

# **COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

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Stephen S. Halsted, Pastor

June 2003

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### **Lectionary for June**

#### **June 1<sup>st</sup>, Seventh Sunday of Easter**

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Ps 1; 1 Jn 5:9-13; Jn 17:6-19.

#### **June 8<sup>th</sup>, Pentecost Sunday**

Acts 2:1-21 or Ezek 37:1-14; Ps 104:24-34, 35b;

Rom 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21; Jn 15:26-27; 16:4b-15.

#### **June 15<sup>th</sup>, Trinity Sunday**

Isa 6:1-8; Ps 29; Rom 8:12-17; Jn 3:1-17.

#### **June 22<sup>nd</sup>, Second Sunday after Pentecost**

1 Sam 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49; Ps 9:9-20 or

1 Sam 17:57-18:5, 10-16; Ps 133 or Job 38:1-11;

Ps 107:1-3, 23-32; 2 Cor 6:1-13; Mk 4:35-41

#### **June 29<sup>th</sup>, Third Sunday after Pentecost**

2 Sam 1:1, 17-27; Ps 130 or Wis of Sol 1:13-15;

2:23-24; Lam 3:23-33 or Ps 30; 2 Cor 8:7-15;

Mk 5:21-43

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Dear Friends,

Recently I have been attending a very enlightening study group composed of clergy representing different theological perspectives. There are several Catholic priests, several Jewish rabbis and several Protestant pastors. The group is convened by the Rev. Mahan Siler, former pastor of Pullen Memorial Baptist Church.

Our group's purpose is to promote Christian-Jewish theological dialogue in the hope of building a better understanding and respect between our faith communities. We have chosen to read and discuss James Carroll's excellent book titled Constantine's Sword, the Church and the Jews, a historical analysis of the terrible violence and injustice that Jews have experienced over centuries of oppression at the hands of Western Christendom.

James Carroll, who at one point in his career had been a Catholic priest, speaks as a voice calling for reform in the church that would continue to build on the progress of the Second Vatican Council of the early 1960's. Carroll's final chapters are a "Call for Vatican III" which outlines his agenda for a "New

Reformation" that could shape a reconciliation between these two great faith traditions. He recognizes the anti-Judaism bias in the New Testament scriptures that must be addressed and resolved before reconciliation can take place. I have found the book to be very courageous in its honesty to accept the imperfections within the church and the need to broaden its thinking and theology. An example of this is Carroll's call for a new Christology "that honors God by defining God as beyond every human effort to express God. In theologian Karl Rahner's image, God is on the horizon, equally bidding all people to approach, yet equally distant from all people, Christians included."

Our study group's next meeting is Thursday, May 22, when we will dialogue about Carroll's agenda in calling for a Vatican III. The Pope may not choose this kind of dialogue right now, but at the grass-roots level of Christian and Jewish faith, the necessity for this type of study is taking shape and I believe will positively shape the future for true freedom in religion from the prejudices of the past.

Blessings & Peace,

Steve



## PASTOR'S VACATION



Steve will be away on a three-week vacation June 9-28. In his absence, our own Rev. Ann McLaughlin will preach on June 15, and Rev. Mahan Siler, former pastor of Pullen Memorial Baptist, on June 22. The Deacons have arranged for pastoral care during this period through the cooperation of Doug Long (NRUCC), Ann McLaughlin, and Robert Parrish. Please call the office, or if a need occurs outside office hours, call Marge Eckels (787-5552) or Robert Parrish (832-1226 or Vandy Bradow (781-5137).

