

umstead park

UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST
a thoughtful and progressive community of faith

May 2016
8208 Brownleigh Drive
Raleigh, NC 27617
www.upucc.org

*Two Excellent Opportunities for FIA**

"In-House" Neuse River Sweep

We are once again planning our own Neuse River cleanup event – to take place the afternoon of Sunday, **May 15**. We'll meet at the home of Doug Long and Janice Odom (5409 Edington Lane, 27604) and "sweep" the river from Buffaloe Road to Milburnie Dam. There will also be an option for those who prefer to walk the greenway to collect trash rather than float.

Grab a quick lunch after church and we'll plan to launch at 1:30 p.m. (You're also welcome to bring a picnic and eat at the Long / Odoms, as well.)



What year was this Neuse River Clean-Up?

NOTE: Arranging a sufficient number of watercraft is a tricky task – so please let us know well in advance if you wish to participate in the river cleanup. If you can bring your own canoe that is great! If you can lend us a canoe for someone else to use, that is greatly appreciated. We will do our best to accommodate as many persons as possible, but children need to be accompanied by a parent. We will have signup sheets available for both boaters and walkers.

Contact Anthony Neff

anthonyneff@anthonyneff.com

or Doug Long doug@upucc.org if you have questions/advice/ideas, etc.

May 7th 2016 - 11am-6pm
Fayetteville Street



Out! Raleigh

Saturday, **May 7**

The sixth annual Out! Raleigh festival will take place Saturday, **May 7** from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. This inclusive and action-packed event is family friendly, with activity for all ages. The Out! Raleigh festival is an important way to raise the necessary funds to support the LGBT Center of Raleigh and its 20 community programs. Last year, more than 25,000 people poured into Raleigh's City Plaza to celebrate the LGBT community, their allies, friends and family. This year, with HB2 on the books, it's more important than ever for UPUC to take an active and visible role at the festival with an information booth (and display of support). We are seeking volunteers to help staff the booth, and there is a sign-up sheet on the FIA board. (There will be one or two-hour time slots available, which leaves plenty of time to enjoy the festival.)



The Current Impasse: *Love your enemies* or *Demonize the Other*

In our increasingly polarized culture, whether the topic be head scarves, health care or HB2, it seems that the only point people are in broad agreement on these days is this: "The other side is crazy." Phrased in its most extreme: "They are demonic."

In one of the more visual and literal examples last week, many hundreds of predominately religious supporters of House Bill 2 gathered on one side of the Legislative Building on the first day the legislators met imploring their officials to hold fast, while throngs, many also people of faith who view the law as blatant and destructive discrimination, gathered on the opposite side to demand the law be rescinded.

Do I find allegiance with one side over the other? Absolutely! HB2 is based on the ill-informed assumption that transgender persons are deviant and outside the bounds of fully human. With all my heart and soul I know HB2 to be as wrong and as discriminatory as segregated water fountains and restaurant entrances. *I also believe the bill to be a smokescreen for broader issues and was a politically timed ploy regarding the November elections.*

And still, knowing this, I was troubled by the two camps at the short session's opening day, the loudest voices alternating from side to side shouting down the other.

How can we hope to make progress in a culture that only vilifies the other as unconscionable extremists? Can either side possibly hope to 'win' by ramming their own agenda, no matter how righteous its roots, down the other's throat? Is there not a more constructive way to foster conversation? Have we lost all capacity to hear one another?

...and what about, by the way, Jesus' injunction to "Love our Enemies..."?

In a recent Op-Ed David Brooks wrote: "We've made politics a good-versus-evil blood sport... Once politics becomes your ethnic and moral identity, it becomes impossible to compromise, because compromise becomes dishonor."*

I am wholly against all that HB2 stands for, but part of what I witnessed last Monday was two mobs, neither interested in the other. Both found it impossible not only to compromise, but converse!

We have to find a better way. If there are some on the opposing side who will not talk, we have to find ones who will.

