

COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Nurturing Spiritual Growth and Working For Social Justice

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December 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

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING DECEMBER 2

A Word from our Pastor

Dear Friends,

As we begin the month of December, we all start setting our sights on Christmas. Plans are made for family gatherings for the big day. Who will host? What will the menu be? When will our guests arrive? Where will we fit them all? These are just a few of the questions to plan for! But the most important question of all is Why? Why do we celebrate Christmas? The easy answer is because it is when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. But the fuller answer emerges in very personal ways when we take some special time to reflect upon how the Spirit of the "Light of Christ" has impacted our lives. The church offers these special times in a number of ways:

- The four Sundays of Advent worship
- The Family Advent program on Saturday December 1
- The Advent Evening event on Wednesday December 5
- The Church Christmas Party on Saturday December 8
- In the Christmas Caroling to Nursing Homes and Shut-ins after worship on December 9.
- In Christmas Eve worship at either 5 p.m. or 11 p.m.

Please look for more details on these activities in other parts of the newsletter.

**Wishing you all a meaningful Advent
and a Merry Christmas,**

Steve

Church Council

CUCC Christmas Party Saturday, December 8



Festivities begin with a social hour at 6:30 p.m. There will be wine, cheese & crackers and finger foods.

Entertainment will include singing Christmas songs accompanied by Doug Barrick on the piano. Come and enjoy pieces like "Silver Bells", "O Christmas Tree", "Winter Wonderland" and "White Christmas."

Dessert and Coffee will also be served.

A **\$10 donation** is suggested.

Hope to see you there!



Excerpts from the Minutes
November 19, 2007 meeting

Attending: **Diana Koenning; Moderator-Elect, Steve Halstead; Pastor, Marty Lamb, Gary Smith, Mary Pruneau, Carol Kepler, Sam Johnson, Tom Young, and Joan McAllister; Jeanne Ledbetter**

Minutes from previous meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report

Mary Pruneau distributed the Annual Reports to the ministry chairs. Most of the ministries have spent their budget. 83% of the pledges for this past year have been received.

There was discussion regarding the Ministry Moments that involve monetary contributions by the congregation. Jeanne Ledbetter reported that she looked for the history regarding the details of the Ministry Moments in past years. She will need to look back more than two years for the information. Since this has been under discussion for several months without a clear resolution, a motion was made to table the conversation until the January meeting when new council members are present.

Property Report

1. Atlantec Lighting recommendations—Three double fixtures in center isle with reflective light and wall sconces on the perimeter; remove the square lights in the ceiling. It may be unnecessary to paint the ceiling. The ministry wants drawings of the above-mentioned recommendation with pricing. There are strong feelings that we say what we want and then find out the cost. Plans and notations were left for review
2. Back doors of sanctuary—waiting for estimate from B. A. Hoft; received estimate from David Ledbetter to replace with steel wood grain doors with center mollium: \$3,600
3. New chairs for the Vaughan Fellowship Hall—not addressed at the ministry level as yet because it is not top priority. Information for Council: hard copy of pictures and estimates were provided for

future review. Joan McAllister recommends 75 chairs that will stack 37 high and come with 2 dollies. There were two different types of chairs shown: the chairs that match the Sunday School chairs in adult size at a cost of \$33.85 ea. (total of \$2,749.23) and another style at \$33.99ea (total of \$3,126.37).

Deacons Report

Robert Parrish is considering becoming the Chair of the Deacons Ministry. Sam Johnson will chair the Ushers next year and represent that committee as deacon.

15 members joined the church November 4.

Community Outreach Ministry Report

Marketplace of Meaningful Gifts results was disappointing. Four agencies did not participate and Tom Young will call to find out why. Fairmont Methodist held their annual Thanksgiving dinner after church and Pullen Baptist had a congregational meeting after their worship that kept attendance down at Marketplace from those congregations. The agencies reported receiving less money and café' purchases were down as well. The event will be evaluated at the December 11th meeting. Fairmont will host next year and Pullen the following year.

A report regarding RICH Park will be presented at the Congregational Meeting on December 2.

