

COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Nurturing Spiritual Growth and Working For Social Justice

814 Dixie Trail, Raleigh, NC 27607

Phone: (919) 787-6422 Fax: (919) 787-2296

Email: cucc@nc.rr.com - Office Manager: Carol Clark pastor@communityucc.org - Rev. Steve Halsted

Website: www.communityucc.org

January 2008

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
--

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JANUARY 20

A Word from our Pastor

Dear Friends,

With great joy we welcomed and installed Sãnti Matthews as our new minister for youth on Sunday December 16, 2007. Sãnti had previously been the interim youth minister at Pullen Memorial Baptist Church where she and her family are members. She brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and creativity, along with a passion to do ministry with youth. Her warm personality and friendliness also impressed the search committee. I want to thank the other members of the committee who worked with me in the selection process – Pam Thompson, Roger Manus and Julie Snee. Also, assisting in the background with support and suggestions, which made our task easier, were Judy Kiel, Suzette Roach and Jane Smith. In a variety of ways all the parents of our youth have been involved in keeping the program going since we lost our previous youth leader, Andrew Johnson, at the end of the summer. Sãnti now takes over a program that we can all be proud of. She is ready to lead it into a bright future!

We were also blessed to have Santi's family with us during her installation. Present were her husband Matt, sons Charlie (16) and Sam (14 in January), her mother Carolyn Billings and her stepfather Curtis Fitzgerald.

Sãnti has already begun the bonding process with our youth during two events held at the church during December. Things are off to a great start! We look forward to a great new year ahead in 2008.

Blessings & Peace

Steve

P.S. I appreciate all the prayers and well wishes that have been sent my way since I found that I have prostate cancer. I have decided, after much research and prayer, to have surgery. It has been scheduled for February 8. The Deacons are making plans to cover things in my absence while I recover.

Church Council

Council met briefly on December 18 to discuss the proposed budget and the upcoming congregational meeting.

Congregational Meeting: January 20, 2008 following worship. **Agenda:** adoption of budget and officers/ministry members of the church. As this is a regular meeting, any other business appropriate for congregational consideration may be brought up and addressed.

Nominating Committee Report:

As reported at the congregational meeting on December 2, 2007, there are vacancies in key positions on the slate of Officers and Ministries of the church. There is concern regarding the need for more members for the Fellowship Committee which is an integral part of the Welcoming, Fellowship and Growth Ministry. Please contact Shannon Core (846-0902) or Jeanne Ledbetter (851-8824) if you would like to work with this ministry or serve in other areas of the church.

Installation and orientation of officers and ministry members will be held following worship January 27, 2008

NOTICE to '07 Ministry/Committee Chairs

As we bring in our new year, please take any records—minutes, correspondence, etc. – that will not be needed by your successor to the church office to be added to CUCC archives.

Cy King, CUCC Historian

Deacons

Excerpts from the **December 13, 2007, CUCC Deacons Meeting Minutes:**

Attending: Jo Perry, Sam Johnson, Gary Smith, Edith Sylla, Ann McLaughlin, Robert Parrish, Roger Manus, Steve Halsted, Jim Smith, Mac Hulslander, Margaret Osborne

Steve started the meeting with a reading of Robert's Advent poem.

Caring committee: Bill Lamb will chair the committee next year. Jenny Callaham (Mike's

mother) is added to our caring list. Ruby Lamb is going to join the church.

Sacraments and Chancel: Mac is pleased with the way the committee decorated the sanctuary.

Ushers: Sam Johnson is the upcoming chair. Edith Sylla will organize January. Sam will organize for the rest of the time. Steve said the crucial doors to lock after services are the glass doors at the end of the hall. Mac requested greeters, then suggested that Peg be put in charge.

Discernment of Gifts: Mac said he was going to temporarily withdraw his offer of gifts/ministries for new members. He feels that new people need some time to find their own way first.

