

# COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Nurturing Spiritual Growth and Working For Social Justice

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**December 2004**

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,

We continue as a nation and as a people of diverse religious perspectives to understand the “signs of the times” and the direction in which our nation is heading.

As before the presidential election, we now hear political pundits, social commentators, and religious leaders share their viewpoints as to why people are voting the way they are. The media, working in sound bites of 30 seconds or less, likes to come across as if they have figured it all out, and the buzz words to explain it have been coined. They declare it all hinges on “values voters”! We hear over and over that religious values were the number one motivating factor in both getting out the vote and then making one’s voting choices.

In a way, I personally can’t disagree with this analysis, because I voted based upon my religious values. But labeling us all as “values voters” is way oversimplified! In fact, I know many people who are exemplary citizens, ethically sound and downright good neighbors whose values develop out of our “commonwealth in community” rather than strictly religious values. They too are “values voters” for whom I have great respect.

But there seems to me to be a much more complicated and confusing struggle of power within our electorate over who will get the upper hand on defining “values” and particularly “religious values” and who will represent our religious values in our various forms of government.

The Adult Forum has asked me to speak and lead a discussion on deepening our understanding of divergent voices within the Christian faith that are vying for our support of their interpretation of core religious values. I’ll do my best to share my viewpoints at the Forum on Sunday, December 5, at the usual 9:15 a.m. meeting time.

Hope to see you then,

Steve



## Deacons

The **Caring Committee**, under the able leadership of **Marge Eckels**, has been extremely busy supplying shut-ins and those in need of support with food, loving care, and a surprise gift of many bouquets of flowers. Thanks to **Rosa Saavedra** for her part in making the flowers from an anonymous donor available to CUCC for distribution.

Check the calendar for Advent and Christmas activities taking place in December.

--Peg Hulslander, Chair

## Deacons’ Profile Series

**June Bolton** continues the series of deacon profiles:

There probably aren't many ministers who have taught dance, or many professional dancers who are ordained, but in **Nancy Callaham** we have both. She's been a dancer nearly all her life and an ordained UCC minister for much of it. Many of us have already been moved and inspired by the way she combines these in liturgical, or sacred, dance. "I took off the ballet shoes to dance for God's glory and not for applause," Nancy recalls.

The story begins in Chicago, when Nancy was born into a family so "attuned to music" that her mother and two older sisters already played the piano. So it seems they were happy to have a tiny dancer to interpret their music, which Nancy first remembers doing at the age of five. Early memories also include being raised in her mother's Roman Catholic tradition. Since she became a Lutheran at age 18, following her father's tradition, and ultimately made UCC her spiritual home, she says her life is "like the history of Christian thought."

Her first professional commitment was to dance. For eleven years, Nancy owned a dance studio in Crystal Lake, Illinois. But during this time she also joined a "very progressive" UCC church, where God's praises were well represented in music and sacred dance. Eventually, she began teaching liturgical dance in addition to giving lessons in ballet, jazz and tap dancing. She also found herself counseling some of the students.

That may have been a precursor to what happened in 1980, when Nancy felt called to close the studio and enroll at Elmhurst College, a UCC institution, as a theology major. She entered Chicago Theological Seminary, a UCC affiliate, in 1984.

That same year, she recalls, "God blessed me with pure joy, and his name is Mike." Nancy says her husband has been 100% supportive of her, and she vividly recalls their first anniversary, when she was on call as a hospital chaplain and Mike brought Kentucky Fried Chicken for them to share. They celebrated their 20th anniversary in July.

Nancy was ordained in 1989. She has served as a chaplain, pastor, and interim pastor in numerous settings while continuing to dance and offering dance seminars to a variety of church denominations. The confluence of church traditions in her life recurred when Mike's employment took

the Callahams to Marburg, Germany, for two years. "Wherever Martin Luther went, we went -- what I learned in church history became reality," Nancy says. One highlight was a six-day pastors' seminar in Berlin which focused on "what ministry was like before and after the Wall came down." Nancy particularly recalls a discussion held at the Evangelical Church of the Union, which reflected the UCC tradition and especially welcomed UCC representatives.

