will include the Kick-off Lunch at 11:30, and the beginning of sectional practices. We are looking forward to seeing a mix of familiar faces and new people.



The Seventh Trumpet

UCG –Terry Jones – and Al Jazeera, a brief recap

I first heard of Gainesville Pastor Terry Jones' plan to burn a Quran when I returned from my vacation in mid-August. Since Quran burning appeared to be just another of Jones' stunts, the consensus among clergy and local activists was not to give him any more attention. But then through the weird science of the web and cable media's attraction to the odd, Jones' plan went international. It became clear that ignoring him would not make him go away, and silence started seeming like consent.

Soon everyone was asking what we were going to do. I figured that a simple and effective witness would be to gather as many different faith communities as possible to do a common reading from Hebrew and Christian Scripture along with the Quran at Sabbath services on Saturday September 11 and Sunday September 12.

Two things started happening at once. First, a variety of interfaith services were springing up, one at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church and another at Trinity United Methodist. The Committee on American Islamic Relations in Tampa gathered a dozen Muslim representatives in Gainesville to meet with whatever clergy I could gather to talk about the common reading of the Quran. The gathering with the Muslim leaders uncorked massive energy. It was an opportunity for Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish clergy to hear the heartache this planned Quran burning was causing our Muslim sisters and brothers.

Second, at this time we could not get a hearing in the local media. Here we had over twenty-five religious leaders of all faiths, including three rabbis, pledging to read from the Quran, and no one would cover it.

We scheduled a press conference at Gainesville City Hall on September 1. I had never organized something like this, and I was in a state of high anxiety. But when the time came, clergy spoke succinctly, as I had asked. Press showed up. It became clear that Gainesville had another voice of faith, one that said we had more in common than in conflict across religious lines, and that the people of faith in Gainesville would not be silent in the face of this sacrilege.

The Gainesville Sun still would not print the names of all the participating religious organizations, so we paid for a quarter page ad to list their names.

At this point the media discovered us. Damien Cave, NY Times Florida reporter wrote a great article highlighting the interfaith effort in Gainesville. Suddenly I was getting calls from all over the country and around the world. We made it clear to the world that Christians and Jews were standing in solidarity with our Muslim sisters and brothers.

A Muslim in Montreal wrote that he believed that God was like the ocean and our different religions were all like rivers and streams flowing to that same ocean. A Canadian soldier stationed in Afghanistan thanked us for our cooperative efforts.

Gainesville resident Mickey Singer quietly started an online petition asking Terry Jones not to burn the Quran. Within a week and a half, it had 8,456 signatures from ninety-seven countries, which we delivered to the Dove church on September 10.

On September 12, Al Jazeera had a camera at the UCG 9:30 service and broadcast Zoharah Simmons, an African American woman, reading from the bible and the Quran at UCG to Arab countries around the world. In the end, and nobody knows exactly why, Terry Jones decided not to burn the Quran.

I'll share more of this story and the meaning I took away from it in my sermon on October 3, but in this moment I want to thank all of you, the staff and members of UCG who supported this effort so fully. Reaching across religious lines and standing for one another is the core value of our church. It was good to know that when the call came to stand up for our Muslim sisters and brothers, we all responded.

Larry

THRESHOLDS

... SANDY REIMER

I hope you have enjoyed the wonderful addition in worship of our newly mounted projector and retractable screen. We are in the process of purchasing a dedicated laptop, with Power Point, to use with this system. We'll be trying a variety of ways to use this technology to enhance our worship over the next months; we look forward to your feedback. It's also clear that we need to have a team of volunteers who are able to run this equipment for us. So, if you like to learn and use technology, and you are willing to volunteer some Sundays for us, please come to one of the **Tech Training sessions on Tuesday, October 5 at 6:45pm or Thursday, October 7 at 6:30pm** with Andy Bachmann in the Sanctuary. It will take 30-40 minutes. Please let the office know which session you can attend.

I want to follow up a bit on my sermon from September 12, when I spoke about the ways that both life and death happen when we are making other plans. Talking about death, making decisions about our own death and legacy, and having in place the important information that our loved ones need – none of these are easy. All take serious reflection and planning.

