

COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Nurturing Spiritual Growth and Working for Social Justice

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Stephen S. Halsted, Pastor

August 2003

Lectionary for August

August 3rd, Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Sam 11:26-12:13a; Ps 51:1-12 OR Ex 16:2-4, 9-15;
Ps 78:23-29; Eph 4:1-16; Jn 6:24-35.

August 10th, Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Sam 18:5-9, 15, 31-33; Ps 130 OR 1 Kings 19:4-8;
Ps 34:1-8; Eph 4:25-5:2; Jn 6:35, 41-51.

August 17th, Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14; Ps 111 OR Prov 9:1-6;
Ps 34:9-14; Eph 5:15-20; Jn 6:51-58.

August 24th, Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11), 22-30, 41-43; Ps 84 OR
Josh 24:1-2a, 14-18; Ps 34:15-22; Eph 6:10-20;
Jn 6:56-69.

August 31st, Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Song 2:8-13; Ps 45:1-2, 6-9 OR Deut 4:1-2, 6-9; Ps 15;
Jas 1:17-27; Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23.

Osborne-Newman, Jack and Sam Alcorn, and Angelina DeVito. All reports were that they had a wonderful time. Church camps have a profound way of touching children's lives with spiritual experiences that are remembered for a lifetime! We hope to interest more of our children and youth in attending next year.

The Rotation Steering Committee continues now with the help of our new religious education coordinator, Anne Bailey Zschau, to provide creative curriculum for our pre-school and elementary age children. Their first unit this year will be a study of the Psalms. Once again they will hold a planning retreat on August 1 & 2, at Cedar Cross to plan the year's activities.



Dear Friends,

As we move toward the end of summer vacation for our school age children, the church is preparing for a new cycle of church school classes and activities for children and youth to begin on Sunday, August 17.

I believe that the ministry we do with our children and youth is extremely important and so I want to tell you about what is happening there and ask for your support and assistance.

First, let me start by thanking the congregation for financially supporting a camping fund that provided scholarship assistance to five CUCC campers who attended UCC church camp over the summer. The five campers were Amanda Bowen, Austin

In a new development, we are going to create a separate class for 5th and 6th graders. We are developing curriculum that is age appropriate to their specific needs. I have been working with Jane Smith's advice on this project so we won't overburden the Rotation Steering Committee.

Sue Rogge has been doing a wonderful job teaching the youth on Sundays as they move toward confirmation. We have high hopes for a graduating class to be confirmed around Easter 2004. Please keep in your prayers Austin Osborne-Newman, Jack & Sam Alcorn, Nick DeVito, Thomas Harris, Z.B. Haislip, Roslyn Ragsdale and Carina Saavedra on their pilgrimage of faith.

Finally, please plan to attend church on Sunday, August 17, to support our 3rd graders as they receive their Bibles during worship. This is a significant rite of passage for these children: Jonny Cookmeyer, Anna Hase, Jackson Kiel and Carson Roach-

Howell. Come celebrate with them and all our children and youth at a **Pizza Party** during Fellowship after worship.

Blessings & Peace,

Steve



PRAYERS

The Monday Lunch Group offers prayers each week for those persons and needs of which they are aware. Please write your requests on a slip of paper and place it in the offering plate or one of the prayer jars at the back of the sanctuary or in Pilgrim House.

Following are the names of those who need to be remembered in prayer: Bob Keyes, Jo Lemons, Sister Evelyn Mattern, Nancy Keppel, Sarah Hoffman, and Buck Little.

MEETINGS and EVENTS

Triangle Prayer Service for Middle East Peace

On Monday, August 4, CUCC will host the monthly Triangle Prayer Service for Middle East Peace in our sanctuary at 7 pm. This is the first one to be held in Raleigh, but it is part of a nationwide movement that is spreading and it is expected that one will be held in Raleigh the first Monday of every month.

