

NOVEMBER 2015

SOUNDINGS



Unitarian Universalist
Church of Charlotte

DISCOVER DEEPER SPIRITUAL MEANING

Depth through reflection

WWW.UUCCHARLOTTE.ORG

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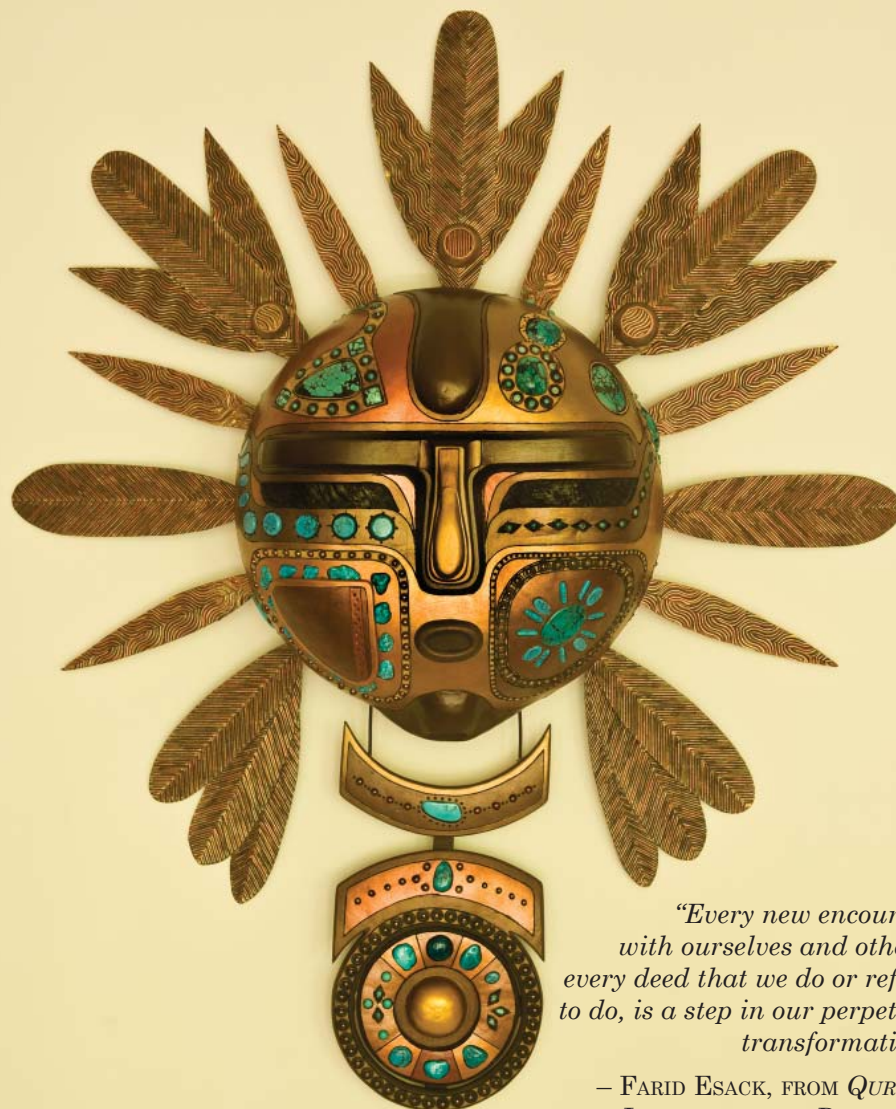
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*"Every new encounter
with ourselves and others,
every deed that we do or refuse
to do, is a step in our perpetual
transformation"*

— FARID ESACK, FROM *QUR'AN,
LIBERATION, AND PLURALISM*

transformation

Ya Nay He (mask) by Don Faires



The Mission of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Charlotte is to inspire children, youth and adults to discover and articulate deeper spiritual meaning evidenced in lives of integrity, compassion and stewardship of the earth.

