

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@ipass.net - Office Manager: Carol Clark pastor@communityucc.org - Rev. Steve Halsted

Website: www.communityucc.org

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Pastor: Steve Halsted Newsletter Editorial Board: Vandy Bradow, Carol Clark, and Susan Lane

WELCOME BACK SUNDAY IS AUGUST 21 COME JOIN US!

A Word from the Pastor

Steve's away on vacation and in his absence, we're presenting Steve Camp's report on the General Synod annual meeting in Atlanta.

TO: Friends of the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ
FROM: Rev. Stephen Camp, Conference Minister
July 8, 2005

The Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ celebrated the work of the UCC General Synod at their recent meeting this July in Atlanta. Several important resolutions of conviction and witness were voted affirmatively, including a resolution to encourage and enable new pastoral leadership to emerge from and for our churches; a resolution that celebrates the historic movement of the United Church of Christ concerning issues of peace and justice and renewing our commitment in justice work throughout the country; a resolution to encourage UCC member to use coffee from fair trade vendors; a resolution that calls for full employment, living wages and sufficient income for everyone; another resolution that calls for our churches to promote peace for the people in the Sudan; a resolution for the saving of Social Security from Privatization; a resolution that calls for the State of Israel to "tear down the wall" or the proposed security fence, to end construction, as suggested by the International Court of Justice; plus the resolution on Marriage Equality for all.

The Southern Conference, through its Board of Directors and Conference Staff, want the public

to know that no resolution is binding upon our churches, nor do the voted resolutions speak *for* our churches, only *to* them. We are a conference of churches in covenant together, yet are still autonomous to hold and have whatever theological belief a church or individual desires and discerns. We celebrate that some of our churches are very progressive on matters of faith and practice, while a number of them are more conservative in their view of gay and lesbian people. Both, holding a diversity of understanding, are welcome and encouraged to be fully a part of our Southern Conference and the United Church of Christ.

Newspaper and television articles that suggest that there are wholesale splits and schisms in the Southern Conference are simply incorrect. It is not true and stories of this kind are misleading and painful. The fact is that some of our churches that are supportive of "Marriage Equality" are growing and increasing their numbers rapidly in some cases. Of the others that do not feel the same, some are experiencing growth too. One church in the Chapel Hill area has doubled in size in the last five years given their open and welcoming to all stance. Another in the Asheville area is building a new facility to accommodate the growth they have experienced. The United Church of Christ nationally or even in North Carolina and eastern Virginia is not disincarnating because of the "Marriage Equality" resolution that was voted just this past month.

We welcome the conversation among our members and the churches, in that it is a conversation that can serve to strengthen our bonds and increase our faith in these challenging days.

While many people are having a conversation that is challenging at best for many, it is the same conversation that is current in the larger and wider secular society. We believe the church ought to be an intersection between faith and society, thus this conversation -- as difficult as it may be -- is important for us and for the future of the Christian church in general, and particularly the United Church of Christ.

Yes, some churches have chosen to disaffiliate with the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ. The fact is we wish them well. Yet we celebrate those who remain and seek to continue to grow and mature in the understanding of our covenant as we embrace our future together. The motto that seems to be growing in understanding among us in the UCC is the phrase: "Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome in the United Church of Christ." All faithful people should be able to celebrate that notion.

Church Council

[Council did not meet in July.](#)

Congregational Meeting

CUCC's called congregational meeting on July 10 addressed only two agenda items.

Progressive Churches Resolution.

Whereas we assert that taking the Bible seriously does not necessarily mean taking it literally, and Whereas we reaffirm CUCC's commitment to be an open and affirming congregation, and Whereas we proclaim the importance of ecological justice in our duty as stewards of God's world, and Whereas we reaffirm our commitment to be a Just Peace church, Therefore be it resolved that CUCC affirms and supports the organizing principles and the Triangle organization currently called Progressive Churches. The vote was taken and adoption of this resolution passed unanimously.

IRAQ Step Resolution: Sensible Transition to an Enduring Peace.