May the justice of God fall down like fire
And bring a home for the Palestinian
May the mercy of God pour down like rain
And protect the Jewish people
And may the beautiful eyes of a holy God
Who weeps for all His children
Bring the healing hope for his wounded ones
For the Jew and the Palestinian
Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem
- Garth Hewitt

“One day we must come to see that peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek but a means by which we arrive at that goal. We must pursue peaceful ends through peaceful means.”

From Where do we Go From Here: Chaos or Community? By Martin Luther King, Jr.

Please plan to be a part of this Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East.

Submitted by Cy King

Women's Support Group

Back by popular demand, the Women's Support Group will have a “stamping party” on Thursday, August 21 at 7pm. Joan McAllister and Sally Cook (and maybe others) will bring rubber stamps, stamp pads, papers, scissors, glue and lots of ideas for creating homemade greeting cards, bookmarks, or gift tags. Participants are asked to **REGISTER** with Sally Cook (467-3642) by Sunday, August 17, so that we will know how much material is needed. Each participant is asked to contribute a few dollars for the cost of supplies.

Monday Lunch Group meets at 12:15 each Monday in the Hoffmann Room. Bring a sandwich and enjoy.

Retirees Group Meeting - Monday, September 8, at 11 am. Bob Jeter will talk about his recently published book, “Walking through the Valley, a Caregiver's Journey”. Bring your lunch. Dessert will be provided.

CROP WALK

October 5, 2003
Exploris Museum

Please join us for the
Recruitment Rally
August 20, 2003!
Millbrook Baptist Church
1519 Millbrook Road
7 – 8 pm

DEACONS MINISTRY

The Deacons met on Wednesday, July 9, for the regular meeting, and again on Sunday, July 13, to practice serving communion. We had an earlier session using the intinction method; this time we used the trays. We hope you will see the positive results at our next communion service August 3. We agreed that the hymn sing will be that same day as previously scheduled, but noted the several comments to the effect that future hymn sings should take place when the choir is not singing, so as to stretch out the music! We were focusing on ways to make the service go more smoothly - the communion service was one aspect. Decreasing disruption owing to folk coming and going throughout the service was another. We decided to ask the ushers to shut the sanctuary doors when the service begins, then bring in latecomers during the first hymn. A notice in the bulletin will ask those who need to leave and/or re-enter the sanctuary during the service to do so during the hymns, if possible. We hope these small gestures will enhance the worship experience for you. If you have additional ideas and/or suggestions, please bring them to the Deacons.

We talked about our relationship with the other UCC churches in the Eastern North Carolina Association and in the Southern conference, and agreed that it is important to us spiritually. Some of us will be going to Franklinton Center Day August 2 (leaving CUCC at 9:00 am), and we look forward to the unique opportunity for fellowship it provides.

Last Sunday CUCC sang the "blessing song" to Edith Sylla as she heads for a year in Massachusetts. In our last meeting we talked about the many ways we have used the song to recognize members of our congregation, from commissioning ceremonies to baptisms. If there are some opportunities we are missing, please let the Deacons or Steve know. We know we love to sing the "blessing song"!

In our next few meetings we will be talking about what has worked and what needs work in the new organizational structure. In our last congregational meeting we agreed to revisit the changes in six months. That is coming up soon (September!

Already!). We really want to hear your feedback on this topic.

Peace, Vandy Bradow
For the Deacons

Arts and Worship Team meets quarterly on the last Tuesday of the month. It has been in existence for many years in this church as one mechanism for nurturing various arts in worship, not the least of which has been the music. At times, in recent years, there has been energy as well for having an Art Wall outside the Hoffmann Room to focus the congregation's attention on the "visual art expressions" of church members or friends of church members. If you have art you would like to display for three months on the Art Wall, please feel free to let one of the Arts in Worship team members know. They include Marty Lamb, Peg Hulslander, Karen Haley, Doug Barrick, and Mary Matthews.

The next team meeting is scheduled for Tuesday evening at 6 pm, August 26. Your thoughts and contributions towards arts in worship are welcome. If you have interest in being part of or hearing a small folk choir some alternative Sundays, let Marty Lamb or Sally Cook know, as there currently seems to be a budding interest in this. Three cheers of welcome for the right side of our brains!

