

COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Nurturing Spiritual Growth and Working for Social Justice

814 Dixie Trail

Raleigh, NC 27607

Phone: 919-787-6422 Fax: 919-787-2296

Office: office@communityucc.org; Pastor: pastor@communityucc.org

www.communityucc.org

Stephen S. Halsted, Pastor

July 2003

Lectionary for July

July 6th, Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Sam 5:1-5, 9-10; Ps 48 OR Ezek 2:1-5; Ps 123;

2 Cor 12:2-10; Mk 6:1-13.

July 13th, Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Sam 6:1-5, 12b-19; Ps 24 OR Am 7:7-15; Ps 85:8-13;

Eph 1:3-14; Mk 6:14-29.

July 20th, Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

2 Sam 7:1-14a; Ps 89:20-37 OR Jeremiah 23:1-6; Ps 23;

Eph 2:11-22; Mk 6:30-34, 53-56.

July 27th, Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

2 Sam 11:1-15; Ps 14 OR 2 Kings 4:42-44;

Ps 145:10-18; Eph 3:14-21; Jn 6:1-21.

Pastor Halsted vacationed on Cape Cod through the end of June and will have a letter in the August newsletter.



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 in the prayer jars at the back of the sanctuary or in Pilgrim House.

Among those who need to be remembered in prayer are: Bob Keyes, Jo Lemon, Sister Evelyn Mattern, Nancy Keppel, Sarah Hoffman, Buck Little, Margot von Harten's grandson, and Aurora Gregory.

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.

CHURCH COUNCIL

The Church Council began a discussion of the church policy about the Congolese Loan Fund. The loan was originally made by CUCC to the Congolese Church in December 2001 in the amount of \$2,000.00. Repayments have amounted to \$620.00, although the note calls for \$40 per week payment (which would have repaid this loan in 2002). The Council has agreed that \$2,500.00 shall be a revolving loan amount and that Pastor Puati and Pastor Halsted will agree for their church how to disperse the funds at anytime. This will be a church to church loan for the uses that the churches jointly decide.

The Council agreed to encourage CUCC members to make suggested loans to the Congolese Loan Fund if requested by EUDA individual members. The pastors of the two churches can then direct the use of the funds as the churches see fit.

Here are some of the highlights of the June 16 Church Council meeting.

- The Communications Committee asks that each Ministry chairperson submit a brief article each month for the newsletter so that everyone can be aware of the work they are doing. It is important that these articles be submitted by the deadline so that there is time to proof and produce the publication.
- The Method Day Care, a multi-ethnic center currently caring for 58 children, will be

holding a series of fund raising events to raise enough money to move their school out of the Pullen Baptist Church basement. Land on Western Boulevard has been donated for this effort. It has been suggested that each of the 5 founding churches pledge \$10,000 for the campaign. As CUCC is a founding church, the Council approved a resolution to support a fund-raising campaign aimed at raising this money by the end of 2003. Cy King and Margaret Osborne will be heading up this effort. It was also suggested that they contact the Rich Park board for financial help since the Day Care center started there and is used by the residents.

- **Deacons Ministry:** It was decided that the people who should be called for help in the event that our Pastor is not available are Robert Parrish, Ann McLaughlin and Doug Long.
- **Welcoming, Fellowship & Growth Ministry:** Council members all expressed pleasure at the activities of this Ministry, which is under Joan McAllister's leadership. The fellowship get-togethers after service have given everyone a big lift.
- **Social Justice Ministry:** A request has come to Steve with a request for our help in providing hospitality to migrant workers. No other information is available at this point.
- **Religious Education Ministry:** Everette Noland offered to talk to the members of the Religious Education ministry to see if someone would agree to attend council meetings and report on what's happening in that ministry.

The next council meeting will be at 7:00 pm, July 21, at the Pilgrim House.

DEACONS MINISTRY

Since the new structure is now in place, we need to remind each other that committees are no more, ministries are open to all, and the sky's the limit! Please consider yourselves invited into every and all

of the Deacons' activities, including Caring, Ushers, Sacraments and Chancel, and Arts in Worship. Your name doesn't have to appear on any list, and you don't have to commit to any regular meetings. The ushers and greeters can always use help - even at the spur of the moment on Sunday (sometimes ESPECIALLY at the spur of the moment on Sunday!).

