

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

Office: cucc@ipass.net Pastor: pastor@communityucc.org

www.communityucc.org

Stephen S. Halsted, Pastor

July 2002

Lectionary for June

July 7, Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Gen. 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Ps. 45:10-17 or Song 2:8-13 OR Zech. 9:9-12; Ps. 145:8-14; Rom. 7:15-25a; Matt. 11:16-19, 25-30.

July 14, Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Gen. 25:19-34; Ps. 119:105-112 OR Is. 55:10-13; Ps. 65(1-8), 9-13; Rom. 8:1-11; Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23.

July 21, Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Gen. 28:10-19a; Ps. 139:1-12, 23-24 OR Wis. Of Sol. 12:13, 16-19 or Is. 44:6-8; Ps. 86:11-17; Rom 8:12-25; Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43.

July 28, Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Gen. 29:15-28; Ps. 105:1-11, 45b or Ps. 128 OR 1 Kings 3:5-12; Ps. 119:129-136; Rom. 8:26-39; Matt. 13:31-33, 44-52.

Please remember in your prayers: Prayers for Prayers for Sarah Hoffman as she continues to cope with cancer; Tom Castagna, Vandy's nephew-in-law, serving in Afghanistan.

The Caring Committee wants to know of the special needs of any of our members and friends so that we can respond to those needs. Please keep us informed by calling Marge Eckels, 787-5552, with any news.

Friends,

As you read this Newsletter, Pastor Steve is away in Cape Cod on vacation.

He will be back in church on July 7th to lead worship. Blessings to all.



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.

MEETINGS and EVENTS

Church Council

In July, the Church Council meeting will be changed to Monday July 22nd.

FAMILY POTLUCK AUGUST 3

If your family is lucky enough to have children rising 6th grade and younger, you are invited to a family potluck on Saturday, August 3, beginning at 4:30 and ending at 7:00 pm. Jane, Gary and Abby Smith will provide hamburgers for grilling and drinks; bring a side dish or dessert to share. (Please check your ingredients for peanut products – including peanut oil or “vegetable oil.” We want to alert a member to avoid that dish) We’ll also be making surprises to thank last year’s Church School teachers so parents and children should dress to get messy. Call the Smith’s so they know to have enough food for your family (787-6539).

Saturday Men's Group

The Men's Group meets Saturday mornings at 9:00 a.m. for discussion and fellowship.

Each Saturday during the summer, individual members will lead a discussion on a topic of special interest to them. Subjects include *The Writings of Josephus, The Importance of Genes, Writers of the New Testament, Frontiers of Science and My Faith and Islam.*

Lively discussions in past meetings have served to bring focus to our faith while reviewing such outstanding books as *Meeting Jesus for the First Time, A History of God, The Gifts of the Jews, and Rabbi Jesus an Intimate Biography.*

Come and join us!

CUCC Sunday School Calendar:

Summer church school - Program started June 2.

Family worship on first Sundays = all of the school age children remain in worship with their families – preschoolers can stay in the nursery.

July 7 – family worship
July 14 – games
July 21 – Vacation Bible School celebration
July 28 – art
Aug. 4 – family worship
Aug. 11 - games

Family worship: If you would like to help collect the offering, hand out bulletins, or ring the gong, be sure to ask the usher AT LEAST 10 minutes before worship begins.

Games: Be prepared for relays, treasure hunts, obstacle courses, and brain teasers. A surprise is waiting for anyone who has a memory verse ready to recite.

Art: Get creative with Judy and Suzette. We'll have fun in the arts.

Tai Chi will continue to be held Wednesdays in the Vaughan Wing.

Intergenerational Vacation Bible School

Don't forget to mark your calendars. VBS begins July 15th. Plan to join us for one or all of the evenings. The focus of this year's VBS is the Habitat for Humanity project. We will have potluck dinners; great desserts; learning experiences and lots of fun.

The Women's Support Group is planning another beach retreat the weekend of September 13, 14, and 15th. If you wish to be a part, contact Marty Lamb at 834-4280 to let her know. As this time there are still a few openings.

There are several opportunities to support **Loaves and Fishes** this month.

First, LAF is raffling a \$2,000 shopping spree at Crabtree Valley Mall. Tickets are available for only \$10 each. The drawing will be July 15th. You can purchase your tickets from the LAF office.

Second, Hecht's at the new Triangle Town Center off Capital Blvd. North is having a special preview party on August 6th *before* opening to the general public. The \$5.00 tickets may be purchased from the LAF office. Loaves and Fishes will receive the entire amount from the proceeds purchased through the LAF office.

Tickets for both opportunities may be purchased by phone at (231-4687) by credit card.

CHRISTIAN WITNESS

Food Bags – reminder to bring your food bags next Sunday, July 7th.



Marge Eckels reported that the members of CUCC donated 16 bags of groceries in June to the Urban Ministries. The food bag donations are collected the first Sunday of the month. Please maintain a high level of giving during the summer. When children are not receiving meals at school, many families need help with feeding them at home. The Food Bank shopping cart and lists of needed items can be found in the Vaughn Wing.

