

**In Memoriam  
Twila Kay Kelly**

**October 21, 1953- August 29, 2015**

We had just sent last month's newsletter when we got the call from Bowman Kelly concerning Twila. Though the death of a loved one is never fully welcomed, we could not grieve the timing of her passing. Twila's lung capacity had dipped below 10% and her breathing, though eased by the soothing medication, was labored and difficult. Still, she was lucid and loving until her last few hours. What a true gift she was to our world.

Recognizing that some of the wider UPUCC community, now spread across the U.S. may not have received this somber news, and in celebration of the life of this one who was so special and important among us, we publish these snapshots of her effervescent personality.

You may also choose to view two pieces found on the UPUCC website:

-a clip of her last participation in worship, when we surprised Twila and Bowman with a gift in their honor to the Wake County SPCA (with thanks to Linda Evans):

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2z\\_rhLSck4A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2z_rhLSck4A)

-and the September 6 Sunday Worship Service, during which we remembered some of Twila's most inspiring words and actions:

<http://www.upucc.org/media.php?pageID=46>





### This past Sunday

(September 20), a visitor came up to me after

worship. "Is it always this emotional?" she questioned? She looked wiped out, in a refreshed but drained sort of way after hearing Sarah Witt share part of her remarkable story. (You can hear Sarah's "Magnificent Memories" at <http://www.upucc.org/#/about-us/sermons-more> )

..."Is it always this emotional?"

I thought about the two Sundays that had preceded this one... the youth bringing many of us to tears recounting their experiences in NY City this past summer, and then the first Sunday in September when we oh, so movingly, remembered the words and deeds of Twila Kelly. (Those, too, are on upucc.org)

It has been an emotional series of Sundays, indeed.

Be the Church. This is all a part of how we have been and are being and will continue to be... the Church. Further, this year's Stewardship Campaign implores us to care for the poor and protect the environment and reject racism and embrace diversity and love God and this life.

This, too, we have done and will continue to do.

"It is not a matter of whether we will **BE** this kind of church," I told several of you recently. "It's who we are and is written into our founding DNA. Being this church does not depend on the success or failure of our financial campaign. However, that being said, the degree to which we continue our present ministries, frankly, is in question."

Let me attempt to summarize, candidly, our current financial situation.

Each year we strive to further our efforts to offer to our community and the wider community, messages and ministries reflecting the embracing, loving, justice-oriented heart of the gospel as we understand it. There is always more to do, more to support, more to strive towards and for that reason we have always 'cut it close' in regards to our projected income and our anticipated expenditures. We are a growing community but that growth is not consistent. While people join us it is also the case that people leave ... they move, they die.

While numerically we are as strong or stronger than ever, financially in the past year we have, to date, lost more than we have gained. There is no shame in this. No one has done anything wrong. It's just a fact of how the recent movement has occurred.

And so, it's this simple: if we are to continue to be the church that we have been... if we are to stay on track and even move further into this future together, we need everyone to step up to the degree that they are able. We need those of you who can, to reconsider how much you will contribute to our collective ministries ...and we need those of you who have never given to consider how much this community really means to you and then join your pledge to ours.

The question is not "Will we be the Church?" The question is "How strongly will we be it?"

Faithfully Yours-

**BE THE CHURCH**  
*Protect the environment. Care for the poor.*  
**Forgive often. Reject racism.**  
**Fight for the powerless.**  
*Share earthly and spiritual resources.*  
*Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.*

*Update from Stewardship & Finance Committee:  
As of Tuesday, September 29, we have received 60  
of the 120 we hope to hear from!*

# children & youth

## Youth Schedule

### October 4

11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

**All Youth:** Games, Games, Games!

### October 11

(No youth-weekend retreat at Blowing Rock)

### October 18

**Middle School Youth-** 11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  
Pumpkin Carving

**High School Youth-** 6-8 p.m.  
Scary Stories Camp Fire  
(The Stevens' Home)

### October 25

(no Middle School Youth-  
Guatemala Trip Info Session)

