

# The CONGREGATIONAL CHRONICLE

Volume 41, No. 4

United Church of Christ

May 2017

## Moderator's View

### REBIRTH AND RENEWAL

It's that time of year again, this delightful season of rebirth and renewal (and of course resurrection), as all about us leaves are repopulating trees and blossoms bursting forth and the animals producing offspring and the grasses turning thick and green. Probably even your grouchiest neighbors must occasionally feel a little suppressed joy with the beauty of spring. Certainly that's my wish for them.

Meanwhile, here at First Congregational, we've already held one "spring cleaning" workday and are anticipating another, and there are several initiatives taking life that I'd like to mention in case you've not yet heard of them, all more or less consistent with the theme of (re)birth and renewal. First, there's the pending creation of our very own Labyrinth, which a planning group representing several ministries has spent months discussing and designing, to be placed adjacent to the Memorial Garden and out into the current paved area behind the northwest corner of the Felix Building, the cost to be funded by a gift from the family of Jean Ennis in her memory. This project has already been approved by Church Council and will be presented to a Congregational meeting on Sunday, May 21.

Second, there's a proposal (from Dan Angerstein, a nationally known and respected organ builder who happens to live in Hendersonville) that's been under discussion for several years, to "re-voice" and renovate our church organ, some work accomplishing long-deferred maintenance, and some creating a substantial improvement in the sound and tone of the organ (correcting some of its current "tininess", for example). This would give the organ a warmer and fuller sound, to better lead us in worship each Sunday. Mark Acker gave a demonstration and brief explanation after

*Continued on next page*

the service a few Sundays ago, and both the Ministries of Worship and of Finance, as well as Church Council, have already voiced their approval of at least the basic elements of the renovation proposal, estimated to cost about \$20,000. However, during and after Mark's presentation, quite a few people shared their strong preference and enthusiasm for doing a more substantial and thorough renovation, to bring the organ up to a standard of true excellence for a church of our size (obviously it's possible, and not uncommon, to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on organs, not feasible for us, of course). We have been talking about forming a task force of knowledgeable church members to further study how best to structure, schedule, and finance our proposed organ renovation, so stay tuned for additional news about this exciting possibility.

While talking about renovation, it's worth mentioning that another group, the Member Growth Task Force, with Council's support, has been researching prototypes for a new church sign with changeable messages and updated information. Their recommendation should be presented sometime this spring.

Finally, a different kind of renewal initiative, more spiritual than physical, is underway as we plan for our annual Church Retreat, to be held on Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, at Kanuga Conference Center, so mark your calendars. Our goal this year is for the retreat to be refreshing, uplifting, and spiritually renewing, with an emphasis on experiencing joy, having fun, and deepening our connections with one another and with the world beyond, the spirit within and without. Our tentative working title is "Widening the Circle." Our shared objective is to continue working towards inner peace. May it be so.

Roger Smith, Moderator

### **Stewardship of our Financial Resources**

A couple of months ago I suggested leaving a bequest to the Church large enough to provide, in the future, for the continuation of your annual pledge at its current levels. There are ways of doing this other than by a bequest in your will.

Do you have an old insurance policy around? one that you bought with your now-adult grandchildren's education in mind, or to be sure a now-deceased spouse had adequate resources, or to pay for your own funeral for which you have now made other arrangements? Could the beneficiary of that policy be changed to include the Church for all or a part of the proceeds? Something to think about....

Howard Carl, Stewardship Chair (Ret.)

## Church Council Highlights

April 12



- Approved a press release on the Community Resiliency Model program.
- Learned from Nancy Keswani that progress continues on a proposed new Church sign, with several potential vendors being considered.
- Agreed that the 2017 Church Retreat will be held June 17 at Kanuga Conference Center. The Spiritual Enrichment Initiative Group, with input from Pam and Charley Rogers, are planning it, with an emphasis on uplifting communication, spiritual growth and renewal.
- Heard that the Ministry of Finance had approved \$20,000 for the re-voicing and maintenance of the organ with the future possibility of a more extensive refurbishing once the substance and expense of that process is fully known. Mark's "Organ 101" presentation to the congregation last month was well attended and received.
- Approved May 21 for a Congregational Meeting in the Sanctuary to vote on the labyrinth and organ-refurbishing proposals.
- Agreed that, because Richard anticipates as many as thirty possible new members in the next several months, new-member suppers need to be more often than quarterly. New dates were set for May 2, July 11, Sept. 12 and Nov. 7. All Council members will help support Jeannie and her "kitchen angels" as much as possible.
- Ron announced that this is an audit year, and emphasized the importance of regularly putting Ministry reports in the appropriate folders in Fellowship Hall.
- Richard reported that he'll be using bulletin boards near his office for photos of long-time members, new members, and long-time visitors so folks can get better acquainted. He also requested that at the end of Sunday service, visitor guides staff where Richard isn't present.
- Richard also reported that MCC's provisional pastor, Joan Saniuk, is now the "settled pastor."

