

FALL 2019

# SOUNDINGS



Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Charlotte

DISCOVER DEEPER SPIRITUAL MEANING

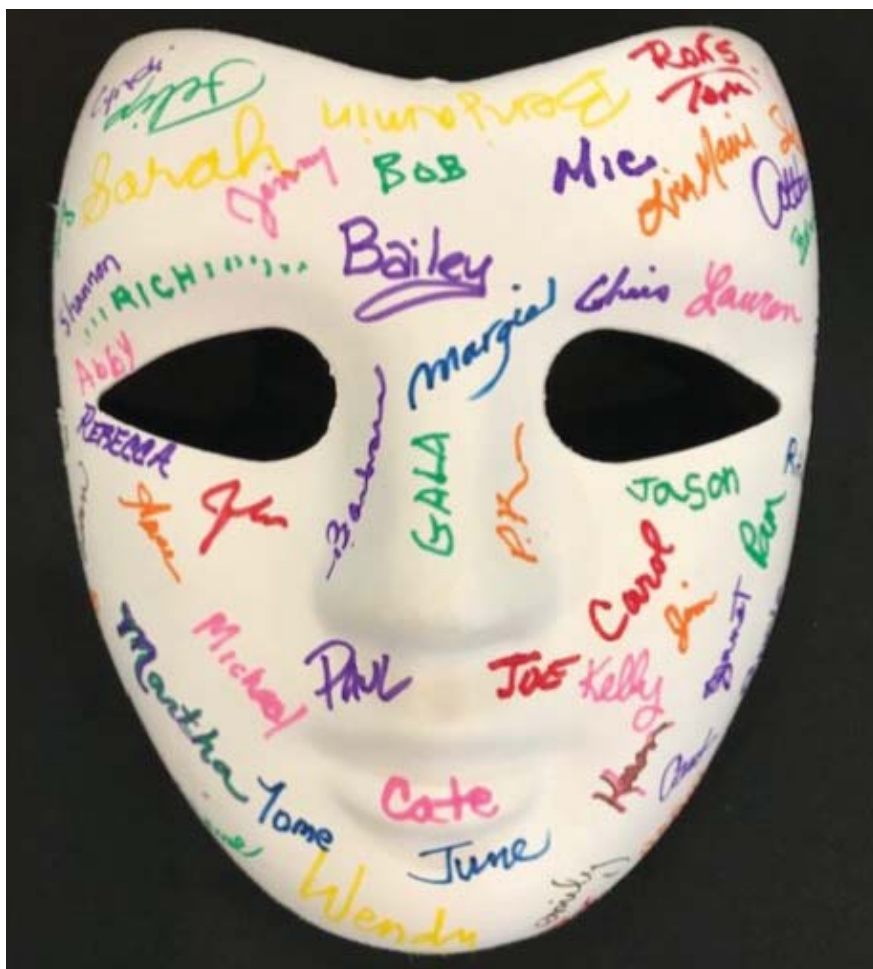
*Depth through reflection*

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## IN THIS ISSUE ON:

“I am . . .’ ‘We are . . .’  
What’s in a name?”

- 2 | Summer 2019 in Review  
Eve Stevens and Jay Leach
- 4 | Summer Religious Education  
(Adult, Children and Youth)  
Martha Kniseley  
Kathleen Carpenter
- 7 | Claiming My Name  
Mic Elvenstar
- 7 | Names of Endearment  
Marilyn Morenz
- 8 | Judged by My Name  
Sharon Baker  
Sandy Wade
- 9 | “Somebody’s callin’ my name . . .”  
David Reynolds  
Tawana Wilson Allen
- 10 | Becoming Our Names  
Mark Fox  
Sage Brook
- 11 | Focus 2020  
Barry Ahrendt
- 12 | Contributors  
Judy Love



Our rich and evocative summer service theme was the inspiration for a series of painted masks. “Names Mask” intended to show how writing our names together is symbolic of community—that we, represented by our names, are the UCC. Mask created by the congregation for the summer display about naming.

“You are entitled to have a name you like or to change it or your perception of it if you don’t. Your name is the most important thing you tell anyone about you, so give it the weight that it deserves. You didn’t choose it, but you can control it.”

—FROM *THE SOCIAL VALUE OF NAMES* | DUANA TAHA | TEDxTORONTO



**The Mission of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Charlotte:** *Challenged by our liberating faith, we discover deeper spiritual meaning, nurture loving community, cultivate courageous connections, and partner in the work of justice.*

## “I AM . . . ’ WE ARE . . . ’ WHAT’S IN A NAME?”

Summer 2019 in Review

by Eve Stevens & Jay Leach, Ministers

What a remarkably rich and engaging summer we’ve enjoyed together. Sunday after Sunday we’ve heard poignant, powerful, playful, inspiring stories about what it means to say “I am . . .” or “We are . . .” Then, in smaller groups around game tables, adult religious education tables and CYRE tables we’ve been offered an additional array of opportunities to learn new names or to deepen the ways we know one another.

