

Community Church News ~ May 2015

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Sunday Services – 9:00am & 10:45am

May 3 “Hymnody for the Earth” Music Service Glenn Mehrbach, Music Director

"Hymnody of Earth" - special guest Malcolm Dalglish, composer and virtuoso Hammer Dulcimer player, will join the choir for the performance of his work, based on poetry by Wendell Berry. Also joining the choir will be percussionist Julia Thompson. The work takes us on a musical and emotional journey concerning our relationship with the natural world.

May 10 “Poetry Sunday” Rev. Thom Belote, preaching

Join us this Sunday for a worship service that will include the poetry of favorites like Billy Collins and Mary Oliver and other, lesser known, poets who are sources of inspiration for Unitarian Universalists.

May 17 Coming of Age Service Led by Rev. Thom Belote

This is a service that is always moving and memorable as our 14-15 year olds share their beliefs and journeys. All year long they have been discussing important religious, theological, ethical, and spiritual questions about life, meaning-making, and death, as well as meeting with their adult mentors. Come hear them speak their “credos!”

May 24 “The Good News about Peace” Rev. Thom Belote, preaching

ISIS. Police brutality. The invasion of Ukraine. Mass shootings. Rape culture. It seems that whenever you turn on the news our world is bleeding with violence. Some authors, like Steven Pinker and John Horgan, insist this isn't actually the case. They claim the world is more peaceful than it has ever been and moving in the direction of even greater peace. Join us for worship on this Memorial Day weekend as we hear the good news about peace.

May 31 Annual Rising Up Flower Communion Service for All Ages

This service celebrates youth who are rising up to Middle School, High School, and graduating High School Seniors. It culminates in a favorite ritual of the Unitarian Universalist faith--the Flower Communion. *Each person should bring a fresh flower to the service to contribute to the communion.* The service is followed by a reception honoring the Seniors and their families.



On My Mind & In My Heart...

Last spring I had a conversation with Interim Minister Gary Kowalski to talk about his experience of being the minister here. I asked Gary what he didn't accomplish during his Interim Ministry that he wished he had. He replied, “I tried to end ‘open mic’ Joys & Sorrows, but unfortunately was unsuccessful in doing so.”

In their 2007 book *Worship that Works* on best practices in UU worship, Wayne Arnason and Kathleen Rolenz take a grudgingly neutral stance toward “open mic” Joys & Sorrows, writing that it can work but preferring that churches try other ways of doing it.

In a report on UU worship practices led by UU ministers in the Atlanta area a decade ago, the authors took an overwhelmingly dim view of “open mic” Joys & Sorrows.

And, in an essay on the subject, UU minister Tamara Lebak calls “open mic” Joys & Sorrows “the model spiritual practice of unhealthy churches.”

I'm certainly in a small minority – and I may be naïve – but I am actually not opposed to Joys & Sorrows. This stance is based on my own understanding of what Joys & Sorrows is and what it isn't:

Joy & Sorrows isn't about communicating the caring needs of those in the congregation. Caring needs are communicated through formal channels like contacting the pastoral visitors or the minister, through less formal channels like small groups (covenant groups, the choir, etc.), and through informal networks of friends. About 75% of the pastoral care I provide is in response to things that are never spoken of during J&S.

Joys & Sorrows isn't about intimacy. Intimacy is found through small groups: Spiritual Exploration for Adult classes, Covenant Groups, the Women's Circle, and other such programs.

(....to be continued) 1

Joys & Sorrows isn't about knowing each other. Our congregation includes about 350 members, 100 associates, 200 children and youth, and another 300 or so visitors. None of us – including me – will ever know everybody else in our church.

So, what is Joys & Sorrows, then? Joys & Sorrows is actually a symbolic act of worship. It is a way of symbolizing that we are a diverse community with deaths and births, illness and recovery, milestones and millstones, celebrations and grief. It is also a way of symbolizing the democratic nature of our faith by allowing our members to speak these events in their own voice, rather than having these events mediated through the voice of the minister. We'll only ever know a tiny fraction of the joys and sorrows present in our congregation on any given Sunday morning.

