

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

Email: cucc@nc.rr.com - Office Manager: Carol Clark pastor@communityucc.org - Rev. Steve Halsted

Website: www.communityucc.org

April 2006

Newsletter published monthly for Community United Church of Christ (CUCC) members and friends
Pastor: Steve Halsted Newsletter Editorial Board: Vandy Bradow, Carol Clark, and Susan Lane

A Word from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Recently we received a request from Southern Conference UCC (SOC-UCC) office located on the campus of Elon University. They were asking us to confirm financial information in connection with their annual audit of mission-giving. Their records showed that Community UCC in Raleigh had contributed \$33,761.13 during 2005. This figure was a tally of the following specific categories:

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) | \$15,500.00 |
| One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) | \$2,643.25 |
| Neighbors in Need Offering (NIN) | \$5,013.88 |
| Veterans of the Cross (Christmas) (VTC) | \$1,234.00 |
| Tsunami Relief Offering | \$4,175.00 |
| Katrina Relief Offering | \$5,125.00 |
| Other | <u>\$ 70.00</u> |
| Total | \$33,761.13 |

As we discussed this information at last month's Community Outreach Ministry meeting, we began to recognize how remarkable was the generosity of our congregation in the number of dollars given by the size of our church. As discussion continued, we were reminded that our mission-giving also goes beyond what we gave through the SOC. We also gave \$6,500. to local community missions in the Raleigh area through our Community Outreach Ministry (COM) budget. In addition, we support the North Carolina Council of Churches, the National Council of Churches and the Eastern Association of the UCC, with gifts totaling \$2,000. We also make contributions totaling \$6,000. through our Social Justice Ministry (SJM), supporting non-profit

groups that work through institutional channels to effect positive change in the world outside the doors of our church.

When all this is added up, we at CUCC gave nearly \$50,000 to the world at large in hopes of advancing the Realm of God on this earth, as Jesus called us to do!

Often churches strive to be what are called "tithing churches" who give 10% of their income to work outside their own doors. We at CUCC have doubled that amount to over 20% in 2005! That is certainly something to celebrate and is evidence that we are listening and following our "Still Speaking" God.

Thank you all for your generous giving of time, talent and treasure!

Blessings and Peace

Steve

Church Council

Mary Pickering has accepted the position of Church Clerk. Excerpts from her notes on the March 20 Council meeting follow.

- Eagle Scout **Thomas Harris** will do a research project concerning creating a CUCC labyrinth.
- Since no action is scheduled presently, a \$500 contribution for a labyrinth was returned.
- Council took steps to make CUCC more energy-efficient including plans to have an energy assessment done.

- **Gretchen Aycock** has resigned as chair of Welcoming, Fellowship, and Growth; the nominating committee will be advised.
- Social Justice has streamlined its approach to funding the 59 different organizations it supports.
- CUCC will pay half the registration for CUCC attendees at the regional youth event.
- Council voted to form the Rich Park Property Committee to guide future interchurch collaboration for Rich Park.
- Council is encouraging the Deacons to invite Jim Seymour, an evangelical minister, to preach at a 10:30 service. This is intended to facilitate dialogue and a broader perspective.
- A project leader for the auction is needed.

Deacons

Worship Events during Lent and Easter

Sunday April 2. **Cally Rogers-Witte** and her husband Frank will visit. Steve and Cally will be assisted by **Mac Hulslander and Jo Perry** in leading communion (by intinction). There will be a potluck dinner after services.

Palm Sunday April 9. There will be a processional outside. The sermon will continue the Lenten theme, “God is Still Speaking,” and will be based on the note box contributions.

Maundy Thursday, April 13 –Peg Hulslander, Pastor Steve, and Geraldine Bryant have volunteered to plan the 7:00 service, which will include handwashing, communion and the Tenebrae liturgy. **Jim Smith, Mary Matthews, Bill Lamb and Marty Lamb** will be readers. **Mary Matthews, Jim Smith and Sam Johnson** will assist Steve with communion.

Good Friday, April 14 – The sanctuary will be open from 12 noon until 3:00 p.m. for individual quiet time, meditation and prayer.

Easter Sunday Sunrise Service, April 16 will be held at 6:30 a.m. at Fletcher Park (off of St. Mary’s). The rain site is the West Raleigh Presbyterian Church. **Pastor Steve** is in charge of the order of service. **Sue Rogge** will also participate in the service. Hymns, a homily and communion will be offered.

