

COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Nurturing Spiritual Growth and Working For Social Justice

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February 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

A Word from our Pastor

Dear Friends,

I recently attended an overnight planning retreat at Brown's Summit with the Climate Connection Committee of the N. C. Council of Churches. We were meeting to structure and organize our agenda for working on environmental issues in 2007. One of the things we did was to change our name so that it would be recognizable to a wider audience of environmental groups. We are now to be called N. C. Interfaith Power and Light and are still a program of the NC Council of Churches. Our new name reflects our affiliation with a well known national organization called Interfaith Power and Light. They also help us with substantial funding and help to open the door to other sources of funding for the educational and advocacy work that we do.

Another issue that we planned at the retreat was to organize a voice in opposition to Duke Energy's proposal to expand the size of its Cliffside Coal Plant. The following is an excerpt of my comments to the State Utilities Commission:

"I think everyone would agree that North Carolina is a great state with many great people. I believe we have the potential to be a leading state in the future of energy production and management. That is one reason I oppose the expansion of old technology coal plants like these proposed by Duke Energy. They are no longer viable because of the cost they incur in CO2 emissions which contribute significantly to Global Warming and its disastrous effects on the lives of people, wildlife and the whole earth. Coal power plants also are contributing to a number of health problems, especially asthma in young children, and mercury emissions that threaten the health of all, and especially pregnant women. I remember when the tobacco industry told us their products posed no health concerns, and look at the price we are paying today in deaths due to smoking and chewing tobacco and the burden that incurs on our health industry and insurance. Of course the consumer pays the highest price and the poor and young suffer the most. We cannot allow what happened with tobacco to happen with dirty coal plants. We as a society must not be fooled or misled by an industry that wants to keep doing business as usual while publicly acknowledging the threats of global warming. We need to hold them accountable and guide them into measures that would promote energy efficiency, promote energy conservation and develop renewable resources of energy such as wind, bio-mass, geo-thermal and solar. Let's get North Carolina on the right track for a bright future and be a national leader in energy development management."

Blessings and Peace,

Steve

Church Council

The Council met on January 22, a week later than usual to avoid conflict with MLK Day activities. Members attending were Alan Beidler (Property), Vandy Bradow (Past Moderator), Steve Halsted (Pastor; ex-officio), Jeanne Ledbetter (Stewardship), John Little (Moderator), Mary Pruneau (Treasurer), Gary Smith (Social Justice), Pat Young (Clerk), and Tom Young (Community Outreach). There were no representatives of Deacons, Religious Education, or Welcome, Fellowship, and Growth.

Jeanne Ledbetter, Chair of Nominating, distributed a revised slate of nominees to be presented at the January 28 meeting for congregational election.

There was a discussion regarding setting a central focus/theme for 2007 church activities and programs. Among the candidate themes were issues associated with aging, hunger, and global warming. This will be discussed at the congregational meeting.

Allan Beidler led a discussion of alternative uses for the Pilgrim House lower level, to guide the scope and pace of necessary renovation. It was decided to offer the youth the "downstairs apartment" for meetings and activities. In a related decision, Pastor Halsted will offer use of the Pilgrim House computer room to the N. C. Council of Churches as temporary office space, terms to be negotiated.

Community Outreach met for the first time this year. **Tom Young** advised that COM will be doing newsletter articles and Mission Moments to make CUCC better acquainted with the agencies we support financially.

Mary Pruneau presented the Youth Group's request for permission to have a yard sale and/or some other event to raise money for charity. Council agreed to an outdoor yard sale with the proviso that the congregation not be the target contributors, and that the public not be allowed access to the main building (Vaughan Fellowship Hall could be available for inclement weather).

Council discussed Pastor Steve Halsted's plans for sabbatical/vacation, and set dates for major coming events in 2007.

