

# **COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

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**January 2006**

Newsletter published monthly for Community United Church of Christ (CUCC) members and friends  
Pastor: Steve Halsted Newsletter Editorial Board: Vandy Bradow, Carol Clark, and Susan Lane

## **A Word from the Pastor**

Dear Friends,

I hope you've all had a wonderful Christmas and best wishes for a Happy New Year! There are several developments coming up in the new year that I want to share on the UCC front:

- On Wednesday evening, January 11, our General Minister and **UCC President John Thomas** will be in North Carolina. He will be preaching at First Reformed UCC in Burlington at 7 p.m. Perhaps we could arrange for several carloads of our folks to attend together. Please call the office if you would like to attend.
- Then on Sunday, April 2, I have arranged for the **Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte** to come and preach to us about her new work as Executive Minister for UCC Wider Church Ministries. For those of you who do not know Cally, she was the pastor of CUCC from 1978-1996. She is looking forward to visiting her old home and seeing old friends as well as meeting new. We will have a potluck luncheon after worship with Cally and her husband Frank. Mark your calendars now!

May God continue to bless us all into the New Year and lead us to more opportunities for renewed service to the Church of Jesus Christ.

Blessings and Peace,

**Steve**

## **Church Council**

Council met on December 16 at the home of Steve and Marcy Halsted for a potluck dinner and brief meeting. **All ministry and committee chairs are reminded that annual reports are due NOW !! Reports are to be submitted (preferably via email) to the CUCC office no later than 1/11.**

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Sunday, January 15**  
**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**  
**After 10:30 Worship Service**

**Sunday, January 22**  
**INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND**  
**MINISTRY MEMBERS**  
**During 10:30 Worship Service**

**Sunday, January 29**  
**POTLUCK and 2006 ALL-MINISTRIES**  
**KICKOFF**  
**After 10:30 Worship Service**

The date of the All-Ministry Kickoff Potluck has been changed to **January 29**. Moderator-Elect Vandy Bradow asks that if your name shows up anywhere on the 2005 or 2006 Ministries and Committees list, **CIRCLE JANUARY 29** on your calendar for a potluck after church. We will have

the traditional CUCC "Meeting Night" format in which all the chairs introduce their mission and people, dates are set for major activities and events, and every committee holds a brief kickoff meeting.

## **Deacons**

On January 15 there is going to be a special Martin Luther King, Jr. worship service here at CUCC. Bruce Lightner will be the guest speaker. Bruce is the organizer of the MLK, Jr. celebration and activities in the Raleigh area (see schedule at the end of the newsletter).

-- **Robert Parrish**

The **Art Wall** now features a cloth hanging depicting women of the Bible. It was given to CUCC by former ECU exchange intern, **Ursula Schmitt-Pridik** of Wuppertal, Germany.

### **Save These, Please!**

**Mac Hulslander** is looking for multi-ethnic depictions of the Madonna and Nativity scenes to add to a growing collection for a future art wall display. Please save Christmas cards or other sources of such art for him. Thanks!

### **Sacraments and Chancel**

I would like to thank all those on this committee who put in extra hours this December to make our church festive and lovely for Advent and the Christmas celebration. The season takes on special meaning when visual appreciation can enhance the wonderful programs offered by the children, the choir and our pastor.

Turning to our role in 2006, our group always welcomes offers of help or contributions by others in the congregation. Our arrangements are often very simple and attempt to bring out the beauty of the world around us. If you would like to participate at any time, please contact our chairperson, **Sally Cook**, or the office.

-- **Carol Kepler**

## **Property**

### **Memorial/Meditation Garden Volunteers**

If anyone would like to help "groom and maintain" the garden, please contact one of the following who have volunteered their time for a month:

January – **Nancy Stoddard**

February – **Marge Eckels and Binks Mew**

March – **Joan Little**

April – **Linda Baker**

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

## **Stewardship**

The finance committee is encouraged by the generous response of the congregation to the pledge drive. To date we have 89 pledging units. **There is still time to pledge** before the final budget is presented at the Congregational Meeting Jan. 15.

-- **Mary Pruneau**

## **Religious Education**

### **Church School**

**January 1** – The children will be learning about names and naming ceremonies.

**January 8** – We'll be focusing on the story of the Magi and the flight to Egypt.

**January 15** – The children will be learning about the story of Jesus in the temple with the elders. Then they'll talk about their own accomplishments and make goals for 2006.

### **High School and Middle School**

The youth will be preparing St. Valentine's Day dinners available for pick-up after 10:30 worship service on Sunday, February 12. Dinner will consist of vegetarian or meat lasagna, salad, and garlic bread. You may take the meal home and bake the lasagna for your Valentine's Day dinner. The youth group will not be serving the meal. Please watch the bulletins and bulletin board for forthcoming announcements about cost and ordering information.

