

October 2011

The Newsletter of the Autism Society of North Carolina  
Mecklenburg County Chapter

[www.asncmeck.org](http://www.asncmeck.org)



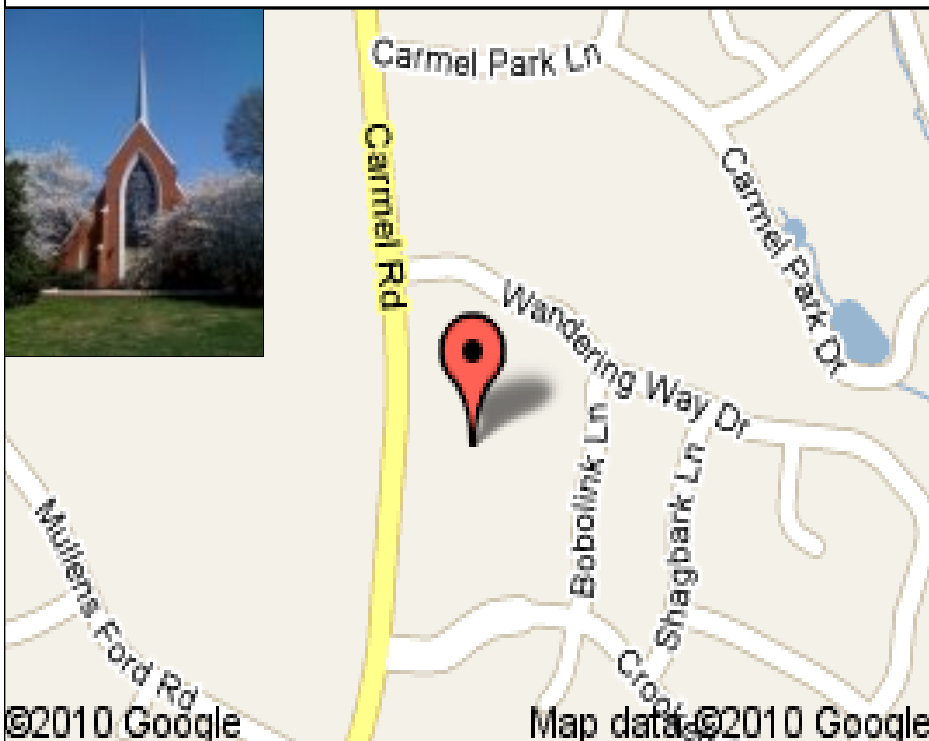
## Big Changes at TEACCH\*

Join us Thursday, October 6th, at 7:00PM to hear Dr. Joyce Lum, Clinical Psychologist and Director of the Charlotte TEACCH Center, speak about changes at the Center.

As always, enjoy refreshments and a chance to mingle.

\*TEACCH-Treatment and Education of Autistic and Communication related handicapped CHildren

Park in the back of the church. Meeting is in rooms 204 & 205. Doors Open at 7:00. Announcements 7:10. Meetings open to all regardless of membership. Come when you can and leave when you must.



**Free Childcare** for the first 12 children registered. Those not registered will be turned away. To ensure the safety of all children under our care during the meeting, we must know how many will be in attendance.

To register for childcare, contact Lauren Moore by Tues. Oct 4th: [lpoeder@gmail.com](mailto:lpoeder@gmail.com) or 704-649-7440.



### Inside this Issue-

News Information/Fire Safety	2
Calendar	3
News from ASNC	4
Local Walks/Young Men's Club	5
Mecklenburg County Opportunities	6-7
Membership Form	Last pg.

Meeting Location: - *St. John's Episcopal Church: 1623 Carmel Rd., Charlotte, NC 28226- 5097. The church is located across the street from the campus of Charlotte Country Day, close to the intersection of Fairview and Carmel Roads. It is located about 3 miles east of SouthPark Mall.*



Autism Society  
of NORTH CAROLINA  
Mecklenburg County Chapter

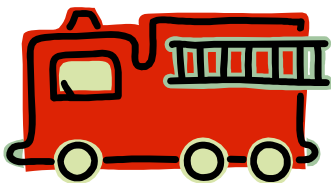
## *Newsletter/Website Information*

We try hard to make sure that everyone receives their Autism Matters newsletters in time to know the program for the monthly meeting. Unfortunately, we don't always succeed. We will try harder this year to have the newsletter in your hands well before the meeting. In the event we don't, please know that we have a meeting **every** month except July and August. The monthly meeting is always held the first Thursday of the month at 7:00PM. See Page 1 for location and a map.

