

**Umstead Park UCC** **June 2007**  
**Presently meeting at the Kerr Family YMCA 2500 Wakefield Pines Dr.**  
*(and moving to 8208 Brownleigh Drive - Summer 2007!)*

**The United Church of Christ- 50 Years Young**  
 Hartford, Connecticut June 22-26

If you haven't yet made plans to attend physically, you can follow the events of General Synod 26 virtually (ucc.org). Perhaps that will be the only venue to keep up with the dizzying array of speakers on tap. (It looked daunting enough to have to choose from the several dozen folks that are already presenting head to head- people like Marian Wright Edelman, Lynn Redgrave, Peter Gomes, and Walter Bruggeman... then they threw Bill Moyers and Barack Obama into the mix!) The Hartford location also allows a huge portion of the denomination access to the event (Apparently, 25% of the UCC's membership is within a day's drive of Hartford.) and therefore registration has swelled to 5,000 plus... well more than double the General Synod 25 held two years ago in Atlanta.



Umstead Park UCC will be represented by Doug and Denise Long and Joi Williams. They will offer a report to the Congregation during the Sunday Forum on July 8.

In keeping with the celebration, Doug Long will devote his June sermons to a series on "The UCC At 50 Years." See the back page for titles. (...and great news!! Leon Whitehead will preach on June 24 when Doug is in Connecticut!!)

**'Picks' From May**



*Lauren Alderman holds graduation flowers her grandmother placed in her honor, Jonathan Carr and Kaitlin McKeown lead in worship, and Doug Jones displays some extra curricular talents.*

**IN THIS NEWSLETTER:**

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**and, from Mitch Null-** Musing on our impending cash flow crunch-  
*"Did you know that when you gift stock, 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?"*
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## **From Doug**

## ***The Real Construction***

Last year at this time, we were just beginning our “Yes We Can!” campaign. Holy Smokes, what a year it’s been!! While some unexpected challenges have given us occasional pause, we’ve made more progress than we ever could have imagined. By late summer we should be open for business at the Brownleigh Building (Our most current timeline indicates the building may be complete by mid to late July, and we will need a couple of weeks to move furniture in, etc. We will keep you posted as we learn more.) I’d be disingenuous if I said I wasn’t excited about our new space, but it’s the mission and ministry it will afford that is truly exciting. We are truly, step by step, brick by brick, and embrace by embrace building our dreams of

*A closer communion with God,*

*A more intimate community with one another, and*

*A committed, mutual relationship with the wider world.*

There is so much to celebrate ... and so much work to continue.

This newsletter is but one way that we communicate with each other about our work and celebrate this intimate community we are building. New committees have also begun crafting membership directories, more hands-on acts of faith, renewed web sites, meaningful worship, and small group opportunities to continue this priceless construction of community. As wonderful as our future Brownleigh home will be, that is the construction that matters most.

***Doug***

May God continue to bless our sacred journey together-

P.S. Among our last year’s amazing accomplishments was the successful “Yes We Can!” campaign. Over the course of the next 3 years, UPUCers pledged to contribute over \$700,000 to establish a home-base for our work. The cash flow needs for that project are not, however, constant. Now that the construction is in its final weeks, we are facing an anticipated (but still challenging) crunch. If you are able to contribute portions of your pledge at this time, it would be most timely!! To that end, see the following announcement by Mitch Null, chair of our Stewardship and Finance Committee.



***Men’s Quintet on Mother’s Day***

### **STOCK DONATIONS: (The Market’s Up And The Cash Crunch Is Now!)**

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 donors. Did you know that when you gift stock, 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.

**SPECIAL MOVIE NIGHT offered by Adult Ed: June 10** The Adult Ed Committee will sponsor a "movie night" at the home of Jeff Miller and Kate Joyce on Sunday, June 10th at 7:00 pm. Come join us as we view the documentary "I Know I'm Not Alone" - the story of one musician's search to understand some of the current conflicts in the Middle East. Mother Jones magazine had this to say about the film:

-In his most recent project, musician and activist Michael Franti melds music video and documentary film to showcase the stories of the people he encounters in a journey through the war-torn Middle East. For a couple of weeks in 2004, Franti, armed only with his guitar, traveled with a camera crew in Iraq, Israel, and the occupied Palestinian territories, meeting people of all stripes in an effort to understand the human cost of war. The record of the trip, entitled 'I Know I'm Not Alone', has won acclaim in recent months at numerous film festivals across the globe.