Social Justice Report

The ministry welcomed Frank Gailor as a member. Frank reported that Covenant with North Carolina's Children does excellent work with legislative advocacy and Action for Children North Carolina specializes in research and dissemination of their findings in aid of changing policy. SJM voted to support each agency with a \$100.00 donation.

Smithfield workers update: breakdown of talks between the union and Smithfield Foods

MLK Birthday—Jane Smith is participating in organizing committee

Justice in a Changing Climate—Postings of the congregation survey will be on bulletin board and the blog. Gary will write a blurb for the bulletin and the newsletter announcing the results. Marty mentioned the she is considering writing a syllabus.

The education sampler potluck was a huge success with over 70 in attendance.

Gary requested reimbursement for the expenses incurred for the bus tickets and light switches. Discussion regarding a line item should be set up in the Reserve Funds section of the Budget ensued. Gary requested \$1,000.00 for upcoming expenses. Tom Young made a motion to honor Gary's request and have the money moved from the Bequest funds into the Reserve funds and Sam Johnson 2nd the motion. The Council agreed and Mary Pruneau will enter the line item into the Budget.

Stewardship Report

48 people responded to the pledge drive as of this date. We are at half of the amount that we want to be. We have had 70 – 80 pledges in the past. Amount pledged to date is \$128,000; proposed 2008 Budget is \$254,006. Carol Kepler will have updated figures at the December 2nd meeting. She expects that pledges will come in from new members as well. (Many of them have been giving in open plate offering, so that is likely to decline.) Mary mentioned that the sermon for Stewardship should possibly come before Pledge Sunday. Mary suggested that we might need to borrow money from ourselves in order to accomplish our goals.

Diana was impressed with the Ministry Moment provided by Bill Bryan and Steve's sermon on November 18.

There was a discussion about the delay of the Nancy Keppel bequest--Mary Pruneau and Everette Noland are awaiting response from the lawyers.

There is concern about the money contributed to the replacement of the windows in the sanctuary (\$6,500) that has not been spent. Some contributors wonder why the process has not begun. Diana made a motion that we propose to the congregation at the January meeting that we purchase windows with the money that has been collected and then from the bequest at the same time of the lighting purchase. Tom Young seconded and the motion was approved. The Property Ministry, the Treasurer and the Justice in Changing Climate Committee will draw up proposal to present to the congregation.

Nominating Committee Report

Jeanne Ledbetter handed out the current proposed slate of Ministry members. The committee is still

working on finalizing. The position of Clerk still remains difficult to fill. There is not a Moderator Elect as of this date. **Skip Stoddard** will become a deacon. **Fawn Pattison** will chair the Stewardship Ministry.

Religious Education Report

Adult Bible Class and Forum continue.

Marty Lamb spoke at the Forum this past week regarding the Changing Climate initiative.

The Youth Leadership Team interviewed a candidate for the Youth Leader and is in the final process of receiving references and background check. After discussion, Tom Young moved that the salaried position begin in December if the candidate is hired and available to begin at that time. Gary Smith 2nd and the motion passed.

Welcoming, Fellowship and Growth

For the Christmas Party to be held December 8 (see invitation above), Lavon Page is providing the food and wine. Mary is recruiting bakers to make desserts. Coffee and punch will be served. Diana, Carol and Steve and Marcy will help with decorating. Tom will lend Christmas lights for the event. Sam will help with the set up.

Pastor's Report

RICH PARK article will be discussed at the December congregational meeting.

--Jeanne Ledbetter, recorder

Deacons

Please attend our Advent Event on Wednesday, December 5, 5:30–7 p.m. We plan to have a simple meal of soup and bread. Please bring a can of either black beans, corn or tomatoes for the soup. Peg Hulslander will lead us in some simple candle dances as we celebrate the theme "light coming into the world." Appropriate scripture will be read and quiet reflection will be offered.

Excerpts from the Deacons minutes from the November 8, 2007 meeting.

Attending: **Jo Perry, Sam Johnson, Gary Smith, Edith Sylla, Ann McLaughlin, Robert Parrish, Margaret Osborne, Roger Manus, Steve Halsted, Nancy Callahan**

Communion Assistants for December 2. Sam, Robert, Roger, and Gary will assist. Communion will be done with cups and trays. Steve and Margaret observed that communion with trays is more inclusive than communion with intinction.