-- **Vandy Bradow, Past Moderator**

2007 CUCC CALENDAR

- JAN 28 Congregational Meeting
- FEB 4 Ministry Orientation
11 Installation, Officers and Ministries
21 Ash Wednesday service, 7 p.m.
- MAR
- APR 1 Palm Sunday
5 Maundy Thursday service, 7 p.m.
6 Good Friday
8 Easter Sunday – University Park
Community Sunrise Service
6:30 a.m., Fletcher Park
- MAY 20 Congregational Meeting
- JUNE 3 Pastor Steve Halsted begins combined sabbatical/vacation
- JULY
- AUG 27 Pastor Steve Halsted returns
- SEPT 9 Welcome Back Sunday
Church school/Forum resume
- OCT
- NOV 18 Congregational Meeting
- DEC 8 Christmas Party

On Sunday, January 28, the first **Congregational Meeting** of 2007 was held. At that meeting, the 2007 budget was presented, discussed and passed, as was the 2007 slate of officers.

A copy of the **CUCC Ministries and Committees for 2007** will be on the table in the sanctuary. If you want a copy mailed to you, let the office know.

Deacons

2007 Lenten Activities

Lent begins on Wednesday February 21 and we will hold an Ash Wednesday Taizé style service in the sanctuary at 7 p.m. Also, mark your calendars ahead

for a special Maundy Thursday service on April 5 at 7 p.m. Easter is April 8 and we will once again hold a sunrise service at Fletcher Park, along with our friends from Fairmont United Methodist and West Raleigh Presbyterian.

For Lenten study Steve will offer a continuation of the Bible 101 that was offered last fall. New attendees are welcome and encouraged to attend. Class will begin Sunday February 25 and continue each Sunday through March. It will start at 6 p.m. with a meal and end at 7:30 p.m.

For Lenten reflection we will hold three Friday movie nights on March 2, 16 and 30, each at 7 p.m. in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall. The movies will be: 1.) Desperate Crossing about the Pilgrims move to the New World seeking religious freedom, 2.) The Mission starring Robert DeNiro as a reformed slave trader, set in 18th Century South America. 3.) Brother Sun, Sister Moon about the life of St. Francis of Assisi with beautiful scenes of Umbria, Italy.

In 2007, the Deacons will meet the 2nd Thursday of each month. The next Deacons meeting will be February 8.

The Deacons still need a vice chair.

Arts in Worship. **Linda Baker** will be liaison between Arts and Worship and Deacons.

Ushers. **Edith Sylla** will be the liaison between Ushers and Deacons. Edith reported the average attendance for Sunday services in 2006. For the main service, average attendance was: 89 (January - May); 74 (June - August); and 85 (September - December). The average attendance for the Taize service was 10.

Caring Committee. **Ann McLaughlin** brought names of people connected to our congregation to hold in prayer. The Caring Committee is going to explore the efficacy of the hearing aids that are available to congregants.

Possible church action. As Steve discussed on page 1, the North Carolina Interfaith Power and Light started as an ad hoc group out of N. C. Council of Churches. They have developed

materials outlining ways in which a congregation and individuals can become "green" **Ann McLaughlin** suggested that we hold back some of the recent large CUCC bequests in anticipation of implementing some of those ideas.

Steve's Report

Dates of scheduled activities.

- **February 11.** Steve suggested that we do installation of church officers/ministries.
- **February 23 & 24.** Steve will lead the Pilgrimage Retreat at Brown's Summit. The Pilgrimage Retreat is meant to be a healing retreat for the southern Association. Eleven people are involved.
- **March 2 – 6.** National UCC outdoor ministries has a large retreat in Indiana. Steve has just joined the board of directors for John's River Camps and has been asked to come. Steve would like to take a week of study group leave at that time. Steve also wants to go to John's River for two weeks in August to help plan John's River activities
- Steve will put a folder together to announce Lenten activities the week before Ash Wednesday.
- Good Friday -- we will open the church for personal devotions.