Franti seems prepared to embrace whoever crosses his path. As he passes into Iraq, female officials shyly touch his long, black dreadlocks, which he slips to them through a teller’s window. On the streets of Baghdad, he makes children and grown men sing, dance, and clap along to a ditty consisting only of the word “Habibi,” an Arabic term of

endearment. He plays “Bomb the World” to a group of off-duty American soldiers in what he describes as “the hardest show I’d ever done in my life,” and later facilitates a party that brings them together with the Iraqis behind Baghdad’s first independent radio station.

Franti also witnesses the wanton violence of street bombings and sees firsthand the chaos of life under two separate occupations. He visits a children’s hospital in Iraq, and speaks with dozens of refugees in Gaza and the West Bank, Israeli soldiers, and grieving mothers from both sides of the divide. As Franti recounts in his film, “This trip made me realize one very important thing, which is that I’m not on the side of the Americans, Iraqis, Israelis, or Palestinians. I’m on the side of the peacemakers... whichever country they come from.”-

## **Clean out and Clean up = Win –Win**

### **Collection of Furnishings for The Brownleigh Building and Yard Sale Go Hand in Hand**

Save the date and mark your calendar because YES we will conduct a yard sale (and bake sale?) this year! UPUCC’s first (annual?) and it’s going to be GREAT!! Not only will we gather our gently-used treasures to sell, the Yard Sale Committee will work with the Building Committee to sort through said treasures for items we can use in the Brownleigh Building.

Here’s the plan, the challenge and the disclaimers:

We can’t move anything into the Brownleigh Building until we have the Certificate of Occupancy in hand. As of press time that looks to happen by mid-July, however, we all know that nothing will expedite that date and at least a half-dozen issues could cause delays. Therefore, please realize that the dates you mark on your calendar need to be made in pencil and not carved in stone.

We hope to collect your tax-deductible donations from mid-July to mid-August with a projected sale date of Saturday, September 8 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. We will schedule a number of collection times and days as well as pick-up times for large items (depending on the number and availability of trucks).

What sells? Just about anything and everything, especially if it’s clean, in good repair and priced cheap enough. (See the team leader list to help give you ideas.) It’s almost easier to think about what doesn’t sell—for example—clothing is labor intensive and doesn’t move unless it’s gently worn infant and toddler apparel. Computers and peripherals almost never sell and can create a disposal problem at the end of the sale. Broken appliances, used mattresses or items in exceptionally poor condition will only create headaches to haul away so those are items best left for the “Call Junk” folks.

We’ll need a small army and considerable equipment to make this win-win event happen.

Team leaders to coordinate set-up crews:

1. Outdoor items (mowers, tools and garden items)
2. Dry goods (linens, towels, curtains, decorative pillows)
3. Kitchenware and electrical appliances (dishes, mixers, toasters, vacuums)
4. Bric-a-Brac, pictures and misc. household
5. Furniture
6. Kids stuff
7. Leisure & Travel (musical instruments, CDS, sporting goods, crafts, luggage)
8. Education, Office & electronics (books, calculators)

-People to work the sale to help load, direct traffic, answer questions & barter

-Cashiers

-Individuals to make signs

-Bake sale organizer

-Heavy haulers and vehicles to pick-up large items

-Folding tables—lots

**Details and date confirmation most definitely to follow. Meanwhile, contact Twila Kelly (845-6397)**

**[tkelly29@nc.rr.com](mailto:tkelly29@nc.rr.com) or Dianne Little (395-0534) [dlbvsc1@yahoo.com](mailto:dlbvsc1@yahoo.com)**

## **From Joi**

In the words of Kaitlin McKeown, “What Matters?” Several things come to mind.

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, our youth gathered at The Healing Place for Women. Our visit provided us an opportunity to build relationships with the residents as we served them dinner for Mother’s Day. We are looking forward to our next visit and hope to continue our relationship with this community. You will read more about our experience with The Healing Place for Women in the **YOUTH CORNER** (below).