Like Bill Lamb, her predecessor in this "Meet the Deacons" series, Nancy's life journey brought her from Germany to North Carolina. Interestingly, Pastor Steve recalls, members of the Arts in Worship committee were looking for a way to incorporate sacred dance into our services, so Nancy "was sort of an answer to our prayers." The Callahams joined last year, and Nancy began serving as a deacon in January. Since then, Steve notes, Nancy "has done some really special things" with sacred dance, such as Lenten activities on a retreat and in Sunday School, as well as putting together and taking the central dance role in a special Easter presentation. (Guess which committee she's on!) Steve also especially values her experience as a professional interim pastor.

Nancy continues to offer her mature faith throughout the wider church in ways such as supplying the pulpit for ours and other churches. Hobbies include decorating her home, gardening, and reading. A recent selection, "The Sacrament of the Present Moment," was penned in 1708 by a French mystic, again showing Nancy's interest in the development of Christian theology and ways to practice it in daily life. But she also looks to the future, anticipating our Christmas celebrations at CUCC, which will perhaps include singing her favorite hymn, "Let There be Peace On Earth."

### Arts in Worship

Stop by and see the **Art Wall** across from the Hoffmann Room which now dons the work of budding artist, **Abby Smith**. Born in 1992, Miss Smith has enjoyed her art lessons in school and in summer programs through the year. She now shares a composite of her work for our enjoyment. You may recognize her rendering of her mother, Jane

Smith, well-known energizer in our church.  
Stop by the Art Wall and appreciate!

- -Marty Lamb

*"There is nothing better than music as a means for upliftment of the soul."*

-Hazrat Inayat Khan

### **Opportunities for Musical Rejoicing**

Those who are interested in feeling the Christmas spirit through song this season have multiple opportunities available to them through either the **choir, folk choir, or neighborhood caroling**. Come make a joyful noise! Following are dates for these adventures:

Wednesday November 24 – 6:30 p.m. rehearsal for Thanksgiving service at Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church on corner of Brooks and Clark (Bring a robe from our church)

Wednesday November 24 – 7:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Service

Wednesday December 1 – 7:30 p.m. choir rehearsal for Sunday December 5.

Sunday December 5 – 9:30 a.m. choir rehearsal for singing in the 10:30 service.

Sunday December 5 – 12:15 Folk Choir rehearsal

Wednesday December 8 – 7:30 p.m. choir rehearsal for Father Heinrich's Christmas presentation on the Sunday, December 19.

Saturday, December 11 – Folk choir will lead Christmas singing at annual adult Christmas party in Vaughan Fellowship Hall (around 7:45 p.m.)

Sunday December 12 – 9:30 a.m. Folk choir rehearsal for singing at the 10:30 service.

Wednesday December 15 – 7:30 p.m. choir rehearsal for Father Heinrich's Christmas presentation on Sunday, December 19.

Saturday December 18 – 9 a.m. choir practice in the sanctuary, followed by caroling, across the street at Morningside assisted living.

Sunday December 19 – 9:30 a.m. choir practice in the sanctuary for the singing of Father Heinrich's Christmas during 10:30 service

Sunday December 19 – 12:30 p.m. neighborhood caroling by choir and church members

Sunday December 19 – 5:00 p.m. Caroling at Whitaker Glen.

Sunday December 19 – 7:30 p.m. Choir Christmas party at Anne Moorman-Smith's house

Friday December 24 – 10:15 p.m. Choir rehearsal for singing at the Christmas Eve service

Friday December 24 – 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

*"We need to find God, and He cannot be found in noise and restlessness."*

-Mother Teresa

*"One can now say that in musical experience man experienced himself as being at one with the world. He experienced himself neither within nor outside himself."*

-Rudolf Steiner

## **Stewardship**

Our **2005 pledges** were dedicated Sunday, November 14. This is a **reminder** for those who have not submitted theirs, to bring them to church or mail them into the church office.

## **Religious Education**

### **CHILDREN TO LEAD WORSHIP ON DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>!**

Our preschoolers through 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be leading worship and sharing the Christmas spirit on December 12<sup>th</sup>. This will be a wonderful service with many carols for everyone to sing.

