

from doug



We Do

The energy, anxiety, excitement and apprehension are building to a crescendo here in NC as the May 8 vote draws near. Some of us have an awful lot riding on exposing the Legislature's antics for what they are... 'constitutionalized' discrimination. The outcome is still uncertain and I continue to remind myself, and others, that defeating the amendment will be nothing short of historic. Statewide referendums have never been good news for GLBT marriage equality. (The States that currently legalize same sex marriage have done so either by act of legislature or court, but never yet by public referendum.) This is not to say that Amendment One will not be defeated. It is simply to state clearly that should that occur, it will signal a tide turning of epic proportions. It is exciting to think that our little Southern selves (NC) could be part of this history, but I am also convinced that whether or not the amendment is defeated the future is indeed on our side. (Even Thom Tillis agrees on that point!)

That being said, defeating Amendment One will not garner additional equality for our LGBT sisters and brothers. For that, we need to mobilize new initiatives... and to that end I want to introduce you to the very impressive "Campaign for Southern Equality." (<http://southernequality.org/>) Also known as the "We Do" campaign, same sex couples, often who have been together for decades, present themselves for a marriage license. They do so respectfully, having announced their intentions to the magistrate or clerk of court in advance, and knowing they will be denied. But there is something very powerful when two loving human beings come together and gently, personally ask another human being for the right granted so easily to heterosexuals. The "We Do" campaign is an amazing, loving, compassionate, in-your-face-the-way-of-Jesus centered effort. Perhaps, short of being there live, there is no better way to explain their efforts than to ask you to view one of their brief YouTube clips. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1H_yfhRXA3Y The couples who present themselves for a marriage license do not do so in isolation. Clergy, family and friends stand with them as they take this action.

Because they want to avoid complicating the Amendment vote (and the strategy that other LGBT advocates are taking to defeat it), the Campaign for Southern Equality is waiting until after May 8 for their next public action. One day. On May 9, the WE Do Campaign comes to Durham. I will be there.

Perhaps, after seeing the youtube clip, some of you will want to join in. If so, let me know.

Together with you all,

A couple of more things...

This is the time of the year, late April/early May, when I am always especially thankful for the leadership at UPUCC. At the spring Congregational Meeting we elect new officers and committees, which means saying good-bye to part of the leadership that has faithfully guided us in the past year. While I am truly excited about the slate we have to offer (see page four for the complete new officer/committee slate), I am almost dumbfounded in trying to express my full admiration, appreciation and indebtedness to some special ones who are finishing their terms. Please take a moment to thank these officers and chairfolk for their *considerable* (and wonderful) efforts on our behalf: Amy Lewis, Joanne Kennedy Frazer, Leslie Elza, Sarah Witt, Ashley Hiatt, Judi Culver, Sandra McKeown, Dan Harrell, Lela Demby, Jeff Vondy, Kathy Dobbs and Lisa Stevens.

Speaking of the Council, a while back they decided it would be helpful to designate a space, a bulletin/cork board, where people could post business cards, babysitting services, referrals, special offers, etc. so that UPUCC people could know more about services we can provide each other. Now, thanks to Doug Culver (chair of the Building and Grounds Committee), just outside the kitchen, in the hallway to the worship space, you'll find a bulletin board with the very catchy title of "Learning About Each Other." Start posting so others can start learning!

We do not walk alone

upucc children and youth



Think back for a moment to when you were a child. For those of you who grew up going to church, what are your earliest memories about it? For those of you who did not, what were your earliest memories of community, of sensing you were a part of something bigger? I wonder....

Personally, I was a very shy child so my earliest positive memories of church are about adults who took a special interest, developed a friendship with me and slowly drew me out of my shell. Children know God *not* through their intellect or rational mind, *not* through reading theology or reciting doctrine, but through relationship. They know God through their experience with the world. And they come to understand their place within the world through their experience with adults in their lives. At UPUCC we are working to create a community not just in worship and between adults, but also in children's church, between children and between adults and children.

Please take some time to reflect on whether or not you may feel the Spirit leading you volunteer in children's church starting in the fall. This important ministry needs people who are patient, generous, flexible, have a good sense of humor and are willing to devote their time to building relationships and learning more about God! We will need help in the nursery and in all the grades (see chart below). I hope to hear from you soon!

