

COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Nurturing Spiritual Growth and Working For Social Justice

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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

Dear Friends,

As we move into the months of June and July, I will be away at various points for church meetings and vacation time. To help you remember my schedule I will sketch it out below:

June 3-5: I will attend the Southern Conference Annual Meeting in Norfolk, VA. In my absence UCC Minister Mac Legerton will preach on James 4:13-5:6. His sermon is titled: "Toward a Moral Economy". Mac will also lead communion that Sunday.

June 20-22: I will chaperone along with my wife **Marcy** and **Toni and Roger Manus** the Middle School mission trip to Washington D.C.

July 1-5: I will attend the UCC General Synod in Atlanta GA. At that meeting our friend and previous pastor, **Cally Rogers-Witte**, will be voted as the next Executive Minister for Wider Church Ministries!!

July 15-August 5: Marcy and I will be on vacation in CT and MA. We will attend my brother's son Andrew's wedding July 16 in CT and see lots of relatives and then relax for 2 weeks at our family cottage on Cape Cod. We hope to have our son **Janaka** and daughter **Elizabeth** with us for part of our vacation - something that hasn't happened for 4 years! They are now both finished with college and this will be a nice way to celebrate with them.

Blessings and Peace,

Steve

Congregational Meeting

A called congregational meeting was held May 1, 2005 to transact two items of business:

Consideration of a resolution on "Open Marriage Proposal" and Nominations/elections for open CUCC positions.

Moderator Bill Bryan called the meeting to order at noon. After the minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved, the resolution, proposed for CUCC co-sponsorship at General Synod in Atlanta, was read. A motion to approve was made. After long discussion, the congregation voted unanimously to approve support of the resolution.

In a related motion, the congregation passed a motion to support the resolutions, but object to the term “sexual preference” and strongly endorse a change to “sexual orientation.”

The Nominating Committee presented a slate of nominees for open positions, including **new chairs of Community Outreach and Stewardship (June Bolton and Lisa Leiser-Banks, respectively)**. The slate was approved unanimously.

Marge Eckels moved that the church by-laws be followed with regard to terms of service on committee assignments, and this motion was approved unanimously.

In the absence of Clerk Sue Richey, John Little graciously agreed to take notes of the meeting.

Church Council

The Church Council met May 16; Past Moderator Karen Haley presided. Minutes were read and approved as revised. Mary Pruneau provided the Treasurer’s report and suggested that the church purchase a coin counter to facilitate the large amount of coins involved in collections such as One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). The purchase was approved. June Bolton, Community Outreach, reported on the success of OGHS, “Lunch with Friends, and youth commissioning. The congregation on May 15 **commissioned Jessica, Jack, and Sam Alcorn and Austin Osborne-Newman** to for the Appalachian Service Project, and **Anna Roach-Howell, Abby Smith, Elena Briere, Angelina DeVito, and Goldie Difuidi** for the Washington, DC mission trip. Geri Bowen will be Community Outreach rep for the VBS Steering Committee. The volunteer portion of the Habitat House construction has been completed.

Allen Beidler continues to work on a proposal for sanctuary lighting improvement.

The Council’s next meeting will be at 7:00 p.m., June 27, at 7:00 p.m. in the Pilgrim House.

Deacons

While Steve is away June 3-5 attending the 40th Annual Meeting of the Southern Conference UCC in Norfolk, Va., Rev. **Mac Legerton** will deliver the sermon on Sunday, June 5.

Mac is a graduate of St. Andrews College in Laurinburg and Union Theological Seminary in

New York and is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ. He is Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Center for Community Action in Lumberton. Mac directs seven CCA projects that provide diverse approaches to youth, family, community, and leadership development and systems reform.

At the present time, Mac is visiting numerous churches and preaching on economic and environmental education and justice concerns. Over 10,000 jobs have been lost in Robeson County since the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was passed in 1993, more than any other rural county in the State and perhaps the nation.

The message of the sermon is entitled: “Toward a Moral Economy” and is based on James 4: 13-5:6. The message of this passage is a familiar one: that the process of trading, getting gain, and getting rich is not the essential nature of life. On the positive and pro-active side, the sermon contains the message that the very purpose of an economy is to sustain people and place. It is a call to redefine the role of the market as to be in service to and support the freedom of people, not the other way around.

June Bolton is taking a break from her “Meet the Deacons” series of deacon profiles during the summer months. The series will resume in the fall.

Art Wall

The photo-etchings of CUCC member **Annette Marsland** reflect the influence of Italy, where the artist is a frequent summer visitor.