La mision de la iglesia Unitaria Universalista de Charlotte es: es inspirar a los niños, jóvenes y adultos para que descubran y articulen un significado espiritual profundo, evidente en una vida de integridad, compasión y en el manejo de los recursos de la tierra

PIERCING BUBBLES



Neal Sigmon

Transformation for me is ongoing. At times transformation is subtle, sometimes abrupt. Reflecting on my seven decades, I recognize major periods of personal transformation. Returning to live in Charlotte after an absence of 45 years has inspired self-reflection and a deeper understanding of the cocoons and bubbles I have lived

in and been influenced by and the transformation brought about by piercing those bubbles.

A Charlotte native, I was raised in a loving family in a lower middle class west Charlotte neighborhood, a devout attendee of a Methodist church, graduating from Harding High School in 1961. Rural Lincoln County grandparents added to my young experiences. During this period I absorbed a value system and a basic framework for a spiritual life.

Moving on to college most of my time was spent immersed in classes, singing and friendships on a campus sheltered from its surrounding community. Yet, college was transforming, exposing me to a much broader world, including the spiritual power of singing, and providing the most enabling transformative experience, an education.

Following college, the Vietnam War and the draft placed me in the bubble of the U.S. Air Force, providing housing, nourishment, medical care and an unwanted year in the war zone. This experience, especially the loss of a close friend, transformed me in ways I still may not understand.

A career in Washington, D.C., and a home in Arlington, Virginia, followed my military experience. Job security, a stable and prosperous economy and politics were irresistible, captivating me for many years, keeping me in its bubble. A career that included oversight of National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges opened my eyes and heart to care of the earth and its species. My spiritual life reopened through the Arlington UU church.

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GAINING PERSPECTIVE



Kathryn Whitfield

I grew up in Fairfax, Virginia, a place of privilege which is consistently listed in the top ten most affluent counties in the U.S. However, I never saw myself coming from a place of privilege since I compared myself to others around me. My friends were getting brand new BMW convertibles for their 16th birthdays while

the rule in my house was my dad would match us 50/50 for a car. I just assumed that Fairfax was pretty much indicative of the rest of the country and that if people couldn't attain the basics of life, they must have been making poor decisions.

My ex and I moved to Charlotte seeking a more affordable lifestyle, and a few years into our marriage we decided to start our family and were blessed with our son Jacob. Life was going according to plan and in our minds we were making smart financial and personal decisions to keep us afloat, not really fully aware of how much we had to begin with.

In 2009 the recession hit, and in the course of a month we both lost our jobs and – SURPRISE! – had another baby on the way. I learned very quickly how things could fall apart even with the best planning and intentions, and even for those coming from a place of privilege. The bubble I lived in burst and I was thrust into a world I never thought “someone like me” would be a part of. I vividly remember filling out my application for Medicaid with my son crying by my side in the office. I was mortified. I knew that if I had been an outsider looking in just months prior, I would have made some terrible assumptions about my new situation. While listing our assets on the application, I was even more embarrassed – two cars and a house? Why did I need welfare? Was I just someone abusing the system? Or did my terrible choices land me here in this office? I felt like everyone was judging me – the way I might have judged them a few months back. The truth

continued on pg 7



Jay Leach

Hypolimnys bolina is a species of butterfly distributed from Madagascar throughout Southeast Asia, the South Pacific islands, and parts of Oceania. Earlier this century scientists noticed something alarming about this "Blue Moon Butterfly" on a couple of Samoan islands.

A parasite residing within female eggs was destroying male embryos. So rampant was this devastation that a while back males dwindled to 1% of the Blue Moon Butterfly population. The survival of the species in that locale was in doubt.

Then, something remarkable occurred. Within ten generations (less than five years) males had returned to 40% of the population.

The parasite still existed but it was no longer deadly to the male larvae. So what changed? The few remaining male butterflies, immune to the parasitic infection, each mated with a great many females. As a result, their immunity rapidly spread throughout the Blue Moon Butterfly gene pool. And the species flourished.

Scientists were amazed. Some called this the fastest evolutionary change ever monitored. A genetic mutation completely transformed the population of the butterfly, enabling its continuance on the islands of Samoa.

This change is extraordinary but not inexplicable. Wired into the butterfly is a survival instinct. The immune males weren't being courageous or creative; they were being . . . male Blue Moon Butterflies. The species survived not by will but by instinct as this inherent drive fostered a life-saving transformation.

