



wayfinding

On Kudzu & Summer Reflections



Photo by [Justin Wilkens](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Livestream & In Person at 10:00am

What if something in life started out seeming like a gift, and then became overwhelming? Let's explore some summertime theology and spirituality together.

Speaker: Rev. Bob Renjilian



This month's Charitable Giving is [El Centro](#). El Centro Comunitario Hispano-Americano of Transylvania County (CCHA) is a Latino-led non-profit organization that serves the Hispanic community. Their purpose is to create a bridge between Spanish and English speaking people in a community in which justice and equality are highly valued.

El Centro provides English Language Acquisition and Literacy services for children and adults, and works to get children engaged in outdoor programming throughout WNC. Please give generously!

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"We can easily manage if we will only take, each day, the burden appointed to it. But the load will be too heavy for us if we carry yesterday's burden over again today, and then add the burden of the morrow before we are required to bear it."

John Newton

July

Excerpts from the Minutes:

Present: Glenn Cockerham, Ian Cowie, Michael Griffith, Vicki Held, Quim Moya, Kay Webb, Alice Wellborn, Rev. Bob Renjilian, and RK Young.



Minister's Report – Rev. Bob reported his online attendance to the UUA General Assembly as our ministerial delegate. He reported majority positive feedback on the new 10am single Sunday service. He led a Vespers Service at College Walk on July 24th, and attended the Hendersonville “Pride Ride” on June 30th.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer-Elect Michael Griffith reported that, as expected, revenues fell short for the fiscal year, but with expenses kept below budget and a with a special stock contribution, we end the year with a net positive.

Operations Report — RK reported that Amy Lander has been hired away starting Sept. 1st, and Trisha is being trained to pick up the communications duties. Trisha will continue to assist Kevin with CRE. Sue Gervais is continuing her work for us from Michigan. RK asked the Board to formally establish policies of oversight of the APPTC fund. She closed by reminding the Board of their accomplishments this year.

Old Business: Sponsored Projects RK shared a brief history of sponsored projects that were proposed and funded from 2016 -2019. The Board agreed that reestablishing Sponsored Projects would be beneficial during FY22-23. Gathered information from the Teams will be provided to Board members for consideration when the Board is ready to prioritize and recommend projects to Members and Friends.

New Business: End of Year Surplus – Treasurer-Elect Michael Griffith reported that the Finance Committee and the Treasurer would meet in August to make recommendations to the Board for where to place any surplus FY21-22 funds. The Board will then vote on final distribution of those funds.

Safety Discussion – Ian Cowie shared concerns about the physical safety of individuals while at the UUTC building in the light of the current political and cultural climate. During a discussion of possible safety issues, the Board was reminded that a Safety Task Force in the recent past had recommended the installation of surveillance cameras. Michael Griffith volunteered to seek information from his previous church that had developed a checklist and procedures to address safety issues. The Board may consider reestablishing a Safety Task Force to recommend possible policy and procedures.

Annual Compliance Statements —Copies of the Safe Congregation Plan and the Conflict of Interest policy were emailed to Board Members, Rev. Bob & RK prior to the meeting. Signatures were collected at the Board Retreat on July 29th.

For the full Minutes, the Treasurer's Report and the Minister's full report, please visit the [Board's Page](#) and select the reports you wish to view.



Time Loops and Life Values

Rev. Bob Renjilian

I'm a fan of various types of science fiction. Among the stories I like are those with time loops. That's when someone in the story re-lives the day's events. Sometimes this is on purpose, by choice (the movie "About Time") and the main character learns how to do it well. Sometimes a person just gets stuck ("Groundhog Day") and fumbles through repeats until getting a better grip on life.

What I like about these stories is it plays into some of what goes on in my own brain. "What if that had gone differently?" I might ask myself after a disappointing event in life. Maybe I wouldn't have made a particularly embarrassing mistake, or perhaps I would have had just the right parental advice to give at a key moment instead of thinking of it hours later and then waiting for the perfect time to revisit the conversation.

