

Community Church News ❖ Apr 2013

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Sunday Services – 9:30 & 11:15

04/07 “The Power of Hope – Shaping Our Reality” – Rev. Dr. Paul Razor, Director of the Center for the Study of Religious Freedom at Virginia Wesleyan College. Racial hope can change lives and move communities. In this sermon, Paul Razor will reflect on the ways our vision of the future can shape our struggle for justice in the present. On Saturday the 6th our congregation is co-sponsoring a workshop at Eno River UU, led by Dr. Razor. The subject is: Taking our UU Values into the Public Square. ([sign up link here](#))

04/14 “What Is Spiritual Growth” – Rev. Maj-Britt Johnson. "Life is just a chance to grow a soul," said Unitarian minister A. Powell Davies. I agree. But how do we grow a soul? How do we know when we're growing spiritually? Is that something that the kind of growth that can be measured?

This is the weekend of the UU Choir Festival to be held at our church so we will have a combined choir at the service. We will not share joys and concerns at this service due to the extra pieces of special music. Should be a powerful sound!

04/21 “The Greening of Religion” – Dr. Shannon Grimes, with assistance from Maj-Britt Johnson. Many religions are beginning to incorporate environmental ideas and practices into congregational life. What are UUs doing in this regard?

04/28 “The Answers Are Under Construction” – Rev. Maj-Britt Johnson. How do we talk across the political and theological aisles in our own congregations? What would it mean to be an intentional sanctuary for dialogue?

TRANSITIONS....

THE INTERIM AND SETTLED MINISTERS:

We all know that we as a church are in a period of ministerial transition. Maj Britt's last day in the pulpit will be June 9. We will have our usual summer program of guest ministers.

In August we will begin with an Interim Minister, this is a UU minister with special training to work with congregations going through a ministerial transition. The Board has decided that we will plan on having an Interim Minister for only one church year (Aug 2013-June 2014). After that, we should have completed the process for calling a Settled Minister and by Aug. 2014 we should have called a Settled Minister.

The process for hiring both an Interim Minister and a Settled Minister is established by the UUA - it is a process that works. In this article I will address the process for hiring our Interim Minister (2013 - 2014). The Interim Minister is hired by the Board, unlike the Settled Minister who is called by the congregation. The Board has formed a task force to work through the process to select the Interim Minister. This task force consists of Frankie Price Stern (Frankipricestern@aol.com, 919-945-0886), Dave Klibanow (d.klibanow@frontier.com, 919-471-3036), Brian Pence (bwence@gmail.com, 919-968-4131) and Mary Hulett (mhulett@rl-law.com, 919-969-9438).

The Task Force will post our application for an Interim Minister on a special UUA website by Apr. 11, 2013. This application consists of a lot of information about our church and information about what we are looking for in an Interim Minister. We are asked to answer 4 key questions:

1. What are the strengths of this congregation?
2. What areas of focus are needed for the interim ministry: (what needs attention, where is there conflict, what are the challenges)?
3. Desired strengths of an Interim Minister
4. Current areas of momentum that should not lose steam during the interim time.

If you have answers or suggestions to these key questions, please forward them on to one or more of the members of the task force.

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After the application is posted, the Transitions Office of the UUA compares the congregations seeking an Interim Minister and the Interim Ministers seeking congregations and on April 22 provides the task force with the names of 5 candidates that the Transitions Office thinks will be a good fit. The candidates and congregations exchange additional information, conduct telephone or Skype interviews, check references, review recorded sermons, and 10 days later make an offer to their first choice. If the congregation does not hire a minister after the first round, this process is repeated.

The Board approves the contract with the Interim Minister and by the end of May we should know who our Minister would be for the next year.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Be Part of Our Exciting Church Strategic Plan! Attend the Town Halls in April to find out more and Vote in June.

