

**Umstead Park UCC**

**Presently meeting at the Kerr Family YMCA 2500 Wakefield Pines Dr.**

**July 2007**

*(and moving to 8208 Brownleigh Drive –Late Summer 2007!)*

**Of Special Note in late July!**

(...and see the calendar on the back page for an exceptionally full month in mid-summer!)

**July 22<sup>nd</sup> - Calling all Covenant Friends!**

We'll have our first Covenant Friends (and their families!) picnic on Sunday afternoon, July 22 after church at Pullen Park. Bring your own picnic and be ready to have some fantastic fun in the park with your Covenant Friend! If you are an adult friend, please be sure to be in touch with your child friend to make sure you can both be there. Any questions please email Joi Williams at [Joi@upucc.org](mailto:Joi@upucc.org).

**July 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Work Party at Brownleigh**

As many helping hands as possible are needed on these dates to clean up the Brownleigh Building in preparation for our move. *Bob Winstead has several carpentry projects lined up as well.* Join us beginning at **8:30 a.m. Friday, July 27<sup>th</sup> and 8:30 a.m. Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup>** as we clean up and clean out the inside and outside of the building. UPUCC doesn't own any cleaning supplies or equipment (yet!), so bring your rubber gloves and buckets, etc. It will be a great time of work and fellowship as we clean and polish our new home to perfection. Contact Doug Jones for more info, [dougrj76@hotmail.com](mailto:dougrj76@hotmail.com) or 345-3928 (cell). Listen out for more specific information... but for now know that we look forward to seeing you there!

**July 29<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Congregational Meeting (and Potluck!)**

Surely our last in the Kerr Family YMCA space! We'll have much to discuss at this point as (hopefully!) the final push toward the Brownleigh Building will be underway!

**'Picks' From June**



*Our youth pose while camping at Rollingview*



*Margot and Mark Pickett worshiped with us on June 17. Margot will preach here July 22<sup>nd</sup>!*

**ALSO IN THIS NEWSLETTER:**

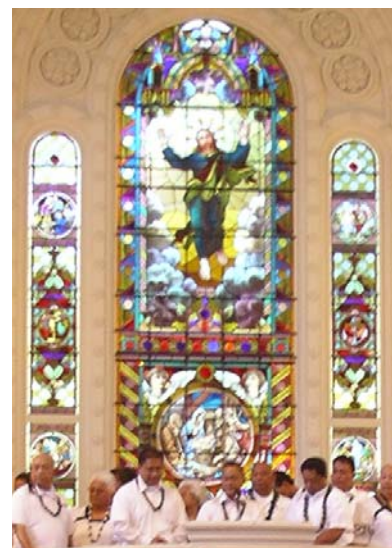
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## From Doug

Sometimes there's just too much to say... and this is one of those times! I have to begin by reflecting a moment on the UCC General Synod from which Denise and I have just returned. I am so proud of us... who we are as denomination... the stands we have made... the stands we continue to make. President and General Minister John Thomas's struggle was visible as he wanted to desperately celebrate 50 years of the UCC while clearly feeling great anguish at any joyous celebration in the midst of the US's leadership in a war that brings daily horror to Iraqi citizens and US troops and their families. The Synod began with an eloquent statement to end the war (a link to a shortened version and corresponding petition can be seen at UCC.org.). Denise, Joi and I will bring a more full report during the July 8<sup>th</sup> Forum, but suffice it to say that I was deeply moved by the diverse witness we are part of. Perhaps no moment captured that better for me than the 60 voice Samoan choir from Southern California, gathered to sing in the First Congregational Church of Hartford (founded in 1632!). What a wonderful contrast! (I highly recommend much of the video footage found on UCC.org as well. The address Bill Moyers gave was worth the trip by itself.)