As school reunions come and go, I've thought about how I might have achieved better grades, or been more confident in dating. Maybe I would have been brave enough to go to the casting call for extras in the movie being filmed in town, rather than declining when my friend said he wasn't going to go - I could have been more confident in life. In the end, I figure the bragging rights wouldn't be worth giving up the life lessons I'd learned along the way.

(But next time, if there ever is one, I'm definitely going to be in a movie as an extra, even if no one else I know wants to go!).

Sometimes our looking back relates to some kind of profit. Do I wish I'd bought stock in Apple (or fill in your own company) at its low point when the kids were little, and used it to put them through college? What about never playing with my birthday toys, and selling them on EBay now, in pristine condition? Yet I realize my family is fine financially, and I'm more interested in remembering the joy my relatives had when they saw me make their gift one of my favorite playthings.

The only times I'd still want to go back and re-do a day would be if that helped another person. Maybe the day I let someone down by forgetting to show up (literally or figuratively). Or the times I'd not realized my last visit with someone was really the final time I'd see them. That part still tempts me. I guess I'm more motivated by relational rewards than other types of gains. I don't know how to go back in time, so I just have to ask people "what can I do to set things right going forward?" If I'm lucky, the other person and I try something of a fresh start. I admit there is more of this needed in my life than I'm ever fully aware of - so please do let me know if I've missed a moment in ministering with you, for example. I'm getting more practice with apologizing as I age (which means you're not the only one)!

I like the movies and stories, but in the end I don't think I'd change my life much, after all. Just the way I relate to others. What about you?

Could Our Investments Pay Human Dividends?

David and Julie Berger have always loved learning new things and embracing challenges. When the pandemic started, they didn't know if their art gallery business in Cashiers, NC would survive.

Julie's education and experience had taught her to always have a contingency plan. When her parents died, she paid off most of her and David's debts and wanted to invest the balance of her inheritance in something that would both supplement their Social Security income **and** help others in need.

The Bergers had rented out their previous Florida home while waiting for the housing market to improve. The rental income was very helpful at the time when their gallery was in its first 3 years of business. Julie started to gather information about investing in rental property last year. What she learned has changed their financial security and improved the quality of life of **6 families**.

This is what she discovered:

- *The recent cost of housing has increased to the point that most lower income families can no longer afford to buy a home.*
- *Escalating rental rates make it next to impossible for lower income families to find a decent place to live. (The desire of property owners to gain a high ROI plays into this.)*
- *There is a long waiting list for affordable rentals and Section 8 housing.*
- *Renovated older homes are still available for under \$70K in multiple cities in the US.*

Julie researched cities with low property taxes and an inventory of older homes that could be ready to rent with less than \$5K in repairs. She bought 2 homes in NC (Forest City and Fayetteville), 3 homes in AL (Birmingham and Montgomery) and 1 in Ohio, in Cleveland. All homes were purchased for less than \$65K. All were recently renovated with minimal repairs need (mostly flooring).

The Bergers hired property managers who take care of screening tenants, repairs and inspections. All houses rent for \$650-\$950 a month. Four of the homes qualify for Section 8—if needed, HUD pays the majority of the rent for the qualifying tenant.

Currently, the Bergers rent to 3 young families where one of the parents is trying to pursue a college education, 2 single moms trying to give their child a better life by getting sober and leaving unhealthy relationships, and a gay couple who serve on active duty in the Army but are not allowed to show any public affection on post (at work on military base).

What started out as a retirement goal has turned into a small housing ministry for individuals who need a decent place to live while they work to improve the quality of life for themselves and their families. Julie has had a long career as a therapist, so helping others is what she has done with alcoholics and drug addicts for over 35 years. Becoming a real estate investor never occurred to her, but life has a way of opening unexpected doors that can be meaningful and joyful if you are willing to take a risk!