Other Special Dates for Children

- November 28: Attend Sunday School and receive songbooks and practice carols
- December 4: **Family Advent Workshop, 9:30-11:30 a.m.** Join us to make Christmas crafts. Also, children will receive pageant parts, try on costumes, and practice carols. Remember, adults must attend with children, and you need to bring cookies and your cameras.
- December 5: Attend Sunday School and practice for December 12 Christmas pageant.
- December 12: Children lead worship
- December 19: Special guests, **Christmas Party**
- December 26: No Sunday School

### **Adult Forum**

The Forum meets on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall. Upcoming topics:

December 5 – “How do liberal Christians react to other Christians?” **Steve Halsted** leads a discussion for those concerned about “Christianity” becoming synonymous with reverence for wealth accumulation and condemnation of non-fundamentalist beliefs (about abortion, gay marriage, etc.). Join us for a session on reclaiming our Christianity.

December 12 – “Moving on past the 2004 election: How to avoid despair, apathy or aggression. Can we stand for our beliefs without giving up (or attacking back)?” Led by **Howard Miller**, who has weathered many setbacks in his lifelong work for social justice and peace.

December 19 – “Christmas memories and favorite Christmas readings”. Bring your favorite poems, passages, photos, illustrations, and other Christmas memory treasures to share.

December 26 – No Forum.

### Monday Lunch Group

All are welcome to bring lunch and join us in the Hoffmann Room Mondays at 12:15 p.m. The group will conclude its activities themed to *The Red Tent* with a discussion of the book on December 6. Our traditional card session and festive lunch will round out the remaining December Mondays. For more information, call **Geraldine Bryan**.

### Wednesday Bible Study

This group meets at Pilgrim House at 6:30 p.m. on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays to discuss the next week’s Lectionary selections. For more information, contact **Mike Schafale**, 567-1098. Bring a bag supper.

### Sunday Bible Study

This group meets Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the Bradow Room. During December, the group will study Lectionary texts. Call **Pat Spearman** for more information, 781-0041.

## Welcoming, Fellowship, and Growth



### **CUCC CHRISTMAS PARTY** **Saturday, December 11** **6:00 – 8:00 PM**

The CUCC Christmas party this year will again feature fun, fellowship, festivities, and food. The fun and fellowship begin at 6:00 p.m. with the Social Hour; the food comes at 7:15 (dinner catered by Mitch Hazzouri), and the festivities at 7:45 when the CUCC Folk Choir leads us in song and merriment.

Advance reservations are requested so as to give us an accurate head count for Mitch. Make your reservation by contacting Lavon Page ([lavon@mac.com](mailto:lavon@mac.com) or 460-6103). The suggested donation to cover the costs of the catering and wine is \$10 (wine included) or \$8 (for those who don’t imbibe). No need to pay in advance, just make your reservation by December 4 and drop your donation in the basket on December 11. The funds collected will also provide complementary tickets for all church staff.

Contact Lavon if you would like to help with clean up or set up for the party.

This is a social function primarily intended for adults. Mature children and youth are welcome, but no child care is provided and no special activities for children are planned.



### Retirees Fellowship

The Retirees Fellowship will meet at 11 a.m. on Monday, December 3 in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall. **Anne Pope** will present the program of Christmas carols and Christmas memories. Please bring a small wrapped "Christmas token" that holds special meaning for you but with which you are willing to part. The idea is that the donor of these tokens will share the memory this token evokes. Bring your sandwich. As is our custom, dessert and drinks will be provided. We look forward to seeing you!

On November 8, Nancy Olson from Quail Ridge Books, spoke at the Retirees Fellowship and reviewed a number of books that could be of interest to our church members. That list is posted on the bulletin board.

### **Saturday Men's Group**

Join the group each Saturday morning at 9:00 in CUCC's Library. We will continue our discussion of ethics and morality into December. For more information, contact **Cy King**

**Women's Support Group** will not meeting in December – for general info call **Sally Cook**.

## **Our Youth**

The **seventh and eighth grade Youth Group** will be providing the lunches for workers at our Habitat for Humanity site on December 18.



### **Our Young People's Birthdays\***

12/02/95 – Brodie Keeler  
12/13/92 – Fidel Vandis  
12/19/91 – Anna Roach-Howell  
12/22/96 – Katherine Lan Manus  
1/6/98 – Caelan Eckard  
1/17/94 – David Cookmeyer

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

## **Our People**

We extend our condolences to the family of **Virginia Howells**. Virginia had been living at Carol Woods community in Chapel Hills during recent years. A **memorial service** for Virginia will

be held at CUCC on **December 21 at 11:00 a.m.** Virginia and Dave Howells' ashes will both be placed in the Memorial Garden.