In the last year over 100 members of the congregation participated in creating a ten-year vision for our congregation and have drafted a strategic plan to bring the vision to life. The congregation affirmed our vision last February. Since February 2012 the strategic plan taskforce and the Ministry and Management Team has been working on honing the Strategic Plan. The next step is for the congregation to affirm our strategic plan. In April there will be 3 Town Hall meetings for our community to learn about the strategic plan. At the Town Hall Meetings you will hear about the strategic plan and you will have an opportunity to ask questions and share feedback. The Strategic Plan will be voted on at the Congregational Meeting Sunday June 2nd.

Town Hall Meetings--Pick One to Attend--Only 1 Hour but a very Important Hour

Sunday April 14th

12:30-1:30 PM in the Kirby Room (Childcare & snacks provided)

Sunday April 21th

8:15-9:15 AM in the Kirby Room (Childcare, Bagels and Coffee)

Monday April 22

7-8 PM in the Community Room (Childcare provided)



CARING MINISTRY

Besides visiting members and friends in assisted living, health centers, and hospitals, your Caring Ministry coordinates the providing of meals and rides for people in need. In consultation with the Parish Minister, it also responds, when appropriate, to the concerns expressed weekly at Sunday services. Co-chairs of the Ministry are Peter Witt and Mary LeMay, who welcome any

information you deem relevant. They can be reached at caring@c3huu.org.

RESOURCE GUIDE:

An Orange County Community Resource Guide for Seniors and Their Families, with a great deal of interesting and useful information, is now posted at the church's website at <http://www.c3huu.org>. Click on Communities and Ministries, then Caring Ministry. There is a link at the bottom of its page.



SHARE THE PLATE

SHARE THE PLATE DEADLINE SUNDAY, MAY 12th FOR REQUESTS JUL 1, 2013 TO DEC 30, 2013.

Please send nominations to stp@c3huu.org OR to Jill Baker, Chair, Share the Plate Steering Committee.

For more information please go to <http://www.c3huu.org> and click on *Share the Plate* under *Justice and Service*.

Thank you for your participation, your support and your generosity. We look forward to working with you!

STP – APR 14TH: CHURCH WORLD SERVICE/CROP WALK (CWS/CROP)

Sunday, April 14 is Share the Plate for Church World Service/CROP. CWS works to eradicate hunger and poverty and to promote peace and justice around the world with sustainability and self-sufficiency as priorities. CWS seeks out local agencies who share a vision of empowering self-help. Long-standing partnerships have been forged and they are now active in more than 30 countries globally, helping farmers improve food production, building reservoirs, digging wells, laying irrigation systems, providing refugee support and international emergency response, and much more. Some 1,500 communities sponsor annual CROP WALKS to support their efforts and to combat hunger and poverty locally. Our walk in Chapel Hill/Carrboro is a pacesetter across the nation! With over 22% of local residents living in poverty, the need is great; yet, donations have been down since 2008. Please give generously to support the CWS/CROP! Walk with us on April 21!

STP – APR 21ST: MONKS COMMUNITY FOREST

About 20% of global warming emissions come from deforestation, mostly in developing countries. It endangers native species and takes a grave toll on communities nearby. Three years ago your Share the Plate donations helped plant 25,000 trees on Mt. [Kilimanjaro](#). Periodically ECO checks on this project, and it is highly successful.

This year please consider another Carbon Covenant project of Interfaith Power and Light, the Monks Community Forest ([MCF](#)) in northwestern Cambodia. Monks acquired legal protection of 18K+

hectares of evergreen forest and developed unique approaches to law enforcement based on Buddhist principles linking conservation with traditional and religious beliefs (i.e., every tree is sacred). They also organized volunteers into patrols to deter illegal harvesting. Your support will help continue the patrols, decrease emissions, and provide rice to the poor in six surrounding villages while continuing market expansion efforts so all can earn a living from sustainable, non-timber forest products.

WITHIN THESE WALLS



ART FOR MARCH AND APRIL:

Community Church member, Joan Meade is our exhibiting artist in the sanctuary during March and April. Her show of acrylic paintings is titled "Travels with Joan." There will be an artist's reception for Joan on March 10th, 3-5pm.