January Children's Sermons. Roger Manus will recruit readers and people to deliver the children's sermons. (Sam lined up the children's stories for December.)

Deacon membership: Sam noted that we needed only three new deacons this year, but next year we may need five more deacons. Robert Parrish is slated to be chair. Sam will take minutes next year if nobody else agrees to take them.

Caring committee:

- Carolyn King's brother Sonny is incapacitated and is in a rehab center. He may lose his place at Shepherd's House.
- Moni Sawhney had bypass surgery. He is doing well.
- Caring Community is praying for Steve as he considers the choices for surgery.
- David Ledbetter's father is in hospice care.
- Robert may have an opportunity to teach at Shaw. He may also have an opportunity with Hospice.

Ushers: Edith will organize ushers for the month of January. Sam will chair ushers next year.

Pastor's Report:

- Justice in a Changing Climate: Steve thanked Gary for his efforts. Steve also thought the service was good. Steve suggested that we have four special services next year to celebrate (air, water, fire, earth) in the same fashion. There were about 70 people for the evening event, including some people from other churches (including the Unity church, Grace Lutheran,

Congolese, and Covenant Community).

- 15 new members were inducted on Sunday.
- There is a new committee to identify and call a youth minister. There will be interviews for the position next week. The youth have enjoyed the upgrades to the Pilgrim House basement.
- Doug Barrister, Anne Pope and Steve Halsted have met about the Christmas activities. There will be caroling on December 9, with participants going to nursing homes.
- Steve's surgery may be scheduled for the second week in January. The church will be looking for pastoral help during that time. Sue Rogge, Nancy, and Robert will be able to help out.

Next Deacon's meeting. December 13.

Submitted by **Jo Perry**

Stewardship

2008 Pledge Cards

Your pledges for 2008 are due NOW. We want all of your pledge cards in before the December 2 congregational meeting as we will be presenting our budget for 2008. We are counting on you to fulfill this request!

Religious Education

Church School

The Family Advent Festival will be held Saturday, December 1, from 9:30-11:30. Families with children of all ages are invited. We'll make advent wreaths, sing carols, and get costumes fitted for the Christmas pageant. Please bring a plate of goodies to share. We will provide milk and warm apple cider. Questions? Contact Heather Burkhardt at 846-8095.

The children will have pageant practice during church school on December 2nd and 9th.

The annual Christmas pageant will be held during worship on Sunday, December 16.

There will be **no church school** on December 30th.

Based on the recommendation of parents, teachers and positive feedback from the children, we have ordered the winter "gather round" books. The topic is "The Salt and the Light".

We are looking forward to the upcoming holiday activities as well as fantastic 2008. Thank you to all the parents, teachers, and staff who give their gifts to the children throughout the year.

Submitted by **Heather Burkhardt**

Youth Group

December 1 – **All Holiday Feast and Movie Night**, 5:00-9:00 pm. *Bring Secret Santa gift # 3 and your Thanksgiving dinner item.*

December 16 – **Advent Pageant**, 10:30-11:45 am. Celebrate the Christmas story as the children present the annual pageant. Who will play Jesus this year?

Not the Same Old Journey Church School

What do a DVD, some great graphics, and enthusiastic teachers have in common? YOU! Journey Church School meets December 2 and 9 to go on this next phase of your Journey with "Journey."

Next Friends Service Project: Advent Pageant

Miss Anne Bailey is counting on you to help her with the younger children as they rehearse (December 2 and 9) and perform (December 16).

There will be NO JOURNEY OR FRIENDS CHURCH SCHOOL DECEMBER 23 OR 30!

Adult Forum

The Forum meets on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. in the Vaughan fellowship hall.

Forum Calendar

December 2 – Clay Stalnaker will discuss "Varieties of Religious Experience," by William James.

December 9 – Dr. David Martin "Evolutionary Psychology and Religion."

December 16 – Bob Geary of the Independent Newspaper. "The Year in Review: The Dogs that didn't Bark."

December 23 – to be announced

December 30 – to be announced

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 December the group will continue reading and discussing Looking in the Distance by Richard Holloway. The contact for more info is **Ed Klemmer**.