There is, of course, an ever-present risk associated with "open mic" Joys & Sorrows. The time can be abused in myriad ways. But, I believe the benefit of having a member be able to share the death of a parent in her own voice or the birth of a first grandchild in his own words outweighs the risk.

Here are some guidelines for how to make Joys & Sorrows work well:

- The joy or sorrow should be personal. That is, it should be about yourself or someone you know. (The Worship Associate or the minister will place a stone for any local, national, or international tragedies – a natural disaster, war, the loss of a well-loved public figure – that may be on the minds of the entire congregation.)
- The joy or sorrow should be brief. Most joys and sorrows can be expressed in a single sentence. Two or three sentences is the absolute limit. (For those who are familiar with social media, I'd recommend making your joy or sorrow "Tweetable." 140 characters or fewer.)
- The joy or sorrow should be appropriate. Vivid descriptions of an injury or surgery may be upsetting. Some content is better left unspoken during multigenerational services when children are present.
- Using the time for announcements, political statements, or opinion editorializing is not appropriate.

I believe Joys & Sorrows can be a powerful and meaningful part of congregational worship. Let's all do our part to ensure it continues to be a beloved part of the worship service. As always, I welcome your thoughts and feedback.

See you in church! - Rev. Thom

SERVICES AUCTION RETURNS

The Services Auction will return in the fall of 2015! This is our major church fundraiser and fun-raiser! It is a time for members to auction off their talents -- by throwing parties and social gatherings, performing, or sharing other skills and interests -- and for fellow congregants to

support the church by purchasing these and other items. Rev. Thom Belote is creating a team to organize and coordinate the Auction, and he needs your help. If you wish to volunteer, contact Rev. Thom as soon as possible.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

ALL CHURCH COMMUNITY DINNER FRI, MAY 8th.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for our monthly Community Dinner on May 8th for fun and fellowship. Note May's dinner is on the 2nd Friday, instead of the 1st Friday. We meet in the Jones Building at 6:00 to share a meal. \$2/person covers the main dish and dessert. Please also bring a side dish (salad, vegetable, bread, fruit, etc.). All are welcome! RSVP at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1NlabzvgsY2dyfMsWy7jsIWAZJ6d2Jug9dQUvcANsuU/viewform?usp=send_form



MUSICAL NOTES by Glenn

MALCOLM DALGLISH IN RESIDENCE AT THE COMMUNITY CHURCH MAY 3

May 3 is a very special day for the Community Church. We welcome internationally known composer, hammer dulcimer virtuoso and performer Malcolm Dalglish to collaborate with the Community Church Choir Sunday morning with his masterwork, "Hymnody of Earth," and perform a special family concert, "The Wild Wild Word Show," that afternoon at 2pm.

"Hymnody of Earth" is a song cycle based on the poetry of Wendell Berry. Music director Glenn Mehrbach has been collaborating by phone with Mr. Dalglish on the shape and content of the service for months, and several new compositions have been added, written since we originally performed the piece 2007.

Here's how Dalglish describes his influences, which are all very present in his compositions: "I listen to everything from The Beatles to Igor Stravinsky, Vaughn Williams to Egberto Gismonti from Brazil, Alex De Grassi on guitar. I listen to vocal groups like Zap Mama, Sweet Honey in the Rock; fiddlers like Kevin Burke, Martin Hayes, and singer-songwriters like Greg Brown."

And of his afternoon family show, "The Wild Wild Word Show:" "A marvelous blend of rhyme, rhythm and song, the show combines story ballads and physical humor with the mesmerizing sounds of hammer dulcimer and virtuoso spoon and bones playing. Stories range from anecdotal to folktales, embellished with body percussion. Our relationship with the natural world is a unifying theme of the work."

So keep Sunday May 3 open on your calendar, and spend the morning and afternoon at the Community Church while we host this extraordinary artist.

Tickets for the show start at \$10, and are available after services or at wildword.brownbagtickets.com.



CARING MINISTRY

Our ministry provides visits and emotional support to members who are hospitalized or homebound, lends out Caring Quilts to members to provide comfort and symbolize the support of our community, and assists members in finding resources and support services in times of critical need. If you have any caring needs you can reach the Caring Ministry Coordinator, Ivy Brezina, at caring@c3huu.org, (415)663-8703 or by filling out a Joys and Sorrows card in the Commons. Cards are on a table on the right side as you enter the sanctuary.