"My passion is for the natural world, most especially water, rocks and trees in all their glorious variety. I find the medium that best conveys these wonders is sculptural acrylics. I begin with a charcoal sketch then build up the surface with modeling paste and gels, emphasizing the contrast in texture that I observe. I then apply the color to capture the richness of detail and the play of light on the surfaces. My landscapes and seascapes are inspired by my travels and enhanced by my imagination. Enjoy traveling with me!"

Joan has been a painter for most of her life, starting in oils, and discovering acrylics in the 1970's. She studied art and architecture at Cornell University in upstate New York, and art at Colorado College, and has continued studies and mounted exhibitions at various art centers around the US and here in NC. She became a professional in 2003 with an exhibition in this church. Since then, Joan has exhibited widely across the Southeast and in New Mexico, including the Cameron Art Museum in Wilmington, NC, and Bill Hester Fine Art, formerly of Chapel Hill and now on Canyon Road in Santa Fe. Her works can be seen locally at SaxArt

Gallery, in Saxapahaw, and at her own studio gallery. She was honored to serve as Artist in Residence at Acadia National Park in Maine in July 2011. Joan's works are in many private and public collections across the US and abroad.

INTERESTED IN ART?

The group responsible for art in the sanctuary and in the commons is now separate from the Worship and Arts ministry. We are looking for people who are interested in helping us find artists to exhibit and do the prep work for our exhibits including hanging the shows.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:

Congratulations and many thanks to our generous congregation for your bountiful contributions to insure the continuation of Community Church's Habitat for Humanity project. In the kindness of your hearts, you contributed \$3,203, putting us well on our way to funding our church's share of our 18th Habitat home this fall. And please save the date for the dedication of our 17th home, the new home of Evy and Naima Nunez on **Saturday, May 4th**. The dedication will likely be around lunchtime, but the exact time is still being determined.

CHURCH MEMBERS WANTED TO PARTICIPATE IN NAMI (NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS) WALK - SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2013

Many church members are coping with mental illness, either in themselves or in their families. Mental illness affects life as much as any other disease, yet neighbors do not line up with casseroles when a family is stricken. Instead people often suggest that this illness is a sign of weakness or caused by something someone did. Because it is an illness and not a sign of moral weakness, because it causes as much pain and suffering as cancer or heart disease, and because it is important for our congregation to be part of NAMI's important work, a number of church members are participating in NAMI Walks this year. We hope you will be one of them.

NAMI is the largest education, support and advocacy organization that serves the needs of all whose lives are touched by these illnesses. This includes persons with mental illness, their families, friends, employers, the law enforcement community and policy makers. NAMI is composed of approximately 1100 local affiliates, 50 state offices and a national office. In North Carolina, NAMI Walks is held every year on the campus of Dorothea Dix State Hospital in Raleigh.

The goals of the NAMI Walks program are: to fight the stigma that surrounds mental illness, to increase public understanding that the mental health system in this country needs to be improved, and to raise funds for NAMI so that they can continue their mission.

Please join fellow church members in walking on the Orange Country Stigma Busters team. It's easy to sign up: go to www.namiwalks.org/northcarolina. Click "Register to walk", then "Register and Join a Team." Type in and select "Orange Stigma Busters".

Follow the steps to create your own walker page. When you reach the "Registration Questions" page you will see the "I am walking to support" selection. Selecting NAMI Orange County so 50% of donations raised to go to NAMI NC and 50% will go to NAMI Orange County. The team leader is Lisa Hamill.

If you can't walk, sponsor a walker from the Orange Stigma Busters team! You can do that online or give checks made out to NAMI Orange County to whomever you wish to sponsor or to Susan Spalt or Maggie Scarborough.

PETER OSTROUSHKO RETURNS!

