

# **COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

## **Nurturing Spiritual Growth and Working for Social Justice**

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Stephen S. Halsted, Pastor

February 2003

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### **Lectionary for February**

#### **February 2<sup>nd</sup>, Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

Deut 18:15-20; Ps 111; 1 Cor 8:1-13; Mk 1:21-28.

#### **February 9<sup>th</sup>, Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

Isa 40:21-31; Ps 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Cor 9:16-23;

Mk 1:29-39.

#### **February 16<sup>th</sup>, Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**

2 Kings 5:1-14; Ps 30; 1 Cor 9:24-27; Mk 1:40-45.

#### **February 23<sup>rd</sup>, Seventh Sunday after Epiphany**

Isa 43:18-25; Ps 41; 2 Cor 1:18-22; Mk 2:1-12.

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Dear Friends,

At our recent Congregational Meeting on January 12 we had small group discussions about the restructuring from "Boards" to "Ministry Teams" being proposed by the Council. From that many good questions were raised to help everyone better understand the changes. The questions were then answered with input from the council and are offered in hopes that they will bring a sense of clarity to the new structure.

These questions were addressed at the Council meeting Monday evening January 20<sup>th</sup>:

1. Why, why, why ??? If it ain't broke why fix it? What is our objective in moving from the old to the new structure?

The answer to this question is best made with an analogy to an automobile! Our old system is not broken and ready for the scrap heap. Rather it's engine is not running at full efficiency and simply needs a tune up. The changes we are making are not a total rebuild of the engine. They are aimed at better fuel efficiency and a smoother running vehicle!

2. Who is going to be a member of the Council? How are they chosen? Elected? Appointed? Would representatives to Council be continuous? Rotating? Alternating?

The chair of each Ministry : Deacons Ministry, Property Ministry, Community Outreach Ministry, Social Justice Ministry, Religious Education Ministry, Stewardship Ministry, Welcoming, Fellowship and Growth Ministry will all be elected to serve a one year term on the council. They may send an alternate representative to a council meeting if they are unable to attend. There will also be 6 officers who serve on the Council as follows: Moderator, Past Moderator, Moderator Elect, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and Clerk.

3. Who can legally bind the church as a signator to outside organizations and make financial transactions? We need at least 3 representatives.

These would be: The Treasurer, The Moderator and the Chair of the Stewardship Ministry.

4. Has this new model been successful in other churches?

Yes. Very similar models have been very successful. Of course CUCC is unique in it's own ways and so it is tailored to our specific personality.

5. Are Deacons going to be selected by the nominating committee? There is concern about choosing people who are sensitive to serving the sacraments and concern over accountability of areas like ushers.

All Deacons will be selected with the aid of the nominating committee and then be voted on by the

Congregation. The four sub-committees that involve worship responsibilities will also have a designated leader to organize that area of responsibility as has been done in the past.

6. If the function of the Deacons is being reduced i.e. taking out "welcoming and fellowship", why are we raising their number of participants?

We are returning to what seems to be a norm in churches to model the number of Deacons based upon the 12 closest disciples of Jesus. We are expanding the number of people who will be called Deacons and yet not expanding the total number of people that presently serve on sub committees of the Deacons. We feel there will be more shared responsibility with this new configuration. All Deacons shall be members of the congregation as our current By-laws state.

7. Could we list different groups already functioning in the church and show under what ministry they come?

This will be shown on another chart.

8. Could we replace the name Growth and Discipleship with Welcoming and Fellowship?

We have decided at the Council meeting on Jan. 20th to call this the "Welcoming, Fellowship and Growth Ministry".

9. What are the terms of office (and/or) service for each ministry?

The Deacons Ministry will be a 3-year term for each member. All the other Ministries will be 2-year terms. Each will have the option of continuing on for another term if one should choose to do so. Committee members affiliated with a Ministry team will have a 1-year term of service.

10. Could we have a chart that shows the old system and how it moves into the new?

Yes, see question 7.

11. What are the differences between the Social Justice and the Community Outreach Ministries?

The main difference is one of how these societal issues are approached. Social Justice Ministries tries

to understand and act upon institutional structures that impact society i.e. "institutional racism", public education policies, human rights advocacy etc. Whereas Community Outreach Ministries involve charitable giving to feed, clothe and shelter the needy who for whatever reason are unable to do so themselves.

12. Who recruits the Ministry Teams? What will be the function of the nominating committee? What if no one volunteers for a ministry team?

This will involve a two-step process.

1. A ministry fair will be held after church for people to learn about the various areas involved for each ministry team. They will then have the opportunity to indicate for which area(s) they would like to volunteer.
2. The nominating committee will then assess where we stand and continue to invite others to any ministries that still need more members. After these two steps are complete the slate of volunteers will be placed before the congregation to be voted upon.

