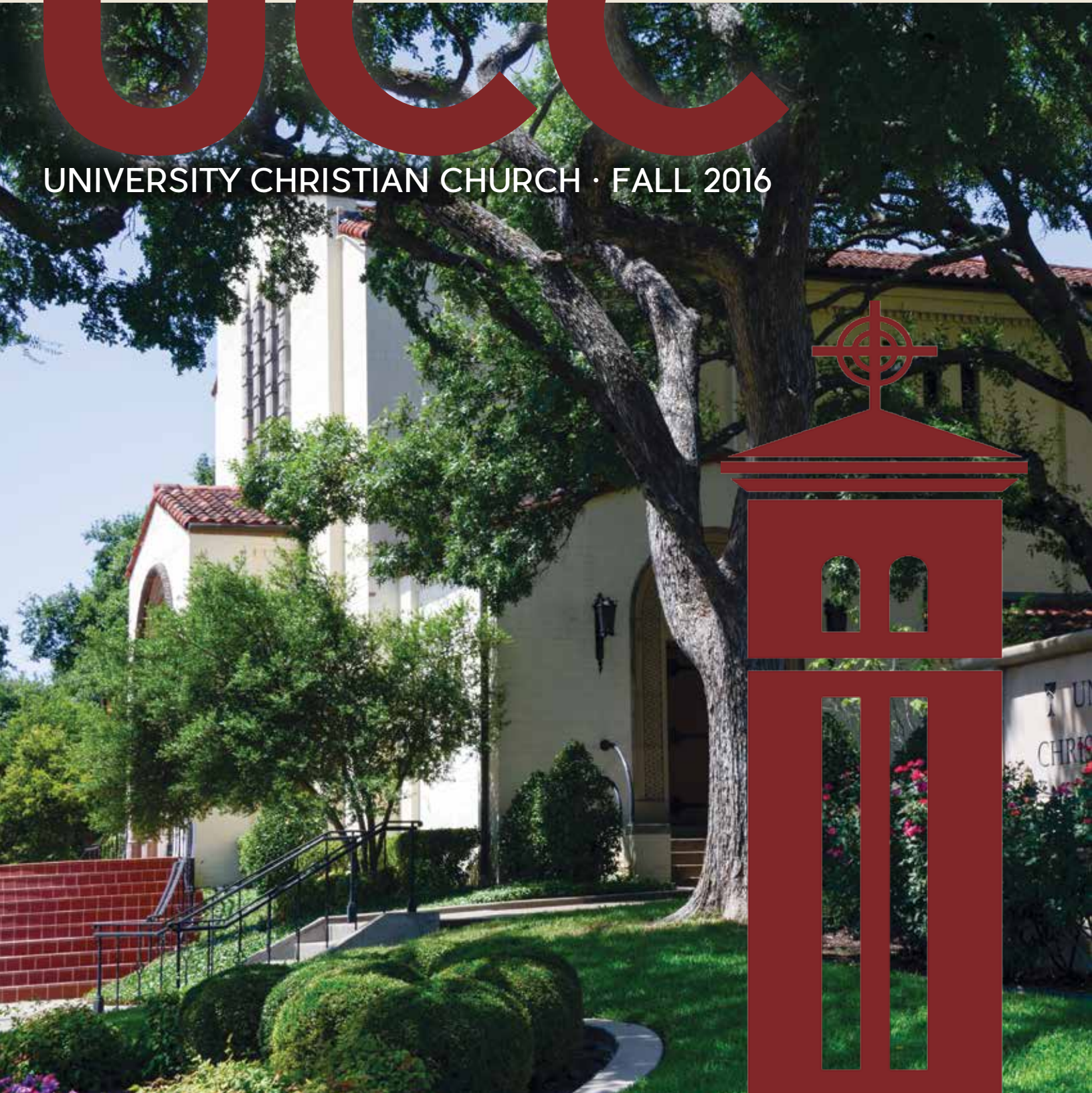


# UCC

*LIVING THE GOOD NEWS  
OF JESUS CHRIST  
WITH OPEN MINDS  
AND LOVING HEARTS*

UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH • FALL 2016



UCC JOURNAL • VOLUME XVII, NUMBER 8 • AUGUST 2016

PAGE 4  
Summer  
2016

PAGE 5  
· A Reminder of  
Christ's Presence  
· Back-to-School  
Service

PAGE 6  
Who We  
Are

PAGE 8  
Stepping Stones  
for the Journey:  
Chuck Rolén

PAGE 9  
· Faith & Politics,  
· Health &  
Wholeness

# CONTENTS

PAGE 10  
Living the Good  
News

PAGE 12  
· Silent Movie  
· Choir Singing at  
the Meyerson  
· BHYLEF

PAGE 13  
· Trunk-or-Treat  
· Women Who  
Make a  
Difference

PAGE 14  
Find Your  
Fit at UCC

## MINISTRY STAFF

University Christian Church relies on countless individuals, from the support staff to our congregants who serve faithfully week-to-week. Our ministry team finds joy in leading and sharing in the life of our church community.



