

COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Nurturing Spiritual Growth and Working for Social Justice

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Stephen S. Halsted, Pastor

April 2002

Lectionary for April

April 7, Second Sunday of Easter:

Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Ps. 16; I Pet. 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

April 14, Third Sunday of Easter:

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps. 116:1-4, 10-17; Ps 116:1-3, 12-19; I Pet. 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

April 21, Fourth Sunday of Easter:

Acts 2:42-47; Ps. 23; I Pet. 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

April 28, Fifth Sunday of Easter:

Acts 7:55-60; Ps. 31:1-5, 15-16; I Pet. 2:2-10;
John 14:1-14

Dear Friends,

One way to describe Christians is to say that we are "Easter" people. Easter with its uplifting emphasis on resurrection to new life captures the spirit of faith, hope, and love that guide our Christian identity.

As Christians we seek to grow and mature in our faith, to expand the scope of our love out into the world and to be fueled by our hope to create a better world for future by generations. This is the work that keeps us busy and connected as a Christian community.

The Wider Outreach Board has recently been at work planning toward getting our church involved in a Habitat for Humanity Housing project. "Habitat" was organized to provide lower income people to be able to afford and own adequate homes to meet their needs.

To get our congregation involved and to learn more about Habitat for Humanity we are planning an intergenerational Vacation Bible School (VBS) the week of July 15-19. This program is for people of all ages and will be held in the evening from 6-8 pm. The program is designed by Habitat and includes time for bible study and work projects. We need adults to work along with children and youth. We need children, parents, grandparent types and singles of all ages! In other words we need you! We want this program to be truly intergenerational and all inclusive! You can come all five nights or 1, 2,

3, or 4 nights – whatever works for your schedule! We need experienced woodworkers and those who are beginners.

So, set your summer schedule now to be able to participate in our Habitat for Humanity – Vacation Bible School, July 15-19, 2002.

Oh! and, by the way, join us for delicious pot-luck dinners each evening as we begin with great food at 6 pm.

Watch for more information in the coming months, but get this fun event on your calendar now!

Shalom,

Pastor Steve

PRAYERS

Please remember in your prayers: Linda Baker, recovering from a round of repair surgery; Mary and Al Matthew's whose niece, Judith Grant, passed away March 21; Todd Manus, recovering from a shakeup in a car accident along with his friends Adam, who was seriously injured and is still hospitalized and Leland, who was moderately injured; Tom Castagna, Vandy's nephew-in-law, serving in Afghanistan; Lisa Marsh, making a transition to a group home.

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.

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.

The Monday Lunch Group will continue studying The Good Heart – a Buddhist’s perspective on the teachings of Jesus by the Dalai Lama Bring a bag lunch and join us any Monday at 12:15. For more information, call Sarah Hoffman, 781-2373.

MEETINGS and EVENTS

ASP Trip

Support our ASP Trip – Buy a Picnic Table!

Our ASP trip is set for the week of June 9th in Tazewell County, VA. The ASP team will be doing several fundraisers in the next 2 months. We will be selling ASP stock after Sunday Services in May and we also plan to have a bake sale after church (probably during May). We will also be continuing the tradition of building picnic tables to serve as construction practice and to raise money for our trip. We will be selling the picnic tables for \$175. Please call Mark Denlinger at 847-5131 if you’d like to buy one. The picnic table in the playground area at church was built by last year’s ASP team and this year’s design will be the same. All the wood is treated and all joints use either bolts or screws (no nails!) for a lifetime of service.

CUCC Retirees Group

The Retirees will meet Monday, April 8th, at 11:00 am. Mark Denlinger will present a program about “Punkin Chunkin”, a fascinating sport he enjoys. It’s a modern version of the CATAPULT, which was used in Medieval times to hurl missiles at one’s enemies. Bring a sandwich and enjoy Mark’s story about building and using these machines for NON-lethal competition.

Women’s Support Group Potluck will be 6:30 pm in the Hoffmann Room, April 25th.

Islamic Center of Raleigh has extended an invitation to our congregation to an Open House, Saturday, April 6th, from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. The Center is located at the corner of Ligon and Atwater. Take Method Road from Hillsborough Street & turn left onto Ligon. The Center will be on your left. This is a gracious invitation to which many of us will wish to accept in the interest of building bridges of understanding between our faiths.

CUCC AUCTION

7:00 April 20th

\$2.00 Admission

CLEAR YOUR CALENDAR FOR CUCC AUCTION

Cakes Pickles Paintings Cookies
Handmade Cards/Stationery Pottery
Quilts Knitted Goods Stained Glass
Crocheted Goods Dinners Guided Tours
Yard Services Getaway Weekend
Flower Arranging
Massage Shopping Services

TELL US!

Turn in your auction pledge forms with your contribution to the auction, then

SHOW UP!