Pastor's Report:

Cy King wants to invite Nelson Johnson to preach on January 20. Steve will have his surgery on Feb 8, and is expecting to be out for four Sundays. Steve Camp will preach Feb 17. **Sue Rogge, Hunter Thompson, and Robert Parrish** have volunteered to preach. **Nancy Callaham** has volunteered to coordinate pastoral tasks with Robert Parrish. **Jim Smith and Gary Smith** have volunteered to be the Deacons representatives who lead the service.

Lenten planning; Ash Wednesday is February 6. Lavon Page offered two different Lenten film series, one on Jesus and another on spiritually significant events. Gary Smith suggested that some environmental programming is possible (see Social Justice). Mac suggested that we give an invitation to the congregation to offer other programs. We could do a follow up on "God is still speaking."

Next Deacons meeting: January 10.

Submitted by **Jo Perry**

Stewardship

2008 Pledge Cards

The Stewardship Committee requests that you turn in your 2008 Pledges so budget goals can be finalized. You can put them in the collection plate or mail them into the church office.

Mary Pickering will be offering a concert of songs from the 30's to the present. It will be offered as a fundraiser for the church to benefit the general fund. The concert will be Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. on January 18, 2008. Mary will be accompanied by a professional pianist with whom she has been working to put together a very entertaining show. A love offering will be taken for the church. You won't want to miss this, so mark your calendars now!

Religious Education

Church School News

The Church School Kids hope that everyone enjoyed the Christmas Pageant this year. It was nice to see the pews packed with observers- and even a few run-away manger animals. It was an exciting and festive event for everyone involved.

The pictures may be viewed at www.communityucc.org/events

Christmas Pageant 2007

Mary and Joseph: Megan and James Cardin (Allan and Ellen Beidler's daughter and son-in-law). Baby Jesus: Liam Cardin.

Shepherds: **David Snee, Ben Cole, Logan Beaumont, Hope Davis, Jackson Kiel, Andy Snee**. Wise Men: **John Robertson, Casey Riemann, Caelan Eckard**, Angels: **Annabelle Cardin, Katherine Lan Manus, Abby Smith, Erin Kiel, Zenna Bryan, Cammy Riemann**; Lambs: **Danni Sandor, Afton Eckard, Eli**

Sigmon, Sarah Jane Sigmon; Kitty Cat: **Faith Davis**; Dove: **Greer Eckerd**; Cows: **Erik & Ian Burkhardt**.

Church School Angels:

We were blessed to have many "angels" supporting the church school during the busy month of December. A special thanks to Julia Robertson and Anne Bailey for "directing" the Pageant, and to Anne Pope for her musical assistance at the family advent and pageant. Suzette Roach provided her creative talents by helping with the Advent wreaths at the Family Advent Party and provided the vision and coordination for the fabulous Meals on Wheels

Tree. And to the many others who helped with the Pageant-- it really does take a village!

Thanks also to **Heather Burkhardt** for overseeing and coordinating all of the details of the Christmas activities and ensuring it all came off without a hitch.

Dates in 2008:

As we are looking at the 2008 calendar, The Church School is planning to repeat some of our favorite traditions from last year. We will visit Morningside Assisted Living for Valentine's Day (February 10); have the Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday (March 16); and conduct an end-of-year celebration (June 1). There is no doubt there will be a few new things too. We are considering special activities to celebrate Lent and Earth Day. If you have any interest in volunteering to support some of these activities, or have other ideas, please talk with Anne Bailey or Heather Burkhardt.

We will start our regular lessons on January 6th and each child will get a new workbook. Below are the lessons for the month of January.

January 6 – Session 1 – "The coming one"

January 13 – Session 2 – "John the Baptist prepares the way"

January 20 – Session 3 – "An angel visits Joseph"

January 27 – Session 4 – "Jesus is born"

submitted by Heather Burkhardt

News From the CUCC Youth Corner...