**High School Youth-** 6-8 p.m.  
College Care Packages

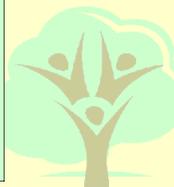
Questions? Contact Youth Committee Chair  
Greg Howes. [greg.howes@gmail.com](mailto:greg.howes@gmail.com)



## From Kate...

*About a month ago, Covenant Partner Betsy Thigpen approached me with a strong desire to be more involved in our children's program. Over the summer, Betsy had stepped in for me on the Sundays I was away at Synod and the Youth Mission Trips to cover the children's message. Betsy has also been on our Pre-K teaching team for a few months. Her periodic involvement with our children and our program made her want to be more involved! Betsy brings a wealth of knowledge and life experience with her as well as a love for spiritual formation of children. She and I see eye-to-eye on pretty much everything related to children's spiritual development - from the presence of loving and nurturing adults to the importance of spending time outside, to a focus on kindness and compassion. With Council approval, Betsy will be helping with the children's message on Sunday morning, teacher training, offering special events and classes for parents, reviewing our curriculum and helping me with a strategic vision for our Children's Church.*

*Kate*



## Children's Ministry Expands!



**Betsy Thigpen**

My sincere thanks to UPUCC for giving me this opportunity to do the work that I love best- children's ministry and spiritual formation. For most of my adult life, I have worked either *with* or *for* young children, including parenting four sons. For the past 15 years, that passion led me to focus specifically on training Head Start, Smart Start, teachers and administrators across the country to: recognize the critical importance of nature in the life and development (including spiritual development) of the child; provide curricula and experiences that intentionally connect children with nature; create naturalized outdoor classrooms for children, and provide guidance in helping children understand their role as an integral part of the natural world. I look forward to working with Kate, Doug, parents, and volunteers to plan a ministry for children that reflects living the life of Jesus, as well as recognizing a Creator who made all of us a part of the marvelous creation of the universe.

## Infant/Toddler Clothing Exchange

**Gently Used:** We continue to request donations and offer exchange of gently used infant and toddler clothes for our free clothing exchange for UPUCC parents of young children. *Donations accepted for any sizes **below** 5T for clothes and size 8 shoes for toddlers.*

The closet is open the third Sunday of each month. Any questions can be directed to Daire Roebuck at [daire.e.roebuck@gmail.com](mailto:daire.e.roebuck@gmail.com).

## *It Takes a Universe* Outing Sunday, October 25-Shelly Lake

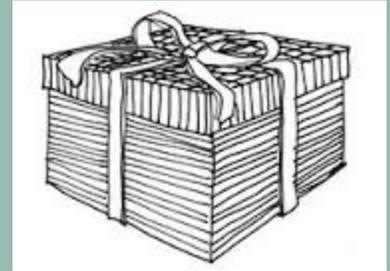
Following worship, children age three through grade five, their parents and siblings are invited to gather for a simple lunch on the green hill next to Shelly Lake and walking trail.

We will become better acquainted while we explore and collect objects from nature as we walk the trail, play games, and have other fun experiences in God's creation.

## ThanksGIVING

Ever feel stumped about gift giving to friends and family who seem to have more than they need?

On Sunday, **October 25**, during 9:30 a.m. Forum, Faith In Action Committee will share opportunities for putting the "giving" in ThanksGIVING this holiday season.

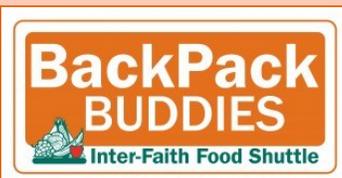


Childcare for children under age six is provided in the nursery.