Speaking of "welcome," please know that membership in the choir is not "closed" and additional volunteers are most welcome to raise their voices in praise of God. Rehearsals are usually twice a month on the Wednesday evenings that precede the first and third Sundays, from 7:30 pm to 9, under the admirable and capable leadership of Anne Moorman-Smith and Doug Barrick.

The choir typically sings on the first and third Sundays. At 9:30 am on those Sunday mornings, an additional rehearsal precedes worship. It's best for the quality of the work and our commitment to it when we can attend both rehearsals (Wednesday evening and Sunday morning) prior to the worship service in which we sing. We may have additional rehearsals in working on special pieces for Christmas and Easter and welcome persons to join the choir in working on just these pieces if they do not wish to be a regular choir member during the

year. I've referred to our "working" on songs, but the process of growth can really feel quite light and playful :-).

Now would be a GREAT time to commit to participating in the choir. Our next **REHEARSAL** is **7:30 pm** on **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13** in the **Hoffmann Room. We'll sing August 17.** Come with an open heart to catch the spirit!

-Marty Lamb

The Caring Team – Apologies to members who remembered the July meeting date, but had no leader! Maybe we can all turn out for our **August** get-together on the second Sunday, **August 10**, in the Library after worship. Be thinking of ways in which we can be “caring.”

CHURCH COUNCIL

At the July Church Council meeting, some of the issues that were discussed included:

Deacons Ministry: There has been a request that we contribute \$200 to help fund an outdoor basketball facility at the Franklinton Center. Several of the ministries decided to contribute from their discretionary funds and the \$200 goal was quickly reached.

The Deacons have suggested that we establish a new Phone Tree. We will approach several congregation members to help with this.

Property Ministry: We will buy 8 new, lighter tables for the Vaughan wing. This means that we will have replaced all of the old, heavy wooden tables... A fogged window in the Narthex was replaced... It was decided that we will hold a “Painting Party” early in October to paint the Narthex a fresh, brighter color. Details will be announced later!

Religious Education: The Rotation Steering Committee will hold a planning retreat on August 1 and 2. We will hold a “Welcome Back to Sunday School” celebration on August 17. The 3rd graders

will receive their Bibles on that date. We will have a pizza party after church in the Vaughan Wing.

Welcoming, Fellowship & Growth Ministry:

There was broad enthusiasm and appreciation for all of the work of Joan McAllister and her ministry team with the fellowship times after services, including the pot luck meal on July 20 and the Watermelon Contest on July 6. It was decided that we shall continue the fellowship time on a twice-monthly basis after August 17. We will invite the other ministries and church groups to help with this important function.

Community Outreach: This Ministry has committed most of their funds to various agencies for this year. They would very much like to recruit other members so that more of this important work can be accomplished. If you are interested, please speak to Pastor Steve.

Pastor's Report: The Franklinton Center will be open to the public on August 2. There will be a Peace Prayer Vigil in our Sanctuary on Monday, August 4 at 7:00 pm. A new VCR has been donated to this church. This replaces the one that ate a tape a couple of weeks ago! We will dedicate our new organ on “Homecoming Sunday” on August 17.

A celebration concert by Emmanuel Kembe will be held Sunday evening, September 7, at 7 pm at St. Luke Evangelist Catholic Church. It is a special way to gather members of CUCC and St. Lukes to celebrate the Kembes' new Habitat Home.

Next Council Meeting will be held Monday, August 18 at 7:00 pm in the Pilgrim House.

Submitted by Susan Lane

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Note: The **Adult Forum** does not meet during the summer months, but your Adult Education Committee is planning some wonderful programs for the Fall Semester.

CUCC Church School News

August 3 has been designated "Hymn Sing Sunday". There will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL.

August 17 is "Welcome Back Sunday!" We look forward to seeing everyone then. On August 17 the preschool and elementary classes will begin a new rotation and we will be learning about the Psalms. See you then!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Reminder: **Food Bags** will be collected on **Sunday, August 3**.