Social Action Committee

Environmental and other kinds of Justice.

In 1985 the United Church of Christ General Synod pronounced: “The deliberate, unsafe production and dumping of toxic and hazardous substances, particularly in defenseless, poor, minority communities and Indian reservations, is an immoral and injurious act that will cause generations yet unborn to suffer.” Now, nearly thirty years later, our government wants to make Yucca Mountain, 100 miles northwest of Las Vegas, NV and sacred land to the seven bands of the Western Shoshone and the Paiute Indians, a nuclear waste dump. Bernice Powell Jackson, Executive Minister for Justice and Witness Ministries of our United Church of Christ, likens this to placing a dump underneath the Vatican or the National Cathedral or below the Wailing Wall. She suggests, and the Social Action Committee concurs, that you call Senator, (202) 224-3121, and urge him to vote against this bad plan. Don’t wait; the House already adopted it.

And these words on our consumerism and materialism from Barbara Kingsolver in an essay

“Saying Grace” written in response to the World Trade Center tragedy on September 11.

“For most of my life I’ve felt embarrassed by a facet of our national character that I would have to call prideful wastefulness. What other name can there be for our noisy, celebratory appetite for unnecessary things, and our vast carelessness regarding their manufacture and disposal? In the autumn of 2001 we faced the crisis of taking a very hard knock from the outside, and in its aftermaths, as our nation grieved, every time I saw that wastefulness rear its head I felt even more ashamed. Some retailers rushed to convince us in ads printed across waving flags that it was our duty even in wartime, especially in wartime, to get out and buy those cars and shoes.”

“We don’t own the world, as it turns out. Flight attendants and bankers, mothers and sons were ripped from us as proof, and thousands of families must now spend whole lifetimes reassembling themselves after shattering loss. The rest of us have lowered our flags in grief on their behalf. I believe we could do the same for the 35,600 of the world’s children who also died on September 11 from conditions of starvation, and extend our hearts to the fathers and mothers who lost them.”

And finally – “If we can agree on anything in difficult times, it must be that we have the resources to behave more generously than we do, and that we are brave enough to rise from the ashes of loss as better citizens of the world than we have ever been.”

The book is *Small Wonder* by Barbara Kingsolver. It may not be typical summer reading but your Social Action Committee thinks it is quite wonderful and urges you to read it.

Caring Committee

Eckels Bequest

The Wider Outreach Committee is currently accepting suggestions for the Eckel’s Bequest. Have an idea? Contact a member of the committee.

Communications Committee

SOS from the **Communications Committee**. It will be time to put together our pictorial directory before we know it. We need activity pictures. All committees please take note and turn in to the office any recent pictures (last six months) with information identifying the activity.

Volunteering Opportunities

The Ark Shelter is now the Wright Center and even though they have changed their name, they still need our help with dinners. Jane Smith is in need of two families or groups to help with dinners for the Center during July. Menu ideas are available.

Our People

- Congratulations and warm best wishes for lifelong happiness to **Linda Hebert and Robert Parrish** who were married on June 22nd, 2002.
- Congratulations to **Ann McLaughlin**, UCC ordained minister, who retired from the Triangle Pastoral Counseling Center at the end of June after twenty-one years.
- Our hats off to **Nicholas and Angelina DeVito** for their roles in the NCSU's University Theatre Fest play "Watch on the Rhine" which was presented in late May through early June.
- CUCC proudly acknowledges high school graduates **Todd Manus and Andy Bowen**.

Todd graduated from the Carolina Friends School and will be attending Beloit College, in Beloit, Wisconsin. He is life guarding this summer.

Andy graduated from Broughton High School and will be working as a lifeguard at Durant Trails Pool and two other pools. He plans to work for a year before starting college.

In Memoriam

Paul Marsh, a treasured member of CUCC and retired NCSU Professor of Sociology, passed away Saturday, June 29th, 2002. He had been in declining health for some time.

His funeral is at 3:00 pm, Sunday, July 7th, at CUCC.

In lieu of flowers his family request that memorial contributions be made to the CUCC Organ Fund.

Thanks to CUCC

- A big thank you to **Linda Baker and her husband Van Waddell** who donated a piano to our church. It is now installed in the Hoffmann Room and already greatly appreciated by the choir.

Loaves and Fishes thank those who contributed items to their yard sale and those who came and participated. They raised \$1200.00.

- Words can never express my gratitude for the wonderful celebration you gave Doug and me! Needless to say, I was unbelievable surprised! The hilarious songs sung by Lisa, Steve and Monty truly made me laugh and cry all at once. I'll never forget the skit by the choir, with kazoos and all, and the great (?) impersonations of Doug and me. As usual, the Apostolic Voices sang with depth and enthusiasm, and added their musical expertise to the occasion. The food and fellowship couldn't have been better, in the true CUCC spirit! Thank you all for a day that I will always consider as one of the highlights of my life! And many, many thanks for the thoughtful N.C. Symphony subscription for Monty and me! I am truly speechless, and that certainly doesn't happen to me very often!