I don't have answers at this juncture. I simply invite you to join me in figuring out an alternative path to shouting the other down. As hard as it may be, I believe that is what following the way of Jesus calls us to do. We have to stand for the truth, but we have to stand in love.

Standing with you,

P.S. Tired of hearing ME preach? You're in great luck. Bill Coye will fill the pulpit on May 15th, Pentecost. Bill encourages us all to wear **red** that day!

*From N&O Thursday, April 14 <http://www.newsobserver.com/opinion/op-ed/article71632027.html>

upucc children & youth

Children's Committee Upcoming Events

We are pleased to announce that Lori Del Negro has joined Betsy Thigpen as Co-Chair of the Children's Ministry Committee this next year. The Committee has a wonderfully talented and creative team of seven additional covenant partners to assure that our children's ministry needs are met. We are proud of our third, fourth and fifth graders who added flowers this past Sunday around the Serviceberry Tree planted in memory of Twila Kelly and who cleaned up trash in the beautiful UPUCC woods where the tree is located. The children also planted seven small seedlings to contribute to the Earth Day Initiative to plant seven Billion trees over the next five years.

A key goal of our Children's Ministry is to bring nature inside and to spend more time in the woods and park around UPUCC.

Thanks to Nancy Wilms and other Children's Ministry Committee Members who are developing a survey to obtain ideas and priorities regarding new staff to be hired to work primarily with our children and youth. We continue to receive donations to our Children's Fund. Thank you, Covenant Partners, for your support of this work.

-Betsy Thigpen

P.S. We are on the cusp of announcing a special summer initiative that focuses on Children... a series of worship services that each lead to experiential forays into Umstead State Park. Listen for details to come very soon.

Youth Schedule for May

May 1- 6-8 p.m.
MS & HS Youth Movie Night!

May 8 - No Youth - Mother's Day

May 15- 1:30 p.m. (See page one for details!)
Neuse River Clean-Up at Doug & Janice's house
(Parents encouraged to join in!)

May 22 -after worship
All Youth v. Parents Kickball & Picnic
W. B. Umstead State Park
(Youth remain undefeated...)

Children's Clothing Closet

Sharing our resources: Daire Roebuck will be available the third Sunday of each month immediately after worship to open the Children's Clothing Closet (located in the storage area adjacent to the Youth Room). We have clothing from NB through 18-24 months for boys; baby and toddler clothes for girls. Donations are always accepted. Sizes limited to NB through 4T. Questions? Contact daire.e.roebuck@gmail.com

faith in action (continued from page one)

Urban Ministries Food Pantry

Picnic weather is here! As temperatures have been increasingly warming up over the past few months, we're given more and more opportunities for enjoying God's creation with a nice picnic outdoors. And what do we think of most when packing lunch for such an occasion? Why, a good ol' fashioned peanut butter and jelly sandwich, of course!

Throughout the month of May, bring in jars of peanut butter and jelly to help stock the Urban Ministries food pantry. However as usual, any items you can give will be greatly appreciated. Suggested items include those lower in sugar and salt. Also, cash donations (*or checks with Urban Ministries in the memo line*) are welcome!



fellowship

HOLD the Dates and VOLUNTEER to Help Coordinate **Fall Family Retreat- September 23-25, 2016**

Blowing Rock Retreat Center

Taking Reservations Now!



Given the wild accolades from previous family retreats, we have reserved rooms at Blowing Rock for another fall sequel this year!!

Cost: Two adults in the same room- \$340 includes meals; (cost for children-meals only)

A deposit of \$75 will hold a place for you and your family. (Make checks to UPUCC with "Fall Retreat" in the memo line.)

In the meantime, contact peg@upucc.org if you'd like to be on this year's planning task force.



Wild Goose Festival 2016 **July 7-10** **Hot Springs, NC**

<http://wildgoosefestival.org/tickets/>

For more information, Rita DeMario will be happy to assist.
Contact her via email Demario@aol.com, text or call 919-397-0844.