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, our children will begin a new adventure, “Creative Play: Exploring our Creative Spirits.” Each week we will center our attention on specific themes inspired by our Children’s Covenant. June 3<sup>rd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>- “I am Important.” June 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>- “I am Loved.” The children will be divided into 3 groups: the Covenant Explorers (4 yrs to Kindergarten), the Covenant Seekers (1st to 2nd grade) and the Covenant Adventurers (3rd to 5th grade). If your child is currently 4 years old or in Kindergarten, they will go to the Covenant Explorers group. If your child is currently in 1st or 2nd grade, they will go to the Covenant Seekers group. If your child is currently in 3rd, 4th or 5th grade, they will go to the Covenant Adventurers group.

Finally on June 17 – 29, I will travel to Hartford, CT. My time in Connecticut will consist of classes on UCC History, Theology and Polity, plus my first UCC conference. The course will meet for 12 intensive days in connection with General Synod. We are encouraged to do assigned readings, sit in plenary sessions, attend committee meetings, interview key leaders, and track one issue of concern throughout the Synod. Needless to say, my time in CT will matter. Most of you know that my background is in the Baptist Church, therefore I am looking forward to engaging the UCC on a deeper level. Umstead Park has helped prepare me for this journey and I look forward to sharing with each of you when I return.

***-Joi***

## **YOUTH CORNER**

**(From Haley Reeder)** On Mother’s Day, May 13<sup>th</sup>, Alexandra, Hannah and I went to The Healing Place for Women. We had a great experience there. At The Healing Place, we helped serve dinner. There was a woman that taught us the serving sizes and to ask if the women wanted that item of food. After everybody was done eating, Joi, Hannah and I cleaned the trays, cups, dishes, silverware, and other items. It was very fun and my feet got very wet. After the kitchen was clean, we sat down and talked with one of the residents. She told us about The Healing Place for Women, the different steps that the women take there, and all that happens there. I would really like to go there again. I loved the fact that I got a chance to help out the community and have a great experience at the same time!

**(From Alexandra van Dorsten)** The Healing Place was very interesting and I loved talking to one of the ladies that recovered from alcohol abuse. It was also interesting to see how the program is designed to help people become non addicted to alcohol. I was proud that we volunteered to help in the kitchen of The Healing Place because it made me feel like I was doing something really good. I was also surprised at the people that were there because they were regular people that **CHOSE** to be there which is a big accomplishment to a better start of their life. Overall, I was glad we went to The Healing Place.

## **UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS**

6/3: Meet at Joi’s for Food, Fun and Conversation on Future Mission Projects

6/22 – 6/23: Youth CampOut! For more info, speak with Peter van Dorsten (pvandors@nc.rr.com)

6/26: Youth Committee at Panera Bread, Falls Village, 7pm

## **NURSERY SCHEDULE**

6/3: Kate Joyce & Jeff Miller

6/10: Scott & Leslie Freck

6/17: Chris Smith & Jeff Gore

6/24: Someone Needed



## FAITH IN ACTION

**Do You Know Someone Interested In Becoming A Habitat Homeowner?** Habitat for Humanity of Wake County is hosting an open house to provide information for prospective homeowners on **Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, from 1 – 3 pm**. Habitat staff will explain the criteria, provide assistance with the application process and show videos of current homeowners. No RSVP is required, and there is no fee to attend or apply. Details and directions to Habitat Wake may be found at: [www.habitatwake.org/homeowners/information](http://www.habitatwake.org/homeowners/information)

Applications are accepted year-round. If the prospective owner is unable to attend the open house, an application can be downloaded from the Wake Habitat website. Or, call the Family Services staff at 919.833.1999, ext. 282, and leave your name, address, and phone number. A homeownership brochure and application will be mailed within 10 days.

