

The CONGREGATIONAL CHRONICLE

Volume 42, No. 2

United Church of Christ

March 2018

Moderator's View

Our church is at the beginning of a major transition, as Richard's retirement date nears and we start the process of searching for our new pastor.

The church and transition leaders are committed to keeping the entire congregation fully informed as we make this journey. The February Fellowship Dinner program presented a thorough update. For this month's Moderator's column, Roger Smith has graciously ceded his space so we can update those who weren't at the Fellowship Dinner.

At present, there are two active Teams – the Transition Leadership Team and the Search Team. The Search Team's job is to complete the church profile, seek candidates to be our next minister, interview them, and ultimately select a final candidate to present to the congregation. The TLT is charged with a myriad of duties surrounding the search, from finding an interim minister to planning events to celebrate Richard's ministry.

So with those introductions completed, I'd like to fill you in on what's going on. First, let's talk about the results of the survey we completed last fall. The survey revealed a lot of information about who we are, our attitudes, our priorities, and where we think our future lies. This is invaluable information in attracting the right person.

We identified as a church that has high energy with a high satisfaction level. We are progressive and adaptable – a Transformational congregation. The most important

Continued on next page

take-away, I think, is simply that we like who we are. We gave ourselves a grade of over 95% on traits like hospitality, morale, conflict management, governance, and worship and music.

97% said they like the path we are on. We expect to remain a vibrant, active church ministering to older adults, while welcoming and supporting youth and families with young children the Spirit leads to us.

So we look to our future with great anticipation and hope. Joady Perrett expressed it very well to me when she said, “As every new member brings new vitality to our congregation, so will a new pastor. We have a strong, vibrant, loving and motivated foundation to support our future. God be with us.”

One of our most important activities is expressing our appreciation to Richard and celebrate his almost 10 years of ministry with us. We’re having a dinner on Saturday evening, March 24, and a special worship service on Sunday, March 25. Stay tuned for more details.

In the midst of all this, there are exciting events coming up. The weekend of May 5-6, renowned organist and choral director Tom Trenney will be here, conducting workshops, presenting a recital on our newly refurbished organ, and leading us in Sunday worship. A month later, on 8-9 June, Rev. Otis Moss III will be our speaker in the next of the Ashley Lecture series. Mark your calendars!

If you have any questions related to the Transition, please contact a TLT member.

Dawn Kucera

~ writing for the TLT Team – Mark Acker, Ed Argue, Mark Fagerlin, Nancy Irving, Judith Nourse, Joady Perrett, Roger Smith

OUR LOVE AND PRAYERS go out to Roger Smith and Maralee McMillan as they adjust to the circumstances of Roger’s cancer diagnosis.

CONGRATULATIONS

...to Andrew Weidler on his engagement to Kristen Lam. They will be married on May 27 in San Diego, CA.

...to Rebecca Weidler on her graduation from Stanford Business School. Rebecca will receive a Masters of Business Administration on June 16.

CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



February 14

Organ refurbishing update - The organ console is at Dan Angerstein's workshop being renovated and re-fitted with new computer systems and new drawer knobs. This is a massive job. Also, preparations have been made for the additional new pipes that will be installed in the church. We are hoping for an early March installation of the new console, and after that will be tonal finishing which will help everything to sound just right in our space.

Also, the acoustical enhancements have been completed with new hardwood floors and the removal of sound absorbing material on the back wall of the church. All of the back wall work was done by Milton Stewart, John Nobling and Nick Pence. This was a huge job, and we owe them tremendous thanks.

Transition Leadership Team Update- Team Chair, Mark Fagerlin, reported that the team is meeting weekly and all is going smoothly as charted on its task tracker. At the February Fellowship Supper a Power Point presentation will detail its activities. February 21 and March 21 will be intentional days of prayers for a successful transition. In the March Chronicle there will be an article with information about the team's progress. A facility audit is nearly finished. The By-laws and Personnel Policies Revision sub-committee has almost completed its work which will be shown to Council before the Congregation. A Farewell Observance Team and Start-Up Preparation Team are doing their jobs. The TLT team is planning on an interim for about six months and has already contacted two candidates. The Southern Conference has also sent one's profile.