In July we contributed **18** food bags to Urban Ministries. They are extremely grateful for our faithfulness in contributing each month. Let's defy all the odds and bring our total to **25** on August 3 when we collect food bags again. Remember, that food may stave off hunger for as many families as we bring bags. It's important!

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Calendar

August 4 – CUCC will host a "Prayer Vigil for Peace in the Middle East" at 7 pm in our Sanctuary. See expanded announcement under Meetings and Events.

August 6 – "Stop the Arms Race Vigil." Noon, Fayetteville Street Mall. Now more than ever it is necessary to have a visible presence opposing the sale of weapons by all nations. Almost all modern weapons are "weapons of mass destruction."

WELCOMING FELLOWSHIP & GROWTH MINISTRY

And the winners are-----

CUCC's first annual P2e (patooie) Watermelon Festival and Seed-Spitting Event is now history. The watermelons were perfect, the tea and lemonade were ice cold, and the cookies were scrumptious. The seeds were a bit small, and the breeze was a bit strong for world-record challenging. Despite the challenges, everyone joined in the fun, if not spitting then certainly in cheering on the contestants. Contestants in the seed-spitting contest ranged in age from 3 to 92.

Winners (and CUCC record holders) of the 2003
CUCC p2e were:

Men's Division: Roger Manus, who used his attorney-honed air power to blow that baby 27 feet 3 inches!

Women's Division: Tracy Keeler, who is gentle of soul but mighty of lung, with a superb distance of 19 feet!

Youth Division: Putting almost all of the adults to shame (except Roger, Tracy, and her father Gary), Abby Smith overwhelmed the youth division with a distance of 18 feet 4 inches!

OK, so now you know the rules. We will do this again next year on Sunday, July 4, 2004. Practice your technique this summer so you will be primed for next year!!

**July 20 Potluck, Hospitality Workshop,
and SundaeSunday**

Many hands truly do make light work. Susan and Don Lane worked before and during the service to get the tables set up and to get the food out. Lots of good food was provided by our great congregational cooks. Susan Robinson of United Church of Chapel Hill led the adults in an exercise to remind us of how it felt to be a visitor, trying to find kinship in a new congregation. We also had time to discuss ideas that we think will help us in our church's hospitality efforts. (Susan will be forwarding her

notes from the meeting, which will be reported in a later edition of the Newsletter.)

The weather was perfect for water games for the youth. Pastor Steve, Amanda Bowen, and Thomas Harris provided childcare and were frequently targeted by squirt bottles; While they got drenched, reports indicate that they also did their share of drenching the younger kids. The ice cream sundaes were creative and delicious with a variety of ice creams and toppings. Thanks to Marcy Halsted for doing the grocery shopping. Thankfully many folks also pitched in to help clean up. Special thanks to Marty Lamb, Ann Duffell, Russell Williams, Betsy Towler, Joan McAllister, Sam Johnson, Sally Cook, and all the other folk who worked behind the scenes to make sure that everything was cleaned up by 3 pm.

Coming Soon: As reported in the last issue, Welcome Back Sunday is on August 17. We will have a pizza party in honor of our returning youth. Tell your friends!!

[Submitted by Joan McAllister]

ROSTER UPDATES

Add:
Sharon Flesch, 518 Beaver Dam Run, Durham, NC 27703, 941-5858.

Changes:
Bert Lamb, 8436 Framingham Ct., Raleigh, NC 27615, 637-3881.

Ann and Thomas Elleman, 5207-101 Creedmoor Rd., Raleigh, NC 27612.

SPECIAL DAYS

Youth Birthdays

August Birthdays*

- 8/2/87 – Jessica Alcorn
- 8/14/92 – Glodie Difuidi
- 8/16/94 – Jackson Kiel
- 8/25/95 – Anna Hase
- 8/30/90 – Jack Alcorn
- 8/30/90 – Sam Alcorn

September Birthdays*

- 9/28/90 – Thomas Harris

**If you are missing from this list, we apologize. Please notify the office so we can update our records.*