STEWARDSHIP

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE:

The Stronger Together Stewardship Team would like to thank everyone who pledged this year. As of April 7, 239 pledges were received for \$410,000. 90% of the membership has pledged. This is the most received in the shortest amount of time.

The team would also like to thank the many ministries and committees who participated in the Stronger Together Stewardship Fair. Among the groups represented were: *Community Services; Share the Plate; ECO; Peace and Justice; Justice United; Forward Together; Standing on the Side of Love/HKonJ; Worship; Music; SEA; Children and Youth; Youth Ministry; Covenant Groups; Meditation; Campus Ministry; Endowment; 20's and 30's; Flaming Chalices; Outdoor Connections; qUUilters; UUKes; Women's Circle; Communications; Caring; Membership; Board; Finance; and Buildings & Grounds.*

Thanks as well to the super stewards without whom so many would not have pledged: Nanci Ballantyne, Luanne Bannan, Peter Bird, Barbara Chapman, Cathy Cole, Ruth Gibson, Andrew Hennessy-Strahs, Dan Hill, Kathy Hodges, Ruth Leopold, John Leopold, Ginger Long, Peggy Misch, Bill Poteat, Bill Rote, Bryan Sexton, Janel Sexton, Elsbeth van Tongeran, Mike Vann, Becky Waibel, Cecilia Warshaw, Steve Warshaw, Dick Weston, Becky Wilkes, and Joanne Wood. Special thanks to Andrea and Munsie for going above and beyond!

Finally, the team would like to thank Liz Bryan and team for an excellent celebration, Mary Hulett (chair), Dorothy Hammett, Becky Waibel, Bill Rote, Andrew Hennessy-Strahs, Nanci Ballantyne, Andrea Sordean-Mintzer, and Thom Belote.

SPIRITUAL EXPLORATIONS (SEA)

Join us at SEA this month for a discussion on the book "Reading the Koran." This course will be offered over three Thursdays (May 14, 21, and 28 from 7 until 9pm at church) with the last session being a film screening and a visit from a local Imam.

This is the last course before SEA goes on summer break, but do check back in August for more information on Fall courses.



SHARE THE PLATE

SHARE THE PLATE DEADLINE SUNDAY, MAY 3rd FOR REQUESTS JULY-DEC, 2015.

The Share the Plate Steering Committee accepts nominations for non-profit causes that are consistent with the mission of The Community Church twice a year. The deadline for the next submission is May 3rd. E-mail applications to either Barb Chapman at barbchapman@bellsouth.net or stp@c3huu.org. Current nomination forms can be found on the church website at <http://www.c3huu.org/share-the-plate.html>. Committee members are Jill Baker, Barb Chapman, Jena Kaizen, John Leopold, Jane Provan, Bill Rote, and Susan Spalt.

STP – MAY 3: INTER-FAITH COUNCIL (IFC):



The Inter-Faith Council provides many services to those in need. Did you know? Since North Carolina did not accept the expanded Medicaid those who are unemployed are not eligible for Obama Care and remain uninsured. Did you know? IFC works with the homeless in providing the necessary reports for those qualified, so they can receive Social Security Disability. Did you know? If you had a felony charge that you are not eligible for food stamps based on your record. One more: Did you know? There are many more homeless women who are not identified due to living with friends and relatives. Our Church can be proud to be one of the founding members of IFC.

STP – MAY 17: JOE AND LUCY STRALEY FUND

The Joe and Lucy Straley Fund for Youth Travel was established to fund youth from the Community Church to travel for peace, justice, and service. The Straley Fund has supported over 70 youth trips from our church in the last decade, to the General Assembly, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Workshops, Ecuador, New Orleans and Nicaragua. Church support means that youth of modest means can take these trips which would otherwise cost prohibitive and it conveys to our youth our values and commitment to their future. The fund honors Joe and Lucy Straley -- founding and stalwart members of the Community Church and prominent activists for civil rights, peace and justice here in North Carolina and around the world especially in the Latin America.

