

COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Nurturing Spiritual Growth and Working For Social Justice

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January 2007

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

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 want to begin by wishing you all a Happy New Year! As we enter 2007 it's important to look around and discern signs that give us hope for the future. Each of us will perceive different things yet collectively they have the power to move us forward as a community in the ministry we do together.

Let me share with you two developments that inspire hope in me. The first came as a thank you letter from James A. Hutchby, President of the Board of Directors of Emmaus House in Raleigh. Through our Community Outreach Ministry our congregation had recently given a \$250 gift to help renovate a new Emmaus House II for homeless men recovering from alcohol and/or drug dependency. This second house is now open as we begin the new year, helping to reduce the number of homeless folks in Raleigh. The second came during a meeting I had with an African-American woman named Geraldine Alshamy, founder of Mary Magdalene's Ministry. She shared with me her hope and dream of an Education Summit to be held in Raleigh to address the issues of inequity in public education. She had begun to enlist the support of the UCC Justice and Witness Ministries through Jan Resseger on our national staff as Minister for Public Education and witness. We hope to put together a team of area UCC clergy including Rev. Leon White and Rev. Ervin Milton and involve local congregations in the support of this Education Summit. Perhaps some of the Helen Brown bequest could be channeled here since it may fit with her education ideals and concern for minority & marginalized students.

As you discern your signs of hope for 2007, remember to share them with others at church meetings and gatherings that we may continue to love and share our faith for the building up of the Body of Christ as a "Beacon of Hope" in the world of today.

Blessings and Peace,

Steve

Church Council

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JANUARY 28

**Annual Reports are DUE in the office by
January 22**

To All Ministry Chairpersons

As we come to the end of the year and new leadership takes over your Ministry, please pass on to the new Chair any minutes, correspondence, etc. that may be useful to that new person. For any records that you do not think important to the new chair, please bring them to the church office marked for **Cy King**, Historian. Include anything that you think will be valuable in documenting the work that your Ministry has done. These records are important for documenting our church's history.

On behalf of the outgoing Council, I would like to thank you all for the energy, gifts and talents shared so generously with Community UCC this year. I wish you all an excellent New Year!

Vandy Bradow, Outgoing Moderator

Deacons

The Deacons Ministry met December 14. The following is excerpted from the minutes.

Steve has been requested and has agreed to perform a private baptism for a child whose parents attend the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Raleigh. Steve anticipates that we will have a better relationship with Raleigh UUs in the future.

Hunter Thompson needs to preach again to fulfill his educational requirements. He will be asked to preach on January 28, 2007.

Fernand Milandu's brother-in-law Stephan has arrived in the USA. CUCC helped him by providing \$200 toward his flight from the Community Outreach fund and paying some of his visa costs. Stephan's wife and children were not allowed to immigrate even though they had paid for a visa.

Our nursery care provider, **Toni Maes**, has resigned and we will need to find someone else to do the job.

Steve recommends using volunteers for the near term but is also consider another paid position.

The job of Moderator Elect is still not filled; candidates are being sought.

Submitted by Sam Johnson

Art Wall

Everyone is invited to visit the **Art Wall** to see various ethnic portrayals of the nativity. See how many you can guess correctly. This is from a collection of the **Hulslanders**. Others could be added.

The **orchid arrangement** presently in the narthex is in memory of former members and loving parents, **David Hewes Howells and Virginia Elaine Howells** by their children, David Howells, Suzy Brannegan, and Dianne Sanford.

Stewardship

If anyone would like to know the status of their pledge payments, please contact **Carol Kepler** at 787-7420 or via e-mail.

Religious Education

Adult Forum

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

Forum schedule for January:

January 7 – Professor Clay Stalnaker
"Deitrich Bonhoeffer: Theologian."

January 14 – Professor Clay Stalnaker
"Deitrich Bonhoeffer: Theologian," continued.

January 21 – Geri Bowen will read from the preaching and writings of Martin Luther King as part of our remembrance of Dr. King.

January 28 – "School of the Americas: Our Personal Account." Mac and Peg Hulslander and Diana Koenning from our Congregation and Scott Bass, Roberta Motherhead and Grant Gross from Nazareth House.