The former "Prairie Home Companion" music director returns for a special concert with our own Danny Gotham on Sunday, April 14th at 3 p.m. Joining them will be Wes Collins, the winner of the 2012 NC Singer-Songwriter contest. Admission is \$15 at the door, and there are no advance tickets. We had a full house when Peter was here in 2007, so show up early to get your seats; doors will open at 2:30. It promises to be a great night of music and part of the proceeds benefit the church. **For any further info, contact Danny Gotham at: steelstringer@gmail.com or 919.967.4934**

OUTDOOR CONNECTIONS:

Spring Paddle. April 13, 10:00. Meet at the church to carpool to Cane Creek, rent some cheap canoes, share a picnic and enjoy the most beautiful, undeveloped motor boat free lake in the Piedmont. Hope you can join us but if not this is a place you'll be happy you visited on your own. RSVP chandler-dorfman@mindspring.com

UNSEEN VOLUNTEERS:

Every month a dedicated group of volunteers represent our church to the IFC and to the people who come to the Community Kitchen to eat a meal. We know it is happening, but many of us don't know who is doing the work. The first Friday dinner is our longest service project. In recent years the most regular cooks have been Eleanor Armstrong, Michael Shulman, Dave Klein, and Katie Donovan. The most regular dinner servers have been Carol Palm, Pat McCann, Shannon Richards, and Maureen O'Rourke. In addition to these regular folks every month there are a few others who fill in the ranks for that month and make it possible to prepare and serve a nice dinner meal. Although they don't come as often, these occasional helpers are valued just as much.

On the third Wednesday another group of regulars prepare and serve lunch, which is the meal with the largest attendance. The regular cooks are Ann and Eugen Merzbacher, Carla Knip, Dorothy Hammett, Shelley deFosset, and her brother Gordon deFosset, a non-church helper. The regular lunch servers include Martha Jordan, Pat Smith, and Susie Hafer. When one or more of this crew is going to be absent, other help from the church fills in and is much appreciated. These

folks represent our church's commitment to the community. Say thanks when you happen to see them.

THE RETURN OF BOUNTIFUL BAGS:

Twice before the Community Service Ministry has given out paper shopping bags with a list attached of the items most needed at the IFC Food Pantry. Each time there have been many bags returned which really helped fill the pantry shelves. On April 28th there will be a third bag distribution. It is hoped they will be returned by Mothers' Day, May 12th. Mothers and food sort of go together in our minds. However if you can't return until a later date, it will still be very welcome and delivered promptly. The list of needed items remains much the same, so one can fill a bag without having a list stapled on and it still be considered a Bountiful Bag.



Environmental CORner

Compost Workshop: Attend the last of the free composting classes offered by the Town of Chapel Hill, **Saturday, April 6, 10-11:30 a.m.** at the Community Center Learning Garden on Estes Drive in Chapel Hill. No registration required. Learn about indoor and outdoor composting in a variety of containers.

Garden Workday: Help celebrate Earth Week by tending to our own patch of Earth – the Community Church grounds. This year ECO and Building and Grounds will hold two joint workdays, one on **Saturday, April 20**, and another on **Saturday, May 11**. Both are from 9-12. We will clear invasive plants and generally spruce things up. Bring gloves and gardening tools, if you have them, and your lunch if you'd like. Childcare is available if requested by April 16 (ECO@c3huh.org).

Share the Plate (STP) for [Save the Monks Community Forest](#): On **April 21**, ECO is sponsoring this Carbon Covenant project to help Buddhist monks save a forest in northwestern Cambodia. The monks share their belief with others that trees are sacred, organize patrols to prevent illegal logging, and work to enable local villagers to earn a living from sustainable forest products such as mushrooms. Click on the link above or visit the ECO table April 7 or 21 (Earth Sunday) for more information.

