

COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Nurturing Spiritual Growth and Working For Social Justice

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April 2008

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
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AUCTION April 12, 2008

A Word from our Pastor

Dear Friends,

I hope you have experienced a rich and meaningful Lenten Season and a Happy Easter. Once again, the choir was splendid throughout and on Easter day their numbers were such that extra chairs had to be added to the choir loft. Kudos to Anne and Doug for bringing out the best that we can be! My thanks also to Robert Parrish, Sue Rogge and Hunter Thompson for doing a great job in filling the pulpit during my absence as I recuperated from my surgery on February 8. We were also blessed to have our Conference Minister Steve Camp come and preach one of those Sundays. Wasn't it a wonderful variety of talent and messages!

As we look ahead I want to make a pitch for summer church camp opportunities at John's River Valley Camp UCC near Blowing Rock, N.C. Camp brochures have arrived and events are scheduled for rising 3rd graders through high school ages. Church camp experiences can be great fun and a very powerful growing spiritual experience for children and youth. Perhaps they were for you. They certainly were for my two children. This summer I will be co-leading one of the camps for 4th, 5th and 6th graders the week of July 13-19. If you and your child(ren) have an interest in JRV Camp, please let me know by calling the office or through Anne Bailey Zschau. We have camp brochures available.

I will also be co-leading an event for UCC clergy with Rev. Curly Stumb (camp director) on April 1 and 2. We will be exploring ideas about ministry challenges in the mainline churches as we face the issues of the 21st century here in North Carolina.

Blessings & Peace,

Steve

Church Council

Excerpts from the highlights of the March 17th meeting:

Congregation

A Farewell to Pastor Puati

Dear Pastor N'Sumbu Puati,

This gift from our congregation comes with love and appreciation for your ministry among us. Know that there is a deep and abiding connection between us.

We will miss your prophetic voice as well as your beautiful singing.

All of us wish you Godspeed as you return to your homeland.

Love,
Members and Friends
Community United Church of Christ

Enclosed was a parting gift of \$3,435.00

Deacons

Refer to the Deacons section in this newsletter.

Social Justice

Social Justice will post thank you notes for Friends of Residents in Long Term Care and Amnesty International.

Stewardship

Church Auction is on April 12th.

Religious Ed.

Kids are working on an Earth Day activity.

CUCC is contemplating what the church's participation will be in the God is Still Speaking Campaign

Property

Church renovation plans for new lighting and doors are continuing, and a spring workday is planned.

Welcoming, Fellowship and Growth has been very active including:

- CUCC directory is complete
- Website is being updated

- Ed Klemmer asks that people sign up for Fellowship hour after church

Pastor

Steve expressed his and Marcy's thanks for all the prayers and support they have received.

- submitted by **Pam Thompson**

Deacons

Excerpts from the **Deacons Ministry** minutes of the March 13, 2008, meeting

Present were Robert Parrish, Roger Manus, Gary Smith, Steve Halsted, Skip Stoddard, Ann McLaughlin, Mac Hulslander, Sam Johnson, Suzette Roach, Margaret Osborne.

Gary opened the meeting and Robert said a prayer.

Pastor's Report

Steve reported that he appreciated all the support he received while recovering from surgery. He said that his lab report was very good.

Steve noted that Tom DeVito, Don Lane and Steve Koenning. have had surgery and are doing well.

Steve is planning to join Jay Kennett to lead a camp for 5th and 6th graders at Johns River Valley Camp from July 13-19. He is also considering assisting Beth Kennett in leading a Family camp from Sunday-Wednesday, June 15-18. This would not interfere with his preaching at CUCC Sunday the 15th. Steve plans to use study leave to cover these absences. Steve plans to take vacation in June and again in August. Exact times will be discussed at a later meeting.

Communion

Skip feels that the serving of communion to the choir went better this time. He was able to get each member to hold the chalice for the next person.

Children's stories

Persons responsible for children's stories were assigned as follows:

April – Margaret; May – Skip; June – Ann;
July – Sam; August – Gary

Personnel Matters

It was noted that:

- There used to be a Personnel Committee but it no longer exists.
- Our church bylaws require a Personnel Committee to establish and maintain personnel policies and procedures and to assure that they are followed.
- Our church constitution assigns the duty of hiring, monitoring, assessing (evaluating) and supporting the church personnel to the Deacons Ministry.

