



UNITARIAN COASTAL FELLOWSHIP
A Unitarian Universalist Church

The CoastLine

Unitarian Coastal Fellowship
Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association
1300 Evans Street, Morehead City, NC 28557
www.ucfnc.org
252-240-2283
Minister: The Reverend Sally White
252-726-4863

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: The Unitarian Coastal Fellowship: building a community that fosters free religious inquiry and universal social justice.

A WELCOMING CONGREGATION: We are an intentionally diverse community welcoming of and enriched by people of varying cultures, economic and ethnic backgrounds; by people of varying sexual orientations, gender identities and family compositions; by people of all races, ages and beliefs.

February 2012

FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

January 29: **Pastoral Care and Social Inreach.** In recent evaluations of our ministry at UCF, there have been suggestions that "we" should be doing more to help people in our own congregation, in ways similar to the ways that our Social Outreach program reaches out to help those in need in the larger community. How might this "Social Inreach" work? Who among us is called to serve a social inreach ministry? And how is such a ministry of caring different from Pastoral Care? Let us explore these issues together this morning.

February 5: **Appreciative Inquiry.** During this month of February, you and every member and friend of this congregation will be invited to participate in a small group conversation about the very best qualities of this church. What are you most proud of? What do you most appreciate? What do we do best? Where is the life and the energy? How does UCF most enrich your life? This morning we will preview those conversations—how they will work, and how you can participate.

February 12: **Growth is More than Numbers.** For the past several years, the number of official members of this congregation has held steady at or near 70 people. Does that mean that we are not growing? Is "70" a complete—or an accurate—measure of the size and the impact of this congregation? Those who study church growth pay attention to four kinds of growth: growth in numbers, in maturity of faith, in corporate effectiveness, and in transforming the outside world. This morning, let's look at whether and how UCF is growing. You may be surprised!

February 19: **I Pledge.** Each year, you are asked to make a monetary pledge to help pay for the ongoing expenses of maintaining our facility, paying our staff, and funding our programs. We hope that your pledge is a reflection of the value that this congregation represents in your life, value that the appreciative inquiry conversations help you to clarify and to celebrate. How will you translate that value into a pledge? How will you contribute to the ongoing financial life and health of this congregation? Today, let's talk about pledging!

February 26: **Occupy Wall Street: What's Religion Got to Do With It?** What might Gandhi, the Buddha, Jesus, Hebrew prophets of old say about the Occupy Wall Street movement? Rev. Pat will highlight some very similar answers. Our message this week will be presented by Reverend Patricia Guthmann Haresch. Reverend Haresch is a lifelong Unitarian Universalist growing up at Unity Unitarian Church in St. Paul, Minnesota. Reverend Haresch is currently the minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Outer Banks. Pat lives in the Outer Banks with her husband John Watts Haresch, a family physician, their four-year-old son Will, and Shadow the dog.

FEBRUARY REFLECTIONS FROM SALLY

I have heard it said that the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. spent two hours every day in prayer and meditation and contemplation. Except during those times when he was particularly busy, particularly stressed. During those times, he devoted four hours a day to the care of his soul.

Such a counter-intuitive practice! And so wise!

When life seems to be speeding up around me, that is when it seems hardest to stop. When there's too much to do, too much to think about, too much to worry about, then I want to be **doing** something. **Doing** makes me feel useful, or at least productive, or at least busy. Surely if I'm busy enough, moving fast enough, then something desirable will come of it.

Not necessarily. Not usually.

When there's too much to do, too much to think about, too much to feel, that is the time when I really need to stop. To center. To take a walk and look at the trees or the water or the sky. To sit absolutely still and listen to the silence. To care for my soul.

Care of the soul is not easy work, but it is the most constructive work we can ever do. It begins with noticing just what is going on—that sense of life speeding up around me, that sense of needing to rush to keep up. It moves on to giving myself permission to stop—not forever, just for now—just long enough to catch up, not to the world, but to myself. It takes me to the place where I can greet myself with caring, with acceptance, with gentleness and, finally, with peace. Not forever, just for now.

