

# **COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

## **Nurturing Spiritual Growth and Working for Social Justice**

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Stephen S. Halsted, Pastor

February 2004

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### **Lectionary for February**

#### **February 1<sup>st</sup>, Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

Jer 1:4-10; Ps 71:1-6; 1 Cor 13:1-13; Lk 4:21-30.

#### **February 8<sup>th</sup>, Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

Isa 6:1-8, (9-13); Ps 138; 1 Cor 15:1-11; Lk 5:1-11.

#### **February 15<sup>th</sup>, Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**

Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1; 1 Cor 15:12-20; Lk 6:17-26.

#### **February 22<sup>nd</sup>, Last Sunday after Epiphany**

Ex 34:29-35; Ps 99; 2 Cor 3:12-4:2; Lk 9:28-36, (37-43).

#### **February 29<sup>th</sup>, First Sunday in Lent**

Deut 26:1-11; Ps 91:1-2, 9-16; Rom 10:8b-13;

Lk 4:1-13.

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making some new! Rev. Russell is to be installed as Good Shepherd's new pastor on Sunday, February 8 at 4:30 pm, so you may like to meet him then and wish him well as he begins a new chapter in his life after recently moving here from Ohio.

During Lent we will be offering a variety of activities for spiritual enrichment and fellowship. A special flyer is being made to highlight them and will be available soon. Please also consult your church calendar for times and dates and location.

Blessings and Peace,

Steve



Dear Friends,

As we move into the month of February and beyond our recent 3-day snow and ice storm, the season of Lent will soon be upon us! It officially begins on Ash Wednesday which this year is on February 25. To make Ash Wednesday a fuller experience I have made arrangements with Rev. Pat Russell of Good Shepherd UCC in Cary for our congregations to join together for a simple meal and special worship on that date. We will also join together on Maundy Thursday, April 8, for a simple meal, Passover observance, and Tenebrae service. Good Shepherd will host us on Ash Wednesday and we will host them on Maundy Thursday. Each event will begin at 6:30 pm with a satisfying soup meal with worship following at approximately 7:15. If you are unable to make it for the meal please still consider coming for the service. In order to prepare for the right amount of food we will have a sign-up sheet available at the church or you may call the office at 787-6422 to make your reservation. These two events will be a wonderful way to reacquaint our congregations by seeing some old friends and



### **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.

Following are the names of those to be remembered in prayer: Jo Lemons, Nancy Keppel, and Buck Little.

## **MEETINGS and EVENTS**

**Retirees Group** will meet in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall on Monday, February 9 at 11 AM for fellowship and a Valentine pot luck lunch. Bring your favorite dish to share. Dessert and beverage will be provided.

**Women's Support Group** meets Thursday, February 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the Hoffmann Room for a pot luck and planning session for future meetings. Bring a dish and some ideas. Sally Cook 467-3642.

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### **Lenten Opportunities**

The Folk Choir will be learning and singing a cappella **Shaker Hymns** during Lent and others from the congregation are invited to join in learning these wonderful, spirit filled melodies. Learning will occur in the Bradow Room after church at 12:00 noon for about hour to an hour and a half on February 22, 29, and March 7. These songs will be sung for the congregation as part of the March 14 service. Marty Lamb will be leading the group and teaching the songs for this workshop.

Join the Lenten Book Study Group. You will be studying and discussing a book recommended by Russ and Susie Oliver, best-seller **A Purpose-Driven Life** by Rick Warren. Meet Sundays during Lent in the Pilgrim House at 2 p.m. beginning February 29.

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### **BOOK SALE FEBRUARY 29**

The Youth Council is sponsoring a CUCC book sale after worship on **February 29**. Now is your chance to read what others at CUCC recommend - because they have donated their copies! Invite your friends and neighbors to visit worship that day and stay for the sale. Please deposit your book donations in the box at the back of the sanctuary marked for the book sale. The Youth Council welcomes all kinds of books - children's picture books, mysteries and romances, travel, art books (the church school

would love to buy some of those!), cook books, etc. Clear off your shelves so you have room for the books you'll buy! And remember to bring your money on the 29th.

