

COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Nurturing Spiritual Growth and Working for Social Justice

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Stephen S. Halsted, Pastor

August 2002

Lectionary for August

August 4, Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Gen.32:22-31; Ps.17:1-7, 15 OR Isa.55:1-5; Ps.145:8-9, 14-21; Rom.9:1-5; Mt.14:13-21.

August 11, Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Gen.37:1-4, 12-28; Ps.105:1-6, 16-22, 45b OR 1Kings 19:9-18; Ps.85:8-13; Rom.10:5-15; Mt.14:22-33.

August 18, Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Gen.45:1-15; Ps.133 OR Isa.56:1, 6-8; Ps.67; Rom.11:1-2a, 29-32; Mt.15(10-20), 21-28.

August 25, Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Ex.1:8-2:10; Ps.124 OR Isa.51:1-6; Ps 138; Rom.12:1-8; Mt.16:13-20.

On the horizon, please note down on your calendars 2 upcoming events.

1). **August 18th** is “Welcome Back to Sunday School” with teacher appreciation and Bibles given to 3rd graders and others we may have missed who are older.

2). **September 8th** will be my official installation service at 2:30 pm. Our newly elected Conference Minister, Rev. Steve Camp with participate in the ceremony.

Hope to see you all soon in worship.

Blessings & Peace

Dear Friends,

What a wonderful success we had with our “intergenerational” Vacation Bible School! We may have been the 1st church in the history of VBS to have had more adults involved than kids! Our numbers of participants was impressive with about 20 children and 30 adults taking part in a program based upon learning about Habitat for Humanity.

Much of what we learned will be able to be applied this coming September when we begin supporting the construction of a new Habitat House here in Wake County. If you are interested in helping out, please call the office so we can get your name on a list of volunteers. You don’t need to be able to use a saw and hammer, there are other tasks also to be done.

We are very thankful for the dozens of volunteers that made VBS so successful from food preparation, to teachers and workshop aids, etc. There are too many to be named! This is the sign of a dynamic spiritual community! Yet a program of this magnitude wouldn’t happen if we didn’t have the pillar leadership of 2 people in particular who held it all together. They are Sue Richey and Jane Smith to whom we are most grateful.



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.

Please remember in your prayers: Prayers for Sarah Hoffman as she continues to cope with cancer.

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

FAMILY POTLUCK AUGUST 3

If your family is lucky enough to have children rising 6th grade and younger, you are invited to a family potluck at the Smiths, 2712 Lochmore Dr., on Saturday, August 3, beginning at 4:30 and ending at 7:00 pm. Jane, Gary and Abby Smith will provide hamburgers for grilling and drinks; bring a side dish or dessert to share. (Please check your ingredients for peanut products – including peanut oil or “vegetable oil.” We want to alert a member to avoid that dish) We’ll also be making surprises to thank last year’s Church School teachers so parents and children should dress to get messy. Call the Smith’s so they know to have enough food for your family (787-6539).

Pilgrimage

In these Hot and Humid Days of Summer, are you feeling like your “Get Up and Go” “Got Up and Went?!?” Do you feel like you need to replenish your Spiritual Reservoir like the woman at the well to whom Jesus ministered?

Then, perhaps the Pilgrimage in Christ Retreat Movement is for you!

Our spiritual life is that which grows out of our relationship with God. Across the UCC, a common thirst to know more of God and to deepen in the sense of the Holy in our daily lives, resulted in SPIRITUAL RENEWAL as a priority of General Synod 16. From that came The Pilgrimage Retreat Movement – a series of 3 retreats designed to help people experience a variety of methods of prayer and other spiritual disciplines in order that they might find something helpful and inspiring for their own lives.

The Pilgrimage has as its purposes the following:

1. to help us discover the presence of God in our lives;
2. to develop disciplines that enhance and deepen our sensitivity to God’s presence;
3. to encourage us to share our spiritual journey with others; and
4. to renew and transform us spiritually for our discipleship in the world.

The **Pilgrimage** “begins” with three retreat experiences. It is important to note that this is only the beginning ...

Retreat #1 – is a 24 hour retreat which focuses on centering silence, praying scripture, journaling, worship, meditation and prayer. Since the retreats are *months* apart, we will also form groups who want to stay in touch in the interim in order to share and help each other on the path.

Retreat #2 – is a 48 hour retreat emphasizing solitude, an appreciation for patterns of spirituality, and exploring Christian vocation.

Retreat #3 – is a 24 hour retreat which focuses on our experience of the holy through the arts (such as music and pottery and poetry), and in our everyday, ordinary lives.

I hope to plan for and schedule Retreat #1 this Autumn. I am looking for about 12 people to participate on a first come, first serve basis. If you are interested, please call the church office to get on our list of attendants. Then I will call a planning meeting to work out details.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Steve

Women's Support Group – August 22nd, 7:00 pm. Meet for a nature hike led by Geri Bowen. For more information, call Geri 781-3068.