In the kickoff service to this summer series, Jay said:

Saying “I am . . .” is a powerful thing. It can establish identity, carry history, culture, relationship, foster connection, create layers of meaning and feeling. What’s in a name? A great and complex web that is far more than some simple arrangement of letters. A complexity we’ll be exploring together throughout this summer.

If there’s complexity in saying “I am . . .” how much more complicated it can be when we try to say . . . “We are . . .” “We are . . .” a claim of collective identity.

In a July service Eve added:

There will not be an end in my lifetime to cataloguing the contours and depths of white supremacy: *segregation, redlining, sundown-town, lynching, separate but equal, mass incarceration*. But the more I learn to name these truths aloud, the more ability I gain to change the world within and beyond me for the good.

As the Master Namer explains to Ged, “we can change only [...] what we can name exactly and wholly.”

Later that month, Jay reflected:

The one, the ones who get to name, to choose the names for things, to engage in the act of naming have and wield a great deal of power. Who gets . . . naming rights? Who gets buildings and other things named after them? Who gets in on the act of naming and whose names are ignored, silenced, erased?

And then he cited Michaela Jeannaisse Carter speculation:

“If we change the names, perhaps we can change the story.”

Recently Eve reflected:

Women’s given names have been intricately loaded for some time. Through our study [in the Cultural Justice Core Group], we came across a book first published in the early 1700s called the *New England Primer*. In that book there was a section entitled, “Some Proper Names of Men and Women to teach Children to spell their own.” Women’s names, among others, are listed as Charity, Patience, Mercy, Temperance, Prudence. Names that described way girls and women should be.

[. . .]

Our daughters are named into a society built to underestimate and undervalue them. We must do our best in our loving ways to bless their way forward and secure possibility and opportunity as fixtures of their future.



photograph by Jay Leach

These brief excerpts from services we led are the gateway to this special end-of-summer issue of *Soundings*. In the pages that follow, you’ll read and perhaps be reminded of words offered by others in these summer services. You’ll also read summaries of ways we engaged this theme in other areas of programming.

Finally, we call special attention to the concluding essay in this issue. It reveals explicitly the ways our weeks-long reflecting during these sultry summer months may now serve as a springboard to a very important congregation-wide conversation this fall.

Our deep thanks to all who participated as speakers, teachers, listeners, and learners making this such a richly engaging summer in our congregation.

## “I am . . . ’ We are . . . ’ What’s in a name?”

### **Sunday, June 23**

Rev. Jay Leach, Minister; Martha Kniseley, Lay Service Leader

“I am . . . ’ We are . . . ’ What’s in a name?”

### **Sunday, June 30**

Mic Elvenstar and Felix McKie, Service Leaders

Claiming My Name

Watch the service here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3-LdyTduUs>

### **Sunday, July 7**

Judy Weingarten and Marilyn Morenz, Service Leaders

Names of Endearment

Watch the service here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=po4YLuZvqA>

### **Sunday, July 14**

Rev. Eve Stevens, Minister; Suzanne Clements, Lay Service Leader

True Names

Watch the service here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mEiYi8OS1wQ>

### **Sunday, July 21**

Sharon Baker and Sandy Wade, Service Leaders

Judged by My Name

Watch the service here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Kf-SxM-tOw>

### **Sunday, July 28**

Rev. Jay Leach, Minister; Barbara Deviney, Lay Service Leader

The Power of Names

Watch the service here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3mfWOZvHgo>

### **Sunday, August 4**

Tawana Wilson-Allen and David Reynolds, Service Leaders

“Somebody’s calling my name . . .”

Watch the service here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mwWkTrUutxM>

### **Sunday, August 11**

Sage Brook and Mark Fox, Service Leaders

Becoming Our Names

Watch the service here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8bdTBkagfCE>

### **Sunday, August 18**

Rev. Eve Stevens, Minister; Tracy Hickman, Lay Service Leader

“What’s in a name?” Blessing and Prophecy

Watch the service here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3WFFi6gQ5c>

### **Sunday, August 25**

UCC Professional Staff

“Oh, The Places We’ve Been”

### **Sunday, September 1**

Peg Argent and Tom Cole, Service Leaders

Naming Our Days

Watch the service here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cplMdZJinHo>

## EXPLORING OUR THEME THROUGH ADULT PROGRAMMING

by Martha Kniseley



It’s been a joy listening to our members and friends as they enthusiastically described their experiences in the adult programming sessions. Sharon Baker led a discussion after showing two impactful Ted Talks. In *Decoding The Social Value of Names*, Duana Taha captured our theme when

she proclaimed, “Our names are for our entire lives a label, a shorthand, for everything that we do and everything that we are.”