I believe that we can support one another, as a spiritual community, in this process. I've heard from several people in the past weeks who have found and who are developing helpful resources for the information collation. I will pass those along to you as I receive them, including:

- ◆ [A Clergy Guide to End-of-Life Issues](#), by Martha R. Jacobs, Pilgrim Press, 2010.
- ◆ EndLink, an Internet-based-end-of-life care education program established by the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, "http://endlink.lurie.northwestern.edu/more_about/communities.cfm.
- ◆ "Five Wishes" at www.agingwithdignity.org;
- ◆ Funeral Consumers Alliance. Contact at www.funerals.org. A national, nonprofit, nonsectarian organization dedicated to protecting the public's right to choose meaningful, dignified, affordable funerals.
- ◆ www.deathisnottheenemy.com with information about how to purchase additional resources, including the booklet *Caring Conversations*.

On Sunday, October 31st, there will be an 11:00 seminar on End of Life Issues, led by Jim Wagner, former Chaplain at Shands Hospital and currently the Grace Osborn Clinical Assistant Professor Program in Bioethics, Law, and Medical Professionalism, U.F. College of Medicine. Jim is also a Board Member of Conservation Burial, which oversees the newly opened Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery in Alachua County. Through Jim, I have been invited, along with several other local clergy, to participate in a **Ceremony of Blessing for the Prairie Creek Conservation Cemetery on Tuesday, October 19 at 2:30pm**. If you would like to join me at that blessing and take this opportunity to see the cemetery and learn more about it, please contact me and we will set up a carpool(s) leaving from the church about 1:45 and returning about 4:15 that afternoon.

I am very pleased that we will have an **All Saints Service on Wednesday, November 3rd at 7:00pm** in the Sanctuary.* This service will last one hour; child care will be provided. Our Celtic spiritual ancestors believed that the veil between heaven and earth is very thin, and the spirits of those we love who have died are closely around us. Halloween itself was originally All-Hallows-Eve, a time when people remembered and celebrated their deceased loved ones. So plan to join us for this quiet and meaningful service as we bring our grief and our memories and our hope together with one another in a safe and supportive time and place. * There will be an opportunity to walk the Labyrinth on this evening as well.

Continued on next page

THRESHOLDS, CONT'D

On Sunday, November 7th, at both services, we will remember in prayer, not only our own family members and friends, but also the UCG members of this church who have died. We will toll the bell and read the names of those UCG member who died this past year.

In this season of transitions, as summer passes into autumn (however subtly and slowly) and in all the changes in your life, may you know God's presence. Lawrence Kushner says, "A baby is born. A child becomes an adult. One enters one room; one leaves another room. Someone we love dies. One sets out on a journey. One's life changes. *Blessed may you be in your coming in and blessed may you be in your going out and blessed may you be in all the spaces in between. God is there.*"

PASSAGES

- ◆ We welcome with joy Remy Raye Bachmann, daughter of Tracy and Andy Bachmann and sister of Judah and Stella Bachman, born Saturday, September 18 at 3:27am. She weighed 7lbs 14ozs and everyone is doing great!

Survey Sunday - Be Part of the Map!

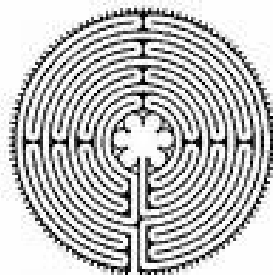
October 10th will be Survey Sunday at UCG, the culmination of our three-year survey process. By the end of the day on the 10th we hope that most of the congregation will have completed the survey. To that end, we encourage everyone to fill out the survey online between now and then at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/ucgsurvey>. On Survey Sunday, we will have a number of computers set up at church for those who do not have internet access or do not feel comfortable navigating the survey by themselves. Computer savvy folks will be on hand to answer any questions you may have. There will also be paper copies available for those who need them, and we encourage you to fill them out at church and turn them in rather than taking them home. The three-year survey is a vital part of congregational life at UCG, so make sure you give your input. Be the map!

Baptism Available this Fall

If you would like to be baptized, or if you wish a baptism for your child(ren), we will be celebrating the sacrament of **baptism on Sunday, October 17 and on Sunday, November 21**. Please contact Sandy Reimer through the church office, and we will schedule the baptism at one of the worship services on either of those Sundays.

Looking Ahead to the Labyrinth

The Labyrinth will be available in the Sanctuary, Tuesday November 2 - 11:00am to 8:00pm, Wednesday, November 3 from 8am to 8:00pm with the All Saints Service including the Labyrinth from 7:00 to 8:00pm and on Thursday, November 4 from 8am to 8pm.



