



United Church of Gainesville

NEWSLETTER

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

OCTOBER 2011

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October Happenings

- ◆ "Food First" food drive October 2
- ◆ Fall TGIF's October 7 - page 2
- ◆ New Members Join UCG October 9 at 9:30 & 11:00am
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Official call to the Annual Fall Congregational Meeting

on Sunday, October 2 at 10:35 in the Sanctuary

Child care and chocolate are provided - Please join us!



- ◆ discussion and vote on our proposed 2012 budget that includes program requests from church boards, committees and staff as well as staff salary recommendations.
- ◆ information and approval of our Pledge Enlistment Pledge campaign to raise money to fund the 2012 budget
- ◆ discussion and vote on two "house-keeping" By-Law changes. *Information on page 14; a full copy is available electronically by calling the church office or on the foyer counter in the Sanctuary*

The Enlistment campaign to support UCG's 2012 budget will begin on October 2 and end November 6. Our theme for the campaign is "We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand." - Details on page 5

It is the heart that gives, the fingers just let go ~ A Nigerian saying

What's Happening in October

TGIF Gatherings on Friday, October 7th – 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. 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:

- ◆ **Joanne & Richard Pohlman** are hosting folks who live in the NW, closest to their home, 3549 NW 30th Place.
- ◆ **Catherine & Sanford Berg** are hosting folks that live E of NW 13th Street - including the NE, SE, Duck Pond and Melrose areas - at their home, 3009 NW 1st Avenue.
- ◆ **Mark & Lori Robinson** are hosting folks who live in the SW in their home, 1168 SW 25th Place.

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

Neighbors in Need Offering – Sunday, October 9th

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is the annual offering for the United Church of Christ's social justice work in this country. This year, NIN is a primary focus for the UCC's Mission 1 program. While we will be participating in Mission 1, our fundraising at that time will be for OXFAM; which means this collection for NIN is extra important this year. The United Church of Christ hopes to raise \$111,111 for Neighbors in Need this year. We hope you will help us do our part.

Parent's Night Out - Friday, October 14, 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 14th** 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 Lindaj@ucgainesville.org by Tuesday, Oct. 11th.** *Pizza and apple wedges are provided. Due to life threatening food allergies, please do not bring any outside food in.

Game Night! Fri. evening, Oct. 14th from 7-9pm

Come for a game night with the young adult group. Bring your favorite board games or a snack to share! Any questions please contact Suzy Robertson at suzyr@ufl.edu.

Art in the Library Reception - Sunday, October 16 at 10:30am

Art in the Library for October features **Kinaesthetics: Dance as Art; Art as Life:** An Art Exhibit featuring original oil pastels, pen & ink drawings, and mixed media, as well as original art prints and post-cards, by Dr. Caroline (Kay) Picart. There will be a reception on **Sunday, October 16, 2011, at 10:30 A.M.** Refreshments will be served, and art will be on sale to benefit UCG. **At 11:00 A.M., a complimentary ballroom dance lesson, in keeping with the theme of the art exhibit, will occur in the Fellowship Hall.** Caroline (Kay) Picart has had solo and group exhibitions, and won awards, in the Philippines, South Korea, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, New York and Florida; she is also a U.S. Open Ballroom Champion.

Continued on next page

What's Happening in October

20's and 30's Fall-o-ween Party - Friday October 28, 7:00pm

UCGers in their 20s and 30s are invited to a Fall-o-ween party on Friday, October 28 at 7pm at the home of Rachele and Vince Amlin. We'll carve pumpkins, play games, and get lost in the Amlin Corn Maze (there is no corn maze). Bring a pumpkin and carving kit, an appetizer, and/or your favorite beverage to share, and let's party. RSVP to vincea@ucgainesville.org or sign-up outside the church office in October.

UCG Supper Club - Saturday, October 29, 7:00pm

The Great Pumpkin UCG Supper Club – The fall Supper Club dinner will be held **Saturday, October 29, at 7:00 pm** (due to the 3:30 pm Florida-Georgia game). We're going to go pumpkin crazy since it's fall and will be nearly Halloween. Come and enjoy a simple vegetarian menu of pumpkin chili (yes, it's good) complemented with wonderful sides and a dessert. We meet in groups of 8 or so in people's homes to enjoy good food and conversation in small-group settings. We would love to have some new faces, so remember that singles as well as couples are welcome. Recipes are provided for diners to use in preparing the dishes, and the costs of food and wine are shared equally. Please contact Sue Hartman (373- 1049, hart1man@cox.net) or Susan Kirkland (332-2962, susetack@gmail.com) by **Monday, October 17** to sign up or to ask for more information. Let them know if you can host one of the groups.

Pride 2011

Bill Hutchinson

It is 2011 and UCG Family and Friends were last spring when Lake Yale cancelled our retreat contract, that discrimination still exists towards the LGBTQ community and those that are supportive of them. October is approaching and for Gainesville it means the Pride Festival activities are upon us once again. Last year, UCG had over 100 participants in the parade and other pride events. The sight was impressive and very moving. We were a presence in the activities that many people noticed and comment on still today.