**Rev. Dr. Chuck Rolén**  
Interim Senior  
Minister



**Rev. Kera Watts**  
Associate Minister



**Kyla Rosenberger**  
Director of Worship &  
Arts, Senior Organist



**Rev. Cyndy W.  
Twedell**  
Senior Associate  
Minister



**Rev. Russ Boyd**  
Associate Minister  
for Youth



**Dr. Todd Prickett**  
Director of Music and  
Choirmaster



**Rev. Jessica  
Vacketta**  
Associate Minister



**Tyler Heston**  
Assistant Minister  
for Middle School



**Michelle Ingram**  
Director of Operations

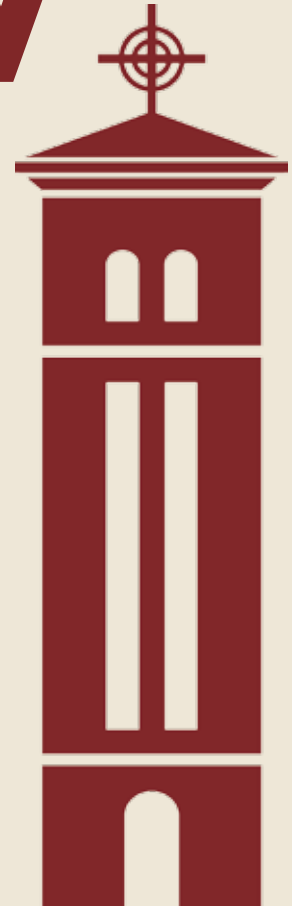


# RINGING IN A NEW SEASON

## LOOKING AHEAD TO FALL 2016

As University Christian Church enters the fall season, there is a buzz of enthusiasm in the air. Our community of faith continues to build upon a rich heritage while embodying our mission to live the good news of Jesus Christ with open minds and loving hearts. Through various opportunities for worship, study and service we are dedicated to creating a loving and caring community for all people.

In this special edition of the UCC Journal we celebrate our church life by looking back at our ministries over recent months and forward in anticipation of our exciting future. Within these pages we hope you will enjoy seeing the many ways that our members embrace our mission as well as their individual relationships with God.



As our school children and neighbors at TCU begin the academic year, UCC is ringing in this new season with several exciting events in the life of our church. See below for special kickoff activities planned between August 21 – 28, including Kickoff Sunday on the 21st featuring children's activities, food and more!

**AUG. 21**  
Children & Youth  
Promotion Sunday  
10 a.m.

**AUG. 21**  
1st Grade  
Welcome to  
Worship Starts  
10 a.m.

**AUG. 21**  
Fall Kickoff  
12 p.m. – 2 p.m.

**AUG. 24**  
First College  
Lunch Bunch  
12 p.m.

**AUG. 28**  
Friends Day  
(Invite a friend!)



# SUMMER 2016

**“EVER AT PLAY  
EVERYWHERE  
ON GOD’S EARTH”  
(PROVERBS 8:30-31)**

This summer, UCC members have been playing in God’s creation and serving with joy, awe and delight!

Our children, adult and youth volunteers caught “the wave of God’s amazing love” at VBS in June. Following a morning of VBS, children continued to create with God and each other at our Music Makers camp. Our middle school youth and adult sponsors traveled to Houston in June to serve at the Houston Food Bank, while our high

school youth traveled to the Golden State and served on the grounds of Southern California’s Loch Leven Camp & Conference center in San Bernardino and at All People’s Community Center in the heart of Los Angeles.

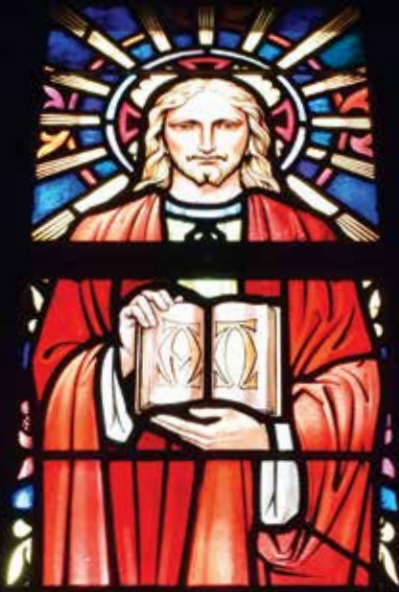
Our summer interns created games and organized UCC members to serve at Texas Refugee Services’ World Refugee Day. We had a group of twelve travel to Nicaragua to serve alongside our partners at La Mision Cristiana and Project

Chacocente and Room in the Inn volunteers welcomed guests in July and August.

And no summer is complete without a trip to Disciples Crossing in Athens, Texas; UCC was well represented as kids attended camps from May – August, along with members serving as interns, stewards, counselors and directors. UCC had an amazing summer this year and we look forward to the ways in which we can carry this energy into the seasons ahead!







