

COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Nurturing Spiritual Growth and Working For Social Justice

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July 2004

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

Pastor Steve Halsted is on vacation. In his June 13 "Hot Topics" message, he included remarks about his experiences at the UCC's Southern Conference meeting. Ann McLaughlin has reported for CUCC's attendees in this newsletter (see The Wider Church), Steve expressed the special joy of obtaining there a copy hot off the UCC press of the book our own Nancy Keppel helped edit. A tribute to Nancy was part of the meeting. It follows:

NANCY PEELER KEPPEL: A TRIBUTE
UCC Southern Conference Annual Meeting
June 11, 2004

Fifteen years ago when I first met **Nancy Peeler Keppel**, I was quick to figure out that she was a force with which to be reckoned. Her short stature belied her tall marching orders. One would never venture to label Nancy Keppel by using teasing or taunting words such as "half pint." When it comes to matters of peace and justice, particularly in relationship to racial, gender, and sexual orientation concerns, Nancy has always been more than a "half pint." For all of her adult life (and I suspect sooner than that...her first grade teacher probably had her hands full), Nancy has had more than a cup running over. She has been a full gallon gushing over as she has involved herself with great passion in many sensitive issues demanding a Christian response.

Never one to back away from controversial issues, Nancy has invested her life in charting pathways of

compassion and in digging deep wells of mercy as she has charged into rivers of raging waters. Nancy has seen and responded to so many "burning bushes" in her lifetime that when many people think of her, Moses turns pale in comparison.

Nearly two years ago, Nancy developed the idea of collecting the stories of UCC women ministers who were pioneers in ministry in the Southern Conference. Being one of the early commissioned women ministers in the Southern Conference, she had a story of trail blazing to tell and she knew other women have such stories as well. Through the Resource Center for Women and Ministry in the South, under the leadership of Jeanette Stokes and through the Clifford A. and Lillian C. Peeler Family Foundation, Nancy helped create a book of collected stories that was eventually titled "*God Speaks, Women Respond*", and a CD of Rev. Mary Evans spirituals.

Nancy was born into a life of privilege. She could have spent her life sunning on the beaches of the Riviera sipping Martinis. Instead, she has given the heart of her life and ministry to serving the disenfranchised. Her name and life are synonymous with Peace and Justice. Her mission has been to love and to empower. Her life mission has been accomplished. While her health does not allow her to be with us today, her spirit is with us and with this conference she loves. And we will live richer lives in spirit because she has moved among us. Thank you, Nancy, for all you have been and all you are in Christ's name.

Now, I would like to ask all the writers who contributed stories to this book to join me on stage

as we raise a toast to Nancy. We will use Cheerwine, Nancy's beverage of choice, to lift a toast and our thanks to Nancy for her generosity and for daring to share her prophetic visions for all who have felt rejected, alienated, downtrodden, and alone. We give thanks to God for this goodly heritage Nancy has shared with us in such wonderful and meaningful ways throughout her life among us in the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ.

-**Kaye Crawford**,
Hillsborough UCC, retired pastor

Please note: Multiple copies of "*God Speaks, Women Respond*" have been ordered for use by the congregation. The copies will be available in the library to where they will need to be returned so that others may have a chance to read them.



Deacons

Steve Halsted will be on vacation through July 5th. Steve and Marcy have joined friends and family for trips from the North Carolina mountains to New England and especially Cape Cod.

In Steve's absence on July 4th – Sue Rogge, one of our seminary-trained members, will fill the pulpit. We appreciate **Jane Smith, Nancy Callaham, and Sue Rogge** for their willingness to lead the congregation while Steve is on vacation.

If there are pastoral concerns or emergencies, please first notify the office during office hours. After hours, please contact Caring Committee members **Robert Parrish** (832-1226 (h), 616-1606 (c)) or **Ann McLaughlin** (848-3310). If they're unavailable, contact **Marge Eckels**, chair of the Caring Committee (787-5552)

At the June meeting we rejoiced over the very successful Heifer Happening and look forward to the July 8 and August 8 events. It was especially enjoyable to be with the Congolese community, eating, playing, and creating together. Thanks to the committee for their careful work in preparing the time together.

We anticipate the 50th anniversary of the Congolese congregation, **Église Universelle des Douze Apôtres** (Universal Church of the Twelve Apostles), next March 2005.