OCTOBER OBSERVATIONS: A MESSAGE FROM ANDY

It has been such a blessing to us to witness and participate in the outpouring of love and support from all of you during these first precious few weeks of Remy's life. From the food to the well wishes, the love is made real before our very eyes. Thank you all, from the whole Bachmann clan, for all you have done for us.

October is a great month for planting that fall and winter garden. After the beautiful harvest moon last week, and the arrival of fall, it's time to plant the seeds of potential. In our youth groups, we are enhancing our understandings of our world and our connections to it. We are cultivating the garden of good faith in each other with more opportunities to get to know each other on new levels.

This month sees some great outreach events that I hope you will take advantage of, because they are the seeds of great things to come in the months ahead. Our partnership with Rebuilding Together will require some weekends of work for those of you who like to swing a hammer (or would like to learn how!). Please sign up NOW for our work sessions on October 17, 23 and 30. Our first IHN hosting of this academic calendar will need plenty of volunteers, and we hope your ministry with IHN will continue to grow and blossom in the future. Find a spot to fit in the week of October 24-31.

Plenty going on around these parts. I hope you'll hop in and get your hands dirty with us.

Youth Calendars

MSG *(MSG meets at 11 am in the Youth Room, unless otherwise noted)

- 10-3 Field Trip to a Print Shop! Permission slips required!**
- 10-9 (Saturday) MSG Football Parking! All hands on deck! Look for Elisa's email for times!**
- 10-10 Make a MSG T-Shirt of your very own! Please remember to bring your own t-shirt to print on!**
- 10-17 Wall o' Wii good times games!**
- 10-24 Cookie Baking for our IHN guests, with John Bollinger and help YU set up IHN**
- 10-31 Walk and Talk to Dunkin' Donuts**

Youth United*(YU meets the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 5:30-7 in the Fellowship Hall)

Please note: our Mystery Trip has been rescheduled to the weekend of November 12-14. Sign-ups are necessary! Also, we're looking for a few good parents to bring us some dinners on October 17 and November 7. Please contact Trish Thoburn at trishfl@ufl.edu or 336-9013 if you can help us out!

- 10-3 Special Guest speaker from IHN**
- 10-17 Wall o' Wii!**
- 10-24 at 12 noon YU will help set-up our IHN home at UCG!**
- 10-29 (Friday night) Youth United will cook dinner for IHN**

Parents and High Schoolers: If you are not receiving email updates regarding YU events, we may have missed you on our mailing list. If you would like to be added, please contact Alyson in the church office. You can also find us on Facebook.



As we prepare for Gainesville's Pride Parade and our own Pride service, I've asked a few UCG members to write about why it is important to them to be part of our community's celebration of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people. Here's what they had to say:

Why I'm Marching...

Lizz Nehls

I march because I am proud. I am proud of who I am. I march to show that I am not afraid of who I am or of showing the world who I am, because who I am is just like everyone else. I am not ashamed and I have nothing to hide, so I march. I march in support of my gay community and to show those still hidden in the closet that it is ok and safe to come out and be proud. And finally I march to keep our cause for equality in the public eye and to show we won't back down until we are treated equally, just like our constitution states we should be treated.

Tim Martin

I will be walking with my UCG friends in the Pride Parade because I believe that the quest for LGBT equality is the civil rights struggle of my generation. Like the racial and gender rights that have evolved in our country over generations, I believe that LGBT equality is inevitable, but will likely come slowly and in fits and starts. By standing in solidarity with my LGBT brothers and sisters, I hope that I can both help speed up this process, and also strengthen the resolve of those who have waited too long to be recognized. See you on October 23rd!

Sue Littell

When our son, Ramey, who was 27, told us he was gay in 1997, I think my first reaction was fear: fear of AIDs, and fear of homophobia. I was afraid of what the world would do to my son. I remember saying, "But it will be so hard, Ramey;" And his reply, "What's been hard is up to now." I hadn't yet understood that Ramey was just starting to experience the happiest time of his life. He had fallen in love. I believe Ramey coming out was a courageous act toward change, and my love for him deepened. I want to be a part of this hopeful change in the world, a world that will openly bless, nurture, and celebrate the precious lives of all our children. That's why I'm marching.