STP – MAY 31: THE SARAH INSCH FUND FOR YOUTH CHURCH LEADERSHP / SHELTER NECK UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CAMP SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Shelter Neck's mission is to provide a spiritual uplifting, quiet, historic location to function as a retreat for UUs in our area. **The Shelter Neck Camp Scholarship Fund** provides scholarships to needy UU youth in Eastern North Carolina to attend the summer UU youth camps for middle and high school youth which build UU identity and leadership

The Insch Fund was established by the Board of the Church in honor and in memory of dedicated church leader Sarah Insch. The Fund awards modest scholarships for either college or for UU focused summer programs to church youth who complete the Insch Youth Church Leadership Program. This year's Insch Leadership Associates are Maura Holt-Ling, Colin Battis and Jesse Prakken. The Leadership program provides a structured opportunity for youth to participate in church leadership in worship, ministry teams and social justice.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

BY THE NUMBERS

Discovering The Community Church of Chapel Hill Unitarian Universalist

Numbers don't tell the whole story of our church, but they provide a peek into our church community. Check out these numbers to learn more about what we're doing to be stronger together. Stories --- your stories --- tell a bigger story. So in subsequent newsletters we would like to share with the rest of the congregation what you find meaningful and enjoyable about your participation. Why do you sing in the choir? Why do you enroll your children in religious education? Why do you attend SEA classes or covenant groups? Why do you pledge? How do you benefit from this participation? If you would be willing to share a tidbit or snippet please send your story to Paige Hall Smith at paigesmith50@gmail.com.

The Membership Team had this "numbers game" at our table during one of the Stewardship Sundays. We asked you to guess how many people were involved in these activities at our church. Many of you asked us to provide the actual (correct) numbers. Here is a snapshot of some of what we do for Fall 2014 - Spring 2015:

of Members - 347
of Associates (pledging non-members) - 94
Average number who attend Sunday worship services - 210
enrolled in children's religious education - 105
enrolled in middle school religious education - 51
enrolled in high school religious education - 37
enrolled in Spiritual Education for Adults - 235
enrolled in Covenant Groups - 65
of youth and children in choir - 22
of adults in Community Church Choir - 30
of adults in Community Church Singers - 15

WITHIN THESE WALLS



ART IN THE SANCTUARY:

May 3 through June 28, a show by Shelly Hehenberger: "Psyche Unveiled." Reception at the church on **Sunday, May 10, 1-3pm.**

Shelly Hehenberger works in oil paint, cold wax, sand, chalk and resin to create layered surfaces on wood, which replicate the diverse striations of the earth and the multi-faceted, vertical landscape of the psyche. She has been a working and teaching artist since 1994 when she completed an MFA in painting at the University of Cincinnati, and she has been exhibiting in NC since 2000 when she moved here. She lives in Carrboro with her husband and teenage daughter, and her work can be seen at Frank Gallery on Franklin Street. More information available on the church website, <http://www.c3huu.org/upcoming-art-exhibits.html>

COMMUNITY CHURCH CONCERT SERIES:

THE DUHKS: FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2015, 8pm. "No band epitomizes the polyethnic strands of modern folk music better than The Duhks. Since forming in Winnipeg in 2001, The Duhks have created a dynamic blend of old-timey, French Canadian and Celtic music punched up with shades of blues, soul and driving Afro Cuban Rhythms that leaves festival crowds on their feet. Over the course of 4 critically-acclaimed albums the band has earned Juno and Grammy awards and nominations and have played a significant role in the neo-folk revival." **GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!!** www.communitychurchconcerts.org. \$20 (\$2 service charge) Advance; \$20 at table in Jones Bldg.; \$25 at door.

THANKS FROM CHARLES HOUSE;

Many thanks from the Community Service Ministry to the members and friends of the church who supported the Share the Plate for Charles House so generously. \$1432 was raised to provide financial aid to less affluent seniors, so they can attend this 25-year-old, excellent day care center. Watch for announcements this summer telling more about their move to a new location on the edge of the Carol Woods Campus. The philosophy and

much of the staff will remain the same, but more people can be served in this new larger location.