A Note From Sânti:

I want to thank you all for an amazing start to my time with you! You all really know how to have fun and make the most of your time together. I look forward to 2008 and all of the excitement, service, and friendship it will hold for the Youth Group at CUCC.

The Recent Past... December was full of exceptionally excellent experiences. From a lovely Thanksgiving-y feast, to a wonderful Christmassy, Halloween movie, to extreme ping pong mania, to a Christmas service with a beautiful pageant, to a Christmas-card-making event with fluffer-nutter-choco-nana-butter sandwiches.

The Near Future... Plans for January include more “getting to know you” time, more fun, and more service. We look forward to the January 6 youth-led reflections in worship on the Appalachian Service Project. There are also ideas afloat for a night at Frankie's Fun Park, Meals on Wheels service, another movie night, and preparation for a Lenten surprise for the larger church.

Stay Tuned... Keep your eyes peeled to your e-mail and know that we are working at planning times and events that accommodate our various schedules. Once we get a pattern going it will be easy for all of us to plan for our events together. If you have ideas or suggestions, or if you haven't received e-mails already, and are interested in youth events, please contact me any time at forsanti@aol.com, or by phone-home:(919)851-6505 or cell:(919)961-8814.

Sānti Matthews

Adult Forum

The Forum meets on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. in the Vaughan fellowship hall. Cynthia Ball is the new chairperson of the Forum Committee and will be arranging programs this year. If you have any suggestions, please let her know.

Forum Calendar

January 6 – Andy Silver, Living under enemy occupation

January 13 – Daniel Coleman, President, Raleigh Wake Citizens Association

January 20 – Martin Luther King remembered

January 27 – Flo Singer – Coalition to save Darfur

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Please join us Sunday mornings at 9:15 in the Bradow Room as we "read the Bible again for the first time." There is no preparation and no homework.

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 book for January is yet to be determined. The contact for more info is **Ed Klemmer**.

Monday Lunch Group

Bring lunch and join us in the Hoffmann Room Mondays at 12:15 p.m. In January we will be discussing the book, *Open Secrets: The Letters of Reb Yerachmiel Ben Yisrael*. The sessions will be led by Geraldine Bryan.

Social Justice

Justice in a Changing Climate

Some of the members of the Justice in a Changing Climate Steering Committee are planning three climate change study/action opportunities for January and Lent.

For January, Marty Lamb will be leading a series of discussion sessions on lifestyle changes, **“Thinking ‘Green’ in the Bleak Midwinter”**

These will be offered Sundays after church.

A proposed syllabus is below.

For Lent, two opportunities will be offered.

Grady McCallie, Edith Sylla and Gary Smith

will lead a series on **“Climate Change Science-Policy and Action.”** These will be offered

weekday evenings starting with Lent. A proposed syllabus is below.

During Lent, the Interfaith Power and Light

“Carbon Fast” will also be offered.

The final details of all three of these offerings are still open to discussion. If you are interested, contact the church office or any of the presenters.

Thinking "Green" in the Bleak Midwinter

Interested in being part of a small group in developing our individual commitments towards decreasing the size of our carbon footprint at our homes? Here's the vision: We'd commit ourselves to meeting with each other after church for four Sundays, and maybe two more if group members wish to do so, beginning *January 13th*, after church for an hour and a half from 12 to 1:30 in the Bradow Room (either bringing a bag lunch from home or indulging in peanut butter sandwich fixings and grapes Marty will bring from home as a back-up plan for participants). On January 13th, the group will determine the dates & times of the next meetings to avoid conflicts with the Congregational and Orientation meetings.