Thanksgiving at UCG

Our annual **Thanksgiving dinner** here at the church on Thanksgiving Day is fast approaching. We buy pre-cooked turkeys and have guests bring all the side dishes and desserts to share. Each year the UCG folks who attend have a wonderful time together. It's time now to see who is interested in having Thanksgiving dinner here and who is willing to be part of the planning committee to coordinate this event. You can e-mail Vince or you can sign up on the volunteer sheet outside the church office. **We need to have a coordinator(s) by mid- October in order to offer this meal.** We have great notes from previous years and four folks who are already willing to help.

New Book Group Forming

Love Harry Potter, Twilight, or Percy Jackson? Ever try to have a conversation about the latest Hunger Games or Chris Crutcher book and have people stare at you blankly? Want to revisit the books of your youth? This book group is for adults who love young adult and children's fiction and crave the company of other adults who share that love. The group meets the 2nd Sunday of the month at 2:00pm beginning October 10 and will rotate meetings at member's homes. For more information contact Akilah Brown. Registration limited to 10 people.

~ A Little Child Shall Lead Them ~

UCG Children's Program ~ Director, Heidi Stein

How many kids are there?

The first six weeks of United Tribes were a great success. Thank you parents for your commitment. Attendance was awesome. We have approximately eighty children that we provide curriculum and programming for each Sunday. Each group meets with a consistent guide or preschool teacher. If you want to join the fun we welcome church members to volunteer as teachers and classroom helpers. Sign up on the teacher request board outside of the church doors or contact Heidi Stein at steinags@cox.net for more information.

Where do all those children go?

Our program runs on a rotation. Children K-5th grade rotate rooms almost every Sunday. The rooms for each age group are posted on the church school bulletin board outside of the Library. Parents, if your child has trouble with transitions or is unable to follow their class and guide independently, please help your child get to their classroom

Who is that?

In celebration of Halloween United Tribe members are welcome to wear a costume to church on October 31st.

Schedule

- 10-03-10 Heaven and Earth Rotation –Bring your Bibles.
- 10-10-10 Heaven and Earth Rotation -Bring your Bibles.
- 10-17-10 Heaven and Earth- All Tribe Event
- 10-24-10 Heaven and Earth – All Tribe Even Continued



With Thanks...

Heidi, Taylor, Rachel, Lucy and Joe Stein would like to thank their UCG family for the love and support offered during the passing of Heidi's father. It really helped during this difficult time and we are thankful.

Thank you to Deirdre Vermerris for generously donating her play house to UCG's playground. Also, thanks to her parents Lauren McIntyre and Wilfred Vermerris. And a big thank you to the house movers; Mike Myers, Jeff Bunkin, Matt Gitzendanner, Doug Kiker, Scott Nelson, Michael Pellett, Mike Stapleton, Yoquarius Tucker and Wilfred Vermerris.

A special thanks to our Visual Arts Team for their creative enhancement of the Sanctuary for this Worship Theme which has included the bamboo scaffolding, Sanctuary banners, Sacred faces and places outside banners, our worship bulletin covers, and the projection of images in the front of the Sanctuary:

Dawn Beachy, Wilson Bell, Michelle Benoit, Linda Dahl, Matt Dube, Dick Elkins, Jessica Elkins, Diane Farris, Barbara Gibbs, Sue Hartman, Ryan Holman, Susan James, Ann Lusk, Davis McGlathery, John Moran, Mike Myers, and Phoebe Papadi

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

CMRB

An important question that we can all ask ourselves as a church is “How can we as a growing, 700+ member congregation continue thriving as a church that lives out the promise of the UCG Compact?” I think one of the best ways we can do this is by participating in the formulation of our new 3-year plan. Our 3-year plan is a document that states our vision as a church, who we want to be and what we want to do, in the coming few years – a map for our journey together. One of the most important tools for the drawing of this map is the All-Church Survey. This confidential survey enables church members and official friends to define who we are and what we think is important for our church to be and to do. The questions on the survey have been carefully chosen with input from all UCG Boards and leadership to provide the information necessary to guide the formulation of the 3-year plan. **Starting Sunday, September 26, and continuing through Survey Sunday on October 10**, we will all have the opportunity to respond to the survey. To take the survey, just go to this link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ucgsurvey>

The survey is completely confidential, and should take about 20 minutes to complete. UCG is a very diverse spiritual community. In order to make an accurate map for our journey, it is important that we receive feedback from the full range of membership. In other words, everyone’s directions are needed to ensure we find our way to our destination. Help point the way today!