## Community Resiliency Model

On Saturday, May 6, 2017, from 10:00 AM to noon, First Congregational will host a free introduction to the Community Resiliency Model (CRM) presented by Rev. Beth Turner, MDiv, of the Western North Carolina Resiliency Collaborative. This is a follow-on to the February 5 Adult Forum on CRM, which was very well-received. No pre-registration is necessary.

The Community Resiliency Model is a resource for increased wellness and resilience that makes cutting-edge neuroscience available to all. Participants will learn basic biology of the human nervous system; factors that diminish feelings of well-being and our ability to recover from effects of stress; and six skills that can help bring us back to a sense of balance in mind, body, and spirit, including a facilitated group experience of skill use.

Rev. Turner is the priest at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Burnsville. As a former consultant for justice and outreach ministries for the Episcopal Diocese, Beth takes seriously the role of spiritual communities as catalysts for individual and social resilience. “We are discovering that local organizations serving the last, the lost, the least, and the littlest are left wanting for tools like CRM that may be used in tandem with their direct service offerings, tools that rebuild dignity, support sustainable change, and ignite hope.”

## BRIDGES NOT WALLS

On Saturday, May 20, from 10am to 4pm, the public is invited to FCUCC’s Felix Building for the **opening day** of a **ten-day**, multi-media Art Exhibit featuring works by regional artists illustrating their visions of compassionate collaboration, not division, between peoples.



The opening day will feature music, as well as poetry readings on the show’s theme. Light refreshments will also be available. After its opening, the exhibit may be viewed when the church is open, Tuesday-Friday, 9-3:30 and Sunday from 9-12:30. There is no charge for admission.

For more information, see [fchendersonville.org](http://fchendersonville.org) or call 828-692-8630.



**COMING JUNE 2-4**  
**WALTER E. ASHLEY MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES**  
presents

**J. Pittman McGehee**, an Episcopal priest and former Dean of Christ Cathedral, Houston, TX, and Jungian analyst in private practice in Austin, Texas. He is widely known as a lecturer and educator in the field of psychology and religion, as well as a published poet and essayist. He is a faculty member of the C.G. Jung Institute in Zurich, Switzerland, and the author of *The Invisible Church: Finding Spirituality Where You Are* (Praeger Press, 2008); *Raising Lazarus: The Science of Healing the Soul* (2009); and *The Paradox of Love*. He serves on the faculty of the Haden Institute, an organization dedicated to the intersection of Spirituality and Jungian psychology.

**THE WEEKEND SCHEDULE**

Friday, June 2, 7 pm **“The Paradox of Love”**

Saturday, June 3 , 10 am **“Creating a 21st  
Century Psycho/Spiritual Worldview”**

12 noon lunch

1 pm **“The Invisible Church”**

Sunday, June 4, 9 am Adult Forum

10:30 am Worship Service

J. Pittman McGehee, D.D., preaching,

**“Shining the Light of Consciousness on the  
Dark Side of the Soul”**

**RESERVATIONS**

\$25 for each lecture

\$75 package includes three lectures plus Saturday lunch

The Sunday Adult Forum and Worship Service are  
open to the public (free)

*Scholarship assistance available*

*Make reservations online: [www.fcchendersonville.org](http://www.fcchendersonville.org)  
or pick up a brochure with reservation form at the church.*

# Focus on Forum

May 2017



## **May 7- The Body Code** Fran Westin

Developed by Dr. Bradley Nelson, the Body Code is a form of energy work that identifies and corrects imbalances that can cause emotional and physical problems for people. Through the Body Code system of mind and body maps, (which locates chains of causality), and in conjunction with the Emotion Code - which releases trapped emotions - these imbalances can be located and released making conditions right for healing. This is an exciting and fascinating way to tap into the information your energy body stores.

Fran Westin, an Emotion Code and Body Code practitioner, was a social worker for ten years working with parents' and children's intense emotional experiences before becoming a mother and grandmother. These experiences have given her deep understanding of how stored emotions affect our health and how the human body has a powerful ability to heal itself if conditions are right. Fran, a frequent visitor to our Forum, is passionate about this work and loves sharing it with others. Come join us for this introspective forum.

## **May 14- Coping with Grief** Nancy Keswani and Ann Puryear

We all face losses in our lives, and loss is painful regardless of the source. Grief is a common, natural response to loss that must be experienced for healing to occur and to prevent depression and other consequences. Ann Puryear and Nancy Keswani will facilitate a discussion that explores the sources and symptoms of grief and how to successfully overcome loss through new coping skills, lifestyle changes, and treatments both medical and holistic.

