



NEWSLETTER

Shelly Wilson-Senior Minister, Andy Bachmann-Associate Minister,
Vince Amlin - Associate Minister, Lisa Goldstein - Editor

WHOEVER YOU ARE
WHEREVER YOU ARE
ON LIFE'S JOURNEY
YOU ARE
WELCOME
HERE

| MAY 2016 | |
|---------------------|----|
| HAPPENING IN MAY | 2 |
| OTHER NEWS | 4 |
| FROM SHELLY | 5 |
| PATIENT EXPECTATION | 7 |
| UNITED TRIBES | 9 |
| BOARDS | 10 |
| SUNDAYS | 11 |
| CALENDAR | 12 |

May Worship Theme

"Be Now My Wisdom"

The Board of Parish Ministry kicks off our new worship theme with their beautiful, artistic, and fascinating service, "The Wisdom of Flowers." In addition to a "flower communion," there will be exciting and lovely music, thoughtful presentations by various church members, a wonderful children's book about a hedgehog who dreams of being a gardener, and many other important moments! Bring a flower and a friend and share the wisdom on May 1!

What's Happening...

- ◆ Art in the Library Reception - May 1
- ◆ Mommy Reads Book Drive - May 8
- ◆ Parents' Night Out - May 13
- ◆ Church Council Leadership Summit - May 15
- ◆ Bed Race to benefit Family Promise - May 21
- ◆ UCG Supper Club - May 21

See page for 2 more information

"The simple things are also the most extraordinary things, and only the wise can see them." -- Paulo Coelho

Official Call to our Spring Congregational Meeting Sunday, May 15– 10:15 am in the Sanctuary - please attend

We will look back on this past UCG year, share the annual report, say thank you to our outgoing chairpersons, and elect new Board and Committee leaders. Everyone is invited! And, as always, chocolate and childcare will be provided!

What's Happening in May

Art in the Library – *Alternative Realities* by UCG member Wilfred Vermerris. Photographs taken under atypical conditions, such as on a foggy night, can provide a different perspective on familiar places, and challenge our perception. This collection of photos taken at different locations around the world is an invitation to take a look at your own familiar places with a fresh perspective. **Join him for a reception on Sunday, May 1 at 10:15am.**

Mommy Reads Book Drive Sunday May 8 - The Mommy Reads Book Drive will be held on **Sunday, May 8th**--Mother's Day! Please consider donating a new or like new children's book to the Mommy Reads Project. A collection box will be in the courtyard that day. Information on the Mommy Reads wish list at Amazon.com is in the April Newsletter. For further information, please contact Kari Shattuck at kari.shattuck@warrington.ufl.edu.

Need a night out? PNO is for parents of babies through 5th grade. The kids go to the UCG church school wing on **Friday, May 13 from 5:30 to 9:30pm** - where they eat pizza*, watch movies, play games, and have fun with their friends. The cost is \$11 for the first child and \$6 for each additional child. *Due to life threatening food allergies, no outside food can be brought in. To reserve your spot, please **RSVP by Thursday, May 12 to summerh@ucgainesville.org**.

Church Council Leadership Summit May 15 - The newly-elected members of the Church Council will gather for their annual Leadership Summit also on May 15 at the conclusion of the congregational meeting. The new chairpersons of Boards and Committees will meet for the first time as a leadership team. The Summit will be held in the West Wing from 11:30-2:30 PM, and lunch and child care will be provided.

Annual Bed Race to benefit Family Promise Rescheduled - Family Promise is excited to share that the 2nd Annual Bed Race has been **re-scheduled for Saturday, May 21st** at Santa Fe College's track! We hope you'll come out and support UCG's team as they defend their title! Bring a chair and enjoy this family friendly race event! There will be a bounce house for the kids and make sure to stop by registration to cast your vote for Fan Favorite! **Open to the public at 9:30am and racing starts at 10:00am** - we hope to see you there!

UCG Supper Club - It's Barbecue time! The Haase's have moved to The Village, but we plan to continue our tradition of sharing our last UCG Supper Club of the year together. The UCG Supper Club is a great way to meet members and share a meal and fellowship so if you've never come to supper club before, give us a try! **The May Supper Club of the year will be Saturday, May 21 at the McElwee-White house** where Barbecue King Jim White will prepare pulled pork in his smoker (barbecued tempeh for the vegetarians). All of the sides will be vegetarian. Recipes are provided and we share the cost of food and wine. Please contact Anne Casella (annecasella@gmail.com, 378-0505) or Kimberly McCollough (Kimberly.mccollough@sfcolllege.edu, 378-8371) if you would like to participate. **The deadline to sign up is Sunday, May 8.**

Other Church News.....