The other way to find news that impacts you or your loved ones with autism is at our website <http://www.asncmeck.org/>

Autism Matters newsletters back to 2006 are archived down the left side of the website. Go there to find an article if you've lost your paper copy. Or perhaps you noticed something that wasn't relevant at the time but might be important to you now.

## *Emergency Preparedness and Autism*



October is Fire Safety Month. It is time to change the batteries on your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and to provide your local police, fire, and EMS with information about your family member with autism. The Autism Society of North Carolina (ASNC) has Emergency Packets which contains an easy-to-use form for important information. Packets are available at our monthly support meetings. These packets will help you provide critical information such as:

- ☐ **Identifying information**– name, address, phone/cell #, age, height, weight, eye and hair color,
- ☐ **Communication skill level** ( verbal, non-verbal, reads/ writes, gestures/points)
- ☐ **Medical conditions** existing with the autism
- ☐ **Current medications** along with dosage and dosing schedule
- ☐ **Who can be quickly called** to come help?
- ☐ **How does your child** typically act when calm; when upset;
- ☐ **What comforts** your child?

If possible, take your child with you when you deliver the information to emergency personnel. In most of the smaller fire and police stations around Mecklenburg County, our emergency personnel are very open to meeting our children so they have personal knowledge in case of an emergency. Many Medic and Fire Stations have monthly meetings, which are a perfect time for your family to visit. To find your local firehouse and first responder unit in Charlotte, go to <http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/Fire/FireStations/Pages/default.aspx>

To prepare emergency personnel for an emergency in your home, contact **Mecklenburg EMS Agency** at **704-943-6000** between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Emergency personnel can “red flag” your home address so that those responding to a call for help from your home are prepared to deal with your family member with ASD.

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## October Calendar

**Oct 1st (Sa) - ASNC Sensory Friendly Films: *Dolphin Tail***; 10:00 AM; Concord Mills 24; 2421 Concord Mills Blvd; Concord NC, \$5.00.

**Oct 1st (Sa) Ready Set Hike Football Camp;** UNCC; [http://recservices.uncc.edu/intramurals\\_ready\\_set\\_hike.htm](http://recservices.uncc.edu/intramurals_ready_set_hike.htm)

**Oct 4th (Tu) Caregiver's Summit Support Group;** 6-7:00 PM; Marion Diehl center, 2219 Tyvola Road; Partners in Policymaking speaker; FREE; Karen Howard 704-432-4325

[Karen.Howard@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov](mailto:Karen.Howard@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov)

**Oct 6th (Th) ASNC- MCC Support Meeting;** Joyce Lum will speak about changes at TEACCH; 7-9:00PM; St. John's Episcopal Church, 1623 Carmel Rd. Charlotte, 28226

[info@asncmeck.org](mailto:info@asncmeck.org)

**Oct 7th (F) Tweens & Teens at the Movies;** 6:45-8:30PM; Myers Park Presbyterian, 2501 Oxford Place, Charlotte; Movie to be announced; Free; RSVP Allyson Anderson 704-927-1271 [allysonka@gmail.com](mailto:allysonka@gmail.com)

**Oct 8th (Sa) Triangle Run/Walk for Autism;** 9:00AM; Moore Square, Raleigh; ASNC fundraiser; Contact Heather Hargrave [hhargrave@autismsociety-nc.org](mailto:hhargrave@autismsociety-nc.org) or 800-442-2762, ext 1106.