## A REMINDER OF CHRIST'S PRESENCE

So many stunning stained glass windows enhance our building and tell the story of our faith and when we take a close look, there are wonderful surprises sometimes, too. One of the favorite windows on the Newcomers Tour is the stained glass window visible as you exit the Sanctuary. Above the back balcony, to the east, is a stained glass piece that serves as a visible reminder of Christ's presence in our lives as we go from worship into the world at TCU, in Fort Worth and beyond!

In the center of the stained glass window is Christ holding the Bible with Alpha and Omega on the open pages. As the beginning and the end, Christ is always with us, ever inviting us to live as he has taught us. The halo around Christ's head radiates out into the side panels which depict symbols of our everyday lives.

To the north are symbols of our life in the city. At the top is a medallion of praying hands and a harp reminding us that worship is an important part of our lives. Below it is the medallion of home life with a hearth, a bookcase, a chair and a stool with a book on it. Christ is present in our homes and in our learning. Below is a medallion of Fort Worth with a train, a cowboy, an oil well and other industry. God is with us in the business world here in Fort Worth! The bottom medallion depicts our labor with tools for planting, construction and even a lunch box. Christ is with us in our daily work.

On the south side are depictions of campus life—the lamp of learning and our pursuit of knowledge, a Bunsen burner and the opportunity to research and discover the unknown, musical instruments and even a football and basketball. We are thankful for our many inspirational reminders of Christ's loving presence always in our lives!

## BACK TO SCHOOL SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

As school starts back up, so do our opportunities to serve! UCC has a long history of caring for children and now is a great time to re-engage in these vital ministries. On Wednesday, September 7, we will hold UCC's largest Children's Closet Bag-It Night ever! Fort Worth ISD elementary and middle schools require a proper uniform and the Children's Closet aims to dress children with dignity and to keep them in school. This intergenerational outreach event will start filling orders promptly at 6 p.m. in Walker Hall and will offer over 3,000 uniforms to children in 40 schools. Through the month of August, we will also be collecting school supplies for the Children's Closet until August 28 to be given to 42 different Fort Worth ISD schools.

With the new schoolyear, our Sunday night programming for youth and children begins again. On Aug. 21, Chi Rho (Grades 6-8, 5 p.m.) and CYF (Grades 9-12, 6:30 p.m.) kick into gear and on Aug. 28, CCF/JYF (Grades 1-5, 5 p.m.) begins meeting.



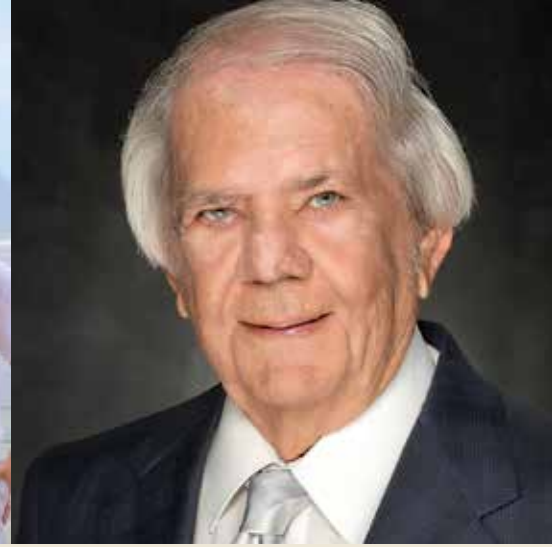
## ANNE DARR

“The people at UCC are my people. They hold the safety net when life gets precarious, they dance and shout when I experience joy, they bring the broom when the pieces of my life need to be gathered and they envelop me with love when I’m grieving.”

Anne and her husband Rich joined UCC on Pentecost Sunday in 1997, less than a year before they were married in the Sanctuary by Cyndy Twedell. Anne’s parents, Bob and Carol Stewart, as well as her three children, Andrew, Ethan and Rachel, are each active members in the UCC community and in the years since she joined, Anne has accumulated no short list of ministries with which she has been involved. It goes without saying that Anne is a familiar face across the board at UCC.

Despite her busy life, she finds that Sunday morning worship provides a space to “stop, take a deep breath, recharge, renew and reconnect with God.” Anne has found other ways to find a holy peace at UCC; after each of her children were born, she and Rich came along with their family and Cyndy Twedell to say a prayer of blessing and thanksgiving alone in the Sanctuary. “There was no music, no processions, no congregation, no candles being lit—just God and us in that exquisite, sacred space. It was a beautiful way for my babies to begin their lives as children of God.”

When asked if there was one thing she wishes people knew about UCC, Anne said that “all are



# WHO WE ARE

welcome at UCC just as they are” and “as God created them to be.” She is glad that her own opinion is valued in this community as she is challenged theologically and spiritually through worship, fellowship and service. “UCC empowers me to think, feel, learn, grapple and discern so that my faith is constantly growing, evolving and developing.”