Proceeds from the sale will help to fund projects of the Youth Council, CUCC's youth who are seventh grade and older.

## **DEACONS MINISTRY**

The Deacons began the New Year with a meeting on January 14. Unusually, the Council had met the week before to prepare for the January 18 congregational meeting, so we heard from Pastor Steve about the financial and nominating committee information to be presented. The nominating committee will identify new Deacons to fill vacancies and a new Vice Chair will be chosen from among the new group of twelve. All Deacons were asked to continue their terms and schedule activities for their respective areas of the ministry through March, when the nominating committee expects to present the results of their work for terms beginning in 2004.

We spent some time evaluating the Advent and Christmas activities, found them successful, and agreed to continue both Christmas services and the two caroling sessions. Planning for Lent claimed our attention after the several ministry reports; Pastor Steve has identified the several events and activities in his message, above. Continuing our dialogue on communion service, we discussed feedback from the congregation. The common thread appears to be a desire for more variety - and a caution against its becoming routine. Taking a cue from these comments, we are planning a Lenten pre-Holy Week retreat for April 3 that will give participants new approaches to their understanding and experience of communion. At the February 1 service, we will serve communion to our fellow CUCC members in a sanctuary circle.

The Deacons appreciate your sharing your thoughts and wishes. It's interesting how we weave our diverse threads into the fabric of our worship experience. Peg Hulslander is now Chair, and will be receiving your comments. Though I will occasionally be the Deacons' newsletter correspondent, I have completed my term as Chair

and would like to say thanks to all of you and to my fellow Deacons for a rewarding experience.

Vandy Bradow  
For the Deacons

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### Arts in Worship

Thank you to Linda Baker for hanging some of her lovely quilts on the art wall. They will be on display until the middle of February. The art wall is located in the hallway outside of the Hoffmann Room.

“Whatever else art may be, it is primarily the work of the soul. For me, art has been the way to find soul, nurture it, heal it, grow it; to give it shape and color, texture and voice.” *Quote from With Sacred Threads*

## CHURCH COUNCIL

The Council met on Tuesday, January 13, to prepare for the 2004 First Annual Congregational Meeting to be held January 18, 2004, and to handle regular Council business.

The Constitution and By-Laws as proposed by the Council were passed by the Congregation at the January 18, 2004, meeting. The Constitution and By-Laws were then amended by the Congregation to move the Pastoral Relations and Personnel Committees to the responsibility of the Church Council and to reword the “members-at-large” section of the By-Laws.

The proposed annual budget of the Church for 2004 was reviewed by the Council at its January meeting and was adopted by the Congregation. Everyone was pleased to hear that \$22,000.00 surplus from 2003 will support the 2004 budget.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Youth Religious Education reported to the Council and Congregation with a recommendation that a youth director on a per-hour, part-time basis be hired. The Congregation adopted this suggestion and modified the Budget to include \$2,200.00 for the payment for these services.

The Nominating Committee reported about their progress on getting the nominations for Church officers, ministries, and committee members and

other positions filled for the Church in 2004. Some changes are expected to be made in this area in the future.

The Pastor announced to the Church Council that the Conference Minister would be coming to take the pulpit on January 25, 2004.

The Spring Congregational Meeting will be scheduled for one of the last two Sundays in March. The meeting will be announced at least two weeks in advance.

-submitted by Everette Noland

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

Reminder: **Food Bags** will be collected on **Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup>**.



Our January collection of emergency food bags was a good start for the new year. Our church family contributed 21 complete food bags, much appreciated by the staff at Urban Ministries. Make a note on your calendar that the next collection takes place on February 1. That should be easy to remember!

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Adult Forum** meets in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall, 9:15-10:15 a.m. each Sunday morning.

### Calendar

February 1 – Bill Moyers interviews James Forbes, Senior Minister of Riverside Church in New York. Rev. Forbes is a native of Raleigh, a former Faculty member at Union Theological Seminary and a powerful preacher. This is a video presentation.

