

COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Nurturing Spiritual Growth and Working For Social Justice

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April 2007

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 our Pastor

Dear Friends,

Let me tell you about one of the best-kept secrets in the UCC! Every two years there is a wonderful gathering of UCC folk involved in "Outdoor Ministries" at Camps and Conference Centers across the U.S. This year's event was held at Merom Conference Center in Merom, Indiana from March 2-6.

The purpose of the gathering is to provide education and spiritual as well as emotional support to Conference and Camp Directors, their staffs and members of their Boards of Directors.

Representatives from the Southern Conference were Bill Bourdon, Director of Blowing Rock Conference Center, Rev. Curly Stumb, Director of John's River Valley Camp and Board members Hamp Shuford and myself. The theme of this year's meeting was "Stewardship of God's Creation" – sustainability in the use of natural resources. The Rev. David Turner from the Hawaii Conference UCC was our excellent keynote speaker. We learned about sustainable energy practices to help stop global warming as they apply to our camps, conference centers, churches and homes! We came to realize how our society suffers from "Nature Deficit Disorder." We need Outdoor Ministries experiences for our children, youth, and adults for our salvation and the salvation of the world!

If you're interested in sending your child to UCC summer church camp, please see the dates offered and ages for campers at www.jrvc.org (Johns River Valley Camp)

Blessings and Peace,

Steve

Church Council

Church Council met March 19. Moderator John Little presided. Attendees included Pastor Steve Halsted, Immediate Past Moderator Vandy Bradow, Treasurer Mary Pruneau, and Chairs of Ministries Allan Beidler (Property), Sam Johnson (Deacons), Marty Lamb (Religious Education). Moderator-Elect and Welcome, Fellowship and Growth, Social Justice, and Community Outreach Ministries were not represented.

Pat Young has resigned as clerk. Vandy Bradow agreed to do the minutes for this meeting. Steve is in contact with Jeanne Ledbetter (Nominations).

The Treasurer's report was positive, all accounts are "tracking" essentially as planned for this time of year. The auction fundraiser will be May 19:

Karen Haley has agreed to be auctioneer.

Council heard Ministry reports: Deacons have completed plans for Holy Week and Steve's sabbatical, and welcomed **Robert Parrish's** return to Deacons.

Property reported that plans for pew upholstery are being carried out, and provided estimates received for replacing the Vaughan Fellowship Hall sliding doors. Council approved purchase and installation of the new doors, and affirmed sanctuary lighting and the next priority.

Religious Education reported that both groups have met. *****

John Little reported that CUCC has been assigned a new segment of the Neuse for the cleanup on April 14 (though we may do this another day). There will be a potluck April 29 after church service, which will feature One Great Hour of Sharing.

Vandy Bradow brought up the possibility of having a "Blessing of the Hands" service recognizing and supporting caregivers in the congregation.

Steve Halsted provided the Pastor's report (see Deacons).

Holy Week 2007

April 1: Palm Sunday, meet in the courtyard at 10:20 for Palm Processional

April 5: Maundy Thursday Service – 7 p.m. – Tenebrae (extinguishing of candles with story of Christ's passion) Hand washing ceremony and Holy Communion

April 6: Good Friday, the sanctuary will be open 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. for personal devotions

April 8: Easter Sunday

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service at Fletcher Park

10:30 a.m. Worship Service with flower cross –
please bring cut flowers to share

Deacons

The CUCC Deacons met March 8. **Robert Parrish** joined us as the new deacon, taking the position from which Linda Baker resigned.

Pastor's Report.

- Steve discussed a meeting on outdoor ministries for the UCC that he attended on behalf of Johns River Camps.
- The Corinth church in Hickory will be voting whether to stay in the UCC. This is Nancy Keppel's old church.
- In reference to the process discussed last meeting in how to discuss the Helen Brown bequest, Steve picked up a book on discernment processes for churches. Ann McLaughlin will review the book to see if it may be useful for CUCC.
- Steve also picked up a "Greening Congregations Handbook" at the conference. He will use this on his sabbatical as part of his studies.

Special Communion. Steve discussed sacred clown communions. The sacred clowning tradition goes way back in Christian ministries, and clowning or mime are the modern counterparts. Steve proposed doing clown communion sometime this fall. Steve can work with 4 attendant participants; he can be the lead clown. Alternatively, we can get together a group (five– seven) who would practice

the communion a month or so before the communion. **Jim Smith** would like to be part of that group. Arts and Worship should take the lead in organizing.