On October 22, 2011, at 1:00 p.m. the Pride Parade will march down University Avenue in Gainesville. The Open and Affirming Ministry Committee (ONA) is planning UCG's participation in the events this year. Beginning Sunday, September 25th, t-shirts will be on sale in the courtyard between the services. We loved the message so much from last year that we decided to keep the design the same. However, the color of the shirts has changed. We are going to build our own UCG rainbow over the next couple years. So, this year you have a choice, to wear the blue shirt from last year, or purchase a new green one and wear it this year. If you plan to participate in the parade, line up will be at 12:15 p.m. at Ayers Medical Center.

The Pride Sunday Service is on October 23, 2011. We are planning an appetizer/dessert welcome reception between services. If you would like to sign up to bring a finger food or dessert, or if you are interested in helping set up or clean up after the reception, please sign up at the ONA table.

Please plan to come out and show your support for the LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning) community.



The Seventh Trumpet



Only about one in ten new church starts lasts more than three years. In other words, nine out of ten new churches fold. That's just a little worse than small business and new restaurant start-ups. (Restaurants, it turns out are not as bad as is often bandied about. More like one in three make it.) So it's good for UCG to celebrate our success as a thriving church. Our new theme, "Success Stories," does just that as we explore the components of success for a church, for experiences of faith, for causes that overcome evil with good, and for individuals fighting against momentous odds.

Vince kicked off the theme on September 25, exploring some biblical "Happy Endings" on the Sunday our beautiful throng of second and third graders received their bibles, a success story in and of itself. Also in that service was a testimonial to the explosion of adult small groups that we have experienced in the last two years.

On October 2, I am preaching on "From 70-700 in 37 Years" a look at the slow steady growth this church has experienced since 1974. On October 9 we will receive another bumper crop of new members as Sandy shares the success story of our Compact that serves as the holy glue that holds our diverse faith journeys together. October 16 celebrates the success of fifteen years of Humor Sundays. And by the way, for this to be a success with some actual new jokes, I need you to send me your best PG rated humor (church bulletin blooper sample "John and Susan have been lifelong friends. This marriage marks the end of that friendship"). October 23 is Pride Sunday, in which Andy celebrates the gifts of being a truly open and affirming church.

On October 30 Vince begins a new worship theme, "Saints and Heroes".

Here's one success story of sorts. I've been visiting Ray Meeks on Death Row since 1982. He's been there since 1974. He's now 57 years old. His family in Mississippi has only been able to come see him two or three times in all his years on Death Row. On Friday night September 16, after work, Ray's two sisters, his brother, and about eight nieces and nephews rented a twelve passenger van and drove all night to Florida. They spent Saturday and Sunday visiting with Ray. They told stories with Ray about his childhood, his father who died when Ray was 6, and his mother who died last year at the age of 89. Some were stories Ray had forgotten; some were remembered by all. It cost Ray's family over \$1,000 to rent that van, pay for the gas and stay in a motel in Starke. We covered these expenses because they don't have this kind of money. This happened because you contributed to Ray's birthday offering last June and his Christmas offering last December. That's a success story of one kind of giving.

"I don't know the key to success. But the key to failure is trying to please everybody". Bill Cosby

Larry

THRESHOLDS

. . . . SANDY REIMER

I am excited about our new worship theme, “Success Stories,” and especially excited about the opportunity to lift up our UCG Compact as part of the October 9 services. When you look at the Compact as a whole (not just your favorite phrase), what resonates with you? What do you see in the Compact as a whole that has allowed it to survive for 45 years and guide our church through many changes and transitions? And what challenges does it lift up for us as a congregation? Those are some of the questions that are guiding me as I prepare for that service. I’d welcome any written responses to those three questions that you’d like to share with me before October 5th.

Consider as well these thoughts from Roy Phillips in his book *Letting Go: Transforming Congregations for Ministry*: “A people’s vision is their image of the way the world should be. Their mission is the part they are moved to play in bringing that vision into reality. . . . A particular congregation’s mission is to bring its vision into reality, to do that locally, to do it by means of a sustaining and challenging religious community, to do it in specific ways that reflect the history and heritage, the tone and style, the needs and strengths, the gifts and values of those specific people in that particular setting.”

You most likely already know that Larry and I are currently sharing the position of Senior Minister here at UCG. We’ve chosen to schedule our part-time hours by taking one extended week-end off each month, which has been wonderful for us. We also received a gift of time – eight weeks of leave – from the church in 2004 on the celebration of our 30th year of ministry here at UCG. When we looked back, we realize we have taken two weeks of that time: to go to Italy in 2005. So we’re going to take another 2 weeks of that time during the fall and winter this year: one extra Sunday in October and one extra Sunday in early January following Christmas. It is never easy to schedule time off and not miss something important, but we are learning that working part-time has a built-in component of having more personal time and also missing things at UCG we enjoy and we believe in deeply.

Our next worship theme, “Saints and Heroes,” will begin on Sunday, October 30. All Saint’s Day is Tuesday, November 1st, and I will be back for the All-Saints Service that evening at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. During that service, you may light a candle in memory of a loved one; the names of our saints will be read; there will be an opportunity for quiet reflection as well as readings, prayers and Communion. Child care will be provided. Please mark your calendars for this sacred ritual of remembrance.