Peace, *Kate*

2012-2013 Teaching Teams

Nursery	Pre-K	K-First Grade	Second-Third Grade	Fourth-Fifth Grade
Need 12 volunteers	Lisa Flint-Morris	Deborah Dunn	Suzanne Ladd	Lisa Stevens
	Angela Walden-Weaver	Paul Buschkemper	Need 7 more volunteers	Valerie Hendricks
	Kathy Dobbs	Need 6 more volunteers		Anthony Neff
	Jodi Sheldon			Nick Haddad
	Need 4 more volunteers			Need 4 more volunteers

John's River Valley Camp

There is nothing quite like time spent outside, under the stars, in God's great Creation. Add to that camp fires and singing songs and making friends and helping others and you just about have heaven on earth! For youth going into seventh through twelfth grade, John's River Valley Camp Work Week (co-led by Kate Forer) will be such an experience! Join Kate and other youth from area UCC churches for a beautiful weekend in the mountains, **Sunday, July 15 to Saturday, July 21**. Cost: only \$50!! Registration is due May 1 but Kate will accept them up to May 6 (shhhhh....don't tell!)! Please contact kate@upucc.org for more info.

May Dates for Middle School Youth

May 6

11:45 to 1:15 p.m.

All youth and their parents are invited to play in our parents vs. youth kickball tournament at Umstead State Park! Join us for a picnic lunch and some friendly competition.

May 13

No Youth Gathering—Mother's Day

Saturday, May 19

Youth End-of-Year Celebration at Kerr Lake!
Details to be announced soon!

slate of nominees for 2012-13

At the spring Congregational meeting following worship on April 29 UPUCC Covenant Partners will be asked to approve the following slate of nominees for officers, committee chairs and members. Thanks go to the 2012 Nominating Committee for their efforts: Artie Hendricks, Nicki Norris, Eddie McDaniel, Doug Long, Kate Forer and Twila Kelly.

Officers

Moderator—Artie Hendricks
Moderator Elect—Mary Nations
Secretary—Hope Kiser
Treasurer—Rick Lacks

Non-Council Officers

Assistant Treasurer—Deb Elliot
Assistant Treasurer—Phyllis Mueller

Committees

Adult Education

Chair—Nicki Norris
Jon McDunn
Clarence Parks
Vicki Parks
Linda Seward
David VandeVusse

Building and Grounds

Chair—Doug Culver
Carol Banaitis
Sarah Hogan
Theo Kingsberry
Jerry Pemberton

Children's Committee

Chair—Nick Haddad
Lela Demby
Paul Domenico
Lisa Flint-Morris
Valerie Hendricks
Shanora Kingsberry
Sarah McConnell
Sonja McKay
Jodi Sheldon

Youth

Chair—Mark Stevens
Rhonda Burton
Lisa Hoskins
Greg Howes
Ashley Montague

Faith In Action

Co-Chair—Debbie Elliot
Co-Chair—Amy Lewis
Sarah Bellak
Paul Buschkemper
Andrea Fenoglio
Ted Frazer
Judy Lacks

Pastoral Care

Chair—Rita DeMario
Tim Champion
Mark DeMario
Jimmy Gibbs
Dan Harrell
Gail Holden
Nicki Norris
Bill Radke
Jeri Radke

Worship & Music

Chair—Cheryl Harrison
Sheila Alderman
Mark DeMario
Derrick Kimrey
John Neves
Eleanor Smith
Christy Tucker

Stewardship & Finance

Chair—Jeff Holden
Anthony Neff
Paul Seward
Kristel Wooten
Bill Yoder

Membership & Publicity

Co-Chair—Eddie McDaniel
Co-Chair—Kelly Ramsey
Linda Beale
Deborah Dunn
Lanice Heidbrink
Kadi Hodges
Gina Sanders
Wayne Thompson

Fellowship

Co-Chair—Sally Bean
Co-Chair—Todd Smith
Kathryn Haddad
Kim Howes
Philip Laura
Janice Odom
Roberta Ouellette
Gustavo Sa
Bonnie Shook-Sa
Gwen Vass
Thaddeus Winbush

Personnel

Chair—Reed Altman
Peg Arcari
Anthony Neff
Rebecca van Dorsten

Visioning Committee

Peg Arcari
Kate Forer
Artie Hendricks
Amy Lewis
Doug Long
Mary Nations
Anthony Neff

Ministerial Relations

Reed Altman
Becky Campbell
Leon Whitehead

Brownleigh Dr. Association

Doug Culver
Doug Jones
Doug Long
Rebecca van Dorsten

faith in action

Urban Ministries —Bring on the Peanut Butter and Mac & Cheese!

Thanks to all for your generous donations to the Urban Ministries Food Pantry over the past few months. With just under 1,000 pounds of food collected during Lent alone, we're well on our way to surpassing our 2011 total of 3,330 pounds. But we can't stop yet, so keep the donations coming! Peanut butter and macaroni & cheese are needed the most, however any food you can give will be greatly appreciated. Other suggested items include: canned meats (tuna, chicken), canned vegetables, canned meals (ravioli, spaghetti), jelly, pasta, boxed milk, canned fruits, canned soups, dried beans, and juice boxes.