[Sustainability Center and Solar Stage](#): Join a celebration of sustainable living sponsored by the Town of Chapel Hill as part of the NC Science Festival and UNC Science Expo, **Saturday, April 14 from 10 to 3 pm** at Morehead Planetarium. There will be interactive demonstrations, live entertainment, and an opportunity to learn about local efforts to be environmentally responsible. Click the above link for more information.

Divestment and Climate Change: Read UUA Treasurer [Tim Brennan comments](#) on divestment as a

strategy for fighting climate change, and [response](#) from another UU.

Fracking: National Geographic Magazine's March issue had an excellent article about the promise and risk of fracking as it is playing out in North Dakota. It is definitely worth reading to understand more about what could be in store if fracking happens here. Also, click this National Geographic link for [animation of the fracking process](#).

First Sunday Recyclables:

April 6: Eyeglasses (including sunglasses, prescription or not), lenses, and cases, batteries and natural corks

Info: <http://c3h.wikispaces.com/ECO>

Contact: ECO@c3h.uu.org

WOMEN CIRCLE: April 7 - Picnic, Tour and Art Viewing

On Sunday April 7 **WomenCircle** will meet at the Horace Williams House for three fun events: a picnic- (weather permitting), a special tour of historic sites and an art exhibit. If the weather is nice, we'll gather at 1:00 at the Horace Williams House (610 East Rosemary Street, Chapel Hill) with our own picnic provisions and find a grassy spot to plunk (bring a sit-upon as you wish). If weather is not good, meet us in the Horace Williams house after 1 pm. At 2 PM, we will start our special tour titled "Anonymous Was a Woman" led just for us by a volunteer from the Preservation Society of Chapel Hill. The one-hour tour will take us to some special sites in the beautiful historic center of Chapel Hill. The tour will evoke some amazing women who have lived here from 1800 to the present day. This is a walking tour, so come comfortably dressed for the weather du jour. After the tour we can visit the Chinese watercolor art exhibit by artist Wushuan Vivien Burns. Tour cost- \$5 each. To reserve your spot RSVP by **Monday April 1** to Gail McKinley gaimck@att.net or call her at [919-932-7165](tel:919-932-7165).

STRENGTHENING UU VOICES IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE:

The Community Church, Eno River UU, and Raleigh UU have joined together to sponsor a workshop by Dr. Paul Razor on April 6th from 1-4:00pm at ERUUF located at 4907 Garrett Road in Durham. Registration and more information is available at www.eruuf.org or call 919-489-2575.

"Reclaiming Prophetic Witness – Liberal Religion in the Public Square" is a recent book authored by Dr. Razor. His book and this workshop are a call to action, inviting UU's to live out our prophetic heritage and bring our religious convictions to bear on the issues of the day. He writes that liberal theology must be a liberation theology acting toward social justice and overcoming oppression. Speaking historically, "Universalism taught that one's own personal welfare was inseparably linked

to the welfare of all of humanity... the principle of universal salvation generated a sense of wholeness and harmony that was the theological basis for a truly egalitarian society."

The Rev. Dr. Paul Razor is director of the Center for the Study of Religious Freedom at Virginia Wesleyan College. An ordained Unitarian Universalist minister, he earned his M.Div. and his Ph.D. in theology from Harvard; he also holds degrees in music and law from the University of Michigan.

UU CONNECTIONS

UUWomenSpirit SPRING 2013:

Institute – May 15th, 16th, and 17th;

Gathering – May 17th, 18th, and 19th

Location: The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center, in Highlands, NC.

UU Women Spirit and the Spring 2013 Planning Committee invite you to leave your cares at the foot of the mountain and remember your True Essence!

www.uuawomenspirit.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

MAY Newsletter Submissions need to be in by APR 21st !!!

*** Submit articles to c3hoffice@gmail.com.

*** If you have an interest in officially joining The Community Church of Chapel Hill, whether you are a newcomer or have been here for a while, please email our minister, Rev. Johnson, at mbjohnson@uuma.org or speak to her during the Coffee Hour.





The Community Church of Chapel Hill
Unitarian – Universalists

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