It was determined that we need to reestablish the Personnel Committee. Robert will take this matter to the Council. It was thought that the nominating committee might recommend persons to serve on the committee.

Caring Committee – Dot Littleton and Kerma Hazel are both doing better. Jo Lemons' new arrangement (of having a live-in family assist her) is working well. It was noted that, with the return of Pastor Puati of the Congolese church to his homeland, Claudio Yumbu will be assuming his responsibilities. It was determined that Claudio should be invited to a Deacons meeting so we can get to know him.

Sacraments and Chancel – no report

Ushers – Sam reported that the ushers will continue to use discretion with respect to admitting people to Sanctuary during the Call to Worship.

Arts in Worship

Suzette reported that there will be a "Creativity Sunday" on April 20. A hand bell choir will play for us that day. There will be food in the Vaughan fellowship hall. Arts in Worship would like to be able to place art in the Vaughan fellowship hall.

Other business

Margaret would like to have our church recognize graduates Sam and Jack Alcorn and any other graduates. She would like this recognition of graduates to be established as an ongoing tradition in our church. Roger made a motion that we establish a tradition of honoring our graduates each year. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Suzette will find the day that will be best for having a Graduate Recognition Day this year.

Our next meeting will be April 10.

Meeting was adjourned with the Peace song.

-- Minutes provided by **Sam Johnson**

Graduate Recognition

During the month of May, we will be celebrating our many graduates. If you or a member of your immediate family is graduating from high school, community college, college or graduate school training, please send information to the church for inclusion in the May issue of the Newsletter (by April 21)

Creativity Sunday – April 20th

This special Sunday has been set aside to celebrate the many different creative abilities, talents and interests with which God has blessed us. Items will be displayed on tables in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall and other rooms will be available for activities such as **reading** (Do you have a poem to share?); **music** (piano or other musical gifts); **yoga** (led by Ellen Beidler); **art**, an activity especially for children's art. Food creations are also welcome for the fellowship time. Items for display may be brought to the church on Saturday, April 19 from 4 – 5 pm or on Sunday morning. Bring your creative spirit and join us after 10:30 worship on Sunday, April 20th.

Religious Education

Church School News

The Church School Parents met on March 12th to plan and discuss spring and summer activities. On April 20, the children will have special church school activities to celebrate Earth Day. Please be sure that they wear clothes that can get "earthy"! Efforts are also being made to have the children participate in church service in May. There are many meaningful activities for them to be a part of and we are looking forward to the wonderful talents they bring to worship service. Anne Bailey is in the process of ordering the multi-age curriculum for the children and teachers for the summer. Church school appreciation/end of school celebration will be held on June 8th. There was much discussion on the possibility of Vacation Bible

School (VBS). The group had great interest in supporting an environmental them, but VBS want to survey other families about their availability to participate. Pastor Steve made an announcement that John's River Valley Camp had put together their camp schedule and they have camps for families, grandparents and children of many ages. The information is available on their website, www.jrvc.org.

-- submitted by **Heather Burkhardt**

Palm Sunday & Easter Sunday Pictures can be viewed on our website: www.communityucc.org/events

News From the CUCC Youth Corner...

The CUCC youth group looks forward to attending church school together in April and May. The Journey and Friends class will combine for The Cup of Life curriculum. The components of this curriculum include studying, sharing and writing statements of faith, understanding baptism, time with Pastor Steve, time with a mentor from within the church, and painting chalices (each to represent our unique cup of life). If you are interested in mentoring a youth, or providing insight as we explore these topics, please contact Santi at (919)961-8814 or forsanti@aol.com

The Recent Past...

We enjoyed our Lenten Labyrinth Lock-In and appreciate those who came on Saturday, March 1 to walk the path we created. We also helped hide Easter eggs for the Palm Sunday egg hunt, and went on photo journeys around our grounds and to the North Carolina Arboretum.

The Near Future...

Plans for April include providing childcare for the auction on April 12 from 6:30-9pm, and preparation for Arts in Worship Sunday, April 20. We will also have a half-day envisioning retreat for parents of rising 6-12 graders on April 12, from 9am-1pm. Lunch is provided.

Stay Tuned...

We'll have a game night in May, and are planning an Adult/Youth Service project. If you have ideas or suggestions, or are interested in youth events and want to be on our e-mail list, please contact Santi at forsanti@aol.com, or (919)961-8814.

