

## Spartanburg Unitarian Church plans Coming Out Day celebration

*UUCS offers a weekend of fun with 'Take the next Step'*

by David R. Gillespie

SPARTANBURG, S.C. — In many Unitarian Universalist churches there is a group called Interweave. Such is the case at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Spartanburg, S.C., located at 251 E. Henry Street in downtown.

The group, which provides a social and nurturing environment for LGBT members, also has a larger mission to the local church and the community in which they reside.

The group's mission statement requires them to be a resource for the local congregation when it comes to setting policies and procedures that incorporate attitudes of support and understanding of all LGBT persons.

To that end, they sponsor education social justice programs and engage in outreach efforts. One such effort is their celebration of National Coming Out Day (NCOD).

Interweave has celebrated NCOD in the past. In fact, this year will mark their fourth celebration. But there's something different about it this year.

Spartanburg's Interweave group will be reaching out to both their church and the com-

munity this year during what has become for them a National Coming Out Day Weekend, calling on their straight allies to come out, too.

In the past, the event has been by and for LGBT folks. This year, however, the group is inviting straight allies to come out, to make public their acceptance and support of their LGBT friends. The theme of this year's observance and celebration is "Take The Next Step."

On Friday, Oct. 6, at 7 p.m. at the church, the group will sponsor a showing of two movies as part of "Take The Next Step: Towards Acceptance."

Adults will view the charming and moving story of Christian and Aaron in "Latter Days." Young people will view the comedy, "Bend It Like Beckham."

On Saturday, Oct. 7, Interweave will sponsor a Coffee House and Dance at the church.

Then, on Sunday, Oct. 8, it's "Take The Next Step: Towards Understanding," in which the morning worship service, held at 11:15 a.m., will contain a special segment dedicated to NCOD.

All of the events are free. Nonalcoholic beverages and light bites will be served on Saturday night and childcare will be provided. ▀

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#### For further information, contact:

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