Ann is a retired university professor with a Doctorate in Counseling who has been a frequent speaker at national and international counseling conferences. She is also a Unity Prayer Chaplain.

Nancy chairs the First Congregational Mental Health Work Group and is on the Board of Directors of our local National Alliance on Mental Illness affiliate, NAMI Four Seasons.

## **May 21- Finding Meaning In Life** Dr. Don Emon

Martin Heidegger said: "The question of the meaning of being is the most important task of a human being." The goal of this talk is for each of us to have a clearer understanding of the meaning of our life. The Socratic method will be used to examine our lives and our intended actions.

Don Emon, no stranger to the Forum, is a retired nuclear scientist with a Ph.D. in Nuclear Science and English. Active in the community, he has been President of Compassion and Choices of the Western Carolinas for 15 years. He has over 10 years volunteer experience as an intake worker for IAM, Interfaith Assistance Ministry in Henderson County

**May 28- Preview: J. Pittman McGehee, Distinguished Ashley Lecturer**

In today's Forum we'll talk about spirituality as we prepare for next weekend's Ashley Lecturer, J. Pittman McGehee. His perspective as a Jungian analyst and Episcopal priest will draw on depth psychology.

Larry Anderson will start the discussion and offer some "teasers" to think about. Larry is a retired psychologist and former minister. He is a frequent presenter of the Forum.

**June 4- Ashley Lecture: J. Pittman McGehee** will present during Forum which will be held – today only - in the Sanctuary.

++++  
*The Forum, an informal adult education feature of our church, is held from 9:00 to 10:15 on Sunday mornings in the Fellowship Hall (before the 10:30 service). All are welcome to attend. Contact the coordinators, Romella or Ed O'Keefe, ([edrookeefe@att.net](mailto:edrookeefe@att.net)) if you would like to present a topic or recommend a speaker.*

*Remember: all points of view are welcome...No correct doctrine required!*



## **MENTAL HEALTH MINUTE**

From the UCC Mental Health Network website:

Jesus reached out to people who were marginalized, to those who were ostracized, and to those who were the outcasts in the eyes of society. Jesus' compassion and embrace exemplified what His followers ought to do: reach out to the least, the lost and the lonely. The way of Jesus was comfort, not ridicule; it was love, not indifference; it was empathy, not hostility. The way of Jesus is our spiritual calling. It is the way we are to acknowledge and affirm the worth of everyone, especially those who are deemed less than, not enough, and not deserving of respect. Jesus' way is to overturn the customs that put the lowly down and to lift up those who have been shut out. It is our spiritual calling to follow Jesus that leads us to widen our welcome.



## FCUCC Book Group

**Love to read? Join us!**

FCUCC Book Group will meet on May 9th at 2:00 in the church library. The book we will be discussing is *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award, this #1 New York Times best seller chronicles a young slave's adventures as she makes a desperate bid for freedom in the antebellum South. In Whitehead's ingenious conception, the Underground Railroad is no mere metaphor-- engineers and conductors operate a secret network of tracks and tunnels beneath the southern soil. Discussion will be led by Bob Miles. Come join us.

## THE WRITERS' ROUNDTABLE

The Writers' Roundtable will meet on Thursday, May 25 at 11:30 AM, in the Church Parlor. All writers (poetry, fiction, drama, non-fiction) are welcome. Listeners are also welcome. Writers are encouraged to bring multiple copies of their writing to distribute to help facilitate discussion. Queries? Contact Rand Bishop. We would love to see you on the 25th!



## Save the Date – Church Retreat on June 17

Our annual church retreat, will be on Sat., June 17 from 9:45 am to 4:00 pm at Kanuga Conferences. Sign-ups will begin at the reception desk in mid-May.



## Prayer Shawl Ministry

Meets the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 am in the Parlor. Grab some yarn and your needles and join us!



A little church humor—

After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him several times what was wrong. Finally, the boy replied, "That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home, but I want to stay with you and mom!"

# Fellowship Supper

Tuesday, May 16

5:30 pm



Our presenters will be Alice Knaflich and Michelle Bretz, who will tell us about the *Aura Home for Women Veterans*. *Aura Home* is the hope and dream of Alyce Knaflich, herself a veteran who has experienced homelessness. Women veterans are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population (see Missions Corner article, next page).

Social time begins at 5:30 P.M. with supper at 6:00. Bring a dish that serves 8, and your own table service (silverware, plate and cup). Remember to bring a food item for IAM which will help to feed the hungry in our county.