## WALTER ECHOLS

A native Fort Worthian, Walter Echols grew up at First Christian Church in downtown Fort Worth and transferred membership to University Christian Church when he came to TCU, which he is proud to claim as his alma mater and of which he is proud to be an Ex-Letterman. Over the years, he and his wife Patsy have seen the



## ONE BODY, WITH MANY MEMBERS

University Christian Church is much more than a building or a list of programs and activities—we are a community. In order to best discover who we are, the first place to look is at the stories of our members and that is exactly what we did here.

On these pages, read about three individuals, about their story with UCC and about what makes their participation in this community special and life-giving. "All the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ" (1 Corinthians 12).

life of UCC by connecting to quite an assortment of ministries and by being members of the Peoples Bible Sunday school class. Walter is an elder who participates in our elder shepherding ministry, often reads Scripture in worship (and “coaches” others before their first time behind the mic), often ushers and greets and has served on many committees including Building and Grounds,

the Finance Committee and the search committee that called Larry Thomas.

Walter looks forward to how University Christian Church will continue to serve its greater community, knowing that we are present “whenever we see a segment of our community in need.” He has happily volunteered with various outreach opportunities of the church like Bag-It Night and Christmas Angels.

Walter is fond of his memories here at UCC, remembering especially when Dr. Granville Walker married he and his wife over 60 years ago and he knows that he can rely on his church community here at UCC through thick and thin. “When our family has a spiritual need, UCC is there. When grief touches our family, UCC is there.”

When asked if there was one thing he wishes people knew about UCC, he mentioned how dynamic and friendly a congregation we are—“we offer a variety of ministries and programs for virtually every age group and are well-connected with TCU, our other surrounding neighbors and the Fort Worth church community”

### JOSH JACKSON

Josh, who grew up at Creekwood Christian Church in Flower Mound, became involved at University Christian Church two years ago as soon as he began his freshman year across the street at TCU. He has since become active with the college ministry and as a leader for the youth ministry and served this past summer as a summer intern alongside Allison

Bright from Macon, Missouri. Although they worked mainly with the youth ministry, they both gained experience across all aspects of the life of the church.

Reflecting upon his initial visit, Josh said that he and his friend “were nervous and didn’t know what to expect. But as soon as we walked in, we were swarmed by people welcoming us. That warm welcome hasn’t gone away.” He also said that after working in the church this summer and hearing about all that is happening across the life of the church, “I think that there’s a bright future ahead. There are a lot of great things coming and I am excited to be a part of it.

One of Josh’s fondest memories with UCC was at the Houston Food Bank during the middle school mission trip, when he and a handful of a group of eager middle school boys spent a couple of hours tossing old bread into the back of an eighteen wheeler. The simple task was a fun and meaningful way for Josh to serve both the youth at this church and an important organization for the Houston area.

As an office assistant in the TCU Religion Department, a student host for the chancellor, the president of Disciples on Campus and a tour guide at TCU, Josh is not only well aware of what’s going on at TCU, but is concerned with helping students find their place. When asked if there was one thing he wishes people knew about UCC, he said “I think it’s a place for everyone—we are a warm, welcoming community and not just a pretty building on the corner of campus.”



# STEPPING STONES FOR THE JOURNEY

**UCC is entering a new phase of her life and journey. To help guide and support us we have invited Rev. Dr. Charles “Chuck” Rolan to serve as Intentional Interim Senior Minister. Read here an abbreviated form of his letter of welcome.**

Interims make frequent appearances throughout the Bible, including Moses, John the baptizing prophet and Barnabas and tend to appear during times of discernment, growth and opportunities for intentional change. In this era, congregations experience three expressions or tiers of interim ministry. The first is the type many congregants are familiar with: the interim who serves in a pastoral capacity while the search committee does its work. The second level of interim ministry involves a dedicated time of intentional discernment accompanied by the leadership and skills of an “intentional interim” who leads the congregation through the “focus points” of heritage, mission,

leadership, connections and future. These areas of focus are to help provide a structure or paradigm upon which the congregation explores, names, embraces and plans for a preferred identity and future.

The third tier of interim ministry further engages the work of transition and sometimes structural transformation. I am known as a transitional/interim minister. Not only is that my calling, I also have significant training and experience in the areas of intentional interim/pastoral leadership and transitional/transformational leadership.

Most church members ask the question: “how long does this take?” First, I do not (and will not!) work alone. I am honored to be invited to

join alongside UCC and journey this interim time with you. My first task is to get to know you. I do not come with a preset agenda. I will take time to get to know you, share life with you, worship and serve alongside you. I will also have a transition team that will work with me and provide valuable insights about the UCC journey. The goal is for your next Senior Pastor to begin with a clear, energizing and informed vision and congregationally-based plan for UCC’s preferred future. This is what I do and I love being part of a congregation that thrives with vision, purpose and joy!

Again, it is an honor and pleasure to be invited into the life of UCC. Pray for me, pray for our staff, pray for one another. My office door, my ears, my heart are open. God loves the world... let’s show the world how transition can occur in the bonds of faith, hope and love! Blessings for the journey, Chuck.