Labyrinth Update – The dedication ceremony will be on March 18th immediately following worship. The Ennis brothers will attend and a commemorative bronze plaque on a stone will be positioned near walkway. The plaque has been ordered and will arrive by end of February. Catherine Fairbanks is designing a centerpiece. Ben Coonrod is doing drawings for the landscaping, to be done in three phases as weather and funding permit. The first phase is a stepping stone pathway. The second is screening shrubbery to hide the railroad tracks. The third phase is a smooth connection to the Memorial Garden. Members of the Sacred Grounds group will soon meet with the Ministry of Physical Resources to discuss these plans.

Focus on Forum

March 2018



March 4- PLANNING FOR END OF LIFE

ANNIE FRITSCHNER & SARAH LEATHAM

Got plans??? We plan for college, marriage, a baby & retirement...but we don't prepare for the one thing in life that we can expect-what we think of as "the unexpected." Let's change that!

Advanced Care Planning is a process to help your loved one know how to speak for you and honor your wishes if you are ever unable to make your own medical decisions. This planning is important for any adult 18 and over and should be revisited as your health status changes throughout your life and when you move to a new state.

Its as easy as 1,2,3.

Decide who you trust to be your Health Care Agent.

Discuss your wishes with your chosen Health Care Agent.

Document your wishes in an Advanced Directive.

Our presenters will help guide you through this important & informative workshop. Learn why it is the best gift you will ever give yourself and those you love.

Annie is a Palliative Care Chaplain and an Episcopal priest on Sabbatical, as well as a member of our choir. She has also been very active at Four Seasons and is a former board member and fund raiser. Sarah is the Community Education and Outreach Manager with Four Seasons. We welcome her to our church.

March 11- PEAK EXPERIENCES-A REVISIT

ED O'KEEFE AND OTHER SPEAKERS

In late 2012 Ed published his book, Take It From the Top: What To Do With a Peak Experience. In today's Forum he will revisit what PE's mean to the spiritual evolution of each "peaker" and to the whole human race. He will interview a number of area persons whose experiences were featured in the book. You won't want to miss this uplifting and inspiring presentation. Copies of his book will be available for sale after the Forum.

A retired college administrator and teacher, Ed facilitates these Forums along with his wife, Romella. They have been members of this church for more than six years.

March 18- CHAKRAS, MASLOW, WAVES and NEEDS LARRY ANDERSON

The Ancients identified 7 (at least) chakras (waves/levels/energies) on the human dance through Maslow's "hierarchy of needs". Your experience of God/Self (always morphing) can be different at each wave. Prayer will vibrate uniquely at each level. At the early foundational levels, many will kill or die for their God/gang/ideals. Let's consider some contemporary thinkers who explore these ideas.

Larry Anderson, retired psychologist and former Minister, also plays guitar on Communion Sundays.

March 25- "OH NO, IT'S FOR REAL"- A GRIEF WORKSHOP CAROLE TURANO

It's for real! Our beloved pastor, Dr. Richard Weidler, is retiring on Easter, and we need to come to grips with that reality. How is this accomplished? By healthy grieving, of course! (As a side note and just as important, if we are grieving, how much more must Richard be feeling the same?)

After teaching and tutoring elementary pupils for years, Carole heeded God's call to Lancaster Theological UCC Seminary where she obtained a Master of Arts in Religion with an emphasis on healing modalities and Spiritual Direction. Loving, listening and helping the young and not so young heal, is Carole's passion. She is a FCUCC prayer chaplain and invites everyone to consider in this Forum some often overlooked grief concepts and tools.

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) if you would like to present a topic or recommend a speaker.

Remember, all points of view are welcome.... no correct doctrine required.

FCUCC Book Group



Love to read? Join us!