Hearts with Haiti Youth Event

On Sunday, April 15, UPUCC middle school youth got the pleasure of having Geoffrey Hamlyn from Hearts with Haiti come to speak to them about the organization. The youth learned about the vision and ministry of the St. Joseph's Home for Boys in Port-au Prince, Wings of Hope in the mountains above Port-au Prince, and Trinity House in Jacmel—all of which are a part of the St. Joseph Family in Haiti. Geoffrey showed the youth several pictures of the residents of each home, including many from Wings of Hope, a home for disabled children that also serves as a day school for children in nearby neighborhoods.

Many of us still remember the earthquake that shook the Haitian nation in January 2010, causing massive amounts of destruction and leaving many homeless. The St. Joseph's Home for Boys was destroyed by the earthquake, but has since been rebuilt and will reopen this spring. Our three sponsored children – Aliston Diver, Joseph Michel, and Jean "TiTig" Michel – will be returning to this home after residing at Trinity House during the reconstruction. Over the next month, the youth will be putting together letters including information about themselves, and questions to the boys to learn more about their everyday lives and the Haitian culture.



Wild Goose 2012. Pittsboro, June 21-24.

Wild Goose is not a conference or a convention; it's a gathering for anyone who wants to interact with justice, spirituality, and art. Speakers, artists, musicians, justice and peace leaders, and preachers the world over are coming in for this exceptional gathering within an hour of us!

For daily schedules, detailed information and tickets, see wildgoosefestival.org.

fellowship

Second Saturday Welcome Dinner! If you are a recent Covenant Partner to UPUC, or have been visiting and would like to learn more in a casual atmosphere, consider attending the Welcome Dinner on **May 12** from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. The menu is potluck so bring a main or side dish to share. Todd Smith and Sally Bean look forward to hosting the event at their home: 3151 Cooper Circle, Creedmoor 27522. Phone: (919) 764-9674. Sally notes that iPhones seem to give better directions to their place than GPS systems.

Update on Bike Umstead!! Since flexibility is our middle name, the UPUC Bike Explorers are accommodating the **May 6** Youth Kickball event by leaving a little later instead of right after worship as originally planned. We will depart following the kickball game—probably about 1:30 p.m. Meet at Umstead State Park, at the last parking lot from the Glenwood entrance. This is an informal but welcome-to-all-bike-explorers. Bring a water bottle and your bike. Although the ride is open to all, some level of off-road experience is assumed. The ride could last a couple of hours, depending on the energy and desire of the group. For more info, contact Bill Yoder at yoder2000@gmail.com.



adult education

FORUMS

May 6: Pluralism Sunday. The first Sunday in May has come to be known as “Pluralism Sunday” by the Center for Progressive Christianity. To join in observing the day, we will view and discuss the *Beyond Theology* DVD series episode “American Pluralism,” which demonstrates how people of diverse traditions can come together to serve their communities, including the Harvard University Pluralism Project.

May 13: Post Election Discussion. On this Sunday following the vote on May 8 we will gather together and informally discuss our collective journey and individual experiences and feelings on this historic vote.

May 20: “Health Care for All NC”—Special Guest Presentation. Health care and the Affordable Care Act are sure to be hot topics during this election year. In fact, the UCC General Synod has passed numerous resolutions advocating for a national health plan that covers everyone and is accessible and affordable. Rollin Russell, friend to UPUC and member of the board of “Health Care for All NC”, will be here with his colleagues Mysha Sissine and Mary Campion, who have developed an engaging and informative program on this issue.

May 27: No Forum – Memorial Day Weekend

from your coordinating council

It’s hard to believe that a year has gone by and now it is time for a new Coordinating Council and church year to begin. May is here and we start with OutRaleigh on May 5 and the big VOTE on May 8. We have a new Membership Brochure almost completed and our new Personnel Policy Handbook is getting its final evaluation. We are in the process of changing over to a new local bank, Trust Atlantic that is more in line with our values.

At this point, thanks to your generous and consistent giving, our financial health is good. We continue to rely on all of you to be good stewards so that the work of this church may go forward. We have so much to accomplish and big visions for our future. Everyone is to be commended for consistently giving and keeping up with your pledging. We will always be cautious and realistic when it comes to our money and we truly thank you for your support.

Finally, just a note of thanks and appreciation to all that have served this year on the council and on the committees. You have given so much and we are indebted to you. For me personally, it has been an incredible journey and a real pleasure to see and share in the work of this wonderful church and its members. I know Artie and his team will do wonderful things this year and I also know that this church will support them wholeheartedly.