Transformation in human communities is not nearly so instinctual. While we may also carry a genetic predisposition toward struggling for survival, our motivations are considerably more complex. We are the species endowed with consciousness, gifted with

memory and hope, awareness and anticipation, self-interest and compassion, attraction to beauty and an aspiration toward justice, equity and peace.

So, positive transformation doesn't come naturally for us. We're able to alter our individual lives in ways no other species can. We're able to act as reformers, reordering our life together. If transience describes life's inevitable flux, transformation may be the change over which we get some say. But, we aren't all commonly motivated toward some singular end. Within each of us and among every gathering of people there are many competing inclinations.



Bear Hunter (mask) by Don Faires

True transformation requires us to make difficult choices, prioritizing competing claims on our attention and energy. Along the spectrum between comfort and risk, between personal benefit and the common good, between being in the moment and investing in the future, between letting go and hanging on, how will we choose? What will enable us to prioritize one option over another?

These questions are at the heart of our mission as a congregation. We're here to transform both individual lives and the world. Here we're invited into the kind of reflection, engagement, dialogue, experience that would inspire us to change our own lives and to join together in changing our community for the better. We're offered the opportunity to reflect on our values and to commit to embody them with ever greater integrity.

Our larger natural world is now engaged in the kind of transformation we would expect. Leaves are falling, the sun journeys southward, days grow shorter, nights are cooler. Such change is programmed in, fully expected if also glorious in its own way.

In what transformation are you choosing to be involved? How are you opting to make conscious changes? In what ways are your values, your deepest commitments, reflected in the changes in which you are engaged?

As we continue in our vision process, how should we as a congregation opt to transform ourselves? What would transformation at a congregational level mean now?

Our spiritual journey begins at birth and continues throughout our lives. We invite parents to use the material presented in LET'S DIVE IN! to engage their children in this journey.



Chalice Lighting

As Unitarian Universalists, we believe our own experiences can teach us new ways of seeing the world and our place in it. These experiences can fill us with a new spirit of love, justice and compassion so much that we can't help but make changes. We light our chalice to remind ourselves that we all have the power to change ourselves and the world.



Kathleen Carpenter

THE SCRATCHED DIAMOND

There was once a very wealthy king who owned many beautiful things. He had tapestries, piles of gold, and statues made by the very best sculptors. Of all of his belongings, his very favorite possession was a glorious diamond. It was huge – as big

around as his hand. And it was pure – clear and flawless, without any marks or blemishes.

One day when the king went to look at his diamond, he discovered to his horror that it had a long, deep scratch. He couldn't believe his eyes! What could have happened?

Immediately he sent for all of the best diamond cutters in his kingdom. One by one they came to inspect the diamond. Each looked at it closely and then sadly shook his head. The scratch was too deep. If they tried to polish it they might break the diamond into pieces.

Finally one last diamond carver came before the king. The king watched as the diamond carver turned the diamond over and over, pursing his lips and shaking his head. Suddenly the diamond carver's face broke into a big smile. "I know how to fix this, your majesty! Leave it to me. In two weeks' time I will return your diamond to you, better than ever. However, you may not visit me during this time."

"We learn and grow and are transformed not so much by what we do but by why and how we do it."

-Sharon Salzberg

The king was very excited. Soon his flawless diamond would be back, perfect again. It took all the king's willpower to resist the temptation to visit the diamond carver to watch him work.

As for the diamond carver, day after day, bit by bit, he worked on that scratch. It was slow, tedious work. He knew he had to work carefully or the diamond could crack into pieces.

Finally the diamond cutter was finished. Carefully he wrapped the diamond in cloth to protect it, and he brought it before the king. "Here it is, your majesty," he said. With a flourish he opened the cloth and presented the diamond.

The king gasped at what he saw. Where there had once been a scratch, a horrible flaw in his precious diamond, there was now an exquisitely beautiful flower carved into the diamond. Unable to polish the scratch out of the diamond, the diamond carver had instead turned the flaw into something beautiful.

The king loved his diamond more than ever. Now when he went to hold it in his hands and gaze upon it, he was reminded that even something imperfect or ugly or flawed can become something exquisitely beautiful.