Book Sale Recap

Many thanks to everyone who supported the UCG Book Sale this year. With over 30 volunteers and many folks who donated books, **we were able to raise over \$1,000.00 for Mommy Reads and the UCG Library.** Special recognition is in order for our youngest volunteer, Jhett Hill. Jhett wrote and produced a children's book that was sold at the sale and will be donating the proceeds to Mommy Reads! To play it forward, the remaining books were donated to the Books for Prisoners program, Gainesville Peer Respite and Habitat for Humanity.

~ Becky Johnson, Book Sale Coordinator & UCG Librarian



Volunteers help with the UCG Book Sale on April 10

Gathering Water

Wherever you are this summer- in your own yard, at the beach, in another state or country—**remember to gather a small amount of water to bring to our annual “Gathering of Waters” service on August 21.** This service is our ritual of re-gathering as a church community at the end of the summer.



Children participate
in the Gathering of
Waters service in
2011

From Shelly



THE PROCESS OF CREATING THE THREE-YEAR PLAN 2016-2019

Every four years, our congregation creates a written document called the Three Year Plan that is intended to help guide the directions for our life and work together. It outlines visions and goals and is descriptive of how we understand ourselves and our mission as a congregation.

The Congregation-Ministry Review Board (CMRB) is the administrative and visioning center for the Three-Year Plan. CMRB prepares and promotes an all-church survey, collates the data, distills the pertinent information, crafts the apparent priorities that arise from the congregation's input, and then creates and presents the finalized version of the Three-Year Plan. On May 15 in the Spring Congregational Meeting at 10:15, along with several other business items, the new UCG Three Year Plan for 2016-2019 will be presented for adoption by the gathered community.

If you were wondering how the Three Year Plan came into being, here are the steps that were followed in the creation of the Three-Year Plan for 2016-2019:

- ◆ The current Three-Year Plan (2011-2014) was evaluated during January-April 2015 (with assistance from Boards, CMRB/ Ministers)
- ◆ The Congregational Survey was crafted during May-October 2015 (Boards, CMRB/ Ministers, office staff, with assistance from Taylor Stein)
- ◆ Congregation took the All-Church Survey October 11-October 31.
- ◆ Results of the Congregational Survey were examined and Three Priorities were identified during November-December 2015. (Priority Writing Team – Barbara Rienzo, Erick Smith, Shelly Wilson)
- ◆ Priority Sunday was set for January 31, 2016. During two worship services and during United Tribes and Youth Group gatherings, the entire congregation, via Chalk Talks, provided written feedback and reflection upon the meaning of the Three Priorities. (Planned and led by Ministerial Team, Moderator, CMRB members, Board and Committee Chairs, others)
- ◆ All Chalk Talks were read and materials grouped into recurring themes during February 2016 (CMRB/ Ministers)
- ◆ 2016-2019 Three-Year Plan created, edited, and refined during March 2016 (Three Year Plan Writing team: Vince Amlin and Deborah Hill; Andy Bachmann and John Eyler; Shelly Wilson and Barb Rienzo)
- ◆ [The 2016-2019 Three-Year Plan](#) was examined and approved by the members of the Congregational Ministry Review Board on April 13, 2016 and read and approved by the Church Council on April 20, 2016. It will be presented for approval by the UCG Congregation on May 15, 2016. After approval by the congregation, it will be adopted as a guide for programing and for prioritizing our life together for the next three years.

CMRB Members 2015-16

John Eyler, Chair
Andrew Ragsdale
Deborah Hill
Jeanne Moberly
William Dougherty

Angela Hoppe
Erick Smith
Barbara Rienzo
John Denny
Nancy Dana

Vince Amlin
Andy Bachmann
Shelly Wilson

Creating the Three-Year-Plan, continued

As the new Three Year Plan began to take shape, we literally felt and heard the voices of all of you who answered the survey and responded to the three priorities in the Chalk Talks. Our Three Year Plan became what we have come to see as "declarations of possibility that have the power to transform the community and to inspire" us. We hope the three priorities of this plan:

1. Spiritual growth for all;
2. Care and nurture for the congregation by the congregation; and
3. Work for justice and transformation around issues of poverty, race, and the environment, will inspire and shape our life together, from the inside out. We share it here with great celebration and anticipation for all the ways we will plan to embody it together.