## Donations Welcome!

We continue to offer **THREE** opportunities for our congregation to provide assistance to those in our community who need assistance but are often overlooked - children and the elderly or disabled. In addition to **(One)** the continued support we provide to Urban Ministries with our food collections, we have bins in the worship space to collect items for Interfaith Food Shuttles Backpack Buddies program and JFK Towers Emergency Closet.

Nearly 116,000 children in our area applied for free or reduced price meals during the 2012-2013 school year, and 1 in 4 children are in risk of hunger in North Carolina.



**Two: Backpack Buddies** provides children from food-insecure homes with health weekend meals during the school year. The children receive a backpack containing six balanced meals and two health snacks at the end of every week. UPUCC donations of nutritious, child-friendly foods will help support this program. *The collection bin will be clearly marked, and will identify the types of food to bring (and what NOT to bring).* Keep in mind, these should be items that "fit in a backpack."

**Three: JFK Towers** is a community of older adults, elderly, and individuals with disabilities with limited incomes in Durham, NC. Owned by Global Ministries Fellowship (a nonprofit 501 3(C) organization), it strives to provide affordable rent and social services to its residents. While many of the residents have benefits such as Food Stamps and Medicaid to help some of their basic needs, there are many others who "fall through the gaps" and do not receive assistance. Food and incontinence items can be very expensive and many of the residents lack the transportation to get to nearby emergency closets where they could otherwise get these items.

Through donations of household and personal care / hygiene items, UPUCC can provide assistance to an area of our population often overlooked - seniors and the disabled. *A separate bin is clearly marked with the type of items we will be collections (such as toilet paper, toiletries, incontinence supplies, etc.).*



## faith in action continued...

HOPE THROUGH HEALTH



Curamericas Global

### Curamericas Trip to Guatemala- Informational Session Sunday, October 25

Join fellow UPUCC members on a volunteer trip in August 2016 to rural Guatemala. Volunteers work alongside locals to build and maintain maternity clinics and go out into the community to provide education and services to the local mothers and children. Services include weighing and measuring babies to check for malnutrition, distributing vitamin supplements, assisting with pre-natal checkups, and working on community gardens. We hope you will join us on October 25, at 11:45 a.m. in the church library following worship to learn details about this truly life changing experience! <https://www.curamericas.org/our-work/guatemala/>

## membership & publicity / fellowship

### Newcomers & Inquirers Session:

A 30-minute session immediately following the worship service the first Sunday of most months. This month, Sunday, October 4, includes a short presentation of the history of the UCC as well as information about Umstead Park United Church of Christ. Doug Long will be on hand for questions (in the church library).

### Retreat at Blowing Rock

Fifty UPUCCers are preparing to spend a colorful fall weekend (October 9-11) in the mountains at Blowing Rock Conference Center. The weekend will include a campfire, a discovery course, tasty meals and great time together!

## opportunities in the wider community



### Upcoming Productions!

October 9-24 **A Lesson Before Dying**

Clare Hall at 11401 Leesville Rd., Raleigh



### Black Nativity

Saturday, December 19 at 7pm

Sunday, December 20 at 4pm

Sunday, December 20 at 7pm

Monday, December 21 at 8pm

Tuesday, December 22 at 8pm

Stewart Theatre, NC State Campus

Free Parking nights and weekends.

### Wine Tasting Fundraiser

Date: Tuesday, October 20

Time: 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Location:

602 Glenwood Ave.

Raleigh, NC 27603

More details:

<http://www.thejusticetheaterproject.org/>

*Live justice as the social expression of love,  
and peace as the present manifestation of the world to come.*

## adult education

**October Forums** (Childcare for children under age six is provided in the nursery.)

**October 4, 9:30 a.m. The Wheel of Health**

Bob and Judy Hughes discuss concepts to help persons explore the physical, emotional, mental, spiritual, and behavioral aspects of health. This exploratory session is an opportunity to consider goals on the journey to optimal wellness. Gail Holden hosts.