9:00 a.m. – Taizé

10:30 – Worship Service

The processional will be followed by creation of a flower cross in the sanctuary. **Everyone should bring fresh cut flowers!**

Our church school children will be making hot cross buns to celebrate fellowship after worship.

Other items that were discussed at the March Deacons’ meeting:

- Steve encouraged the deacons to think about the “God is still Speaking” campaign and encourage members to contribute to the note boxes.
- There will be a new UCC ad campaign starting April 3.
- There will be a clergy retreat May 15, 16 and 17 in Atlantic Beach.
- **Confirmation Sunday** will be held on June 4, which is also Pentecost Sunday. A special reception is being considered for those being confirmed. This event will also be a Pentecost “church birthday party.”
- Pastor Steve will probably vacation in July.
- The March Franklinton Center retreat was postponed until September.

Welcoming, Fellowship, and Growth

As the Council noted (above), **CUCC needs someone to lead this important ministry.** This is the ministry that greets our future new members when they arrive for the first time, provides the opportunity for fellowship with visitors and other members after services, and plans the occasions when we take time to simply enjoy each others’ company. Please note that there are already specific project leaders for the major events (**Maria Riemann**, Newcomers’ brunch; **Julia Robertson**, welcome back picnic; **Marcy Halsted and Betsy Towler**, Christmas party, and **Anne Pope**, receptions). Of course, there are so many OTHER possibilities! If you are interested in either joining this Ministry or, better still, leading it, please contact **Jeanne Ledbetter**, chair of the Nominating Committee, 851-8824.

Property

Memorial/Meditation Garden Volunteers

If anyone would like to help “groom and maintain” the garden, please contact one of the following who have volunteered their time for a month:

April – **Linda Baker**

May – **Heather and Chris Burkhardt**

June – **Binks Mew**

Chores include: keeping weeds pulled, dead branches picked up, leaves raked, checking status of plants, and watering as needed.

Please contact **Carol Kepler** if you can help.

Stewardship

St. Patrick’s Day “Dinner and Movie”

March 17th

Our fundraiser St. Patrick’s Day dinner, sponsored by the Stewardship Ministry, was a roaring success as judged by the belly laughs generated by the Irish movie, “Waking Ned Devine”. The whole evening followed an Irish theme, from the lovely shamrock table decorations by **Sally Cook** to a demonstration of Irish dance steps by **Anna Roach-Howell**. The dinner proved to be a feast of good solid Irish food.... Irish soda bread, both beef and lamb stews, green split pea soup, colcannon, green salad and cakes, decorated with green sprinkles, of course.

To those wonderful ‘Leprechauns’ who helped the church raise over \$600 for our general fund, we want to say that we couldn’t have had such a lovely party without your help and contributions. A big ‘thank you’ to:

Vivian Hunter for organizing, **Lavon Page** for handling the movie set up, **Steve Halsted and Sally Cook** for set up and table decorations, **Vandy Bradow** for tending the drinks table, **Kathy Widenhouse** for appetizers, **Sue Richey** for baking soda bread, and to **Vivian Hunter, Carol Kepler, Edith Sylla, Carolyn King, Maria Riemann, Joan McAllister, Lena Gallitano, Carol Clark, Ruth Klemmer,** and **Vandy Bradow** for cooking dinner and **Chuck Jadwin** for making coffee. Special thanks as always go to all those who worked afterwards as “cleanup crew.”

- **Carol Kepler**





**The Auction is Coming !!!
The Auction is Coming!!!
Saturday, May 20th
Mark your calendars
What will your offering
be this year?**

Be thinking of service items or something homemade that you could contribute. Sign-up sheets will be available in the near future. This is a fun event for all church members and friends! Don't miss out! If you have something to contribute, contact the office.

Religious Education

Church School

Exciting things are happening in April!

On April 2 and 9 we will have lessons on seeking God through nature.

As noted previously, Easter Sunday we will make **hot cross buns!**

During the month of April we will learn that the resurrection of Jesus shows us we don't need to be afraid of sickness or death.

Adult Forum

Join us every Sunday from 9:15 -10:15 a.m. in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall.

Forum Schedule for April:

April 2 – **Quentin Lindsey** will discuss his new novel, *Transformation of Nepal*.

April 9 – School of Americas, a video and discussion led by **Bob Phares** whose wife Gail will be going to prison for trespassing at the School of the Americas.