Adult Forum – Sundays at 9:15 a.m. (Vaughan)

The April Forum schedule:

April 6 – Greg Flynn, Special Transit Advisory Commission (STAC) member

Regional Transit Vision Plan

April 13 – Sister Patricia Mukanyonda

Bridge to Rwanda

April 20 – Steven Waters, Urban Economist
Walkable Communities: environmentally, economically and socially responsible.

April 27 – Rep. Jennifer Weiss, NC House Dist. 35
The legislature, interim study commissions, and upcoming issues.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Please join us Sunday mornings at 9:15 in the Bradow Room as we "read the Bible again for the first time." There is no preparation and no homework.

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. In April we will read "The Second Civil War" by Ronald Brownstein. The contact for more info is **Ed Klemmer**.

Monday Lunch Group

On Mondays, March 31 – April 21, Monday Lunch will be discussing A Parchment of Leaves by Silas House. The leader is Sally Cook, 467-3642. Bring a lunch and come join us in the Hoffmann room at 12:15 p.m.

In March, during the programs on Brother Lawrence, **Vandy Bradow** read a piece she thought appropriate to his concept of doing every task consciously in the presence of God. The author, Pablo Neruda, is a Nobel Laureate from Chile. Sharing the poem was requested; here it is, in English for the sense, and Spanish for the sound.

In Praise of Ironing

Poetry is pure white.

It emerges from water covered with drops,
is wrinkled, all in a heap.

It has to be spread out, the skin of this planet,

Has to be ironed out, the sea's whiteness;

and the hands keep moving, moving,

the holy surfaces are smoothed out,

and that is how things are accomplished.

Every day, hands are creating the world,

fire is married to steel,

and canvas, linen and cotton come back

from the skirmishes of the laundries,

and out of light a dove is born --

pure innocence returns to the world.

Oda para planchar

La poesía es blanca:

sale del agua envuelta en gotas,

se arruga y se amontona,

hay que extender la piel de esta planeta,

hay que planchar el marde su blancura

Y van y van los manos,

se alisan las sagradas superficies

y así se hacen las cosas:

las manos hasen cada día el mundo,

se une el fuego al acero,

llegan el lino, el lienzo y tocuyo

del combate de las lavanderias

y nace de la luz una paloma:

la castidad regresa de la espuma.

Stewardship - Auction

The CUCC Family Fun Auction is coming up on Saturday, April 12, and we need you to help make it a success! The auction is an annual fundraiser for CUCC. Would you consider donating an item to the auction? Examples of past auction items include:

- * **Pet-sitting, Babysitting, Yardwork & Handyman services, Computer services**
- * **Garden plants**
- * **Delicious homemade cakes, pies, jams etc.**
- * **Weekends at the beach, lake or mountains**
- * **Day trips to destinations like Jugtown, A geology field trip or a hike at a state park**
- * **Hand-made pottery, quilts and jewelry**
- * **Therapeutic massage**
- * **A morning of bird-watching & lunch**
- * **Brunches, lunches, dinners**
- * **Original artwork**

Please contribute your time, talents or treasure to this wonderful annual event. To make a pledge, call the office and let them know the item, the minimum bid, any conditions (date, maximum/minimum number of people, etc.) AND whether you will be attending the auction -- please enter your pledge of an auction item to the church office by April 9. Pledge forms are also available in the back of the sanctuary, and at the church office & you can fill one in Sunday, April 6.

...And make plans to attend this great annual event from 6:30-9 PM on April 12! Child care will be provided, and a great time is guaranteed.

Thanks for your support, and see you at the auction!

- from the Stewardship Ministry

you find out something you have in common. Note interests which are shared by others at CUCC.

* Maintaining a conversation can be tough if all parties are shy. So, when you've reached your limit, introduce the person to someone with a connection: place of origin, activities, occupation, age of children.

* Call or email Steve with what you learned. For visitors, you might be his only source of information. For long-timers, you might learn about some need of the person that he could pass along to Caring.

Let me know what works for you and what doesn't. All shy people aren't alike. And thanks for stepping out of your comfort zone to say, "hi."

-submitted by **Jane Smith**

Communications

Wanted: Writer

Do you enjoy writing? Have you always wanted your own byline? CUCC seeks a **reporter** willing to write brief and colorful stories about major CUCC events, such as the farewell for Pastor Puati. Our many CUCC photographers provide the images; your job would be to provide the prose to go on our website. You may sign up to do as many events as you desire; a paragraph of highlights would suffice. You can attend the event and/or interview those who did. Young writers are welcome to apply. Inquire for details about the website to **Lavon Page**, our webmaster and to the nominating committee if interested in being a reporter.