Listen further as our members speak for themselves:

Jay led two sessions entitled “I am from . . .” Althea Clark responded to a poem by the same name with her own version:

### “I am from...”

I am from Kodachrome sunsets and cottonwood trees.

I am from 14,000 foot peaks and highway snow 10 feet high on the sides of the road in July.

I am from a ‘50 Ford convertible, cherry red with a white top and white wall tires, given to me on my 16th birthday.

I am from blue jeans hung on the clothesline on a winter morning frozen stiff before they dried.

I am from a pouting lip stuck out, and my father from West Virginia telling me he’d “set a hen on it!”

I am from Green Mountain parking pull offs that showed the lights of Denver sparkling in the night sky.

—Althea Clark, 2019

Beth Mussay provided the fun with an artistic expression of gender identity in her class “When Ink and Water React.”



artwork and photograph by Phyllis Bertke

Rebecca Jones and Carol Hartley called upon poetry as a way to explore our names. Donna Fisher wrote this poem in response:

If I were borne of wolves my name would be unlettered  
a melding of form, perception, instinct, pulsation.

I was borne of sapiens

whose language is lettered

whose words have power

whose names are spawned out of longing and bestowed  
with innocence.

A name does not declare

It aches to become.

My name is woven into my skin, my senses, my spirit, my soul

And like no other.

—Donna Fisher, 2019

Gala Palmer offered the following:

*Alien, Lost in China*

The Shenzhen heat hits. My chest fills with wet, ‘stinky  
tofu’ September air.  
Ripping off my suit jacket down to white crepe already  
stuck to skin,  
I high-heel it through thousands at Luohu train station.  
Shoved aside by Chinese māmās and nainais dragging  
bags of todays’ haul,  
I scan crowds of greeters for a driver holding a placard  
with my name. No name—  
No name, no name.

Panic in reserve, I bustle to the taxi stand.  
Digging out a letterhead in English-Chinese to give the  
rattle-trap cabbie,  
I sit hard in a backseat hollow, an ancient memory of  
those who came before.  
Windows rolled down, “bù hao, bù hao” (no good, no  
good), the driver says,  
pointing at the vents. No good—  
No good, no good.

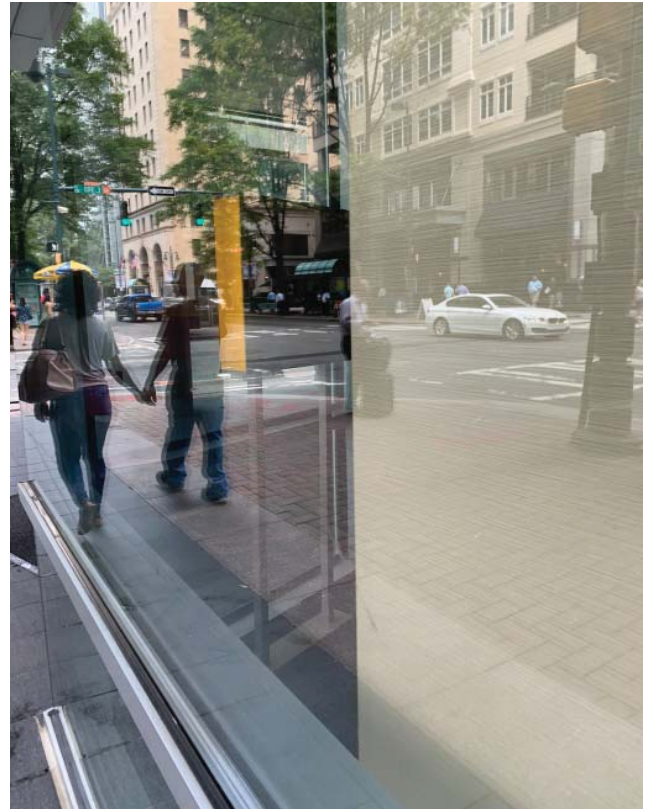
A windswept ride past street vendors selling pirated  
CDs, pajamas, and umbrellas;  
a noodle maker with lines of customers waiting to slurp  
up their lunch.  
Emerging into a high-rise commercial district, we are  
becalmed.  
Tiled plazas are dead, empty of life.

I am a single leaf dropped off the only tree in the desert.  
Stilettoes echoing across the common, surrounded by  
towers, accompanied only  
by the clunk, clunk of my roller bag.  
Arriving at a glass door for giants, I pull; it is locked. I am  
Alone and Alien.