Back here in NC we busily continue to carve out our place in the UCC and wider community of faith. Work at the Brownleigh Building hums along and we eagerly anticipate our move. Though I wish I could tell you exactly when that will take place, there are simply too many variables to be able to predict a date with any assurance. We still hope to worship there before the end of August, so stay tuned to announcements and opportunities of sweat equity to make that a reality. The Brownleigh Building will enable us to venture forward in our mission and ministry and for all the ways that you have already helped make this possible, I am deeply thankful. A year ago we were conducting our ambitious "Yes We Can!" campaign and you stepped forward. In May we issued a plea for chairs and over 200 now have been garnered. Kitchen appliances have been donated, computers and office equipment given, and a special donation from wonderful friends in Oberlin, Ohio makes possible tables for fellowship meals and other purposes. Imagine... perhaps sometime before this September... all of us seated for worship and a fellowship celebration in space that we know as nothing less than sacred! It will be a space, and a table, that we will continually search for ways to invite all others to as well.

A couple of other things I want to share with you fit here as well as any place in this newsletter: Denise has decided to change gears professionally and will be stepping away from the two part time jobs she has held for several years (the non-profit she has directed and the NC Council of Churches) in order to be the Interim Pastor of Binkley Baptist in Chapel Hill. Most of you know Binkley by its remarkable reputation as one of the leading progressive churches in N.C. While this will take her away from us on Sunday mornings for a while, we are grateful to be able to strengthen our ties with this congregation in Chapel Hill. Congratulations to Denise for this exceptional opportunity. Before she begins in early August, she, Jordan and I will rendezvous with Jessica in Washington State, July 16-25. I'll be back in plenty of time for the Congregational Meeting on July 29! See you then!



*A decidedly 'European' Jesus, in Tiffany stained glass, hovers over the bass section of the 60 voice Samoan choir.*

*Doug*

**We've Successfully Completed the "Prayers for Chairs!"**

**Yea!! Let's Celebrate!**

**... and now, please consider joining us this month for a "Dash for Cash!!"**

As stated in an earlier worship service, in order to have enough cash on hand when the Brownleigh construction is complete, we need for everyone, if it is at all possible, to be current for 1/3 of their Capital

Campaign pledge at this time. To state our challenge another way, we need an additional \$60,000 by July 15<sup>th</sup>!! Though we have pledges for more than this, we have not encouraged folks concerning timing. **Well, the time is now!** If you're able to give the whole of your 2007 "Yes We Can!" gift over the next 2 weeks, that would be truly wonderful! ...and if you're in a position to be able to give the remainder of your entire pledge for the duration of the campaign by mid-July, that would be just grand, too!

For those who are contributing via the donation of stock, here is some current information from our chair of Stewardship and Finance, Mitch Null:

**Interested in donating stock or other equities to UPUCC?** Equity donations not only benefit UPUCC for its Capital Campaign and/or Operating Expenses, but can also provide beneficial tax treatment for the donors. Did you know that when you gift stock to UPUCC, you may be able to avoid capital gains tax on its increase in value since you purchased it AND claim the FULL market value of your donation as a charitable contribution???

If you would like to donate equities to UPUCC, please contact Mitch Null ([mnull@earthlink.net](mailto:mnull@earthlink.net) or 919-272-0513) and indicate your interest in this type of donation. Mitch will provide you with a form containing step-by-step instructions on how to complete your donation. Forms entitled "Stock Donation to UPUCC" will also be available each Sunday on the table alongside the bulletins detailing this process. If necessary, please consult with your tax advisor to ensure you qualify for these benefits prior to transferring the stock.

## Faith In Action

**WAVING THE P-FLAG IN 2007** Once again, the Triangle Chapter of PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) is enlisting our aid to publish a Signature Ad in the Independent Weekly. The goal of the ad is to demonstrate that people of all faiths across the Triangle support and affirm gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people. Last year, more than 280 people signed the ad—approximately 35 of which were from UPUCC—representing more than 20 faith communities in our area.

A sign-up sheet is located on the table in the hallway. PFLAG asks that signers contribute \$15 to cover the cost of the advertisement. The deadline for sign-up is Sunday, August 12th; the ad will appear in the June issue of the Independent Weekly. For more information on PFLAG and the history of this particular campaign, go to [www.pflagtriangle.org](http://www.pflagtriangle.org).

**WOMEN FOR PEACE LOOKING FOR A FEW MORE GOOD WOMEN!** Would you like to join an interesting and exciting "Women for Peace Delegation" to Venezuela and Colombia- Oct. 20-Nov. 1, 2007? This is a hopeful time in South America and the popular movements need our support in order to flourish. Find out for yourself what is happening in Latin America. For information and an application form, contact: Gail Phares [CITCA@bellsouth.net](mailto:CITCA@bellsouth.net) or call 919-856-9468. Sign up by Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>.