Sacraments and Chancel would love to have an extra arrangement on the welcome table out in the Narthex ANY Sunday, and would love to hear from you about helping with the communion table arrangements by supplying flowers, doing a table design, or assisting with communion. When you are here on a first Sunday, please know that you are VERY welcome and wanted to join the cleanup crew after communion. If you can't stay, you can help by taking home the white cloths to clean.

Do you play an instrument? Sing? Do liturgical dance? Do dramatic reading? Write dramatic readings? Poetry? Have a friend who does? Let the **Arts in Worship** folk know, or better yet, become a part of the Arts in Worship folk, if only for a Sunday's worth! - Or maybe you have a special event in mind?

The Caring folk are of course ALL OF US -the **Caring team** can help you focus your talents and time on those who need it the most right now. You can become a part of our efforts to be a warmer, more supportive community. You know best what you do best - please share!

The **Deacons** are always interested in your ideas for worship and/or ministry activities. Send to any of the twelve, or come see them in person to express, expound, and explain your ideas. Our next meeting is July 9th at 7:30 pm in the Bradow room.

Please do feel empowered and welcome to come.

Peace,

Vandy Bradow, Chair, Deacons

PROPERTY MINISTRY

The Property Ministry has a long list of large and small projects that the members have continued to

address. Recently these projects have included repairing the dishwasher, finishing the organ speaker trim, completing the Bryan Building painting, repairing the basketball goal, and trimming shrubs. Mac Hulslander has done some preliminary work on the Memorial Garden site located on the Wade Avenue side of the property. A subcommittee will be appointed to oversee the development and fundraising for the Memorial Garden project.

Two major concerns have been brought to the attention of the Property Ministry - sanctuary lighting and property insurance review.

The lighting for the choir is not adequate, particularly on cloudy days when there is no auxiliary source of light from the window. There is also the larger issue of improving lighting for other areas in the sanctuary. The Property Ministry will have an electrician examine the electrical distribution for the sanctuary, which may already be over its capacity. Recommendations will then be made to the Church Council regarding lighting improvements.

A representative of the property insurance company has recently reviewed the church physical structures. Areas of concern included smoke/heat detectors and exit signs. The Property Ministry will have a qualified person examine the church buildings and recommend improvements.

Submitted by Alan Beidler

MEETINGS and EVENTS

Women's Support Group – Thursday, July 17th, 6:30 in the Hoffmann Room – a summer potluck for fun and fellowship. Call Sally Cook, 467-3642, if you need more information.

In the way of circles, the **Drumming Circle** continues: August 5th at 7:30 in the Pilgrim House. Bring your instrument.



ICE CREAM SOCIAL
with
Doug Barrick entertaining at
the *piano*

When: *Saturday, July 12, 2003, 7:30 pm*

Where: *Linda Baker's Home -
1412 Lutz Street*

Who: *Members and Friends of CUCC*

RSVP: *Church Office - 787-6422*

Parking is limited so meet at the church at 7:30 and carpool!

FRANKLINTON CENTER DAY
August 2, 2003

- Food!**
- Fun!**
- Games!**
- Good Preaching!**
- Good Singing!**
- A Whole lot of Fun!**

Keynote Speaker, Rev. Ike McDonald, Providence UCC, Chesapeake, Va. Saturday, August, 2, 2003, 10:00-4:00, Franklinton Center at Bricks, Hwy 301, Whitakers, NC 27891. Contact person: Judith Thomas @ 1-800-345-1850.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CUCC Church School News

Hope everyone is enjoying a safe and happy summer!

During the month of July and the second Sunday of August our preschool and elementary classes will be enjoying the “Veggie Tales” series.

July 6 and August 3 have been designated “Hymn Sing Sundays.” There will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on these days.

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!

CHRISTIAN WITNESS

Social Action

Friends of Farmworkers

The Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) has informed us that many farmworkers are in need of items not provided by their employers. We are collecting these items and FLOC will distribute them to the farmworkers most in need. You may leave items with Carol Clark in the Pilgrim House, 9-1:00, M-F.

Items needed:

1. Bed sheets. Employers are required to provide a bed for each worker but not sheets. Any size is OK.
2. Hats or caps. Working 10-12 hours in the field, workers need protection from the sun.
3. Work gloves of any type for working in crops with pesticides or crops with prickly spines.
4. Large handkerchiefs/bandanas for covering workers’ faces to prevent pesticide exposure.