Meeting nights – Currently scheduled to meet on the 4th Thursday night of each month. Starting on Thursday night, October 17th, meetings will be on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Bradow Room.

CUCC Sunday School Calendar:

Summer church school - Program started June 2.

Family worship on first Sundays = all of the school age children remain in worship with their families – preschoolers can stay in the nursery.

Aug. 4 – family worship
Aug. 11 - games

Family worship: If you would like to help collect the offering, hand out bulletins, or ring the gong, be sure to ask the usher AT LEAST 10 minutes before worship begins.

Games: Be prepared for relays, treasure hunts, obstacle courses, and brain teasers. A surprise is waiting for anyone who has a memory verse ready to recite.

Where are my pennies going?

To Nepal and to Raleigh.

Pennies collected in April and May purchased items for five "care packages" for Toni Maes, who was a Peace Corps volunteer in Nepal and former CUCC church secretary. The children packed the bundles, including notes on some North Carolina postcards and their own drawings. Many thanks to Toni's sister, Tiffany, for telling the children about Toni's adventure in service.

Pennies collected in June and early July were given to the children at Loaves and Fishes who have been trying to collect a million pennies. Our 542 pennies

became part of their collection and will be used to fund Loaves and Fishes.

BOARD OF DEACONS

Deacons: The August meeting is changed from August 7 to August 14 – still 7:30 in the Pilgrim House.

Arts in Worship: There will be a meeting August 27th at 6:00 pm in the Pilgrim House.

CHURCH COUNCIL

News

Building use: A new building use policy has been approved by both the Board of Trustees and the Church Council. It updates and clarifies how the building will be used by groups outside the church. A fee structure has been updated as well as conditions of use. Finally, a detailed list of who is using the building was painstakingly researched and recorded. Groups have been notified of this update.

Installation: Steve Halsted's official installation ceremony is planned for September 8 at 2:30 pm.

Playground: A playground dedication to officially recognize the improvements to this area is planned for during the service of September 8.

Congregational meeting: A congregational meeting is planned for September 28. Among the items to be discussed is the ongoing review of the *Constitution and By-laws*. The ad hoc committee of Vandy Bradow, Susan Lane, Steve Halsted, Anne Pope, and Jane Smith has been working hard with the various boards, committees, and council to furnish and updated the document.

Christian Ed: The Board of Christian Education put forth a detailed plan to support the hiring of a part time staff person. Including a draft job description, this plan defines the needs and benefits of having a dedicated person to coordinate education efforts in the church. The title of this position is Christian Education Coordinator. The staff person will be paid for initially with existing Christian Ed line

items (including staff money previously earmarked for interns). Subsequent funding will be put forth in the budget for next year and may draw upon the Art Eckels fund. The church Council voted to support the proposal and to allow the hiring process to move forward.

Fundraising: Mary Pruneau is spearheading a brainstorming session on fundraising ideas for the church. She is planning a meeting of interested people to talk about ways to support the church's financial mission. Please contact her if you want to be involved. Stay tuned for more on this subject.

CHRISTIAN WITNESS

Food Bags – reminder to bring your food bags next Sunday, August 4th.



Marge Eckels reported that the members of CUCC donated 18 bags of groceries in July to the Urban Ministries. The food bag donations are collected the first Sunday of the month. Please maintain a high level of giving during the summer. When children are not receiving meals at school, many families need help with feeding them at home. The food bag shopping cart and lists of needed items can be found in the Vaughn Wing. Remember: Please use double bags and tie securely. Thanks!

Wider Outreach Committee

MarketPlace for Meaningful Gifts Update:

After 10 or more (we think) successful years, MarketPlace for Meaningful Gifts is taking a much-needed sabbatical. All of those Marketplaces have paid handsomely to the many groups in our community that took part. For example, the 2001

Marketplace earned over \$10,0000, enough to make a difference for groups such as Interact, Loaves and Fishes, and a hose of others. And last year was typical.

Preparing for Marketplace can be fun and rewarding, but it requires a substantial time commitment. The Wider Outreach Committee has reached its maximum commitment for 2002; with no hours left it has been decided to place Marketplace on a short hiatus. Marketplace has been an important part of our church ministry, and we hope to bring it back, with renewed vitality, very soon.

Communications Committee

Think Pictures

We will begin scheduling appointments for the pictorial directory September 22.

We need activity pictures from:

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Youth Activities | Vacation Bible School |
| Fellowship Groups | Choir |
| Wider Outreach | Social Action |
| Sacraments & Chancel | Church Council |
| Bible Study | |

Our People

- Valerie Melvin is a chaplain for Rex Hospital serving Urban Ministry sites. This is a CPE internship position. She will be returning to the Duke Divinity School in the fall to pursue her Th.M degree (Master of Theology).
- Pastel, watercolor, and charcoal portraits by Cynthia Woodburn. Watercolor landscape paintings by **Ted Gregory**. August 5-29th, 2002. Reception, Sunday August 11th from 2:00-4:00 pm at the Sertoma Arts Center at Shelley Lake, 1400 W. Millbrook Road, Raleigh.