**Amy Walter Seeks Pledges for her Race for the Cure-** “On June 9, I will be participating in the 11th Annual Komen NC Triangle Race for the Cure with a great team of dedicated people. Join the fight by registering as part of our team or by supporting our efforts with a pledge contribution. The money raised through the race will fund vital education, screening and treatment programs for underserved women in our own community and will also support the national search for a cure.” (Amy may be contacted at [amyrwalter@hotmail.com](mailto:amyrwalter@hotmail.com))

### **The Magnificent Mile: It's Baaaack!!**

Believe it or not, plans for the second annual Magnificent Mile Race and Fun Run/Walk are underway. Once again, UPUCC has agreed to sponsor the event, which raises money for research into motor neuron diseases like primary lateral sclerosis. The recipient of those funds is the SP Foundation, which is the only group dedicated to primary lateral sclerosis, a close cousin of Lou Gehrig's disease or ALS, and a rare hereditary motor neuron disorder known as hereditary spastic paraplegia. Some 92% of the organization's monies support research.

The 2006 Mag Mile was a great success. We had 402 participants and raised a little more than \$25,000. The event also brought Dr. Richard Bedlack, head of Duke's ALS Clinic and Sarah Witt's doctor, to the attention of the SP Foundation. Dr Bedlack has since applied for an SPF research grant that will be awarded this summer.

We're hoping to make the 2007 version of the Mag Mile even more magnificent. It is scheduled for **Sunday,**

**September 16<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm**. So it should be considerably warmer than last year—and flatter. We have moved the course downtown. It will start in front of the Second Empire Restaurant at 330 Hillsborough Street, loop around the capital building and grounds, and finish in front of Second Empire as well. Here's an added incentive for all you foodies: Second Empire will provide refreshments.

For the runners among us, this year's course is certified. The competitive race will be the first in the Second Empire Grand Prix racing series. It will also be the USATF and RRCA state championship mile race for 2007.

For those non-runners among us, please come out!!! After the competitive mile race, there will be a fun run/walk and two kids' races. You can jog, walk, stroll, crawl, or roll—we're not picky. There will also be plenty of volunteer opportunities on race day, so stay tuned for those as well.

Thanks to UPUCC for the continued support of this event. Looking forward to seeing you out there!!



*Sarah Witt with Dr. Richard Bedlack at the inaugural 2006 Magnificent Mile*

## Yes We Can!

Things are really shaping up now in the Brownleigh Building as we hit the ‘home’ stretch! The ceilings are being placed, there is a fantastic new window in the worship space and the painting will begin next week! If you’d like to personally see the progress at the building we’ll be glad to arrange a time with you. Just shoot Doug Jones ([dougrj76@hotmail.com](mailto:dougrj76@hotmail.com)) or Doug Long ([doug@upucc.org](mailto:doug@upucc.org)) an email and we’ll make sure it happens! In the meantime, keep those cards and letters and pledges rolling in as we receive the substantial final bills for construction!!

Want to make a special contribution for a specific needed furnishing? See the UPUCC.org site for the updated “wish list.” To that end....

### **“Prayers for Chairs” – A Mother’s Day to Father’s Day Campaign-**

Tired of sitting on hard plastic each week during worship? Tired of needing to move chairs each week? Worried we won’t have enough chairs once we move from the Y/ (We actually don’t!)

We have a solution!! Help us to raise the funds needed to buy 200 new, comfortable seats for our new worship space once we move. See the demo chair currently on display at worship. (Don’t worry – your favorite blue plastic seats will still be in use throughout the rest of our permanent home.)

Consider providing one for each family member plus a friend! Buy one in honor of Doug Jones! Buy one for your neighbor you plan to invite one Sunday!

Each new chair costs \$45, which is quite a deal (It even includes shipping!) This sale price ends at the end of June.

You can help us buy the needed chairs by placing a check in the offering basket on Sundays now through June 17<sup>th</sup> (Father’s Day). Make checks payable to “UPUCC” – and be sure to designate your offering to “Prayers for Chairs” in the memo portion of the check!

Questions? – Contact Mitch Null ([mnull@earthlink.net](mailto:mnull@earthlink.net)).

**CURRENT NUMBER OF CHAIRS DONATED = 137 !!** (as of May 27<sup>th</sup>)

**Sweat Equity Opportunities- Carpet Laying** – Bob Winstead is coordinating carpet layers for the Brownleigh Building. We’re using carpet squares that can be done in sections so we may have more than one date for the work. Dates are flexible ...sometime between mid-June and mid-July.