Down the street I see a woman smiling, waving “need  
help?” the  
local woman says in English. Not alone—  
Not alone, not alone.

--Gala Palmer, 2019

Phyllis Berke inspired her group to create and share photos on their cell phones that represented their personal qualities.



photograph by Tom Cole

These classes enabled us to connect on deeper levels as we focused on our theme “I am...’ ‘We are...’ What’s in a name?” Our members reported that they were encouraged to take some risks outside their comfort zone as they engaged in reflective writing, poetry and artistic expression. We hope to build on these experiences throughout the coming year.

## EXPLORATORY FUN WITH OUR KIDS!

by Kathleen Carpenter



Oh, what fun we had with our summer theme around naming in our Children and Youth Religious Education Program! In fact, it was probably obvious as many of our activities spilled out of the classrooms . . .

- . . . onto the patio where chalk and plant designs were created to represent Unitarian Universalism;
- . . . into Freeman Hall where food items with funny or strange names (gorp, deviled eggs, puppy chow) were prepared and left out during coffee time;
- . . . out to the parking lot where notes encouraging recipients to come up with their own identity word were left on windshields;
- . . . into Freeman Hall—and beyond!—as kids designed and wore capes representing their super hero names and super powers!
- . . . through the halls as children and youth wielded their magic wands, ready to name and defeat their fears.

While their parents heard personal stories and reflections on names and naming in the Sanctuary, our children and youth heard them in their classrooms through picture books, videos, and personal sharing. At age appropriate levels, they were invited to engage with names, with naming, with what it means to have a name, to choose a name, to change a name, to offer a name, to remember someone’s name.

Classes were playful, reflective, imaginative, personal, communal. Most mornings provided time for serious reflection, with discussion questions challenging the kids to consider topics like bullying and name calling, the pronunciation of non-Anglo names, and how it feels when your name doesn’t fit your self-identity.

Our youngest children were great listeners during circle time when they heard stories about a rainbow fish, a tacky penguin, a “transcolored” crayon, a princess knight, and an old woman who named things—to name a few. Their wondering questions, designed to help them consider the story without leading them to the answers, were

often repeated from story to story: What is it like to give something or someone a name? Why are names important? How would you feel if someone made fun of your name?

According to our Summer Elementary Class Coordinator, Melanie Greely, the older kids “most enjoyed learning about names that are different from their own. The only recurring reflection we had, despite changing groups, was the importance of having a name. I heard, more than once from students, that ‘You have to have a name. A name tells you who you are.’”



CYRE Youth with class assistant Erika Sliger show off their chalk and plant designs

Volunteer, Cate Stroud, led a number of the summer classes for the oldest age group of middle and high schoolers. She observed that participants “were great to work with and just as talkative as ever! They always manage to have thoughtful conversations around just about any topic.” She further commented that the most intense discussions were around the topics most relatable to the youth themselves. “One conversation that stood out for me was when we had them choose and talk about a word that represented who they were. They all ended up choosing words that really spoke to personal growth and living up to who they are as individuals. They were also totally into the topic of identity suppression. They had more knowledge and feelings on the subject than I would have expected.”

This summer’s programming allowed our children and youth—and the adults who worked with them—the opportunity to consider names as more than just personal identifiers. They came to understand how names and naming are wrapped up in identity and emotion. And they learned how much fun you can have even while tackling challenging topics!

## CLAIMING MY NAME

by Mic Elvenstar



I changed my name at the age of 24, basically to reinvent myself after years of low self-esteem that stemmed from physical and emotional abuse. I was now McRandon Demian Elvenstar! I pictured myself on a white horse, ready to set off on a heroic quest, my hair flowing in the wind! Michael Stanley Miller was gone. I had a

new persona. Instant self-esteem! Or not. Let’s put it this way. If you have a Teddy bear and dress it in the fanciest of outfits, it’s still a Teddy bear. This was a dismaying realization. I ultimately realized that if I wanted to really change, I had to do the work. So I spent the following years studying psychology and getting therapy. I came to realize that the quest I was on was one to find my true self. To find out who I was.

Looking back at my life from my present perspective, I see 40 years of working with various disabled populations—as a speech pathologist, teacher, college professor, and group facilitator. That’s who I am! An actor, writer, and director of theatrical productions. That’s who I am! And above all, a father, and now a grandfather. That’s who I am! So

now, 47 years after changing my name, I think I can say, “Bring on that white horse. I AM Elvenstar!”