Whereas President George W. Bush stated on April 13, 2004 that "as a proud and independent people, Iraqis do not support an indefinite occupation and neither does America" and that the

U.S. will remain in Iraq "as long as necessary and not one day more"; Whereas Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld assured the Senate Armed Services Committee on February 17, 2005, that "we have no intention, at the present time, of putting permanent bases in Iraq"; Whereas the Wall Street Journal reported in February 2005 that 60% of the people in the United States think that the Bush administration should set a public or private timetable for withdrawing U.S. troops from Iraq; Whereas former Secretary of State James Baker, former Pentagon official Anthony Cordesman, the International Crisis Group, and other respected leaders and analysts have said that it is critical that the U.S. government declare now its intention to fully withdraw from Iraq; Whereas political parties opposed to the ongoing U.S. military presence won the overwhelming majority of votes in Iraq's January 2005 election and a clear majority of voters interviewed in exit polls cited their desire to see an end to the military occupation as a major impetus for voting; Whereas the perception that the U.S. intends to permanently occupy Iraq aids insurgent groups in recruiting supporters and fuels violent activity; Whereas many insurgent groups have expressed a willingness to engage in political dialogue if the U.S. clearly states its intention to withdraw from Iraq; Whereas we can best honor the lives and memories of all who have died in Iraq by expediting the end of the war, bringing U.S. troops home as quickly as possible, and supporting the Iraqi people in rebuilding their country; Whereas a clear statement of intent to fully withdraw U.S. troops and bases does not imply the setting of a particular deadline, time frame, or exit strategy; Whereas such a statement would send a strong signal to the people of Iraq and to the international community that the United States does not have imperial intentions in Iraq and affirms that the Iraqi people will regain through their elected representatives the full exercise of national sovereignty, including control over security and public safety; Therefore be it resolved that the congregation holds in our prayers the people of Iraq, the U.S. troops and international troops and humanitarian workers in Iraq, the leaders of Iraq and the United States, and all others affected by this war; Be it also resolved that this congregation calls on the United States Congress to adopt a sense of the Congress resolution declaring: "It is the policy of the United States to withdraw all U.S. military

troops and bases from Iraq"; Be it also resolved that this congregation will present a copy of this resolution to the members of Congress who represent the districts in which this congregation is based; And be it also resolved that this congregation will send a copy of this resolution to the local media.

The vote was called and the resolution passed unanimously.

Deacons

Arts and Worship

Come to church early on the first and third Sundays in August (9:30 a.m.) and on September 4th, and you can join the choir those mornings as we complete our summer by singing from the hymnal. The Susie Allen Choir will begin its fall schedule September 14th and practicing on the Wednesday nights before the first and third Sundays of the month, at 7:30 p.m. in the Hoffmann Room. The Hoffmann Room is named for Arnold Hoffmann. He and his wife Peggy were pillars of our music program at the church for many years. I think they'd be pleased as we work to glorify God in song in the choir. Come carry on the tradition and be a part of creating new ones!

The next Arts in Worship committee will be held on Monday August 29th at 6 p.m. in the Pilgrim House and will feature pizza for supper. If you have input for the committee or wish to learn more about it, feel free to contact **Marty Lamb** at 819-4084.

Religious Education

Vacation Bible School News

Our 3rd and last session together will take place on Saturday, August 13 at 10:30 a.m. On that morning we will make a group visit to the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences in downtown Raleigh. The museum is located at 11 W. Jones Street, across from the Legislative Building. We have arranged for a tour at 10:30 a.m., so please arrive in ample time so that we can all begin the tour together. We will meet in front to the museum (*Come early if you want to participate briefly in Bugfest!*) This is a great opportunity to learn more about the specific environmental issues of our beautiful state of North Carolina, and see the wonderful and interesting

exhibits of this fine museum. All ages will enjoy this experience!

Following our tour, we will go to Pullen Park for a picnic and fun activities. Everyone will bring their own picnic food and drinks. Pullen Park has activities for all ages and we will do a nature walk/scavenger hunt by making search teams. Be sure to bring hats and sun screen and wear cool clothing. The Pullen Park parking area is off Ashe Avenue across from the Gov. Morehead School for the Blind. Be sure to mark your calendars now for this fun intergeneration-family event!

Church School

The 4th-6th grade and middle school classes are continuing their summer series of church visits. In July they enjoyed visits to Hope Community Church and Sacred Heart Cathedral, followed by lunch and discussion. On August 7 they'll be visiting the United Church of Chapel Hill UCC, and on August 14 they'll be visiting our own Taizé service. If anyone would like to join them on their visits, contact **Suzette Roach** at 460-8678 for details.

Welcome Back Sunday – The new church school year will begin on August 21. On this Sunday the church school children will be promoted to their new classes and classrooms. This year we'll have a Preschool-Kindergarten class, a 1st-3rd grade class, and a new 4th-6th grade class. The 4th-6th grade class will be called the **Journey Class**, and it will be meeting in Pilgrim House. The class will focus on the life of Jesus through experiential activities and the new computer lab that is being developed. The other two classes will continue to follow the Rotation Church School curriculum, and they'll be kicking off the year by studying the Good Samaritan parable from August 21-September 11.