Mac Hulslander asked if we should make some overtures with remaining black UCC churches in Raleigh. Steve has begun making contact with the pastor of Maple Hill, and he will continue to contact some of the other church pastors.

Pastor's Sabbatical.

- Steve will be absent for 13 Sundays. An ad hoc group of **Edith Sylla, Peg Hulslander, Robert Parrish,** and **Sam Johnson** will do the groundwork for planning. **Nancy Callaham** is interested in meeting with the group to start brainstorming her potential pastoral duties.
- Steve wrote a letter to the Deacons (appended below). **Ann McLaughlin** noted that the "Green Church" examination is one way that the church can "stop taking our identity from the past."

Steve's Proposal for Sabbatical in 2007

Excerpts of Steve's letter to the Deacons:

I have changed some of the focus of my sabbatical and rearranged my use of time to include vacation and study leave time along with my sabbatical time. This enables me to have three months of uninterrupted time away from my Pastoral duties. I feel this length of time is necessary for my spiritual renewal and growth.

My plans are as follows:

June: Travel to Italy to visit Rome and Assisi. I plan to immerse myself in the art and artifacts of early Christianity as it relates to the Roman Empire. I hope to draw parallels between that and the U.S. as empire today. I plan to study the use of mosaic art in the early churches and cathedrals. I greatly look forward to making a pilgrimage to Assisi, the home and monastic community of St. Francis, and experience his legacy. After returning from Italy I will travel to Hartford, CT to participate in the UCC General Synod as the UCC celebrates its 50th Anniversary.

July: Vacation time to rest my weary body by the ocean at Cape Cod with family, and time for camping with old friends at Acadia National Park in Maine. The last week of July will be a study week dedicated to the question: What would it look like for CUCC to be a "Green Church" as defined by the organization "Web of Creation." (To see their program materials go to www.webofcreation.org)

August: Spend two weeks traveling to Biloxi and New Orleans to do mission work in recovery for Hurricane Katrina. I will work with UCC programs organized by the national office for Back Bay Mission and Habitat for Humanity at these two settings. For my final two weeks, I will go on retreat at John's River Valley Camp in Blowing Rock, NC. It is owned and operated by the Southern Conference, UCC and I am presently on its Board of Directors. While there I plan to work with the Rev. Curly Stumb on developing its grounds and programming so that it is a more effective ministry within the SOC-UCC.

I plan to be back to work on Monday, August 27, 2007. This plan leaves me with one more study week and one more week of vacation during 2007.

Arts in Worship

We've had a great deal of music flowing through our church during the recent holiday season with two Christmas Eve services, and both Susie Allen choir Christmas music and a Shaker Christmas-New Years' music series during services. **Marty Lamb** taught the children some of the Shaker Christmas melodies at six music sessions on Sunday nights.

With the support of other adults such as **Annette Berg and Maria Murray Riemann**, session participants **Anna Roach-Howells, Erin Kiel, Katherine Manus, and David Snee** joined in creating a compact disc entitled "Shaker Christmas", produced by **Lavon Page** for family and friends. Several of the melodies were shared during services through the holiday season by various configurations of church members. Many thanks to all church members who joined in the new-old music seasonal celebration!

I'll now be stepping down as chair of the Arts in Worship committee, but shall remain a member of the group. For those who have not done so already, stop by the Art Wall (now extending to Art Ceiling!) to see the lovely art from different countries about Jesus shared by the pleasing, prolific **Peg Hulslander**. She is such a joy for us to know!

-- **Marty Lamb**

Religious Education

Adult Forum

Join us every Sunday from 9:15 -10:15 a.m. in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall.

Forum schedule for February:

February 4 – Landon J. Adams, Executive Director of The Task Force on the Lost Generation.

February 11 – Ferrell Guillory: "Religion and Politics in the South.

February 18 – Patrick O'Neill: "The Berrigan Brothers as Peace Makers."

February 25 – to be announced

Church School Calendar

February 4th – there will be a Church School Parents meeting at 9:30 in Pilgrim House.