**Oct 8th (Sa) Autism Speaks Walk;** Registration 8:30AM/Walk 10:00AM; Charlotte Motor Speedway, Concord, NC; Contact Meaghan Pawley [Carolinas@autismspeaks.org](mailto:Carolinas@autismspeaks.org)

**Oct 10th (M) Fuel For Life:** 6-7:30 PM; SouthPark Food Court; young men 16 and up; \$10.00; Angela Tate 704-432-4329

[agela.conti@mecklenburgcountync.gov](mailto:agela.conti@mecklenburgcountync.gov)

**Oct 11th (Tu) Bounce U Victory Bounce;** 5-6:00PM; 10624 Metromont Pkwy Charlotte; FREE; families with Special Needs children; Please call to reserve: (704) 921-8771 or fill out a [reservation request](http://www.bounceu.com). [www.bounceu.com](http://www.bounceu.com)

**Oct 12th (W) North Coffee: 9:00 AM;** Panera Bread Northlake Mall; 9309 Center Lake Dr. RSVP: Sumi 704-837-2806 or [support@asncmek.org](mailto:support@asncmek.org)

**Oct 14th (F) Autism and Developmental Disabilities Seminar;** 9:00AM-Noon; Hillsville, VA; An Intervention for Stress and Anger Management in Young Children with High Functioning ASD; FREE; 276-728-3121

**Oct 15th (Sa) Booking Around;** 9:30AM; Steele Creek Branch Library, 13620 Steele Creek Road, Charlotte; 9-12 yr old with caregiver; Register at 704-416-6800.

**Oct 15th (Sa) Energy for Life Walkathon;** Registration 8:30AM/Walk 10:00AM; United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation fundraiser; Additional Information at [Energy for Life](http://EnergyforLife.org)

**Oct 19th (W) Downtown Brunch;** 11:30AM Matt's Chicago Dog on the Green, 435 South Tryon St, #140. RSVP: Sumi 704-837-2806 or [support@asncmek.org](mailto:support@asncmek.org)

**Oct 20th (Th) Parents of Newly Diagnosed children with Autism Spectrum Disorder;** 9:30AM-Noon; 209 Delburg St. Davidson NC; Workshop on Autism by Autism Society Advocates; FREE; Must RSVP. Nancy Popkin 704-894-9678 [npopkin@autismsociety-nc.org](mailto:npopkin@autismsociety-nc.org)

**Oct 21st (F) Supper Club;** 6-7:00 PM; Marion Diehl Center, 2219 Tyvola; ages 13 and up; \$7.00; 704-432-0237 [TRinfo@mecklenburgcountync.gov](mailto:TRinfo@mecklenburgcountync.gov)

**Oct 21st (F) TR Dance-Monster Mash;** 7-9:00 PM; Marion Diehl; 13 and up; \$8.00. 704-432-0237 [TRinfo@mecklenburgcountync.gov](mailto:TRinfo@mecklenburgcountync.gov)

**Oct 26th (W); South Coffee;** 9:00 AM; Café Carolina; Promenade on Providence; 5361 Ballantyne Commons # 200, RSVP: Sumi 704-837-2806 or [support@asncmek.org](mailto:support@asncmek.org)

**Oct 26th (W) Monkey Joes Free Bounce Time;** 6-8:00 PM; Any location in Mecklenburg; Kids 12 and under with autism & their sibs! NOTE: Monkey Joe's no longer closes to the public for this event so certain locations may be crowded.

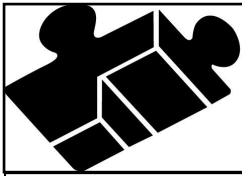
*For the most current information about events in the area, go to:* <http://www.asncmeck.org/>

To receive weekly email updates about events, outings and other news, sign up at [weeklyblast@asncmeck.org](mailto:weeklyblast@asncmeck.org)

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**Autism Society**  
of NORTH CAROLINA

*Providing Support...  
Promoting Opportunities...*

### **Meet Chris Nealy**

While studying Literature at UNC-Chapel Hill, Chris fell into the field of social services when he began working at a group home for teenage boys with autism. The field became a magnet of appeal, drawing him into its grasp and leading him to change his career and life focus. Graduating with a degree in Sociology, Chris went on to practice social work and serve as an Independent Living Coordinator for at-risk youth for two years. He then returned to working direct support for teenagers with autism and has remained in the field since.

With a deep passion for families facing the daily challenges of raising a child with autism and a concern for the limited supports available for adults with the diagnosis, he returned to UNC-Chapel Hill and earned a Master's in Social Work, focusing on autism and family supports. Spending his practicum field placement at the Raleigh TEACCH Center, he further developed clinical skills in the diagnostic and treatment processes for individuals on the spectrum.