Awaiting the Wonder by Elsa Lafferty

- The diamond cutter knew that he could not fix the scratch on the diamond so instead he intentionally – and very creatively – changed it to make it more beautiful. Have you ever found "scratches" on you (like how you treat others around you) and worked to change yourself for the better?
- Sometimes events happen that push you to make change. Can you think of any times like that in your life?

TRANSFORMATION FROM THE INSIDE OUT

by Thomas Cole, UUC Board of Trustees



Thomas Cole

Last month Megan Van Fleet wrote of the spiritual growth that can come from acknowledging transience – the fact all things are in transit from being to non-being. Within that great arc, however, are the cycles of transformation that mark the periods of our lives.

At first, our transformations are physical. Who hasn't felt or witnessed a child's delight in growing taller or an adolescent's excitement and anxiety upon entering sexual maturity? The story of growing up is the story of continually adapting one's roles and responsibilities to one's new capabilities – or of having them adjusted for you. Gradually these adaptations add up to a transformation: the achievement of a definite character. Anyone who has seen a teenager for the first time in a few months or years knows how this happens.

In adulthood our transformations become more voluntary. As the circumstances of our lives change we choose to transform in response to them or not. Recognizing the right time for a transformation is no easy task. For instance, as I must admit, I have too often avoided facing the challenges of transformation in my life. One can maintain enough of an identity to answer the question, "What do you do?" without ever addressing the question, "What do you give your heart to?" Ultimately choosing one path means not choosing another, surrendering some potential selves for one actual self. Taking charge of one's life in this way raises so many challenges and questions that people seek and give guidance on it. Classes that are set to begin this month in the UUC's adult education curriculum will bring attendees together to explore the hows and whys of managing one's own transformation.

One sign of the power that a person can claim by conscious transformation came to me at the funeral service for our member Sagar Sethi on October 13. Sagar's daughter remembered him as someone "who was never afraid to reinvent himself or transform." That kind of boldness carries with it the risk of making a mistake or of alienating others, but in Sagar's case, it led to widespread respect. His memorial service drew a large crowd that was remarkably diverse in languages, skin tones and attire – people whose lives he had touched and who wished to honor him.

Institutions as well as individuals weigh the risks and rewards of taking responsibility for their own transformation. What would it mean to be a church that was "never afraid to reinvent itself or transform?" Unitarian Universalism gives us plenty of space to figure out what we might be, although the Seven Principles do tell us how we should get there – with respect for each other and our world and in faith that spiritual growth never ends. We can be a church that touches many lives – through advocacy and action on social justice issues, celebration of religious pluralism, defense of free inquiry, expression through the arts, care of young souls, or the dynamic examples of our members in the world, to name a few possibilities. The transformations we undertake now will determine our church's influence in the community and its significance in the lives of its members. Let us commit to each other and the church we make together so that we may sustain and pass on the "joyful, dynamic community" that we say we are.

MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT TRUST REPORTS RECENT GIFTS

Transforming the Giver and the UUC

Generosity brings happiness at every stage of its expression. We experience joy in forming the intention to be generous. We experience joy in the actual act of giving something. And we experience joy in remembering the fact that we have given.

-Gautama Buddha

The UUC Memorial Endowment Trust is grateful to have received donations from the following people since October 2014.

These gifts represent memorial gifts and honorariums as well as bequests from estates:

Tom Cole & Carol Hartley

Barbara Busey & Jim Hall

Gwynne & Lee Movius

Liz & Richard Pratt

Laurie Reed

Carter & Cathlean Utzig

John & Susan Weller

Barbara & Randy Whitt

Estate of Judy Jones

Estate of Charlotte Watkins

The donors have made their gifts in honor of:

Dana Hershey for his service on the Memorial Endowment Trust Board

The marriage of Lee Knight Caffery and Dana Draa

And in memory of:

Sagar Sethi

Charlotte Watkins

Kimberly Melton's mother

In keeping with the November theme of “transformation,” the Trustees of the Memorial Endowment Trust remind you of the transformative power of giving. Please support our congregation's future by contributing to the MET in one of three ways:

- Make a contribution in honor of an individual or group of individuals.
- Make a gift in memory of a loved one.
- Include the UUC's Memorial Endowment Trust in your estate documents.