February 11th – the church school children will be delivering valentines to Morningside Assisted Living

COMPUTER SOUND CARD and OS request

The CUCC Computer Lab is almost complete. Please let **Jane Smith** know if you can donate:

- * old sound cards for which we can still find drivers
- * legal version of Windows 2000 OS

Tom DeVito is the January computer wizard. Many thanks to him for updating our virus protection, connecting our printer, doing sound card diagnostics, and creating an email account for the church school.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

The Sunday morning Bible study, meeting at 9:15 AM in the Bradow Room, continues to explore the book of Genesis. We read and discuss about one to two chapters a week. There is no preparation and no homework. Please join us! For more information, call **Gary Smith**, 787-6539.

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. The Saturday Men's Group is discussing "1491" by Charles Mann. The book describes the civilizations that existed in the Americas for many centuries before Columbus' arrival. For more information, call **Ed Klemmer**, 847-7992.

Monday Lunch Group

Bring lunch and join us in the Hoffmann Room Mondays at 12:15 p.m. In February, the group will

be led by **Linda Baker**, who will be bringing some recordings.

Welcome, Fellowship & Growth

Sisters in Spirit (SIS), formerly Women's Group, SIS will have a potluck at 7 p.m. February 15, in the Hoffmann Room. More info forthcoming for bulletin from **Sally Cook** when she gets program details firmed up. Help with set up or cleanup is appreciated.

Retirees Fellowship – (2nd Mondays, monthly)
The Retired Group will meet Monday, February 12, at 10:30 in the Vaughan fellowship hall. Come join us for our annual pot-luck lunch to celebrate Valentine's Day. There will be a "show and tell" time before lunch for folks to display a hobby or collection that they particularly "love" and would like to share. Please contact **Kerma Hazel** (772-1393) for reservations and to let us know what kind of dish you plan to bring – meat, vegetable, or salad. Drinks and dessert will be provided. Everyone is welcome.

The **Journey Class**, concerned about the wellbeing of the world, is polling CUCC members to see who would sign up to receive the CUCC Newsletter by email instead of by postal mail. The biggest benefit to our world is that this is more environmentally friendly. Trees, gas, paper, money, work and time will be more efficiently used. It will always be an option to have your newsletter mailed by regular postal mail, but if 141 households switch over to email, the church will save resources. The polling table will be in the Narthex on January 28 and February 5.

- Sue Rogge

Property

Memorial/Meditation Garden

Thanks to **Shannon and Glenn Core** for the care they gave to our surroundings in January.

Frank Gailor has volunteered his time for February and March. If you are interested in keeping our garden in its supreme glory, please contact **Carol Kepler** if you can help.

Chores include: keeping weeds pulled, dead branches picked up, leaves raked, checking status of plants, and watering as needed.

Social Justice

The next meeting of the Social Justice Ministry will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 28, in the home of **Gary Smith**, the 2007 Social Justice chair. Beginning in March the ministry will meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

On January 15, some of CUCC's members joined the Martin Luther King, Jr. march in downtown Raleigh.

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 or in Pilgrim House.) Our prayers are solicited for **Jo Lemons, Jo Banks, Al Matthews, Ruby Lamb, Lisa Marsh, Kerma Hazel, Mamie Scott, Geri Bowen's mother, Nancy Cross' cousins Carolyn and Jean, David Ledbetter's father, Bill, June Bolton, Joan McAllister, Scottie Bell, Bobby Barnes, Rhonda Zingraff & Charlie Thomas, people of the DRC, and other victims of war and natural disaster across the globe.**

Rhonda Zingraff's husband, **Charlie Thomas**, is in recovery from his surgery, chemo and radiation. We hold them in our prayers.