April 16 – "Poverty is the flip side of Militarism"
Cy King and Diana Koenning.

April 23 – "Is Peace Gaining Ground?"

April 30 – **Bonnie Dixon** discusses "Zimbabwe"

"God is Still Speaking"

This Study Group will meet Tuesday, April 4 and April 11 from 7:30-9:00 p.m. at Gary and Jane Smith's home.

Sunday Bible Study

A Lenten Study of the Book of Revelation began in February and concludes on Palm Sunday, April 9th. We will use different translations of the Bible plus a recent book, *The Rapture Exposed*, as a supplement. Everyone is welcome. If you can attend only a few sessions, that is fine. We meet in the Bradow Room.

We will not meet on Easter Sunday. On the first Sunday after Easter, we will resume our study of Isaiah. Everyone is welcome! For more information, call **Pat Spearman**, 781-0041.

Wednesday Bible Study

This group meets at Pilgrim House at 6:30 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays to discuss the next week's Lectionary selections. Bring a bag supper. More information? Call **Mike Schafale**, 567-1098.

Saturday Men's Group

The group meets each Saturday at 9:00 a.m. in the library and are finishing the *The Left Hand of God*

by Michael Lerner. Suggestions for our next book are welcome. Contact: **Ed Klemmer**, 847-7992.

Sisters in Spirit

SIS will not have a meeting in April. If you are interested in being contact/contacting SIS folk for “spur of the moment” activities, send an email to **Vandy Bradow** (vbradow@aol.com).

Retirees Fellowship will gather April 10 at 10:30 AM to hear Wayne Campbell, an enthusiastic volunteer for **Hospice**. He will introduce us to the services offered by this agency and answer questions. All are welcome. Bring a sandwich - dessert and beverage will be provided.

African American Spirituals Study Group

Will meet on Thursday, April 6 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at the Pilgrim House.

Monday Lunch Group

Bring lunch and join us in the Hoffmann Room Mondays at 12:15 p.m. We will continue the discuss of Don Miller’s book, *Searching for God Knows What*. Miller, based in Portland, Oregon, describes himself as a “progressive evangelical.” Newcomers are welcome. More information? Call **Vandy Bradow**.

Social Justice

Peace Vigil

On the first Wednesday of each month, those who want to witness for peace should gather in front of the Post Office on Fayetteville Street, hold up posters about peace and hand out flyers with explanatory information. Sounds easy, doesn’t it? It is easy! The problem is that only a handful of elder members of our congregation appear. We need some **YOUNG** member who want to support peace activism.. It only takes an hour from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. You can stand up for peace during your lunch break! Public reaction varies, but it is often positive and supportive. Come on down and swell the numbers. We need YOU! If you have time, we often stay together for lunch and enhance our social lives! For information call **Marge Eckels** at 787-5552.

Our People

Prayer Requests

Please write your prayer requests on a slip of paper and place in the offering plate or in one of the prayer jars (Narthex or in Pilgrim House.) Our prayers are solicited for **Jo Lemons, Jo Banks, Al Matthews, Ruby Lamb, Ed Zschau, Millie & Americo Scapicchio, Willie Foggie’s wife, Nelda, Al Matthews’ mother, Mildred, Elvah Mansky Lee, Lisa Leiser-Banks’ uncle, Bill Pamplin, Vandy Bradow’s parents, Ida and Roy Klages, Lisa Marsh, Joyce Holt, Jane Smith’s sister’s mother-in-law, and the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo and other victims of war and natural disaster across the globe.**

James Seagraves, 77, former active member of CUCC, died February 25, 2006. Memorial contributions may be made to Willamette Falls Hospice, 1505 Division St., Oregon City, OR 97045.

Congratulations!



Our Young Peoples’ Birthdays

4/6/01 – David Snee
4/10/04 – Ashley Difuidi
4/11/89 – Austin Osborne-Newman
4/12/98 – Casey Riemann
4/12/99 – John Robertson
4/15/90 – Z.B. Haislip
4/21/94 – Sidney Keyes
5/8/86 – Reagan Binganisi-Matuzola
5/11/90 – Jospin Milandu
5/18/89 – Carina Saavedra
5/19/88 – Christian Binganisi-Matuzola

Linda Baker has been selected as a semifinalist for the 22nd Annual AQS (American Quilter's Society) Quilt Show & Contest, April 26-29 in Paducah, KY. Her quilt, "Tropical Sizzle", measures 108" x 112", and was chosen from a field of 806 quilts. Regardless of how the quilt places in the final judging, all 429 quilts will be displayed at the annual quilt show, which brings more than 35,000 quilters, collectors, enthusiasts, and vendors to Paducah each spring.