## NAMES OF ENDEARMENT

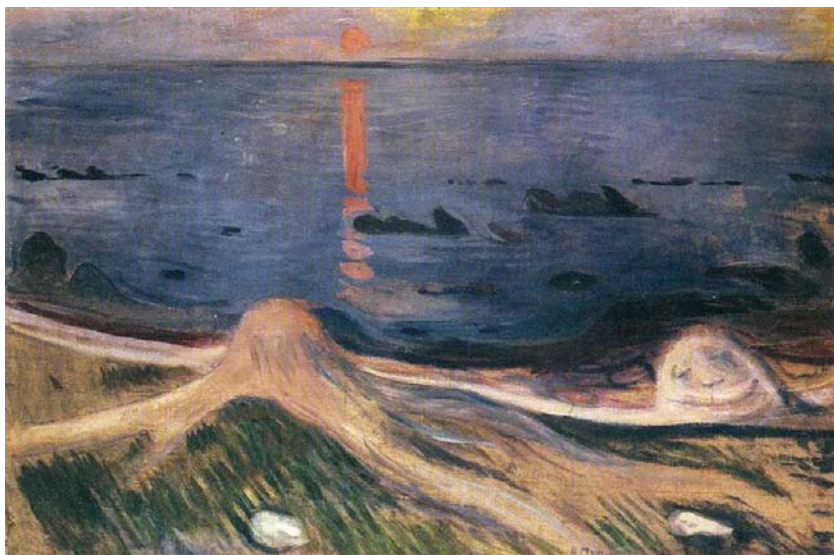
by Marilyn Morenz

When my first granddaughter Madeleine, who goes by Maddie was born, my daughter asked me what I wanted to be called. I said I didn’t have a preference and that we should let Maddie choose, but since it would take about 18 months for her to learn to talk I chose Gram. My children called my mom



Grammy and since she died in 2007 I wanted to preserve that nickname in her memory. However, once Maddie learned to talk (she hasn’t stopped since and she’s 6 now) she totally abandoned the nickname Gram in favor of Mimi. This was not a nickname I had even considered, but I love it so much because it came from Maddie’s heart.

For whatever reason, as a baby, this nickname best described how she felt about me. She is very proud of the fact that she is the one who chose this nickname. Maddie is a free-spirited child who is very creative. She lacks vanity, is spontaneous, and has a great sense of fun. Now there are five little voices calling me Mimi—Hudson (age 6), Hannah (age 4), Merritt (age 3) and Colton (age 2).



“The Mystery of a Summer Night,” painting by Edvard Munch (1892)

## JUDGED BY MY NAME

by Sharon Baker



The origins of my surname can be traced to Skarlin, Poland, where my paternal great-grandfather, John Juchnowski, lived and apprenticed in a bakery before emigrating to America in 1892 at the age of 19.

John settled in Buffalo, New York, had five children, including my grandfather Fred, and eventually opened his own bakery.

Among his friends on a local baseball team, my grandfather was known as Fred the Baker. To avoid anti-Polish bias and improve his chances of finding a job, he legally changed his last name to Baker in the early 1930s.

The history behind my last name factored into my decision not to change it when I married my husband, Pete Moore.

I didn't second-guess my decision to remain a Baker until I had children. I hadn't thoughtfully considered what it would mean to have a different last name than my kids. When their teachers and friends referred to me as Mrs. Moore, I refrained from correcting them.

Recently, though, I have embraced Baker once and for all. My grandfather adopted that name for a reason—to offer his children and grandchildren a chance to avoid the prejudice he had faced—and I'm proud to stand behind it.

## JUDGED BY MY NAME

by Sandy Wade



My maiden name goes back to the Egyptian side of my family. El-Bayadi translates to “Of Bayadia,” which is the name of the town my family is from. My father, a Coptic Christian (El-Bayadia was primarily Christian), trained as a surgeon in Egypt, but had trouble finding work because of his name. This eventually led him to Sylva, NC, along with my English mother.

I married Mike Wade in the summer of 2001, taking his last name. We were in Ft. Hood, TX, where he was stationed in the army. When 9/11 hit, my maiden name took on a whole new view. Eating with several members of Mike's company on September 12th, one man loudly stated he was ready to go “kill some towel-heads.” Within the silence that ensued, I realized my family would be viewed very differently from then on.



“El-Bayadia,” photograph by Aiden McRae Tomson

My dad, now an established surgeon in Silva, NC, started to feel uncomfortable within his church as people talked about “those people.” Even though we weren't Muslim, we were still from over there. Names with “El” or “Al” get targeted a lot, drawing to mind images of Arabs, Muslims, and terrorists.

For me, our family name brings up feelings of comfort and pride. I embrace it. This is who I am. This is me.