Elvah Lee Mansky died Friday, January 19 in Atlanta. Elvah was a member of our church from 1997-2000. She had been suffering with cervical and lung cancer for about 18 months. She was appreciative for being included on our church's prayer list these past months. There will be a memorial service in Atlanta in February and another service this spring in Boulder, Colorado, where Elvah lived for several years. Her ashes will be scattered in the mountains Boulder. If anyone

would like to send a card, her husband's contact information is:

Fred Mansky, 878 Scales, Suwanee, Georgia 30024

Congratulations to CUCC friend, **Ron Howell**, who received the Employee of the Year for the UNC Department of Environment, Health and Safety. Ron was recognized for his work keeping people at UNC-CH safe and healthy by improving the indoor air quality of the buildings, old and new.

John Michael Pulliam was born Friday, January 26, 2007, the son of Amanda and Donnie Pulliam. Grandmother Vandy Bradow let us know he is 21 ½ inches long and weighs 9 lbs. 14 oz.!!!!

On January 17, with **Mary Pruneau** driving, and **Vandy Bradow, Geraldine Bryan and Carol Clark** riding, chatting and eating, an odyssey began to see "Louvre Atlanta" at Atlanta's High Museum of Art. All came back full of food (Southern and Spanish) and full of international culture.

Ruby Lamb's three sons and daughters-in-law were all present for her birthday celebration on January 16. MANY HAPPY RETURNS TO RUBY!!!!



Our Young Peoples' Birthdays

2/5/92 – Abby Smith
2/7/92 – Sophie Dubois
2/11/95 – Andy Snee
3/24/90 – Nick DeVito

Church Directory

Add:

Nick Buchser, 1534 Park Place Ave., Morrisville, NC 27560, (330) 414-6661

Amy & Jean-Jacques Dubois, 2834 Mayview Rd., Raleigh, 27607, 836-1662

Renee Howard & Kevin Wilkins, PO Box 50273, Raleigh, NC 27650

Jenny & David Sigmon, 2516 Ashley Ct., Raleigh, NC 27607, (364) 979-3228.

Warren & Elizabeth Savage, 2009 Nancy Ann Dr., Raleigh, NC 27607, 571-1436

Change:

Kathy Widenhouse, 368-3097

Community Outreach

Stop Hunger Now

Our packaging meals at the sharehouse for "Stop Hunger Now" on January 27th was postponed. Their furnace wasn't working! We have been given a new date of May 19, from 12N - 2:00 p.m.

HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR BY BRINGING FOOD BAGS!



Rejoice! We started the new year by meeting our goal! Yes, **25** food Bags were delivered to Urban Ministries this month. Let's keep up That level of giving. Hunger Continues to be a very real issue for many folks. Remember! First Sunday of every month. Fill our grocery cart! Food bags are due **February 4.**

Wider Community

Are You a Member?

If you are a member of one of the following organizations, would you contact **Jane Smith**? Don't worry; she is simply looking for some information about them. They are part of her new "portfolio" for the Social Justice Ministry.

Amnesty International or a local affiliate
Friends of Residents in Long-Term Care
Human Rights Coalition of NC
Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Committee
Planned Parenthood
Southern Poverty Law Center

Resource for School Teachers

"Teaching Tolerance" is a journal of resources for teachers. CUCC receives a copy twice a year through its support of the Southern Poverty Law Center. There are lesson ideas for all grades which could connect to WCPSS Character Education themes. We'd like to pass it along to someone who could use it. If you'd like to see if it would be a valuable resource for your classroom, call **Jane Smith**.

Wider Church

Vivian Hunter drove passengers **Carolyn King and Vandy Bradow** to Hillsborough UCC to attend "God is Still Speaking! Are You Listening?" The gathering sponsored by the Eastern NC Association included a talk on the history and purpose of ENCA Church Women, an organization that continued after the 1957 formation of UCC. Carolyn noted that she was the last president of CUCC's women's organization, which disbanded at that time, though several of its constituent "Circles" continued informally for many years. The ENCA group is unique in the UCC not only because of its longevity but also because of its biracial membership. It is further distinguished by the number of women participating in the Pastoral Leadership Development (PLD) program, an alternative path to ordination for licensed pastors.