ENLISTMENT

The 2010 UCG pledge drive begins Oct. 4 – a month earlier than usual – in what we hope will be a spiritually enriching, informative and fun approach to the serious business of supporting the church budget for 2011.

Steve Goldstein and I are teaming to head this year's drive. Our theme is “We Are Travelers on a Journey,” so buckle up. We'll explain the theme and highlight the many reasons you would want to pledge. And to get those pledge cards in early, Steve will again spice up the drive with drawings for a variety of cool prizes – what we call blessed carrots of compliance. While we'll give you the details later, believe me when I say you'll want to get your pledge in early to qualify, because some great gifts will be available to the earliest of early birds.

Each Sunday we'll give you an update. And our hope is that the evil demons of pledging procrastination will be cast out and we'll have all the pledges in by the end of the month. If you are new to the process, it's through your pledges of financial support that the church pays its bills and supports all of the wonderful programs we have at UCG. At our congregational meeting we'll explain and discuss the budget in detail. Your pledge is the amount you'll be giving UCG in the coming year. Some members pay weekly, others pay monthly or quarterly. How you meet your pledge is up to you. Putting that pledge in writing gives us concrete figures to work with in our budgeting. It's something you'll want to seriously consider. ~ Gary Kirkland

OUTREACH EVENTS

October 3rd is “Food First” Sunday. Bring your canned goods and shelf stable foods for donation to the Gainesville Community Ministry! Please bring your items to worship, and **Compassion in Action** will take it from there! This collection is one Sunday per month, please do not bring food to the Church office.

UCG **Social Justice Committee** is hosting another build project with **Rebuilding Together**. We have taken on the challenge of building a bathroom and kitchen for a resident of Gainesville. We will ALWAYS have skilled overseers at our worksite, who can put you into a job you feel comfortable with, or would simply like to try! Please sign-up for a slot to help, the weekends of October 16, 23 and 30.

IHN hosting is October 24-31. It takes many volunteers to have a successful hosting. Please visit the table in the Courtyard on Sunday mornings to see how you can help. Also the **Interfaith Hospitality Network** is hosting its annual **Golf and Walk fundraiser** the weekend of October 17th. We are submitting a team this year, and they are looking for your financial support! On Sunday, October 10 Tom Bergbower will be driving for your dollars! If you can support IHN with any financial contributions, they would really appreciate it! Look for their table on the 10th in the Memory Garden.

Sundays in October

Regular Sunday Schedule (unless otherwise noted below)

9:15 - 12:15	Nursery & Toddler Care
9:30	Worship
9:45	United Tribes
10:30	Fellowship Time
10:45	Children's Activity Time
11:00	Worship; Adult Seminars; Middle School Group
12:00	Campus Ministry

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3– Fall Congregational Meeting - No 11:00am service

8:30– This is World-Wide Communion Sunday, when Christians throughout the United States and the world are participating in Communion. Sandy Reimer will lead a 40 minute **Communion service in the Chapel**, including quiet time for prayer and meditation.

9:30 - **Worship** - “A Testimony of Our Church - The Story of UCG and the Quran (non) Burning” – Larry Reimer

10:35 - **Fall Congregational Meeting** - Sanctuary

No Adult Seminars this Sunday

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

5:00 - **Dream Group*** with Alice Martin - Seminar A

5:30 - **Youth United** - Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10 - New Members Join & Survey Sunday

8:30 – **Sunday Morning Meditation** - led by Darrell Hartman

9:30 & 11:00am - **Worship** - New Members join our congregation at both services, which include Communion. The choir will sing “Gather Us In” as several members of the congregation bring in the bread, and wine and juice. Sandy Reimer’s sermon is “**A New Earth: The Power of Half.**”

9:30am - “**Justice Seminar**”

11:00 – **Adult Seminars**

Helping Those in Crisis - What brings someone into crisis mode is different for everyone, but a crisis can leave you without a sense of safety, control or connection. Join Ali Martinez, Training Coordinator from the Alachua County Crisis Center to learn how to identify and engage someone in crisis, what to do if they are in danger and how to help!

Bread, Beer and the Seeds of Change with Tom Sinclair - Tom & Carol Sinclair were inspired by UCG's Supper Club to investigate what people ate throughout history and how the foodstuffs were grown. They learned that -- surprisingly -- until very modern history the diet of nearly all people was essentially bread and beer! The history of humankind is intimately tied to the history of agriculture: powerful societies rose, persisted and waned in parallel with their grain supply systems. Tom will discuss this historical perspective as well as implications for future agriculture and food supply.