13. Can the Chair of a Ministry Team cancel a committee? or can it be canceled by the ministry team or the whole congregation?

A committee could be canceled only after much discussion and following the procedure of discussion by the whole ministry team, then making a recommendation to the council, who may then move it be voted on by the congregation. No one individual will have the authority to cancel any committee.

14. Will there be an installation of Officers, Chairs and Deacons by the congregation?

Yes, there will be an installation ceremony in April 2003.

We plan to use the following time line as we move forward with our plan:

Sundays Feb. 9 and 16 after church we will hold "Ministry Fairs" for people to learn about the various opportunities to serve and to sign up for specific ministries.

Sunday March 23 - Vote on recommended changes to the Constitution and By-laws and vote on slate of Officers and Ministry Teams.

Sunday April 6 - Ceremony of Installation for those elected.

I am pleased with the progress we are making and thank all of you for your input and help!

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.

Prayers for the family of Roger Manus upon the death of his mother Shirley on January 5<sup>th</sup>.

The Caring Committee wants to know of the special needs of any of our members and friends so that we can respond to those needs. Please keep us informed by calling Marge Eckels, 787-5552, with any news.



**MEETINGS and EVENTS**

**Women's Support Group** meets February 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the Hoffmann Room for a potluck. Bring ideas for planning this year's programs. Call Sally Cook 467-3642.

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**Retirees** – Guess What! The long-awaited Valentine's luncheon cooked by the men is about to happen! If you can join the Retirees on Monday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. for lunch, give Bob Hazel a call at 772-1393 by Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> to get your name in the pot (Or you may call the church office). Hope to see you then.

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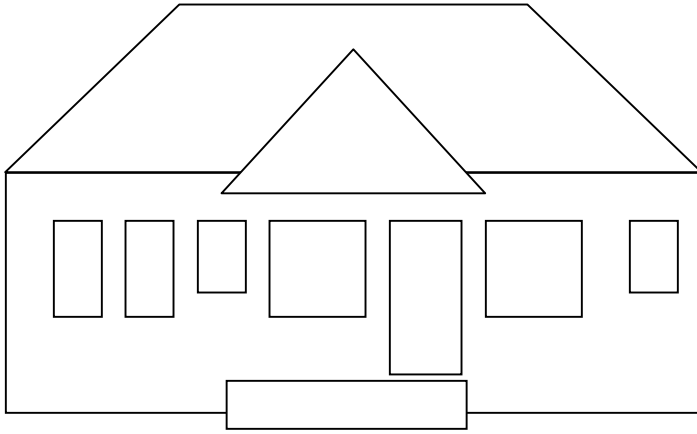
**Something Different for Valentine's Day**



The Common Woman Chorus and the Triangle Gay Men's Chorus will present a joint concert at Meymandi Center on Saturday, February 8 at 8 pm. The concert, entitled "LOVE, Love, love" will be a lot of fun as well as a lot of good music. Both groups have received critical acclaim for their choral abilities. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door. (The ticket cost includes admission to go to a valentine's dance after the concert at the Sheraton Hotel downtown, but this is optional.) Joan McAllister, who sings with the CWC, will have tickets available until February 2 and would love to have you there! This is a wonderful opportunity for our church to demonstrate its support for the gay community.

***M & M Choir***

We joyfully welcome the M & M Choir on February 23 when they will share their gifts of song with us in worship. The M & M Choir includes differently-abled adults who share a delight in singing and a desire to praise God. Please plan to stay after worship for a light reception to welcome them. Anyone who would be willing to bring or help serve refreshments can contact Jane Smith (787-6539).



**LET US CELEBRATE**  
**HABITAT**

**Habitat for Humanity Home moves into finishing stages**

The home that we and St. Luke's Catholic Church are building with the Kembe family is moving into the finishing stages. Now is the time for all those in the congregation who love to paint, do lighter carpentry and landscaping to get their hands dirty and their souls up-lifted in this wonderful service project.

Over the fall the house was framed and the roof put on. By Christmas, we had "dried in" the house, that is, finished the house-wrap, installed windows and exterior doors and finished the roof shingling so that insulation and drywall could be installed with the confidence that they would not get wet. Hired plumbers and heating and air conditioning contractors, and a volunteer electrician from St. Luke's had completed roughins. Since Christmas, we have nearly finished the exterior, the drywall is finished and primed, and we are moving into painting, inside trim carpentry, putting up cabinets, etc. Later will come landscaping.