The Bergers couldn't be happier and are thrilled to make a difference in their tenants lives the way so many caring family and friends were helpful to them when they were first getting sober and pursuing their own dreams. *[Ed. Note: this article was contributed at RK's request.]*

Honoring With a Gift

RK Young

On Saturday, August 13th, we will remember our lovely David Warinner— a former member of the choir, a thinker on our Mission, a leader on our Diversity Team, and many other roles. I loved hearing his baritone voice rumble from the back row.

One of the ways we can honor those we lose is to make a contribution in their name. When this is done, the donor will receive a written acknowledgment of their gift, and a note goes to the surviving family to let them know a gift was made. The family will not know the size of your gift, just that you gave it, and if you designate a fund for the gift, the family will be informed of that, also.

Memorial gifts have a few pre-designated funds that a donor can choose. The first is the Memorial Fund. This fund enables the purchase of new “Trees of Life” and leaves for those trees. The second fund is the Capital Fund. This fund is used for capital expenses (sponsored projects and larger ticket items, generally over \$5000, that can’t be funded out of the operating budget). The third fund is the Endowment Fund, which contributes a portion of its value each year to assist in social justice projects in our local community. And finally, there is Fund 1 — the Operating Fund — which fuels our work each year.

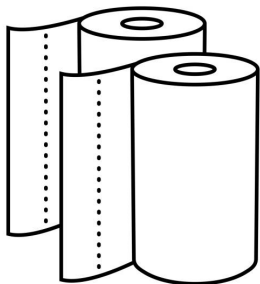
If you knew David, consider letting Christine know what he meant to you through a gift to UUTC. (Christine has suggested gifts to UUTC or to Brevard Music Center, both of which were cherished by David.) If you choose to give to UUTC, write a check and add “David W + the fund name” in the memo line and we will take care of the rest. Online giving, unfortunately, doesn’t provide enough details for us to fulfill our role to the family. Thank You.



Can You Pitch In?

Kathy Reiff, Social Action Team

The Social Action Team at UUTC is in the process of re-connecting with The Haven. We hope to re-start activities that we had all enjoyed before the pandemic caused a shut-down for all of us. We are excited to connect once again with the residents and staff at this wonderful resource in our community. We are discussing the possibility of holding a BBQ picnic with the residents in September as well as opportunities for volunteering. After talking with Emily, it was discovered that their big need at the moment is for paper towels—something so basic and so simple for us to be able to fulfill for them.



There will be a sign-up sheet in the front hall of UUTC for people to sign up to provide paper towels. Their needs right now are running to about **40 rolls/month**. The sign up sheet will be in monthly divisions and will have a place to indicate how many rolls you are able to donate.

I found a large package at Food Lion that had 15 rolls which made it pretty easy to meet their needs! We thank you in advance for your generosity and kindness.

Upcoming Events — Don't Miss Out!

Author Series— **Tuesday, August 9th**, despite Chalice Camp, the Author Series continues with our charming **Don O'Dell** being interviewed by our equally compelling Jim Hardy. This event begins at 7:00pm and lasts about an hour. No registration is required. Join [HERE](#) if you need to tune in from home.

Special Fire Ring Concert — **Friday, August 12th at 6:00pm!** Sunday the 14th's speaker, John Gage, will lead the singing. Carol Flake and Dan Klem will help lead the festivities! There is no charge for the concert, but a love offering will be collected on behalf of the artist.



Skip Church and Tube the Davidson River! On **August 14th at 10am**, meet up with UUTC families AND families from UUFH (UU Fellowship of Hendersonville) for some great summer fun! Meet at Dolly's Ice Cream tubing place to rent tubes (or bring your own). We will then carpool from Sycamore Flats to the Davidson River Campground parking area to get into the river. After tubing, there will be a picnic at Sycamore Flats. All ages are welcome!