My time a CUCC has been fabulous and the super folks in the congregation have helped to make it so. What blessings I have gained from being with all of you during the past five years!

Fondly,

Anne-Moorman-Smith

- CUCC thanks the **family of Paul Marsh** who have donated to the CUCC library a collection of Paul's books.

SPECIAL DAYS

Helen Abel Brown: A Tribute on the Occasion

of her **100th** Birthday



Helen Abel Brown, a member of Community United Church of Christ for the past 65 years, will celebrate her 100th birthday on July 6, 2002. Mrs. Brown, who was born in 1902 in Naugatuck, Connecticut, was married for 47 years to the late Harlan C. Brown, long-time Director of the D. H. Hill Library at North Carolina State University. She served as Head Librarian of St. Mary's College in Raleigh from 1937 until her retirement in 1971. She now resides at Springmoor Retirement Center.

Helen and Harlan Brown joined the Community United Church of Christ in Raleigh in 1937; in 1967 they became charter members of Raleigh's Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship and have made valuable contributions to both congregations. Mrs. Brown has served on numerous CUCC committees and given significant financial support to the annual budget and the building fund. The bas relief mural by Alice Pohl Proctor that hangs in the narthex of the church was commissioned by Helen Brown as a memorial to her beloved husband.

Mrs. Brown has had a distinguished career as an educator and librarian, having graduated cum laude with high honors from Middlebury College, Vermont, where she also earned a master's degree in Spanish. Beginning with her 25th anniversary, she attended her college reunions every five years and, at age 96, was one of two women out of a class of 50 men and 50 women who attended the 75th reunion.

She began her career by teaching Spanish at Freeport, Long Island High School and taught two years in the largest girls' school in Mexico at Puebla before earning her degree in Library Science at the University of Michigan. Before coming to St. Mary's College in Raleigh, she was Head Librarian at Russell Sage College, Troy, New York.

In 1986 Mrs. Brown joined other CUCC members to visit our sister church (Eglesia Evangelica Unida de Fajardo) in Puerto Rico. Our delegation was participating in a worship service at the church. The pastor had finished welcoming CUCC members and he inquired whether one of our young people would like to respond. Instantly, all eyes turned toward Helen Brown. Pastor Cally Rogers-Witte said something like, "Seems like Helen Brown is our unanimous choice as the young person to represent us." Helen, of course, was 84 at the time. She responded in impeccable Spanish.

Mrs. Brown has a broad range of hobbies and interests and a remarkable intellectual curiosity. She has read and traveled extensively, visiting Mexico, Canada, Bermuda, the Caribbean Islands, the British Isles, most European countries, Russia, Estonia, Greece and the Greek Isles, and China and still maintains her interest in people from other cultures. Under the auspices of the NCSU Faculty wives, she taught classes in English as a second language for ten years and befriended many foreign students, faculty, their wives and families, finding them places to live and work. For many years she participated in the Triangle Radio Reading Service, reading poetry for the visually impaired. She also gave memorable readings of the scripture at CUCC for many years.

She and her husband were well-known animal lovers, of domestic pets as well as wild animals, avidly supporting the SPCA, the North Carolina Zoological Park, and the College of Veterinary Medicine at N. C. State University.

We give thanks for the distinguished career of Helen Brown and for her many contributions to the city, the state and to the ministry of the Community United Church of Christ. A private party is being planned to celebrate her 100th birthday on July 6th, 2002. Her friends at CUCC wish her a very Happy Birthday!

Youth Birthdays

August Birthdays*

8/2/87 – Jessica Alcorn

8/13/95 – Anna Hass

8/16/94 – Jackson Kiel

8/30/90 – Sam Alcorn

8/30/90 – Jack Alcorn

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

Covenant Community

The Covenant Community is an ecumenical community of faith modeled after the famous Church of the Saviour in Washington, DC. Begun in 1985, the CC emphasizes spirituality rooted in justice, creative and egalitarian worship leadership, inclusiveness, the primacy of callings and the “Mission Group” model in ministries, mentored preparation for membership and an annual re-covenanting process.”

CUCC members and friends are cordially invited to join us in worship any Sunday from 5:00-7:00 pm in the Bradow Room.

A detailed description and historical background of the CC is available in the literature rack in the hallway and library for anyone interested.

Announcements

Creativity Collages on the Art Wall

During the summer, the **Art Wall** will feature the collages of several different women’s groups (the Vein of Gold group, the 2001 Fall Women’s Retreat, and a Special Birthday Retreat). The collages were created to express something about ourselves – a special time in our lives, a history of our past, or a vision of our future. They remind us of who we are and inspire us to see the possibilities of who we might be.

Pastel, watercolor, and charcoal portraits by Cynthia Woodburn. Landscape paintings by **Ted Gregory**. August 5-29th, 2002. Reception, Sunday August 11th from 2:00-4:00 pm at the Sertoma Club at Shelley Lake, 1400 W. Millbrook Road, Raleigh.