We'll begin by taking an energy audit of our own homes, looking at tip sheets such as the one from IPL, sharing what we think we're doing well and where we need to improve, brainstorming ideas for problem solving, respecting our differing solutions and choices, and committing to making at least ONE forward step, maybe more, at our homes that might benefit the planet. Optional readings (websites, books, videos) will be offered in between sessions as participants are motivated to explore a particular issue more deeply and share findings which may be pertinent to the rest of the group. Some of us may even commit to taking the IPL "10% challenge" for decreasing our energy usage in 2008 and applaud each other as we show progress. We may have a general focus area each week (e.g. water conservation, fuel reduction, improved air quality, local eating)

Let's explore together! Synergy, anyone? Put the dates on your calendar NOW as your first commitment. Let Marty know if you plan to come either at 819-4084 or billandmarty@nc.rr.com or when you see her. Prepare to bring open hearts, open minds, open ears, and occasional open mouths as we build community in this effort. Cogent, considerate ideas are welcomed as well. Who knows, we may be able to postpone "The Fire Next Time" and live to tell our grandchildren of how we took favorable actions for improvement in 2008. Remember, nothing's too small to make a difference.

Climate Change Science, Policy and Action

Session 1

- * **Science:** Evidence that global warming is happening, humans are in part responsible. (Gary)
- * Who cares – We are a church. What does this have to with us? (Edith)
- * Personal lifestyle changes
- * **Policy:** Local: Raleigh is a Cool City, now what? (Grady)
- * **Action:** What specifically can this Christian do now?

Session 2

- * **Science:** Climate change projections and the likely human impact of these changes (Gary)

- * Who cares – We are a church. What does this have to with us in N.C.? (Edith)
- * Second homes at the coast and the poor in Eastern North Carolina
- * **Policy:** Sea rise and climate change will affect NC. State and its people: what will CAPAG and the legislative commission recommend? (Grady)
- * **Action:** What specifically can this Christian do now?

Session 3

- * **Science:** Proposed means to decrease the extent of global warming and/or its impact (mitigation). (Gary)
- * The national and international perspectives. Developed vs. underdeveloped countries.
- * **Policy:** National and international: Bali and beyond - We need to agree to 2C increase cap
- * **Action:** What specifically can we Christians band together and do now?

Session 4

- * Workshop/brainstorm: Where is the Justice, not just "I'm taking care of me"? (all)

Property

The Property Ministry will meet on January 13 to begin to finalize recommendations for the sanctuary lights and narthex doors.

Memorial/Meditation Garden

Our thanks to Nancy and Skip Stoddard, who tended our garden in December.

Volunteers needed – If you are interested in keeping our garden, please contact **Peg** to volunteer for a month: 833-7203.

Welcoming, Fellowship & Growth

Retirees Fellowship – (2nd Mondays, monthly)
Many thanks to all who contributed to the **gifts for Meals on Wheels**. It was a huge success!

The Retired People will meet at 10:30 on Monday, January 14, to hear from archaeologist John Clauser about Southern Folk Cemeteries. Now retired from

the Archaeology Branch of the NC Department of Cultural Resources, John has some delightful stories to share. We are looking forward to his presentation. Bring a sandwich for lunch; dessert and drinks are provided. Come join us!

Sisters in Spirit (SIS)

On January 17, there will be a potluck at 7:00 p.m. in the Hoffmann room. All women are invited. Help will be needed for setup and cleanup.

NEEDED NOW: Fellowship Hour Folk

We need many folks – a few at a time –to set out beverages and simple nibbles for fellowship hour after Sunday morning services in the upcoming weeks. Contact **Ed or Ruth Klemmer**, phone 847-7992 or email erklemmer@earthlink.net.

Communications

Fellowship Hall Equipped for Video

The Church Council approved the purchase of a flat panel TV screen which has been installed on the front wall of the fellowship hall. It is equipped with cables and hardware to provide easy viewing of DVD-Video, VHS tapes, or laptop computer display. Instructions for use are located on the stand beneath the screen.

by **Lavon Page**

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 and Pilgrim House.) Our prayers are solicited for:

Jo Lemons, Jo Banks, Al Matthews, Ruby Lamb, Lisa Marsh, Mamie Scott, Nancy Cross' cousins Carolyn and Jean, David Ledbetter's father, Bill, June Bolton, Scottie Bell, Bobby Barnes, Rhonda Zingraff & Charlie Thomas, Roy and Ida Klages, Kerma Hazel, Joan Little, Steve Halsted and his brother Eugene and nephew Gene, Gretchen Aycock's mother Mary, Mike Callaham's mother Jenny, Dot Littleton, and the people of the DRC, and other victims of war and natural disaster across the globe.