Get Registered! for the return of our [Annual Picnic](#) — held again this year at Atagahi Park in Connestee, on **August 21st**. Registration gives us the list we need to give to Connestee so you can be admitted at the gate. This is a potluck event — bring what makes you happy! We encourage everyone to bring their own plates, flatware, and drinking vessels to avoid consumption of paper products.

Get Registered for [Wonderful Wednesday's Dinner](#) on **August 24th**. Dinner is limited to 60 people. **The program, at 6:30pm, does not require registration.** The program is being given by Dr. David Chastain. *“When the Frying Pan Hits the Fire: The Intersection of Addiction and Grief”* describes the interactions between grief and addiction. Complicating factors that influence how people get trapped in addiction or stall in their grief are presented.

Dr. Chastain uses his personal and professional experiences to provide illustrations of each process. He has worked as an educator, counselor, lecturer, and professor for over 35 years, having held leadership positions in many substance use disorder treatment settings for both adolescents and adults. He served as a core faculty member for the Hazelden Betty Ford Graduate School of Addiction Studies for six years, adjunct instructor for six years at Madison College, and seven years at Upper Iowa University, Madison Center.



For the Fall 2022 semester at Brevard College, Dr. Chastain will be teaching Introduction to Psychology, Abnormal Psychology and the course he developed on Grief, Loss, and Death.

Dr. Chastain holds a PhD in Counseling, and a MA in Addiction Studies. He holds the Clinical Substance Abuse Counselor credential from the state of Wisconsin. He has given numerous conference presentations on the Pathways of Recovery as well multiple presentations on Grief.

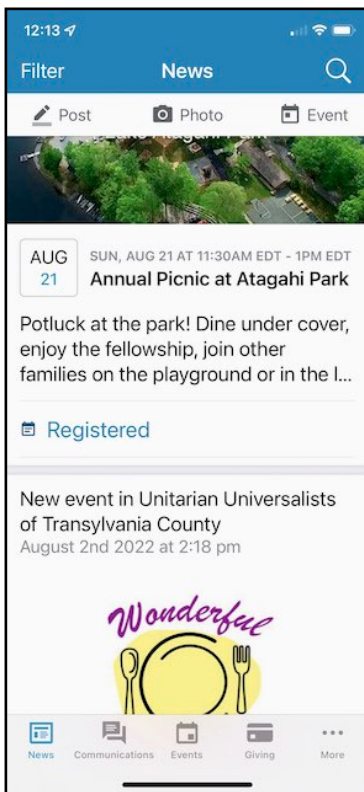
Join us at UUTC's Retreat at the Mountain, September 9 – 11! Sixteen members of UUTC have already registered, including Glenn Cockerham, Roberta Carver, Kay Webb and RK. Your weekend will be filled with fellowship, learning, worship, singing, good food and time for the surrounding beauty. Arrival for the weekend is Friday afternoon with departure after lunch on Sunday.

The retreat cost is \$210 for adults (double) or \$310 single. For youth aged 12-17 lodging with family, the cost is \$110, and youth 4-11 are \$80. You can [make a reservation online](#) or by calling **828-526-5838**, We recommend carpooling to help preserve the eco-system of the area.

How Do I Keep Up With All These Events?!?

RK Young

Lots goes on at UUTC. Especially now— there are more classes and activities than at any time in my tenure as your administrator. This is Good! The **First** place you can go to keep up with it all (and see if you're missing anything!) is our online website calendar, which you can find at uutc.org/calendar. (You can also find it on the home page if you scroll to the bottom.) The **SECOND** place you can keep up with



things is in the **Realm Connect** app on your mobile device. If you have not already downloaded this app from App Store (Apple) or Google Play (Android), then do that, and either Eloise or I will help you get logged in and connected. The Connect app is the easiest way to register for events and keep track of what's coming up! You can also use the app to look up phone numbers of your friends, and even get directions to their house (depending on their privacy settings).