Rising third graders will receive their Bibles on Welcome Back Sunday, a cherished CUCC tradition. This year the Bibles will be presented to **Ernesto Rivera-Saavedra, Isaac Milandu, Katherine Lan Manus, Hannah Klaus, Colleen Barrick and Zach Cole.**

Suzette Roach and **Judy Kiel** are coordinating the conversion of the room next to the office in Pilgrim House to a computer lab/classroom for the new 4th-6th grade church school class. We need your help!

If you can help paint this room sometime during the month of August call Suzette at 460-8678 or email her at suzette134@bellsouth.net. We're also looking for a volunteer to make curtains for the room.

Recycling opportunity! The church school kids will be doing an art project at the end of August which requires a large number of computer CDs. The CDs don't need to be functional, but the more colorful the better! If you've got some CDs to contribute contact Judy Kiel at 845-7689 or give them to Anne Bailey on Sunday mornings.

Adult Forum will not meet during August. "See you in September," as the song goes!

Sunday Bible Study

The group will meet the Sunday after Labor Day, September 11. We will discuss the books that we'll study. Everyone is welcome!

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. For more information, contact **Mike Schafale**, 567-1098. Bring a bag supper.

Monday Lunch Group

Bring lunch and join us in the Hoffmann Room Mondays at 12:15 p.m. In August, each Monday's discussion will be focused on a specific symbol. More information? Call **Geraldine Bryan**.

The Women's Group

WOMEN'S POT LUCK!!! COME ONE, COME ALL!!

All women of the church (and female friends) are invited to come with an appetite and something delicious to share. We'll eat, chat and then use the game, "Life Stories", to get women to share tales from their memories.

Thursday, August 18, 6:30 p.m.

Hoffmann Room.

Questions? Call **Geri Bowen**, 781-3068.

Call **Sally Cook** for more information (467-3642)

Looking ahead to September - another

Women's Beach Retreat

is being scheduled for Friday September 23rd through Sunday September 25th. It's a time for appreciating God's creations, reading and reflecting, and exploring our lives as women of the church together as we laugh, play, and reach together to expand our visions. If interested in coming, contributing, or learning more, e-mail Marty Lamb at billandmarty@nc.rr.com or call her at 919-4084.

Retirees Fellowship

Plan to join the retirees this fall for interesting presentations and fellowship. Beginning in September, the group meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall. On September 12, **Joan Little** will talk about conservation issues and history. All are welcome, retired or not!

Welcoming, Fellowship and Growth



Our Young People's Birthdays

8/2/87 – Jessica Alcorn
8/14/92 – Glodie Difuidi
8/16/94 – Jackson Kiel
8/19/98 – Amelia Flick
8/25/95 – Anna Hase
8/30/99 – Eva Keeler
8/30/90 – Jack Alcorn
8/30/90 – Sam Alcorn
9/4/04 – Maya Cobleland
9/21/01 – Amanda Klaus
9/26/03 – Elizabeth Nzita
9/28/90 – Thomas Harris

Prayer Requests

Please write 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, Carolyn King, Al Matthews, Al's grandson Blake, Ruby Lamb, John Little, Ed Zschau, Anne Scott, Millie & Americo Scapicchio and Vandy Bradow's parents, Ida and Roy Klages.**

We join our **Congolese community** and the Universal Church of the Twelve Apostles (EUDA) in praying for peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and for the people. We especially pray for EUDA family members still at risk there.

Helen Brown, our oldest member at CUCC, died on Wednesday July 13, soon after her 103rd birthday. It is a blessing that she is at peace in the Eternal Realm. A memorial service was held on July 21 at the Springmoor Retirement Center, where she had resided since 1986. Phyllis Mayo, the chaplain at Springmoor, conducted the service.

Our People

Monday Lunch folk have been happily munching on the bounty from **Carol Clark's** vegetable garden.

Ted and Aurora Gregory are just back from a vacation in Ireland. The weather was perfect and the tour director was very knowledgeable. The unsurpassable scenery was only to be outdone by the Irish coffee to which we became addicted!

Bob Lathlaen and Jocelyn Powell write: We had a restful trip to the mountains, staying in Asheville, for our honeymoon. Also, in late June and early July, we were in Londo with side trip to Cornwall, Canterbury, Hereford, and Gloucester, doing research on our families and sightseeing. Fortunately, we were in Cornwall the day of the terrible bombing. In London, we used the tubes every day like everyone else.