The Deacons will not be meeting during July. The next meeting will be August 11.

Arts in Worship Committee

The committee met for pizza in May and reviewed ideas and shared with each other about music in our families. With it now summer, music becomes more informal in service for the season. Doug will be arranging some special music; the choir will only rehearse the mornings of first and third Sundays (i.e. no Mozart challenges) perhaps with a smaller group. There will not be Wednesday practices. The Folk Choir will probably sing at least once. **Linda Baker, Nancy Callaham, and I** shall be sharing some sacred movement during the service on August 22nd.

Do check out the art wall for the bright summer contributions of **Erin and Jackson Kiel**. We have often had summer displays of our children's art and the work of these two is especially playful! Peace!

"When we create something, we always create it first in a thought form." -Shakti Gawain

- **Marty Lamb**

Memorial Meditation Garden

The committee met for the first time on May 23 to discuss a number of concerns such as: guidelines for care and upkeep, for general use and interment protocol and estimated cost and fees for maintenance in perpetuity. Temporary plans were made to have the area watered at least once a week, but the upkeep responsibilities and costs have yet to be worked out. A lovely plaque to record the names and dates of the deceased has been ordered for placement in the sanctuary and a draft set of covenants was written. Further input will be given by the Deacons prior to further Council consideration.

If anyone is interested in serving on this group, or willing to be one of the 'volunteer gardeners', please contact the office or **Peg Hulslander**.

We thank our archivist for the poem below, written by **Peggy Hoffmann** in 1986 and read at her memorial service on October 19, 2003.

Dogwood

Can it be true?

Could they have chosen the Dogwood
For His cross?

The Dogwood?

In spring an explosion of soundless beauty,
Drifting, exquisite, heart-stopping;

In summer's muted green
Modest, reassuring;

In autumn, iridescent sparkles in winter, an
undercanopy for the hushed forest—

Watching, waiting, readying
To burst forth in bridal loveliness.

Perhaps they were right, those crucifiers—

To choose the Dogwood,
For its strength for the withering spirit,
Its eternal promise of renewal,
Its radiance
Its simplicity.

Perhaps it is true.
Against the dying woodlands:

When I am gone
Plant a dogwood for me.

A dogwood has in fact been planted in her memory and on Sunday, June 13, in a private family service the ashes of both **Arnold and Peggy Hoffmann** were interred in the Memorial Meditation Garden.

-**Carol Kepler and Cy King**

Religious Education

Adult Forum

As is our custom, the Forum will not meet during the summer months. We are planning some wonderful programs for the fall. If you have suggestions for themes, speakers or whatever, please share them with the Forum Committee: **Cy King, Howard Miller, Ruth Klemmer, Diana Koenning, and Grady McCallie.**

Summer Sunday School Schedule

Preschool – 4th Grade

This summer we will be combining our classes for Sunday School. We will meet in the 2nd-4th grade classroom. During our time together we will be hearing Bible stories from the Old Testament and the New Testament.

June 27 – The story of the boy Jesus
Elementary field trip

July 4 – The story of John

July 11 – The two house builders

July 18 – Memory Verse Game

July 25 – The beloved daughter

August 1 – Jesus and the children

August 8 – **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**
Vacation Bible School –
a **Heifer Happening**

August 15 – Welcome Back Sunday

Fun Night/Vacation Bible School



July Heifer Happening – We had a wonderful time at the first Heifer Happening. The second one will be on Thursday, July 8, 2004, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. We are planning an evening of food from different countries, singing, dancing, and crafts. If you would like to contribute a dish from another country, please call **Adrienne Talbot** at 787-8082. Sign up any Sunday after church.



Appalachia Service Project (ASP)

On Sunday, June 20, **Austin Osborne-Newman** and **Jessica, Sam, and Jack Alcorn** drove with twenty other youth and adults to Knox County, KY, for a week with the Appalachian Service Project (ASP). ASP is a Christian home repair and home-building ministry benefiting the rural poor of the Appalachia region.

The group stayed in Barbourville, KY at the ASP Center, a Head Start preschool. They were joined by youth and adults from three other churches located in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Cornelius, NC. ASP actually began in Barbourville in 1969 when fifty volunteers came to Union College and repaired four homes.