February 8 – Buddy Owens, President of the North Carolina Chapter of “Americans United for the Separation of Church and State” will lead our discussion on this important subject, “Separation of Church and State.”

February 15 – Christian Stalberg of Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility will discuss “The Patriot Act: Security or Threat to Liberty.”

February 22 and 29 – Collins Kilburn will continue the discussion of the "Social Gospel" and Walter Rasmuschenbush.

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY**

### **Living Peaceably**

A weekend of Workshops and Worship  
United Church of Chapel Hill  
Saturday, February 28, 8:30-12:30  
\$5.00 includes lunch

To register, call 942-3540 or register at the door.

Our Sister church in Chapel Hill is holding what promises to be a wonderful day of workshops and worship to assist all of us who seek peace in our lives and in our society. The leadership will come from our United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries and from University and Community leaders. Loey Powell, UCC Justice and Witness Ministries, will kick off with “If Not Now When?” followed by a series of workshops (you can choose three out of the thirteen that will be offered) on everything from “Parenting and Peace,” “Patriot Act/War on Terror,” “Poetry, Prayer and Peace,” to “Violence Against the Self: Suicide.”

### **And Then**

Sunday, February 29 at 3:30 p.m.

Eastern North Carolina Association Celebration and Welcome to North Raleigh United Church of Christ into the Association UCC President and General Minister, John Thomas will be present for this happy event and surely many from our Congregation will want to be present.

United Church of Chapel Hill is located at 1321 Airport Road in Chapel Hill. From I-40 Exit 266 onto Airport Road. Go one mile south towards Chapel Hill and the Church will be on your right. For possible carpooling check with Pastor Steve.

## **Campaign Finance Reform**

For a good many years the Social Justice Ministry has had as a priority “Campaign Finance Reform.” Now, thanks to the *Judicial Campaign Reform Act* adopted by the General Assembly, we have a chance to decide whether we want public financing for candidates for the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals beginning in 2004.

For this legislation to become effective we, some 600,000 of us tax payers, must check “Yes” in the new check-off box when we fill out our N.C. Tax Return. When we say “Yes” the N.C. Dept. of Revenue will send \$3 to the Public Campaign Financing Fund. This will not change the amount of tax that you pay and it will not reduce your refund if you are entitled to a refund.

What it will do is:

- Supports distribution of a nonpartisan Voter’s Guide, prepared by the State Board of Elections that helps you cast an informed vote in statewide judicial elections (NC Supreme Court and Court of Appeals).
- Gives those judicial candidates a new way to finance their campaigns, if they agree strict fundraising and spending limits, so they don’t rely on the lawyers and litigants who appear in their courts.

Don’t forget. This “great leap forward” for Campaign Finance Reform requires that we check “Yes” in the check-off box. Be sure to tell your accountant or the person who prepares your tax return that you want to check “Yes” on your NC Tax Return. Judges are too important in our system of justice to be selected by special interests with deep pockets.

## **Calendar**

February 3 – “Stop the Arms Race Vigil”, 12 noon, Fayetteville Street Mall

February 6 – ACLU Frank Porter Graham Award Dinner honoring Dr. Slater Newman, a long time friend of CUCC, 7 – 10 p.m., the Durham Marriott at the Civic Center, 201 Foster Street. Keynote speaker is Anthony Romero, the ACLU Executive

Director. You will need to make your reservation by calling Kerry R. Little at 834-3466.

February 24 – North Carolinians Against Gun Violence, 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary Annual Meeting. 7 – 9:00 p.m. at Binkley Baptist Church, 1712 Willow Dr., Chapel Hill. State Senator Tony Rand and gun industry whistle-blower Robert Ricker will speak.

February 28 – Living Peaceable: Practicing Peace in Our Homes, Our Schools and Our Community Conference will be held at the United Church of Christ, Chapel Hill. See story below and flyer on the Social Justice bulletin board.