*Visit <http://bit.ly/interiminsights> for a full version of Chuck's letter.*



## FUN FACTS ABOUT CHUCK

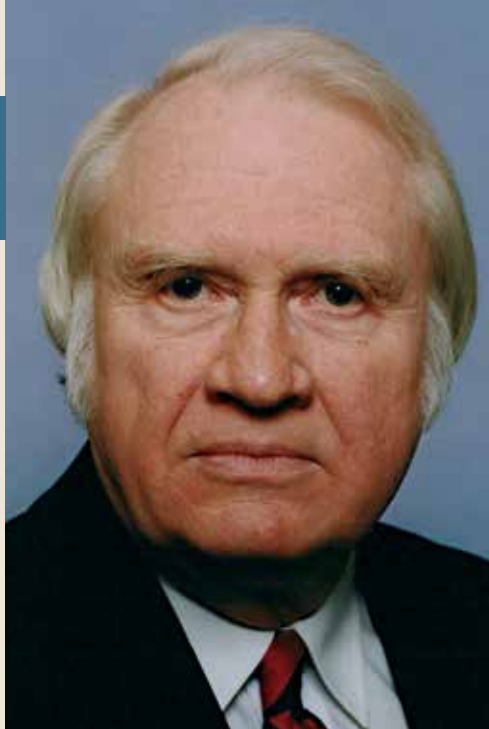
- Chuck and his wife Linda are the proud guests of the “world’s cutest baby dog,” Laila, a 6 lb. Maltipoo.
- In two years, he plans to hike the entire Appalachian Trail.
- Chuck's favorite cookie is the chocolate chip with pecans (with Texas pecans, of course!).
- He grew up in El Paso, Texas and lived three years in Athens, Greece, as a teenager (his father was career Army and was stationed there).



## FAITH AND POLITICS

The political atmosphere at this moment in history in the United States and around the world is a tumultuous one. What is the role of the church in a country where there is “separation of church and state”? What does the U.S. constitution actually say about freedom of religion and how does that impact our government today? How is the Declaration of Independence still an influential document?

This fall Dr. Ron Flowers, a tenured professor of religion at TCU, a well-published author (especially on church-state relations) and a long-time Sunday school teacher here at UCC, will lead a four-week discussion on “A Non-Partisan



Study of Church-State Relations in an Election Year.”

All are invited to participate in this opportunity on Oct. 2, 9 and 23 in Walker Hall at 10 a.m. We hope you’ll join us for this exciting opportunity!

## SPECIAL EMPHASIS SUNDAYS

**Oct. 2  
World  
Communion  
Sunday**

As a global community of faith, Christians in every culture break bread and pour the cup in affirmation of our oneness in Christ and our participation in the whole body of believers.

Children's Sabbath is an interfaith day devoted to speaking out for justice for children and families. Come celebrate our children in worship as active participants in the life of the church.

**Oct. 16  
Children's  
Sabbath**

**Nov. 6  
All Saints  
Sunday**

During this service we remember friends and family who have passed away during the last year. Candles are lighted in their memory and special music is presented by the Chancel Choir.

On this Sunday, UCC will celebrate its close ties to our neighbor, Texas Christian University. College students will serve as worship leaders this morning.

**Nov. 13  
Higher  
Education  
Sunday**

**Nov. 20  
Thanksgiving  
Sunday**

Thanksgiving Sunday gives us an opportunity to express our gratitude for God's many blessings. We collect a Thanksgiving offering and donation for those who live below the poverty level.

## HEALTH & WHOLENESS

As a Disciples of Christ congregation, we are proud to be part of a “movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.” However, we sometimes forget that our own personal wholeness is important too. Our bodies and minds are one of the greatest gifts God has given us; caring for our bodies is a practice of our faith, a way of being good stewards of God’s creation. In caring for ourselves, we are able to better care for others.

We are happy to announce that UCC was recently recognized as a *Blue Zones Project Fort Worth Participating Faith-Based Community* and we have a variety of opportunities to connect and exercise your mind, spirit and body:

**Faithfully Fit Forever**, a holistic wellness and exercise program geared for older adults, meets in Room 205 at 4 p.m. on Mondays and 11 a.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays. The program includes thirty to forty minutes of exercise, health education time and devotional time promoting spiritual and emotional health.

**Yoga**, led by UCC member, Julie Vitek, meets Mondays from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Room 205. The cost is \$5 per session. Please bring your own mat and blanket if possible. No experience is necessary; as Julie reminds the group each week, in order to do yoga you only need to breathe.

**Boot camp Style Workout** is available for free on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 5:30 a.m. until 6:25 a.m. Led by UCC's Scotty Jones, this small-but-dedicated group has been meeting for two years. Bring small hand weights, mat and water.