Austin, Jessica, Sam and Jack participated in fundraising efforts with the sponsoring church for ASP, the Prince of Peace Episcopal Church in Apex, to raise money for this year's trip. In addition, members of Community UCC contributed more than \$1100 through stock sales to support Austin, Jessica, Sam and Jack. Look for more information on this mission trip in the July newsletter!

Monday Lunch Group

In July, activities pertaining to the book "*God Speaks, Women Respond*" will start. This group meets every Monday at 12:15 in the Hoffmann Room. Call **Geraldine Bryan** (787-8494) for more information.

Wednesday Bible Study

This group meets at Pilgrim House at 6:30 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. Bring a bag supper. Call **Joan or John Little** (787-0829) for more information. Everyone is welcome to join these lively and interesting discussions.

Social Justice

"Our Faith, Our Vote"

Bernice Powell Jackson, Executive Minister of the UCC Justice and Witness Ministries, recently wrote: "For people of faith, public policy is never merely politics, never merely economics. It is one way we try to plow the biblical vision of shalom into the soil of our history. It is a way of living out the commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves. It is a way of being a 'good Samaritan'."

To this end, the UCC Justice and Witness Ministries has initiated the "Our Faith Our Vote" project to encourage our membership to register, and once registered, to vote. By voting, we exercise the privilege and the right and responsibility for helping to determine how our communities, our state, and

our nation will tackle our shared problems. By voting, we exert our influence on matters as parochial as when and how our garbage is collected to such international concerns as to whether to send peacekeepers to try to stop the violence in Israel. "Politics", again quoting Bernice Powell Jackson, "is about the values we honor, the dollars we allocate, and the process we follow so that we can live together with some measure of justice, order and peace."

In all likelihood members of our congregation are registered and probably most of us vote. But just in case there are some who have neglected to register, the Social Justice Committee will respond to the "Our Faith, Our Vote" suggestion by having registration forms available for those who need to register or who have had a change of address and need to register that change. See a member of the Social Justice Committee; you can register at any branch of the Wake County Public Library or at the Wake County Board of Elections, 339 S. Salisbury Street, telephone 856-6240.

- Cy King

Fair Trade Coffee and Maybe a Little Justice

The Welcoming and Fellowship Ministry and the United Church of Christ Coffee Project have joined forces to promote justice for small-operation coffee farmers. **Joan McAllister**, Chairperson of Welcoming and Fellowship, has been serving coffee made with Fair Trade Coffee at all church events for several months. That means CUCC has become one of the more than 200 congregations nationally that is serving Fair Trade Coffee. Why is this important?

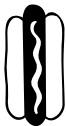
Throughout the Americas, Africa, and Asia, small-operation coffee farmers are often trapped in an economic system that results in the bulk of the profits being reaped by coffee traders and purveyors rather than the growers. Fair Trade Coffee comes from cooperatives that guarantee fair prices for small growers. Now that our church is supporting growers by purchasing and serving Fair Trade Coffee, we hope that all of us individually will follow our denomination's lead by buying and serving Fair Trade Coffee. One source is "Ten

Thousand Villages” in Cameron Village. Another is Koinonia Partners in Americus, Georgia (Toll-free 1-877-738-1741). The cost is a little more, but the taste is a whole lot better. (See Social Ministries Bulletin Board for additional information.)

- Social Justice Ministries

Welcoming, Fellowship, and Growth

Yummmmmmmmmmmmm!



HOT DOG!!



IT's CUCCP2e time!

Not only will we have succulent watermelons, fascinating watermelon facts, a seed spitting contest complete with prizes, and just a rollicking good time, but we are also having lemonade and Nathan's all beef hot dogs with all the fixin's on July 4. Everyone is welcome!!

Note: This event is a CUCC fundraiser. While we will not charge for the food or fun, a basket will be available to collect your contributions. Please help us to meet our 2004 budget goals!

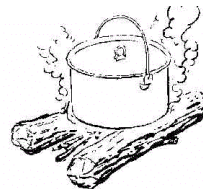
Our Church Bulletin Boards

We know you have noticed the wonderful improvement of the hall bulletin boards. We owe a debt of gratitude to **Judy Kiel** and **Linda Baker** who created this unique fabric background for our postings. They call out for more consistent attention on our part to the items displayed. Be vigilant!