It is a good time of year to remind us all that it makes sense to fill out the UCG information form about your wishes in the event of your death and give us a copy to keep on file here at the church. Copies of the form are available on the counter in the Sanctuary foyer or by downloading it from the UCG website (*look under Forms and Procedures*) or by e-mailing info@ucgainesville.org. I encourage you to make the commitment to record whatever you would like us to know and bring or send that form to us by All Saint’s Day.

As summer turns slowly into autumn, I offer you this Celtic blessing: “Generous be the heart within us, Open be our hands to all, Justice to be in equal measure, Harvest thankfulness our call.”

(Caitlin Matthers, from *Celtic Devotional*)

OCTOBER OBSERVATIONS: A MESSAGE FROM ANDY

October starts with a powerful event on Sunday evening, October 2 at 7 pm in our sanctuary. Youth United, our high school youth group, is hosting a community wide event. We are having a guest speaker and team from the Invisible Children organization, and we would love for you to join us. Invisible Children is an organization that uses “film, creativity and social action to end the use of child soldiers in Joseph Kony’s rebel army and restore LRA-affected communities in central Africa to peace and prosperity.” It promises to be a powerful evening.

I know it might seem a little premature to be looking to November, but we have some exciting plans in the way of Outreach.

Our denomination, the United Church of Christ has launched a program called “Mission 1.” Mission 1 is directed towards hunger and poverty related issues, and we are encouraged as a congregation to do what we can to make a difference. We are encouraged to raise funds, raise awareness, raise our food donations and raise our politician’s attention to the issue of hunger. Nationally, the UCC hopes to collect one million food items to be donated to local food pantries, raise \$111,111 for Neighbors in Need and to write 11,111 letters to our leaders in congress, letting them know that hunger is a serious issue and we want them to protect the poverty-focused development programs that already exist. The letters we write are on behalf of Bread for the World. For more information on BftW, see retired UCC minister and UCG friend Luther Pierce’s article in the Outreach section of the newsletter.

We are committed to doing our part. On November 6, which is already our regular Food First (which, incidentally, has been collecting on average just over 200 lbs of food a month), **we want to triple our collection.** So mark your calendars, set your reminders, and bring your food items to donate to the Gainesville Community Ministries.

We will also have tables and stationary set up for you, if you so choose, to write a letter to our local congressmen and senators, stressing that hunger related issues are important to you!

And finally, we will have our annual Oxfam break-fast supper on Thursday, November 17th. Those of us who are willing will fast for 30 hours before we gather together for our fundraising supper, to get a powerful reminder of the effects of hunger on the world. **We want to double our attendance** at this year’s Oxfam supper, so set your calendars and plan to attend!

Youth Events for October

MSG meets every Sunday at 11 am

October 2 Games, However Known!
October 9 Fieldtrip! Check emails for info.
October 16 IHN Cookie outreach
October 23 Digital Scavenger Hunt
October 30 Justice initiative

YU (meets 1st and 3rd Sundays at 5:30 pm

Invisible Children Presentation at 7 pm
HS Team Meeting 12:15 pm
IHN Setup (12 noon) and 5:30 Wall o’ wii!
no group
no group

~ A Little Child Shall Lead Them ~

UCG Children's Program ~ Director, Heidi Stein

Where do we put all those children?

We have lots of kids in our United Tribes program this year over 100. The K-1 and 2-3 classes are so big we have to use the bigger rooms including Youth Room, West Wing, or room 9. The other rooms are too tight for full class activities. We share these larger spaces with other programs so it means running a really tight ship each morning to make everything coordinate. A big thanks to families for their participation and patience as we work all of this out. We are still using the rotation model where kids K-5 participate in an active learning of a lesson that typically mirrors the themes of the adult services. Children in this older group have consistent guides but the teachers are church volunteers. If you are interested in teaching do not hesitate to contact me at steinags@cox.net. We love the connection the kids make with the larger church through our volunteer teachers

What's New?

After seven wonderful years as Children's Program Coordinator, I find myself wanting to return back to my much loved profession as a speech language pathologist. It truly feels like the universe and God has said this year is the right year to make the transition. I feel honored and blessed by my work at the church. I have learned numerous life lessons from the families and staff at UCG, especially Sandy who has been my director supervisor and mentor. Thank you, Sandy. And, thanks to each of you for giving me this precious opportunity and gift.

Like most things at UCG, this year long transition will be well thought out and planned. Keri Trosper will become the new Children's Program Coordinator next year. Keri brings a lot of experience and enthusiasm to this position (see below). The BOCM has generously allocated funds to pay Keri an honorarium this year so that she may shadow me through this transition.