*“Beloved, I pray that...you may be in good health, just as it is well with your soul.” - 3 John 1:2*

## CAROLYN CRITZ

### Nicaragua Mission Pilgrimage

• Carolyn has been involved with UCC since 2005 and is connected to a variety of ministries—outreach opportunities, Caring for God’s Creation, UCC Youth and more. The mission pilgrimage opportunities have been a meaningful way for Carolyn to live the good news of Jesus Christ. On this year’s trip to Nicaragua, she and the team mourned the loss of a young man with whom they had connected through serving with our mission partner Project Chacocente. “They are a part of us and we are a part of them,” Carolyn expressed. She is grateful for the opportunity to “be with them in my mind and my heart,” despite distance and difference.

## JEANNE DUKE

**Board of Stewards** • On June 1, Jeanne began her first year as the Chair of the Board of Stewards. After years of involvement in the church she has fallen in love with the background work of the church that lets her watch the entire church grow. In thinking about how this position will let her live the good news of Jesus Christ, Jeanne commented that “the mundane things about church matter.” Leading the Board of Stewards will ensure that UCC has the resources for people to engage in ministry. “We make sure everyone can be the star in the ministry they want to be engaged in.”

## MEREDITH GARCIA

**Deacon** • Meredith is a lifetime member of University Christian Church representing generations of



involvement at UCC. She grew up with her grandparents—who were lifetime members themselves—teaching Meredith that “church was your home and your life.” When she thinks about her current and future involvement with UCC, she knows that she’s here for the duration. She will be serving her fifth and final year on the UCC Weekday School Advisory Board this year and also starting her first of three years as a Deacon, a servant-leadership position at the church. She is excited to both understand and nourish the relationship between the Weekday School and the church itself as well as seeing, as a deacon, what happens behind the scenes on Sunday mornings.

## NOVYN SEK

**Mission VBS** • Novyn is a fifth grader who had the chance to spend four days in June “catching the amazing wave of God’s love” with twenty other elementary school youth for our annual Mission VBS which provides an opportunity for the youth to tour different nonprofit and service agencies across Fort Worth. Novyn enjoyed the fun way to connect with his peers and the fresh experiences provided by Mission VBS—the new experiences

## WITH OPEN MINDS AND LOVING HEARTS

At University Christian Church, through our myriad of activities and ministries, we aim to “live the good news of Jesus Christ with open minds and loving hearts.” We asked a handful of people involved in the congregation a simple question: “How is one ministry with which you’re involved enabling you to live the good news of Jesus Christ?” Read on to see into the life of UCC through their reflections.

allowed him to see how God’s love can be lived out in different ways. The Water Treatment Plant was especially meaningful as it showed him how to be a more responsible steward of something as common and taken for granted as water.

## MATT SMID

**Deacon** • Matt has been at UCC for about a decade now, after meeting his wife Elizabeth and dove into activity at the church in 2014 after their son was born “against all odds” following a





# LIVING THE GOOD NEWS

difficult pregnancy. He jumped on the rotation to read Scripture in worship—an activity for which he was excited as an attorney who loves being behind the mic—and has this year begun a three year rotation as a Deacon. He looks forward to living the good news through the servant-leadership position, especially in the activities like greeting and ushering. “To treat others as they want to be treated—with kindness and a welcome, even for just a couple seconds—feels like doing what Jesus wants me to do.”

## CHARLIE TOWLE

**CYF Mission Trip** • Charlie is a rising junior at Paschal High School who grew up here at UCC. In July he had the opportunity to spend eight days in Southern California alongside nineteen other high schoolers for the CYF mission trip, serving both at the beautiful Loch Leven Christian Camp & Conference Center in San Bernardino and at All Peoples’ Community Center near downtown LA. Charlie looked forward to the opportunity

to connect with the community he finds in the youth group and felt that serving at Loch Leven offered a chance to connect with God through nature. Furthermore, at All Peoples’, Charlie enjoyed serving through Christ an organization that supports people who do not come from the same background and who do not share the same beliefs.

## SCOTT WHEATLEY

### Chair of the Personnel Committee

• Scott initially joined UCC as a student member when he was a TCU student and found his way back to Fort Worth and to UCC in 2008. Throughout the years he has had the opportunity to sit on both a senior minister search committee and the Board of Stewards and he “thought he had done all of his penance” before he accepted the position as chair of the Personnel Committee. He looks forward to bringing a sense of vision to this position and to help others “think strategically about who we are and where we’re going. We are authentic. We are real. We do church in a way that speaks to people where they are... when we think about the future, I think the possibilities are endless when we have [such] a community.”

## BE PART OF OUR BHYLEF

What is BHYLEF? For the last forty years at UCC it has been the fabulous Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival. This festival, held the weekend closest to Epiphany, is an English style musical and theatrical depiction of Christ's birth and the visit of the Three Magi.

All UCC individuals and families are invited to be part of the 41st Boar's Head on January 7 and 8, 2017. Come to The Arches on Saturday, October 22, between 8 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to be measured and sign up for a costumed part. Another opportunity for sign-ups will be on Sunday, November 13 between 9:45 a.m. and 12:45 p.m.