11:00 - **The Bible Challenge*** - Seminar A

12:00 - **New Members Potluck** - Fellowship Hall

12:15 - **Middle School & High School Teams** - West Wing

5:00 - **Dream Group*** with Alice Martin - Seminar A

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17 - Neighbors in Need Offering

8:30 – **Sunday Morning Meditation**

9:30 & 11:00 – **Worship Services-** with Andy Bachmann

Cont'd on next page

Sundays continued...

OCTOBER 17 CONTINUED

9:30am - **“Justice” Seminar**

11:00 – **Adult Seminar**

Minister’s Seminar— Imagining Heaven’s Peculiarities with Larry Reimer - We will share a few of the scenarios of heaven offered in *Sum - Forty Tales from the Afterlives* by David Eagleman, which has been referenced throughout our New Heaven and New Earth worship theme. Then we’ll imagine some heavens of our own..

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

12:00 - **Friends Over 50***

12:15 - **Going Deeper Dream Group*** - West Wing

5:00 - **Dream Group*** with Alice Martin - Seminar A

5:30 - **Youth United**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24 - Pride Sunday

IHN Hosting Begins

8:30 – **Sunday Morning Meditation** led by Mary Fukuyama

9:30 & 11:00 - **Worship Service - “Pride Sunday”** - Vince Amlin

9:30am - **“Justice Seminar”**

11:00 - **Adult Seminars**

Barrels of Hope for Haiti with Mike Amish, Indigo Green Building Solutions - Barrels of Hope for Haiti is an initiative sponsored by the Heart of Florida chapter of the US Green Business Council. Since the earthquake in Haiti last January, Barrels of Hope has been working to send both rain barrels and supplies to create earth bag houses to Haiti. This seminar will introduce you to the project and let you know how you can help.

12:00 - **IHN Steering Committee**– Kitchen

12:15 - **Going Deeper*** West Wing

2:30 - **Sunday at the Movies***

5:00 - **Dream Group*** with Alice Martin - Seminar A

New Worship Theme - “Year of Living”

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31 - IHN Hosting Ends

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

9:30 & 11:00 - **Worship** - Andy Bachmann

9:30am - **“Justice Seminar”**

11:00 - **Adult Seminars**

Treatment at the End of Life: How to Make your Advance Directive Work with UF member Jim Wagner, Program in Bioethics, Law, and Medical Professionalism, UF College of Medicine - If hospitalized and unable to speak for yourself, how can you increase the likelihood you will get the care you want? Though hospitals are now required to make patients aware of Advance Directives (AD) and to place copies of them in the medical record, fewer than 20% of adults complete an AD. Among patients who do, there are many reports from surviving loved ones that the patient still did not have their treatment preferences respected. This seminar will offer some practical suggestions for making your AD work to ensure that your personal treatment preferences are honored.

Nurturing Creativity: A TEDTalk with Elizabeth Gilbert with Wendy-Lin Bartels - TED is a not for profit dedicated to “ideas worth spreading.” Their TEDTalks feature important thinkers across many disciplines and have become an internet sensation. In this seminar we will watch Elizabeth Gilbert’s (author of *Eat, Pray, Love*) TEDTalk on nurturing creativity and follow it with our own discussion.