Monday Lunch Group

Bring lunch and join us in the Hoffmann Room Mondays at 12:15 p.m. In December we will successively bring in poetry or art related to Christmas, write Christmas cards to the former members of the group and others, have a Christmas lunch, and **not** meet on Christmas Eve. We **will** meet on New Year's Eve at which time we will have another party!

Thinking "Green" in the Bleak Midwinter

Interested in being part of a small group in developing our individual commitments towards *decreasing the size of our carbon footprint at our homes?*

Here's the vision: We'd commit ourselves to meeting with each other after church for six Sundays (**Jan. 13, 20, 27, Feb. 3, 10, & 17**) for an hour and a half from 12 to 1:30 in the Bradow Room: either bring a bag lunch or indulge in peanut butter sandwich fixings and grapes Marty will bring from home as a back-up plan for participants.

WE will begin by taking an energy audit of our own homes, looking at tips sheets such as the one from IPL, sharing what we think we're doing well and where we need to improve, brainstorming ideas for problem solving, respect our differing solutions and choices, and committing to making at least ONE forward step, maybe more, at our homes that might benefit the planet. Optional readings (websites, books, videos) will be offered for in between sessions, as participants are motivated to explore a

particular issue more deeply and share findings, which may be pertinent to rest of group. Some of us may even commit to taking the IPL 10% challenge

for decreasing our energy usage in 2008 and applaud each other as we show progress. We may have a general focus area each week (water conservation, fuel reduction, improved air quality, local eating, etc.)

Let's explore together! Synergy, anyone? Put the dates on your calendar NOW as your first commitment. If you plan to come, let Marty know either at 819-4084 or billandmarty@nc.rr.com or when you see her. Prepare to bring open hearts, open minds, open ears, and occasional open mouths as we build community in this effort. Cogent, considerate ideas are welcomed as well. Who knows, we may be able to postpone "The Fire Next Time" and live to tell our grandchildren of how we took favorable actions for improvement in 2008. Remember, nothing's too small to make a difference.

Marty Lamb, Christian Education

Social Justice

Justice in a Changing Climate

You are welcome to attend the next meeting of the Steering Committee on Sunday, December 9, at noon in the Hoffmann Room. The agenda: finalizing plans for study/action groups beginning January 2008, follow up on the CUCC energy audit, and more....

Jane Smith

Scholarship Available for CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORIC BUS TOUR – April 1-4, 2008

Atlanta

Selma

Tuskegee

Montgomery

Birmingham

Memphis



For more information see <http://www.king-raleigh.org/register/register-selma.cfm> or check the Social Justice Ministry bulletin board. OR talk with **Margaret Osborne** who took the tour a few years ago.

DEADLINE: Wednesday, December 5 to let **Jane Smith** know if you might be interested so SJM can reserve scholarship money to assist you.

Output of Justice in a Changing Climate survey assessing CUCC interest and activity in Climate Change issues today.

In October CUCC conducted a congregational survey to determine our current status on Global Warming/Climate Change – Justice in a Changing Climate.

There were 40 respondents; the collated results are below in table and graph format. (The numbers in the table along the left side of the questions represent the number of people who responded with that particular answer; thus for question 1, 31 respondents gave E as an answer. Some questions had multiple answers, and not everyone responded to every question.)

The results are quite exciting and indicate that CUCC is interested, involved, and wants to learn and do more.

84% of respondents think Global Warming is "... a major challenge of our time, and we should work together to address it", and 70 % either said, "I'm ready to get involved" or "I'm a true believer, sign me up"

When asked what they were most skeptical about, 80% responded that "We need to work on this, but I doubt our nation has the political will to make real change" or "I'm not skeptical; we can beat this, and it's time to get started". We may be saying that we want act but are not completely hopeful yet.

The responses to "What potential impact(s) of climate change worries / interests you most?" and "What kinds of climate-related activities would you be most inclined to participate in?" were quite diverse. They seem to indicate that we have a breadth of climate change concerns and places where we desire to act.