## **New Members**

We rejoice in our new members who were received into church membership on Sunday November 14:

**David Armstrong**, originally from the N.Y. City area, has been attending the Monday Lunch Group for several months and has attended our 9 a.m. Taizé service. He is a practitioner of the Healing Arts using acupressure – both “Jin Shin Do” and “La Ho Chi”, as well as healing herbs. David lives with his wife Carol in Durham.

**Jessica Hendricks** is from South Africa and is here on a 3-year teaching exchange program. She teaches middle school in Garner with Adrienne Talbot. Her pastor in South Africa recommended that she look for a United Church of Christ. Jessica began attending Community in August, along with her son Riyahn, 12. Riyahn has joined the youth confirmation class.

**Anne Scott** is from Raleigh and now lives across the street at Morningside where she went to recuperate from knee replacement surgery. Anne was previously a member of the Fairmont United Methodist Church. Already we appreciate the help Anne has given us in the kitchen during our fellowship time after worship. Anne enjoys kitchen work as she was an employee with one of the NCSU cafeterias for many years.

**Jim Yoder** grew up in the coal region of Pennsylvania. He began a career as a public school music teacher. He attended an Evangelical Congregational Church and felt called to explore the ministry. Jim graduated from the Lancaster Theological Seminary in 1989 and became an ordained UCC pastor. He then developed an interest in chaplain work and took Clinical Pastoral Education. Presently Jim is working as a chaplain at the Pitt County Hospital in Greenville, NC. Jim and his wife Nancy live in Winterville.

## **Prayers**

The Monday Lunch Group offers prayers each week for those persons and needs of which they are aware. Please write requests on a slip of paper and place it in the offering plate or in one of the prayer jars (back of the sanctuary or in Pilgrim House.)

Our prayers are especially solicited this month for our caretaker, **Willie Foggie**, who is recuperating from back surgery. Please continue to remember **Jo Banks, Nancy Keppel, Jo Lemons, Audrey Leiser, Ted Mew, Chris Schafale, and Sue Cottle.**

## Community Outreach

### Habitat for Humanity Project

The Habitat House that CUCC members are helping to build is progressing nicely! This joint project of six different area churches is located in Southeast Raleigh, on lot #2 at Rosalyn Place (2450 Jimmy Carter Way) off of Poole Road. Upcoming work days for our church are 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. on December 11, December 18 and January 22. Our 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders will be providing lunch on December 18. There is a sign-up board in the narthex. We welcome your skills and your spirit!

### A SUCCESSFUL “MARKETPLACE OF MEANINGFUL GIFTS”

CUCC members and friends welcomed “Marketplace of Meaningful Gifts” back after a three year absence. The event, which was held Sunday, November 14, hosted 11 agencies that came and displayed information about their work. These agencies collected over \$3,300 in donations, which made the event very productive for them. The Marketplace Café, which was planned and run by our Middle School Youth members, brought in over \$300. This will be used for the students’ trip to Washington DC this spring. The Youth Group would like to thank all of the church members who donated cookies and bread.

The team that helped plan, organize and manage this year’s Marketplace consisted of **Carol Clark, Lena Gallitano, Susan Lane, Jo Perry and Jane Smith.** They were assisted by numerous other volunteers. The team members agreed that because of the fewer number of participating agencies, it

was possible to hold the Marketplace with little stress and strain. We feel confident that this new format will enable us to comfortably put on many more Marketplaces in years to come!

-- Susan Lane

### Marketplace Place Photos (with thanks to Suzette Roach)

(posted separately on the web)



**Food Bags** will be collected on **Sunday, December 5,** and every **first Sunday** of the month.

This month you surpassed our goal in a BIG way! Believe it or not, **31** emergency food bags were contributed and delivered to Urban Ministries. You should feel really good about that; it’s evidence of your faithfulness. Just keep up the good work – and thanks!

## Community Opportunities

### Loaves and Fishes CHILI

Let Loaves and Fishes provide some of the world’s best chili for winter enjoyment and parties. Place your order by calling Shannon Core at 846-0902, or use the sign-up sheet on coming events bulletin board in the hallway, by January 20, 2005. Pick up your order from Hudson Presbyterian Church on Friday, January 28, 4:00-7:00 p.m. or Saturday January 29, 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Meat or vegetarian is \$8.00 per quart and packaged in freezable containers. Thank you!