The sing-a-long featuring Doug Barrick at the piano held July 16 in the home of **Linda Baker and Van Waddell** was a soiree to remember! The selection of tunes was a hit. The brightly lit room was then changed to an "evening" with the lights low as Doug played Debussy's Claire De Lune on Linda's grand piano. Ice cream and cake were quite abundant and people lingered as they ate and visited. The evening was just one of many events

offered at our annual church auctions, so at the next auction, remember to try to win a bid to this favored event!

Congratulations

The much-anticipated wedding of **Scottie Bell's** grandson David Bell and his fiancée Jennie Cox (>5-years' engagement) took place in Chapel Hill on July 19. In the special edition of the wedding newsletter, the sports section gave "Grandma Bell" only even odds in the lineup of those likely to "cry first at wedding." We wouldn't bet against her!!

Thanks

Dear young CUCC friends,

What a delightful surprise you have given me. The card and gift box were so beautiful and very creative and the cookies were absolutely delicious. Thank you for being so thoughtful and kind.

Many, many thanks, **Jo Lemons**

CUCC Directory

Change:

Tracey Keeler's email address is keeler@northcarolina.edu.

Correction:

Mary Pickering's email was published incorrectly last month. This is the correct address: mepick@bellsouth.net

Community Outreach



Food Bags will be collected on **Sunday, August 7**, and every **first Sunday** of the month.

In July our congregation generously donated 22 emergency food bags to Urban Ministries. Keep those bags coming! They depend on our monthly contribution to meet the needs of families in crisis. Blessings.

Wider Community

Friends of Residents in Long Term Care will be hosting a Long Term Care 101 discussion over two evenings in August hosted by Charlene Riedel-Leo. These sessions will be conducted on August 23rd and August 30th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall. This workshop will cover the basics of what long term care is; how to pay for it; and what to do when the time comes. The content includes lecture, discussion and films. Friends of Residents is offering this workshop at no charge, but asks that participants give feedback to improve the design of the training. Anyone interested in long term care is welcome, however the workshop is being primarily designed for baby boomers whose parents or relatives may be experiencing health care issues. For additional information contact **Bill Lamb** or **June Bolton**.

A gathering with other UCC congregations will be held at United Church of Chapel Hill on Saturday morning, September 17. Donna Schaper will be our keynote speaker. Donna is a UCC pastor in Amherst, MA and consultant with the Still Speaking Initiative. She is married to Warren Goldstein whose Op-Ed on General Synod was printed in the News & Observer on Monday, July 18. There will be workshops with other UCC people about incorporating the God is Still Speaking Initiative into the life of your congregation and how this campaign is shaping the identity of the UCC. Please hold the date – September 17. More information soon. **- Richard Edens**

Mark your calendars

In Observance of All Saints Day, you are invited to enjoy an observance of the Mexican traditional celebration **Day of the Dead, Sunday, October 30, 4-6:00 p.m.** A potluck meal will conclude the activities. More details will be forthcoming in next month's newsletter.

Wider Church
GOD IS STILL SPEAKING
Saturday, September 17

The deadline for our September 2005 Newsletter is August 22nd.

Non-Profit
Organization

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

A Month of Sundays

August 7, Nineteenth
Sunday in Ordinary
Time
**9:00 – 9:30 Taizé;
9:30 – Open Choir;
10:30 Worship Service
with Communion &
Church School;
Fellowship Time
Lectionary:**
Gen. 37:1-4, 12-28;
Ps 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
OR 1 Kings 19:9-18;
Ps 85:8-13; Rom 10:5-
15; Matt 14:22-33

August 14, Twentieth
Sunday in Ordinary
Time
**9:00 – 9:30 Taizé;
9:30 – Open Choir;
10:30 Worship Service
& Church School;
Lectionary:**
Gen 45:1-15; Ps 133
OR Isa 56:1, 6-8; Ps 67;
Rom 11:1-2a, 29-32;
Matt 15:(10-20), 21-28

August 21, Twenty-first
Sunday in Ordinary
Time
**9:00 – 9:30 Taizé with
Communion;
10:30 Worship Service
& Church School;
WELCOME BACK
SUNDAY
Lectionary:**
Ex 1:8-2:10; Ps 124 OR
Isa 51:156; Ps 138;
Rom 12:1-8;
Matt 16:13-20

August 28, Twenty-
second Sunday in
Ordinary Time
**9:00 – 9:30 Taizé;
10:30 Worship Service
& Church School;
Fellowship Time
Lectionary:**
Ex. 3:1-15; Ps 105:1-6,
23-26, 45c OR
Jer 15:15-21; Ps 26:1-8;
Rom 12:9-21;
Matt 16:21-28