The Kembe's had planned to come to worship with us earlier, but their daughter got a bug and they couldn't come. I look forward to their coming on Sunday, February 2, so that we can all meet one another. Emmanuel, a singer and guitarist, has offered to play and sing for us.

Speaking for myself, both the work and the people

of St. Luke's, CUCC and the Kembe's have been a joy. We have about two months more work to do, so come join in and see what experience God has planned for you in this mission!

Submitted by Jim Smith

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**SPECIAL DAYS**

**Youth Birthdays**

**February Birthdays\***

- 2/5/89 – Kat Griggs
- 2/5/92 – Abby Smith
- 2/6/93 – Elena Briere
- 2/15/00 – Gloria Difuidi

**March Birthdays\***

- 3/3/88 - Amanda Bowen
- 3/24/90 – Nicholas DeVito

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

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**Living Peaceably: Practicing Peace in Our Homes, Our Schools and Our Community**

Living Peaceably is a series of practical, "how to," workshops on peacemaking. Jesus has called us as disciples to be peacemakers. The workshops include sessions on Praying for Peace, Preventing Family Violence, Making Peace a Priority at Home, How to Intervene, Understanding Violence Against the Self, Making Signs of Peace, Working for Peace: 5 Concrete Steps, Taking Action!, Conflict Resolution, Just Peace: A UCC Priority, and more. These workshops will be on February 22, 2003, 9:00 am until noon, at United Church of Chapel Hill, 1321 Airport Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. For information call 919-942-3540 or email [ucch@unitedchurch.org](mailto:ucch@unitedchurch.org). Registration is at the door beginning at 8:30 am. However, pre-registration is encouraged as it enables the sponsors to plan.

**BOARD OF DEACONS**

## Art Wall

CUCC welcomes **Margaret Rand Hilpert**.

With husband John, Margaret leads retreats at the Cedar Cross Retreat Center and teaches simple art processes to help adults recover a sense of fun, balance and sometimes find a different way to pray. She's directed a three-year project teaching art with residents at The Ark Shelter and she helped set up art learning centers at Loaves and Fishes.

Margaret writes about her Art: "I seek in the collages to make a rich textured surface in which images are secondary to the patterns of light and dark, or lines and shapes. I begin with a big board. The invitation while I am working is to stop and pay attention to small areas and keep on working until every area is interesting. Only then do I begin to isolate areas and see what has decided to appear. It is great fun, hard work, and full of surprises.

Stop by the Art Wall and enjoy the display and read more about Margaret.

## Evaluation of the State of the Congregation, Winter 2003

Since Steve Halsted has now been at CUCC for a year and since we are in the midst of a reorganization of our board and committee structure to a structure of ministry teams, and since membership in the Deacons Ministry will change just before the time of year that staff evaluations are normally done, the current Board of Deacons proposes to conduct a "State of the Congregation" evaluation this winter. You should find a list of evaluation questions folded within your newsletter. Please consider the questions carefully, write your answers on the form or on separate sheets of paper, and return to the church (addressed to the Board of Deacons) before the end of February. The Deacons (with possible help from the Pastoral Relations Committee) will read, compile, and consider the responses and will schedule meetings with Steve and with the congregation in March to discuss the results of the survey. If there is more than one church member or attendee in your family, please make copies of the form or pick up additional copies at church, so that each person can respond individually.

If you have access to the Internet, you can find the evaluation form, the archived "Position Announcement—Pastor," which included the "anticipated trends in our congregation" "What CUCC expects to accomplish over the next three years," and "the twelve characteristics most named by the congregation as central to our needs for leadership at this time" at <http://www.communityucc.org/evaluation> This is connected, but may or may not be linked, to the church web page. For answers to questions or more information, please contact Edith Sylla, Chair of the Board of Deacons.

# CHRISTIAN WITNESS

## SOCIAL ACTION


### WIDER OUTREACH COMMITTEE

#### Wait tables? Love to cook?

The Wider Outreach Committee is booking people to cook and/or serve meals at the Wright Center for Women. CUCC provides a warm meal for about 40 homeless women every third Sunday of the month. For cooks, your commitment is to prepare one dish for 40 people (a main dish, vegetable or dessert); money is available to reimburse your food expenses if needed. For servers, your task is to serve the meal; the time commitment is generally from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. No clean up is involved. This is a great activity for multigenerational groups, for getting to know new people at CUCC, or for involving family members who don't attend CUCC. To schedule your time to help, call Jo Perry; she's signing up people for **February 16** and other months.

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Reminder: **Food Bags** will be collected on February 2<sup>nd</sup> (next Sunday).