Items do not need to be new. These simple items can make a great difference to folks who do very difficult work to put food on our tables.

Social Action Committee

“An Urgent Call for Reflection, Hope and Action”

An Interfaith Summit was held in Chicago on April 30, 2003, with 79 Muslim, Christian, Jewish and other faith leaders from across the U.S. to issue a set of principles to lead toward a peaceful future. Rev. John H. Thomas, UCC General Minister and President, was present and a contributor. The words that follow are from the joint declaration.

“As people of faith and leaders of diverse religious communities, we recognize that we are at a moment of choice even more urgent than before the war in Iraq began...

“Drawing on all of our traditions that are rooted in justice, compassion and peace, we say to the present leadership of the United States:

1. Draw back from the use and threat of first strike war;
2. Draw back from unilateral U.S. control over the reconstruction of Iraq;
3. Bring the U.S. occupation of Iraq to a prompt end by transferring to the United Nations and multilateral, non-governmental organizations the authority to work with the Iraqi people toward its own reconstruction; and
4. Make available U.S. resources as part of a world effort to serve the needs and decisions of the Iraqi people.

“Finally, we call on our fellow religious leaders throughout the world to join in convening an international interfaith summit that will provide a worldwide forum for religious leaders to meet and discuss in depth ways to eliminate the rhetoric of hate and to end violence perpetrated in the name of religion.”

The Social Justice Ministry, along with many other individuals and groups, has endorsed the full “Urgent Call for Reflection, Hope and Action.”

Social Action Calendar

July 1 – “Keeping the Faith: Expatriate Communities” 7-9pm, The Century Center, 100 North Greensboro St., Carrboro. Accounts first hand experiences of Muslims living in the Triangle.

July 2 – “Stop the Arms Race Vigil.” Noon, Fayetteville Street Mall in front of the Century Post Office.

July 25-27 – Southeastern World Affairs Institute, Blue Ridge Assembly, Black Mountain, NC - See Social Action Bulletin Board for full listing of program, cost, etc. For information on past institutes and whether you should plan to attend, talk with the Littletons, the Klemmers, or the Kings. A wonderful opportunity!

August 6 – Town Meeting at Quail Ridge Books with Congressman David Price on “The Federal Budget.” – 7 pm.

Wider Outreach

SUMMER FOOD NEEDS



Most of us take breakfast and lunch for granted. We may wonder only about what choices of fruit are on hand, or about which protein we’d like to include in our meal, but none of us faces a day when there is no breakfast and/or lunch.

For some families the end of school and the beginning of the summer holiday marks the end of free or low cost school breakfast and lunch for their children. The N.C. Food Bank and the Crisis Program at Urban Ministries are hard-pressed to respond to the needs of these hungry families. CUCC’s contribution of emergency food bags each month is an **essential** part of one source of food for those hungry families. Urban Ministries counts on a steady, predictable flow of food supplies. In June we collected only 16 food bags, compared to our goal of 25. That level of giving will not solve the problem described above.

Please **mark your calendar** so that you remember to contribute an emergency food bag on the **first Sunday of July, August and September**. Maybe with that much reinforcement you’ll automatically bring a food bag all the rest of the year! Thanks for remembering.

S M T W T H F SA

July 6	*						

Bring food bags

WELCOMING FELLOWSHIP
& GROWTH MINISTRY
(WFGM)

The WFGM includes Ann Duffell, Anne Pope, Carolyn King, Ed Klemmer, Irene Doak, Jane Smith, Joan McAllister, Kerma Hazel, Lisa Leiser-Banks, Marcy Halsted, Roger Manus, Scottie Bell and Susan Lane.

This summer WFGM has focused on providing more opportunities for the congregation to gather, starting with expanding the fellowship and food time after church. Food and drinks are provided in the Vaughan Wing and on the courtyard when the weather cooperates. Home baked cookies and brownies, fresh veggies, fruit, real coffee and decaf, tea and lemonade have attracted most of the congregation after worship each Sunday in June. This is a great way to see other members as well as to get to know our visitors. Since we have a couple of younger folk who are highly allergic, snacks are peanut free. We would welcome your donations of peanut-free snacks. Homemade cookies freeze well and can be stored at the Pilgrim House for upcoming Sundays. Please contact Joan McAllister at 919-851-9674 to express your interest.