-- **Toni Maes**

### **Adult Forum**

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

Speakers for January include:

January 1 – No Forum - "Happy New Year!"

January 8 – Tom Young, "The World of Non-Profits."

January 15 – "The Influence of Martin Luther King: Past and Present"

January 22 – Dr. Jean Chapman (pediatrician) "'Tis a Gift to Be Simple."

January 29 Stan Goff – "Why We Can't Stay the Course."

### Sunday Bible Study

The group meets Sundays at 9:15 in the Bradow Room. The book of Isaiah will continue to be the focus of study through January. Everyone is welcome! For more information, call **Pat Spearman, 781-0041**.

### Wednesday Bible Study

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

### Saturday Men's Group

The group meets at 9:00 a.m. in the library. Jonathan Weiner's *The Best of Science and Nature Writing* will continue as the topic for most of January, followed by O'Malley's *Four Cultures of the West*. Contact: **Ed Klemmer, 847-7992**.

### Sisters in Spirituality

The January 19 gathering of SIS will be at 7:30 p.m. in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall. **Lena Gallitano** will share her birding adventure in Attu, the last island on Alaska's Aleutian Island chain. Attu was briefly occupied by the Japanese in World War II but is best known to ornithologists for the rare birds that reach the island when they are blown off course during spring migration. Join us to explore this little-known island and the birds that visit it.

### Retirees Fellowship

The group will meet Monday, January 9 at 10:30 a.m. in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall for the annual Fun N' Games day. Come, bring a sandwich, and enjoy! Drinks and dessert provided.

The **Retirees** wish to express their **thanks to the congregation** for helping to make the "Meals on Wheels Gift Drive" such an overwhelming and huge success. Over **200** gifts were taken in, wrapped, and presented to Linda Roan, Program Director for Meals on Wheels.

-- **Anne Pope**

### Monday Lunch Group

Bring lunch and join us in the Hoffmann Room Mondays at 12:15 p.m. The group will be doing a dramatic play, *Doubt, A Parable*, by John Patrick Shanley, which won the Pulitzer Prize in 2005 and is still running on Broadway. No previous preparation is necessary; newcomers are welcome. More information? Call **Geraldine Bryan**.

## **Social Action**

### CUCC and ROAR

CUCC has been a member of ROAR (Raleigh Organizing for Action and Results) for the past few years. ROAR is an organization of organizations with the goal of working together to identify needs and achieve substantive improvements in our community. At the moment, CUCC is taking a sabbatical from our involvement in ROAR. (We're allocating our membership dollars elsewhere and Jane Smith has taken on other responsibilities). Here is an update on what ROAR has accomplished during our years in the organization.

- ROAR has had several candidates' forums asking for commitments on everything from affordable housing to education to expanded bus service.
- ROAR brought a long list of repairs needed in Wake County public school buildings to the school facilities department. In addition to establishing a positive working relationship with WCPSS, ROAR has seen many of those repairs completed.
- ROAR focused attention on the need for Sunday bus service using a passenger audit; Raleigh now has Sunday service.

- ROAR worked to shift city CDBG funding toward affordable housing for those in the lower income percentiles. It also collaborated with other groups on developing Raleigh's 10-year Plan to End Homelessness.

What's next? ROAR plans to go back to its member organizations for a new round of house meetings to identify the next list of items for strengthening our community. CUCC is welcome to be part of that process, but someone is needed to coordinate the effort. **Jane Smith** would be glad to answer questions about what would be involved. ROAR has also made a commitment to work with Mayor Meeker on the establishment of an environmental commission for Raleigh. Anyone interested in that effort can contact ROAR's staff person, Lara Owensby, at 475-4600 or [lararoar@riseup.net](mailto:lararoar@riseup.net).

-- Jane Smith

## Our People

### Prayer Requests

Please write your prayer requests on a slip of paper and place 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, Carolyn King, Al Matthews, Al's grandson Blake, Ruby Lamb, Ed Zschau, Roy and Ida Klages, Millie & Americo Scapicchio, Willie Foggie's wife, Nelda, Elvah Lee Mansky, the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo and other victims of war and natural disaster across the globe**

### Congratulations!

**Nancy Newell** recently graduated from the Ruah School of Spiritual Guidance (Richmond, VA) and is providing spiritual guidance at the Cedar Cross Retreat Center in Franklin County. She and **Betty Anne Ford** were recently honored for their many years of service to Loaves & Fishes (see December newsletter).

### Thanks!

Dear CUCC FAMILY,

I am thankful for many things that took place this past year. One of them is the ways in which you supported the Wake Federation of the Blind.