Many behind-the-scenes jobs exist from props to makeup to

logistics. Contact Kyla Rosenberger, Director of Worship & Arts ([kyla@uccftw.com](mailto:kyla@uccftw.com)) to offer your much needed service to this church and the whole North Texas community.

Start or continue a family tradition with your children! They will be thrilled to be a Sprite or part of many other Companies who come to worship the newly born Christ Child. We hope to see you at sign-ups on October 22 or November 13!



## SILENT FILM CLASSIC

Join your church family and the TCU Film Series on Thursday, October 13, as we gather in the Sanctuary for the 1926 movie *The General* starring Buster Keaton. Although this iconic film may be ninety years old, NPR critic Bob Mandello has said it is his favorite film and critic Roger Ebert put it on his Top 10 list.

*The General* will hardly be silent! TCU graduate and organist extraordinaire, Tom Helms, will be back to accompany Buster Keaton's acting and daredevil stunts in this story about Union and Confederate trains based on the Great Locomotive Chase in 1862. Popcorn and ice cream will be served at 6:30 p.m and the movie begins at 7 p.m. Admission and snacks are free!

## CHOIR SINGING AT MEYERSON

The UCC Chancel Choir will sing on the stage of Meyerson Symphony Hall in Dallas (pictured below) for the first time in its history on November 6 at 7 p.m. Ranked as one of the world's greatest orchestra halls, it is also home of the famous Lay Family Concert Organ.

The choir will join two dozen churches from across the metroplex in a Festival of Church Music sponsored by the Church Music Institute. The massed choir will sing a variety of hymns and spiritual songs, including works by British composer and singer Bob Chilcott, formerly of the King's Singers and this year's conductor. Tickets will be available online at: [www.churchmusicinstitute.org](http://www.churchmusicinstitute.org).







## TRUNK OR TREAT 2016

For the past six years, we have hosted our Annual Trunk or Treat as a safe and fun way for the children of our church and of our surrounding community to celebrate Halloween. We are excited to host our Seventh Annual Trunk or Treat celebration

this year on October 23 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to trick or treat—trunk to trunk—safely in our parking lot. The carnival-style event will include food, candy, games for kids of all ages and time to meet old and new friends alike. There are a variety of ways to help make sure Trunk or Treat is a fantastic night: from donating candy (donation boxes will be placed in various areas throughout the church), decorating your trunk or SUV, inviting friends and neighbors to join and helping with refreshments and activities the night-of. Last year we served over 650 hotdogs and this year we plan on welcoming even more families to our church. Do not miss this opportunity to fellowship together and to show our community the love and fun of University Christian Church!

Parents  
Night Out  
Sept. 16 &  
Dec. 2

Carboard  
Arcade  
Oct. 16

Welcome  
to Worship  
1<sup>st</sup> Graders  
Aug. 21

First Grade  
Inclusion  
Sept. 25

Children's  
Sabbath  
Oct. 16



*See the dates to the left of this article for more events at UCC that celebrate children.*

## WOMEN WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

UCC is blessed with countless incredible women, like Dr. Margaret Puckett, who make a difference in our church, the Fort Worth community and beyond. For the last several years, UCC's Women's Ministries has hosted a fall luncheon in celebration of some of these faithful women and on Sunday, September 18, we are excited to hear from Dr. Margaret Puckett.

Margaret's fifty year career

in Early Childhood Education and advocacy for high-quality pre-school has included teaching at universities, authoring three major textbooks, working on the local, state and national levels for policy change, as well as offering programs here at UCC about the spiritual development of children. Margaret has faithfully participated in leadership in the education ministries of University Christian Church.

She was instrumental in helping the UCC Weekday School become the first faith based pre-school to be licensed by Texas and the first faith-based preschool in Texas to obtain National Accreditation. She co-authored a book about the history of UCC's Weekday School at its 40th anniversary. Make your \$12 lunch reservations and childcare reservations online by September 15.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE

Foundational to Christian thinking is the conviction that God loves each and every one of us with gracious, unconditional love. This unmerited love calls for a response embracing heart, mind, soul, will and body. Our response to divine love includes the appropriate use of material resources, including money. When we respond fully

to God's life-giving intentions, we respond with all that we are, all that we do and all that we have. Beginning September 11, we will introduce our Fall Stewardship Campaign as an opportunity to give generously and gratefully respond to God's love in our lives. Through sermons, Bible study,

personal testimonies and stories about the prudent and faithful use of our finances for ministry and mission at UCC, we will each be challenged to consider our commitment to UCC and Christ's church. Watch for more to come as we explore the theme: "Go and Do the Same" (Luke 10:37).

# FIND YOUR FIT AT UCC



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY AND GROWTH

Aside from our weekly Sunday worship services, UCC offers a variety of ways to find community and pursue spiritual growth.

- Each Sunday morning at 10 a.m., we have over 25 **Sunday school** classes that meet across the church that offer a place for anyone regardless of their stage in life. Check out [universitychristian.org/](http://universitychristian.org/)

[resources/adult-sunday-school](http://universitychristian.org/resources/adult-sunday-school) for more information.