Our FCUCC Book Group will meet on March 13 at 2:00 in the church library to discuss the best seller *Lincoln in the Bardo* by George Saunders. This historical fiction takes, as its jumping off point, the death of Abraham Lincoln's beloved 11 yr. old son, Willie, who succumbed to typhoid fever February 20, 1862, and the grief-stricken president's visits to the crypt where his son was interred at the Oak Hill Cemetery in nearby Georgetown. This fascinating discussion will be led by Maralee McMillan. All are invited to join us.



Hendersonville Chamber Music 2018 presents four concerts this Spring on Sundays at 3PM at the First Congregational UCC - Hendersonville:

March 4: The Vivaldi Project

March 18: The Cleveland Chamber Players

April 8: The Tesla String Quartet

April 22: The Asheville Clarinet Quartet

Subscription price - \$80.00; single tickets - \$25.00 may be purchased by mail: HCM, PO Box 271, HVL 28793 or online: hendersonvillechamber-music.org.



Fellowship
Supper
March 2018



NO SUPPER THIS MONTH! Hope to see you all at the celebration dinner for Richard on March 24.

*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!



THE WRITERS' ROUNDTABLE

Writers--whether members of the church or not--who would like to read from their work (any genre) at a Writers' Roundtable are invited to register with Rand Bishop (697-0090 or randbishop33@gmail.com). Listeners are also welcome. The Writers' Roundtables meet on the fourth Thursday of every month in the Church Parlor at 11:30 am. If you're reading, please bring 5-6 duplicates of your work to share. Check with Rand for details.



JOIN OUR FESTIVAL CHOIR THIS SPRING

We have some special Sundays coming up this Spring, and we would like to have an over-flowing loft for these important days! These special Sundays include:

- Sunday, March 25 - Celebration of Richard's Ministry at our 10:30 service
- Sunday, April 1 - Easter Sunday and Richard's final Sunday
- Sunday, April 15 - Organ Dedication Sunday at our 10:30 service
- Sunday, May 6 - Organ Celebration Sunday with Tom Trenney

Being a part of our Festival Choir means that you would join with the choir for any or all of these special Sundays, and that you would learn the music by rehearsing with the choir.

Rehearsals are Thursday afternoons, 3:30 to 5:00, or if you cannot be here on Thursdays, Mark Acker can set up individual times to meet with you. For more information, please contact Mark Acker at 615-430-3506 or markackerhendersonville@gmail.com.

A WEEKEND WITH ORGANIST TOM TRENNEY, MAY 5/6

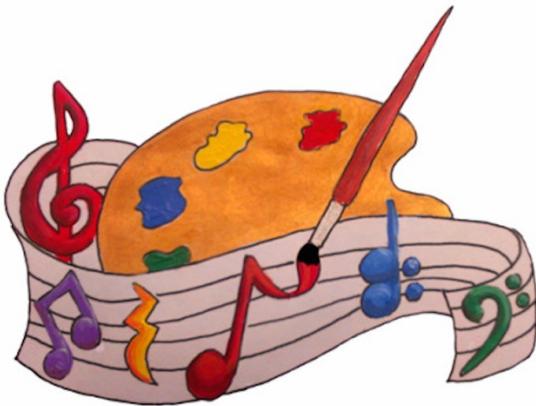
Join us for an amazing weekend of music celebration with world-class organist Tom Trenney. Tom plays concerts all over the country, but most importantly, he is also a passionate church musician, serving at First Plymouth UCC in Lincoln, Nebraska.



Here's our schedule. All events are free and open to the public:

- Saturday, May 5: Two workshops at 10:00 and 11:00 am
- Sunday, May 6: Tom will preach and play the hymns at our 10:30 service
- Sunday, May 6: Organ Concert by Tom Trenney at 3:00 pm

The concert will include organ literature, a silent film accompaniment, and an improvisation on an original theme.



A FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

Our congregation will be having a **Festival of the Arts** in April and May with the theme of “**Love Heals, Music Heals, Beauty Heals.**” Part of

this celebration of the arts will be an exhibition of artwork in our Hall Gallery by our own congregational members. If you have created an original piece of art that fits with this theme and would like to display it in the Hall Gallery as part of this Festival, let us know. The Hall Gallery can accommodate two dimensional artwork such as paintings, photographs, collage, mixed media, etc. that is framed and ready to hang. Additionally, we would like to include a piece of artwork by any youth members of our congregation that would like to participate. If you are interested in participating in this spring-time celebration by displaying your artwork contact Connie Knight by March 18 at knightcolor@gmail.com or (828)243-0084.