And then I can take up the day again. Take up the world again.

If life is speeding up around you these days, I wish you time to stop. Time to catch up to yourself. Time to care for your soul.

Yours in faith,

Sally

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Congregational Meeting held on January 22, 2012

Thank you to all who attended the Congregational meeting which followed the Sunday service today and also the open Board meeting held on Tuesday, January 17. It was a unique opportunity for the Board to have a six month "Check-In" with the congregation and to hear what questions and answers you have for us. As I have said before, your congregational feedback and involvement is at the heart of our fellowship.

As you may recall, there was concern for filling offices on the Board. We are very happy to report that many people stepped forward to leadership positions beginning with Mark Hooper who has volunteered to be the 2011-2012 Vice-President and he will run for President at the Annual Meeting in June. Geoff Brown will leave the Treasurer position on April 1 in order to travel extensively and the

current Assistant Treasurer, Joe Naset, will become the Treasurer and will also put his name on the ballot for that position again in June. Lees Hardy and Ann York have volunteered to help with the Assistant Treasurer duties. Karen Rettie has also agreed to put her name on the ballot at the Annual meeting to take over the second year of Secretarial duties for Pat Harms. Thank you to each of you for your commitment to the Unitarian Coastal Fellowship!

The Nominating Committee chaired by Barb Thomas, is still looking for nominees for the Leadership Council Trustee, currently held by Debra Guthrie, and for the 2012-2013 Vice President. Please contact her, if you are interested.

It is an exciting time in the life of our Fellowship and your Board looks forward to serving you for the second half of our tenure with renewed energy and enthusiasm! Thank you, Rev. Sally, for your inspirational sermon today and for reminding us about how much fun it is to "Do the Hokey Pokey"!

Yours in shared ministry,

Penny Hooper

President

THIS YEAR'S PLEDGE DRIVE: "RENEWING OUR RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY"

This year, UCF's pledge drive will be different from our approach in recent years. Rather than one-on-one canvassing, we will utilize small group discussions employing an *Appreciative Inquiry* approach. The UUA website says this about Appreciative Inquiry:

'Appreciative Inquiry was developed...as a process that uses positive questions and interviews to focus on how an organization functions at its best. It is the cooperative search for the best in people, organizations, and the relevant world around them, and it involves a systematic discovery of what gives a system "life" when it is most effective. During the process, we use questions to sharpen our vision and inspire action. By asking positive questions, we generate new images of the future. These powerful images of ourselves, our organizations, and the world allow us to create the future we desire."

We plan to hold small group discussions using *Appreciative Inquiry* built around a short series of questions that Sally White is developing. These questions will be used with the Simply Circles for their February meetings. *Ad hoc* small group meetings will be held at church for those members and friends who do not participate in the Simply Circles program. We are still exploring how to reach congregants who can't engage in the small group process. Pledging will not be an explicit part of the discussions.

Our hope is that the *Appreciative Inquiry* process will motivate congregants to ponder their pledge commitment to UCF and respond generously.

What will be in the pledge packet:

- A cover letter elaborating our Canvass theme and asking for pledge commitments.
- A letter providing gentle guidance on pledging
- The initial budget proposal
- A brief discussion of the budget, making the point that pledges are the largest part of the income supporting UCF and our mission, but not the only significant part

Tentative Schedule:

February 1: Newsletter article describing the theme and approach of this year's Canvass
February 1: Beginning of Simply Circles Appreciative Inquiry discussions- various times in February
February 5: Kickoff sermon by Sally White
February 19: Sermon on pledging by Sally White
February 19: Distribution of pledge packets
February 21: Appreciative Inquiry discussions with Board of Trustees and Leadership Council.
February 12 and 26: Testimonials from congregants on most meaningful or satisfying religious experience at UCF
March 15: Tentative deadline for return of pledges