Thank you so much, —Amy



An enthusiastic crew worked the Neuse River Clean-Up event last month.

upucc volunteers



Counterclockwise starting at left:

Clarence Parks shares his faith journey during a recent forum.

Kate Joyce along with her two children join Paul Buschkemper at ushering duties.

Many hands helped during the Stop Hunger Now event.



sunday service calendar at upucc

May 6

- Communion Prep: Linda Seward
- Coffee Set-Up: Carol Banaitis & Sarah Hogan
- Greeters: Angela Walden-Weaver, Amanda Kowski
- Ushers: Jerry Pemberton & Amy Whitfield
- Sound System: Kristen Larsen
- Auditor: Tim Champion
- Clean-Team: Dawn McCarthy, Jim McKay, Andy Orr, Jocelyn Powell, Leon Whitehead, Mark & Rita DeMario

May 13 (Mother's Day)

- Coffee Set-Up: Twila Kelly
- Greeters: Ron Clayton, Leon Whitehead
- Ushers: Gustavo Sa & Bonnie Shook-Sa
- Sound System: Theo Kingsberry
- Auditor: Eleanor Smith
- Clean-Team: Tim Champion & Dan Harrell, Ron Clayton, Rick Lacks, Lanice Heidbrink

May 20

- Coffee Set-Up: Todd Smith & Sally Bean
- Greeters: Lanice Heidbrink, Edward McFarland
- Ushers: Bill Yoder, Paul Buschkemper
- Sound System: Robbie Harrison
- Auditor: Frank McKay
- Clean-Team: Deb Baker-Sample, Jim Elza, Ted Frazer and Janice Odom

May 27 (Memorial Day Weekend)

- Coffee Set-Up: Jeff & Gail Holden
- Greeters: Bill & Jeri Radke
- Ushers: Doug & Judi Culver
- Sound System: Scott Freck
- Auditor: Hope Kiser
- Clean-Team: Jimmy Brady & Rusty Small, Bill & Doris Frazier, Paul Pennell

may calendar at upucc

Wed.	May 2	6:45 p.m. Music & Worship committee meets 7:00 p.m. Fellowship committee meets 7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal 8:30 p.m. UPUCC softball. Walnut Creek.
Thurs.	May 3	6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Phone Bank against Amendment One.
Sat.	May 5	9:30 a.m. Yoga with Rita DeMario in the worship space 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. OutRaleigh. See front page.
Sun.	May 6	9:30 a.m. Forum: Pluralism Sunday. See page six. 10:30 a.m. Worship & Communion. "Blessed Be the Tie That Binds." Following worship Stewardship & Finance committee meets Following worship Youth vs. Parents Kickball!! See page three. 1:30 p.m. UPUCC Bike Explorers in Umstead State Park. (Follows Kickball game.) See page six.
Mon.	May 7	6:30 p.m. UPUCC softball. Walnut Creek. 7:30 to 9:00 UPUCCapella rehearsal
Tues.	May 8	All day General Election.
Wed.	May 9	6:30 p.m. UPUCC softball. Walnut Creek. 7:00 p.m. Coordinating Council. 7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal
Sat.	May 12	9:30 a.m. Yoga with Sally Bean in the worship space. 6 to 8:30 p.m. Second Saturday Welcome Dinner. See page six.
Sun.	May 13	9:30 a.m. Forum: Post Election Discussion. See page six. 10:30 a.m. Worship: Mother's Day. "Shaping a World for Our Children." Soren Forer's Baptism.
Mon.	May 14	UPUCC Men's Group. Contact Reed Altman at reedaltman@gmail.com for details. 8:30 p.m. UPUCC softball. Walnut Creek.
Wed.	May 16	7:30 p.m. UPUCC softball. Walnut Creek. 7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal Midnight June newsletter deadline.
Sat.	May 19	9:30 a.m. Yoga with Ellen Beidler in the worship space Middle School Youth End-of-Year Party. Kerr Lake.
Sun.	May 20	9:30 a.m. Forum: Health Care for All NC. Special Presentation. See page six. 9:30 a.m. Children's Committee meets 10:30 a.m. Worship: "Believing, Behaving and Belonging." Following worship Adult Education, Pastoral Care, and FIA meets.
Wed.	May 23	7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal
Sun.	May 27	10:30 a.m. Worship. Kate Forer preaches. Pentecost. Memorial Day Weekend. Following worship Membership & Publicity committee meets
Wed.	May 30	7:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal

Looking Ahead

June 21-24: Wild Goose Festival
July 15-21: Johns River Valley Camp