

## ***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](mailto:anthonyneff@anthonyneff.com) or Doug Long [doug@upucc.org](mailto: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 UPUCC 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.)

# from doug



## 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 15<sup>th</sup>, 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>

## 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](mailto:daire.e.roebuck@gmail.com)

# stewardship and finance

## Update

After the first quarter, we can say that we are off to a good start for 2016. Strong giving in December and January helped buffer our operating fund balance to a peak of \$41,000. Some of this was due to some partners making their full year pledge in the first quarter. Going forward, we do expect to have a few months where expenses will exceed donations, and it is possible our operating fund could drop below \$30,000 before rebounding in the fall. Our goal is to raise our operating fund to be 2-3 times our monthly expenses, which would mean \$50,000-\$75,000. This would allow us the confidence to weather traditionally slower summer months with less concern and also allow us to absorb unexpected expenses, such as building repairs.



Two ways you can help:

- 1) If you have joined the church this year, an estimate of your anticipated gift to the church, in the form of a pledge, would be helpful. You can send your pledge via email to the church treasurer Don Alderman [dalderman@nc.rr.com](mailto:dalderman@nc.rr.com) or drop a pledge card in the offering basket.
- 2) If you are fortunate enough to have regular monthly income, considering becoming a UPUCC sustainer by setting up an auto-draft of your gift to the church. This helps the church tremendously by ensuring steady income to match our steady expenses- even while you are away on vacation or forgot your checkbook. When you become a UPUCC Sustainer, you will receive a green card that you can drop into the offering basket every week, so you won't lose the satisfaction of participating in the offering during the service. Contact Peg at [peg@upucc.org](mailto:peg@upucc.org) for more info on becoming a sustainer.

Sincerely,

Mark Stevens  
S&F Chair

# fellowship



## May Movie Night

Our next movie night's showing will be "The Danish Girl" starring Eddie Redmayne and Alicia Vikander. A fictitious love story loosely inspired by the lives of Danish artists Lili Elbe and Gerda Wegener. Lili and Gerda's marriage and work evolve as they navigate Lili's groundbreaking journey as a transgender pioneer. The showing will be on Saturday, **May 14** at 6:30 in the UPUCC library. Be advised that there is adult content in the film and due to that we ask that no children under 16 be in attendance. Please RSVP to Gina Kentopp at [gkentopp@hotmail.com](mailto:gkentopp@hotmail.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](mailto: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](mailto: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;***

## 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](mailto: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!

## 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  
Jamye 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.***

# volunteer calendar

# all in the family

## 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.*

## 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

**Jianzhen (Jane) Xie**

## 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](mailto:judi_culver@msn.com)*)

-Kristine Berry, on behalf of Membership & Publicity Committee