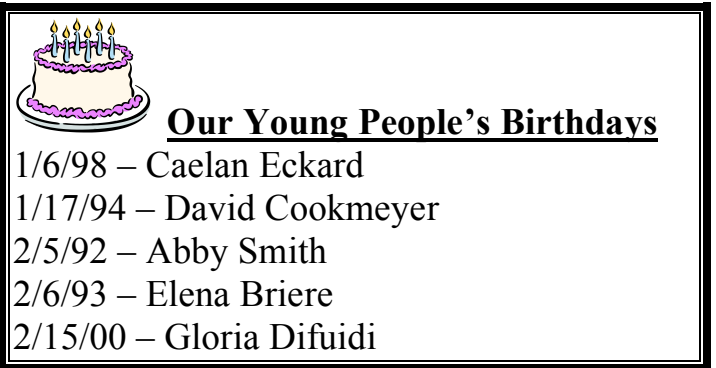
As you might recall, the Wake Federation of the Blind held two major events with which you helped. During the month of July, the organization sponsored a pancake breakfast. In September, we hosted the state convention of the National Federation of the Blind of North Carolina. All of your prayers, continued gifts of time, talent and financial support, as well as donations of food helped to make these events successful. In fact, your help played a role in making the state convention one of the best ever!

As the blind and visually impaired persons continue to strive for first-class citizenship in the coming year and beyond, it is heart-warming to know that the members of CUCC are there to aid in this process.

Have a wonderful year,

**Robert Parrish**, President/WFB

**Correction** - Peg and Mac Hulslander have a new granddaughter, born in November. **Her** name is Berkeley Kaye Hulslander.



**Amanda Rae Kepler** was baptized by Pastor Steve Halsted in the CUCC sanctuary on Christmas Eve at a small private ceremony including proud parents Tracey and Robert and grandparents Carol and Jack. Congratulations!

**Vandy Bradow** hosted a luncheon honoring her parents, Roy and Ida Klages, on their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary December 23. They were presented with corsages, photo albums, and messages from well-wishers in 11 states and 1 Canadian province.

Since Whitaker Glen prohibits real Christmas trees, **the Kings** got a beautiful "Martha Stewart" artificial tree (with built-in lights!). It so inspired

Carolyn that she held a holiday tea party for all the ladies on her floor!

### Church Directory.

#### **Add:**

Ruth Clark, 1320 Dylan Heath Ct., Raleigh, NC 27608, 828-6151

#### **Change:**

Priscilla Cunningham, 2201 Eagle Nesting Lane, Greensboro, NC 27407, (336) 852-4986.

## Wider Community

### The 2006 Martin Luther King Holiday Celebration

The recognition of Martin Luther King's birthday as a federal and state holiday has proven to be one of the best decisions made in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He was clearly our greatest spokesperson for core foundational American ideals. Best known for his "I Have a Dream" speech, he demonstrated through word and deed that our country is still an "unfulfilled dream." We still have a long way to go, but he taught us much about what we can be as a people. It is proper that we members and friends of Community United Church of Christ join with the many others in our community in the events that have been planned for this day. We can march, sing, listen, pray and rededicate ourselves to work for the "Beloved Community" that Dr. King envisioned.

#### Calendar of events:

##### **Saturday, January 14**

8:30 a.m. – **2006 Martin Luther King Youth Summit**, Exploris Museum, Zanzibar Room, 201 E. Hargett Street

9:00 a.m. – **Martin Luther King Wreath-laying Ceremony**, Martin Luther King Gardens, corner Rock Quarry and Martin Luther King Blvd.

9:00 a.m. – **Martin Luther King Resource Center's Community-wide Town Hall Meeting**, Exploris Museum – Venture Hall, 201 E. Hargett Street

##### **Sunday, January 15**

4:00 p.m. – **Martin Luther King All-star All-Youth Dream Concert**, Raleigh Memorial Auditorium, 2 East South St.

##### **Monday, January 16**

- 8:00 a.m. – **25<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King Triangle Interfaith Prayer Breakfast**, Sheraton Imperial Hotel, RTP, I-40 Page Road, Research Triangle Park
- 9:00 a.m. – **1<sup>st</sup> Annual Martin Luther King Community Day of Service**, Various locations in Raleigh, Durham & Chapel Hill
- 10:00 a.m. – **CUCC – meet in Dixie Trail parking lot to carpool to march**
- 11:00 a.m. – **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King Memorial March** – begins at State Capitol Bldg., Edenton Street side
- 12:00 N – **25<sup>th</sup> Annual Martin Luther King Noon Ecumenical Observance**, Raleigh Memorial Auditorium, 2 East South Street
- 5:30 p.m. – **Martin Luther King Evening Musical Celebration**, Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts, 2 E. South St.