## DEACONS MINISTRY

The Deacons most recently met on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April and of May; the regular meeting time is 7 p.m. on the Wednesday before the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday so as to precede the monthly Council meeting. If you have any ideas you would like to discuss with the Deacons, or items for our agenda, please contact one of the 12 Deacons: At the April meeting we decided that each Deacon would be responsible for recruiting scripture reading and children's story for a month during the year. This will of course be in consultation with Pastor Steve Halsted, who will continue to do some of the children's stories as he wishes. Again, if you are interested contributing to our Sunday services in either capacity, please contact one of the Deacons. For the remaining months of 2003 the Deacons are responsible respectively for May-Robert Parrish; June-Marty Lamb; July-Geraldine Bryan; August-Peg Hulslander; September-Vandy Bradow; October-I.T. Littleton; November-Marge Eckels; December-Bill Lamb. You could also call Mary Matthews, Lavon Page, Edith Sylla, Pastor N'Sumbu Puati, or Pastor Steve Halsted.

The annual process of meeting with CUCC staff (Steve Halsted, Carol Clark, Anne Moorman-Smith, Doug Barrick, and Anne Bailey Zschau for goal setting, consultation, and evaluation has been taking place and should all be completed by the May 31<sup>st</sup> date set by the Constitution and Bylaws. Feedback from the congregational survey (results announced

and discussed by Edith Sylla at the most recent congregational meeting) were an important part of these discussions. Each meeting is a dialogue with the person being evaluated always going first for uninterrupted observations and comments.

The Deacons also have recommended that Pastor Steve Halsted plan for regular, consistent "time off" so as to avoid burnout. The times and intervals are being worked out, but in general will be about every 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in addition to vacation and study time. The Deacons will arrange for alternate Sunday service coverage.

Please remember that the Deacons, like everyone else, are just settling into our new roles –we are always open to suggestions, comments, and especially help!

Peace,  
Vandy Bradow  
Chair, Deacons Ministry

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## 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 in the prayer jars at the back of the sanctuary or in Pilgrim House.

Among those who need to be remembered in prayer are: Bob Keyes, Jo Lemon, Sister Evelyn Mattern, Nancy Keppel, Sarah Hoffman, Peggy Hoffmann, and Buck Little.

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.

## MEETINGS and EVENTS

Women's Support Group – Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup> Nature Hike in early evening. Place and time to be announced. Leader Geri Bowen 781-3068.

**Monday Lunch Group** will continue to explore avenues for spiritual expression through clay creations, dance, music, & dream work. The group meets at 12:15 each Monday in the Hoffmann Room. Bring a sandwich and enjoy.

**Circle Drumming** – If you’ve never been part of a drumming circle, then circle June 24 on your calendar. No experience necessary – or even desirable! Bring a drum or other percussion instrument (a coffee can will do). We will have some extras. The Monday Lunch group enjoyed a similar experience in May and will help Vandy Bradow lead this event.

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**Open invitation to Doug’s music** – Mac & Peg Hulslander invite everyone to the auction event they purchased. Doug Barrick will entertain on the piano at CUCC, 7:30 July 12. As Peg explained, “It’s just too good not to share!”

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**Retirees** – will not meet during the summer.

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**The Adult Forum** will not meet during the summer months, but your Adult Education Committee is planning some wonderful programs for the Fall.

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### **Faith to Focus Series to be Offered**

A FAITH TO FOCUS event, sponsored by the Cedar Cross Retreat Center in Franklin Co., will be offered in its two-weekend format on July 26-27 (Sat.-Sun.) and September 6-7 (Sat.-Sun.) with a three-hour final session TBD. FAITH TO FOCUS is a faith-based vocational discernment process originally developed by CLAY (Clergy and Laity Together in Ministry.) It is particularly appropriate for persons who are on a spiritual journey but considering career changes, are uncertain about their gifts and current calling in life or are in or approaching a major transition e.g. retirement. The cost will be \$230, which covers tuition, room and board, and materials. Interested persons can get further information from Mac Hulslander

(833-7203) or register with Nancy Newell (834-6071). Feel free to recommend it to friends or family members since it will be an open, ecumenical series.