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The children are currently in the infancy of exploring ideas of sacred space or places. If you should work with the children (the little boys) you should probably try to avoid using the word "space"; as it invariably will lead to a discussion about Star Wars, fashioning of light-sabers and an epic battle. We are currently fashioning Cairns which are stacks, created by people, of rocks found in nature and usually used to mark a trail but sometimes used to mark a sacred space or, in Buddhism, the site of a sacred relic. Our plans are a little murky at this stage, or at least mine are, in as far as what will the activities look like. I have found that merely having a discussion with the children is kind of pointless. They must have something to do or we will have pandemonium (we might have pandemonium anyway). So I was thinking after the cairns we would start talking about "god". We could do paintings (what color is god?). Maybe we could take a tour of the neighborhood—looking for "god." We might make prayer flags—talking to "God." I don't know what else, but we would lead up the children defining and creating their own individual "gods." If you have any ideas you would like to add please let me know.

I am looking for volunteers to work with the children on March 4 and April 15, I will be going away on those days with the choir. You may not realize that my job as Religious Education Administrator does not include that I

am a Sunday school teacher. I am meant to recruit volunteers to teach every Sunday. But volunteers are hard to find so I just do it myself most of the time. I am concerned not just for these two Sundays that I will be away but also for how this situation will play out when I leave next fall to go to school. Will the job description for the new Administrator have to include that they must be available to teach every Sunday? Does that mean that we can only recruit someone in our church willing to teach our beliefs? Also I have been feeling that another, third, class for the older girls is needed; how will we staff that class?

At the last annual meeting when I gave my report, I practically begged for help with at least thinking about answers to our Religious Education issues. I know everyone is busy and doing a thousand things but these are our children and the future of Unitarian Universalism. How can you help?

Debra

TRANSFORMATIONS: BUILDING A MULTICULTURAL BELOVED COMMUNITY

The Eno River UU Congregation in Durham is hosting a one-day conference on February 11 on building a multicultural congregation. **Transformations: Building a Multicultural Beloved Community** features a keynote address by the Rev. Alicia Roxanne Forde, followed by breakout sessions on "Building the World We Dream About" (led by Rev. Forde); "Race and Place: Finding Opportunities for Witness and Linkage" (led by Jim Key) and "Seeing Everyone as Our Own" (led by Pat Callair). The day begins at 9am and ends at 3pm. The \$15 registration fee includes lunch, and scholarships are available.

Rev. Sally and Debra Guthrie plan to attend, and several other UCFers have expressed interest. Register online at www.eruuf.org, and sign up on the sign-up sheet in the Social Hall so we can arrange car pools. This workshop is part of Eno River's Installation Weekend when Rev. Deborah Cayer will be recognized and celebrated as Eno River's fourth Lead Minister.

VIGIL SCHEDULED

A Candlelight Vigil supporting all North Carolina Families will be held on February 14 starting at 5:00pm in City Park next to the Train Depot, 10th and Arendell streets, downtown Morehead City. Co-sponsors of the event are Carteret/ Craven Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) and the Unitarian Coastal Fellowship.

The public is invited to join the vigil that is planned as public witness against NC Amendment 1 known as the NC Marriage Discrimination Amendment. The potential

amendment will appear on the May 8, 2012 ballot in North Carolina as a legislatively-referred constitutional amendment. Same-sex marriage is already banned in the state of North Carolina. The proposed measure, however, would enshrine discrimination in our state constitution.

Please come out and witness to our beliefs in the community and the world. Now is the time to stand together on the side of love.

Please contact Debra(725-9413 or guthriegourds@yahoo.com) to help with preparations for this event.

UU 101 CLASS

Are you interested in knowing more about Unitarian Universalism? Want to learn about the Unitarian Coastal Fellowship and how we fit into that larger picture? Would you like a chance to retrace the spiritual journey that led you here, and to hear about the journeys of others? Then join us for a two-session "UU 101" class. This class is perfect for those who are considering joining our congregation—and for those who have been around a while and want to know more. Sessions will begin at 11:45am and end around 2pm. Lunch and childcare will be provided for those who register in advance.