Importantly, individuals and families are already doing a variety of energy conservation things now

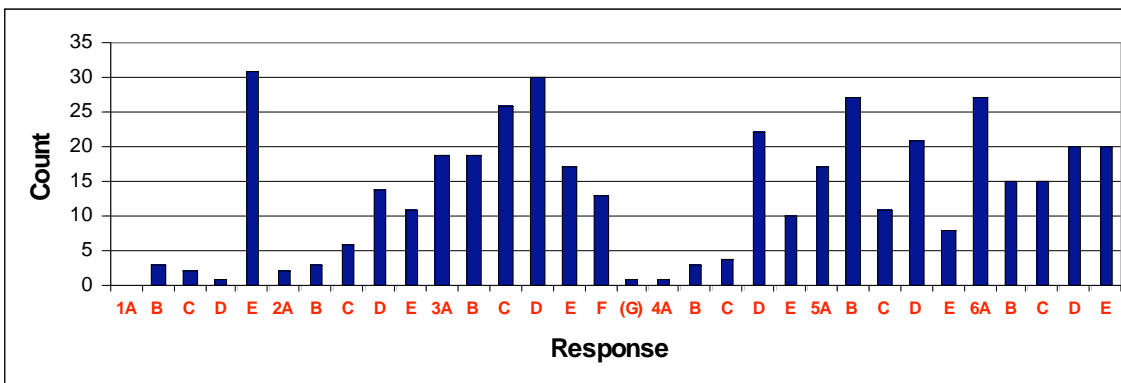
and there is a desire to have opportunities to share best practices.

Finally, it is important to note that none of the responses were 100%. We must keep this in mind, and as we move forward we must remember to listen to and learn from the voice of Christ one another.

In response to these results and those from the Education Sampler Potluck, the steering committee is now working to plan education and action opportunities for 2008. Your input is welcome at all levels. Please feel free to contact Pastor Steve, the church office or any steering committee member.

CUCC Justice in a Changing Climate Survey	
Responses	1. What statement best reflects your feelings about global warming?
0	A. Global what?
3	B. I feel powerless and unmotivated to do anything about it.
2	C. I don't know much about it, but would like to learn more.
1	D. It sounds bad, but I'm focused on other issues.
31	E. It's a major challenge of our time, and we should work together to address it.
	2. When CUCC picked "Justice in a Changing Climate" as a focus, what was your reaction?
2	A. Oh no.
3	B. I'm not very interested in this, but it doesn't have to involve me.
6	C. I'm glad someone else is working on this.
14	D. I'm ready to get involved.
11	E. I'm a true believer, sign me up.
	3. What potential impact(s) of climate change worries/ interests you most?
19	A. drought/ flooding/ stronger hurricanes.
19	B. effect of higher temperatures in summer or winter.
26	C. loss of plant and animal species.
30	D. economic and social impacts to most vulnerable people.
17	E. economic and social impacts of misguided government regulations.
13	F. abrupt and runaway climate change.
1	(G) Air quality impacts of summer temps
	4. What aspects of climate change are you most skeptical about?
1	A. Isn't climate change just a natural cyclical pattern?
3	B. Scientists disagree so much, who knows what to believe?
4	C. Can CUCC really do anything that will make a difference?
22	D. We need to work on this, but I doubt our nation has the political will to make real change.
10	E. I'm not skeptical; we can beat this, and it's time to get started.

	5. What kinds of climate-related activities would you be most inclined to participate in?				
17	A. studying and discussing our spiritual/ theological response to climate change.				
27	B. learning about and making personal lifestyle changes to reduce carbon emissions.				
11	C. direct service to help low-income families reduce their electricity bills.				
21	D. advocating with city and state government for policies to reduce carbon emissions.				
8	E. organizing or volunteering at CUCC climate celebrations and events.				
	6. What potential policy solutions/ responses to climate change interest/ excite you most?				
27	A. Promoting energy efficiency locally and nationally.				
15	B. Improving climate-friendly transportation options locally and nationally.				
15	C. Building international institutions to protect peace in a climate-stressed world.				
20	D. Reforming land use policy to reduce carbon emissions and prepare for an altered climate.				
20	E. Supporting sustainable and local agriculture.				
	7. What changes have you already made to reduce your energy use or carbon emissions?				
	CFL	composting	recycle	Efficient car	
	Energy star Appliances	canvas shopping bags	thermostat low in winter / high in summer	Rain barrel	
	organic food	Small house and car	carpool	reduce water use	
	planting trees	reading more about "it"		clothes line	
	reduce unnecessary driving	Efficient car	Several destinations in one errand trip	turn off lights	
	8. What activities or ideas would you like CUCC's Justice in a Changing Climate initiative?				
	Workshops				
	Sharing ideas on how to reduce energy use at home and church				
	Coalition with other churches				
	Generate and act on a list specific things we could do locally.				
	Hands on activities to help low income people				
	Research on what is effective				