## “SOMEBODY’S CALLIN’ MY NAME . . .”

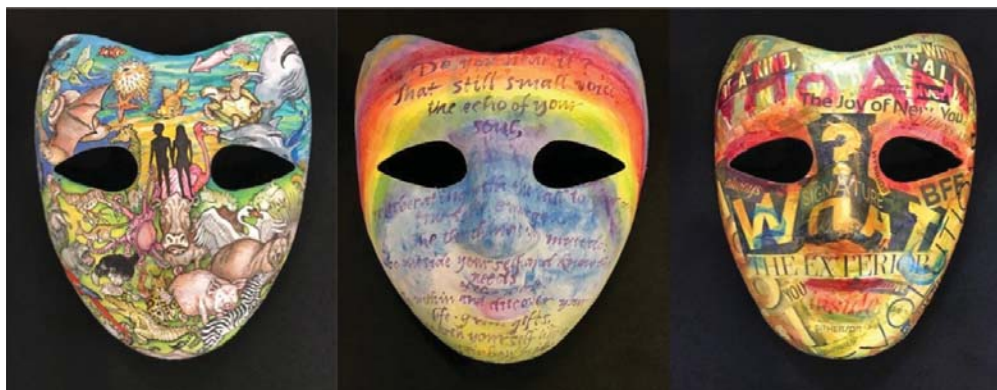
by David Reynolds



When I was 16, there was a sermon given by the Head Elder that doubled down on our Church being the one true church of a few elect going to heaven. I had been born into this church, but the sermon and its message gave me a surprising gift: “If you are here for traditionalism, and only here because your family brings you here, you

are a non-believer and not one of the Elect.” I almost couldn’t believe he said it! Traditionalism was the only reason I was there! This was the exact thing I needed to support my decision to leave.

Turning the Elder’s own words and his attempt to deepen the faith of those in the room into a beacon of hope that I could use as a way out, felt empowering. This moment of clarity was the beginning of finding my own voice and trusting my gut. It was the beginning of allowing myself to prove that I was an exception to their rule that if you weren’t a member of their church, you weren’t a part of the family. It led to a cautious but open-minded approach to other organized religions. Standing up here now and looking out, I can honestly say this new approach has led to much better results than following the bounds of the tradition I was born into.



Mask 1: “Animal Mask” is a response to Jay Leach’s sermon, “The Power of Naming”. Mask 2: “Rainbow Mask” was inspired by David Reynolds’s and Tawana Wilson-Allen’s Sunday topic “Somebody’s calling my name”. Mask 3: “Who Am I?” is a collage of names and terms in response to the early summer services and followed “Names of Endearment” lead by Marilyn Morenz and Judy Weingarten . Masks created by Judy Love

## “SOMEBODY’S CALLIN’ MY NAME . . .”

by Tawana Wilson Allen



As a retired Congressional Aide, I have many stories of working in the trenches to help bring voice to people’s problems. One experience that stands heads above the rest was when I felt a spiritual, moral call to reach beyond myself to help a family of Liberian refugees in a Ghanaian camp. Their 5 year old was in the hospital with a tissue eating disease.

A staffer from the US Embassy in Ghana, who I consider an angel, heard my plea. He went to the hospital and literally carried the child to a plane that airlifted them to Charlotte. Carolinas Medical Center, (CMC), International Division worked with the Ghanaian hospital for the child’s release. They arrived in Charlotte without the boy’s parents . . .

At CMC, a 2nd angel, an international nurse stayed with the boy around the clock. His parents finally arrived in Charlotte after a 30 day process.

This case was difficult for me. If I had not heeded the call, that I feel was from God and encountered His angels along the way; this child may not have had the opportunity to live a full life. He is now a grown man, with a family and a beautiful baby girl.

When you feel what you think is an insurmountable call, a way is made and most times there are others who will help along the way, resulting in not just who you are, but who we are.

## BECOMING OUR NAMES

by Sage Brook



What started out as a goal to educate women about birthing, turned into wanting to actually deliver babies. Articles emerged about nurse-midwives and their philosophy—that all childbearing families have a right to continuous, safe, satisfying, and compassionate health care—and this really resonated with me.

So, why the name change from Ethel to Sage? By then I was a midwife and knew the french word for midwife was *sagefemme*. I also recalled a young girl in my daughters’ Montessori school named Sage. It just seemed like the right name for me.

I hope I am becoming wiser as I age. I have recently learned that my name has some other significance. I just finished a novel called *The Last Midwife* where I learned that in the late 1800’s, sometimes the midwife was called “*sagehen*”—related to how the female grouse or hen cares for her babies. Further reading introduced me to a group called SAGE which stands for Services and Advocacy for LGBT Elders. Ironically since volunteering with Charlotte Village Network, an organization that allows aging adults to stay in their homes, I have become aware of a need to help our older gay neighbors to stay connected to others and the community.