February 29 – There will be a celebration of the Eastern North Carolina Association and a welcoming of North Raleigh United Church of Christ into the Association to be held at the United Church of Chapel Hill at 3:30 p.m. UCC President and General Minister John Thomas will be present for this happy occasion.

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**Communications Committee**

Before Christmas, you were asked at one Sunday service to provide your opinions about the purposes and performance of our newsletter. Forty-five congregants answered the questions. Here is what you said about what the purposes of the newsletter should be:

<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Rating</u>	<u>HIGH</u>	<u>MEDIUM</u>	<u>LOW</u>
To inform		45	0	0
To project image of CUCC		13	13	12
To build community		33	9	1
To promote causes		15	22	5
To stir conscience		15	17	9
To provide a historical record		4	15	21
To provide spiritual nourishment		16	13	10
To communicate news of Eastern NC Assn. Southern Conf., national UCC		15	19	10

Clearly we have consensus that the newsletter should be our source of information and in the process, build community!

THANK YOU for sharing your thoughts and suggestions and we will soon be in touch with those of you who offered to help in this new church year.  
Submitted by Carolyn King

**OUR PEOPLE**

**Youth Birthdays**

**February Birthdays\***

- 2/5/89 – Kat Griggs
- 2/5/92 – Abby Smith
- 2/6/93 – Elena Briere
- 2/15/00 – Gloria Difuidi

**March Birthdays\***

- 3/3/88 – Amanda Bowen
- 3/24/90 – Nicholas DeVito

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

**ROSTER UPDATES**

Email address for:

Mike and Nancy Callaham – [mncall@bellsouth.net](mailto:mncall@bellsouth.net)

New listing:

Kathy and Buzz Clift, 726 Parkham Lane, Raleigh, NC 27603. 829-7242

**NC EARTHFOODS CO-OP**

NC Earthfoods Co-op is a buying club of about 20 people, founded about 7 years ago. Currently we do our ordering from United Northeast ([www.unitednortheast.com](http://www.unitednortheast.com)). Every month we get a pricelist (members subscribe) that lists thousands of items you can buy. Most are brands you would find at Whole Foods supermarket. There are a lot of bulk items (one can order 5-50lbs) from nuts, pasta, grains, candy, spices, etc. Then there are your regular grocery products including "earth-friendly" detergents and household cleaners, personal care products, frozen foods, dairy, snacks,

beverages, condiments, entrees, etc. There is also a large selection of organic products and produce-- most (particularly if you order by the case) at prices less expensive than Whole Foods.

Before the order is due the group coordinator (Elizabeth Kunreuther, [ekunreuther@earthlink.net](mailto:ekunreuther@earthlink.net)) contacts the members to give them the order deadline, remind them to check the on-line specials and make sure they get a pricelist. Members are welcome to use the group list to e-mail other members to see if anyone wants to split bulk or cases of items. The truck usually arrives the first Friday of the month. This month we expect the truck to be in the CUCC parking lot (Wade Avenue lot) around 1pm, February 6. Feel free to drop by and check it out. If the time or date change, the church will be notified (as will the members).

If you are interested in joining, email Elizabeth Kunreuther.

## **JUST FOR FUN**

My mother, Rose McAllister, gave me this article out of the Glenaire newsletter just after Christmas. There are 30 books of the Bible hidden in the paragraph below. I have found 29. How many can you find?

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his johnboat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund-raising event,

which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new sales record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus; there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found.

Submitted by Joan McAllister

## **IN MEMORIAM**

The recent death of the Reverend Howard Cunningham reminds us of his long tenure as pastor of First Congregational United Church of Christ during which our two congregations established a close working relationship. Together we created an integrated Vacation Church Camp that continued for twenty-five years and helped prepare our children for the integration of the public schools, and also integrated the state park system. We held joint services at the beginning of Advent and on Maundy Thursday for many years, alternating sanctuaries. For several summers our congregations merged when one or the other of our pastors was on vacation.

After retirement, Rev. Cunningham and his wife Pricilla often worshiped with us on Sunday morning. We honor the memory of his pastorate, his leadership and his friendship.