Passages

We surround with love and best wishes:

- ◆ Rachel and Mickey Howard on the birth of their son Harrison Roy
- ◆ Anna Heineman & Gary Heil on the birth of their son Leo Joseph
- ◆ Jasmine Angelini-Knolls and Kristen Stone on the birth of their son Josiah Free



PATIENT EXPECTATIONS : A MESSAGE FROM ANDY

I just returned from an engaging youth ministry conference in Chicago, called “Faith Forward.” It was a powerful week, and some of the highlights for me were learning more about the development of the adolescent brain in a techno-saturated world. I learned about the importance of lament in a world filled with struggle, and how the work we are doing on racial justice is so very important. I picked up a number of great ideas that we will fold into our program-- particularly as we look to next year.

It is such a gift to be encouraged to get away and get engaged in conferences like this one; so thank you for your support and encouragement!

Community Needs:

The Reichert House is an after school program designed to provide leadership, growth and responsibility opportunities to young men who have been designated, “at-risk.” It continues to be a much needed place of support and encouragement for young black men, ages 11-18. In recent years they have moved towards creating a boarding school here in Gainesville, to provide an extra layer of support and assistance. As they attempt to create this new venture, they need some assistance. Are you able to help craft a business plan for the Reichert House Boarding School Initiative? Can you do so with a business sense and a servant’s heart? If you are willing to take on this task, please let Andy Bachmann know, and he will put you in touch with a Reichert representative.

MAY YOUTH CALENDARS

Sunday, May 1 - meet in the youth room at 10:15am to reflect what went well this year and what we want to do NEXT year, and THEN go on a walk and talk! Bring a few dollars to get yourself a treat!

Wednesday, May 3 at 6:00pm - Youth Leadership Team meeting— if you’re on the team, see you there, if you’re in high school and interested to serve on the leadership team next year, let us know!

Sunday, May 8 - Mother’s Day! Do something nice for the moms in your life— we have **no group!**

Sunday May 15- YU will plan Senior Sunday at 10:15 am, and MSG will have some good times and games.

Sunday, May 22- Senior Sunday Service at 11:15. Come on out and support our outgoing Seniors.

Looking forward to seeing you all at these great youth meetings as we get ready for summer break!



A Vision for a Health Ministry Team

One of the goals I have had for us as a congregation was the widening of the great river of compassion we have flowing naturally here from the heart of our congregation. Tributaries of in-reach to our own community members in the form of meal preparation, transportation, sending cards and emails, making visits and phone calls, and reaching one another with love and kindness have long flowed through the work of the Kairos team and many other volunteers. It is very important work when we as a community seek to nurture one another and to care for those who are hurting as well as to nurture health and resiliency in all of us.

This emphasis is clearly on your mind as a congregation, too. I love it when that happens! The new Three Year Plan (based upon our congregation's priorities for our next years of our life together) includes connection and care for one another as a priority: "Strengthen care for the congregation by the congregation across the life course." *Together*, we can accomplish that loving work for one another.

Now we are beginning an additional new way to enhance connection, invite nurture and provide ways to promote health for each other through a Health Ministry Team. This team will continue, include, and expand the good work of Kairos (visitation, calls, cards, meals, transportation) and add areas of additional support through the volunteer efforts of healthcare professionals in our midst (nurses, physicians, social workers, occupational therapists, pharmacists, nursing assistants, massage therapists and others) who may teach, offer connections to resources and opportunity, and further the connection and nurture and health promotion we can share with one another in community. In addition, the Health Ministry Team will help us to keep this Three Year Plan priority integral to all that we are about as a community by offering health screenings, informational and educational opportunities, and by encouraging each board and committee to plan activity we do together to have connection and health central to all that we do together.

As the Compact encourages us, we are working for new ways to act in loving concern for one another. Please watch for more news over the next few months!