A little bit more about Keri:

As a child, I thought kids had all the really true answers, and I still do. My work with kids began at Trinity UMC here in Gainesville. I worked both in active care of the children and in programming. In college my focus was on developmental psychology and early education. My graduate work was in school guidance, mental health, and marriage and family therapy. I worked as a Family Services Counselor and as Customer Relations Coordinator. Since the birth of my daughter Taylor, my focus has been on our family. And we are so blessed that UCG is a part of our family, and that we are a part of the UCG family. ~ Keri Trosper

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Schedule

- 10-03-10 Bible Success Stories Rotation –Bring your Bibles.
- 10-09-10 Bible Success Stories Rotation –Bring your Bibles.
- 10-16-10 PreK-1st Music - 2-5th IHN ServiceProject
- 10-23-10 Pride Sunday – Large Group Art Display
- 10-30-31 Dress in Costumes!!!! - Extended Activity Time



PASSAGES

We welcome with love and joy:

- ◆ Aiden Christiaan Augustine Houtman, son of Alexis Moran and Joost Houtman, grandson of Peggy Bowie and John Moran, born Wednesday, August 17, weighing 8lbs 5ozs. He joins big brother Quinn.
- ◆ Benjamin Christopher Hartman, son of Brent Hartman and Mikel Bradley, grandson of Joe Hartman and Beth Dovell, born Monday, September 12, weighing 9lbs 15ozs.
- ◆ Eliza Irene Bennett, daughter of Stephanie and Justin Bennett, born Monday, September 19, weighing 8lbs 6ozs. She joins big sister Amelia.

Supporting our Success Stories with our Budget

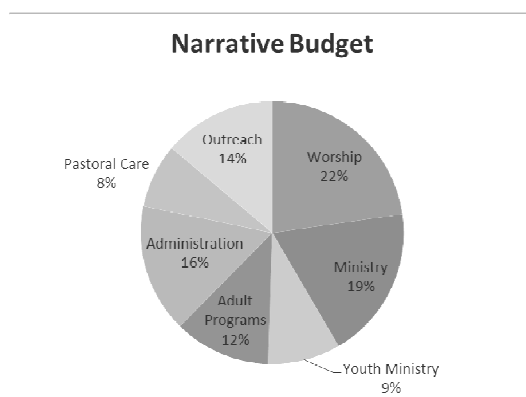
UCG's budget evaluates staff and provides merit increases on a four year rotating basis. One year it's the Associate for youth and outreach (Andy), then Senior Pastor(s) (Sandy and Larry), then non-ministerial staff (all other full and part-time staff), and then the Associate for adult programs (Vince). Last year it was Sandy and Larry. This year the merit raises go to our non-ministerial staff. This means Lisa Goldstein, who manages our office so beautifully and Heidi Stein, who has expanded the excellent United Tribes educational model for our children are key among those receiving raises. Also Kathy Funke, who coordinates our outstanding, multi-faceted Lively Arts program, will have her salary increased. We plan to increase Tane Dekrey from two to three Sundays as accompanist while she continues her work with adult and youth choirs. Part time staff with children and youth will also receive increases based on their tenure with the programs.

UCG's office, children, youth, and music are all success stories we want to support.

Next year Vince will be up for a merit increase.

Narrative Budget

Looking at the budget as line items for staff, building, programs, and outreach gives us a certain picture of how we spend our money. But this year we divided up the time spent on the following programs by staff, the amount of time each of these programs used the building, and the program budgets dedicated to these areas and divided them up into a pie chart. When you put all of what we do together, this is what it looks like on one of those famous pie charts.



Enlistment

The pledge campaign to support UCG's 2012 budget will begin on October 3 and end November 6. Our theme for the campaign is "We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand."

The proposed budget for 2012 will be reviewed, discussed & voted on at the October 2 congregational meeting. Please make sure to attend this meeting to learn more about the UCG budgeting process. If you are a new member, it's important for you to know that pledge cards are sent out following the congregational meeting for your pledge commitment. Please return your pledge card as quickly as possible to avoid an extension of the campaign. Your pledge to UCG is between you and Jill Cunningham, our bookkeeper – no one else has access to this information.

In the three-year survey conducted in the fall of 2012, an overwhelming majority of respondents (more than 65%) indicated that a pledge of 4.5% of gross family income (before taxes) would be reasonable. Please keep this survey response in mind as you complete & return your pledge card to Jill at UCG.

You may choose to pay weekly, monthly, quarterly or in a single lump sum. Remember that electronic payments to UCG can be arranged through your bank.

We look forward the timely completion of the pledge drive. ~ Cathy Keathley

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

BOARD OF MEMBERSHIP

We all know it's not easy visiting a new place for the first time. Visitors may feel like a 'fish out of water' and may ask themselves, "Do I belong here? Am I really welcome?"

Every Sunday at UCG the Board of Membership welcomes visitors during each of the worship services. We introduce them so that they can, in turn, be recognized and can be welcomed by UCG members. We want to make sure that every visitor has a pleasant UCG experience- so we are asking for your help. If a visitor is sitting near you at the next service, please take the time to introduce yourself to the visitor. Ask if there are any questions they may have and help with an answer. Maybe walk with them to meet the ministers and even ask if they would like to join you for coffee or just talk in the courtyard. What would make you feel welcome visiting here for the first time?

It takes a village and your help with making visitors feel welcome is very appreciated.

