

**Davises**

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hibits same-sex couples from enjoying Y family membership plans.

"I believe he has pushed and challenged (his) congregation to be very engaged and active in this community. He's been at the front lines with CHANGE and the Institute for Dismantling Racism," commented Rev. Kelly Carpenter, pastor of Green Street Church and a longtime friend of the couple. "I've really valued him as an ally and also as a mentor; he's really taught me a lot."

Even at first glance, it is apparent that the Davises are not a typical first couple. He's Caucasian with shoulder-length wavy hair; she's African American with dreadlocks that are even longer than her husband's mane spiraling down her back. Gail Davis is also what she describes as a "happy, out atheist."

"They're just a little bit out of the ordinary," commented Dr. Carole Stuart, a local physician and a longtime UUF member.

Stuart was among the many congregants and well wishers who gathered at the church on Robinhood Road last Friday for a CD release party hosted by the first couple.

The CD, titled "I Luv 4 All," contains 19 original tracks the couple penned during their tenure in Winston-Salem. Rev. Davis plays both his guitar and his Appalachian dulcimer, a stringed folk instrument, on the CD and provides back up vocals, while his wife takes the lead with her powerful pipes, which were honed in the Baptist church. Many of the songs are centered around the principles that govern the UU faith.

"One love for all really is the heart of Unitarian Universalism," Rev. Davis explained. "Whatever people think God is, people generally agree that the ultimate thing is to love, and whenever we're acting out of love rather than fear, we're probably on the right track."



*The Davises, with son, Ben, chat with Rep. Larry Womble at an East Winston peace rally last summer.*



*Brenda Humphrey with her husband, Bob Stern.*

Proceeds from the CDs, which sold for \$15 each, went to the church, and the couple inscribed each one with their autographs and personalized salutations. Rev. Davis hopes to someday distribute them nationally to UUF congregations.

"This will be a hard act to follow," Brenda Humphrey said of whomever is selected to replace the Davises.

"They sing, they bring it all, a whole wealth of experiences," said Humphrey, who attends both UUF and First Baptist Church on Highland Avenue.

Like the Davises, Humphrey has an interracial marriage. Her husband, Bob Stern, is Jewish. Humphrey says having the Davises at the helm of the church has highlighted the UU ideals of openness and inclusivity.

"We've felt very welcome here as an interracial couple, which is really important," she said. "It's brought Unitarian Universalist principles up front and center to have an interracial first family."

Together, the Davises have breathed new life into the congregation, which

grew by 100 members during their tenure. Gail Davis, a native of Chicago, says they have worked to help all people focus on their commonalities rather than their differences.

"I think what we have done is to help to raise the profile of the church and to really let people know that we care about the same things, even though we don't view religion the same way," she stated. "A lot of times, people have differing views of religion, but we have common needs, and these are the things that we need to work on."

Rev. Davis, who hails from Roger City, Mich., says the congregation has outgrown him; the size of the congregation requires more administrative work of its minister than it once did, and Davis prefers to be down in the trenches with his flock. But he says he has greatly enjoyed his time in Winston-Salem.

"I've met so many caring people here, people who are really committed to the cause of peace and human rights," he declared. "It's just a remarkable community."

**News Clips**

**Motorcycle/poker event to raise money for women fighting cancer**

The Bessie's Bon Bon Poker Run will be held on Saturday, Aug. 7 to benefit a local woman with stage 4 colon cancer. Motorcycle enthusiasts will enjoy a two-hour ride, beginning with registration at 8 a.m. The ride starts at 10 a.m. On-site poker is available for non-riders from 10:15 to 11:45 a.m. Event participants will enjoy a complimentary lunch at noon.

The event will take place at Clemmons Motorcycles, 2636 Lewisville Clemmons Road, which is hosting the fundraiser. The cost for those participating in the poker playoff is \$20 per hand or 6 hands for \$100. The grand prize for the winning hand is a two night stay at the Courter Moon Lodge and Cabins in Woolwine, Va.

The event will also include a raffle, silent auction and performance by the Allison King Band.

For more information, contact Marian Franklin at 336-785-2119. Sign up for the motorcycle poker run by sending an email to bonnieberryfund@yahoo.com.