Ways we can help:

- ◆ Post-Hospital Assessment / Referrals / Resourcing
- ◆ Meal preparation
- ◆ Visits
- ◆ Cards
- ◆ Phone calls
- ◆ Elder Care Needs
- ◆ Home Safety Evaluation / Fall Prevention
- ◆ New Diagnoses / Education
- ◆ New Births / Post-Partum / Lactation Support
- ◆ Accompanying to MD Office / Home visits
- ◆ End of Life Concerns
- ◆ Aging in Place / Adaptive Equipment Needs
- ◆ Medication Management / Education

~ United Tribes- UCG Children's Program ~

Keri Trosper, Director

The children are busy preparing for our annual Children's Sabbath to be held on Sunday, May 22nd during the 9:15 service only. Every child age three through fifth grade has some part in the program whether it be singing in the choir (all kids), displaying their art, or doing the leading parts (grades 3-5).

Song lyrics and instructions for this service will arrive in the weeks prior. Please be watchful for those e-mails. We will also send home paper instructions with those children who attend Tribes. If you registered your child in Tribes this year, then you are on our Tribes listserv and will receive those e-mails. If you feel you need to be added to our Tribes listserv, please e-mail Sara Magnuson at saram@ucgainesville.org with that request.

Here are our upcoming dates:

Sunday, May 1

United Tribes Choir Experience with The Hogtown Pickers

We will have a joyful lesson about hosting love in our hearts for all people, and exploring ways to share that love with others. We will do a fun game that visibly displays how our loving actions connect us to others and then we will learn our new song with special guest musicians!

Sunday, May 8

Activity Time crafting for those we love. Children will have the opportunity to make loving cards and notes for those they love.

Sunday, May 15

United Tribes Choir Rehearsal and Sabbath Run-through

We will practice our music and the May 22nd service in its entirety this day. Please have your child join us!

Sunday, May 22

Join us for our service! The children will perform every aspect of our service from greeting, to singing, to leading us into whole church snack time immediately following the service in Reimer Hall.

Sunday, May 29

Activity Time for Memorial Day weekend. The children will have a relaxing morning of fun and games as they celebrate all they accomplished this year.

As always, thank you for sharing the gift of your children with our church.

Blessings,
Keri Trosper



Council Corner

Nancy Dana, Moderator

The 2015-2016 Church Council held its last meeting on Wednesday, April 20th. After a few business items including the approval of a fundraiser initiated by the Social Justice Committee, discussion of Sunday morning activity scheduling coordination, and review, discussion, and approval of UCG's three-year plan presented by the Congregational Minister Review Board (CMRB), we turned to celebrating our year of work together. Council members each took a turn sharing the highlights from their annual report entries and we closed our meeting by reviewing accomplishments from the year we spent working together. Everyone then selected one word that best captured how they felt about leading their board/committee's work in this past year and/or serving on Council. The meeting ended with a "whip around" – in "round robin" fashion, each Council member voiced their selected word. Our words included appreciative, inspired, humble, interesting, gratitude, and proud.

Thank you to all members of the 2015-2016 Council for your work this past year! Our final commitment as a Council will be at the May 15th Congregational meeting. Among other items on the agenda, CMRB will present the new three-year plan for the congregation's approval, Board of Business will provide an update on church finances, and the Church's annual report will be presented to the Congregation. I encourage everyone to read the annual report to become inspired by the magnitude of the work that has occurred this past year at UCG. In addition, at our May meeting, the congregation will have the chance to thank all members and chairs of boards/committees for the 2015-2016 program year, and meet, approve, and welcome the new Council members for 2016-2017. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!

Boards & Committees

Food First Update

Compassion in Action Committee proudly announces that our generous UCG family has donated **748.5 pounds of food** since the beginning of 2016! Your donations to Gainesville Community Ministry help people who are in great need. May 1 will be our next opportunity to donate canned fruits or meats, hot or cold cereals, granola breakfast bars, peanut butter, juice boxes, bottled water. Publix BOGOS for these items run on a monthly basis. Thank you!

Financial Update

As of the end of April, 33% of the fiscal year has passed. The church has received \$218,339 in Pledge Income, which is 32% of its goal. Overall, total income surpasses expenses by \$21,815. Thank you for your financial support of UCG! ~ Catherine Cake, Accountant

Adult Seminar Offerings

May 1

Social Media 101 with Judy Parsons and Christa Ochoa

Why use Facebook? Is Twitter better? What is Instagram? If you want to get the basics on Social Media come to this seminar. Social Media can be important both for you personally and also promoting issues and even business ventures. Come and see what might work for you.