On World Communion Sunday, October 7, the University Park churches plan a pulpit exchange.

The next Deacons meeting will be April 12.
Submitted by **Jo Perry**

Blessing of the Animals

The first annual Blessing of the Animals will be held Sunday, April 22, at 4 p.m. in the courtyard outside Vaughan Fellowship Hall. All animals and their keepers are welcome. Light refreshments will be served following the blessing. The middle schoolers have created bird kites to adorn the area. The high school youth will set up, assist, and help with refreshments. This should be fun for both animals and friends. Neighbors are encouraged to join us.

Submitted by **Peg Hulslander**

Stewardship

CUCC Benefit Auction

Saturday May 19

Wine at 6:30 p.m. – Auction begins at 7 p.m.

Karen Haley will be knocking down to successful bidders the excellent services, culinary treats, and other offering for CUCC's budget

We need your participation – both as donors and as buyers. **There will be plenty of time to bag food for Stop Hunger Now earlier the same day!**

Save the date,
bring your family and friends, and
bring lots of money!
(cash (bills or coins) or checks cheerfully accepted)

Religious Education

There may be a 4 p.m. Sunday study group on environmental issues starting this fall if there is sufficient interest.

Adult Forum

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

Forum Schedule for April

April 1 – **Frank Gailor** (one of our own) on
Historic Preservation: Why Preserve?"

April 8 – No Forum (Easter)

April 15 – Sarah Woodard from the Center for
Development in Central America.

April 22 – Marisol Jimenez McGee, Advocacy
Director and lobbyist for El Pueblo.
"Immigration, What's Next."

April 29 – To be announced.

Church School Calendar

April 15 – Lesson on One Great Hour of Sharing.

April 22 – Lesson on "animal helpers" in
preparation for the "Blessing of the Animals"
service (afternoon of April 22)

April 29 – Begin "Jesus Heals Ten Lepers" lesson
Set (thru May 27)

May 19 – Stop Hunger Now – packaging food items

May 20 – Children will participate in Service

June 3 – Last day of Church School for the church
school year. **Hot Dog Cookout Celebration!**

Sunday Morning Bible Study

The Sunday morning Bible study, meeting at 9:15 AM in the Bradow Room, continues to explore the book of Genesis. We read and discuss about one to two chapters a week. There is no preparation and no homework. Please join us! For more information, call **Gary Smith**, 787-6539.

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. The Saturday Men's Group book for reading & discussion for April will be announced at a later date. For more information, call **Ed Klemmer**, 847-7992.

Monday Lunch Group

Bring lunch and join us in the Hoffmann Room Mondays at 12:15 p.m. In April, Lavon Page will lead a series on music and worship.

Property

CUCC WORK DAY is set for MARCH 31 9:00 a.m. to noon. Please come ready to roll up your sleeves and work, inside and/or out!

Vaughan Fellowship Hall door replacement and sanctuary lighting are approved and the pew upholstery project is under way(see Council).

Thanks

David Ledbetter has cleverly cut the nursery door in half and made it into a Dutch door. CUCC appreciates his willingness to be our on-site engineer.

Memorial/Meditation Garden

Our thanks to **Frank Gailor** and **William Warner** and their landscape crew, **John and Dan**, for replacement plantings in the Meditation Garden and other areas around the church building. We very much appreciate the extra help in keeping up the appearance of our church home grounds.

Garden Caretakers:

April - **Warren, Elizabeth, Neil and Ben Savage**

May - **Heather & Chris Burkhart**

June - **Ann and Joe Retzer**

Peg Hulslander will be taking over coordination of volunteers for stewarding the Memorial Meditation Garden for 2007. CUCC extends our gratitude to **Carol Kepler** for all the dedication and work she has done in the past for the garden's care and appearance. If you are interested in keeping our garden in its supreme glory, please contact **Peg** to volunteer for a month in the near future, 833-7203.

Guidelines for upkeep tasks of the garden are in the office and will be mailed to those who volunteer.

Welcome, Fellowship & Growth

Sisters in Spirit (SIS), is open to all women and will have a potluck on Thursday, April 19, at 7 p.m. in the Hoffmann room. We will discuss the book, The Left Hand of God, Taking Back Our Country from the Religious Right by Michael Lerner. Help with set up or clean up will be appreciated.