Memorial/Meditation Garden

If you haven’t walked through the garden lately, please do! Come early and have a few moments before services, or linger to appreciate the beauty. **Sue Cottle and Russell Williams** cared for the garden during May.

New Banners

Our sanctuary was graced and our congregation blessed to enjoy the several new banners provided by the **Church School students and their teachers**. The banners illustrate the “I am”

statements of Jesus that the children have been learning. The children led the congregation in a special litany celebrating the "I am" statements (the door, the light...) during the May 15 worship service. **THANK YOU!!**

Religious Education

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL NEWS

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this year's intergenerational gatherings on the 13's !!! That's

June 13
July 13
August 13

We need you, your family, and your friends to participate!!! Let's make this year's VBS a big success like last years!

The theme this year is "Learning to Care for God's Creation. " This is a theme that children really embrace as well as adults.

- On the first evening - June 13 – we will begin at 6:30pm sharp to hear a guest speaker. One of our elected officials; either Jennifer Weiss or Deborah Ross is being invited to talk about current topics related to the environment.
- We will have a pot-luck dinner (please bring cold foods like salads, cold cuts and bread, raw cut up veggies etc.) We will provide drinks and dessert!
- While we eat there will be a slide show of nature photos.
- We will play two outdoor games on the lawn. Blob Tag will teach us about the interconnected web of all life. The Firefighter's Race will teach us about caring for our water resources!
- We will plant some seed pots to grow for both home and church gardens and we will begin to write short letters to our representatives about our support for combating global warming.
- We will close the evening by 8 p.m. with a circle of song and prayer.
- Don't miss out on this fun and informative evening.
-

Please mark your calendars now for June 13 at 6:30pm.

Church School

During June, the preschool and elementary kids will be learning about the story of the Loaves and Fishes. The theme of the unit is "When we share what God gives us, other people feel God's love." Lots of fun cooking, art and story telling activities are being planned, including making prints with real fish on June 19.

The rising 5th/6th grade class and 7th/8th grade preconfirmation class will have a series of special experiences during the summer called "Worshipping God in Many Ways." They'll be exploring the different ways Christians worship God by visiting our 10:30 a.m. and Taizé worship services and the worship services at other churches, including Sacred Heart Cathedral and United Church of Chapel Hill. After each service we'll compare notes over lunch. Call Suzette Roach at 460-8678 for more information.

The Rotation Church School committee will have its annual planning retreat from 6 p.m. on Friday, June 9, until 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 11. Any parents of church school children are welcome to attend. Call Jane Smith for information.

Welcome Back, Anne Bailey Zschau!

In June we are happy to be able to welcome back our Church School Coordinator Anne Bailey Zschau. Anne has had to attend to her husband Ed during his hospitalization and recuperation. He is doing much better now yet his full recuperation will take several more months. We have missed Anne Bailey and are glad she is able to return to work on Sunday June 5. Thanks to all the parents who have stepped in to cover during Anne's absence. You all have kept the spirit of Sunday School wisdom going for our children and they continue to grow and brighten up our church family! Anne Bailey has asked me to convey her deep appreciation to all of you for your prayers during this period of time.

Steve

Adult Forum will not meet during the summer months (June-August).

Sunday Bible Study

1 Corinthians has been finished and nothing new will be started until the Sunday after Labor Day (September 11) at which time discussion will be centered around which books will want to be studied. Anyone who wants to attend that meeting to help them decide what to study is welcome.

Monday Lunch Group

Bring lunch and join us in the Hoffmann Room Mondays at 12:15 p.m. During June, July, and August, the group will repeat its popular series exploring spirituality. Among the choices will be music, dance, poetry, clay imagery, and drumming. For more information, call **Geraldine Bryan**.

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. For more information, contact **Mike Schafale**, 567-1098. Bring a bag supper.

Retirees Fellowship

All persons active or interested in the Retirees' Fellowship are urged to attend a meeting at 10AM Monday, June 13, at Pilgrim House to plan our programs and activities for the coming fall and winter seasons. Come and share your ideas and suggestions, and help put together an interesting and exciting series of meetings and events.

Bob Hazel

Women's Support Group

The group will meet Thursday, June 16, at 7 p.m. in the Bradow room. "Tell about a book or books you have enjoyed reading in the last year." Then we will have a discussion and contest to choose a new name for our group. Any questions? Call **Kathy Widenhouse**, 368-3097. Please note that there will be no meeting in July. Come to the melon cutting!