Judy Smallwood captured first prize as a clown at the recent Mardi Gras celebration at Carol Woods. Borrowed duster in hand, Judy is said to have “dusted off” the judges!

Thanks to **Marge Eckels, Ted and Aurora Gregory, Vandy Bradow and Sally Cook** for keeping the Pilgrim House office “brightly flowered”.

CUCC Directory

Add:

Tania Walker and Chris Johnson, 1095 Vauxhall Dr., Apex, NC 27502, 363-0563, [caj1956@yahoo.com](mailto:cj1956@yahoo.com)

Chuck Jadwin, 1009 Wade Avenue #253, Raleigh, NC 27605, cjadwin@charter.net

Change:

Betsy Towler, 5400 Emerson Dr., Raleigh 27609, 510-0174

Dawn Pickett, 929-8965

Community Outreach



Food Bags will be collected on **Sunday, April 2 and on the first Sunday of every month!**

In March we contributed 22 food bags to Urban Ministries – just three short of our goal! Can we go over the top in April? Our next collection date is April 2 when **Cally** will be with us. Let’s meet our goal in her honor!

Spiritual art

The exhibit co-sponsored by the Interfaith Alliance continues through May at the Long View Gallery. Featured artists include Mickey Gault, Georgia Springer, Paris Alexander, and Jen and George Bireline. The gallery is located in the lower level of Longview Center, on E. Hargett St.

--**Vandy Bradow**

Internado Orphanage School

Joan and I wish to thank everyone at CUCC who contributed to the St. Clare Orphanage Project. We were asked to raise \$1,000.00, but with your generous support we were able to generate \$2,100.00 (so far) for this important work. Of that amount, \$1,525.00 came from this wonderful church. For twenty-six years, I have contended that CUCC is by far the best church I have ever belonged to or attended. You all confirmed my judgement one more time. Thanks again!

-- **John Little**

School Bond Questions?

What questions do you have about the Wake County Public School System's November bond referendum and related issues of school growth and student assignment? One resource that Jane Smith has found helpful is the Growth Resource Center's website: <http://www.wcpss.net/growth/index.html>. There is much bad information floating around the community; the site will allow you to add the school system's take on the issues to the many voices that are speaking.

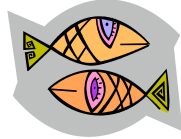
Meanwhile, if you have a question about the bond or any of the related issues, **Jane Smith** will be spending the next few months trying to collect the facts for herself and would be glad to see if she can get an answer for you. Call or email her, 787-6539, smithjeg@mindspring.com.

In the next nine years, Wake County will need about 40 new elementary schools, 6+ middle schools, and 6+ high schools to accommodate our 7,000 per year increase in students. How we house and, more importantly, teach our soon-to-be 192,000 children is what is at issue in the bond. The \$150-400 million per year comes not only from the wealthy, but also from people on fixed and low incomes. This is a justice issue for people of faith.

- **Jane Smith**

Wider Community

Wider Church OGHS



One Great Hour of Sharing

Haiti ...Indonesia ...Sudan

Three countries with horrendous living conditions...

Three countries whose people suffer severely from those conditions...

Three countries whose people you can help with your gift to this year's...

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

During April the Children's Sermons and Mission Moments will focus on the conditions in these three countries and the help they receive from our OGHS offering. The popular OGHS "fish banks" and activity calendars will be distributed on April 9th.

On April 30th our OGHS offerings will be collected and then celebrated with a **Potluck Luncheon**.

Haiti ... Indonesia... Sudan...

Three countries whose people desperately need our help. Listen to the messages about them, learn more about them by reading the information which will be distributed, and prayerfully respond with your offering to **One Great House of Sharing**.

"God is still speaking,"



New Church Starts Flourish in ENCA

(Reprinted from United Church of Christ "Southern Spirit" newspaper. The article was written by C.L. Stumb)

At a January 8, 2006 service in Elon, North Carolina, Rev. Vertie Powers welcomed Grace UCC as a new church start into the Eastern North Carolina Association.