BOARD OF OUTREACH

October 2nd is "Food First" Sunday. Bring your canned goods and shelf stable foods for donation to the Gainesville Community Ministry! There is a cart in the Foyer for this collection

Interfaith Hospitality Network - Recruiting for our fifth and last hosting of 2011, scheduled for October 16 – 23, has begun. There are numerous ways for you to contribute to this effort, including setting up or taking down, doing laundry, buying groceries, hosting breakfast or dinner, preparing supper, staying overnight, or driving our guests in the IHN van on Saturday. Keep in mind that children are welcome to accompany their parents as they volunteer for dinner or overnight host. Committee members are standing by at our recruiting table on Sunday mornings to answer your questions and assist you in finding a spot to help out. Please join us in this worthy effort!

Social Justice Committee - In Luke's version of the Beatitudes, we hear Jesus say, "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled." Resonating in the background is God's demand spoken through Isaiah, "...share your bread with the hungry..." and, through Micah, "...do justice..." Christian action has long been guided by these teachings. Our multiple efforts to provide food for the hungry bears witness. But our United Church of Christ and the ecumenical hunger fighters gathered in Bread for the World tell us that the laws and customs of our land and every land create conditions that trap people in poverty and hunger. Such laws need changing. **On Sunday, November 6, we will join multiple thousands of other UCC'ers in writing to our Congressional representatives, asking them to avoid reducing funding for programs essential to hungry and poor people,** especially to foreign aid programs alleviating famine abroad. We say to them, "Draw *A Circle of Protection* around such programs, even in this time of budget cutting." On that Sunday, tables will be set up, sample letters and stationary provided. Hand written letters are the most effective. If you insist, you can also type them at home and bring them to church. Please provide stamps. We will be writing to Senators Nelson and Rubio and Rep. Stearns. More information is available at www.ucc.org and at www.bread.org.



PFLAG Exploratory Subcommittee

At the April meeting of the Open and Affirming (ONA) Ministry Committee, we decided to explore the possibility of creating a Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) Chapter, in Gainesville. PFLAG is a national, non-profit organization serving 200,000 plus members and supporters through 250 chapters in all 50 states. This entity formed in the early 70's when a mother (Jeanne Manford) marched with her gay son in New York City's Pride Day parade. Other parade participants were so moved by this support they begged her to talk with their parents. So began the support group, whose first official meeting in 1973, occurred at a local church.

PFLAG's stated mission is to promote "the health and well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons (LGBT), their families and friends through: support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights." The organization has a number of national programs that may be promoted locally such as: "Safe Schools for All," the "National Scholarship Program," and "Welcoming Faith Communities."

Nine UCG members (Will Dougherty, Ann Gill, Kathy Funke, Larry Ligammare, Sue Littell, Ellen Louis, Luis Pedreira, Ruth Smith, and Nancy Wilkinson) endeavored to understand PFLAG, its past history in our area and the future potential to form and sustain a local Chapter. We were troubled by what we've tagged as a "Bermuda Triangle" effect between the locations of Ocala, Tallahassee, and Jacksonville where PFLAG Chapters simply do not exist. We were quite surprised to learn that there have been three failed attempts to create and maintain a PFLAG presence in Gainesville. Clearly, we needed to be thoughtful and smart in moving forward into the "Bermuda Triangle."

Our state coordinator for PFLAG, Carole Benowitz, has been mentoring us throughout this exploration. Carole declares that PFLAG saves lives and families. With the support, education and advocacy offered by such a viable national organization, we were encouraged that strides could be made locally, such as creating a safer school environment. This is critically needed, as a recent national school climate survey stated that more than 85% of LGBT students report being verbally harassed. Further, more than 60% of LGBT students report feeling unsafe at school.

Furthermore, through our exposure to nearby Chapters of PFLAG, we've come to understand how powerful this organization can truly be in the lives of the community it is supporting. At a recent PFLAG Ocala meeting, we were surprised by the strong turnout to support transgender members and their families. While it was emotionally difficult to witness two struggling, concerned parents attending their first PFLAG meeting, it was also very moving to see the group come together supporting these parents, providing both compassion and strength in the face of adversity.

In Jacksonville, at the campus of the University of North Florida, we felt the power of a robust, long term PFLAG presence at the annual Scholarship Banquet, to which we were guests. That evening, 19 higher education scholarships were awarded. In accepting their award, each scholarship winner shared a few words with respect to the impact of this award. Some recipients were still struggling through the rejection by their families, while others were accompanied by family and friends. The event was positively inspiring, given that this group has raised nearly \$200,000 to support scholarships in its time.

We've also been getting better acquainted with the National PFLAG presence through informative webinars that were broadcast each month, this summer. It was nice to take time in each other's homes to gather, learn, and shape our collective vision of PFLAG Gainesville.

We've reached out to the Alachua County School Board to explore the possibilities of working with them through the PFLAG "Safe Schools for All" program. That initial conversation has led to an October invite to meet with guidance counselors from Alachua County middle and high schools. Clearly, there will be an ongoing need in our local schools to have a strong and supportive PFLAG Chapter.