- The **Newcomer's Class** is a three-week class for anyone interested in discovering more about UCC. Offered several times per year, the next one begins September 11.

- **UCC Youth** provides a variety of programming on Sunday mornings, Sunday nights and special events throughout the year for youth from grades 6 through 12. Visit [uccyouth.org](http://uccyouth.org) for more information.

- The **UCC Women's Ministries** brings together women of all ages

for fellowship and enrichment through a variety of ways, like Latte with the Ladies (the second Saturday of each month at a local coffee shop) and the WILD Women Book Club (which is offered monthly for both an evening and a lunchtime gathering). Check out [universitychristian.org/ministries/adult/women/](http://universitychristian.org/ministries/adult/women/) for more information.

- The **UCC Men's Ministries** creates opportunities for men to grow spiritually alongside one another through a variety of ways, including film and book discussions



## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Throughout this special edition of the Journal we have already mentioned some of the many ways to serve here at UCC and we ask

## CHURCH IS NOT ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL.

"We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us." (Romans 12:6)

We each have our own callings and gifts given to us by God and here at University Christian Church we offer opportunities for all people to be engaged with church life in a way that is meaningful to them and fits their own faith journey. Here are some of the many opportunities to find your fit at UCC.

that you partner with us in prayer so that God's love might be known and shared. Below are a few more service opportunities we offer:

- **Prom Dreams** accepts donation of new and gently-used dresses, shoes, purses and jewelry for local high school students. Contact [jessica@uccftw.com](mailto:jessica@uccftw.com) for more information.
- We welcome new volunteers to be **Scripture readers** each week in our weekly morning worship services. Contact [marsha@uccftw.com](mailto:marsha@uccftw.com) if you are interested.



- **The Chancel Guild** prepares the communion elements for worship each week. Contact [roxanne.penix@sbcglobal.net](mailto:roxanne.penix@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

- In late October we will begin collecting money and groceries for **Thanksgiving baskets** that provide a full Thanksgiving meal for people in our community.

- **Children Ministries** is always looking for more volunteers for Journey Land on Sunday mornings and for other events. Contact [kera@uccftw.com](mailto:kera@uccftw.com) to get involved.

- On the second Thursday of each month at 10 a.m., a group of congregants faithfully meets to write notes to others in the church to send a welcome to new members, to celebrate a time of joy or express thoughts and prayers during a time of sorrow. Contact [mgroom@uccftw.com](mailto:mgroom@uccftw.com) for more information.

- **Kids Hope** provides the opportunity to be a supporting mentor to a student at Rosemont Elementary. Contact [cyndy@uccftw.com](mailto:cyndy@uccftw.com) for more information.

throughout the year, Monday Night Fellowship (MNF) which meets throughout October and November, Men's 3rd Thursday Lunch each month at Café Bella on South Hills Avenue at noon and more. Check out [universitychristian.org/ministries/adult/men/](http://universitychristian.org/ministries/adult/men/) for more information.

- **Friday Fellowship** gathers once a month at 11 a.m. for a program and free meal. The next event is September 16. Contact [barbara.rektorik@uccftw.com](mailto:barbara.rektorik@uccftw.com) for more information and to RSVP.

- **Prayer Shawl Ministry** provides

hand-knit shawls to people in time of celebration, change or loss. They meet at 5 p.m. on Sundays and 11 a.m. on Wednesdays.

- **Unwind Your Mind Mediation Workshop**, led by Claire Villarreal, Ph.D., of Dawn Mountain Community and a long-time friend of UCC, will be hosted on Sunday afternoon, September 11, from 2 to 4:30 p.m. in Room 206. Registration is available on line at [universitychristian.org](http://universitychristian.org).

- **The UCC Labyrinth** offers a meditative process that reaches

deeply into the walker's search for a deeper spiritual connection with the heart of God. Docent-led walks are offered throughout the year; stay tuned to [universitychristian.org](http://universitychristian.org) for upcoming walks.

- **The UCC Church & Arts Ministry** sponsors a fine arts event—docents will guide tours of the Kimbell Museum exhibit *Monet: The Early Years* on Friday, October 28, at 5 p.m. Free admission. Make reservations for the tour and/or restaurant meal with discussion by contacting [marsha@uccftw.com](mailto:marsha@uccftw.com).



## UCC JOURNAL

University Christian Church  
2720 S. University Dr.  
Fort Worth, TX 76109-1197  
817.926.6631

Periodicals Postage Paid

Tyler Heston, *Editor* · Michelle Groom, *Circulation*

The *UCC Journal* (USPS 019-016) is published monthly for \$15 per year by University Christian Church, 2720 South University Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76109-1197. Periodicals Postage Paid at Fort Worth, TX and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to *UCC Journal*, 2720 S. University Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76109. The \$15 annual subscription to the *UCC Journal* is paid by regular support through tithes and offerings. Visit us on the web at [universitychristian.org](http://universitychristian.org) for more information.