Chris is currently working with the Autism Society of North Carolina as a Training Specialist for the Charlotte-area and is CEO of autism awareness non-profit Rock the Spectrum, Inc.

### **Parent/Professional Workshop**

**Levine Children's Hospital**

**10:00-12:30**

**October 7, 2011**

#### **Autism Spectrum Disorders: Basics in Understanding & Instruction**

- Understanding the definitions and characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Understanding the core features of autism
- Description of related strengths & challenges
- Benefits of structured teaching and visual instruction

#### **Registration:**

**\$40 per public attendee**

Register online at [www.autismsociety-nc.org](http://www.autismsociety-nc.org) or  
(919) 743-0204 ext: 1118 [training@autismsociety-nc.org](mailto:training@autismsociety-nc.org)

*FREE for LCH Staff*

Contact Chris Nealy: [cnealy@autismsociety-nc.org](mailto:cnealy@autismsociety-nc.org) or  
(980) 307-0625

#### **Location: Levine Children's Hospital**

LCH Auditorium (accessed from the Main Lobby)  
1000 Blythe Blvd  
Charlotte, NC 28203

For directions: <http://www.levinechildrenshospital.org/body.cfm?id=78>

Workshops are for adults only – childcare is not available.

505 Oberlin Road, Suite 230, Raleigh NC 27605  
919-743-0204 or 1-800-442-2762  
[www.autismsociety-nc.org](http://www.autismsociety-nc.org)



The Carolina Foothills Chapter of the United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation sponsors this walk to raise awareness and support those in your area fighting mitochondrial disease.

When: Saturday, October 15

Where: Freedom Park

Registration at 8:30AM - walk starts at 10:00AM  
(Rain or Shine)

For more information, click <http://charmec.org/city/charlotte/Fire/FireStations/Pages/default.aspx>

## Band Of Brothers

\*For young men, ages 18-35, with disabilities\*

Do you need a night out with the guys to relax and enjoy new activities? Come hang out with "Band of Brothers" every Wednesday night from 6-8pm. You can practice social skills, meet new people, enjoy community outings and develop positive relationships, all while enjoying some "guy time".

For more information contact:

Ariel.Kliem@MecklenburgCountyNC.gov,  
704-432-4327

Autism Society  
of NORTH CAROLINA

Triangle Run/Walk for Autism

Total Donations : \$101,792

Register Here

Event Information

Sponsor Participant

2011 Triangle Run/Walk for Autism

Saturday, October 8, 2011 - 9AM Moore Square,  
Raleigh



Questions about the run? Contact [email Heather Hargrave](mailto:Heather.Hargrave@autismspeaks.org) or 800 442-2762, extension 1106.



2011 Carolinas

Walk Now for Autism Speaks

Saturday, October 8, 2011

Walk Now for Autism Speaks is a fun-filled, family friendly event that raises money to fund vital research. To participate contact information: Meaghan Pawley [carolinas@autismspeaks.org](mailto:carolinas@autismspeaks.org)

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Southeast Psych presents:

## Growing Healthy Families

*A positive and practical conference for parents and professionals*

### Fall Conference 2011

Pre-Conference

**Thursday, September 29, 6:30pm - 8:30pm**

Full Day Conference

**Friday, September 30, 8:00am - 4:00pm**

Church at Charlotte, 2500 Carmel Road, Charlotte, NC 28226

For more information visit [healthyfamiliesnc.com](http://healthyfamiliesnc.com)

### Featuring:



#### Shonda Schilling

*The Best Kind of Different*

Shonda is the wife of retired Boston Red Sox All-Star, Curt Schilling, the mother of four children with unique and special needs including Aspergers, anorexia, and ADHD. She is a New York Times bestselling author, cancer survivor, and dynamic motivational speaker. Her story will move and inspire you.



#### Dave and Ellen Verhaagen

*Parenting a Unique Family*

Dave is a nationally-known psychologist and the author or co-author of six books, including *Parenting the Millennial Generation*. Ellen is an educator, mother of four, and a popular conference speaker. They have a unique family and a practical, inspiring message for families of all kinds.

Plus more than two dozen expert featured presenters!