Social Justice

A petition in support of HB 330, entitled "Living Wage Act" was available for signature May 29, and is still worthy of your attention and support. The text reads,

"We the undersigned members and friends of Community United Church of Christ urge you to support HB 330, entitled 'Living Wage Act.'

In North Carolina people who work hard should not be poor, but unfortunately many are. Our minimum wage of \$5.15 has not been increased in eight years. We think the time has come to raise it.

We realize that an increase to \$6.15 on Labor Day, 2005, "\$7.15 on Labor Day of 2006 and \$8.50 on Labor Day 2007, as called for in the Bill, will not solve the problem of poverty in North Carolina, but we believe that it is a step in the right direction. A good measure of whether to support a bill is what effect it will have on 'the least of these.' In this instance the 'least of these' are those who work every day for %5.15 an hour. Please vote to improve their lives by voting for HB 330.

Thank you for your consideration."

For more information about the issue and opportunities to express support, contact **Cy King**.

Welcoming, Fellowship and Growth



INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION AT CUCC

Make plans now to enjoy:

Hot dogs and watermelon in the courtyard after services JULY 3

As he has done for many years, **Everette Noland** will provide the melons!





Our Young People's Birthdays

- 6/1/00 – Cammy Riemann
- 6/4/97 – Isaac Milandu
- 6/12/93 – Angelina DeVito
- 6/13/95 – Carson Roach-Howell
- 6/21/00 – Henry Goering
- 6/24/95 – Jonny Cookmeyer
- 6/27/97 – Colleen Barrick
- 6/30/97 – Ernesto Rivera-Saavedra
- 7/2/01 – Greer Eckard

Please write **prayer requests** on a slip of paper and place it in the offering plate or in one of the prayer jars (Narthex or in Pilgrim House.) Our prayers are solicited for **Marge Eckels and the Eckels family, Jo Lemons, Jo Banks, Carolyn King, Al Matthews, Blake Matthews (Al's grandson),** who is serving as a Ranger in Iraq, **Ruby Lamb, John Little, Ed Zschau, Anne Scott, Pat Young, and Kerma Hazel.**

We join our **Congolese community** and the Universal Church of the Twelve Apostles (EUDA) in praying for peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and for the people. We especially pray for EUDA family members still at terrible risk in that country.

Community Outreach



Food Bags will be collected on **Sunday, June 5,** and every **first Sunday** of the month.

In May our congregation contributed 22 emergency food bags to Urban Ministries. It is important to remember that during the summer months eligible children do not have access to free school lunches. This puts a greater burden on families where shortage of food is chronic. Please keep your contributions coming routine to meet this need. Thank you!

Accolades to the CUCC Congregation for your generosity in giving:

\$4175.00 for Tsunami relief, sent to victims via the Southern Conference and UCC.

\$2595.00 for "One Great Hour of Sharing,-- over 100% more than was collected in 2004!

\$695.00 for the May 15 "Lunch with Friends".to benefit the Alliance of AIDS Services-Carolina.

Our People

Congratulations

Bob Lathlaen and **Jocelyn Powell** are happy to announce their marriage on Saturday, May 21st.

Condolences

It is with sadness we report the death on May 27 of **Marge Eckel's son Alan Eckels.** Alan had been in poor health for many months. Marge's daughters Marilyn and Christine, came from Bellingham, Washington and Ft. Collins, Colorado, respectively, to be with their mother and brother Peter. Alan was an avid baseball fan, so the family requests that any memorials be sent to the Durham Bulls Youth Athletic League for underprivileged children: 409 Blackwell St., Durham, NC 27802. Prayers are of course always welcome.

Thanks

Your cards and loving support during the time that my family and I struggled with grief over my brother Phil's passing were very much appreciated. God has blessed this congregation with a warm spirit. Thank you for sharing it with me.

Sue Rogge

Ruby Lamb has moved back to Mayview; Bill and Marty report that she hopes to be back at Whitaker Glen in six week or so. We hope so, too!

We (CUCC office) got news from **Cindy Chalou,** in Okemos, MI of daughter **Becky** 's graduation.

June Bolton is on summer break from her profile series, but was one of three CUCC members who took the pulpit May 15 to sketch their own profiles in faith. June, **Roger Manus and Mike Schafale** have agreed to make their written notes for these moving presentations available to fellow CUCC

members who would like to read them. Call the office if you would like a copy.

CUCC Directory

Add:

Kurk Brewington, 594 Carlyle Rd., Zebulon, NC 27597, 441-1959, theteckie@hotmail.com.

Change:

Les Twible, 910 Cindy St., Cary, NC 27511, 481-1724, twiblesl@nc.rr.com.