May 8th

A Visit to Awe-inspiring New Zealand - New Zealand is a land of spectacular natural beauty, full of contrasts from miles and miles of beautiful beaches and coastline with 90' tall sand dunes, to the rugged Southern Alps with glaciers nearly bumping up against dense rainforests; from arid and agricultural wine-growing regions to the fjords with waterfalls galore; geysers and 2,000-yr old kauri trees; fabulous birds and wildlife, , rare penguins, royal albatross, fur seals, black swans, tame eels, and sheep, sheep, and more sheep! New Zealand has a surprising amount of wild, unpopulated space which adds to the panoramic beauty. The "Kiwi" people are very friendly and helpful and you'll love listening to them talk, but they do drive on the wrong side of the road! Come and see the pictures and hear the stories of this lovely country and learn about the travels there of Liz & John Harvey last spring, their number one place to visit after they retired."

May 15 - Spring Congregational Meeting, No Seminars

May 22

The Art of Goodbye End of Life Education with Lynda Spencer, IFAS Extension.

An IFAS Extension program that provide resources and tools people need to begin to think about end of life concerns and to start planning at their own pace. Decisions about the end of life are perhaps the most personal and sensitive ones an individual and their loved ones will make over the course of their lives. Learning about the end of life helps empower people to plan for this normal life stage in ways that will help individuals and families

May 29th

A New Look at St. Luke and the Early Church - Dr. Kevin McCarthy, famed linguist, radio personality and author, will be here to discuss his recent book "St. Luke" in the context of the early church. Who was Luke? Was he really a "saint"? Was he a physician? Was he a real person? This promises to be an interesting, provocative and humorous discussion of the Greek author of the New Testament Gospel of Luke and The Book of Acts of the Apostles. It is a holiday weekend, but you will want to stay in town to attend this interesting seminar.

June 5th

Racial Disparity through the eyes of growing up in Archer, Florida with Lizzie Robinson Jenkins, President, The Real Rosewood Foundation, Inc. Join her as she shares her own experiences: How does a little girl understand the world of Jim Crow? What impact did these behaviors have on family dynamics? How was it possible to cope and arrive at adulthood as a healthy person? What can all of us learn from this sharing? Where do we go together from here and how do we get there as healthy people?



Sundays in May

Regular Sunday Schedule

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 9:15 - 12:15 | Nursery & Toddler Care |
| 9:15 & 11:15 | Worship |
| 9:30 - 10:30 | United Tribes Church School - after Children's Story |
| 10:15 | Fellowship Time, Middle School Group, Youth United |
| 10:30 - 12:30 | Children's Activity Time |
| 10:45 | Adult Seminars |

Worship Theme: Be Now My Wisdom

Sunday, May 1- Food First Food Drive

Family Promise Hosting Begins

Food First Food Drive - Bring your nonperishable food donations

8:15 - **Meditation in the Chapel**

9:15 & 11:15 **Worship – Board of Parish Ministry**

10:15 - **Art in the Library - with Wilfred Vermerris**

10:45 - **Adult Seminars - see page 10**

11:15 **Friendship Group - Room 8**

12:30 - **Young Adult Lunch - meet by the Fountain**

7:00 - **Dances of Universal Peace - West Wing**

May 8 - Family Promise Hosting Ends

8:15 **Meditation in the Chapel**

9:15 & 11:15 **Worship - Andy Bachmann**

10:15 - **Board of Children's Ministry - Seminar A**

10:30 **Visitors Coffee - Library**

10:45 **Adult Seminars- see page 10**

7:00 **Crystal Bowl Concert with Cindy Bergbower in the Sanctuary**

May 15 - Spring Congregational Meeting at 10:15am

8:15 **Meditation in the Chapel**

9:15 **One Worship Service - Shelly Wilson**

10:15 - **Spring Congregational Meeting**

11:15 **Friendship Group - Room 8**

11:30 **Leadership Summit - West Wing**

May 22 - Children's Sabbath & Senior Sunday - Fellowship Sunday

8:15 **Meditation in the Chapel**

9:15 **Children's Sabbath - Led by United Tribes**

10:15 **Fair Trade Coffee & Chocolate sales**

10:45 **Adult Seminars - see page 10**

11:15 **Senior Sunday - Our annual celebration of graduating high school seniors - Led by Youth United & Andy Bachmann**