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### **River Watch Outing Scheduled for Saturday, June 21**

#### *Stream Cleanup*

We are looking for volunteers who enjoy canoeing and want to make a positive contribution to cleaning up the Neuse River from the debris that humans have carelessly littered. Rivers are a vital and beautiful part of God’s web of Creation that humans and many animal and plant species depend on. Here is an opportunity to put our stewardship faith into action. We are looking for helpers with and without canoes to come along on this fun outing for adults and teens. Please contact John Little (781-0829) or Sam Gaither (851-4107) to participate and/or for directions to the Milburnie Canoe Launch.

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

From **Adult Forum**

Sally Buckner, teacher, writer and poet did a wonderful program “Poets for Peace” in the Adult Forum. She read from a number of poets and some of her own poetry. “The Long Highway” is one that she read and for those who missed it we have, with Sally’s permission, printed it for you.

#### **The Long Highway**

So we head for home,  
Leaving grey waves, which, too placid to crash,  
fold themselves onto the smooth-swept shore.  
hurtling through the roar of I-95,  
we spot buttercups like scraps of sunlight  
spotching roadsides, blood-red clover  
staining the median, broad meadows cast  
in a lavender blur. The radio buzzes

with scraps and splotches and blood  
and blurs from two continents away.

Yesterday, overlooking strands of sand  
like beige silk trimmed with shreds of lace,  
we sipped our cabernet, spoke of condos  
spreading along the coast, displayed the camera  
we used to frame snowy swarms of gulls  
swooping the blue-satin sky,  
to capture the glow of pearl-sleek water.

Today, loosed from the siren-song  
of sun-warmed sea, we cannot believe  
in serenity, nor can we claim to deserve it.  
For we have beaten ploughshares into swords,  
pruning hooks into spear,  
closed our ears to the old proclamation:  
*I ain't gonna study war no more...*

Aware of blood pounding distant shores,  
of our dorsals sundering skies and vincible  
bodies,  
we wonder that, again, shorn of imagination,  
we have forsaken the possibilities of carrots,  
yet again returned to sticks, intensified  
in number and in power.

Gazing into the cloud-brushed horizon,  
we weave from lane to lane  
and yearn for mercy.

-- Sally Buckner

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**CUCC Church School News**

During the month of June we will be exploring  
different faiths.

Our preschool class will be learning about children  
from all over the world through a variety of stories,  
activities and crafts. We will provide a new look for  
our classroom with the children's own creations.

Our elementary class will start the month off with  
an exciting round of Christian Jeopardy! On June 8  
Marcy Halsted will visit and share with us about the  
Jewish faith. On June 15 we will have a guest from  
Muslim faith, Ghazala Sidiq. On June 22 Moni  
Sawhney will visit and share with us about the  
Hindu faith. We are planning to have a guest from  
the Buddhist faith, Padmini Hands, on June 29.

**Confirmation Class News**

If you think you saw 8 youngsters flailing pillows at  
each other on the church lawn one recent Saturday  
morning, you may not have been hallucinating. The

Middle Schoolers' Confirmation/Sunday School  
class celebrated the conclusion of the year's  
schedule with a "Lock-In" Friday May 16 in the  
Pilgrim House. Pastor Steve started things off with  
an ice-breaker card game that uses 8 decks of  
cards. After hours of Twister, Monopoly, and Risk,  
McCray Harris' pancake breakfast was just the fuel  
the group needed to spur the pillow incident.

Since first meeting on Jan.12, this group has  
enjoyed learning about the parts and order of  
worship, how scripture becomes sermon that  
informs our lives, and acted the process out by  
writing and producing a puppet show as a sermon  
based on the parable of the lost sheep in church on  
March 9. On March 29 they made and delivered  
lunch to the Habitat for Humanity site work crew.

If you are a rising 6th, 7th or 8th grader and this  
sounds like fun to you, you are invited to join the  
confirmation class when it resumes the third Sunday  
in August.