***Demonstrate our concern for neighbor through service and prophetic voice;
Claim our inescapable connection with the sacred earth and all of creation;***

music & worship

UPUCC Summer Worship Music

Every Summer we welcome all who wish to share their musical talents with us on Sunday mornings. Last year we filled up almost every Sunday with special music and it was wonderful! Please contact Sheila Alderman smb.alderman@gmail.com if you would like to sing or play one Sunday in June, July, or August! The more the merrier! All instruments and voices are welcome!

Committee Wish Lists!

From the Adult Ed Committee:

To access the many opportunities for adult spiritual enrichment, we would love to accept a donated new-ish laptop, with HDMI connection, able to stream from the internet without a lot of buffering. And it would be great if it has a CD drive.

From the Fellowship Committee:

We need a few kitchen items as noted below. If you have extras that you don't need, please consider donating them to the church.

- 1.Cake and pie servers
- 2.Serving spoons
- 3.Small spatulas (preferably metal)
- 4.Glass or ceramic medium and large serving bowls
- 5.Medium and large serving platters

Please leave any donations in the kitchen, preferably marked that they are for the Fellowship Committee.

Thanks for considering these requests!

adult education

Forums

May 1- 9:30 a.m.

Healing Transitions: Providing Hope for Those Seeking Recovery, facilitated by Stacey Northup, Communications Director. Healing Transitions offers innovative peer-based recovery oriented services to homeless and underserved individuals with alcoholism and other drug addictions. Gail Holden hosting.

May 8 - Mother's Day. After-church Forum will not be held.

May 15- 9:30 a.m.

Nonviolent Communication: David Wiltshire will give an introduction to Marshall Rosenberg's practice of Nonviolent Communication, a secular, but deeply meaningful, practice of heart-to-heart communication. Described on the Center for Nonviolent Communication website as "Nonviolent Communication assumes that we all share the same, basic human needs, and that each of our actions is a strategy to meet one or more of these needs. People who practice NVC have found greater authenticity in their communication, increased understanding, deepening connection and conflict resolution." Come join us to learn about new ways of articulating our feelings and needs in such a way that strengthens relationships with one another and with ourselves.

May 22: 9:30 a.m.

Democracy North Carolina:

Associate Director Jennifer Frye will talk to us about redistricting and gerrymandering in our state. Solutions to address thorny issues will be given. Ted Frazer hosting.

May 29: Forum will not be held due to Memorial Day weekend.

*Invite all to participate in the choices which shape us,
sharing decisions equally and responsibly,
and, in so doing,
reclaim the constructive use of power;*

combining faith in action with fellowship



A record number of UPUCC folks participated in the recent Stop Hunger Now Event, packaging over 11,000 meals!

Also, UPUCC folks raised over \$3,200 (which does not yet factor in corporate matching funds!) for Stop Hunger Now!



Update from Stop Hunger Now

We are delighted to announce that the meals from your meal packaging event on 4/17/2016 have been shipped in a container totaling 285,120 meals from our Raleigh, NC warehouse.

The meals will be received by our in-country partner Guatemala Village Partners in Guatemala.

The meals will be distributed through their school lunch program to 200 needy children who live in the remote village of Pala, Guatemala. For more information, please visit their website at

<http://guatemalavillagepartners.org/>

officers and committees for 2016-17

Covenant Partners voted to accept the following slate of officers and committees at the April 24 Congregational Meeting. Many thanks to Todd Smith for chairing this year's Nominating Committee: Nicki Norris, Gail Holden, Peg Arcari, Doug Long.