Retirees Group is not meeting during the summer. Make plans now to join us on the second Monday in September.

Saturday Men's Group will continue to meet during the summer.

The Women's Group



**WOMEN'S POT LUCK!!!
COME ONE, COME ALL!!**

All women of the church (and female friends) are invited to come with an appetite and something delicious to share. We'll eat, chat and then use the game, "Life Stories", to get women to share tales from their memories.

Thursday, July 15, 6:30 p.m.
Hoffmann Room.

Our People

The **Kings** and **Littletons** have for many years taken short get-aways to the Bluffs Lodge on the Blue Ridge Parkway. They recommend this facility highly. They would gladly share information about the Bluffs, should you be interested.

Did you know that our **Fawn Pattison** led an effort of Conservation groups to partner with the Agriculture Resource Center to successfully oppose a proposal to weaken rules for aerial spraying of pesticides? The proposal would have permitted toxic pesticides to drift onto residences, churches, and school property. We are all thankful for Fawn's good work on behalf of the public's health.

Garrett Waddell is a recent graduate of Enloe High School. Garrett plans to work full time this next year.

Jane Smith says “thanks” to all who started their day by listening to her sing over the phone. The quest took her all the way to WCPE's Music Director, Ann, who graciously took her turn listening and recognized the piece immediately. The answer? Bohemian (Czech) composer Bedrich Smetana's "The Moldau" from Ma Vlast (My Country). Hooray for public radio!

MJ Tabor Damin, now in Ohio (see * below), emailed “Blessings to all.”

The wall mural on the building at Glenwood and Peace Streets was painted by **Autumn Cobeland** and Kellie Lewis. The porch scene invites people to recognize the presence of the Glenwood/Brooklyn historic neighborhood.

From Vandy

We have asked CUCC members to send us stories to share. I am practicing what I preach with a few “churchly” snips from Serbia:

On my last day, my hosts Dusan and Zeljka Jovanovitch and I took a steam locomotive excursion train to Sremski Karlovci, on the Danube about 57 kilometers from Belgrade. May is peak wildflower season, so the kaleidoscopic ride through red, blue, purple, and yellow fields was almost sensory overload! Once the seat of the Serbian Orthodox church, the little town is still the Patriarch's summer home. The story is told that Empress Maria Teresa's carriage broke down there, and in gratitude for the generous help of the villagers, she made a gift of it to the townspeople. Dusan's family still have their portion, which tax-free in perpetuity, according to the Empress' terms (Amazingly enough, the Communist regime honored not only the land grant but the tax-free status). The first Serbian secondary school (1713) still operates, as does a boarding school for pre-seminary students.

In the early days of WWII, Dusan's grandfather was head of the largest church there, and escaped with his family to Belgrade ahead of the Croatian puppet government forces. A photo of him making a protest speech was published in the newspaper, so once again he fled – back to Sremski Carlovci, this time with the help of German friends made while studying at Cambridge and the Sorbonne. Townsfolk hid him in the belfry of a smaller church for the remaining four years of the

war. We visited that lovely little Upper Church and attended Saturday services at the church he served. The sanctuary and choir were full of young men from the prep school, whose entry requirements include excellent grades, high recommendations, and a good singing voice. After seminary, marriage is required before ordination as a priest (!). We had earlier been in the church to admire its lovely iconostasis and other artwork.

I tried not to gawk at a bride and groom being photographed outside, as her burgundy *hair* matched her attendants' gowns – a new fashion?

There is much more to tell about Sremski Karlovci – its delicious river fish, wonderful honey, brandy, and wine from a centuries-old family firm (one of their products was on the Titanic's wine list), and certainly more about Serbia – another time!

Congratulations



HATS OFF!!!!

To **Helen Brown** who is 102 years young on July 6. Flowers will be sent to her from the church. Cars would be appreciated. Helen's address is 1500 Sawmill Rd. #102 SHC, Raleigh 27615.

Roster

Add:

Paul Flick – 320 Shepherd St., Raleigh, 27607 – phone: 832-3537.

Ted and Binks Mew – 3715 Trenton Rd. Raleigh 27607 – phone: 832-9445

*MaryJane Tabor Damin
33683 Bainbridge Rd.
No. Ridgeville, OH 44039

Email:

Jane Smith has her own email address now – smithjeg@mindspring.com.