The more the merrier. Contact Bob if you’re interested at [Bobandellin@aol.com](mailto:Bobandellin@aol.com)

*Several UPUCCers added their sweat in a few recent projects around the Brownleigh Building: Paula Womack scrapes the “Choice Computer” logo from the door, Jane Weidig removes crown molding, and Nik Everett, Chris Cooley, Shanna Jarman, Greta Newman run cabling for the networking that Mark Stevens coordinated.*



## UPCOMING AT UMSTEAD PARK UCC

- Sun. June 3** First Sunday Food Collection (...to help replenish food pantry at Urban Ministries.  
Suggestions: canned meats, vegetables and fruits; applesauce, mac & cheese, grits.)  
9:30 a.m. Forum: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31. In this portion of the Book of Proverbs we discover an alternative to the creation stories in Genesis. Here, the feminine Wisdom is with God at the beginning! Join us to discuss the role of the feminine Wisdom and Creation.  
10:30 a.m. Worship: The UCC At 50 Years: A Communion of Equals. The sacrament of communion is shared during this worship as well.  
-Care Team meets following worship.  
-Evening- Youth to Joi's for Food, Fun and Conversation on Future Mission Projects
- Tues. June 5** 6:30 p.m. Children's Committee at Bear Rock, Six Forks
- Wed. June 6** 7:00 p.m. Worship and Music Com.  
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal at Ed Carpp & Sallie Taggart's. All welcome!
- Thurs June 7** 6:30 p.m. Pastoral Care
- Sun. June 10** 9:30 a.m. Forum: Denise Long, a member of the North Carolina Council of Churches Migrant Farmworker Committee, will lead a forum on farmworker issues and how our congregation can develop effective ministries of partnership and outreach. This is an excellent way for our community to learn more about why North Carolina has the fastest growing Latino population in the United States and the factors that have created this immigration surge.  
10:30 a.m. The UCC At 50 Years: The Precarious Balance of Freedom vs. Order  
Stewardship and Finance meets following worship  
7:00 p.m. "Movie Night" at the Miller/Joyce's! Come join us as we view the documentary "I Know I'm Not Alone" -(See page 2 for details.)
- Mon. June 11** 6:30 p.m. Building and Grounds at the Brownleigh Building
- Wed. June 13** 7:00 p.m. Coordinating Council meets at the Brownleigh Building  
7:30 p.m. Men's Group at Border's, Six Forks and Strickland? (check with Reed Altman)
- Sun. June 17** 9:30 a.m. Forum: Bill Brooks of Health Care for All N.C. will join us for forum. Health Care for All was an initiative UPUCC and many other congregations across the state participated in to persuade legislators to enact better health coverage for our citizens. Bill will provide a post-mortem explaining what worked, what didn't, and what the approach will be for next year.  
10:30 a.m. Worship: The UCC At 50 Years: Being First Does Not Always Garner Trophies.  
6:00 p.m. Mother's Night Out! (Want details? Contact Angela Walden Weaver at [waldenweaver@wmconnect.com](mailto:waldenweaver@wmconnect.com) AND [awalden@bop.gov](mailto:awalden@bop.gov).)
- Tues. June 19** 7:00 p.m. Membership and Publicity Com. at Sallie and Ed's.  
Adult Ed. Com at Border's, Strickland and Six Forks
- Thurs. June 21** 7:30 p.m. Faith In Action at Sarah Witt's.
- Fri. June 22** Youth CampOut! For more info, speak with Peter van Dorsten ([pvandors@nc.rr.com](mailto:pvandors@nc.rr.com))
- Sun. June 24** 9:30 a.m. Forum: Jeff Holden leads a discussion using Bart Ehrman's audio recordings on The Revelation of John. Here's a view of Revelation that you definitely will not hear on Sunday morning religion programs or by reading the "Left Behind" series!  
10:30 a.m. Worship: Leon Whitehead Preaching!
- Tues. June 26** 7:00 p.m. Youth Committee at Panera Bread, Falls Village.