Sunday Monday Bible Study

The Sunday morning Bible study at 9:15 AM in the Bradow Room continues to discuss 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

The 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 and continues with *Redemption* by Nichol Lemann during the first part of January. 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. Monday Lunch will continue through January the focus on healing begun with a healing circle on New Year's Day. Regular attendees please **note change**: Bring your favorite **home remedies for show and tell and sharing, if possible, on January 29 (not January 8)**. Good news! Marsha Tai has agreed to come speak to us on healing. Some of you may have heard her share her knowledge and skills at Marty Lamb's during a beach outing.

Here's the lineup for January:

January 8 – Marsha Tai – healing

January 15 – Grace and Gratitude – Olivia Newton-John's breast health project/CD

January 22 – Raleigh Healing Rooms' "Soaking Prayer"

January 29 – everyone's favorite home remedy – show and tell (bring /share if possible)

Also - you may have noticed in 12/29's N&O that there were several events/services oriented to healing listed. Some have passed (including a World Healing Day Prayer Service at Unity Church of Raleigh on January 1) – one is still future:

Healing Mass, 7 p.m. Tuesday Jan. 2, St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 12333 Bayleaf Church Rd., Raleigh 848-1533

Welcome, Fellowship & Growth

Sisters in Spirit (SIS), formerly Women's Group, will have a potluck and a planning meeting on Thursday, January 18, at 7 p.m. in the Hoffmann Room. Help with set up or cleanup is appreciated. Also – see opportunity under "Wider Church."

Retirees Fellowship – (2nd Mondays, monthly) The Retired Group will meet Monday, January 8, at 10:30 in the Vaughan fellowship hall. Come join us as Roger and Toni James Manus share pictures and experiences from their recent trip to Viet Nam (Katherine Lan's homeland). Bring a sandwich. Drinks and dessert will be provided.

The **Retirees** wish to thank all of you generous folk for contributing gifts to the Meals on Wheels participants. As the picture shows, you outdid yourselves and many, many of the participants will be having a wonderful surprise this Christmas! Wish everyone could have seen the huge stack of colorfully wrapped gifts.

Coffee and snacks during fellowship after worship are only there if we all help! A sign-up list is in the kitchen. Please add your name soon and remember to check the list periodically as a reminder for your Sunday! Call **Ed Klemmer** for info, 847-7992.

Spam Concerns from your Communication Cte.

An article in the December 6, 2006, N&O points out that e-mail spam has rebounded with a vengeance (to the point that 90% of all e-mail is now spam). All three major strategies for combating spam are ineffective against the most recent spamming techniques, and an estimated 250,000 computers per day (belonging mostly to individuals) are being "captured" and added to the worldwide network of computers used to generate spam.

What does this have to do with us?

One method that some individuals choose to use to minimize exposure to spam is to keep their e-mail addresses as private as possible. (If the spammers don't know or can't guess your address, they can't send spam to you.) However, any address that is viewable on the public Internet will be detected eventually by "spam crawlers", i.e. software used by

spammers whose sole purpose is to crawl the Internet looking for valid e-mail addresses.

Which brings us to a CUCC policy issue ...

By request about 4 months ago I started including a "text" version of the CUCC newsletter on the web site. The purpose was to aid folks who have to rely on a dialup connection. The text version loads rapidly and gives quick access to the CUCC newsletter to anyone, whereas the PDF version generally takes a while to download via a slow connection. However, the text version usually includes the e-mail addresses of numerous CUCC members.

I am now removing those text versions (from the *online newsletter*) because I think we should not publicize the e-mail addresses of anyone without their permission given the current deluge of spam.

I think we do need to review the policy for publishing the newsletter online in PDF format as well. Search engines such as Google can mine information within PDF files, so I'm sure that spam crawlers do this as well.

My proposal for future issues of the newsletter is that the ONLY e-mail addresses to be displayed in the *online version* should be the official CUCC e-mail addresses (such as pastor@communityucc.org,

webmaster@communityucc.org,
office@communityucc.org, etc.).

My recommendation is that all other e-mail addresses be disguised or removed. (For example, an address such as johndoe@blah.com could be replaced by "Contact John Doe.")

If you have thoughts on this, please share them.