We are now at the final stages of our official formation. We've completed a thoughtful and thorough draft of our inaugural bylaws. We will be moving forward with filing all of the official paperwork shortly with the national organization and the State of Florida to become a recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Even though we've been quietly going about our exploratory work, many have already learned about the PFLAG Gainesville Chapter. We've been blessed to be the recipient of a grant from the Main Community Foundation. We are also appreciative of the donations made in support of this work at the ONA Ministry Committee's "Decades Dance," in August. These funds will certainly assist us with a strong financial position to successfully launch the Chapter.

Once we are officially recognized as a PFLAG entity, we will invite the Gainesville community at large to help shape the direction and course of this new Chapter, to participate as members, and to share in creating a welcoming environment for all of God's people ... lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or those even questioning and the many family members and friends.

PROPOSED BY-LAW CHANGES to be discussed and voted on at the October 2nd Congregational Meeting:

Amendment #1 - Background: The role of the Council in guiding the overall activities of the Church occasionally requires establishing policies and procedures not specifically addressed in the UCG bylaws. These policies and procedures, such as the Safety and Protection Policy For Children at UCG and the Policy Statement on Solicitation, address procedural needs beyond the utilization of church facilities. This change will update the bylaws to reflect this need.

Proposed Change: Delete "*concerning the use of the Church facilities*" from

Article VI, Section 2, Paragraph C, so that Section 2 reads: **Powers of the Council.** The Council is charged by the Congregation with the responsibility and authority for guiding the overall activities of the Church by:

- A. Providing general leadership in the attainment of goals as determined by Congregation.
- B. Recommending new goals for consideration by the Congregation.
- C. Setting policy ~~concerning the use of the Church facilities.~~

Amendment #2 - Background: The selection of the senior minister of our church is clearly very important and the selection of the Senior Minister Search Committee for the senior minister is an important step in that process. We want the selection process for the Ministerial Search Committee to be open to members of the congregation and also to result in a Search Committee that reflects diversity among these factors which are characteristics of our congregation.

Proposed Change: Reference Article VII, Section 1, Paragraph A, replace "*and from nominees from the floor*" with "*in accordance with the UCG Procedures and Policies regarding the composition of a Search Committee**.*"

****Proposed UCG Procedures and Policies regarding the composition of a Search Committee for Senior Minister position:**

Church members may nominate themselves or another church member by filling out a nomination form for the Search Committee and submitting it to the Moderator. This nomination form will include a checklist related to various diversity factors as well as the candidate's experience with UCG's programs and ministry.

Ample advance notification will be given to members of the congregation to submit nominations prior to the appointment of the Search Committee.

All nominations will be considered by the Church Council Executive Committee.

Church Council will make the final decisions to create a balanced slate of nominees who reflect the diversity of our congregation and experience with the relevant programs and ministries of the church.

Church Council's slate will be presented to the congregation for a yes/no vote at a special congregational meeting

Proposed Amendment Change: Article VII – Staff. Section 1 -Senior Minister. Appointment - A Ministerial Search Committee to seek another Minister shall be elected by the Congregation at a Congregational meeting from a slate proposed by the Council

current wording: *and from nominees from the floor*

proposed substitute wording: *in accordance with the UCG Procedures and Policies regarding the composition of a Search Committee.*

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

New Worship Theme: Success Stories

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2– Fall Congregational Meeting - No 11:00am service

8:30– **Meditation in the Chapel** led by David Hackett

9:30 - **Worship** - “From 70 to 700 in 38 Years” – Larry Reimer. Testimony – the Success Story of our Children and United Tribes. Music by the the Hogtown Pickers.

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

No Adult Seminars this Sunday

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

6:30 - **Play Reading Group*** - Seminar A

7:00 - **Youth United: Invisible Children Presentation** - Sanctuary. **Everyone Welcome**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9 - New Members Join

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

9:30 & 11:00am - **Worship** - “Two Years in the Making and 45 Years Later: The UCG Compact” - Sandy Reimer. Testimony – the Success Story of our Church Retreat. Both services include New Members joining, music by the Hogtown Strutters, and Communion.

11:00 – **Adult Seminars**

The Faces of Homelessness: Breaking Apart the Stereotypes with Ryan Holloway, Alachua County Housing Authority - What leads to homelessness? What is life really like for the homeless? Do people ever recover from such adversity? This educational workshop will be led by Ryan along with members of the National Coalition for the Homeless speakers bureau. Get answers from those who have been homeless and now work to educate others.

Bringing Water to San Pedro, Peru with Carol Barron and Beth Karbe - Carol and Beth recently traveled to this small, remote village to help build a much needed irrigation system. Work continues, including a funfraiser here at the church on November 4th. Join us for a beautiful slideshow of this breathtaking spot on the planet and the warmth and goodness of its people. Hear personal stories and learn about a nearby and little known archeological site more spiritually significant than Machu Picchu. Prepare to be inspired!

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

12:15 - **High School Team** - West Wing

6:30 - **Play Reading Group*** - Seminar A

7:00 - **Drum Circle*** - Offsite

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15 - IHN Hosting Begins

LifeSouth Blood Drive

8:30 – **Sunday Morning Meditation** led by David Hackett

9:30 & 11:00 – **Worship** - “Fifteenth (Can you believe it?) Annual Humor Sunday” - with Larry Reimer

The Hogtown Pickers and the UCG Children's Choir. Success Story Testimony - Conquering Plagues, Pestilence and Professors With Chain Saws.