**The Children's Home selling fresh produce**

The young people who live at The Children's Home, 1001 Reynolda Road, will sell vegetables, fruit and flowers on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and on Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the facility's entrance.

Tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplant, zucchini, watermelon, banana peppers, jalapeños, zinnias, sunflowers, cantaloupe, beans and

squash will be for sale. All of the produce has been planted, cultivated and picked by the kids at the farm adjacent to the Home's dorms. Money raised will go toward programming for the kids.

On sales days, there will be a Farm Stand Hotline 336-721-7624 to update the public about what items will be for sale that day.

**Serck named UNCG's counsel**

Steve Serck, who joined UNCG as associate counsel in 2008, has been named university counsel, effective July 1.

He has held the post on an interim basis since April, when longtime University Counsel Lucien "Skip" Capone left UNCG, to become general counsel at UNC Asheville. Vice Provost J. Alan Boyette led the committee that conducted a national search and recommended Serck.

From 1989 until 2008, Serck was in private practice with the Ahlers & Cooney Law Firm in Des Moines, Iowa, where he specialized in higher education law and civil litigation.

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**Catalog of all 2010 Fair contests now available**

The Dixie Classic Fair has released the 2010 catalog for all competitive contests.

Ranging from livestock and fruit to poetry and wine, competitive entries serve as major focal attractions at the Fair. More than 3,500 competitors enter over 25,000 exhibits in these lively competitions annually.

Categories include written essays, flower arrangements and plants, decorated wreaths and Christmas trees, decorated apples, potatoes and pumpkins, fine arts and crafts, various breeds of

dairy cattle, beef cattle, swine, sheep, poultry and pigeons, the 22nd Annual "Homemade Ice Cream" Contest, The Great American Spam Championship Contest and the Piedmont Book's "Meatballs in Marinara Sauce Contest." To view the complete list of competitive entries, judging dates, or to register online, visit [www.DCFair.com](http://www.DCFair.com) to read contest rules. The 2010 competitive entries catalog can also be viewed online or picked up at the Dixie Classic Fair office, located at 421 W. 27th Street in Winston-Salem.

For winners, a series of colorful ribbons and cash awards totaling \$225,000 are available.

**Public invited to take part in video aimed at attracting Trader Joe's**

In a creative effort to attract the attention of specialty grocery store chain, Trader Joe's, a local group will film a music video this Saturday, July 24, at BB&T Ballpark. The Facebook based group, "Bring Trader Joe's to Winston-Salem," has more than 4,400 members and hopes to have at least 200 people participate in the video shoot.

An original song has been written by Susan Morris and Suzy McCalley, and the video will be produced by Sophie Mihalko of Art Ovation. Members of the public can participate and should arrive at BB&T Ballpark by 2:45 p.m.

Headquartered in Monrovia, Calif., Trader Joe's sells a variety of gourmet, organic and vegetarian foods at reasonable prices. There are Trader Joe's stores in 24 states, including North Carolina and Washington, D.C.

Tari Hanneman started the "Bring Trader Joe's to Winston-Salem" Facebook group last December after seeing similar efforts being put forth by other communities in Greensboro and Asheville.



Serck

where u at

{ This is the text message sixteen-year-old Mariah Dye was reading as she drove her car into oncoming traffic. }

No text message is worth dying over.

TXTING & DRIVING...IT CAN WAIT

a message from at&t

[facebook.com/at](http://facebook.com/at)

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**Habitat for Humanity®**  
of Forsyth County

336-765-8854, ext. 131  
Web: [www.habitatforsyth.org](http://www.habitatforsyth.org)

**Do You Want to be a Homeowner?**

**Attend an information session to learn if you qualify!**

Monday, July 26, 2010  
6:30 p.m.  
Habitat for Humanity of Forsyth County  
339 Witt Street  
Winston-Salem, NC 27103

Spanish translation available.

**Can't make it this Monday?**  
This session will be repeated on the following dates:

**At the Winston Lake YMCA:**  
August 9, 6:30 p.m.

**At Habitat for Humanity Office:**  
August 23, 6:30 p.m.  
Spanish translation available at this session

**We are accepting applications for new Habitat homes as well as existing homes renovated by Habitat as part of the federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program.**