Thanks - **Lavon Page**, Webmaster

Property

B-Dry Referral Program

B-Dry is the company that waterproofed the Pilgrim House basement. They have a referral program that could benefit CUCC. If you need any waterproofing done and decide to use B-Dry (because we've given them our nod of approval), B-Dry will give CUCC \$100. A description of B-Dry can be found at their website <http://www.bdryforever.com>.

Memorial/Meditation Garden

Thanks to **Sue Cottle** for the care she gave to our surroundings in December. 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 – **Shannon and Glenn Core**

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

Please contact **Carol Kepler** if you can help.

Social Justice

The first meeting of 2007 will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the home of **Gary Smith**, the 2007 Social Justice chair. Future meeting times will be discussed.

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, Elvah Mansky Lee, 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, Rhonda Zingraff & Charlie Thomas, people of the DRC, and other victims of war and natural disaster across the globe.**

Our accolades to **Karen Haley** who has completed her doctorate in Higher Education Administration.

Bill Lamb led the annual state Aging conference which this year in October drew nearly 600 people to Research Triangle Park with the theme "Boomers Turning 60." At the conference he was awarded the George Maddox Award for "excelling in creative programming for older North Carolinians."



Our Young Peoples' Birthdays

1/6/98 – Caelan Eckard

1/17/94 – David Cookmeyer
1/26/96 – Ellie Johnson
2/5/92 – Abby Smith
2/11/95 – Andy Snee

A letter from our In Care folks in Massachusetts

Dear Friends,
Blessings to you this Advent season. I am writing to let you know that I have come to the end of my journey to ordination. I will be ordained at First Congregational Church of Amherst on January 7. As you know it has been a long haul----four years of seminary and one year of residency as a chaplain to get to this place. I have been called to my chaplaincy work at Hartford Hospital where I am a supervisor in training (another three years of hard work to become a full supervisor). I also lead worship in the community and do the occasional funeral. And of course, **Luis** and I are very active in the community here. I will let him tell you his news separately. **Colette** is a junior at Guilford College and is currently just finishing her semester in Mexico. She is a Peace Studies and Spanish major. She still does some acting but she too is an activist at heart. I attribute this to her wonderful training in North Carolina, which includes going on marches with Cy and Carolyn. She is still skeptical of organized religion but has been studying Gustavo Guterrez (a liberation theologian that Luis loves). We are very proud of her and about the adult person she has become. Our plans, at this moment, are to try and stay put for a few years but we might move to the southwest if this job on the border is tempting enough. The UCC national office would like Luis to head a seminary on the border in Texas for seminarians and church folks to come to learn about the issues. They are thrilled that he has finished seminary and are anxious to put him to work. We will see what comes about. So, my friends, hold me in your prayers as I continue to hold you. I think of Community as my birthmother church, where I began. In fact, Luis and often comment and sometimes lament that we have not found such a wonderful mix of folks since. I will send my ordination paper onto you along with a sermon or two so you can see where I am. Tell Cy and Carolyn that I didn't let seminary "ruin me". I still do

creative and crazy things though I have never attempted to have people anoint each other with oil since that fragrance filled day at community.

Peace to you all and have a joyous holiday,
Loren McGrail

Church Directory

Add:

Frank Gailor, PO Box 12929, Raleigh, NC 27605,
755-2250.

Change:

Betty Anne Ford, [abford AT peoplepc.com](mailto:abford@peoplepc.com)

Nancy Newell, [nrncedarcross AT peoplepc.com](mailto:nrncedarcross@peoplepc.com)

Community Outreach

HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR BY BRINGING FOOD BAGS!



Good news! We had a year-end spurt which brought in **24** emergency food bags for December. You can imagine how welcome they will be in the midst of all the Christmas excess as people face hunger.

For the year we averaged **20.5** food bags every month. That giving was worth **\$3,690**. It is gratifying to know that we have shared in such a significant way. Let's continue to do so in **2207**. We're still aiming for **25**. Happy New Year! Food bags are due **January 7** and every first Sunday of the month.

CUCC serves meals at the **Wright Center** on the 3rd Sunday of every month. There is a "hunger fund" from which we buy the food to cook and serve. This fund is presently an **EMPTY FUND**. Please consider making a contribution to our hunger fund.