Property

Report on November 17 workday

What a beautiful day for raking and window washing! Our recent property workday was well attended and very productive. Approximately 30 volunteers came out to make our day a big success. The work day actually began a day or two early for a few folks, as some important jobs were accomplished before Saturday, including cleaning the roof and gutters, and cleaning the kitchen. Outside, Saturday volunteers raked, pruned, weeded, and cleared brush. Over in the Meditation Garden, it's always a challenge to keep the honeysuckle vines at bay. Inside, we cleaned, swept, washed, polished, and scraped. Lots of window washing - classrooms, sanctuary, Vaughan Wing. All the tables in the Vaughan Wing were washed as were all the toys in the nursery! With a nod to the findings of our recent energy audit, weather stripping was applied in draft-prone areas, especially the classroom

windows. There were certainly other jobs accomplished, but it's not easy to keep tabs on 30 busy workers! Although the three hours went by quickly, and a few tasks remain to be accomplished soon, this workday was a resounding success! Thanks to all who helped.

Nancy Stoddard

*[Editors note: A **BIG THANK YOU** to Nancy for her leadership and energy in tackling this project!!!]*

Property Ministry met November 17 while enjoying pizza after the Work Day, and reviewed the diagrams and recommendations from Atlantec regarding the sanctuary lighting. Further information is being sought to determine the impact of additional lighting through the use of wall sconces. Once this information is received from Atlantec, the committee feels confident that a recommendation can be made and work can proceed. The committee plans to propose replacing the current three downlights either with the single or double fixtures (depending on the results of the next lighting impact study) as well as wall sconces on the side walls of the sanctuary. If possible,

wallboard will be used to further insulate the sanctuary while covering the wiring to the wall sconces. This design will provide great flexibility for the level of light in the sanctuary, as we will have dimmer switches and CFL bulbs.

Anyone with interest in the drawings provided by Atlantec is welcome to view them in the back room of Pilgrim House.

Memorial/Meditation Garden

Our thanks to **all** who tended our garden at the November 17 workday.

Nancy and Skip Stoddard have volunteered for December.

<p><u>Volunteers needed</u> – If you are interested in keeping our garden, please contact Peg to volunteer for a month: 833-7203.</p>

Welcoming, Fellowship & Growth

Retirees Fellowship – (2nd Mondays, monthly)

GIFTS for MEALS ON WHEELS

The Retired People and Church School families are making a concerted effort this year to provide Christmas gifts to the homebound and others who rely on Meals on Wheels as both a source of food and an opportunity to connect with others. Everyone in the congregation is invited to participate in this endeavor. Lists of “wishes” are available in the back of the sanctuary (check last month’s Newsletter); donation boxes are located in the narthex and educational wing. All gifts must be contributed to the church by Sunday, December 9th. On Monday, December 10th, the Retired People will meet to wrap the wonderful array of gifts you have donated. Bring a sandwich for lunch and come join us!! Dessert and beverages are provided. Everyone is welcome.

Sisters in Spirit (SIS)

There will be **no meeting** in December.

NEEDED NOW: Fellowship Hour Folk

We need many folk – a few at a time –to set out beverages and simple nibbles for fellowship hour after Sunday morning services in the upcoming weeks. Contact Ed or Ruth Klemmer, phone 847-7992 or email erklemmer@earthlink.net.

Archives

Committee and Board Chairs

As the year comes to an end please take any records--Minutes, Correspondence, etc--that will not be needed by you successor to the Church Office to be added to Archives.