Officers

Moderator - Todd Smith Secretary - Rebecca van Dorsten
Moderator Elect - Nicki Norris Treasurer - Don Alderman

Non-Council Officers

Assistant Treasurer - Tim Champion
Assistant Treasurer - Gwen Vass
Assistant Treasurer - Chris Ousley

Adult Education

Co-Chair-Gail Holden
Co-Chair-Tricia Andrews
Sally Bean
Michelle Ellis
Joanne Kennedy Frazer
Ted Frazer
Colin McKerrell
David VandeVusse
Arlene VanOver

Building and Grounds

Chair – Sarah Hogan
Carol Banaitis
Doug Culver
Chris Ousley
Jerry Pemberton
Roger Sommer

Children's Committee

Co-Chair - Betsy Thigpen
Co-Chair - Lori Del Negro
Kelly Foglia
Carol Fouts
Margaret Gruen
Alyssa Hill
Kelly Ramsey
Gustavo Sa
Nancy Wilms

Faith In Action

Chair - Anthony Neff
Renate Andrews
Judi Culver
Linda Skye Evans
Mary Pat Peters
Peter van Dorsten
Marcia Welsh

Fellowship

Co-Chair - Roberta Ouellette
Co-Chair - Michael Lester
Chris Abram
Jamy Abram
Elizabeth Altman
Gwen Vass

Membership & Publicity

Chair - Gary Sanders
Kristine Berry
Betty Gatano
Mike Heavey
Kim Howes

Pastoral Care

Co-Chair – Mark DeMario
Co-Chair – Rita DeMario
Paul Buschkemper
Dan Harrell
Ada McKerrell

Personnel

Chair - Leslie Heavey
Gail Holden
Nick Kentopp
Frank McKay
Rebecca van Dorsten

Stewardship & Finance

Chair - Mark Stevens
Don Alderman-*ex-officio*
Brian Burkhardt
Martha Eller
Nevin Fouts
Vickie Teal
Gary Welsh

Visioning Committee

Doug Long
Greg Howes (*2nd Past Moderator*)
Daire Roebuck (*1st Past Moderator*)
Todd Smith (*Moderator*)
Nicki Norris (*Moderator-Elect*)
Nadia-Ziadi Denson

Worship & Music

Chair - Wayne Thompson
Sheila Alderman
Scott Andrews
Julie Carlsness
Bill Coye
Leslie Heavey
Bob Martin
Janice Odom
Eleanor Smith

Youth

Co-Chair - Amily McCool
Co-Chair – Greg Howes
Scott Andrews
Rhonda Burton
Suzanne Ladd
Ethan McCool
Rob Schutte
Mason Stevens

Ministerial Relations

Reed Altman
Kim Howes
Bill Radke

Nominating Committee

Nicki Norris (*Moderator-Elect*)
Don Alderman
Peg Arcari
Doug Long
TJ & Justine Price-O'Neil

Brownleigh Drive Association

Peg Arcari
Doug Culver
Doug Long
Rebecca van Dorsten

***-Embrace our common life,
overflowing with
compassion and liberal in
love;
-Call forth and nurture our
individual and collective
creative gifts;
-Delight in humor and,
through joyous
celebration, savor the
goodness of life.***

May 1

Altar Prep: Michael Lester
Communion Prep: Betty Gatano
Coffee Set-Up: Matt & Rebecca Andrews
Greeters: Chris Ousley, Margaret Gruen
Ushers: Chris & Jamye Abram
Sound System: Don Alderman
Auditor: Martha Eller
Assistant Treasurer: Chris Ousley
Clean-Team: Leslie & Mike Heavey, Edward
McFarland, Phyllis Mueller, Miles Schumacher

We Welcome a New Covenant Partner



Watch for more information on Jane and other new Covenant Partners in an upcoming newsletter.

Jianzhen (Jane) Xie

May 8- Mother's Day

Altar Prep: Leslie Heavey
Coffee Set-Up: Miles Schumacher
Greeters: Ada & Colin McKerrell
Ushers: Daire & Tara Roebuck
Sound System: Scott Andrews
Auditor: Dan Harrell
Assistant Treasurer: Tim Champion
Clean-Team: Mark DeMario, Dawn McCarthy, Chris Wilms, Marcia Welsh, Mary Pat Peters

May 15

Altar Prep: Eleanor Smith
Coffee Set-Up: Leslie Heavey
Greeters: Jamye & Chris Abram
Ushers: Renate & Scott Andrews
Sound System: Andy Orr
Auditor: Julie Carlsness
Assistant Treasurer: Gwen Vass
Clean-Team: Tim Champion & Dan Harrell, Chris Ousley, Ada & Colin McKerrell