Retirees Fellowship – (2nd Mondays, monthly) The Retired Group will meet Monday, April 9, at 10:30 in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall. We will learn about the Carolina Homeless Information Network from **Hunter Thompson**, director of this project for the NC Housing Coalition. Bring a sandwich; drinks and dessert will be provided. Everyone is welcome.

Communications

Last month the **Communications**

Committee announced plans for a new pictorial directory to be printed in the fall and invited ministry and committee chairs



to submit pictures of meetings, classes, group activities, etc. Since, to date, there has been no response to this invitation, the Committee is asking

again. We can't have a pictorial directory without pictures! You may leave prints in the church office, or give them to **Shannon Core, Lavon Page or Anne Pope.**

High quality digital media may be sent via high speed internet to Lavon. If you need a "picture-taker" for your group, please contact Shannon Core. The deadline for submissions is May 15th, so don't delay!



Social Justice

Social Justice Ministry Calendar

United Nations Association of West Triangle and Wake County Chapters are sponsoring an all-day conference on Human Rights, an Endangered Concept on Saturday, April 14, 2007, at the McKimmon Center, NCSU. Registration is at 8:15 a.m. Full day fee is \$30.00 (including lunch); half day, \$15.00 (no lunch); student discount fee, \$15.00 (including lunch). See **Sally Cook** for registration forms; they are also on the main hall bulletin board.

Our People

Prayer Requests

Please write your prayer requests on a slip of paper and place it 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, Lisa Marsh, Kerma Hazel, Mamie Scott, Geri Bowen's mother, Nancy Cross' cousins Carolyn and Jean, the family of Bill Bradow, David Ledbetter's father, Bill, June Bolton, Joan McAllister, Scottie Bell, Bobby Barnes, Rhonda Zingraff & Charlie Thomas, Dot Littleton, people of the DRC, and other victims of war and natural disaster across the globe.**

Church Directory

Add:

Don and Shirley Birt, 5513 Woodley Ct., Holly Springs, NC 27546, 552-5371.

Lindsey Bosko, 3251G Walnut Creek Parkway, Raleigh, NC 27606.

Bill Eilers, 4029 Lassiter Mill Rd., Apt. 237, Raleigh, NC 27609, 457-6351,
eilerswilliam@yahoo.com.

Ann Retzer, aretz46@aol.com

Joe Retzer, jretz43@aol.com

Fidele Binganisi, matuzola611@aol.com



Our Young Peoples' Birthdays

3/24/90 – Nick DeVito

4/6/01 – David Snee

4/11/89 – Austin Osborne-Newman

4/12/98 – Casey Riemann

4/12/99 – John Robertson

4/15/90 – Z. B. Haislip

Community Outreach

Each month the congregation will learn about, and celebrate, one of the nonprofit agencies supported by CUCC's outreach budget and our congregants' services to them, thanks to a program initiated by the Community Outreach Ministry. One of the agencies will be designated the "Agency of the Month" and will be the subject of a Ministry Moment, a newsletter article, and space on the church bulletin board. The program will begin in April and will feature **Interact**, which provides safety, support and awareness to victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Wake County.

- submitted by **Tom Young**

HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR BY BRINGING FOOD BAGS!



Whoopee!! We exceeded our goal this month! **25 food bags** to Urban Ministries on March 5 and almost immediately there were five more bags in the cart. They will be included in April's collection. Thank you so much for

the generous outpouring of your concern for the hungry. Blessings.

Food bags are due **April 1** and every first Sunday of the month.

Submitted by **Marge Eckels**

**Community UCC Celebrates “One Great Hour of Sharing”
April 1 – April 29, 2007**



Who is my neighbor?

CUCC gives help, hope, and life to our neighbors around the world and in the U.S, by participating in the interdenominational One Great Hour of Sharing offering, which raises hundreds of millions of dollars for emergency relief, development aid and refugee assistance. New photocube banks and activity calendars will be distributed on Palm Sunday, April 1st. On **April 29th** we'll collect our offering and celebrate with a **POTLUCK LUNCHEON**.

Wider Community

Remember May 19
Noon till 2 p.m.



Stop Hunger Now is expecting our 63 CUCC volunteers to package food for emergency distribution.

See the May newsletter or the bulletin board for more details. Directions will be distributed closer to the date.

Questions? Call Carolyn King, 829-0780

We had 63 volunteers signed up when our date had to be unavoidably changed. Please do plan to meet this commitment if at all possible.