I enjoy the Connect app — I'm in it nearly every day —but I know it works well for others when a registration event (like Wonderful Wednesday) goes live, and folks have registered within moments of my hitting "save." It's terrific! Registration through the app enables people to get registered without coming in to the office, and for events like WW with limited space, time is opportunity. A quarter of the available seats are already filled for this dinner!

If you are loathe to load apps on a cell phone, or if you just don't trust the things, the **THIRD** place you can keep up is still Realm — but by accessing it through a regular computer. If you have a Realm login, go to onrealm.org

and it will take you to the UUTC domain within Realm. All the same features are available there in terms of events and Groups. If you don't have a Realm login, then [send me an email](#), and let's get you properly connected. This is your community. Let's keep you in the loop!

Being the Light

Alice Wellborn

Your Board of Trustees spent a lovely morning together about a week ago, sitting on the porch of the Mockridge's cabin in Sapphire, enjoying the beauty and peace that trees and mountains and good fellowship bring to us. We talked about leadership, roles and responsibilities, goals, and our vision for the future. Some of you might not be aware that this congregation has a Vision Statement 2020-2025 that challenges all of us to look ahead, get involved, and place the mission of our church at the center of all our activities:



Our Mission is to support individual spiritual journeys and to promote social, economic and environmental justice.

Everywhere I look, I see UUTC members working hard to make our world a better place – to be the light penetrating the darkness.

But I've also found that there is a cost to that. There is so much ugliness, hatred, and fear in the world right now that it's hard to keep it from curdling our souls and darkening our world views. I don't know about you, but I struggle with maintaining patience, tolerance, and love for my neighbors. When we have to fight for our values, it's hard to discover that many others don't share our assumptions about what is right and true.

If there was ever a time for spirituality and justice, this is it!

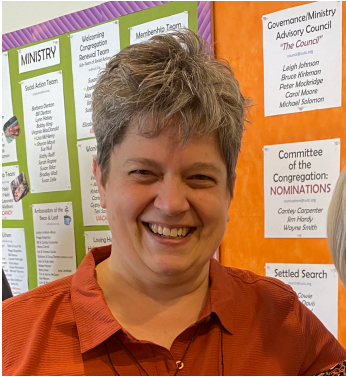
Thank you to my family, my church, my friends, and my dog for walking beside me through the darkness during the past couple of years. What would I do without all of you to remind me that the world is rich with kindness and generosity, if we just reach out a hand?

We are each other's people.

“ Bonnie Arbuckle was weeding and dead heading the Hellstrip on Tuesday morning. As she was finishing up for the morning, a young woman walked by and said:

Thank you for the beautiful flowers. I walk by this spot each day.

The Power of Diversity



I'm not talking about the "diversity" that comes to mind these days. That diversity is also important, but today I want to point out the strength in a diversity of gifts.

We have members who have been very limited in their physical presence in the last two years, because they need to make the right decisions for their own health and safety. Despite this, they have continued to be regular givers, helping to keep UUTC afloat. Yes, I know who you are, and thank you.

We also have people who have managed to continue on with their volunteer roles at UUTC — rarely missing when their talents are called for. I am personally very, very grateful for these folks — Yes, I know who you are, and thank you.

Lots of us have different gifts, and the willingness to share those gifts in community are enriching. Not just for the *rest* of the community, but also for the giver of the gifts. I love singing in the choir. Being enveloped in the sound (particularly from that lovely bass section behind me) is a feeling I will sorely miss when I eventually have to give it up. I also love being able to contribute to our charitable giving fund each month—it's a reminder that I'm no longer a starving college student.

I've also been the recipient of others' gifts — during the recent bout with Covid, Kay and I had many, many offers (accepted offers!) to pick up groceries or anything else we might need to get us through the quarantine period. And adorable, lovely cards. And emails. I happen to be lousy at making time to do that type of giving, so I truly know how valuable those gifts are!