Rev. Nancy Elsenheimer, representing the national church based in Cleveland, talked about new congregations starting "when they hear a voice and when their people have a mission." Founding pastor Phil Hardy, in his sermon, proclaimed that "We hope to do some naked, passionate, positive things to build a community around Jesus Christ." He drew upon the text of Mark 1:1-11, which he said proclaims a certain suddenness when this earliest Gospel writer begins by describing "the heavens being ripped apart" as Jesus emerges from

his baptism by John. Grace UCC's mission statement proclaims: "We seek to build a home of faith where the Divine is encountered, barriers are broken and community is discovered."

Rev. Vertie Powers, Associate Conference Minister for Eastern North Carolina, notes that "Grace UCC, pastored by Rev. Phil Hardy, joins four other initiatives birthing new congregations since Easter of 2005." That roster of recent new church starts also includes Greater Grace UCC in Wake Forest, pastured by Rev. Henry Johen; Vessels of Clay, a new Mebane congregation led by Rev. Dian Jackson; Deliverance Ministries in New Bern with pastoral leadership by Rev. Elizabeth Green; and a Sanford church known as Word of Life and led by Sheila Crump.

Note: CUCC Council, at its February meeting, voted money to support local new church starts.

UCC Hurricane Relief

In December and January, members of Pilgrim UCC in Durham, High Country UCC in Boone, United Church of Chapel Hill, Trinity Reformed UCC in Conover, and Kitty Hawk UUA traveled to New Orleans to help clean up. Their story is in the February/March issue of "Southern Spirit," the Southern Conference supplement to the UCC's national publication, the *United Church News*. More help is and will be needed; to join the effort, visit www.ucc.org or call coordinator Alan Coe at (830)832-2222 (cell phone).

Garden Club of Wake County Azalea Sale helps fund NCSU scholarships. The sales if April 14-16 at the State Fairgrounds. For more information, contact Vandy Bradow.

DAY-TO-DAY CONTACTS

Pastor: Rev. Steve Halsted
Office Manager: Carol Clark
(Office hours: 9 a.m.- 1 p.m., Monday-Friday)
Moderator: Vandy Bradow
Treasurer: Mary Pruneau;
Asst. Treasurer: Carol Kepler
Clerk: Mary Pickering

Ministry Chairs:

Deacons: Jo Perry
Welcoming, Fellowship, and Growth: We need a chair for this Ministry!
Stewardship: Bill Bryan
Property: Allan Beidler and Joan McAllister
Religious Education: Sue Cottle
Social Justice: John Little
Community Outreach: June Bolton
Communications: Ann McLaughlin
Organist: Doug Barrick
Choir Director: Anne Moorman-Smith

**“Humor is a sign of freedom.
From God’s sight of it,
it’s a sign of grace ... Because,
when you think of it, it’s kind
of funny that we’re doing what
we’re doing – speaking
intelligently about God,
as if any of us were qualified
to do so.”**

**- The Rev. Fred Craddock
(March “United Church News”)**

Save space for monthly calendar

814 Dixie Trail
Raleigh, NC 27607
April 2006 Newsletter

Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Raleigh, NC
Permit #914

The deadline for our May Newsletter is
April 24th.

Non-Profit

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

A Month of Sundays

April 2 – Fifth Sunday in Lent. **9:00 – 9:30 Taizé; 9:15 Adult Forum & Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service with Communion & Church School; Rev. Cally Rogers Witte preaching; Fellowship & Potluck with Cally and Frank Rogers-Witte**

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

April 9 – Sixth Sunday in Lent. **9:00 – 9:30 Taizé; 9:15 Adult Forum & Bible Study; PALM PROCESSION preceding 10:30 Worship Service & Church School; Fellowship Time**

Lectionary: Palm Sunday Psalm: Ps 118:1-2, 19-29; Palm Sunday Gospel: John 12:1-11; John 12:12-16

April 16 – Third Sunday in Lent. **9:00 – 9:30 Taizé; 9:15 Adult Forum & Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service with Flower Cross (BRING FLOWERS!) & Church School; Fellowship Time**

Lectionary: 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; John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8.

April 23 – Fourth Sunday in Lent. **9:00 – 9:30 Taizé; 9:15 Adult Forum & Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service & Church School; Fellowship Time**

Lectionary: Acts 4:32-35; Ps 133; 1 John 1:1 - 2:2; John 20:19-31

April 30 – Third Sunday of Easter **9:00 – 9:30 Taizé; 9:15 Adult Forum & Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service & Church School; Fellowship Time**

Lectionary: Acts 3:12-19; Ps 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48