

# **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](mailto:office@communityucc.org); Pastor: [pastor@communityucc.org](mailto:pastor@communityucc.org)

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

Stephen S. Halsted, Pastor

April 2003

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### **Lectionary for April**

#### **April 6<sup>th</sup>, Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:1-12 or Ps 119:9-16; Heb 5:5-10;  
Jn 12:20-33.

#### **April 13<sup>th</sup>, Sixth Sunday in Lent**

Isa 50:4-9a; Ps 31:9-16; Phil 2:5-11; Mk 14:1-15:47 or  
Mk 15:1-39, (40-47); Ps 118:1-2, 19-29; Mk 11:1-11 or  
Jn 12:12-16.

#### **April 20<sup>th</sup>, EASTER DAY**

Acts 10:34-43 or Isa 25:6-9; Ps 118:1-2, 14-24;  
1 Cor 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43; Jn 20:1-18 or  
Mk 16:1-8; Ps 114; 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Lk 24:13-49.

#### **April 27<sup>th</sup>, Second Sunday of Easter**

Acts 4:32-35; Ps 133; 1 Jn 1:1-2:2; Jn 20:19-31.

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Dear Friends,

While attending a recent (March 13, 14) meeting of Southern Conference UCC clergy, we were treated by a visit from John Thomas, General Minister and President of the UCC. John reminded us of our rich heritage as one of the most multi-racial and multi-cultural UCC conferences in America. He seemed well versed on the struggles and challenges over prejudice our Conference has met and overcome in the past and the present struggles and challenges we face into the future. Of course we discussed the divisiveness caused by the inability of North Raleigh UCC to be voted into our Eastern N.C. Association. John encouraged us to remain faithful to keeping an honest and open discussion on this issue and reminded us that we are still way ahead of other denominations on the issue of being "open and affirming". Sometimes we lose sight of where the rest of the world is because we are so far ahead! Perhaps the most important thing that emerged from the meeting was the networking done by clergy in sharing ideas and vision for what it means to embrace diversity. A highlight for me was meeting an African-American clergy couple

who are beginning a new church in Raleigh and are presently meeting at Bugg Elementary School. I have invited them to share in our Maundy Thursday worship Service along with North Raleigh here at CUCC. They are checking to see if that would work for their folks.

While at the clergy gathering, it was announced that the 2003 Annual Gathering of the Southern Conference will take place at Catawba College in Salisbury, NC on June 19-21. Please let me know if you have an interest in attending. We are allowed 2 lay delegates but as many visitors as we want. There will be excellent keynote speakers and interesting workshops.

On the home front, we continue to lament war and pray for peace. Please join us on Monday evenings for a pot-luck at 6:30 in the Vaughan Wing followed by meditation and prayers for peace in the Sanctuary from 7-7:30 pm.

As we move closer to Easter, please join us for special Holy Week worship services. On Palm Sunday we will gather at 10:15 am outside in the courtyard to receive palm fronds to wave and remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem for the Passover celebration. We will parade with singing led by the choir into the Sanctuary as we begin the final portion of our Lent journey toward the Easter celebration.

On Thursday evening at 7:30 pm, we will offer a service of Tenebrae remembering the "objects of the cross" and the passion of Jesus through the sacrament of Holy Communion and special music offered by our choir and the North Raleigh UCC choir.

Easter morning, I have been invited to bring the message at the ecumenical Sunrise Service offered by the College Park Churches. It will begin at 6:30 am at Fletcher Park. For our own 10:30 am service,

you are invited to bring fresh flowers to church to create a flower cross celebrating the resurrection experience. We will have buckets of water available to keep the flowers fresh during worship and then create the cross in the courtyard afterward.

Hope to see you for each of these worship experience!

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; Dawn Pickett.

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 – Because Passover is Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, we will have to move the Women's Support Group meeting to Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the Bradow Room. Tell about a picture of yourself and/or a memento connected with an important time in your life. Leader is Deb Goering.

Monday Lunch Group will hold a *healing service* at 12:30 pm on April 14<sup>th</sup> as part of our holy week observance. Everyone is invited to come for themselves or to represent someone in need of healing. Come and avail yourself of God's gift of love and healing.

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Retirees – Ready for some fun and games? Then join the Retirees on Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 11 am and the cards and boards will be in place. Your choice. Bring a sandwich and be prepared for a lively time. All are welcome.

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## **Service Auction**

The Annual CUCC Service Auction will be held on Saturday evening May 3. Please begin to think about what you would like to offer toward the auction. Last year it was wonderfully successful and fun. It helped greatly with our budget needs.

Let's challenge ourselves to meet or exceed last year's event.

The Auction will begin at 7 pm with wine and cheese served for a \$2.00 donation. More news will follow, but mark your calendars now!