The day's program included workshops, lunch, a liturgical dance performance by Hillsborough UCC youth, a worship service including a message by Cheryl Bell (PLD) and communion led by ENCA Associate Minister Vertie Powers. At the closing, participants were asked to choose a partner "different from yourselves" to continue the networking begun at the meeting. The CUCC delegation declared the day a success, and look forward to joining other CUCC women to attend at future gatherings. These two were announced:

SAVE THE DATES:

June 15, 5:00pm – June 16, 5:00 pm

A 24-Hour Retreat, "Stand and Give Thanks: a Gathering of Gratitude," led by Rev. Lynne Hinton, UCC ordained minister and novelist (*Friendship Cake*, *Garden of Faith*, and other novels) will be held. The retreat will be at The Summit Retreat and Conference Center, Haw River State Park in

Browns Summit, NC, 15 minutes north of Greensboro. Cost for full program, lodging, and all meals is \$85; Day-only registration with meals is \$25. More registration information will be available soon.

October 26-October 28

The UCC Southern Regional Women's Meeting will be held at Blowing Rock Conference Center, Blowing Rock, NC. The theme is "In the Fullness of God's Creation...Renewing Spirit...Building Community...Doing Justice," and the keynote speaker will be the Rev. Bernice Powell Jackson, former UCC Executive Minister for Justice and Witness. Cost and other registration information is to be announced.

For more information, contact, Eastern NC Association Church Women President Louise Tate, 8623 Harmony Church Rd., Efland, NC 27243, 919-563-5408, Hillsborough UCC

-- Vandy Bradow

**To find the lost
To heal the broken
To feed the hungry
To release the prisoner
To teach the nations
To bring Christ to all
To make music in the heart.**

Submitted by **Carolyn & Cy King**

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
Clerk: Pat Young

Ministry Chairs:

Deacons: Sam Johnson
Welcoming, Fellowship, and Growth: Sue Rogge
Stewardship: Carol Kepler, Interim chair
Property: David Ledbetter, Allan Beidler Jan.-June, and Joan McAllister July-Dec., all co-chairs
Religious Education: Marty Lamb
Social Justice: Gary Smith
Community Outreach: Tom Young
Organist: Doug Barrick
Choir Director: Anne Moorman-Smith

Save space for calendar

The Work of Christmas By Howard Thurman

When the star in the sky is gone,
When the Kings and Princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of **Christmas begins:**

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

The deadline for our March Newsletter is
February 19th.

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

A Month of Sundays

February 4 | Fifth
Sunday after
Epiphany |
9:00 – 9:30 Taizé;
9:15 Adult Forum &
Bible Study; 10:30
Worship Service
with Communion &
Church School;
Fellowship Time
Lectionary:
Isa 6:1-8, (9-13);
Ps 138; 1 Cor 15:
1-11; Luke 5:1-11

February 18 | Last
Sunday after
Epiphany |
9:00 – 9:30 Taizé
with Communion;
9:15 Adult Forum &
Bible Study; 10:30
Worship Service &
Church School
Fellowship Time
Lectionary:
Ex 34:29-35; Ps 99;
2 Cor 3:12-4:2;
Luke 9:28-36, (37-43)

February 11 | Sixth
Sunday after
Epiphany |
9:00 – 9:30 Taizé;
9:15 Adult Forum &
Bible Study; 10:30
Worship Service &
Church School;
Fellowship Time;
Lectionary:
Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1;
1 Cor 15:12-20;
Luke 6:17-26

February 25 | First
Sunday in Lent |
9:00 – 9:30 Taizé;
9:15 Adult Forum &
Bible Study; 10:30
Worship Service &
Church School;
Fellowship Time;
Lectionary:
Deut 26:1-11;
Ps 91:1-2, 9-16;
Rom 10:8b-13;
Luke 4:1-13