If you have questions, please contact the Memorial Endowment Trustees at MET@uuccharlotte.org.

Mike Long

Gwynne Movius, Chair

Richard Pratt

Laurie Reed

Cathlean Utzig

YOUR GENEROSITY TRANSFORMING THE UUC

The Memorial Endowment Trust (MET) is the endowment of the UUC, established in 1980 as a long-term financial resource for the congregation. Like most endowments, it has been designed as a vehicle for legacy giving. Memorial gifts add to the body of the fund which is invested and managed conservatively so that it will be available to support the UUC and its liberal religious mission far into the future.

Earlier this year, the MET began making grants to worthy projects that are beyond the scope of the congregation's operating budget. The grants will support projects that further “the principles, programs and purposes of the Church and are expected to have a long-term and lasting social or spiritual benefit.” It is hoped that over time the grant program will have a transformative influence on the congregation. The first grant has allowed us to install projection and video technology in our sanctuary that will enhance and extend the worship experience.

Finally, a gnawing sense that a move might lead to a renewal of spiritual growth took over. Why not a physically transformed, much larger, more diverse Charlotte?

The return to Charlotte has opened my eyes to what I missed in my formative years in the bubble of school, church and family; the bus rides uptown with my mother to buy clothes at Belk’s or Ivey’s and pay utility bills; high school football games at Memorial Stadium; and picnics at Freedom Park. Back then, people of color were mostly invisible to me. I was blind to their neighborhoods, their schools, their lives.

Now, home is an uptown Charlotte missing Belk’s and Ivey’s but with a full dose of banks, cultural amenities, music and walkability. We are happy to reduce our carbon footprint here, and singing with the Charlotte Symphony Chorus has taken the spiritual, mystical magic of singing to a new level. A healthy diversity abounds. Residents of our building are diverse in age, race and country of origin. Sadly, though, the sidewalks host people in need of consistent shelter and nourishment.

The awareness of missing so much of what was around me while growing up here and returning with sharpened sensibilities, further honed by this church, makes the reality of poverty and homelessness so clear.

My spiritual values have transformed as well around environmental concerns: an alarming increase in species extinction, global climate change and excessive carbon emissions. Charlotte’s strong car culture continues, investment in public transportation has a start but more is needed as is the need to create a community more walkable and bicycle friendly.

The challenge is to transform ourselves to meet the needs of the vulnerable while protecting the earth we all share.

was I needed insurance for my unborn child and my son. I was looking for a job, but my pregnancy was a deterrent for most employers.

During this transformative ordeal I became aware of how judgmental and assuming I was of people on government assistance. We did everything we could reasonably do and still needed government assistance for a time. We were no different from those people. We were those people. From my circumstance came the realization that I NEVER had a right to make assumptions about another person’s situation. It was now easier to see how

people’s circumstances can get beyond their control and how hard it is to overcome those situations on their own. I also gained some perspective on just how privileged I was to begin with. As bad as my situation was, I realized how fortunate I was comparatively, with reliable transportation, a roof over my head and job training in a desirable field.



Plaza Midwood by George Weir

What I wanted to pass on to my children transformed as well. I am now very conscientious about giving my kids some perspective on their privilege. When we do Operation Sandwich, they know how fortunate they are to have two houses when the recipients have zero.

This trying time provided me the opportunity to dig deep and realize that I needed to transform from my snobbish, narrow mindset. I was now humbled and tolerant, a much-needed 180 had happened and a new phase of my life emerged, full of compassion and gratitude.

Annie Flint

When Annie started participating in our congregation, she brought her grandson with her. In registering him for our Religious Education program, she read that the volunteer efforts of parents are an important part of the program.



Annie Flint

Feeling no desire to teach classes, Annie chose to do her part by volunteering in the Children and Youth Religious Education (CYRE) office. In the CYRE office she does an assortment of tasks that are necessary to help the program run. She says she finds it fulfilling to do things for others. Annie also loves to learn. During her many hours in the CYRE office, she has been learning more about Unitarian Universalism (UU), our congregation and about other religions. While organizing and gathering supplies for our children's religious education, Annie is taking in information that helps her continue to develop her own spirituality. Year-round Annie comes in most Fridays to do office work or help with special projects. She also volunteers on the other side of the vestibule, covering the front desk of the church office.