- The Rev. Dr. Herman Haller and his wife, Oletha, will be leaving the Southern Conference in late August. On Saturday, August 17, 2002, at 3:00 pm, a Service of Appreciation and Thanksgiving will be held for the Hallers at Elon Community UCC, 271 N. Williamson Avenue, Elon, NC. This service will be followed by a reception/dinner for Herman and Oletha at the Parish House. All ministers and lay persons of the Southern Conference are invited to attend. Please return a response card if you are planning to attend. We are inviting you to share pictures and letters of reflection and appreciation of the Hallers' ministry. You are also invited to participate with a monetary gift in honor of the Hallers. For more information, call the Conference Office at (336) 222-8771.

Service of Appreciation for Dr. and Mrs. Haller

_____ I/we plan to attend the event.
 _____ Regretfully, I/we cannot attend the event.
 _____ Total number of people who will attend.
 _____ Enclosed is my/our contribution in honor of Herman and Oletha (Make checks payable to Southern Conference)

Please mail pictures, letters, and contributions to Southern Conference Office, PO Box 658, Graham, NC 27253-0658

Clip and send:

Thanks to CUCC

- **HURRAY FOR VBS!**

What fun we had; for those who joined us thanks for your fellowship, fun and workmanship. For those of you who missed out on the fun, good food, learning and fellowship - well there's always next year. Monday night was kicked off with Joyce Watkins-King from our local Habitat for Humanity office. Joyce shared a video that described how Habitat worked in communities. She then shared details concerning the local office and what the CUCC house will mean to the local community. During the week we had an average of 45+

members of our congregation and visitors. Every night was filled with prayer, song, learning, building, and Tai Chi! Children built their own house, children and adults both worked on items that could be donated to the CUCC Habitat house. These treasures were shared with the congregation at the July 21st service.

Many thanks to all who worked so hard to make this VBS such a huge success.

- My heartfelt thanks to everyone for the prayers, encouragement, and mail while I was with the Peace Corps in Nepal. Knowing that so many wonderful people were supporting me on this side of the world made that side of the world a little more bearable. Many thanks! Much love!

Toni Maes

- I would like to thank everyone for the cards, prayers, and support that I received in the recent death of my brother David. It meant a lot to me that you cared so much. Because of this kind of care that our church gives on a consistent basis, I am doing well.

Robert Parrish

- My dear friends from CUCC, The dozen roses were absolutely stunning – I have never seen such an unusual color! My whole room was filled with their wonderful scent. As I dictate this note, I am enjoying one of the many delicious chocolates that you've also sent to me. The champagne, however, I am saving for my 101st birthday. Thank you all for making this century-old lady feel very special. With fond wishes to you all,

Helen Brown, eml

Membership News

CUCC welcomes to our membership Daylia Vaughan, who comes by letter of transfer from First Presbyterian in Raleigh. Daylia is on the board of The Interfaith Alliance of Wake County and is working with Jane Smith and Vandy Bradow on the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) House Meetings to identify our congregation's community concerns. She is married to Ernie Muenchau and has two grown sons.

SPECIAL DAYS

Youth Birthdays

August Birthdays*

8/2/87 – Jessica Alcorn

8/13/95 – Anna Hase

8/14/92 – Glodie Difuidi

8/16/94 – Jackson Kiel

8/30/90 – Sam Alcorn

8/30/90 – Jack Alcorn

September Birthdays*

9/28/90 – Thomas Harris

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Creativity Collages on the Art Wall

During the summer, the **Art Wall** will feature the collages of several different women's groups (the Vein of Gold group, the 2001 Fall Women's Retreat, and a Special Birthday Retreat). The collages were created to express something about ourselves – a special time in our lives, a history of our past, or a vision of our future. They remind us of who we are and inspire us to see the possibilities of who we might be.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

CUCC's Pastoral Relations Committee was established following guidelines for the search committee that came from the national UCC. Its mission is to "support and maintain a relationship between the pastor and members of the congregation. It helps the pastor and members of the church share ideas, hopes, dreams, and interpretations of mission. It lets the pastor know what people in the church are thinking. It gives a framework in which conflict can be dealt with creatively. The functions of a Pastoral Relations committee also may be carried out by deacons, elders, or the governing board." Its members include Bill Lamb, Joan McAllister, Gary Smith, Puati N'Sumbu and Edith Sylla (chair) and plans to meet 2-3 times a year with additional meetings called if an issue arises.

Southern Conference – United Church of Christ has chosen as our new Conference Minister, **Steve Camp**. He is currently serving as Associate Executive Minister for Local Church Ministries in the national setting of the United Church of Christ. Many of you already know Rev. Camp; he has been in our Conference often, and he was with us a year ago at our 2001 Annual Gathering at Elon University.