Wider Community

Loaves and Fishes, a non-profit organization, will be providing its famous meat and veggie chili for sale at **\$10.00** per quart in freezer containers. There is a cap on the amount available so place your

orders early, by January 14th or at the latest, January 21st, 2007 with **Shannon Core**, 846-0902 or on the signup sheet on the Coming Events bulletin board in the hallway. Pick up your orders at Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church, north entrance, 3-7 PM Friday January 26 and 9 AM to 12 noon on Saturday January 27th.

“STOP HUNGER NOW” OPPORTUNITY

Save this date: Saturday, January 27, 12 noon till 2 p.m. CUCC has been invited to send an intergenerational team to the **STOP HUNGER NOW** “Sharehouse!” to pack emergency food rations for troubled spots on our planet Earth. This amazing program is storing and shipping food immediately to desperate people caught by natural and man-made disasters in many parts of our world.

We will need a team of at least 35 people who will package dehydrated nourishing food in bags that will make five meals. Children as young as five and any adult who can stand on his/her feet for two hours is welcome to participate.

We are also asked to donate money to pay for the cost of ingredients and shipping.

Please register your intention to participate by calling the church office at 787-6422. Watch the church Bulletin for additional information.

For more information or questions, call **Carolyn King 829-0780**.

Wider Church

On the bulletin board there is a letter from former CUCC pastor **Cally Rogers-Witte** in which she

discusses some of the major missions and achievements of the Global Ministries of the UCC.

ENCA Women are Called to Gather

On January 20, 10a.m.-3 p.m. at Hillsborough UCC (200 Davis Rd., Hillsborough, NC 27243) there will be a gathering of women (**and daughters**) of the Eastern North Carolina Association, Southern Conference, UCC. The topic is “God is Still Speaking! Are You Listening?” There will be opening prayer, three 30-minute workshops, lunch, and a closing worship including communion.

Workshop topics are: “Supporting your Sisters,” “Taking Care of Yourself,” and “Who Do You Think You Are.” Call the office to register. There is a \$5 fee; the deadline is January 10. If interested, call CUCC Office for a registration form. Please note whether you would like to carpool. There is additional information posted on the church bulletin board. This is an excellent opportunity to experience the diversity and vitality of the women in our Association.

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: Vandy Bradow

Treasurer: Mary Pruneau

Asst. Treasurer: Carol Kepler

Clerk: Mary Pickering

Ministry Chairs:

Deacons: Jo Perry

Welcoming, Fellowship, and Growth: Sue Rogge

Stewardship: Bill Bryan

Property: Allan Beidler and Joan McAllister

Religious Education: Sue Cottle

Social Justice: John Little

Community Outreach: June Bolton

Organist: Doug Barrick

Choir Director: Anne Moorman-Smith

Save space for calendar

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

January 22nd

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Organization
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The deadline for our February Newsletter is

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

A Month of Sundays

January 7 | First
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 43:
1-7; Ps 29; Acts 8:14-
17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-
22

January 14 | Second
Sunday after
Epiphany |
9:00 – 9:30 Taizé;
**9:15 Adult Forum &
Bible Study; 10:30
Worship Service &
Church School;
Fellowship Time;**

Lectionary: Isa 62:1-
5; Ps 36:5-10; 1 Cor
12:1-11; John 2:1-11

January 21 | Third
Sunday after
Epiphany |
**9:00 – 9:30 Taizé
with Communion;**
**9:15 Adult Forum &
Bible Study; 10:30
Worship Service &
Church School
Christmas pageant
& Church School;
Fellowship Time**
Lectionary:
Neh 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10;
Ps 19; 1 Cor 12:12-
31a; Luke 4:14-21

January 28 | Fourth
Sunday after
Epiphany |
9:00 – 9:30 Taizé;
**9:15 Adult Forum &
Bible Study; 10:30
Worship Service &
Church School
(Hunter Thompson
preaching);
Fellowship Time;
5:00 Family
Christmas Eve
Service; 11:00
Candle light
Christmas Eve
Service**
Lectionary:
Jer 1:4-10; Ps 71:1-6;
1 Cor 13:1-13;
Luke 4:21-30