We would like to thank the church for all of your  
support, especially Pastor Steve, Sally Roberson  
and Bayard Alcorn, Margaret Osborne, McCray  
Harris, Elizabeth King, Sue Cottle, Joan McAllister,  
Anne Bailey Zschau and Judy Kiel.

Submitted by Sue Rogge

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***HELP!!!!***

We're looking for a few good men and women who  
would be willing to lead a Sunday School class for  
our children. Each Sunday we need a leader for our  
Preschool-Kindergarten class and our 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade  
class. If you would be willing to help out from time  
to time, please call Anne Bailey Zschau at 424-8122  
and leave your name and number. I will call you  
back and schedule a Sunday that fits your schedule.  
We especially need teachers in the summer so  
please help us if you can!

**CHRISTIAN WITNESS**

**Social Action**

Ray Buchanan, President and CEO of "Stop Hunger  
Now" has arranged for Charles Pumbu's brother,  
Rev. Boyaka Okumu, to take \$2,500 worth of

medicines back to the Congo when he returns in July. In order to supply this amount of medicine our Congregation must provide \$500. \$150 has already been pledged but the opportunity to have a part in this humanitarian effort remains. The Council voted to approve this as a CUCC project. Checks should be made payable to "Stop Hunger Now" with the memo notation "**Medicines for the Congo.**" Please give your check or notice of your intent to provide a check to Cy King. This effort represents a three-way partnership between CUCC, Stop Hunger Now and the Clinic Eispenaire Cadelu Manyanga in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

### Wider Outreach



In April and May we contributed a total of 42 emergency food bags to the Urban Ministry Center. The bags were most welcome on their shelves, but we shouldn't get complacent about that level of giving. During the upcoming summer months children are not attending school and miss out on free breakfasts and lunches. Emergency food bags become all the more important to keep family nutrition at a minimal level. Keep that in mind for the first Sunday in June. Let's meet our goal of 25 food bags per month! (Gentle reminder: Please place your food in double bags; i.e. one bag inside the other. Thanks!)

Reminder: **Food Bags** will be collected on June 1st (Sunday).

## **WELCOMING FELLOWSHIP & GROWTH MINISTRY**

### **Communications**

If you are not receiving our national monthly newspaper, UCC News, and would like to, please

call the office and notify Carol Clark. This publication is free and a very good way to get a feel for what other UCC congregations and our national staff are doing. We highly recommend it.

## **SPECIAL DAYS**

### **Youth Birthdays**

#### **June Birthdays\***

6/1/00 – Cammy Riemann  
6/4/97 – Isaac Milandu  
6/12/93 – Angelina DeVito  
6/13/95 – Carson Roach-Howell  
6/20/84 – Jeremy Allen  
6/20/85 – Esther Pumbu  
6/24/95 – Jonny Cookmeyer  
6/30/97 – Ernesto Rivera

#### **July Birthdays\***

There are no July birthdays

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

## **MEMORIAL GARDEN UNDER WAY**

Continuation of the construction of a memorial meditation garden is progressing. Persons interested in assisting with financing, planting, weeding, purchasing, etc. are asked to contact Mac Hulslander (833-7203). The cost for implementing

Phase I of the garden project is estimated at \$4240, of which \$2100 is immediately available. Tax-deductible contributions toward Phase I and/or Phase II can be made to CUCC & earmarked for the memorial garden.

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## OUR PEOPLE

**Congratulations** to our Class of 2003 seniors:

**Jeremy Allen** is graduating from Cary Academy.

**Esther Pumbu** is graduating from Broughton.

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### **CUCC Newsletter June 1993**