We send our love to **Dot Littleton**, who is being treated for heart problems at Rex Health Care. Cards are welcome; phone calls and visits are not encouraged.

Sonny Spicer continues to make progress at Raleigh Rehab. Cards for him can be sent to Cy and Carolyn's address.

We continue to profile our **NEW MEMBERS:**

Pam and Hunter Thompson joined CUCC on November 4, 2007. Hunter works for the North Carolina Housing Coalition administering a statewide Homeless Information system. Hunter attends the School of Religion at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. Pam works for Butterfly Life, a women's fitness facility and is looking for a full time position in the Public Administration field. She enjoys scrapbooking and is actively involved in CUCC's youth program (having recently narrated the children's Christmas pageant). Pam and Hunter have two children presently in our youth programs, Oliver and Rachel.

Their previous church affiliation includes Gregory Congregational UCC and Grace United Methodist churches, both in Wilmington, NC. Pam tells us that what attracted them to Community was the focus on community involvement and the welcome they received from our members.



Our Young People's Birthdays

1/06/98 – Caelan Eckard
1/17/94 – David Cookmeyer
2/05/92 – Abby Smith
2/11/95 – Andy Snee

Church Directory

Add:

Sānti Matthews, 701 Valerie Drive, Raleigh, NC 27606, 851-6505, forsanti@aol.com

Change:

Margot von Harten's correct phone number is (919) 782-3889.

Community Outreach

HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR BY BRINGING FOOD BAGS!



Congratulations to all faithful givers! We attained our goal of **25** very full food bags for the month of December! – and this happened despite the fact that at least 2 other bags were deflected to other destinations. We really did well. It

is extremely gratifying to end 2007 on such a positive note. With constant news of a poor economy, rising rents, rising food prices, unemployment and families living from pay check to pay check, we can be assured that an emergency food bag truly answers a dire need. Thanks for giving so generously.

Food bags are due **January 6** and every first Sunday of the month.

Submitted by **Marge Eckels**

Wider Community

MLK, JR. DREAMFEST 2008

Calendar

Thursday, Jan. 10 – Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2008

Dream of Expression - Art Exhibition & Display –

Featured Artists: Willie Bigelow, Derrick B. Bryant, Christopher Bryant and Charles “Wsir” Johnson –

Page-Walker Arts & History Center

Saturday, January 12, 7:30 p.m.

Dream of Inspiration – Musical Celebration featuring Bettye Lavette, Mike Wiley and ONE SONG Revue showcasing the Dreamfest Community Chorus of Vision United Singers, Vision United Dancers and Vision United Recording Artist Gerald Hinton.

Herb Young Community Center – \$\$\$\$

Tuesday, January 15, 6:30 p.m.

Dream of the King Legacy 79th Birthday Anniversary – Candlelight Vigil, Civil Rights Songs, 79 Expressions & Birthday Party.

Page-Walker Arts & History Center

Saturday, January 19, 2008, 7-9 p.m.

Dream of Achievement, Art Exhibit & Display Opening **VIP Reception** – Refreshments, mix & mingle, live entertainment, introduction of featured Artist on Exhibit & Display, MLK, Jr. Task Force & TOC Recognize Special Guest of Honor – Mr. David C. Manning, MLK, Jr. Dream of Achievement Awards presented to Youth & Adult Recipients.

Page-Walker Arts & History Center

Saturday, January 19, 2008, 7-9 p.m.

Dream of Community - MLK, Jr. Community EXPO (showcasing Artist Gift Shop, Community Partner Organizations & Businesses, Cary Museum of History, Kids Club Corner 2 – Special Guest Clifford the Big Red Dog (courtesy of Books-A-Million – Raleigh location), Chit Chat Corner, The Library featuring Ray Whitsell’s Video-Seminar Series sharing information about African Americans and their significant contribution.