1:00 **Annual Helen Aller-Oster Golf Tournament**

May 29 -

8:15 **Meditation in the Chapel**

9:15 & 11:15 - **Worship - Vince Amlin**

10:45 **Adult Seminars - see page 10**

MAY 2016

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|--|-----|
| 1 Food First Sunday Worship 9:15 & 11:15am Art in the Library 10:15am Friendship Group 11:15am YA Lunch 12:30pm | 2 Handmade Grace* 7pm | 3 Seminar Committee 7pm Gainesville Flute Ensemble concert 7pm | 4 YU/MSG Officers 6:30pm | 5 FFPIDD Lunch 12pm Council Exec 1:30pm Endowment Committee 5:30pm BPM 5:30pm | 6 Morning Prayer 8am Pulitzer Book Group* 10:30am Lunch Groups 12pm | 7 |
| Family Promise Hosting this Week | | | | | | |
| 8 Mother's Day Worship 9:15 & 11:15am Visitor Coffee 10:15am BCM 10:15am Crystal Bowl Concert 7:00pm | 9 | 10 Staff Retreat - Office closed until 1pm Budget Summit 1:30 ONA Committee 5:30pm CIA 6pm Small Groups 6pm | 11 CMRB 12pm SJC 6:30pm | 12 BOM 6pm BOB 6pm | 13 Morning Prayer 8am Lunch Groups 12pm Parents' Night Out 5:30pm | 14 |
| 15 Worship - one service at 9:15am Congregational Meeting 10:15am Leadership Summit 11:30am | 16 | 17 PFLAG 6pm Alzheimer/ Dementia Support Group * 7pm | 18 | 19 RJTF 12pm | 20 Morning Prayer 8am Lunch Groups 12pm | 21 |
| 22 Fellowship Sunday Worship 9:15 - Children's Sabbath & 11:15am - Senior Sunday Helen Aller-Oster Golf Tournament 1:00pm | 23 | 24 | 25 Newsletter Deadline 12pm | 26 | 27 Morning Prayer 8am Lunch Groups 12pm | 28 |
| 29 Worship 9:15 & 11:15am | 30 Memorial Day Office Closed | 31 | 1 Council Exec 1pm Write Your Sermon* 7pm | 2 BPM 5:30pm | 3 Pulitzer Book Group* 10:30am | 4 |

Looking Ahead

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, MAY 25
FOR JUNE NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

- ◆ Sunday, June 12 - **New Members join. Orientation meeting on Thursday, June 2 at 5:30pm**
- ◆ Monday, June 13 - **Summer office hours begin: 9am - 4pm**
- ◆ Sunday, July 3 – **Annual July 4 Celebration at 7:00pm - No morning worship**
- ◆ Sunday, July 10 - **Summer Worship Schedule begins with one service at 10am**
- ◆ Weekdays, July 25 – August 5 - **UCG Summer Tribal Camp- Registration happening now.**
- ◆ Sunday, August 21 – **Gathering of Waters services at 9:15 & 11:15am**
- ◆ Sunday, August 28 – **Fall Worship Schedule resumes with two services at 9:15am & 11:15am. All- Board Kick-Off at 4pm**

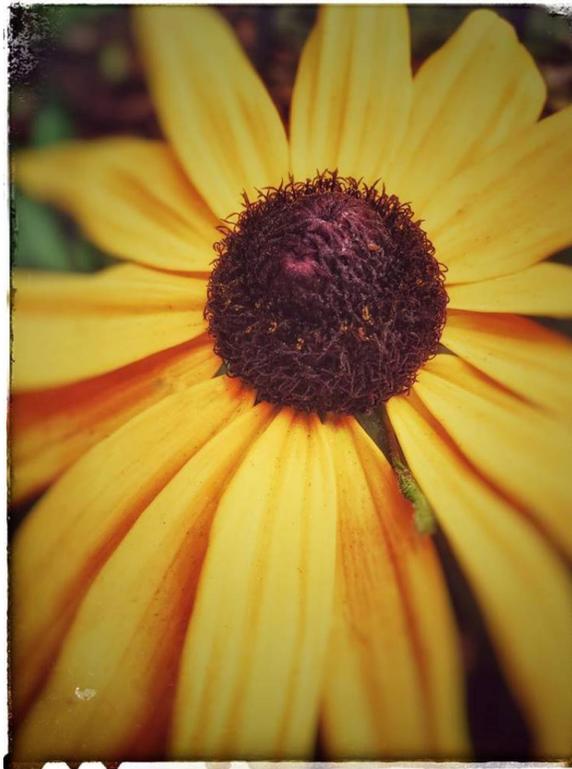


Photo by Anne Seraphine