-- Shannon Core

### Faith-To-Focus Ministry Series Offered

This faith-based process of vocational discernment for pre and retired persons will be sponsored by the Cedar Cross Retreat Center January 7-8 and February 19-19, 24-hour sessions, including

claiming one's spiritual journey; gift, energy, sources and personal style. As Steve recently preached: "We can realize God's call here and now." Contact Mac Hulslander for details. Scholarship help is available.

**Masankho Banda, Peace Activist and Performing Artist, Coming to the Triangle**

"Play breathes life into our communities, so that we can move beyond tolerance toward multicultural

health," says Masankho Banda, a multi-disciplinary educator, performing artist and internationally recognized peace builder. Banda will teach and perform in the Triangle January 7-9. His visit is *co-sponsored by the Interfaith Alliance of Wake County, InterPlay North Carolina and a number of churches and community organizations.* In 2001, Banda received an Unsung Hero of Compassion award from His Holiness, the Dalai Lama for his global peace-building work. Banda educates, inspires and entertains with stories, dancing, drumming, and ritual rooted in Malawi, Africa, where he grew up. You're invited to experience Masankho's artistry, compassion, wisdom and playful spirit at these events:

**Pathways to Peace Presentation,**

Friday, January 7, 8 p.m.

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Raleigh, 3313 Wade Ave., Raleigh

**Seeding Cultures of Peace Workshop,**

Saturday, January 8, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Church of The Good Shepherd, 125 Hillsborough St., Raleigh

**Seeding Cultures of Peace Concert,**

Saturday, January 8, 8:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church, corner of Hillsborough & Salisbury Sts., Raleigh

**InterPlay for World Peace Workshop,**

Sunday, January 9, 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship[, 4907 Garrett Rd., Durham

Julie Elkins and Kori Gay, 2812 B Wayland Dr., Raleigh, NC 27608, 785-9199.

Jim Yoder, 175 Grandifloria Ct., Winterville, NC, (252) 321-6734.

Change:

Tom DeVito, 5005 Stoneridge Dr., Raleigh, NC 27612.

Betty and R.D. Watson, 512 Oakland Dr., Raleigh, NC 27609 (as of December 1).

## Roster

Add:

David Armstrong, 3 Pagemore Ct., Durham, NC 27703, 598-3692, [d\\_a\\_armstrong@yahoo.com](mailto:d_a_armstrong@yahoo.com).

Community United Church of Christ  
814 Dixie Trail  
Raleigh, NC 27607  
December 2004 Newsletter

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The deadline for our January Newsletter is  
December 13<sup>th</sup>.

Organization  
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The Newsletter can be found on our web page:  
[www.communityucc.org](http://www.communityucc.org)

Non-Profit

## A Month of Sundays

### December 5

Second Sunday of  
Advent

**9:00 – 9:30 Taizé**

**9:15 Adult Forum &  
Bible Study**

**10:30 Worship Service  
& Church School**

**Communion**

**Fellowship Time**

**Lectionary:**

Isa.11:1-10; Ps.72:1-7,  
18-19; Rom.15:4-13;  
Matt.3:1-12

**Food Bags Due**

### December 12

Third Sunday of Advent

**9:00 – 9:30 Taizé**

**9:15 Adult Forum &  
Bible Study**

**10:30 Worship Service**

Led by CUCC's  
Children

**Fellowship Time**

**Lectionary:**

**Isa.35:1-10;  
Ps.146:5-10 or Luke  
1:47-55; James 5:7-  
10; Matt.11:2-11**

### Bible Study

**10:30 Worship Service**

**Church School Party**

Father Heinrich's

Christmas presentation

**Fellowship Time**

**Lectionary:**

Isa.7:10-16; Ps.80:1-7,  
17-19; Rom.1:1-7;  
Matt.1:18-25

### December 26

First Sunday after  
Christmas

**9:00-9:30 Taizé;**

**no forum**

**10:30 Worship Service**

**Fellowship Time**

**Lectionary:**

Isa.63:7-9; Ps.148;  
Heb.2:10-18; Matt.2:13-  
23

### December 19

Fourth Sunday of  
Advent

**9:00 – 9:30 Taizé with  
Communion**

**9:15 Adult Forum &**