-- Cy King

## Community Outreach



**Food Bags** will be collected on **Sunday, January 8**, and usually every **first Sunday** of the month.

The food bag cart in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall was overflowing with **28** basic food bags – **3 bags beyond our goal!** Watch the chart on the wall above the cart to check our progress. We're really making a difference at Urban Ministries! Let's make a New Year's resolution to match/exceed our goal of 25 bags per month in **2006!** Remember – hunger doesn't take a holiday.

We contributed a total of **248** food bags in 2005. Their value was approximately **\$3,720**. Many thanks to all who made this possible.

**Happy New Year!**

**Marge Eckels**

### **Save Room for Some Chili!**

**Loaves and Fishes**, a non-profit organization, will be preparing its now-famous meat and veggie chili with the price remaining at \$ 8.00 per quart. Please place your orders by Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, either with **Shannon Core**, 846-0902, or on the sign-up sheet on the Coming Events bulletin board in the hallway. Pick-up times are 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday January 27, 2006 and 9 am to 12:00 noon on Saturday, January 28, 2006 at Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church, 4921 Six Forks Rd. (use the north entrance) .The proceeds will help support a proven program for at risk children in our community.

-- Shannon Core

## **Wider Church**

As noted in Pastor Steve's front-page message, CUCC folk have a rare opportunity to hear the denomination head speak in our area. **United Church of Christ President John Thomas will preach at 7 p.m., January 11, at the 1<sup>st</sup> Reformed UCC, Burlington, NC.** Call the office to make arrangements to attend. For more information on John Thomas and on our denomination's current leadership and programs, visit the website at **www.ucc.org**.

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### **Day-to-Day Contacts, CUCC 2006**

Pastor: Rev. Steve Halsted

Office Manager: Carol Clark

(Office hours: 9 a.m.- 1 p.m., Monday-Friday)

Moderator, Vandy Bradow

Treasurer, Mary Pruneau;

Asst. Treasurer, Carol Kepler

Ministry Chairs:

Deacons, Jo Perry

Welcoming, Fellowship, and Growth, Betsy Towler

Stewardship, Bill Bryan

Property, Allan Beidler and Joan Mcallister

Religious Education, Sue Cottle

Social Justice, John Little

Community Outreach, June Bolton

Communications, Ann McLaughlin

Organist: Doug Barrick

Choir Director: Anne Moorman-Smith

Christian Education Director: Anne Bailey Zschau

### **N&O remembers Helen Brown**

In a December 31 article titled "Every Life Makes a Difference," the News and Observer profiled Helen Brown, CUCC member who died in July at 103. As the article began, "When Helen Brown moved to Raleigh in 1937, she spoke two languages, had three degrees and was on her second career, But what was a headstrong, Yankee-educated career woman to do in a Depression-era Southern city?" You may know some of the answer, or you can read the article posted on our bulletin board, or online at the N&O's website, [www.newsobserver.com](http://www.newsobserver.com)

**Ed and Ruth Klemmer remind us that we NEED VOLUNTEERS for the after-service fellowship. Please sign up! (Schedule sheet is in the kitchen.)**

--The Editorial Board

Community United Church of Christ  
814 Dixie Trail  
Raleigh, NC 27607  
January 2006 Newsletter

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The deadline for our February 06 Newsletter is  
January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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

## **A Month of Sundays**

**January 1** – First Sunday after Christmas Day. **9:00 – 9:30 Taizé; 9:15 10:30 Worship Service with Communion & Church School. Fellowship Time**

**Lectionary:** Isa 61: 10-62:3; Ps 148; Gal 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

**January 8** – First Sunday after Epiphany. **9:00 – 9:30 Taizé; 9:15 Adult Forum & Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service & Church School; Fellowship Time**

**Lectionary:** Gen 1:1-5; Ps 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

**January 15** – Second Sunday after Epiphany. **9:00 – 9:30 Taizé with Communion; 9:15 Adult Forum & Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service (Bruce Lightner speaking) & Church School; Fellowship Time &**

### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**Lectionary:** 1 Sam 3:1-10, (11-20); Ps 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Cor 6:12-20; John 1:43-41

**January 22** – Third Sunday after Epiphany. **9:00 – 9:30 Taizé; 9:15 Adult Forum & Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service (Installation of Officers & Ministry Members) & Church School; Fellowship Time**

**Lectionary:** Jon 3:1-5, 10; Ps 62:5-12; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

**January 29**- Fourth Sunday after Epiphany. **9:00 – 9:30 Taizé; 9:15 Adult Forum & Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service & Church School; Potluck and Ministry/Committees kickoff meeting**

**Lectionary:**

Deut 18:15-20; Ps 111; 1 Cor 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28