It’s been quite a journey—and I am still on the way to becoming SAGE.

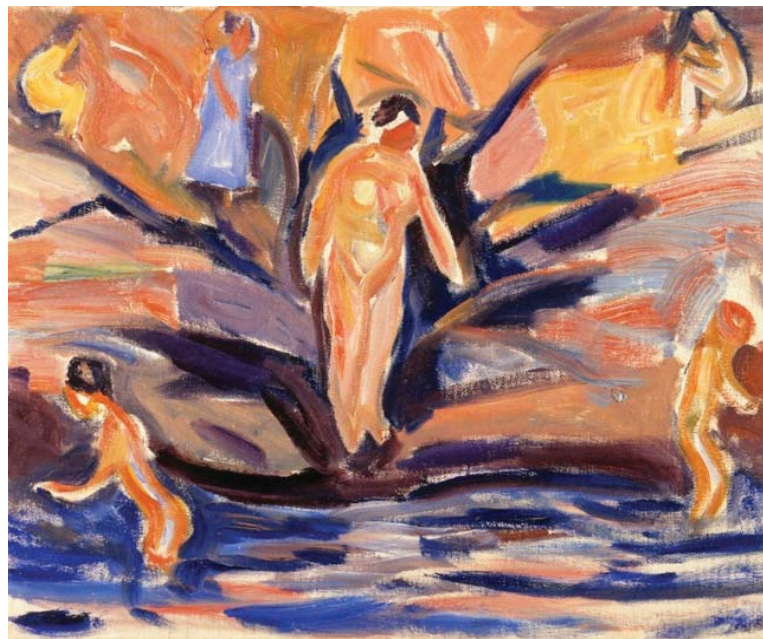
## BECOMING OUR NAMES

by Mark Fox

When my son Kevin and his wife Laura told us they were going to have our first grandchild, they asked what we would like to be called. My wife Cindy chose “Nonny;” I chose Grandpa because it is special to me. Now I am Grandpa to Noah and Clara, seven and five. It is great to put puzzles together with them, share meals, give them baths, and just hang out.



Our Granddaughter Ruby Mae lives in Huntersville and just turned one-year-old in April. I get to see her every week or so as we get together for breakfast or lunch. Her sweetest gift to me is the big smile she gives me when she sees me as I lift her out of her car seat.



“Bathing Women and Children,” 1914-1915, by Edvard Munch

Our youngest Grandson Kian was born just last December and lives in Oakland California. I am his Bapuji, which is Gujarati for Grandpa. Since Alex and Neeti live way out there on the left coast, I have only been with Kian several times. I hope to use the precious time

we have together to be a good Bapuji to him.

There are precious gifts in names.

## FOCUS 2020

by Barry Ahrendt, Chair



I am honored to lead a task group assigned to help us reconsider this congregation’s name. The task group has been meeting since early July. We have named our project and the process we will lead “Focus 2020.”

The roots of this audacious venture

are in the Vision Framework we adopted three years ago as a congregation. The Framework laid out a 25-year Vision and raised key questions, including: “How might we name our congregation?” and “Does the name Unitarian Universalist Church of Charlotte best serve this Vision?”

This year, with the approval of our Board of Trustees, several of our leadership teams applied for, and received, a \$33,000 grant from our Memorial Endowment Trust. The grant is funding a multi-phased project: reconsidering our name, and—whatever name we choose (current or new)—refreshing our branding and signage, and engaging in some outreach, including marketing.

Reflecting that initiative, our professional staff developed our summer worship theme “I am . . . ’ We are . . . ’ What’s in a name?” As the summer began in June, Jay quoted Jamaican-American author Nicola Yoon: “Names are powerful things. They act as an identity marker and a kind of map, locating you in time and geography.” And now, after reflecting on who we are as individuals, where we are from, and the places we’ve been, it’s time for the next step.

Since 1947, we have been the Unitarian and later the Unitarian Universalist Church of Charlotte. Is it time for a change? And if so, *who are we?*

Over the summer, our task group—Manny Allen, Kim Hutchinson, Tom Nunnenkamp, Sherry Sample, Doug Swaim and I—have researched other Unitarian

Universalist Congregations with recent experience in reconsidering their names. We have discussed criteria for what our name should reflect. We have identified stakeholders. And we have begun to create a process that will lead to a decision—*your* decision—based on our Vision and the new Mission Statement we adopted last year.

As Jay said in June, “Laying claim on personal or collective identity can be fraught with promise AND peril.” To help us navigate past peril and toward promise, we have engaged the services of a consultant. Dr. Leon Spencer is a friend of this congregation, a longtime leader in Unitarian Universalism, past interim co-president of the UUA, and professor emeritus of counseling psychology at Georgia Southern.