## Birthdays - May 2017

- 1: Maryett Carl
- 1: Dot Hinch
- 2: Carolyn Schmalz
- 5: Diane Swift
- 6: Karel Bodamer
- 9: Zachary Cone
- 22: Barb Kohan
- 26: Anne Cain
- 28: Posy Jackson
- 29: Sherry Haagenon
- 31: David Kelly



## Anniversaries - May 2017

- 6: Greg & Jen McKinley
- 7: Bob & Dottie Koopman
- 9: Matt & Mandy Henderly
- 14: Robert & Susan Palmer
- 18: Jon & Joan Nobling
- 23: Gary & Judy Cyphers
- 24: Hank & Pamela Federlein
- 25: Raymond & Rachel Stone

**Missions Corner**  
**Aura Home for Women Veterans**  
By Nancy Kaczor

May's Fellowship Supper will feature information about the Aura Home for Women Veterans. The Aura Home is the hope and dream of Alyce Knaflich, herself a veteran who has experienced homelessness. After more than a year struggling to find a structure that could be repurposed into a home for women veterans and families, Alyce and her Board were able to purchase an abandoned nursing home in Hendersonville. Now the real work begins, as the team works to refurbish a section of this home so that the first residents will occupy sometime this fall.

Women veterans are the fastest growing segment of the homeless population. Based on services provided, the Department of Veterans Affairs estimates there are almost 1000 homeless women veterans in North Carolina. The Governor's Homeless Coalition shows that Buncombe County has the highest percentage of homeless veterans in the state. In Buncombe and Henderson County, there are only 10 beds dedicated to homeless women veterans and their families. Local TV station WLOS, boasts "Aura Home will be the first of its kind facility" in our state. Women currently make up more than 14 percent of our military and are deploying in greater numbers than ever before with numbers near 200,000 for current conflicts in the Middle East.

No veteran deserves to live on the streets after serving our country. Please join us in May to find out more about this important project, and how we can help. Missions will consider a donation to the Aura Home when we consider allocations to local agencies assisting the homeless at the May meeting.

*(Possible)* **Summer School at La Capilla**

Educational research confirms what we all know, "use it or lose it," which happens to students during summer vacation. To help prevent that loss, FCUCC, St. James, and Holy Family hope to again be sponsoring the fifth annual **La Capilla de Santa Maria Summer Tutorial Program** on **Mondays** and **Wednesdays** at La Capilla from **June 19-July 12. However**, with the huge fear in the immigrant community, parents may be unwilling to drive students to and from La Capilla, in which case there will be no program.

Volunteer reading helpers/listeners are needed for the **18 students, grades 1- 9 in the mornings from 9:30-11:30**. Class size is usually 3 or 4. You may sign up for as many sessions as you want. From 12-2PM the students study math and computers, if you would like to help with that.

No knowledge of Spanish is preferred and volunteers need to attend the "Safeguarding God's Children" training session which will be held **in June** or possibly online.

If you'd rather feed stomachs than minds, that's fine too. Because of "five-star ratings" from last year, FCUCC will again be providing lunches each Monday of the program. You may choose to make sandwiches which can be delivered to the church and then transferred to La Capilla. No additional training is needed for that.

Sign-up sheets will be on the bulletin board later in the month for as few or as many morning sessions and/or sandwiches as you wish. Any questions, ask Pat Argue, 891-4521 or email [pkargue@gmail.com](mailto:pkargue@gmail.com). Thanks for your participation.



## May Lectionary

### Fourth Sunday of Easter

**May 7**

Acts 2:42-47

Ps 23

I Pet 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

**Powerful Witness**

### Fifth Sunday of Easter

**May 14 (Mother's Day)**

Acts 7:55-60

Ps 31:1-5, 15-16

I Pet 2:2-10

John 14:1-14

**Enduring Witness**

### Sixth Sunday of Easter

**May 21**

Acts 17:22-31

Ps 66:8-20

I Pet 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

**Witness of Love**

### Seventh Sunday of Easter

**May 28**

Acts 1:6-14

Ps 68:1-10, 32-35

I Pet 4:12-14; 5:6-11

John 17:1-11

**Spirit of Witness**

## ATTENDANCE

April 2: 127

9: 128

16: 170 (Easter)

23: 127

Average Sunday Attendance:

138

*The Congregational Chronicle*  
is published monthly,  
except for December/January issue,  
by First Congregational UCC  
1735 Fifth Ave. West  
Hendersonville NC 28739-4013  
Phone: 828.692.8630  
E-mail: [fccucc2@bellsouth.net](mailto:fccucc2@bellsouth.net)  
Website: [www.fcchendersonville.org](http://www.fcchendersonville.org)

The Rev. Dr. E. Richard Weidler, Pastor  
Linda Welch, Administrator  
Mark Acker, Minister of Music  
Charles & Dora Littleton, Custodians  
The Rev. David G. Kelly, Jr., Pastor Emeritus

**Next Chronicle deadline is May 23**

**First Congregational UCC**  
**1735 Fifth Avenue West**  
**Hendersonville NC 28739-4013**



An Open and Affirming Congregation