WFGM calendar:

July 6: the first ever **CUCC P2e (patooie) Day**, with watermelons provided by Everette Noland. We will have a seed spitting contest on the front lawn, with the grass being the practice area and straight sidewalks as the “official” contest arena. There will be three divisions: Men, Women and Youth under age 18. Visitors are welcome to participate! Prizes will be awarded in each category. Remember the world record is 66 feet 11 inches, so practice your pucker!!

On **July 20** we will have a church-wide **Potluck, Hospitality Workshop and Sundaesunday** after worship. Bring a dish to share, but NOT DESSERT!! The discussion will focus how each of us can contribute to making our church as warm, welcoming and wonderful as the people who come here. During the workshop child care and fun activities will be provided. Children should plan to get wet, and bring clothing appropriate to water games. The workshop will last about an hour and the leader will be Susan Robinson. Then it is Sundaesunday time. WFGM will provide ice cream, bananas, and a variety of toppings so that you can create your own Sundae or other Split. After all, July 20 is national Ice Cream Day!

August 17th is **Welcome Back Sunday** (where did summer go??) so we will be providing pizzas to honor our youth (yes, we old folks can have pizza too.)

Other events in the planning stage are a Church wide picnic in the fall (late September) and the **Christmas party December 6.**

WFGM has a lot of ideas about strengthening our congregational experience, helping visitors find a church home, and looking toward outreach into the broader community. Your ideas and involvement at any level are welcome!

-Submitted by Joan McAllister

OUR PEOPLE

Rhonda Zingraff, professor of sociology at Meredith College, was recently presented the Laura Harrill Presidential Award, an award that is presented to faculty members who have made significant contributions to the betterment of Meredith College.

On May 11th, we welcomed into membership **Edward and Elizabeth King.**

SPECIAL DAYS

Youth Birthdays

July Birthdays*

There are no July 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

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

REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE ANNUAL GATHERING REPORT

With the theme “Proclaim the Future: Open Your Heart, Open your Pocket, Open up to the Spirit” the 38th Southern Conference Annual Gathering took place at Catawba College, in Salisbury, from June 19-21, 2003. Ann McLaughlin and I attended – Ann as a clergy person and I as our CUCC delegate

A grand mix of music, prayer, dance, evangelical exhortation, powerpoint financial presentations, tasty food, fervent optimism, worship, and even clowns, occurred in the days at Catawba. About 470 persons came from the Eastern Virginia Conference, the Western Conference and the Eastern Conference, all members of the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ.

From the rousing keynote sermon by Dr. Kenneth Samuel, pastor of the 6,000 member Victory Church in Atlanta, to the splendid State of the Conference address by our new Conference Minister, the Rev. Stephen Camp, the Annual Gathering was infused with optimism about our denomination and its future. Yes, there are problems to overcome, but under Steve Camp’s leadership I think realistic assessments have been made, priorities and ultimate goals have been set, with emphasis on all churches joining together to achieve the goals, rather than expecting Conference staff to do it all. There was a wonderful emphasis, too, on youth – and ample evidence throughout the Conference of a lively, involved youth from various churches. A proposal for a new Southern Conference building was offered. There’s lots of energy out there; we just need to tap into it.

Churches who have made their contribution to Our Church’s Wider Mission (OCWM) received certificates of appreciation. CUCC received one acknowledging our contribution of \$15,852.50. It will be posted for you to see.

Last, but not least, each church was given a five dollar bill from the Southern Conference office. CUCC is challenged to increase this “talent” by as much as possible before November 7. Then a unique Ball will take place at the Durham Marriott to celebrate the various ways churches have found to multiply their talents. The Southern Conference 2003 budget includes a \$42,000 deficit. In a unique and innovative way the Southern Conference staff challenges all of us to eliminate the deficit. **Let’s get creative!!** Give your ideas to Carol Clark in the office. We need to get to work right away!

Marge Eckels, CUCC Delegate

ROSTER UPDATES

New address changes:

Sue Richey – 5413 Rhett Dr., Raleigh, NC 27606

Marlene Mueller and Gene, Jonny & David
Cookmeyer – 8722 Harps Mill Rd.,
Raleigh, NC 27615, 872-1483

Nancy Keppel – 1404 Woodside Terrace,
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Email change:

Elizabeth Greene – etgreene@earthlink.net

Add:

Carol Clark – 4400 Irving Ct., Raleigh, NC 27609,
876-1393