11:30 - **Lessons & Carols Kick Off Lunch**

12:15 - **Going Deeper*** West Wing

12:30 - **Lessons & Carols Sectionals**

** Pre-registered Adult Small Group*

OCTOBER 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>3 Meditation 8:30am Worship 9:30</p> <p>Fall Congregational Meeting 10:35am Friendship Group 11am</p> <p>Dreams– Alice Martin* 5pm</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Investment Trustees 5:30pm ONA 6pm Tech Training 6:45pm BAP 7pm UCG Live Poets* 7pm</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Council Exec 12pm</p>	<p>7</p> <p>BPM 5:30pm Tech Training 6:30pm BCM 7pm Mindfulness* 7pm Choir 7:15pm</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Lunch Groups 12pm PNO 5:30pm Fall TGIF's 6 - 8:30pm Dances of Universal Peace 7:30pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>UF vs LSU MSG Football Parking</p>
<p>10</p> <p>Meditation 8:30am Worship 9:30 & 11 New Members Survey Sunday MS/HS teams 12p New Member Potluck 12pm Dreams– Alice Martin* 5pm Crystal Bowl</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Budget Summit 1:30pm Stadiums*5:30p SJC 6:30pm CIA 5:30pm BOB 7:15pm</p>	<p>13</p> <p>CMRB 12pm</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Women's Overnight Planning 4pm Revelation* 7pm Mindfulness* 7pm Choir 7:15pm</p>	<p>15</p> <p>UF Homecoming Holiday– Office Closed No lunch Groups</p>	<p>16</p> <p>UF vs Ole Miss Football Parking CIA Rebuild Together 8am</p>
<p>17</p> <p>Cedar Key Kayak* Meditation 8:30am Worship 9:30 & 11 Frship Group 11am Friends > 50*12pm Going Deeper* 12:30p Dreams– Alice Martin* 5pm YU 5:30pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>3rd Monday Project/Craft Night* 7:30pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Stadiums*5:30p Alzheimer/ Dementia Support 7pm UCG Live Poets* 7pm</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline noon Church Council 5:30pm</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Revelation* 7pm Mindfulness* 7pm Choir 7:15pm</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Lunch Groups 12pm UCG Rummage Sale 2-6pm</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Rebuild Together 8am UCG Rummage Sale 7am-1pm Pride Parade 1pm</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Meditation 8:30am Pride Sunday IHN Hosting begins Worship 9:30 & 11 IHN Steering 12pm Going Deeper* 12:30p Sunday Movies*2p Dreams– Alice Martin* 5pm</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>IHN Hosting this week & Reimer's week off</p>				<p>30</p>
		<p>Stadiums*5:30p</p>	<p>Newsletter Folding 10:30am Dreams* Trish Peterson 7:30pm</p>	<p>Revelation* 7pm Lessons & Carols rehearsal 7:15pm</p>	<p>Lunch Groups 12pm</p>	<p>Rebuild Together 8am Supper Club 7pm</p>
<p>31</p> <p>Meditation 8:30am Worship 9:30 & 11am IHN Hosting ends L & C Kick-off lunch 11:30am L&C Sectionals 12:30pm Going Deeper* 12:30pm</p>						

OF COMMUNITY INTEREST.....

Candidates Corner Returns to UCG- Those candidates who were "survivors" from the August elections will be invited to visit with us again on October 10 and 17, just prior to the beginning of early voting on October 18. Party nominees for two seats on the County Commission will be invited as will the run-off survivors for County School Board: Griffin v. Nesbitt and Oyenarte v. Vinson. We may have participation from Congressional candidates as well. Information will be available on the pros and cons of various initiatives that will be seen on the November ballot, as well as information about early and absentee voting. If you have any questions, contact Jerry Rose at 352-378-8858.

The Greater Gainesville Action Network gathering to present its health care initiative for children to our legislators "Kids Can't Wait" will be held Sunday, October 17 at 1:00 at Faith Baptist Church, 2905 SE 21st Ave. This is a gathering of representatives from all the Action Network churches, one of the best multi-racial interfaith coalitions in Gainesville. Faith Baptist is near Celebration Oaks where we built our last Habitat House. Watch for more details.

The Islamic Community Center of Gainesville

presents

The Muslim Film Series

at the

Hippodrome



INSIDE ISLAM:

**What a Billion Muslims
Really Think**

Tuesday, October 5th, 2010

7:00pm - 9:00pm

Hippodrome Theatre

Seating is Limited. Please contact iccgmovienight@gmail.com to reserve your free tickets.

Refreshments will be served



Only 9 spots left!

UNITED CHURCH OF
GAINESVILLE

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NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20

LOOKING AHEAD:

- | | | |
|------------------------|---|---|
| November 6-7 | - | Men's Overnight at Camp Montgomery |
| November 17-18 | - | OxFam Fast and supper |
| Sunday, December 5 | - | Children's Christmas Pageant
YU Chili Lunch |
| Sunday, December 12 | - | Services of Lessons & Carols at 11am & 7pm
Children's Christmas Craft Fair at 9:30am |
| Friday, December 24 | - | Christmas Eve Services at 6:00, 8:00 &
10:30pm |
| Sat.-Sun, February 5-6 | - | Women's Overnight |
| April 29 - May 1 | - | Annual UCG All Church Retreat
(Note change in usual weekend) |

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20