**DON'T FORGET TO SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2007 MAGNIFICENT MILE-SEPTEMBER 16<sup>th</sup>**, 2 pm. Details in last month's newsletter or email Sarah Witt at [srwitt@yahoo.com](mailto:srwitt@yahoo.com)

**DEATH ROW INMATE SUPPORT** For 2 years, I (Ann Salisbury) have been corresponding with Damon Matthews, a 22 year old man who is on Death Row in Texas. He grew up in poverty, was abandoned by an addicted mother and raised by a great grandmother who died when he was 13. He was a high school football standout and had been offered a couple of football scholarships ...but he made some very bad decisions. He has been moved to the Death Watch area of Death Row, which means his execution is not far off. His family and friends have abandoned him. He has not had a visitor in over a year. It would do a great deal to ease his loneliness if he knew there were people who cared about him, and I am asking each of you to send him a card or note. Just "thinking of you" or "there are people who care about you" would be fine. A personal note would be fine too. He will be cheered by any mail at all. Thanks so much. -Ann

**Damon Matthews #999476  
Polunsky Unit D/R  
3872 F.M. 350 South  
Livingston, TX 77351**

## Youth Corner:

by Kaitlin McKeown

I remember vaguely the first Sunday morning we visited North Raleigh United Church of Christ. All five of us in tow, the McKeown van whipped into the parking lot of my older brother's school, Durant Road Middle. I think we were running late. (Some things never change.) Dragging my feet and making a bit of a ruckus, I followed the crew through the aqua double doors of a very foreign environment. I was *not* a happy camper. I did not like change, thank you very much.

Now, as I come to worship eight years later, I feel intimately connected to this community of faith. As I have grown, my spirit has been freely shaped and colored by experiences among these people. At this moment, a sort of word slideshow runs through my head, snapshots of memories that make me grin from ear to ear. I remember dancing on the Sunday of Mason Stevens' baptism, playing sign tag on the way to Blowing Rock, afternoons of Ultimate, youth choir sleepovers, kayak trips to clean the Neuse, nights of discussion and questions in the upper room of the Lumpkin's house, Saturday morning basketball at



*Kaitlin McKeown, now headed to UNC-Chapel Hill, has been a youth with us from our very beginning!*

Durant, Kevin Kennedy's early morning chocolate chip pancakes in Chattanooga, long rides in 15-passenger vans, being baptized in the river, ringing in the year 2000 with fireworks (and police) on the beach, and rounds of "Everybody say Whoeeee."

I knew I was in a different sort of place when, one Sunday, all the youth showed up to church with their copy of the second Harry Potter book and read through the service. The last volume of the wizarding tales comes out this month.

When it comes down to it, I cannot find words big enough to express my thanks and love for the North Raleigh UCC family. Even as I grow older and see the church through different eyes, this place remains saturated with a sense of comfort and peace. The youth group wrapped me up in its arms, and I

hope it will continue to offer such warm welcome to new faces. These days, I smile when I look at the crowded group of kids that can barely fit onto the rug on Sunday mornings. What a youth group that's going to be.

As I head to college this fall, I wish to say to everyone—thanks for teaching me how to color outside the lines.

### **GODLY PLAY TO RESUME IN THE FALL-**

We are very excited about our children's classrooms in the new building- for one thing there will be no more carts! This also means some new (and wonderful) ways of working with materials after the presentation of the day's story. We are now planning for our Godly Play program to resume the Sunday after we move into our new space. For a refresher about how to do Godly Play and to talk about any changes that will happen, we will have a teacher training at the end of July. If you have been involved in Godly Play, or would like to be involved, we would like for you to be there! We will let you know the date when we can confirm a space to use- just watch your weekly emails and the Sunday bulletin for information. And thanks so much for all you do for our children!



*Among the many other offerings, the General Synod in Hartford, Connecticut gave Joi Williams and Karla Miller an opportunity to meet each other!*

## “Yes We Can!”

While we don't want to focus *only* on our new building (new to us, anyway!)... at this point in our life together it does require a significant part of our time and energy. The most exciting part of this venture by far is the space we will soon have to expand our work and ministry. ...and can you imagine a committee meeting where 1/2 of the time is not spent trying to figure out where to locate the event being planned?! With such joyous ramifications now knocking at our soon-to-be-literal door, hear these updates concerning the Brownleigh Building.