Page-Walker Arts & History Center

Sunday, January 20, 2008, 4 p.m.

Dream of Unity - Ecumenical Observance

Keynote Speakers: Rev. F. Patrick Russell, Rev. Charles D. Rainey and President Harry Maxwell (all keynoters will speak to the MLK, Jr. Dreamfest Week-end Theme) supported by Dreamfest Community Chorus of Vision United Singers & Vision United Dancers

Herb C. Young Community Center

Monday, January 21, 2008, Beginning 10am –

Dream of Justice - Unity March, Rally (downtown Raleigh) & Greater Triangle area MLK, Jr. Day of Service/Season of Service Projects in surrounding Communities

Sunday, February 10, 2008, 3 p.m. –

Dream of History (POST-Dreamfest Event)

"African American History Comes Alive", Black History presentation – Barnes & Noble Cary - Special Guest Presenter Rev. Kenneth Womack, the Inspir-Edu-Moti-Trainer will give a rousing presentation on Malcolm, Medgar, Martin & Me.

Events are for all ages and free unless otherwise noted.

Presented by MLK, Jr. Task Force and Town of Cary Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources

www.townofcary.org

Loaves and Fishes Chili Sales Alert

Let Loaves and Fishes prepare delicious chili for your enjoyment and Super Bowl parties. Meat and Veggie is \$10.00 per quart in freezable containers. Place your orders by phoning Shannon Core at 846-0902 or use the sign up sheet posted on the Coming Events bulletin board in the hallway, by January 13, 2008. Pick up times are Friday, January 25, 2008 (3:00 to 7:00 PM) and Saturday, January 26, 2008.(9:00 AM to 12:00 noon at Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church 4921 Six Forks Road. (Use the north entrance) The proceeds will support a proven program for at risk children in our community.

Shannon Core

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

Ministry Chairs:

Deacons: Sam Johnson

Stewardship: Carol Kepler, Interim chair

Property: David Ledbetter and Joan McAllister

Religious Education: Marty Lamb

Social Justice: Gary Smith

Community Outreach: Jeanne Ledbetter, Interim

Organist: Doug Barrick

Choir Director: Anne Moorman-Smith

The new chairs for 2008 will be installed at the January 20th Congregational Meeting.

Community United Church of Christ
814 Dixie Trail
Raleigh, NC 27607
January 2008 Newsletter

The deadline for our February Newsletter is January 21st.

Raleigh, NC
Permit #914

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid

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

A Month of Sundays

January 6 | Epiphany
9:00 – 9:30 Taizé;
9:15 Adult Forum &
Bible Study; 10:30
Worship (with
Communion) &
Church School;
Fellowship Time
Lectionary:
Isa 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-7,
10-14; Eph 3:1-12;
Matt 2:1-12

January 13 | First
Sunday after
Epiphany | **9:00 –**
9:30 Taizé; 9:15
Adult Forum &
Bible Study; 10:30
Worship Service &
Church School;
Fellowship Time
Lectionary:
Isa 42:1-9; Ps 29;
Acts 10:34-43; Matt
3:13-17

January 20 | Second
Sunday after
Epiphany | **9:00 Taizé**
with Communion;
9:15 Adult Forum &
Bible Study; 10:30
Worship & Church
School; Fellowship
Time
Lectionary:
Isa 49:1-7;
Ps 40:1-11;
1 Cor 1:1-9;
John 1:29-42

January 27 | Third
Sunday after
Epiphany | **9:00 –**
9:30 Taizé; 9:15
Adult Forum &
Bible Study; 10:30
Worship Service &
Church School,
Fellowship Time;
Lectionary:
Isa 9:1-4; Ps 27:1,
4-9; 1 Cor 1:10-18;
Matt 4:12-23