Then there are those who greet us on Sunday mornings — Smiles! Hugs! A welcome that is authentic and warm... how barren would that entry be without these folks? And all those who contribute flowers? And those that cook for Wonderful Wednesdays? And those handling governance? And those who plan all the programming on the calendar? And those in the booth who make that programming available to those who have to stay home?

There's a reason that UUTC is still strong, despite a pandemic. It's you. Staff is great. And we have some fine people serving as staff at UUTC. But staff does not a community make. We have had tremendous leadership from our Board of Trustees over the past two years. And a Board doesn't make a community, either. What makes a spiritual community is the commitment of its members. Commitment to be present, to give, to lend their talents, to lead in one area and receive in another. The give and take of the gifts we give each other each week.

If you haven't yet dipped your toes back into service on a Team, or in a volunteer group— give me a call. Let's talk about your interests, about what you need to feel involved and valued and needed. Because you are needed. You are valued. And I would love to see you get your hands dirty in participation with this community, where we support liberal religious values. I hope to see you Sunday!

August

2022

At UUTC



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
EL CENTRO is this month's Social Justice Giving	See Wayfinding newsletter for event details! Also check your UUupdates!		Registration required for 5:30 dinner part of Wonderful Wednesday-- 6:30 Program open for ALL!		Nursery care available for Sunday service	
July 31	1	2	3	4	5	6
10:00 livestreamed 10:00 in-person service	5:30 pm Week of Peace Meditation & Discussion	9 am Men's Grp Zoom 10-12 Grow Getters 11:30-1:30 Fellowship on the Green 4-5 Quiet Meditation 4pm NAACP Education	1:30- Women of UUTC 4:00 Choir Rehearsal	2:30 A Course in Miracles 3:00 French Conversation	Wayfinding Newsletter 5:00 Emotional Centering	
7	CHALICE CAMP 8	CHALICE CAMP 9	CHALICE CAMP 10	CHALICE CAMP 11	CHALICE CAMP 12	13
10:00 livestreamed 10:00 in-person service		9 am Men's Grp Zoom 7 pm Author Series Rev. Don O'Dell	4:00 Choir Rehearsal	5:30 Rainbow Alliance	Check email for UUPDATE 5:00 Emotional Centering 6 pm Fire Ring Music w/John Gage	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
CHOIR SINGS! 10:00 livestreamed 10:00 in-person service 2 pm On Being (attendance limited) UUFH Tubing on Davidson River	5:30 pm Week of Peace Meditation & Discussion	9 am Men's Grp Zoom 10-12 Grow Getters 11:30-1:30 Fellowship on the Green 4-5 Quiet Meditation	1:30- Women of UUTC 4:00 Choir Rehearsal	2:00 LHHH 2:30 A Course in Miracles 3:00 French Conversation	Check email for UUPDATE 5:00 Emotional Centering	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
CHOIR SINGS! 10:00 livestreamed 10:00 in-person service UUTC FAMILY PICNIC	10 am Caregivers Support Group 5:30 pm Week of Peace Meditation & Discussion	9 am Men's Grp Zoom 10-12 Grow Getters 11:30-1:30 Fellowship on the Green 4-5 Quiet Meditation	1:15 Dream Grp Wonderful Wednesday! 5:30 Dinner 6:30 Program	2:30 A Course in Miracles 3 pm French Conversation 5:30 pm Board Meeting	Check email for UUPDATE 5:00 Emotional Centering	CIRCLE DINNER
28	29	30	31	September 1	September 2	September 3
10:00 livestreamed 10:00 in-person service	5:30 pm Week of Peace Meditation & Discussion	9 am Men's Grp Zoom 10-12 Grow Getters 11:30-1:30 Fellowship on the Green 4-5 Quiet Meditation	5:30 Team Meeting Night	2:30 A Course in Miracles 3 pm French Conversation	Wayfinding Newsletter 5:00 Emotional Centering	