-With great luck and a large helping of your own supplied elbow grease, we still hope to be in the building before September!!

-Much of that possibility will hinge on our volunteer work in laying the carpet and laboring at carpentry in early August. See the new information in this regard below.

-With **GREAT** celebration we announce that our partners at BBH have acquired the 1.5 acre tract adjacent to the building. Several have asked whether that means a sign can be placed on Glenwood Avenue. The answer is... perhaps. Stay tuned as we sort out the voluminous City of Raleigh signage code.

**YOU READ ABOUT THE WORK PARTY JULY 27<sup>TH</sup> AND 28<sup>TH</sup> ON THE FRONT PAGE...** Please consider donating some of your time as we 'get a handle' on several projects during those two days. Glass cleaning, floor mopping, counter installing, appliance moving, grass pulling, trash collecting, wall washing, parking lot maintaining, trim painting... you name it, we'll attempt it!

And the following weekend comes the biggie... carpet laying. Speaking of ...

### **New Info for the CARPET LAYING –**

We have recently learned that the fire inspector will require the carpet to be down before we can receive our Certificate of Occupancy and for that reason we are eager to begin installing it as soon as we are able. We have also learned that our carpet should arrive by August 1. Therefore, Bob Winstead, who is coordinating the carpet installation, is now lining up the work crew for the first weekend in August. We will also be able to train with BBH as they are installing their similar carpet on the weekend of July 14, 15. Bob hopes several folks can learn the 'lay of the carpet' then... and BBH says they'll provide lunch. Contact Bob if you're interested at [Bobandellin@aol.com](mailto:Bobandellin@aol.com)

**Don't forget to be collecting Yard Sale items and furniture for the building as well! See page 3 of the June newsletter for details... <http://www.upucc.org/Jun07News.pdf>**



**A SPECIAL EVENT** offered by the Adult Education Committee, July 15th:  
**MOVIE NIGHT AT THE MILLER/JOYCE'S!**

The Adult Education Committee will be sponsoring another "movie night" at the home of Jeff Miller and Kate Joyce on Sunday, July 15th at 7:00 pm.

Come join us as we view an episode of the documentary series "30 Days", created by Morgan Spurlock (Oscar-nominated creator of "Supersize Me").

To tie in with our theme from the Forum on the same day, we'll view the episode where a Christian from West Virginia must live with a Muslim-American couple in Dearborn, Michigan for 30 days. The goal of the show is to put someone out of their "comfort zone" in hopes of increasing tolerance and cultural understanding.

**MEET THE CHOIR DIRECTOR: Steven Lumpkin**

**[Dan Harrell, chair of the Music and Worship Committee, interviewed Steven Lumpkin to better acquaint the UPUC congregation with our Choir Director. Here are excerpts of Dan's interview!]**

Steven has been a member of NRUC/UPUC for many years. Steven, who has many musical talents, was asked by the Worship and Music team to serve as our choir director. He has served in that role for approximately one year.

I wanted the church to know more about our choir director. You see him leading the choir every Sunday, so I am sure you would like to know more about him. Here are some questions (in italics) that I presented to Steven. His answers follow each question.



*Steven Lumpkin*

*What was your inspiration that led you to become involved in music and a music major?*

I have always been involved in music- but the inspiration that led me to become a music major was the minor scholarship the music department at Chapel Hill offered me. I took it and ended up liking the coursework, so I stuck with it.

*What are some of your memorable musical experiences: musical theater, recitals, etc.?*

Playing Jesus in Jesus Christ Superstar and singing Robert Schumann's Dichterliebe (16 song cycle) for my senior recital would have to top out the list of "memorable musical experiences..." though playing in Mozart's "Cosi fan Tutte" was a blast as well.

*Do you have a favorite classical music composer and musical era?*

I have quite a few! I really like Robert Schumann, Mozart is fantastic, I'm a fan of quite a few Bach cantatas, and I think Chopin's piano music is exquisite. But as far as opera goes, absolutely nothing beats the quartet from Giuseppe Verdi's "Rigoletto."