The first session will include getting acquainted with each other: who we are, what has brought us to UCF, what we are looking for in a spiritual community. We will talk a little about the history and the structure of UCF and of the larger Unitarian Universalist movement of which we are a part, and about how you might want become involved in this congregation in addition to Sunday worship. You may sign up to participate in this session on **March 18**.

The second session is an overview of Unitarian Universalist history, considering the perspectives of theology, polity (or governance) and social action. This session will be offered on **March 25**.

Please sign up on the signup sheet in the Social Hall or by calling Rev. Sally at the church (240-2283)

GREETERS

The greeting task is very important because greeters are the first people that an arriving person meets when coming to our church. We want everyone to feel that they are very welcome and that we care about them. This is true for old and new members and friends, and it is especially true for those who have come for the first time. So give everyone a joyful welcome. If you don't recognize someone, ask them if this is the first time they have been to UCF. If so, ask them to fill in the Guest Book. We like to

send a welcoming letter to newcomers, but we can't without an address. If there are children, tell their parents about our programs for the children—Sunday School or our accommodations for the youngest youth. If there is an opportunity, introduce them to another person. After the service you may be able to encourage them to go to the Social Room for coffee and conversation. You may also be able to introduce them to others at that time.

A big thank you to all of you who have agreed to be greeters and know that it is considered a very important task.

MISSION POSSIBLE GRANTS FOR 2012

Preliminary applications for a Mission Possible Grant for 2012 are due by January 31, 2012 and should be submitted to the Grant Review Committee (Dave Evans, Susan Fetzer or Geoff Brown) by that time for their review. Final applications need to be filed by March 1, 2012.

An application form is attached to this newsletter. If you are unsure about the criteria for these grants, you can review the Grant Policy in the Policy Manual. It is estimated that there will be \$3500+ dollars available from the Endowment Fund for these grants. This is an excellent mechanism for furthering the UCF Mission Statement and the well-being of UCF.

CIRCLE ASSOCIATES FUND

The Circle Associates Fund is a revolving loan fund of \$3,000 that was established years ago by founding members of the Unitarian Coastal Fellowship. It was started to help members of the congregation who faced financial emergencies such as job loss, emergency medical bills, or emergency family situations. Persons needing such assistance who have been UCF members for a minimum of six months may apply to the minister or the treasurer. Their identities are known only to the minister and the treasurer. Recipients of Circle Associate loans are expected to sign a promissory note, without interest, which is destroyed when the loan has been repaid.

UCF & DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS

Shelter Camp Neck Youth Camp, Summer 2012

A Unitarian Universalist summer camp in Burgaw, NC connecting youth from small, mid-size, and large congregations across Eastern and Central North Carolina. Each week will include workshops, games, music, campfires, outings, and more. The perfect setting in which to be silly, make lasting friends, and learn what makes UU youth so awesome!

High School Camp: July 22-28 for ages 15-17 (rising 10th-12th graders)

Junior High Camp: July 8-14 for ages 12-14 (rising 7th-9th graders)

Leadership Camp: June 24-30 for ages 15-17 (rising 10th-12th graders)

Fee: \$300 per week; deposit due by 1 April 2012.

For more information, contact: Agatha Buell, Camp Director youthcamps@shelterneckuucamp.org (415) 240-6638

Sponsored by the Universalist Convention Of North Carolina, Inc. (UCONCI).

Note: Burgaw is about 90 minutes by car from UCF.

UCF GROUPS

These UCF Groups meet regularly and are open to anyone interested, All meet at UCF unless otherwise noted.

