

# **COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

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Stephen S. Halsted, Pastor

January 2004

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### **Lectionary for January**

#### **January 4<sup>th</sup>, Second Sunday after Christmas**

Jer 31:7-14; Ps 147:12-20; Eph 1:3-14; Jn 1:(1-9), 10-18.

#### **January 11<sup>th</sup>, First Sunday after Epiphany**

Isa 43:1-7; Ps 29; Acts 8:14-17; Lk 3:15-17, 21-22.

#### **January 18<sup>th</sup>, Second Sunday after Epiphany**

Isa 62:1-5; Ps 36:5-10; 1 Cor. 12:1-11; Jn 2:1-11.

#### **January 25<sup>th</sup>, Third Sunday after Epiphany**

Neh 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Ps 19; 1 Cor 12:12-31a;

Lk 4:14-21.

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Dear Friends,

As I sit down to write this note for the January 2004 newsletter, my mind is still humming to the beautiful Christmas carol pieces that our choir presented at worship yesterday (December 21)!!! Anne Moorman-Smith and Doug Barrick do such a splendid job bringing the music to life and the choir harmonizes to produce a divine unity of voice that speaks to the soul. I know I speak for the congregation in saying "Well done, good and faithful servants of the Gospel"!

As we enter a new year, two of our sister UCC congregations look forward to a bright new future in covenant with us through the ENCA (Eastern North Carolina Association). As most of you know CUCC was instrumental in the founding of each of these churches through our support and nurturance.

The first is Good Shepherd UCC in Cary, and they have just called a new pastor to lead them. He has arrived in time for Advent and Christmas. He is the Rev. Pat Russell who has come from Kent, Ohio, where he was an associate UCC pastor. Pat has been involved in national UCC events such as Faith

Works, national youth events and General Synod. He has special interest in all types of music and is a percussionist.

The second congregation I refer to is North Raleigh United Church who was voted into our Association at the October 3 meeting. To recognize this historic event there will be a special worship celebration held in the late afternoon on Sunday, February 29, at the Chapel Hill United Church. The Rev. John Thomas, current President of the UCC headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio, will be preaching. It would be nice to have several carloads of CUCC folk in attendance. We can work out the details closer to the February 29 date.

Let me close by wishing you all a Happy New Year full of God's blessings,

Steve



### **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, Buck Little, Fernand Milandu, and Pricilla Cunningham.

## **MEETINGS and EVENTS**

**Retirees Group** will meet on January 12 at 11 a.m. in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall. CUCC member, Professor Moni Sawhney, will speak on "India: Historical and Contemporary." All are welcome to hear one of the most interesting lectures of the year. Bring a bag lunch. Dessert will be provided.

- Dot and I.T. Littleton

**Women's Support Group** – There will be no meeting in January. The next meeting will be Thursday night, February 19.

## **DEACONS MINISTRY**

And now on to Epiphany!

When the Deacons last gathered for a regular meeting on December 4, our focus was, of course, on Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Advent was then already well under way after the opening retreat the previous Sunday. Now a number of the events we discussed then are also fond memories: The children's Advent activity, the adult Christmas party, decorating the church, the choir's seasonal offering, and not one but TWO caroling parties! It certainly feels "a lot like Christmas!"

But – don't forget: Christmas lasts a liturgical season, the traditional twelve days. It's not over until Epiphany, which has its own reasons and celebrations. CUCC Deacons will be joined by our Congolese congregation in such a celebration on **January 4, from 4 to 6 p.m.** The Congolese will bring their gifts of sweets and sweet music for the occasion. We will have a piñata for the children (recalling our historical ties to Fajardo, Puerto Rico), a visit from the three Kings, songs, coloring, games, poems—please come along! Young at heart of any age are invited, welcomed, and encouraged to come share the experience!

We also discussed our services of communion, in response to some comments and questions from a congregant. We will be continuing our dialogue in future meetings and would very much like to hear your opinion about the way(s) we share the elements: how, when, where. Are there some special CUCC communion services you remember with pleasure? Other ideas you'd like us to try? We

KNOW you have opinions, so please share them with the Deacons.

Continuing the topic of input – the Pastoral Relations committee has met recently for the second time this year. The group is focusing on possibilities for improving the less than satisfactory health insurance coverage for our pastor (and family). This committee is established to facilitate communication between and among the pastor, the committee, and members of the congregation. It's another good group with whom to share your opinions and ideas. Committee members – Lisa Leiser-Banks, Grady McCallie, Roger Manus, Vandy Bradow, and Peg Hulslander – would really appreciate hearing from you.

The new year is coming, and so are a new "class" of Deacons. For the current twelve, I wish you peace and joy in 2004.

Vandy Bradow  
For the Deacons

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Steve will be taking his last week of vacation for 2003 after Christmas and will return to lead worship on January 4. In his absence, please call Robert Parrish at 832-1226 (h) or 616-1606 (cell) in case of a pastoral emergency.

## **CHURCH COUNCIL**

There will be a **Congregational Meeting**, Sunday, January 18, following worship. Please try to attend as we finalize the revision of the Constitution and By-Laws.

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY**

### **Volunteers Needed - Wright Center**

Can you make a mean meat loaf? cook up a pot of chili? We need volunteers to help prepare and/or serve dinner at the Helen Wright Center (a.k.a. the Ark Shelter), which provides shelter to 36 women who would otherwise be homeless. No long-term commitment! CUCC is responsible for the evening meal on the third Sunday of each month. If you are willing to help on January 18 (for example, to make

a main dish, salad, or vegetable, and/or to help serve the meal), please contact Marty McLean, 846-6929.

-- Marty McLean

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Reminder: **Food Bags** will be collected on **Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>**.