Cy King, CUCC Historian

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 and Pilgrim House.) Our prayers are solicited for:

Jo Lemons, Jo Banks, Al Matthews, Ruby Lamb, Lisa Marsh, Mamie Scott, Nancy Cross' cousins Carolyn and Jean, David Ledbetter's father, Bill, June Bolton, Scottie Bell, Bobby Barnes, Rhonda Zingraff & Charlie Thomas, Roy and Ida Klages, Kerma Hazel, Joan Little, Steve's brother Eugene and nephew Gene, Gretchen Aycock's mother Mary, and the people of the DRC, and other victims of war and natural disaster across the globe.

We continue to profile our **NEW MEMBERS:**

Carole and Frank Gailor

Carole, occupation: attorney; special interests, gardening/cooking, travel and grandchildren; previously member of First Presbyterian, Raleigh; attraction to CUCC: diverse congregation and commitment to make a personal and church community impact in chosen social justice areas.

Frank, occupation: redevelopment of historic buildings; special interest: reading, politics, sports and our four black labs; previously member First Presbyterian; attraction: informality, diversity,

openness and engagement in relevant social justice issues.

Anne and Joe Retzer

Anne comes to CUCC retired from many careers with an MEd in college administration and an AA degree in electronic graphic design. Anne has done volunteer work with a senior day health care center and with a consignment shop for abused women and children. With friends, she also started a mothers morning-out program and a food cooperative. She enjoys a variety of interests – art and design, a love of the written letter, an academic community, especially students and being around children. When asked what attracted her to CUCC, she replied “the intimacy of a caring community with wide-ranging interests, the tradition of the church as ‘a mover’ in Raleigh, the worship experience on Sunday mornings—the focusing in quietness of spirit, and, of course last but not least, an excellent minister.


Known as "**Joe**" rather than Joseph, is currently working at the USEPA's National Computer Center in RTP, providing high end computer support to scientists modeling air quality, and building models of the human lung and liver to evaluate effects of toxic chemicals. He's been with EPA for nearly 30 years, but has been in Raleigh just three years. Joe's non-work interests include reading (especially history), stamp collecting, and outdoor activities like walking and fishing. Joe was raised a Southern Baptist, but found a home in the Congregational Church while living in Connecticut many years ago. When they moved to Raleigh, Joe found that CUCC provided good opportunities for both spiritual nourishment and social action, and in a welcoming, but non-pressured environment.

Skip and Nancy Stoddard

Skip and Nancy have been regulars at CUCC since the late 1980's, but as masters of procrastination, are now only making membership official. They are both recently retired state employees, Nancy as a bookkeeper in the Wake County School System, and Skip from the geology faculty at NCSU. Skip's “formative years” were spent in Massachusetts, where he was a member of First Congregational Church of Amherst (UCC). Nancy grew up in Sampson County, NC, where she was a member of

Wells Chapel Baptist Church in Wallace. It is one of the oldest churches in this part of the country,

having recently celebrated its 250th anniversary. Nancy's passion is gardening, and Skip enjoys outdoor nature activities. They admire the peace, justice, and environmental stances of CUCC. Skip and Nancy have three grown daughters, who for the first time all have full-time jobs (with benefits!) and all live in North Carolina. They also have three grandchildren.



Our Young Peoples' Birthdays

12/8/9 – Ben Cole
12/12/01 – Faith Davis
12/19/91 – Anna Roach Howell
12/22/96 – Katherine Lan Manus
1/6/98 – Caelan Eckard
1/17/94 – David Cookmeyer

Church Directory

Add: Binks Mew, binks.mew@ofnisystems.com

Change: Catherine Fairbanks, 7625 Wellesley Pt. N., Raleigh, NC 27615, 671-2991.

Community Outreach

HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR BY BRINGING FOOD BAGS!



Almost reached our goal this month! We contributed 23 food bags to Urban Ministries. As you enjoyed your Thanksgiving feast this year, remember those to whom even an emergency food bag is a "feast." Keep those feasts coming; they are much needed and appreciated! Let's try to make December a memorable month of at least 25 contributions.

Food bags are due **December 2** and every first Sunday of the month.

Submitted by **Marge Eckels**

Wider Community

A Letter from the Moderator

Dear Fellow CUCC Members and Friends,

At the congregational meeting on 2 December 2007, the congregation will be asked to endorse the signing of a letter of re-commitment to the support of RICH Park Apartments.