- submitted by **Jane Smith**

CUCC Calendar

Now available on website!!!

Click on LINKS at the end of article

The CUCC website now includes a "live" calendar which provides up-to-date information about all events that have been scheduled at the church. The calendar is interactive in that many events are "clickable" so that additional information can be displayed by clicking on the event. The calendar is "live" in that events are displayed as soon as Carol enters the information. And the calendar displays room reservations for non-church groups. So, for

example, if you need to know whether a particular room is available at a certain time, you can obtain that information from the calendar. (Since wireless access is available in most church meeting areas including Pilgrim House, Hoffmann and Bradow rooms, etc., groups meeting at the church can use a wireless laptop to obtain CUCC calendar info at any time.)

As always, Carol Clark schedules the use of rooms. So you still need to go through Carol in order to get an event placed on the calendar. But do make sure that your events appear on the calendar. The calendar is the official room reservation system. If your event isn't on the calendar, you don't have the room reserved.

(This calendar service is provided by Google. If you are a user of Google Calendar or other Google tools, you can easily add this calendar as one of your calendars accessed through Google Calendar.)

A link to the calendar appears on the CUCC homepage (communityucc.org), or you can go directly to the calendar via the link communityucc.org/calendar.

- submitted by **Lavon Page**

Life Touch Directory

For those of you who are pictured in the new pictorial directory, you can request your copy be mailed to you if you've been unable to come to church recently. Others who wish a pictorial directory can send in \$5 with a request for a copy.

Our People

Church Directory

Change:

Nsumbu M. Puati, 8. Ngina, Commune de Lemba, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo R.D.C.

Prayer Requests

Please write your prayer requests on a slip of paper and place it in the offering plate or one of the prayer jars (Narthex and office). Prayers are solicited for:


Jo Lemons, Al Matthews, Ruby Lamb, Lisa Marsh, Mamie Scott, Scottie Bell, Rhonda Zingraff's husband Charlie, Joan Little, Kerma Hazel, Gretchen Aycock's mother, Mary, Linda Rudisill's husband Sid Holmes, Steve Koening, Tom Elleman, Karen Haley's father Byron,

Vandy's dad, Roy Klages, Geraldine's sister-in-law Pat, and the people of the DRC, and other victims of war and natural disaster across the globe.

CUCC sends our condolences to:

David and Jeanne Ledbetter and family upon the death of David's father **Bill** on March 6.

Geraldine Bryan and her family upon the death of her brother Sam on March 21.



Our Young People's Birthdays

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
5/11/90 – Jospin Milandu

Community Outreach

Our **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** offering will be held on Sunday morning, April 6.

One Great Hour of Sharing, as part of Our Church's Wider Mission, is the special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that carries God's message of love and hope to people in more than eighty countries. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

More than 60 percent of the UCC's offering supports international development initiatives, including annual support for approximately ten missionaries working in health care, education, and agricultural development. OGHS also provides emergency and long-term assistance to people in the

wake of natural disasters and civil strife. On the average, OGHS responds to disasters once every 2.5 days. In addition, OGHS ministers to refugees with advocacy and help for people who have been uprooted from their home of origin.

This is a time and challenge for you to give generously – not just from your pocket, but from your heart.

There will be a **potluck** following the service, so plan to come and share both fellowship and some delicious food.

-submitted by **Ann Retzer**

HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR BY BRINGING FOOD BAGS!



If you watch the chart showing our food bag collections, you noticed that in March we achieved our goal of **25 food bags!** It's so satisfying to report that. Urban Ministries personnel is always so grateful, telling me how much they count on our faithful donation. So keep it up, remembering how important those bags are to hungry families.

Thank you!

Food bags are due **April 6** and every first Sunday of the month.

Submitted by **Marge Eckels**

Box Tops and Soup Labels = Dollars for Elon Homes

For many years we have been collecting and sending labels to Elon Homes for Children. A **collection box** is located in our kitchen along with a list of eligible products. All you have to do is clip the UPC from Campbell's products or remove the General Mills Box Tops and Box Top\$ for Education. These box top coupons are worth ten cents each (more for bonus coupons) and can be found on cereal boxes, frozen foods, snacks, paper products, storage bags, baby and child care items etc. Start looking before you throw the package

away and let's fill up the box in our kitchen!! These are website links for eligible products.