IF you have concert tickets, change them....!! If you have a wedding to attend, we will miss you! Otherwise, we will expect you to be among the enthusiastic eggheads at the CUCC auction April 20. The social action (no, not Social Action this time!) begins at 7:00 p.m. with wine and cheese and bidding strategy. The live-action auction will begin shortly thereafter--for everything from marmalade to massage. To add to the offerings, or ask info, call Anne Pope or Vandy Bradow.

CUCC Sunday School Calendar:

April 7: Meeting Someone New

April 14: Storytelling/Art

April 21: Art

May 12: The children and youth will lead us in
Worship.

Senior High Bible Study

Sarah McGiverin continues to lead an hour-long Bible study in the Bradow room each Monday beginning at 4:00 pm.

Johns River Valley Camp

April 12-14, 2002: Annual Mothers' Retreat

Multicultural Training Workshop. Anyone with an interest in multicultural understanding, appreciation and acceptance is invited to this Workshop, Saturday, April 13, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at CUCC. This is sponsored by The Mankind Project and is \$10.00 per person. There will be light refreshments provided.

CHRISTIAN WITNESS

Adult Education Committee

Adult Forum

April 7 We will revisit "What it Means to be a Just Peace Church When our Nation is at Ward." John Little will facilitate the discussion and everyone is urged to attend and contribute as we continue to struggle with this difficult question.

Other Adult Forums coming up are:

April 14 Lori Fernald Khamala of the National Farm Worker Ministry will show a video and talk about how to bring justice to farm workers.

April 21 Michiel Dooren, "Climate Change, the Ultimate Problem."

April 28 Dannette Sharpley, a recent visitor to Colombia with Witness for Peace, will report to us on her trip to that troubled country.

May 5 Dr. Ed Klemmer will share his ideas on "What a Just Peace Church Should be About."

Caring Committee

Nametags – The Caring Committee is making some changes to procedures around our nametags. Judy Smith has volunteered to make a cover for an additional hanger so we can have more name tags available and they will be more spread out, so it should be easier to find. Bill Lamb is still in charge of making nametags, so if you want one, or you need a new one, let him know. Nametags can also be made in the church office so if you don't see Bill, you can leave a note on the Caring Community roll and the office can make you one. New nametags and stick on tags will be put out on a table in the narthex next to the hangers. Please remember to have your nametags with you and wear them when you go the Vaughan Wing after the service. That's when folks really do have a chance to make connections.

Eckel's Bequest

The Wider Outreach Committee is currently accepting suggestions for the Eckel's Bequest. Have an idea? Contact a member of the committee.

Social Action

What it means to be a Just Peace church when our nation is at war:

In December, a number of people met at the Forum time to discuss “what it means to be a Just Peace church when our nation is at war.” After much brainstorming and discussion, it was determined that there should be a continuation of this process, since as many questions were raised as were answered. The group proposed recommendations that they would like to see considered further or implemented, and referred these to the Social Action Committee.

The recommendations brought to the Committee for consideration were:

1. Endorsement of cabinet level position in U.S. Peace Department.
2. Habitat house as an interfaith project (with Wider Outreach).
3. Broaden support for Interfaith Alliance (send a representative from our congregation).
4. More involvement and support for Eastern North Carolina Association.
5. Developing relationships with Congolese in our congregation.

*****8

The Farm Labor Organizing Committee (and the Social Action Committee) has received a major boost from Duke University. Excerpts from a letter from President Nan Koehane detail Duke’s support for the boycott of Mt. Olive Pickle products.

March 21, 2002

Dear Duke Students Against Sweat Shops:

“...I have determined that we will confirm that Mr. Olive Pickle Products will not be made available through Duke units, either for sale or for dining purposes. This support of the boycott will remain in place until the company demonstrates its support for good working conditions...”

“We at Duke believe that improving working conditions on the farms of our state must include broad-based efforts by many actors, including processors, growers, farm workers, government officials, farm worker advocates and consumers. Duke has stated its willingness to participate in such efforts, and we hope they will bear fruit in improving the lives of farm laborers.

Yours sincerely,

Naneri O. Koehane

Wider Outreach

Wider Outreach is pleased to have feedback on our annual contribution to the Loaves and Fishes program. Betty Anne Ford, Executive Director, wrote a long letter, part of which is quoted here: “Before Nancy (Newell) and I leave on a 3-month sabbatical, I wanted to write and thank my wonderful home church for its financial commitment to Loaves and Fishes. Your budgeted pledge truly makes a difference, as do all of your gifts both tangible and intangible, as we venture forth into a new era (another 20 years!) with continued dreams of making life better and more promising for our children.