May 22

Altar Prep: Michael Lester
Coffee Set-Up: Roberta Ouellette
Greeters: Gina & Nick Kentopp
Ushers: Carol Banaitis & Sarah Hogan
Sound System: Jerry Pemberton
Auditor: Betty Gatano
Assistant Treasurer: Chris Ousley
Clean-Team: Nevin & Carol Fouts, Judy & Bob Hughes, Scott Pope

May 29

Altar Prep: Rita DeMario
Coffee Set-Up: Rebecca van Dorsten
Greeters: Angela Walden-Weaver, Betty Gatano
Ushers: Paul Buschkemper, Linda Evans
Sound System: Dan Harrell
Auditor: Frank McKay
Assistant Treasurer: Tim Champion
Clean-Team: Nevin & Carol Fouts, Judy & Bob Hughes, Scott Pope

may calendar at upucc

Sun.	May 1	9:30 a.m. Forum: Healing Transitions. See page six. 10:30 a.m. Worship and Communion: "On Discerning God," Doug Long preaching. 3:00 p.m. Closing Performance of "Still...Life." 6:00-8:00 p.m. MS & HS Youth Movie Night
Tues.	May 3	9:30 a.m. Creativity Group meets in the library.
Wed.	May 4	7:15 p.m. UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Sat.	May 7	9:30 a.m. Yoga in the library. 11a.m.-6:00 p.m. Out! Raleigh. Fayetteville Street. Downtown Raleigh. See page one.
Sun.	May 8	9:30 a.m. Committee Meeting Time 10:30 a.m. Mother's Day Worship: "On Feeling God," Doug Long preaching. Baptism of Banks Mitchell Prochaska.
Mon.	May 9	6:30 p.m. Evening Creativity Group meets in the library.
Wed.	May 11	7:15 p.m. UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Sat.	May 14	9:30 a.m. Yoga in the library. 6:30 p.m. Movie Night in the library.
Sun.	May 15	9:30 a.m. Forum: David Wiltshire on Nonviolent Communication. See page six. 10:30 a.m. Pentecost Sunday Worship: Bill Coye preaching. 1:30 p.m. In House River Clean-Up. See page one.
Tues.	May 17	9:30 a.m. Creativity Group meets in the library.
Wed.	May 18	7:15 p.m. UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Thurs.	May 19	7:00 p.m. Coordinating Council meets in the library. Midnight UPUCC June Newsletter deadline.
Sat.	May 21	9:30 a.m. Yoga with Ellen Beidler in the worship space.
Sun.	May 22	9:30 a.m. Forum: Democracy NC. See page six. 10:30 a.m. Worship: "Shakespeare, The Bible, and the Times They Are a Changin'," Doug Long preaching. Following worship MS & HS Youth vs. Parents Kickball & Picnic at W.B. Umstead Park
Wed.	May 25	7:15 p.m. UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.
Sun.	May 29	10:30 a.m. Worship: "Two Ways of Christian Patriotism," Doug Long preaching. Baptism of Jonathan Keating.
Mon.	May 30	Memorial Day.

Will you like us?

 Like  Comment  Share

Did you know that over ONE BILLION people log on to **Facebook** every day?

If you are one of them, please like our official Umstead Park United Church of Christ Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=umstead%20park%20united%20church%20of%20christ>).

Membership & Publicity Committee is becoming more active on Facebook. Check in to see upcoming UPUCC events, sermons, news, volunteer opportunities, inspirational messages, and more.

Each time our page posts are 'liked' or 'shared' the more visible UPUCC becomes- growing and connecting with one another. (Notes: Personal information is not posted on the UPUCC official Facebook page. Photos are posted only after obtaining permission. *The Friends of UPUCC Facebook page is a closed group, managed by Judi Culver. If you would like to join, contact Judi at judi.culver@msn.com*)

-Kristine Berry, on behalf of Membership & Publicity Committee