The facts to consider in this decision are these:

- CUCC is one of five Raleigh churches that established the Raleigh Inter-Church Housing Corporation (RICH) to create and implement the RICH Park Apartments forty years ago and contributed \$500 to that effort;
- RICH Park was one of many similar non-profit developments in the nation that received financial support from the federal department of housing and urban development (HUD);
- In July 2008 HUD will terminate the program under which RICH Park and many other non-profit low income housing projects received financial support;
- Also in July 2008 RICH Park will have the obligation to pay the mortgage that HUD holds on the property. To make this payment, RICH Park will take out a new mortgage and pay it off with rental income from the apartments;
- The RICH Park Board of Directors, the property management company retained by the board, and an ad-hoc committee of the board have provided a fifteen year financial projection. The projection concludes that RICH Park will experience its financial future securely in the black by following its tradition of prudent management and conservative assumptions;
- The RICH Park property is currently valued at \$5 million, which assures the five churches of the project's viability and mortgage companies that RICH Park is a worthwhile investment from their perspective;
- Four of the five churches have signed on to continue this important ministry;
- CUCC Council has voted to join the other four churches;

• The RICH Park Board does not view the letter of re-commitment as a contract. It instead sees it as an endorsement of the “leap of faith” which the five churches originally entered into to provide housing for low income people. Any of the five churches can pull out of the agreement at any time, but none has done so for forty years.

If you have any questions, please contact me by phone 781-0829 or email jlittle17@nc.rr.com.

Yours truly,
John J. Little, Moderator

Loaves and Fishes Chili Sales Alert

Let Loaves and Fishes prepare some of the worlds Best Chili for you enjoyment and Super Bowl parties. Meat and Veggie is \$10.00 per quart in freezable containers. Place your orders by phoning Shannon Core at 846-0902 or use the sign up sheet on the Coming Events bulletin board in the hallway by January 13, 2008. Pick up times are Friday, January 25, 2008 (3:00 to 7:00 PM) and Saturday, January 26, 2008 (9:00 to 12:00 PM) at Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church, 4921 Six Forks Road. (Use the north entrance) The proceeds will support a proven program for at risk children in our community.

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

Ministry Chairs:
Deacons: Sam Johnson
Stewardship: Carol Kepler, Interim chair
Property: David Ledbetter and Joan McAllister
Religious Education: Marty Lamb
Social Justice: Gary Smith
Community Outreach: Tom Young

Organist: Doug Barrick
Choir Director: Anne Moorman-Smith

Save space for calendar

December 17th.

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

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

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

A Month of Sundays

December 2 | First Sunday of Advent | **9:00 – 9:30 Taizé; 9:15 Adult Forum & Bible Study; 10:30 Worship (with Communion) & Church School; Fellowship Time**
Lectionary: Isa 2:1-5; Ps 122; Rom 13:11-14; Matt 24:36-44

December 9 | Second Sunday of Advent | **9:00 – 9:30 Taizé; 9:15 Adult Forum & Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service & Church School; Fellowship Time**
Lectionary: Isa 11:1-10; Ps 72: 1-7, 18-19; Rom 15:4-13; Matt 3:1-12

December 16 | Third Sunday of Advent | **9:00 Taizé with Communion; 9:15 Adult Forum & Bible Study; 10:30 Worship & Church School; Fellowship Time**
Lectionary: Isa 35:1-10; Ps 146:5-10 or Luke 1:47-55; James 5:7-10; Matt 11:2-11

December 23 | Fourth Sunday of Advent | **9:00 – 9:30 Taizé; 9:15 Adult Forum & Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service & Church School; Fellowship Time;**
Lectionary: Isa 7:10-16; Ps 80:1-7, 17-19; Rom 1:1-7; Matt 1:18-25

December 30 | First Sunday after Christmas | **9:00 – 9:30 Taizé; 9:15 Adult Forum & Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service & Church School; Fellowship Time;**
Lectionary: Isa 63:7-9; Ps 148; Heb 2:10-18; Matt 2:13-23; OR Isa 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-7, 10-14; Eph 3:1-12; Matt 2:1-12