## BOARD OF DEACONS

The congregation is invited to purchase **Easter lilies** to the glory of God and in memory of individuals whose names will appear in the bulletin. The Deacons will purchase and place the lilies; you can pick them up after Easter Sunday service. If you are interested, please provide to the church office the names of the individuals for the bulletin and \$10 for each lily plant purchased.

## CHURCH COUNCIL

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Two important activities occurred at the Called Congregational Meeting held Sunday, March 23. First, there was a lengthy discussion about the proposed changes to the CUCC Constitution and By-Laws. Vandy Bradow reviewed the recommendations that were passed at the Special Congregational Meetings of September 28 and October 27, 2002. She also reviewed the Constitution and By-Laws document that was drafted as a result of those recommendations.

Edith Sylla then reviewed the most recent draft of the document, one that incorporates such ideas as:

- Boards will now be known as Ministries
- The seven Boards are: Deacons, Social Justice, Community Outreach, Property, Religious Education, Stewardship and Welcoming, Fellowship & Growth
- Committees will now be known as Function Groups
- Fellowship Groups, such as the Retirees and Youth Groups, will be represented on the Church Council by the immediate Past Moderator.
- There will be three Annual Congregational Meetings, rather than two

Members in attendance voted to approve the Constitution and By-Law changes provisionally. We will review the document in six months and again in 12 /13 months. If we are satisfied with how the structure is serving our needs, it will be approved as our permanent legal framework.

The second item of business was the acceptance of the Nominating Committee's slate of nominees for the various Ministry positions. These individuals will begin to serve their terms April 1, 2003.

On a personal note: it's been a pleasure to work on amending our Constitution and By-Laws. I want to thank the many people who helped in this important effort and wish those who will see it through to its next phase the best of luck!

-- Susan Lane

## CHRISTIAN WITNESS

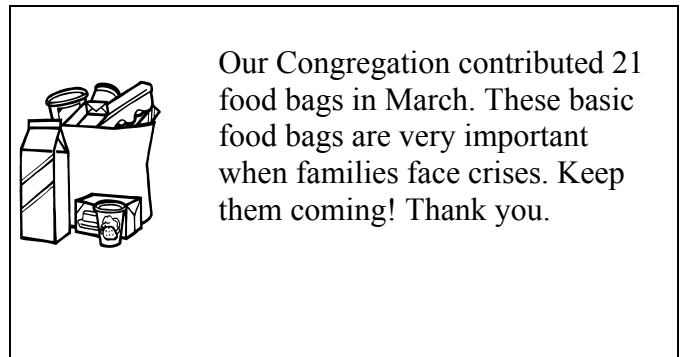
### Wider Outreach Committee

#### One Great Hour of Sharing

Special offering of our monetary gifts will be collected Sunday April 6<sup>th</sup> during worship. One Great Hour of Sharing transforms receivers into givers, offering hope to people in need around the world. **Please give generously.**

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Reminder: **Food Bags** will be collected on April 6<sup>th</sup> (next Sunday).



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### Social Action Committee

Zen monk Thich Nhat Hanh shares his thoughts on how America should respond to the terrorist attacks in these excerpts from an interview with Anne A. Simpkinson. Your Social Action Committee found them helpful and we hope you will too.

“If I were given the opportunity to be face to face with Osama bin Laden, the first thing I would do is listen. I would try to understand why he had acted in that cruel way. I would try to understand all of the suffering that had led him to violence. It might not be easy to listen in that way, so I would have to remain calm and lucid...In this way, an atmosphere of support would be created for this person and for those connected so that they would share completely, and trust that they are really being heard...Only when we felt calm and lucid would we respond. We would respond point by point to what

had been said. We would respond gently but firmly in such a way to help them to discover their own misunderstandings so that they will stop violent acts from their own will.

“For the American people, I would suggest that we do everything we can to restore our calm and our lucidity before responding to the situation. To respond too quickly before we have much understanding of the situation may be very dangerous. The first thing we can do is to cool the flames of anger and hatred that are so strong in us. It is crucial to look at the way we feed the hatred and violence within us and to take immediate steps to cut off the nourishment for our hatred and violence. When we react out of fear and hatred, we do not have a deep understanding of the situation. Our action will only be a very quick and superficial way of responding to the situation and not much true benefit and healing will occur.

“Yet if we wait and follow the process of calming our anger, looking deeply into the situation, and listening with great will to understand the roots of suffering that are the cause of the violent actions, only then will we have sufficient insight to respond in such a way that healing and reconciliation can be realized for everyone involved.

“All violence is injustice. The fire of hatred and violence cannot be extinguished by adding more hatred and violence to the fire. The only antidote to violence is compassion. And what is compassion made of? It is made of understanding. When there is no understanding, how can we feel compassion, how can we begin to relieve the great suffering that is there? So understanding is the very real foundation upon which we build compassion.