Register online at [southeastpsych.com](http://southeastpsych.com) or call Patsy at 704.552.0116



THE UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA at CHAPEL HILL

### TEACCH Forums: Wed, Oct 12th

The Charlotte TEACCH Center offers one hour morning information forums on a monthly basis. Forums are open to family members of clients of the Charlotte TEACCH Center. Some sessions recommend previous participation in an introductory level session. Enrollment required. **Call 704-563-4103 to enroll.**

#### Autism 101 (9:00 & 10:30)

This introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorders helps parents better understand how autism affects behavior, learning and interactions within the family.

#### Introduction to TEACCH (9:00 & 10:30)

General information and introduction to the TEACCH program including information about diagnosis, assessment, and treatment for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

#### Introduction to Visual Strategies – (9:00 & 10:30)

Introductory information about using schedules, work/activity systems and visually structured teaching activities to provide support and improve learning.

Future Wednesday Forum Date: November 9, 2011; December 14, 2011.

## Sensory-Friendly showing of:

## Dolphin Tail

AMC Concord Mills 24  
8421 Concord Mills Blvd  
Concord, NC 28027  
704-979-019721

Sat. Oct 1  
10:00 AM \$5.00



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ASNC-MCC does not endorse any company, therapy, or program. We offer information and it is your job as the parent to decide what is appropriate for your family.



## Coffee/Brunch Times:

*North Coffee: Oct 12th (W) 9:00 AM; Panera Bread @ Northlake Mall~ RSVP: Sumi 704-837-2806 or [support@asncmek.org](mailto:support@asncmek.org)*

*Downtown Brunch: Oct 19th (W); 11:30 AM — Matt's Chicago Dog on the Green, 435 South Tryon St, #140 ~ RSVP: Sumi 704-837-2806 or [support@asncmek.org](mailto:support@asncmek.org)*

*South Coffee: Oct 26th (W); 9:00 AM; Café Carolina— Promenade on Providence (Providence @485)~ RSVP: Sumi 704-837-2806 or [support@asncmek.org](mailto:support@asncmek.org)*



## Need a Gift?

Quilters and sewers in North Carolina are using their talents to make cinched jewelry bags. The bags are an easy and attractive way to safely carry jewelry on a trip. Available for \$10 each (plus shipping). All proceeds go to ASNC. To purchase or help make bags, email [jewelry-bags@autismsociety-nc.org](mailto:jewelry-bags@autismsociety-nc.org)



## Calvary Church Special Needs Ministry

### L.I.F.E (Living In Faith Everyday)

Ages 13+ This 9:45 AM class consists of singing with live music, Bible lesson, prayer requests, snacks, and activities to reinforce the lesson. At 11:15 AM the class becomes very interactive with activities.

### A.R.K. (All Remarkable Kids)

Ages 2-12 At 9:45 AM class consists of an interactive Bible lesson, worship through music, and snack time. At 11:15 AM we focus on positive social interactions and we learn about the Bible in an interactive way.

For more information contact:

Kara Edwards, Special Needs Coordinator

704-341-5413 or [kedwards@calvarychurch.com](mailto:kedwards@calvarychurch.com)

Stay current on all Mecklenburg County Therapeutic Recreation offerings at [www.scribd.com/trsection](http://www.scribd.com/trsection)



# *We Need Your Help - Become a Member!*

Join the Autism Society of North Carolina  
Membership Form

**ASNC Membership** (circle level)

- Individual/Family - \$40
- Contributor - \$75
- Supporter - \$150
- Agency/Service Provider - \$200
- Life - \$1,250
- Student - \$25

\*indicate ASNC Chapter name below and ASNC will give back \$10 to your local chapter.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

ASNC Chapter Name \_\_\_\_\_

Type of membership(s) (e.g. asnc-family) \_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail all memberships to ASNC to:  
Autism Society of North Carolina  
505 Oberlin Road, Suite 230, Raleigh, NC 27605-1345  
To charge memberships call 1-800-442-2762**

ASNC – Mecklenburg County Chapter  
c/o Lois Stickell  
620 Lamar Avenue  
Charlotte, NC 28204

**If you would like to receive *Autism Matters* via email, send a request to [eeshka@hotmail.com](mailto:eeshka@hotmail.com)**

Thank you!