*What part did your family play in your musical development?*

Well they've always encouraged me to be musical. When I was about 7, my mom would force me to go to our church's boy's choir every week. At the time I was not very enthusiastic, but I guess something about the experience must have been enjoyable!

*What short-term and long-term goals do you have for the choir?*

Short term: convince more people to show up regularly to rehearsals and Sundays!

Long term: broaden our repertory, drawing not only on modern compositions but also on traditional 4-part church pieces from more classical composers.

*In what ways will the church's transition from the Y to Brownleigh affect the choir?*

It will be very nice to have a standard place to rehearse that's perhaps more centrally located.

Additionally, rehearsing in the performance space with the performance instrument will really help us fine-tune our performances to the exact specifications we'll be working with. Finally, it will be interesting to hear how the choir sounds in the new space- the gym isn't horrible, but it is a little 'live.'

## UPCOMING AT UMSTEAD PARK UCC

- Sun. July 1** First Sunday Food Collection (...to help replenish food pantry at Urban Ministries.  
Suggestions: canned meats, vegetables and fruits; applesauce, mac & cheese, grits.)  
No Forum today due to holiday weekend  
10:30 a.m. Worship: "A Closer Walk... and Talk," Communion  
The Care Team will meet following worship.  
5:00 p.m. Youth- Reading/discussion group picnic at Secret Creek Trail (Rock), Durant Park.
- Wed. July 8** Regularly Scheduled Choir Rehearsal canceled for 4<sup>th</sup> of July
- Sun. July 8** 9:30 a.m. Forum: General Synod 26 Report from Doug, Denise and Joi. A very special General Synod took place this year, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the UCC. Guest speakers included Bill Moyers, Barack Obama and Marian Wright Edelman. Come and hear front line reports.  
10:30 a.m. Worship: "And the Multitudes Gathered-Why the UCC Has Made Me Proud"  
New Covenant Partners joining.  
Stewardship & Finance and Children's Committee meet following worship  
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Youth Barbecue and Swim at the van Dorsten's.
- Mon. July 9** 6:30 p.m. Building & Grounds as well as Building Design Team meets at Brownleigh
- Wed. July 11** 7:00 p.m. Coordinating Council meets at the Brownleigh Building
- Thurs. July 12** 6:00 p.m. Pastoral Care at Bear Rock, Celebration Six Forks
- Sun. July 15** 9:30 a.m. Forum: What do you think of when you hear the word "Muslim"? Special guest Renata Habaque shares her experiences as a young Muslim woman living in America. Come hear her discuss her background, faith and issues she's faced over the last several years. We hope you'll leave with a better appreciation of the diversity of the Islamic faith and its practitioners among us.  
10:30 a.m. Worship: "Original Blessing"  
6:00 p.m. Mother's Night Out!  
7:00 p.m. "Movie Night" at Miller/Joyce's!  
Youth Group outing to see Harry Potter evening show.
- Tues. July 17** 7:00 p.m. Ad Ed Borders at Strickland and Six Forks
- Wed. July 18** 7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal at the home of Ed Carpp and Sallie Taggart. All welcome!
- Thurs. July 19** 7:00 p.m. Membership and Publicity Com. at Sallie and Ed's.
- Sun. July 22** 9:30 a.m. Forum - What role do faith and religion play in the political process? There are several presidential candidates who emphasize their religious backgrounds. In recent years, we've seen more progressive Christians receive attention for their political views (such as Jim Wallis). Come join us for what's sure to be a lively discussion about the role of faith and religion in politics.  
10:30 a.m. Worship: Margot Pickett preaching!  
Youth to Culver Bees Honey Harvest (Doug and Judy Culver, UPUCB Beekeepers)
- Tues. July 24** 7:00 p.m. Youth Committee at Panera Bread, Falls Village.
- Thurs. July 26** 7:30 p.m. Faith In Action Committee meets at Sarah Witt's.
- Fri and Sat. July 27 and 28-** Work Party at Brownleigh. See front page for details (or contact Doug Jones).
- Sun. July 29** No forum due to Congregational Meeting and Potluck that follows worship.  
10:30 a.m. Worship: "Our Own Space Walk!"  
Quarterly Congregational Meeting and Potluck!