May was a special month of honors for **Cally Rogers-Witte**, who received a distinguished career service award at her alma mater, Mary Baldwin College, on May 29. And earlier in the month, at the meeting in Greensboro on May 5 of the North Carolina Council of Churches' House of Delegates, she was installed as President for the coming year. Our prayers and best wishes, Cally, as you assume this position of both honor and responsibility. As one of many proposals decided upon at that same meeting, the House of Delegates approved membership in the Council of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Churches ..... Congratulations to **Jo Lemons** on the birth of her granddaughter Rachel Marie Matney on May 1. Jo was able to spend a week in Wilmington enjoying new-born Rachel Marie and parents, Renee and Mark..... **Keith Petersen** became Membership Chair of the North Carolina Poetry Society at its May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. Also at that meeting, he received first prize in this year's Caldwell W. Nixon, Jr. contest (poems written for children, 2-12) for his poem *Train In The Rain*. This poem has been published in the Society's Award Winning Poems 1993. Two others of his poems (so far) have been, or will be, published in 1993: *After Reading Your Letter*, The Lyric 73:2 (Spring 1993) and *Visit To The New York Museum of Modern Art*, The Greensboro Review (August 1993)..... On Friday evening, May 23, at Elon College a special ceremony was held for

*the 20 seniors who had completed requirements as Isabella Cannon Leadership Fellows. Bronze medals, especially designed for graduates of this program, were presented by Isabella Cannon and were worn next day at graduation ceremonies on maroon and gold ribbons as a significant part of the graduation regalia.....Susan Alff is now the Children's Manager at Wellington's Books of Cary, which includes book buying, program scheduling, book fair arrangements, and teacher/parent needs. (She is a great person to speak with if you are looking for recommendations for children's books.).....I.T. Littleton has just completed his book, D. H. Hill Library, An Informal History, 1887 to 1987. As many of you know, I.T. retired as Director of the Library in 1987 (and like most of our retirees, seems to be busier than ever!)..... Community United Church of Christ will receive one of three Just Peace Awards given by the Office for Church in Society at their dinner on July 16 – part of the U.C.C. Nineteenth General Synod being held in St. Louis, Missouri. CUCC was chosen from over 30 highly-qualified nominees sent by leaders throughout the United Church of Christ. The presentation of this Award recognizes that the “public witness and concern for justice and peace” of the people of this church (over many decades) “has made a difference...bringing hope and new opportunities for those most vulnerable in our nation and world.” CUCC folk planning to attend the presentation include **Cally Rogers-Witte, Dave Barber, Nancy Keppel, Cy and Carolyn King, Peg Hulslander and Ursula Schmitt-Pridik**. Cy, who will accept the award, and Nancy were instrumental in providing documentation for our nomination.*

## **Isms and Issues: An Introduction to Multicultural Awareness**

Friends and Members of CUCC:

I encourage you to register for **Isms and Issues: An Introduction to Multicultural Awareness** which will be offered at the church on June 28th from 9 AM to 6:30 PM by the ManKind Project. The price

is reasonable and I feel sure that it will be an excellent training. I know Henry Thurman, one of the trainers, personally. In my judgment, he is a strong leader with a soft voice and big heart. The training is filling so don't delay.

The ManKind Project is an organization working to bring healing to the world by helping men re-connect their heads with their hearts. We provide various trainings including the New Warrior Training Adventure, an initiation into mature masculinity open to all men age 18 years and up (the Warrior referred to is the Jungian archetype of the Warrior; it is called New to distinguish it from Old Warrior typified by the immature use of warrior energy, often in hurtful and destructive ways). If you would like to know more about the ManKind Project, I invite you to visit the website at [www.mkp.org](http://www.mkp.org) and to talk with me, Roger Manus, Tom Griggs or Paul Kiel. Also, you are invited to the Homecoming celebration for men who have just completed the New Warrior Training Adventure weekend to be held at CUCC next Sunday, June 1st at 6:30 to 8:30 PM in the Vaughan Wing. At the Homecoming, you will hear men talk about their experience and what it has meant to them.