“We have to find a way to stop violence, of course. If need be we have to put the men responsible in prison. But the important thing is to look deeply and ask, ‘Why did that happen? What responsibility do we have in that happening? Maybe they misunderstood us. But what has made them misunderstand us so much to make them hate so much?’”

As we continue to struggle with 9-11, and as we try to understand the wars we are fighting in

Afghanistan and Iraq these are questions we need to ask.

Peace,  
Your Social Action Committee

## **Social Action Calendar**

April 6 – “Honk for Peace”, 2–4 pm, Glenwood Avenue across from Crabtree Mall.

April 8 – N.C. Council of Church’s Legislative Seminar, Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church, 9 am – 3:30 pm. Registration \$20 – includes lunch. See Social Action Bulletin Board for listing of Program.

April 13 – 18 – Pilgrimage for Peace and Justice. “One People, One World One God.” Walk from Fayetteville to Raleigh or any part of the way.

April 13 – Farmworker protest at Mt. Olive Pickle Company, Headquarters in Mt. Olive. March and protest for economic justice. 3:00 pm.

April 18 – “Economic Justice Way of the Cross”, 12 noon, Capitol Square in Raleigh.

April 13, 20 and 27 – “Honk for Peace”, 2-4 pm, Glenwood Avenue across from Crabtree Mall. This is ongoing every Sunday as long as the war lasts and maybe beyond.

Check the Sunday Bulletin and the Social Action Bulletin Board for announcements of Peace and Antiwar demonstrations.

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## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**Adult Forum** – The Adult Forum meets every Sunday from 9:15-10:15 in the Vaughan Wing.

### **April Schedule**

April 6 – Rev. Ray Buchanan, Executive Director of “Stop Hunger Now,” will talk about his experiences as a visitor to Iraq with the National Council of Churches.

April 13 – Dr. Moni Sawhney will share his experiences while on a visit to India.

April 20 – to be announced.

April 27 – to be announced.

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**CUCC Church School**

**Preschool - Elementary children**

Each week during this Lent/Easter rotation, the children will learn about Paul, his mission, and his adventures as a way of exploring God’s loving presence in Paul’s life. They’ll be sharing what they’ve learned by contributing to a mural each week which will be displayed for the church on Easter Sunday.

Calendar:

**April 6** –Paul’s Journeys; Communion Sunday  
Preschool – Walking tour, Amanda Katie and Marianne  
Elementary students – Video, Gary Smith

**April 13** – Art; Palm Sunday  
Preschool - Maria Riemann  
Elementary students – Suzette Roach

**April 20** - Reading/Hearing; Easter  
Preschool - Jane Smith  
Elementary – Tom DeVito  
Middle – Bradow Room

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**CONGRATULATIONS**

McCray Harris wants to announce that his son, Thomas Harris, has just completed requirements for the rank of Star Scout. Star rank requires active participation, significant leadership roles and community service. Thomas is a member of Boy Scout Troop 208 in Cary.

**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\***

5/2/02 – Elsa Viadef  
5/8/86 – Reagan Binganisi  
5/11/90 – Jospin Milandu  
5/18/89 – Carina Saavedra  
5/19/88 – Christian Binganisi

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

**OUR PEOPLE**

**Obituary**

Mary Ettinger, passed away February 22<sup>nd</sup>. In the past she frequently served our church with her musical talents.

**Birth Announcement**

Congratulations to former members Jeff and Kim Chaney Bay on the birth of their second daughter Molly, October 1, 2002. There are pictures of both Molly and sister Hannah on the church bulletin board.

**THANKS**

Richard and I would like to give our heartfelt thanks to Ann McLaughlin for helping us out recently when we both were very sick and homebound. The groceries you brought were much appreciated.

Lisa Leiser-Banks

## **ROSTER UPDATES**

Changes:

Joyce Scapicchio, 5320 Neuse Forest Rd., Raleigh,  
NC 27616, 872-8599.

Margot von Harten – correct email:  
[baronessmargot@mailstation.com](mailto:baronessmargot@mailstation.com)

Add:

Bill Bryan and Stephanie Welsh, 340 Scotch Drive,  
Raleigh, NC 27616, 266-8914.

Anne Bailey Zschau, 1808 Wilshire Ave., Raleigh,  
NC 27608, 832-1022,  
[annebailey@mindspring.com](mailto:annebailey@mindspring.com).

## **LET US CELEBRATE HABITAT**

The Kembe house is very nearly complete. The dedication date for this last phase of the Wickham neighborhood is set for Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, so mark your calendars for May 17th for a HFH block party for our volunteers, homeowners, neighbors and any others who care to join us. Live music will be provided by our homeowners band so come out and celebrate this grand moment.

This is a picture of the Kembe's house near completion.