In December 13 food bags were delivered to Urban Ministries. That may seem a bit disappointing, but thanks are due for the entire year's effort. Our congregation faithfully contributed an average of 21.5 emergency food bags throughout 2003. A rough estimate suggests that approximately 1,008 people were fed. That's quite an impact on hunger in Raleigh! THANK YOU!

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**LOAVES AND FISHES CHILI Alert** – Place your orders by Thursday, January 15. Pick up orders Friday, January 23 and Saturday, January 24 at Hudson Memorial Presbyterian church on Six Forks Road. Meat or veggie chili is available at \$ 8.00 per quart. Please contact Shannon Core at 846-0902 or use the sign up sheet on the bulletin board which also has more information regarding this event.

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

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

#### **Calendar**

January 4 – Maria Riemann will continue "Secular Paths to God" that so captivated us when she spoke last month. If you weren't present you missed a wonderful presentation. Be sure you don't miss this one.

January 11 – Ed and Ruth Klemmer and their friend Hande Zhang will discuss "China, yesterday, today and tomorrow." Ed and Ruth were in China

quite recently. Mr. Zhang was born in China but is now a U.S. Citizen with an M.A. from American University. He has three brothers in China, all entrepreneurs, with whom he is in regular contact.

January 18 and 25 – Collins Kilburn will bring some much needed theology to the Forum as he discusses "Walter Rauschenbusch and the Social Gospel." Collins is our former pastor and former Executive Director of the North Carolina Council of Churches. Rauschenbusch was the principal evangel of the Social Gospel in the early years of the 20th Century and his teachings greatly influenced several of UCC's ministers and many members.

Submitted by Cy King

### **SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY**

#### A New Year's Resolution

The Men's discussion group is reading "The Pathology of Power" by Norman Cousins. Cousins dedicated the book: "To everyone who feels in his bones the truth of Jefferson's belief that government must never be allowed to become a shelter for deception or arbitrary power; to everyone who believes that peace with justice in today's world is still possible and is everyone's business; and to everyone who has taken pains to communicate with public officials urging better policies than are routinely offered."

The Social Justice Ministry believes that Norman Cousins, who spoke to our Institute of Religion some years ago, included our Congregation, then and now, in his dedication and that it is something that all of us should keep in mind during 2004, perhaps as a New Year's Resolution.

Submitted by Cy King

#### **Calendar**

January 7 – Stop the Arms Race Vigil, 10-11 a.m., Fayetteville Street Mall. Note the change in time so that we can attend the Memorial Service for Sister Evelyn Mattern.

January 7 – Memorial Service for Sister Evelyn Mattern. 1 p.m., United Church in Chapel Hill. We will car pool from CUCC parking lot at 11:30 a.m.

## **Help the CUCC Social Justice Ministry Reform the Patriot Act**

The USA Patriot Act was enacted by the US Congress in the wake of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Pushed through Congress with relatively little debate, the bill expands Executive Branch authority to investigate and detain citizens and residents of our country without passing through the normal judicial and legislative checks and balances that protect our liberties.

The Patriot Act is coming up for reauthorization in 2004, and a broad coalition of groups is working to correct the excesses of the bill. In preparation for the debate, local governments across the country have adopted resolutions expressing opposition to the Patriot Act's over-reaching provisions. On January 20, advocates in Raleigh will present a letter and draft resolution for consideration by the Raleigh City Council.

Community UCC's Social Justice Ministry has reviewed and endorsed the letter and draft resolution. If you feel strongly about this issue, we'd love you to join us in encouraging Raleigh City Council to act on the resolution.

Why you should care: Terrorism is clearly a problem, and our law enforcement officials need the tools to apprehend terrorists and prevent attacks. But the Patriot Act removes basic safeguards that are even more important for preserving American freedoms and the rule of law. Among other provisions, the law expands the authority of government to conduct searches *without* probable cause if officials claim the search is for 'intelligence purposes'; it gives law enforcement and intelligence agencies broad access to all citizens' medical, financial, and library records with very little judicial oversight; and it allows the US Attorney General to detain non-citizens for a potentially unlimited number of six-month terms.

What you can do: the resolution will likely be presented to the Raleigh City Council on January 20. You are invited to attend; there will be an opportunity for groups and individuals to speak to the Council, but you can also come just to show your interest. We will have a chance after Sunday worship in January to send letters in support of the resolution to Council members, and several of us

are hoping to visit Council members to ask for their support in mid-January. If you are interested in participating in these efforts, or would like more information about the proposed resolution, please contact Grady McCallie, [gmccallie@earthlink.net](mailto:gmccallie@earthlink.net).

## **OUR PEOPLE**

### **Youth Birthdays**

#### **January Birthdays\***

1/13/87 – Sarah Huffstetler

1/17/87 – Andrea Osborne-Newman

1/17/94 – David Cookmeyer

#### **February Birthdays\***

2/5/89 – Kat Griggs

2/5/92 – Abby Smith

2/6/93 – Elena Briere

2/15/00 – Gloria Difuidi

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

## **OUR CONDOLENCES TO**

Pricilla Cunningham upon the death of her husband, who passed away December 24. Howard Cunningham was active in work with Method Day Care Center and other causes of interest in our community. Notes may be sent to Pricilla at 215 Northbrook Dr., Raleigh, NC 27609.

The family of Fernand Milandu whose mother in the Congo passed away December 26.

## **ROSTER UPDATES**

New email address for:

Linda McFadden and Philip Wiehe -  
[Philip.Wiehe@campusource.com](mailto:Philip.Wiehe@campusource.com) .

Mike and Chris Schafale –  
[schafale@lightonecandle.com](mailto:schafale@lightonecandle.com) .