**October 11: Sermon Talk Back**

**Following worship**, Kate Forer fields questions and discusses her sermon topic of the morning. Bring a lunch or sign up for a meal from Jason's Deli.

**October 18, 9:30 a.m.  
Marks of a Non-Racist Church**

Participants in the recent retreat led by the Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Wright, share their reflections on that event. Joanne Kennedy Frazer hosts.

**October 25, 9:30 a.m. ThanksGIVING**

Faith In Action Committee present alternatives for Christmas giving. Nicki Norris hosts.

## worship & music

### UPUCC Choir Invitation

#### SAVE THE DATE:

**Saturday, October 17, 9 a.m.-1p.m.**

We will gather in the worship space and have a first read-through of the Christmas music. We have new anthems to share for the holidays and I am so excited to share them with you all!

-Sheila Alderman, Choir Director

## all in the family

### Welcome, New Covenant Partner!



**Tricia Andrews and daughter**

Tricia shares she is very social justice oriented and wanted to be part of a church that doesn't only talk the talk, but walks the walk. She feels that in 2015, LGBTQ inclusiveness should be universal in most churches/denominations and loves that UPUCC truly practices inclusiveness for all.

Tricia describes herself as an introvert "who occasionally talks too much." She is a stay-at-home mom who enjoys doing volunteer work (both one-time and long term projects) and "lives" on Facebook.

Tricia lives in Raleigh with her husband Jim and daughter. All three love to travel.

*where wounds are healed,  
differences are celebrated  
and inclusivity is intentional;*

## upucc volunteers



Thank you to all our volunteers! Pictured L to R: Amy & Jerry usher. Michael provides altar flowers. Jeri, Colin, Ada and Bill (hidden) serve as greeters. Want to help? Complete one of our Time and Talent Sheets, which can be found on the hallway bulletin board outside the worship space.

## sunday service calendar at upucc

### October 4

Altar Prep: Eleanor Smith  
Communion Prep: Trish Breen  
Coffee Set-Up: Lori Del Negro & Roger Sommer  
Greeters: Sarah Hogan, Ada McKerrell  
Ushers: Keith Hiatt, Paul Buschkemper  
Sound System: Kristen Larsen  
Auditor: Julie Carlsness  
Assistant Treasurer: Gwen Vass  
Clean-Team: Mike & Leslie Heavey, Phyllis Mueller  
Edward McFarland

### October 11

Altar Prep: Rita DeMario  
Coffee Set-Up: TBD  
Greeters: TBD  
Ushers: Ted & Joanne Kennedy Frazer  
Sound System: Don Alderman  
Auditor: Dan Harrell  
Assistant Treasurer: Chris Ousley  
Clean-Team: Mark & Rita DeMario, Chris Wilms,  
Dawn McCarthy, Marcia Welsh

### October 18

Altar Prep: Michael Lester  
Coffee Set-Up: Matt & Rebecca Andrews  
Greeters: Julie Carlsness & Miles Schumacher  
Ushers: Scott & Renate Andrews  
Sound System: Nevin Fouts  
Auditor: Tom Jones  
Assistant Treasurer: Tim Champion  
Clean-Team: Tim Champion & Dan Harrell, Chris  
Ousley, Ada & Colin McKerrell

### October 25

Altar Prep: Eleanor Smith  
Coffee Set-Up: Roberta Ouellette  
Greeters: Ada McKerrell  
Ushers: Nik & Megan Everett  
Sound System: Scott Andrews  
Auditor: Martha Eller  
Assistant Treasurer: Gwen Vass  
Clean-Team: Eric Jensen, Nevin & Carol Fouts,  
Tom Jones, Bob & Judy Hughes