Come to the Well

“All moments are key moments and life itself is grace” *

One noontime after teaching a three-hour clay class, I found myself cleaning up beside a new student. As we scrubbed clay from our tools, I wondered about this energetic woman, a physician who had given up her OBGYN practice in Atlanta to work with palliative care at Elizabeth House in Hendersonville.

“How,” I asked her, “did you get from obstetrics to geriatrics? They seem so disparate.” She whirled around, her eyes full of light, “Oh, Joady, they are the same.” Responding to my surprise she continued, “Each one is a birth! Care of a person from gestation to birthing new life into this world is like care of a person through his/her final days and preparation for what comes next. Opposite ends of the spectrum — each culminating in something unimaginable.”

As her words sunk in, I was enveloped by a sense of comfort, of well-being.

There I was, grubby and wet, tired, standing with a person I did not know, and she had just given me lifesaving words; words that began my acceptance of the death of my 17-year-old daughter Liz, fifteen years previously.

That afternoon as my dog Annie and I walked on wooded pathways in Laurel Park, I watched autumn leaves falling freely from their mother trees. Glorious in color, perfect in shape, yet on a journey, releasing from one life to the next, to transform into humus to nourish the next season. I knew it to be true for all of life in death or loss of any kind— something must die to make way for something new.

As our beloved pastor Richard prepares to leave, we as a community, will find strength, vision, and growth in the rich humus Richard has prepared through his ten-year ministry to us and he, in return, will depart buoyed by our prayers and love on an anticipated “road less traveled.” **

Joady Perrett
Prayer Chaplain



*Frederick Buechner
**Robert Frost



MENTAL HEALTH MINUTE

The Mental Health Work Group is dedicated to reducing the stigma many people feel discussing and addressing mental health challenges. As a WISE Congregation, FCUCC's members are committed to being welcoming, inclusive, supportive, and engaged. With our Connections leaders, Prayer Chaplains, Pastor, and Work Group members, there are several gentle, sensitive, and confidential avenues for seeking support and referral to services. Do not suffer alone – our church family will be WISE with anyone struggling with mental health challenges.

Peace and Quiet

Silence, it has been said, is God's primary language. In silence, we open our heart and mind to the presence of God. Here we become aware of God's awareness of us! Beginning each day in silence anchors us not only with God, but with our True Self.



To create an intentional setting for this practice, the parlor will be open each Tuesday and Thursday morning (beginning March 6) from 7am-8am. You are invited to join Joanna and Ben Coonrod for any time during this hour that works for you. The side door of the church, facing the larger parking area, will be open for you.

Our promise: "You don't have to wait till you die to "Rest in Peace."

**News from the
Immigration Social Justice Group
DREAMers in the News**

We hope everyone saw the recent Times News article about the DREAM Scholarship (of which FCC is a sponsor). <http://www.blueridgenow.com/news/20180216/area-churches-put-politics-aside-with-daca>

The article showed one of six current recipients, Javier Gonzalez, who spoke at our second annual Immigrants' Rights Service last year. He continues to be a dedicated, hard-working, honors senior, graduating in May from Brevard College. The article also included information about Carolina Siliceo Perez who spoke to us the year before. She is now Assistant Register of Deeds for Buncombe County, but still unable to pursue graduate school because of need to pay out-of-state tuition.

The DREAM Scholarship is for undocumented students from county schools, which in states like ours without tuition equality, means students must pay out-of-state tuition, approximately **four times** that of in-state. Even though they have studied in NC schools from kindergarten until their high-school graduation. Twenty states currently have tuition equity, which is good for their students and states. When ALL students are allowed to learn, we ALL win, economically as well as professionally. As we look to our mid-term elections, we should continue to support DACA, but also advocate for One State, One Rate.