In service, Jim Smith

**PRESENTERS: Rick Broniec (MKP Full Leader) and Henry Thurman (MKP Full Leader) of the MKP Multi-cultural Resource Team**

**Date: Saturday, June 28, Time: 9:00am -6:30pm  
Location: Community United Church of Christ,  
Tuition: \$125.00 per person, \$200 per couple**

**Who can register: Any man initiated in MKP, any woman initiated in Woman Within, any partner of an initiated person, any member of the above church or member of the Raleigh Men's Center**

**Many members of the ManKind Project have wondered why there are so few men or women of color, young men or women, gay women or men, poor people and men and women from other cultures in our ranks. The ManKind Project has confronted these difficult questions of multiculturalism head on in 2000 in a powerful and hopeful way by creating the Multicultural Resource Team (MRT). This team of 30 men has**

**been trained to work with these issues by exposure to a very useful and effective model of multiculturalism called the Visions Model. In this workshop we will share several aspects of this model with participants-both didactically and experientially. You will have the opportunity to see what "isms" live in you and how they work in your life. You will be challenged to look at some of your prejudices, internalized oppression and behaviors in a non-shaming environment!**

**What will you walk away with from this workshop? Our intention is to focus on sensitizing our community to our differences and shadows around "isms". We will share some useful and powerful tools for working with our "isms" shadows. You will discover where you are a "target" of discrimination and where you are "non-target", as well. We will practice using these tools together in some process work.**

**This is very much Mission work for Rick and Henry, who believe that Multicultural work is the next great area of growth for the MKP and WW organizations... and for us as men and women.**

**Please join us for a day of learning, discussion, reflection, and sharing on the deeply moving topic of Multiculturalism. We promise you, it will be worth your time and energy! Ho!**

**This powerful training is limited to 25 participants, so don't wait. it will fill quickly! To resister send your check for \$125.00 made out to MKP-GCC to Steve Compton, 102 Chatsworth Place, Summerville,SC 29485 [scompton@sc.rr.com](mailto:scompton@sc.rr.com) 843.851.0182 (home) 843.709.2554 (cell)**

## **ROSTER UPDATES**

Email add:

Maria Riemann: [murrayriemann@bellsouth.net](mailto:murrayriemann@bellsouth.net)

Add:

Keeler, Tracey, 120 Fishers Creek Ct., Cary, NC 27513, 463-9254, [tracey\\_keeler@ncsu.edu](mailto:tracey_keeler@ncsu.edu).  
Children, Eva & Brodie.

## **REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS**

### **Habitat celebration May 17**

The day was dreary, but the celebration was bright and uplifting. Steve led our "House Blessing in the Protestant Tradition" and Linda Baker and Anne Pope led the group in our CUCC Blessing Song. Anne and Linda then presented the quilts Linda had made on CUCC's behalf to Emmanuel, Margaret and Evelin Kembe. Emmanuel sang songs that reflect on his life experiences (several CDs are now available). St. Lukes and CUCC prepared the big spread of food for the volunteers and neighbors with hotdogs and fixings, potato salad/slaw and baked beans - plus lots of desserts.

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2003 audit of conditions in the categories of physical condition, building/lots, and environmental problems found 122 items in good or excellent condition, 461 in need of repair. Mayor Meeker sent a letter pledging specific support; Councilmen West and Kirkman and Assistant City Manager Wray did the same in person. Next steps are training the next cadre to work on ROAR priorities (June 16) and accountability/follow-up meetings with Raleigh City Council members and other city officials. Councilman Benson Kirkman, after the meeting, said that if "we could get this kind of presence and support at Council meetings" (talking about the delegate assembly) that the Council and ROAR could accomplish much.

Vandy  
Bradow,  
CUCC  
delegate

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From The Manual of the National Fellowship of Congregational Christian Women, re-discovered by Carolyn King:

Lord temper with tranquility  
my manifold activity  
that I may do my work for thee  
with very great simplicity.

### **ROAR heard at Delegate Assembly**

151 representatives from 14 organizations heard the summary results of the first neighborhood audits by ROAR (Raleigh Organizing for Action and Results) at the May 27 delegate assembly held at Mt. Pleasant Church in Southeast Raleigh. The March

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