*God continues to beckon.*

# october calendar at upucc

|         |           |                     |  |
|---------|-----------|---------------------|--|
| Sat.    | Oct. 3    | 9:30 a.m.           | Yoga in the library.   |
| Sun.    | Oct. 4    | 9:30 a.m.           | Forum: The Wheel of Health. See page six.  |
|         |           | 10:30 a.m.          | Worship & Communion: "When I Was Seventeen (It Was A Very Good Year)" Doug Long preaching.                         |
|         |           | Following worship   | Newcomers & Inquirers Session. See page five.  |
|         |           | Following worship   | Middle & High School Youth. See page three.  |
| Tues.   | Oct. 6    | 9:30-11:30 a.m.     | Creativity Group meets in the library.   |
| Wed.    | Oct. 7    | 7:30 p.m.           | UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.  |
| Fri-Sun | Oct. 9-11 |                     | UPUCC Retreat at Blowing Rock. See page five.  |
| Sat.    | Oct. 10   | 9:30 a.m.           | Yoga in the library.   |
| Sun.    | Oct. 11   | 9:30 a.m.           | Committee Meeting Time   |
|         |           | 10:30 a.m.          | Worship: Kate Forer preaching  |
|         |           | Following worship   | Sermon Talk Back. See page six.  |
| Wed.    | Oct. 14   | 7:30 p.m.           | UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.  |
| Thurs.  | Oct. 15   | 7:00 p.m.           | UPUCC Coordinating Council meets. Library.   |
|         |           | Midnight            | UPUCC November Newsletter deadline.  |
| Sat.    | Oct. 17   | 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. | UPUCC Choir special rehearsal time in the worship space.   |
|         |           | 9:30 a.m.           | Yoga with Ellen Beidler.   |
| Sun.    | Oct. 18   | 9:30 a.m.           | Forum: Marks of a Non-Racist Church. See page six.   |
|         |           | 10:30 a.m.          | Worship: The UCC's 'Indigenous Peoples' Day,' Doug Long preaching.   |
|         |           | 11:45 a.m.-1:30     | Middle School Youth. See page three.   |
|         |           | 6-8 p.m.            | High School Youth. See page three.   |
| Tues.   | Oct. 20   | 9:30-11:30 a.m.     | Creativity Group meets in the library.   |
| Wed.    | Oct. 21   | 10-11:30 a.m.       | ILP in the library (see below).  |
|         |           | 7:30 p.m.           | UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.  |
| Sun.    | Oct. 25   | 9:30 a.m.           | ThanksGIVING. See page six.  |
|         |           | 10:30 a.m.          | Worship: "The <i>Always</i> Reforming Church," Doug Long preaching.  |
|         |           | Following worship   | Curamericas Guatemala Trip Informational Session in the library. See page five.                                    |
|         |           | Following worship   | It Takes a Universe Outing. See page three.  |
|         |           | 6:00-8:00 p.m.      | High School Youth. See page three.   |
| Mon.    | Oct. 26   | 7:00 p.m.           | UPUCC Men's Group. Contact Reed Altman <a href="mailto:reedaltman@gmail.com">reedaltman@gmail.com</a> for details. |
| Wed.    | Oct. 28   | 10-11:30 a.m.       | ILP in the library (see below).  |
|         |           | 7:30 p.m.           | UPUCC Choir rehearsal in the worship space.  |

## Interested/curious about ILP?

ILP is "Integral Life Practice" and draws on the work of Ken Wilber and friends to provide a way of looking at life, ways of healthy living and responsibly relating to oneself and others. We currently have available to us for the first time access to the wisdom of all the world's great religions and philosophical systems. ILP seeks to distill that wisdom into some essential practices and "blueprints" for considering the world and one's own life.. One website is <https://integrallife.com/>

If there are folks in the congregation who might be interested, Robert Hughes is willing to coordinate some introductory meetings regarding ILP. Sessions will be held on Wednesdays in the UPUCC library 10-11:30 a.m. from October 21 through November 25.

If you are interested let Robert know at [hughesbj4339@gmail.com](mailto:hughesbj4339@gmail.com) or call 919-472-4082 and leave a message.