Suggestions for new groups are always welcomed

Womens' Group: 2nd Wed. at 12:00—Ann Odell (726-3648)

Book Group: 2nd Mon. at 5:00—Ted Odell (726-3648)

Buddhist Study Group: 1st & 3rd Thurs. at 7:00—Ann Rivers (240-1914)

Meditation: Every Wed. at 5:00—Happy Ewbank (727-9233) or Ann Rivers (240-1914)

Caregivers Support Group: 4th Wed. at 3:00—Rev. Sally White (240-2283)

PFLAG: 2nd Wed. at 7:00—Ann Rivers (240-1914)

Spanish Conversation: Every Tues. at 11:30—Ted Odell (726-3648)

Creativity Group: 3rd Wed. at 10:30—Mardi Barber (808-2386)

Lunch Bunch: Every Sun. at 12

WOMEN'S GROUP

Our UCF Women's Group will meet on Wednesday, February 8, at 12:00. Our discussion topic is "What is your vision for UCF five years from now?" Please bring your own lunch including beverage. All UCF women members, friends and guests are welcome. If you have questions please contact Ann Odell at annodell56@gmail.com or 252-726-3648.

BUDDHIST STUDY GROUP

A Buddhist study group will be meeting on first and third Thursdays, at UCF at 7:00 PM. There will be discussion of a chosen book and how it applies to our lives and there will be time for quiet reflection; other Buddhist materials will be shared and discussed. All interested are very welcome.

CAREGIVERS GROUP

Carteret Care Partners sponsors a Caregivers' Support Group for those who are caring for loved ones in times of chronic or acute illness or injury. The two monthly meetings offer Caregivers an opportunity to share questions, worries, frustrations and triumphs. In each meeting we address concerns that Caregivers bring and share mutual support, caring and resources. If you are caring for a loved one, please join us. Informal activities will be available for care recipients during the meetings.

The group will meet on **Wednesday, February 8** at Grace Presbyterian Church in Beaufort, and on **Wednesday February 22** at UCF. Meetings begin at 2pm and end by 4pm.

Caregivers and care recipients of all types are encouraged to participate in the program. If you would like to participate in the group, or if you would like more information, please contact Rev. LaVera Parato at gracepresbychurch@embarqmail.com or 252-728-7057, or Rev. Sally White at ucfminister@starfishnet.com or (252) 622-1978.

A BETTER PLAN FOR RECYCLING #5 PLASTICS

We do a good job at UCF recycling paper, plastic and glass items. We use the city recycling program for most items and a separate program for #5 plastics which are collected in the kitchen in a separate basket. In the past we have periodically delivered the #5 plastics to Whole Foods. Now we have a better way. Georgie and Rick Searles will take some of the items for reuse by their daughter in her sustainable farm in Durham and the remaining items to a local school there that makes a little money from them.

Your help is needed. Georgie and Rick are not here all of the time during the winter. We need someone(s) to save the #5 plastics when the basket is full until Georgie and Rick return. This would primarily be during December, January and February. Let them know you can help them save our earth.

And remember to make sure all your recyclables are clean and dry.

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD COLLECTION

Now that we are involved directly with Family Promise, the new program to provide temporary housing for homeless families and women, we will sort out items that can be used at the Family Promise Day Center for lunch. Remaining items will be delivered to Martha's Cupboard.

A basket remains in the Social Hall to receive your generous contributions.

Congratulations and thank you!

THIS BIG OLE DESK

If anyone would like the large corner desk in the RE room upstairs at the church, it is free for the taking. It is a large corner computer desk—60in X 40in. It takes up way too much room in our small multi-purpose area and we would like it gone. I can help move it if needed. Debra 252-725-9413

NEWS OF UU'S FOR JANUARY 2012

Pat Karen Baggott's friend Cindy passed away. Carole Moore's sister lives near where Cindy lived, and she baked bread and brought it to Cindy's friends when sustenance and love were needed. This was very fitting as we celebrated breaking bread together this morning as part of our church service.

The Odell's house slowly taking shape on their lot.

Aaron Schobern, aged 2, broke his leg. Our thoughts are with his parents, Christina and Zeb, for his speedy recovery.

A friend of Lee Horne's, Linda, has got a job in Afghanistan.