We are counting on his wisdom, experience and outside perspective to help guide us through the process of name reconsideration. Leon will lead us in two “interactive dialogues” on our congregational



name. Please plan to join us either Saturday, September 21st at 10 a.m. or Sunday the 22nd at 1 p.m. Keep an eye on *Currents*, Facebook and your email for more details.

These will be the first in a series of gatherings over several weeks—an intensive focus on how we express our congregational identity. Our task group has agreed to set aside any preconceived notions about changing our name—or not. And we’ve already heard some of *your* suggestions for possible names.

The six of us are challenging you to engage in a concentrated period of “casting questions into the deep.” In a spirit of loving community, we’ll take a deep dive into what we call ourselves.

What’s in *our* name? To change or not to change? If you’re like me, you think the answers really matter. “Come and go” with us... as we “roll down this unfamiliar road.”

## THIS ISSUE'S CONTRIBUTORS:

### Sharon Baker

Sharon and her husband, Pete Moore, have been UUs for more than 25 years and raised their three children at UUCC. She has fond memories of visiting her Polish grandparents, eating kielbasa and enjoying her grandfather's delicious cherry pies. Every year, Sharon honors his legacy by carrying on the family tradition of baking Christmas cookies using a recipe he perfected, along with his cookie cutters and rolling pin. Sharon works as a freelance editor, sings in the UUCC choir, volunteers at Levine Children's Hospital, and travels with her family as often as possible.



### Sage Brook

Sage has been a nurse-midwife for 35 years. She currently works part-time with the Novant Float Pool. In addition she facilitates a "New Moms Support Group", a Straight Spouse Support Group, and volunteers with both our UUCC Congregational Care Team and the Charlotte Village Network.

She and her husband, Dale, have been attending the UUCC since 1993. They find it a place that both nurtures and challenges us to be our best selves.

### Mic Elvenstar

Mic Elvenstar has worked with the disabled throughout his career, primarily as a speech pathologist. His creative pursuits have led to an involvement in the performing arts, particularly theater, including theater for the disabled. Mic has been a UU for more than 50 years.



### Mark Fox

Mark has been a member since October 1983, was a Senior High Advisor for a number of years (back in the time of Roger and Ginny Atkins), and has been singing with our Adult Choir for a number of years. He enjoys being in his Men's Group, likes to jog in the mornings, and walk his beloved dog Emma in the afternoons. He is lucky enough to still be working from home in accounting.



### Judy Love

Judy Love moved to the Charlotte area ten years ago and immediately sought out the UUCC for its like-minded, socially and environmentally aware community as well as its welcoming music program. After spending forty years in the studio illustrating children's books, now Judy spends more time in the garden wielding trowel and pruners than at a desk drawing with pen and ink but she still is on the lookout for more ways to express her creativity.

## THIS ISSUE'S CONTRIBUTORS:



### **Marilyn Morenz**

Marilyn is a nurse specializing in geriatric care management. She has extensive experience with hospice and advance care planning. Her passions include spending time with her family and friends, and gardening. She and her partner, Myrna, hope

to retire soon and travel. They have been members of UCC since 2011.



### **Sandy Wade**

Sandy Wade is currently Co-Chair of the UCC Board of Trustees. She and her family have been in the Charlotte area for 14 years, joining the UCC in 2015. Her passions include teaching, nature, and community. Sandy enjoys being at the UCC because

the people here challenge her to be a better person and to look outward to the community, while offering an internal network of support and love that sustains her. For that, she is grateful.

### **David Reynolds**

David Reynolds quickly got involved in the life of the UCC upon joining a few years ago. Most of you have seen him serving coffee in Freeman Hall on Sundays, but some of you also may have seen him participating in our Readers' Theatre production or spent time with him at his home for our Summer Suppers' group. He is also serves as clerk for the UCC Board of Trustees.



### **Tawana Wilson Allen**

Tawana is a native of Mecklenburg County and is married to Emmanuel "Manny" Allen. They have 3 children and 8 grandchildren. Tawana has been a community and political organizer for over 35 years and has been involved in many campaigns on the national, state and local levels. Her primary career was with US Congressman Melvin L. Watt, 12th Congressional District North Carolina, for 22 years. Tawana retired from the Federal Government in 2014 but is still active in "Community Based Campaigns" as a Political Campaign Consultant, Leadership Development Facilitator and Intergovernmental Relations Liaison. Tawana also serves on the UCC Board of Trustees.



# SOUNDINGS

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY-FRIDAY, 9 AM - 5 PM

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