If you know candidates for a DREAM Scholarship, please contact Pat or Ed Argue. The application deadline is **March 30**.

The monthly **silent vigil** in front of the historic courthouse on the last Friday is **March 23**, but the time returns to **5-5:30** DST. Hope to see you there.



HELP LAUNCH THE HEART OF HENDERSONVILLE PROJECT

Our church is joining other area churches and city officials in the Heart of Hendersonville Project, a joint effort to bring about more effective cooperation to facilitate democratic and civil discourse on our political problems. This effort originated with Pam and Charley Rogers, presenters at our last Annual Retreat and proponents of Compassionate Listening, a tool for furthering communication at all levels.

The primary tool for this city-wide endeavor will be a book by Parker J. Palmer, Healing the Heart of Democracy. Palmer, a Quaker activist whose books have sold over a million copies, was called by the Utne Reader one of “The 25 People Who Are Changing Our World”.

The LAUNCH EVENT for this project will be a city-wide meeting of interested persons on Thursday, March 15, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at the City Operations Center, 395 Williams Street. Keynote Speaker will be John Fenner, Director of Progaming at Dr. Palmer’s Center for Courage and Renewal in Seattle, Washington.

The Launch Event will be the kickoff of a number of Book Clubs sponsored by the Project that will study Healing the Heart of Democracy. One (or more depending on interest shown) will be conducted at our church. In July, after the Book Clubs are finished, further steps will be taken by the Project. For further information, contact Ed O’Keefe.

REMEMBER to SPRING FORWARD!

**Daylight Savings Time begins at 2AM
Sunday March 11. Turn your
clocks ahead one hour.**



Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays - March 2018

- 1: Shirley Retzsch
- 4: Roy Harris
- 8: Jean Raymond
- 9: Judy Cyphers
- 9: Linda Welch
- 12: Carole Kaiser
- 17: Bob Miles
- 22: Jo Ann Ashley
- 23: Ben Dacuba
- 24: Jim Tatum
- 25: Melissa Melum
- 26: Linda Simpson
- 26: Raymond Stone
- 27: Ron Miller
- 28: Barbara Worcester
- 28: Roger Haagenon
- 29: Dawn Kucera

Anniversaries - March 2018

- 6: Chris & Kirsten Cone
- 7: Richard & Dona Tyler
- 8: Ron & Claudia Schopper
- 9: Jim & Judith Nourse

Worship Attendance

February 4: Ice/ no worship

11: 117

18: 136

25: 134

Average Weekly Attendance:

129

March Lectionary

Third Sunday in Lent

March 4

Ex 20:1-17

Ps 19

I Cor 1:18-25

John 2:13-22

Beautiful Law

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 11

Num 21:4-9

Ps 107:1-3, 17-22

Eph 2:1-10

John 3:14-21

No Matter What

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 18

Jer 31:31-34

Ps 51:1-12 or Ps 119:9-16

Heb 5:5-10

John 12:20-33

Deep in Our hearts

Palm/Passion Sunday

March 25

Mk 11:1-11 or Jn 12:12-16 •

Ps 118:1-2, 19-29

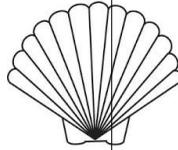
(Liturgy of the Palms)

Isa 50:4-9a • Ps 31:9-16 • Phil 2:5-11

Mk 14:1-15:47 or Mk 15:1-39, (40-47)

(Liturgy of the Passion)

Into Jerusalem



Maundy Thursday

March 29

Ex 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14

Ps 116:1-2, 12-19

I Cor 11:23-26

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday

March 30

Isa 52:13- 53:12

Ps 22 • Heb 10:16-25 or

Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9

John 18:1-19:42

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1735 Fifth Ave. West
Hendersonville NC 28739-4013
Phone: 828.692.8630
Fax: 828.682.8658

E-mail: fccucc2@bellsouth.net

Website: www.fcchendersonville.org

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

Next Chronicle deadline is March 23

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



An Open and Affirming Congregation