After hearing we were short a teacher for Our Whole Lives (OWL), Annie decided to expand her involvement. OWL is the lifespan sexuality education program used across the country in Unitarian Universalist congregations. Though she originally did not want to teach children, OWL classes for eighth graders seemed like a different experience. Annie started teaching OWL because she saw it as good for her as well as for the youth. Like many of us, she wished she had been given such an opportunity when she was that age. She took that feeling and turned it into the gift of providing accurate, age-appropriate information in a safe and caring environment for our middle school students.

Annie did not have a hard time deciding if she should serve on the CYRE Team that is the visioning body for the CYRE program. As she says, "I was asked, so I did it!" The experience gave her a way to get to know other members while working together to serve our congregation. Annie said she made connections that lasted beyond her term on the team. Her impact on the CYRE program continues as well. Annie connected our middle school youth with Urban Ministries and their annual art auction. Now every year our youth serve refreshments at the event. Not only did she serve, but she provided an additional opportunity for our youth to grow spiritually through service. Annie says she enjoyed the experience of being a part of one of our leadership teams, and she even misses it.

Even as a child Annie saw volunteering as an experience from which the volunteer gains. She watched her mother volunteer at her church and other non-profits and noticed that it exposed her mother to people she might not otherwise know. Annie knew she wanted to have similar experiences. She volunteers because "it's fulfilling to do something for others," she says. She feels that it gets her out of herself, puts her in another person's world and prevents her from dwelling on any personal issues. From the Peace Prayer of St. Francis, "For it is in giving that we receive," Annie takes inspiration to continue contributing her time and care to our congregation.

Above & Beyond

Thank you to Melissa Schropp, member of our Communications Team, for her many hours of assistance in helping with our new Communication vehicles, Soundings and Currents.



Melissa Schropp

CINDY THOMSON RECEIVES 2015 SYBIL BERNSTEIN AWARD



Cindy Thomson

The Sybil Bernstein Award for Outstanding Service and Generosity to the Congregation has been presented every year since 2001. Its name memorializes the long-time member who was its first recipient – Sybil Bernstein.

On Sunday, September 13, in a service aptly focused on “Integrity,” the Board of Trustees announced that the 2015 recipient of this honor is Cindy Thomson. Cindy has been a member of the UUCC since 1997. During that time, she has shared her musical gifts, financial prowess, and her heart for social justice. Board Co-Chair Megan Van Fleet remarked that the Board selected Cindy “not only for the volume of activities she has been involved with, but for the range of ways she has shared her talents with the Church.”

Her involvement at the UUCC has spanned many fields and her roles have included, but are not limited to: member of the Finance, Open Door School Managing, Stewardship and Worship Teams; teacher in our Children and Youth Religious Education Program (CYRE); Treasurer of the congregation; Coming of Age mentor; congregational care, office and Room in the Inn volunteer; choir member and soloist; and much more.

In presenting the award, Board Co-Chair Rob Marcy remarked that he had worked closely with Cindy on several teams and that “through these experiences I got to know her pretty well, and I also got to see first-hand how deep her commitment is to this congregation, evidenced by the tremendous amount of time and energy she consistently gives here.”

Cindy received a sustained standing ovation as she accepted the award. She quipped: “After doing a little bit each year over a span of 17 years, it’s bound to add up!”

Congratulations, Cindy, on being selected as the 2015 recipient of the Sybil Bernstein Award!

Pushing Through

*Pushing through fear is less frightening
than living with the underlying fear
that comes from a feeling of helplessness.*

--Susan Jeffers

My beast lurks in shadows.
I recognize his baleful eye, pointed teeth,
dirty matted hair. I skirt
the margins of his hiding place.

Breath-stopped, I manage to call his name.
He lurches into sunlight,
shields his face, turns aside.
Under my steady gaze, collapses.

I walk a meditative
circle of thanksgiving
around his remains.
Plant an apple tree.