Box tops for Education:

<http://www.boxtops4education.com/AboutBoxTops/Products.aspx>

Campbell's labels:

<http://www.labelsforeducation.com/default.aspx>

-submitted by **Mary Pruneau**

Wider Church

CUCC participates in the UCC Coffee Project. We buy all of our fellowship coffee from the organization. Here are some facts that you might find interesting from the new Coffee Project newsletter. You can see the whole newsletter here <http://www.ucc.org/justice/coffee-project/pdfs/issue01.pdf>. Check it out.

Fair Trade Facts

Q. What percentage of all Fair Trade Certified coffee sold in the U.S. is also certified organic?

A. About 80%. Organic certification costs money, and some farmers choose to grow crops using organic agriculture, but choose to pay for Fair Trade certification over organic certification. Some choose both.

Q. Do Fair Trade farmers sell all of their crop at Fair Trade prices?

A. No. Fair Trade farmers on average sell only 20% of their crop at Fair Trade terms, selling the rest through the world market at much lower prices.

I find the second point striking. Buy more Fair Trade coffee!! It's good stuff!!

- submitted by **Gary Smith**

Wider Community

Volunteers needed

Last summer the **Inter-Faith Food Shuttle**, through our Summer Food Service Program, provided over 80,000 free breakfasts, lunches and snacks to some of those children who receive a free or reduced price lunch during the school year. We're running the program again this year and are in need of 4-5 volunteers to staff one of our sites. They'll be needed at least 3 days a week during the

lunch hour, from June 16 through August 15 --- with no service on July 4 or 7.

If you are able to help, please contact Emily Zartman - 919-250-0043 or volunteer@foodshuttle.org.

Appalachia Service Project 2008 Stock Sales in April

Several youth and adults plan to go to West Virginia from July 13 to 19 to participate in this year's Appalachia Service Project (ASP). ASP serves low-income residents of the region by completing home repairs such as roofing, insulation, plumbing, and carpentry. On April 13 and 20, this year's ASP participants will sell stock after the worship service to help finance their trip. Stock can be purchased in any amount.

Please consider supporting our young people and adults who have volunteered for ASP this year. Jack Alcorn, Sam Alcorn, Austin Osborne-Newman, Gary, Jane and Abby Smith will join others from the Apex Prince of Peace Episcopal Church for a week of home repair in West Virginia.
-submitted by **Sally Roberson**

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: Diana Koenning
Treasurer: Mary Pruneau
Asst. Treasurer: Carol Kepler
Clerk: Pam Thompson

Ministry Chairs:
Deacons: Robert Parrish
Stewardship: Fawn Pattison
Property: Bayard Alcorn and Joan McAllister
Religious Education: Marty Lamb
Social Justice: Gary Smith
Community Outreach: vacant
Welcoming, Fellowship & Growth: vacant
Youth Ministry: Šánti Matthews

Organist: Doug Barrick
Choir Director: Anne Moorman-Smith

April 21st.

Community United Church of Christ
814 Dixie Trail
Raleigh, NC 27607
April 2008 Newsletter

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
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Permit #914

The deadline for our May Newsletter is
The Newsletter can be found on our web page:
www.communityucc.org

A Month of Sundays

April 6 | Third
Sunday of Easter |
9:00 – 9:30 Taizé;
9:15 Adult Forum &
Bible Study; 10:30
Worship (with
Communion) &
Church School;
Fellowship Time
Lectionary:
Acts 2:14a, 36-41;
Ps 116:1-4, 12-19;
1 Pet 1:17-23;
Luke 24:13-35

April 13 | 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 2:42-47; Ps 23;
1 Pet 2:19-25;
John 10:1-10

April 20 | Fifth
Sunday of Easter |
9:00 Taizé with
Communion; 9:15
Adult Forum &
Bible Study; 10:30
Worship & Church
School; Fellowship
Time
Lectionary:
Acts 7:55-60;
Ps 31:1-5, 15-16;
1 Pet 2:2-10;
John 14:1-14

April 27 | Sixth
Sunday of Easter |
9:00 – 9:30 Taizé;
9:15 Adult Forum &
Bible Study; 10:30
Worship Service &
Church School,
Fellowship Time;
Lectionary: Acts
17:22-31; Ps 66:8-20;
1 Pet 3:13-22; John
14:15-21