Penny Hooper is concerned about the illness of a friend who is an employee at the College, Joseph. She also expressed concern for Nikki, Mark's mother, that she enjoyed having company and now her life has slowed down.

Sandi Sox expressed happiness at the new year, and joy at such a beautiful day.

Roger Poling and his wife celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Emily White is pleased to have a church community here and in Tarboro.

Karen Rettie said this may be the year for connecting with long time friends.

Donna Crosby is looking forward to the new year.

Pat Osborne's godson, who was a ship captain on the Panama Canal, died recently.

Aria's dog is not doing well, as he ages.

Brooke's dance teacher's dog, whom all the students loved, has died.

Ruth Smith is so pleased that her brother-in-law, Jim, who almost died from CO poisoning, is doing very well. He and his wife were able to travel and celebrate the baptism of their twin grandsons.

Emily Mrov hopes for a peaceful resolution with her partner. Their 6 month-old son got lots of attention at coffee hour.

We have concerns for Wayne Holderness, who wishes he could be with us in church every week.

Dempster Moore has received his new liver! He thanks all those involved, is grateful to the family who donated the liver of their loved one, and especially thanks his wonderful wife's support.

We have concerns for the situation at Willis' Mobile Home Park and hope to work with Family Promise to support and help the residents there.

Happy Ewbank at ewbank@embarqmail.com

UNITARIAN COASTAL FELLOWSHIP
1300 EVANS STREET
MOREHEAD CITY, NORTH CAROLINA
APPLICATION for MISSION POSSIBLE GRANT from ENDOWMENT FUND

APPLICANT: _____

NAME OF PROJECT: _____

BACKGROUND for the PROJECT/ACTIVITY:

DESCRIBE the Project or Activity and how it relates to the UCF Mission Statement and the Beneficiaries involved:

STARTING DATE: _____

ENDING DATE: _____

AMOUNT OF GRANT REQUESTED: _____

MATCHING FUNDS: _____

PROJECT LEADER: _____

PHONE# & EMAIL: _____

SIGNED AND DATED: _____

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:00 Meditation 5:15 Committee on ministry	2 7:00 Buddhist Study Group	3	4
5 9:15 Choir Practice 10:30 Service	6	7 11:30 Spanish Conversation 5:00 Worship Committee	8 12:00 Women's Group 5:00 Meditation 7:00 PFLAG	9	10	11
12 9:15 Choir Practice 10:30 Service	13 5:00 Book Group	14 11:30 Spanish Conversation 5:00 Candlelight Vigil	15 10:30 Creativity Group 5:00 Meditation	16 7:00 Buddhist Study Group	18	18
19 9:15 Choir Practice 10:30 Service	20	21 11:30 Spanish Conversation 5:30 Leadership Council 7:30 Board of Trustees	22 2:00 Caregivers Group 5:00 Meditation	23	24	25 Men's Shelter Dinner (deliver to Social Hall by 5:45) 7
26 9:15 Choir Practice 10:30 Service	27	28 11:30 Spanish Conversation	29 5:00 Meditation			

Unitarian Coastal Fellowship
1300 Evans Street
Morehead City, NC 28557



OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Officers

President: Penny Hooper	729-2521
Vice-President: Vacant	
Secretary: Pat Harms	808-3815
Co-Treasurer: Geoff Brown	247-2638
Co-Treasurer: Jerry Miller	240-1280

Trustees

John Farmer	622-3323
Debra Guthrie	725-9413
Terri Thomas	314-4110

This newsletter is published once a month for members and friends of the Unitarian Coastal Fellowship. The newsletter is distributed by email. Those not having email can pick up a copy in the lobby of the church, usually by the first Sunday of each month.

The deadline to submit material for the newsletter is by midnight of the fourth Sunday of each month, unless specifically designated otherwise. Submissions, preferably in MS Word, may be made by email: fontenoy@embarqmail.com or ucfeditor@gmail.com. The editor has the prerogative of accepting material based on appropriateness and space.