— Doris Thomas Browder
from *Searching for Maypops*
Finishline Press 2015



Rain Goddess (mask) by Don Faires

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS



Latoya Gardner

Latoya Gardner

Latoya Gardner is a native Charlottean and a mother of two sons.

Emily & Warren Tadlock

We have been married 25 years and have one son and two granddaughters and five cats. We are vegetarians with a great compassion for animals. Warren is a self-employed attorney and Emily recently retired from Delta Airlines as a flight attendant.



Emily & Warren Tadlock

PRINCIPLES & PURPOSES

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Coming to Terms with Religion

Pasted a picture
for Sunday School
Heard Noah's Ark
Jonah and the Whale
Wise Men at Bethlehem

Attended night-time revivals
at country church
Saw sinners come forward
to be saved
Felt wordless urge to belong
received River Baptism

Read Shakespeare
To thing own self be true
Milton
the mind can *make a heaven of hell*
a hell of heaven

Emerson
Whoso would be a man
must be a non-conformist

Whitman
I could turn
and live with animals . . .
they do not make me sick
discussing their duty to God

At small Christian college
(for small Christians, the joke went)
Pious teachers, stale sermons
delivered with smug assurance
dismissing doubt
Anxious students longing for the call
to preach Jesus Christ
(not His love
but Him crucified)

One sophomore saw a vision
in his dorm room
P.C. the cloud read, Preach Christ
he interpreted
Plow Corn, his fellows teased.

Discovered The Universe and Dr. Einstein
Learned how
human's limited senses
cannot know completely
even the concrete world
How much less, then, our ability
to know the abstract
I reasoned

Religion is felt
not known
I accept
not knowing
Turn to this present
Do the best
I can
with what
I am given
Do no harm.

— Doris Thomas Browder

FOR FURTHER ENGAGEMENT:

Below you will find a list of books, reflections, movies, lectures and much more for further engagement on the subject of transformation.

BOOKS:

When the Heart Waits, 1990, by Sue Monk Kidd

Writing The Sacred Journey, 2005
by Elizabeth Andrews

Refuge, 1992, by Terry Tempest Williams

The Tao of Inner Peace [Chapter 2], 2000
by Diane Dreher

Desire Map, 2014, by Danielle LaPorte

Excuses Begone, 2009, by Wayne Dyer

Change Your Thoughts, Change Your Life, 2007
by Wayne Dyer

The Gifts of Imperfection, 2010
by Dr. Brene Brown

The Untethered Soul: The Journey Beyond Yourself, 2007, by Michael A. Singer

The Magic of Thinking Big, 1959
by David J. Schwartz

Preschool

The Very Hungry Caterpillar, 1994, by Eric Carle

Ages 4-8

Ordinary Mary's Extraordinary Deed, 2002
by Emily Pearson

Listen to the Wind: The Story of Dr. Greg & Three Cups of Tea, 2009, by Greg Mortenson

Beatrice's Goat, 2004, by Page McBrier

Ages 8-11

Malala Yousafzai: Warrior with Words, 2014
by Karen Leggett Abouraya

Be the Change! Change the World. Change Yourself, 2006, by Hundreds of Heads

Mr. Lincoln's Way, 2001, by Patricia Polacco

Ages 11+

How to Talk to an Autistic Kid Hardcover, 2011
by Daniel Stefanski

To Kill a Mockingbird, 50th Anniversary Edition Hardcover by Harper Lee (Author)

MOVIES:

Educating Rita, 1983

Pleasantville, 1998

Whale Rider, 2002

Schultze Gets the Blues, 2003

Stranger Than Fiction, 2006

He Named Me Malala, 2015

The Harry Potter Movies

Mary Poppins, 1964

The Wizard of Oz, 1939

OTHER:

NPR Radio Show "On Being" with Krista Tippitt -
<http://onbeing.org/>

What is Transformation?