10:30 - **Art in the Library Reception** with Dr. Caroline Picart

10:30 - **PattiCake Play Date** - Westside Park

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

cont'd on next page

Sundays continued...

OCTOBER 15. cont'd

11:00 - Adult Seminars

Kinaesthetics: Dance as Art with Kay Picart - A Latin dance lesson on the romantic bolero and the vivacious salsa at the beginner - intermediate level, taught by U.S. Open Champion Dr. Caroline (Kay) Picart, in the Fellowship Hall. Kay has had solo and group exhibitions, and won awards, in the Philippines, England, South Korea as well as Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, New York and Florida.

Folding Cranes for Peace with Susan Johnson - In Hiroshima Japan there stands the Children's Peace Monument in honor of all the children who died from the atomic bombing. The monument is of a girl holding a folded crane. The inscription on the monument reads: "This is our cry. This is our prayer. For building peace in the world." Join us for a relaxed seminar learning how to fold cranes as a way of showing our desire for peace in the world. These cranes will be used to decorate our sanctuary for the November theme!

12:00 - **Feral Readers Book Club** - Library

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

12:15 - **Middle School Team** - West Wing

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

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

6:30 - **Play Reading Group*** - Seminar A

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23 - Pride Sunday

IHN Hosting Ends

8:30 - **Sunday Morning Meditation** led by Mark Burlingame

9:30 & 11:00 - **Worship Service - "Pride Sunday"** - Andy Bachmann

9:30am - **"Justice Seminar"**

11:00 - Adult Seminars

Hearing Matters: Why do I hear but not understand? with Dr. Ryan Baker - Ryan Baker is a clinical audiologist whose areas of focus include adult and pediatric diagnostic audiometry, tinnitus evaluation and management, adult amplification, auditory electrophysiology, aural rehabilitation counseling, hearing conservation including musician plugs and monitors, and assistive listening technologies. This presentation and Q&A session will address common questions related to hearing loss and communication breakdowns.

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

3:30 - **Patticake Event** - offsite

6:30 - **Play Reading Group*** - Seminar A

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

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

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

11:00 - Adult Seminars

The Grace in Dying with Paul George and Barbara Rienzo - This seminar is an examination of the work of Kathleen Singh, from her book, The Grace in Dying: How we are transformed spiritually as we die. Singh asserts that "death is safe," and that the dying person often experiences elements of transcendence, grace, and unity. Participants will be provided with an abstract/summary of the book and the discussion will focus on questions raised by the book, and the experiences/interests of those present.

Gainesville's Catholic Worker House with Kelli Brew and Johnny Zokovitch - In 2000, Johnny Zokovitch and Kelli Brew opened the doors of Catholic Worker House in Gainesville. Grounded in the firm belief in the God-given dignity of every human person, the movement embraces nonviolence, voluntary poverty, and the "works of mercy" as a way of life. Every day, they put their beliefs into action - opening a "house of hospitality" where the homeless, the hungry, and the forsaken are always welcome. Johnny and Kelli will share a little of their histories, information about their outreach programs, and how this home has become as Kelli says, "a gathering spot for people who might not find a place to gather."

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

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

* *Pre-registered Adult Small Group*

OCTOBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<p>2 Meditation 8:30am Worship 9:30 Fall Congregational Meeting 10:35am Friendship Group 11am Play Reading* 6:30 Invisible Children 7pm</p>	3	<p>4 ONA 6pm Byron Katie* 6:30pm Playback Theater* 6:30pm BAP 7pm</p>	<p>5 Council Exec 12pm At 7pm: Jungian Dream Group* A New Harmony* Memoir & Fiction BOCM 7pm</p>	<p>6 In Search of Real Happiness*12pm BPM 7pm</p>	<p>7 Lunch Groups 12pm Fall TGIF's 6 - 8:30pm</p>	<p>1 UF vs. Ala CIA Parking 8 Hand Building with Clay* 9am</p>	
<p>9 Meditation 8:30am Worship 9:30 & 11 New Members HS teams 12:15pm New Member Potluck 12pm Play Reading* 6:30 Drum Circle*7pm</p>	10	<p>11 Budget Summit 1:30pm Byron Katie* 6:30pm Playback Theater* 6:30pm SJC 6:30pm CIA 7:00pm BOB 7:15pm</p>	<p>12 CMRB 12pm BOM 6pm At 7pm: Jungian Dream Group* A New Harmony* Memoir & Fiction* Notable Book Club* 7:30pm</p>	13 Choir 6:30pm	14 Lunch Groups 12pm PNO 5:30pm 20' & 30's Game Night 7pm	15	
<p>16 IHN Hosting begins Meditation 8:30am Worship 9:30 & 11 Art in the Library Frship Group 11am Friends > 50* 12pm Feral Readers*12pn IHN Steering 12pm MS Team 12:15pm YU 5:30pm Play Reading* 6:30</p>	<p>17 3rd Monday Project/Craft Night* 6pm</p>	<p>18 Playback Theater* 6:30pm Alzheimer/ Dementia Support 7pm</p>	<p>19 20 21 22 IHN Hosting this week</p>			<p>21 Lunch Groups 12pm</p>	<p>22 Pride Parade 1pm</p>
<p>23 Meditation 8:30am IHN Hosting ends Worship 9:30 & 11 Sunday Movies*2p Patticake 3:30am Play Reading* 6:30</p>	24	<p>25 Playback Theater* 6:30pm</p>	<p>26 Newsletter Folding 10:30am Jungian Dream Group*7pm Hypnotism*7pm</p>	27 Lessons & Carols rehearsal 7:15pm	28 Lunch Groups 12pm 20's & 30's "Fall-O-Ween" 7pm	29 UF vs. GA Supper Club 7pm	
<p>30 Meditation 8:30am Worship 9:30 & 11am L & C Kick-off lunch Noon L&C Sectionals 12:30pm</p>	31	<p>1 ONA 6pm BAP 7pm All Saints Service 7pm</p>	2 BOCM 7pm	3 BPM 5:30pm	4 Office Closed UF Homecoming No Lunch Groups	5 UF vs. Vanderbilt ONA Football Parking Cedar Key Kayak Trip 9am	