Community Outreach



Food Bags will be collected on **Sunday, July 4th**, and every **first Sunday** of the month.

Another **23** Emergency Food Bags were delivered to Urban Ministries in June. A goodly number! Let's keep up this level of giving – especially during the summer months when many children in crisis-ridden families are deprived of free school lunches because of the vacation schedule. An emergency food bag can forestall hunger!

Prayers

The Monday Lunch Group offers prayers each week for those persons and needs of which they are aware. Please write requests on a slip of paper and place it on the offering plate or in one of the prayer jars at the back of the sanctuary or in Pilgrim House. Our prayers are especially solicited this month for **Jo Lemons** and **Nancy Keppel**.

The Wider Church

Southern Conference Annual Meeting

On June 9-11, **Steve Halsted**, **Dawn Pickett**, and **Ann McLaughlin** attended the Southern Conference meeting at Elon University. The theme of the conference was “Dare to Believe, Dare to Do Justice”. The speakers were excellent; the worship services were creative and inspiring; and there was positive energy, commitment, and sound theological reflection. In addition, the atmosphere was more relaxed than in the previous few years when the conflict over the acceptance of the North Raleigh Church was always hanging in the air.

Kaye Crawford, a retired minister from Hillsborough, recognized **Nancy Peeler Keppel** and the book that she edited with Jeanette Stokes (the executive director of The Resource Center for Women in Ministry in the South).

On a more somber note, The Southern Conference is in serious financial difficulty. We had a deficit of over \$120,000.00 last year. **Steve Camp**, the Conference Minister, says that he has a plan that will allow us to have a balanced budget by 2005.

Eight churches have withdrawn from the Conference in the last year, and we have lost over 3,000 members. Some other churches have withdrawn some of their financial support. There are other churches that have not contributed their financial support for years.

The Western NC Association is now facing the same kind of conflict around the ordination of homosexual persons that we in the Eastern Association have faced over the inclusion of the Open and Affirming North Raleigh Church.

I give thanks for the Conference Staff, and especially Steve Camp. They have worked faithfully, steadily, energetically, and prayerfully for the Conference. I believe and have hope that with their efforts, combined with the efforts of other committed clergy and laity, we can dare to do justice and dare to hope for continued reconciliation.

This is a brief summary of complex issues, and if you have questions, I would be glad to discuss them with you.

-Ann McLaughlin

The Wider Community

Fairmont UMC Parents' Morning Out program has openings in Fall 2004 classes for one to four-year-olds. Fairmont is pleased to announce the addition of a half-day Pre-K class for four-year-olds this year. To schedule a visit or receive a registration packet please call the Director at 622-3205. Fairmont is located at 2501 Clark Avenue, between NCSU and Cameron Village.

A Month of Sundays

**July 4, Fifth Sunday
after Pentecost
Food Bags Due**

9:00 – 9:30 Taizé

**10:30 Worship Service
and Church School
Worship Leader
Sue Rogge
Fellowship time**

**July 11, Sixth Sunday
after Pentecost**

9:00 – 9:30 Taizé

**10:30 Worship Service
and Church School**

Fellowship time

**Sunday after
Pentecost**

**9:00-9:30 Taizé with
Communion
10:30 Worship Service
and Church School**

Fellowship time

**July 25, Eighth
Sunday after
Pentecost**

9:00-9:30 Taizé

**10:30 Worship Service
and Church School**

Fellowship time

Lectionary:
2 Kings 5:1-14; Ps 30
OR Isa 66:10-14;
Ps 66:1-9; Gal 6:(1-6),
7-16; Lk 10:1-11, 16-20

Lectionary:
Am 7:7-7; Ps 82 OR
Deut 30:9-14;
Ps 25:1-10; Col 1:1-14;
Lk 10:25-37

Lectionary:
Am 8:1-12; Ps 52 OR
Gen 18:1-10a; Ps 15;
Col 1:15-28;
Lk 10:38-42

Lectionary:
Hos 1:2-10; Ps 85 OR
Gen 18:20-32; Ps 138;
Col 2:6-15, (16-19);
Lk 11:1-13

July 18, Seventh

Insert Calendar

814 Dixie Trail
Raleigh, NC 27607
July 2004 Newsletter

Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Raleigh, NC
Permit #914

**The deadline for our August Newsletter is
July 19.**

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

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