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/maria-rodale/
what-is-transformation_b_5322801.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/maria-rodale/what-is-transformation_b_5322801.html)

Personal Transformational Stories

[http://www.personaltransformation.com/trans-
form.html#Doyle](http://www.personaltransformation.com/trans-form.html#Doyle)

THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS OF ART AND POETRY:



Doris Browder

A South Carolina native, Doris Browder came to the UUC in 1970 from Houston, TX. In the late 80s she joined The Jabberwocks, a poetry group begun by the inimitable Katherine Kennedy McIntyre. Doris has taken poetry courses from Susan Ludvigson,

Diana Pinckney, and most recently (for the last 10 years) from the incomparable Anthony S. Abbott, retired Davidson professor. Her chapbook, *Searching for Maypops*, was published in 2015 by Finishing Line Press and is available in the church bookstore.

Don Faires

Since retirement, Don's interest has been Southwestern Native American Art. Visiting relatives in Arizona expanded his exposure to Native American masks and gourd art. His mask creations are often accompanied by a story that relates to the character of the mask. The masks speak to him during their creation and tell their own stories that he conveys in the mask and written form. The mask characters and their stories explore his unique insight into the art forms of mask making and story telling. More recently he has expanded into abstract narrative collage work utilizing many of the techniques developed for his masks. His work is now in collections in his native Southeast and the Southwest.



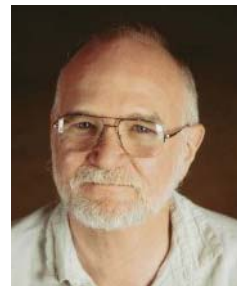
Elsa Lafferty

As far back as I can remember I have felt a longing to capture the beauty around us. Colored pencils, paints, were a constant part of my school years. So were regular trips to the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam to study the Dutch Masters. Photography has opened

up endless possibilities. Traveling, stopping whenever something interesting appears. How fortunate to be in a place of my life where I have the luxury of truly being in the moment, waiting for the light or an expression, for a flower to open, a wild animal to stop and look at you. A sunset, a moonrise.....To capture that moment makes my heart sing. To be able to share it with others will only enhance the sweet experience.

George Weir

George Weir combines his extensive experience, gained from wandering around planet Earth for more than 66 years, with his curiosity about a lot of stuff to create photographs he is occasionally satisfied with. George will photograph almost anything that stays still more than 1/1000 of a second, more or less depending on the light. For George photography is a useful tool to remind himself to slow down and actually look at the world around him. He finds photographing children especially challenging but gets lots of practice as camp photographer for Chameleons Journey, an overnight grief camp for children ages 7-16 who have lost someone important in their lives.



SOUNDINGS

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY-FRIDAY, 9 AM - 5 PM

PHONE 704-366-8623 | FAX 704-366-8812

EMAIL: UCC@UUCCHARLOTTE.ORG

WEBSITE: WWW.UUCCHARLOTTE.ORG

UCC PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Unitarian Universalist Church of Charlotte



Kathleen Carpenter, Director of Religious Education
for Children & Youth
704-366-8623, ext. 6034
kathleen@uuccharlotte.org
*Children and Youth Religious Education (CYRE),
Denominational Connections, Young Adult Group (YAG)*

Donna Fisher, Children's Choir Director
donnfish@bellsouth.net
Children's Choir

Kelly Greene, Membership Coordinator
704-366-8623, ext. 6039
kelly@uuccharlotte.org
New Members, Visitors, Volunteer Coordination

John Herrick, Director of Music
704-366-8623, ext. 6037
john@uuccharlotte.org
Music, Worship Team

Alesia Hutto, Office Administrator
704-366-8623, ext. 6030
alesia@uuccharlotte.org
Administrative Support, Communications

Martha Kniseley, Adult Programming Coordinator
704-366-8623, ext. 6036
martha@uuccharlotte.org
*Adult Religious Education and Spiritual Development (ARESD),
Community Building, Congregational Care*

Jay Leach, Senior Minister
704-366-8623, ext. 6032
jay@uuccharlotte.org
*Chief of Staff, Coordinating Team, Social Justice Team,
Worship Team*

Belinda Parry, Administrative Assistant
704-366-8623, ext. 6033
belinda@uuccharlotte.org
Part-time Administrative Support, CYRE Support

Doug Swaim, Director of Administration
704-366-8623, ext. 6031
doug@uuccharlotte.org
*Building & Grounds, Communications, Coordinating Team,
Finance, Memorial Endowment Trust, Open Door School,
Stewardship, Security*