* Pre-registered Adult Small Group

Beyond October....

Calling All Singers and Instrumentalists

This December 10 and 11 will mark the 20th UCG Festival of the Nine Lessons and Carols service. What used to be a single service on Sunday evening has now grown to three worship services, on Saturday evening, December 10, and Sunday morning and evening, December 11.

This is one of the most significant annual events at UCG, and we invite anyone with a love of music (even if you don't read music) to participate. Of course, preparation for this special service requires practice, and we have scheduled a total of 13 rehearsals, all on Thursday evenings or Sunday afternoons or evenings. Our director, Tané DeKrey, hopes that you will miss no more than three of these very important practice times. Our first rehearsal will be on Thursday, October 27, with sectional practices scheduled for 10/30, 11/03, 11/06, 11/10. Child care is available.

This may seem like a large time commitment, but the outcome is more than worth the effort. So set aside the dates now. Please consider joining us as a singer, instrumentalist and/or pianist for practices.

Stopping, Calming, Looking Deeply **UCG Meditation Retreat**

A weekend meditation retreat is planned for November 4-6, 2011 at the Prairie Creek Lodge in Gainesville. The retreat will begin with the Friday evening meal and end prior to lunch on Sunday. During this retreat we will have a chance to practice silence, stillness, sitting meditation, walking meditation (indoor and outdoor), mindful meals, gentle yoga, deep relaxation, and other practices that will help us to stop and look deeply at ourselves and the world around us. The cost of the retreat is \$45 to \$65 depending on the type of accomodation. The lodge can provide sleeping arrangements for ten people inside. There is plenty of space outside for camping. The retreat will be limited to 20 participants. To register for the retreat contact Kari Ward (phone 352-870-9799 or email kari.ward@warrington.ufl.edu). Detailed information about the retreat and directions to Prairie Creek Lodge will be provided once you are registered.

UCG Men: What's Your Sign?

It's time for some Grouper Therapy, the biennial Men's Fishing Overnight is coming up Friday, November 11th and Saturday, November 12th. The theme this year is "What's Your Sign." We'll talk about the causes, the values, the beliefs that we hold most strongly. Plus, we'll have all day Saturday to catch the big one! The cost for the weekend is \$135 which includes all your fishing equipment, the hotel Friday night, and breakfast and lunch Saturday. Dinner together Friday at a local seafood spot is not included. We have about 30 spots, so sign-up fast. There are scholarships available, so don't let money keep you off the boat. Registration begins October 2nd and continues through the 30th. Bring your checkbook to register. Any questions contact Vince Amlin at vincea@ucgainesville.org

UCG Thanksgiving Dinner- Leaders needed!

We are still in need of additional leadership to help plan the annual UCG Thanksgiving Dinner. The dinner is hosted for UCG members who want to get together for the holiday. This event depends on volunteer leaders to make it happen. Please contact Vince Amlin at vincea@ucgainesville.org to help.

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NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26

LOOKING AHEAD:

- ◆ Nov. 1 **All Saints' Service – 7:00 pm**
- ◆ Nov 4 - 6 **Meditation Retreat**
- ◆ Nov. 11 & 12 **Men's Fishing Trip**
- ◆ Nov. 13- 16 **Labyrinth in Sanctuary**
- ◆ Nov. 16 **Oxfam fast begins** with an opportunity to walk the Labyrinth accompanied by music, readings and prayers, anytime between 5:00 and 7:00pm in the Sanctuary
- ◆ Nov. 17 **Oxfam Dinner**
- ◆ Nov. 27 **First Sunday in Advent; decorating the Sanctuary and courtyard at noon**
- ◆ Sat, Dec. 3 **Christmas Craft Fair for Children and Families**
- ◆ Dec. 4 **Children's Christmas Pageant at 9:30; Chili Lunch**
- ◆ Dec. 10 & 11 **Lessons and Carols Services**
- ◆ Dec. 18 **Blue Christmas service at 7:00pm**

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26