SPACE EXPLORATION CONTINUES

Ah, Spring, the time many clean out closets, garages... The Space Exploration Team (Team) hasn't been culling but it has been exploring church storage needs: high (balcony), low (manse's lower level) and everything in between.

A big "Thank You!" goes to the many ministries and groups who responded to Church Council's call for their storage needs. *If your group hasn't yet, please send its needs to Cecilia Warshaw, warshawc@msn.com.*

Just as spaces are needed for church functions so, too, is storage for items that support those functions: worship, fellowship, social justice... Thought is being put into solutions that allow storage to be accessible without disturbing others, better suited to needs and a few with keyed access. Storage has to be integrated into any space solutions. That is what the team and architect are working on now.

Information about the church's space needs effort is available at <http://www.c3huu.org/space-exploration.html>.

TUESDAY NIGHT MEDITATION.....

...will take a break for the summer. Our last meeting will be Tuesday May 19, 2015. We will resume on Tuesday Sept. 1st. Questions? Contact Delia Keefe, deliakeefe@gmail.com, or Joan Meade, jwmstudioj@earthlink.net.

UU NON-FICTION READERS:

UU Non-Fiction Readers meet on the third Saturday of each month at 10:30 in the Kirby Room. On May 16 we will be discussing The Sixth Great Extinction: An Unnatural History, by Elizabeth Kolbert—one of the ten best books of 2014 according to the New York Times. Colbert reports from the front lines of the violent collision between civilization and our planet's ecosystem. Traveling to some of the world's remotest corners, she examines how man-made climate change threatens to eliminate 20-50% of all living species on earth within this century. It's environmental writing at its most rigorous and richly detailed, and as riveting as any thriller. If you'd like to join us, just read Kolbert's book and show up for a stimulating discussion.

On June 20, we turn to a National Book Award Finalist, Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea, by Barbara Demick. Contact Carolyn Holt with any questions: carolynholt@mac.com

OUTDOOR CONNECTIONS:

May 1-3, Peaks of Otter Lodge, peak of Spring Warbler Migration, Trillium and Lady Slipper Bloom. Waterfalls, Sharp Top Mountain, Warbler Road. Oh My! RSVP chandler-dorfman@mindspring.com



ECO's Environmental COrner:

First Sunday Recyclables - May 3: Cell phones (including chargers) to be donated to the Orange County Rape Crisis Center. **Batteries** (AAA - D, button, rechargeable), **corks** (natural and synthetic), **plastic pencils, pens, and markers**.

Last chance to enter the Growing Greener Raffle! Take any NEW action for the planet in April-May 3. Complete a ticket for each new action at the ECO table before 10:30 am, May 3. You'll be entered into the drawing for solar/hand crank radio or a tire pressure gauge. You don't have to be present to win. See www.c3huu.org/eco for details. People are still talking about something they've done for years...

ECO thanks the many people who made Earth Month activities a success! Church members got their tire pressures checked, participated in church's spring workday, donated to Trees, Water, & People, brought items for special recycling, carpooled to church for the first time and did other individual actions in support of planet Earth.

UU CONNECTIONS

UU WOMENSPIRIT PRESENTS:

Stars Above, Light Below, A Call to Celebrate Magic- The stars are the oldest things, more ancient than the earth herself. In ancient times, the wise ones, the healers, were women. We look to the night sky above and in those lights shining, we see the wise women of ancient times. We draw from that wisdom, that light, to illuminate our own paths and the paths of those around us. Institute – May 13-16, 2015. Gathering – May 15-18, 2015. Price includes all meals, lodging, and programming at The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center in Highlands, NC. <http://mountaincenters.org>

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Jun Newsletter Submissions need to be in by May 17th!!!

*** Submit articles to c3hoffice@gmail.com. Please remember the new 150-word limit for submissions.

*** If you would like to learn more about joining the Community Church of Chapel Hill, please contact our Director of Welcoming Ministries, Jacqueline Brett by calling the office (919) 942-2050, emailing c3hmembership@gmail.com, or find her at one of our Sunday services. Whether you are brand new or a long time attendee, and whatever your beliefs or background, we welcome you to our community of friendship and ideals.



The Community Church of Chapel Hill
Unitarian Universalist

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