During 2002 our congregation contributed an average of 19 emergency food bags per month. That's pretty good, but not good enough. Our goal is 25. Fortunately we started 2003 with a bang – 25! Let's keep up that level of contribution and our average for this year should be great. Remember that these are emergency food bags. We're really helping a family in dire straits when we provide their food.

The Social Action Committee shares the following from Rev. Bob Egar, General Secretary of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA.

“As you know, we take as our text for the coming decade the words of Isaiah that Jesus quoted in his first sermon: ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.’ Luke 4:18 (NRSV). We have dedicated ourselves to changing the way in which we think about the poor. Far too many of us accept poverty as an unfortunate, but unavoidable, part of our economic and social system. Once slavery and segregation and child labor and the inferior legal status of women were viewed the same way. We can draw strength from the memory that churches and people of faith led the fight to abolish these injustices. We must do the same for poverty.”

#### Social Action Calendar

February 2, 9, 16 and 23<sup>rd</sup> – “Honk for Peace” Crabtree Valley, 2-4 p.m. in front of the Marriott Hotel. This is an ongoing demonstration against war in Iraq every Sunday.

February 5 – “Stop the Arms Race” vigil. Noon, Fayetteville Street Mall.

February 8 – 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Frank Porter Graham Awards Dinner. 5:30 p.m., The Durham Marriott. The N.C. Chapter of the ACLU honors:

Deborah Ross, outstanding civil libertarian and newly elected member of the N.C. House of Representatives

Stephen Dear, Director of People of Faith Against the Death Penalty

Wm. Knox, educator and civil rights advocate. For reservations call ACLU of North Carolina, 834-3390.

February 27 – The International Human Rights Award Dinner honoring Mary-Lou Leiser Smith, has been rescheduled for Thursday, February 27 at the NC State University Club, 4200 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh (just east of the State Fair Grounds).

The Social Hour will begin at 6:30 pm, with dinner at 7:15. Cost is \$27 per person. A cash wine bar will be available.

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Please send checks payable to HRCNC to Joyce Scapicchio, 5320 Neuse Forest Road, Raleigh, NC 27616. (Those who wish a vegetarian dinner should request it at the time they make their reservations.) Advance payment is required and must be received on or before Thursday, February 20. For additional information, please contact Joyce at (919)( 872-0501, or at joyce.scapicchio@oracle.com.

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### Communications Committee

#### **About our pictorial directories...**

They are expected back soon from the company. Those who were photographed or submitted a picture will receive a copy of the directory. You will need to pick yours up. We will have them in the sanctuary on Sundays after they arrive. During the week you may pick them up from the office.

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

### **CUCC Church School Program:**

**February 2:** Communion Sunday - children in the 1st-5th grade class will return to the liturgy of communion to sit with their families.

#### The kingdom of God is like...

When Jesus tried to describe what God was leading the world to become, he often used parables. From Feb. 9 to March 2 the preschool and elementary school church school will be learning some of those parables and using them to prepare a puppet show. They will present that puppet show at the next Children and Youth Sunday, March 9.

**Parents: mark the family calendar for March 8 (a possible dress rehearsal) and 9.** Your children will be helped in their work by being able to attend as many church schools during that four week class period as possible. Parents who have dramatic gifts (either the performance or the backstage kind) that you could offer to support the teachers, contact Jane Smith (787-6539).

**Adult Forum** - 9:15 -- 10:15 each Sunday Morning in the Vaughan Room

### **February Schedule**

**February 2** – Charlotte Turpin, President of the Wake County Classroom Teachers Association will continue the discussion of the challenges facing our Wake County Public Schools.

The Adult Education Committee has been requested to provide the following information about Wake Public Schools as a companion to the Sunday Forum on February 2. The basic information is as follows:

- Number of pupils - 104,373 - 27th largest in the U.S.
- Diversity - white 61.5%; African-American 26.3%; Hispanic 4.1%, Asian 2.1%
- Number of Teachers - 6372. 11,800 full time employees
- Total budget - \$706,520,282.00 - 72% instructional, 16% support, 7% Administrative, 5% other
- High School graduates/yr - 5406, 87% to higher education, 62% to 4yr. colleges
- Average SAT scores - Wake - 1061, U.S. 1019, N.C. 988

**February 9** – Chris Fitzsimon, Executive Director of the Common Sense Foundation will talk on “What Happened in the General Assembly and What We Can Expect from the Upcoming Session.”

**February 16** – Rev. Ray Buchanan, Director of “Stop Hunger Now,” will share with us from his experiences as a recent visitor to Iraq with the National Council of Churches.

**February 23** - Nahed Alsours is founder of “Mothers for Peace.” She is Palestinian-American and she will discuss her endeavors to bring peace to our troubled world.