As you know, working with children and families in the shadows can be very trying. For example, Suzette (Roach) spent several days “trying” to round up enough community resources to pay a \$1,100 water bill for a family of nine. The water was turned off for quite a while – something we found out from a younger child in the family. Can you imagine a family of nine with no water? And yet the mother, who has been without a job since last spring, is courageous enough to walk a mile to the bus stop each day, travel a considerable distance to her new place of work, put in a full day’s work, arrive home late, fix dinner for everyone, and take care of all the other family needs – only to have her rent increased and food stamps reduced (because employment increased her income and therefore effected these two items).”

Would you agree that our money is well spent?

Join the Wider Outreach Committee in a Celebration of Spring Benefit for AIDS Alliance. A potluck brunch will be held on Sunday April 7th, immediately after the 10:30 am service. Please bring your favorite brunch dish to share. Special pastries and desserts will be featured. Everyone is welcome to join us for great food and fellowship, a donation of \$5.00 is suggested. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Richey, 454-6376.

It may seem to early to plan for the Christmas season, but Marketplace for Meaningful Gifts needs volunteers to help with the coordination of agencies and all of the little details that make this event so successful. Please contact Marty McLean to volunteer your talents.

Emergency Food Bags: During March, 27 food bags were delivered to Urban Ministries. That's a record, folks! Thanks – and let's keep it up!

Communications Committee

Attention Committee Chairs.

The Communications Committee anticipates publishing a new pictorial directory next fall, probably early in October. It would be helpful if all committees would begin now collecting pictures of their activities so that we would have a good representation of interesting shots to select from, showing the varied aspects of our church life.

Volunteering Opportunities

Appalachian Service Project

The ASP is scheduled for the week of June 9th with fundraisers and meetings beginning in March. If you would like to participate and haven't signed up, contact Mark Denlinger, 847-5131. More information as the date approaches.

The Annual CUCC Auction is coming in April. If you would be willing to help with any aspect, contact Anne Pope, 872-2380. Some volunteers are still needed to help with the various duties

Our People

Congratulations to **Cy King!** He is being presented this year's Peacemaker Award honoring his (and Carolyn's) long-term commitment to the cause of peace. N. C. Peace Action has established the annual award, and Cy will be the first recipient. The presentation dinner will be held on Thursday, April 25, 2002. Social hour/cash bar, 6:30 pm.- Dinner, 7:30 pm at the NC State University Club. Kevin Martin, Executive Director of Peace Action, will be a featured speaker. Tickets \$30.00. Make checks payable to N.C. Peace Action and mail to N.C. Peace Action, PO Box 10384, Raleigh, NC 27605, before April 10. .

Elder Valerie Jean Melvin, CUCC's intern, invites you to the **Baccalaureate** for Duke University Divinity School, Saturday, May 11, 2002, 6:30 pm, Duke Chapel, and to the Commencement Exercises, Sunday, May 12, 10:00 am, Wallace Wade Stadium.

Sunday, April 14, will be the final worship service that Valerie Serves CUCC as our intern from Duke Divinity School. Valerie's presence has greatly enriched and nourished our congregation in countless ways through the spiritual gifts that she has shared with us as preacher, teacher and healing presence. Please join us at her farewell reception in the Vaughan Wing Fellowship Hall after worship on April 14.

Martin, Annette, and Teresa Berg-Eiselt have left their new address with us:

Annette Berg & Martin Eiselt & Teresa Berg-Eiselt
Philippstrasse 2
14059 Berlin, Germany
fon: 01149 30 32606416
fax: 01149 30 32606418
fax to email: 01149 1212 5 183 45 170
email: martin.eiselt@t-online.de

Announcements

Our **Dorothy Miner** has edited a book, Teaching Chemistry to Students with Disabilities that has just been published. See the Chemical & Engineering News on the hall bulletin board for fuller coverage. Congratulations, Dorothy!

Gene Namkoong of Leicester (a former CUCC member) died Sunday, March 3, 2002. Dr. Namkoong was instrumental in helping with RICH Park (Raleigh Inter-Church Housing), a project for low-income housing that CUCC and other churches in the community were involved with. Memorial gifts may be made to the Namkoong Family Fellowship Fund, N.C. Forestry Foundation, NCSU, Box 8802, Raleigh NC 27695-8002, or to the American Cancer Society.

SPECIAL DAYS

Youth Birthdays

April Birthdays*

4/11/89 – Austin Osborne-Newman
4/15/90 – Z.B. Haislip
4/21/94 – Sidney Keyes

May Birthdays*

5/8/86 – Reagan Binganisi-Matuzola
5/11/90 – Jospin Milandu
5/19/88 – Christian Binganisi-Matuzola

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

Community United Church of Christ
814 Dixie Trail
Raleigh, NC 27607

April 2002 Newsletter

**May Newsletter Deadline is Monday,
April 22nd.**

The Newsletter can be found on our web page:
www.communityucc.org

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