Submitted by **Carolyn King**

MEGA PLANT SALES BENEFIT MANY

The Gardeners of Wake County, Raleigh Garden Club, 4-H Club of Wake County, the Herb Society, and the Pilot Club will hold their annual plant sales at the NC State Fairgrounds on **April 20, 21 and 22**

Gardeners of Wake County sponsors six scholarships for horticulture science students at NC State. They are offering 2 varieties of gardenias and 100 varieties of azalea, including (by popular demand) deciduous and Encore azaleas.

The Raleigh Garden Club also sponsors a horticulture science scholarship, and offers a wide variety of perennials, shrubs, and vines, including native plants, deer-resistant and drought-tolerant. The Herb Society will offer its specialties, the Pilot Club will offer many colors and varieties of geraniums, and the 4-H youth will have camellias, rhododendrons, and laurel. All sales will support good causes!

Just come in Gate 6 off Youth Center Road (between Hillsborough St. and Trinity Rd.), and go to the Flower Show area. Bring plenty of trunk space, cash, or checks! Visit www.gardenersofwakecounty.org and www.raleigh-garden-club.org to view the plant lists.

Submitted by **Vandy Bradow**

Wider Church

DAY-TO-DAY CONTACTS AT CUCC

Pastor: Rev, Steve Halsted

Office Manager: Carol Clark

(Office hours: 9 a.m.- 1 p.m., Monday-Friday)

Moderator: John Little

Treasurer: Mary Pruneau

Asst. Treasurer: Carol Kepler

Clerk: Vacant

Ministry Chairs:

Deacons: Sam Johnson

Welcoming, Fellowship, and Growth: Sue Rogge

Stewardship: Carol Kepler, Interim chair

Property: David Ledbetter, Allan Beidler Jan.-June,
and Joan McAllister July-Dec.

Religious Education: Marty Lamb

Social Justice: Gary Smith

Community Outreach: Tom Young

Organist: Doug Barrick

Choir Director: Anne Moorman-Smith



Pledge Form
CUCC AUCTION
Saturday, May 19, 2007

The CUCC Auction gives you a chance to share your talents and services as a gift to the church, all at one of the silliest events of the church year! Please think about which of your special creations and offerings could be put up for bids. You might contribute

- Home-made items** such as desserts, jams, paintings, quilts, or pottery!
- Services** such as babysitting, pet sitting, guided tours, entertainment, or dinners for 6!
- Resources** such as vacation homes, canoes or kayaks!
- Other items** for the silent auction.

Name: _____ Email _____ Telephone _____

1. I will contribute: _____
Minimum bid \$ _____ Dates offered _____
Conditions, if any: _____
2. I will contribute: _____
Minimum bid \$ _____ Dates offered _____
Conditions, if any _____
3. I will contribute: _____
Minimum bid \$ _____ Dates offered _____
Conditions, if any _____
4. I will contribute: _____
Minimum bid \$ _____ Dates offered _____
Conditions, if any _____

I am willing to support the auction (set up, clean up, assist auctioneer, etc.) on May 19.
Yes ___ No ___ by helping to _____.

I would be interested in seeing _____ made available at the auction.

I plan to attend the auction Yes ___ Maybe ___ No ___
I plan to be there in time for wine, cheese, and the silent auction at 7 pm. Yes ___ No ___

Community United Church of Christ
814 Dixie Trail
Raleigh, NC 27607
April 2007 Newsletter

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The deadline for our May Newsletter is

April 23rd.

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

A Month of Sundays

April 1 | Palm Sunday | 9:00 – 9:30 Taizé; 9:15 Adult Forum & Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service with Communion) & Church School; Fellowship Time

Lectionary: Luke 19:28-40; Ps 118:1-2, 19-29; Isa 50:4-9a; Ps 31:9-16; Phil 2:5-11; Luke 22:14-23:56

April 8 | EASTER | **9:00 – 9:30 Taizé; 9:15 Adult Forum & Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service & Church School; Fellowship Time**

Lectionary: Acts 10:34-43 or Isa 65:17-25; Ps 118:1-2; 14-24; 1 Cor 15:19-26; John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

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

Lectionary: Acts 5:27-32; Ps 118:14-29 or Ps 150; Rev 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

April 22 | 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 9:1-6, (7-20); Ps 30; Rev 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

April 29 | Fourth Sunday of Easter | **9:00 – 9:30 Taizé; 9:15 Adult Forum & Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service & Church School; Fellowship Time**

Lectionary: Acts 9:36-43; Ps 23; Rev 7:9-17; John 10:22-30