Wider Community

Thanks for Your Help with ASP! Thanks to the generous support of CUCC, **Jessica Alcorn, Jack Alcorn, Sam Alcorn, and Austin Osborne-Newman** raised \$1300 by selling stock for the **Appalachia Service Project (ASP)**. The Church Council approved \$500 in matching funds to bring the grand total to \$1800.

Sam, Jessica, Jack, and Austin will also participate in the Appalachian Service Project. The four young people will travel to Floyd County, Kentucky during the week of June 26-July 2. ASP is a Christian home-repair ministry serving poor families in rural Appalachia. Everyone who purchased stock for ASP will receive a postcard from the youth while they are in Kentucky.

Wider Church

I have been invited to lead the annual Fall Retreat at Blowing Rock UCC conference center. It is planned each year at peak foliage season for the enjoyment of retirement-age UCC members who can get away for a few days of fellowship and spiritual uplift. It is open to anyone from the Southern Conference churches so get it on your calendar now and plan to register soon to hold your spot.

"Creation Spirituality in the New Millennium"

is the theme of the Fall Retreat on October 17-20. What better time than autumn in the colorful mountains around Blowing Rock to appreciate and celebrate the goodness and glory of God's Creation!! Come and relax and spiritually recharge as we worship through attunement to the elements of earth, water, fire and air and the Spirit of the

Risen Christ. Christian tradition has lifted up both the Bible and the Book of Nature as revelation of God's Holy Spirit. Today's world has seemingly lost touch with nature to our detriment. We need to regain a sense of AWE and REVERENCE if we are to fulfill our Biblical role of proper stewards of God's Creation. We will study, discuss, meditate, worship both indoors and out in nature (aided by field trips and walks), sing and perhaps even dance! I will bring my guitar and you are invited to bring along an instrument of your choice. Come and join together for a Happy, Healthy and Holy Retreat experience!

Blessings and Peace, **Steve**

Blowing Rock History

A further reason to sign up for the retreat experience is the place itself. Recently CUCC received an email chronicling the history of Blowing Rock Conference Center (BRCC), more familiarly and affectionately known as "Blowing Rock Assembly Grounds, or BRAG." Titled "Celebrating 60 Years of Ministry," the history was written by William C. Bourdon, Executive Director of BRCC.

Following are a few excerpts. The full text can be obtained from Blowing Rock via email at blowingrocknews@yahoo.com.

In 1945, World War II was ending, Harry S Truman was taking office, and the Southern Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church formally acquired the Hughes Estate, which came to be known as the Blowing Rock Assembly Grounds. Mrs. Annie Shuford, a member of [what is now] Trinity UCC in Conover, spearheaded a campaign to raise sufficient funds to cover the \$17,500 purchase price from members of the very generous Shuford family.

The 1950s and 1960s focused on converting a family summer estate into an Assembly Grounds for the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Eighty guests could be accommodated in Rowe dormitory, built in 1953 and named for Rev. Dr. Walter W. Rowe, whose vision inspired the property acquisition. Shuford Hall Guild Room and Brotherhood Hall providing dining and meeting space; those summer seasons hosted about 1150 guests. "

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June 2005 Newsletter

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The deadline for our July 2005 Newsletter is
June 20th.

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

A Month of Sundays

June 5, Third Sunday
after Pentecost
9:00 – 9:30 Taizé
**10:30 Worship Service
with Communion &
Church School**
**Mac Legerton, Guest
Preacher**
Fellowship Time
Lectionary:
Gen.12:1-9; Ps.33:1-12
OR Hos. 5:15-6:6; Ps.
50:7-15; Rom.4:13-25;
Matt.9:9-13, 18-26

June 12, Fourth Sunday
after Pentecost
9:00 – 9:30 Taizé
**10:30 Worship Service
& Church School**
Fellowship Time
Lectionary:
Gen. 18:1-15, (21:1-7);
Ps, 116:1-2, 12-19 OR
Exod. 19:2-8a; Ps. 100;
Rom. 5:1-8;
Matt.9:35-10:8, (9-23)

June 19, Fifth Sunday
after Pentecost
**9:00 – 9:30 Taizé with
Communion**
**10:30 Worship Service
& Church School**
Fellowship Time
Lectionary:
Gen. 21:8-21; Ps. 86:1-
10, 16-17 OR Jer. 20:7-
13; Ps. 69:7-10, (11-
15), 16-18; Rom. 6:1b-
11; Matt. 10:24-39

June 26, Sixth Sunday
after Pentecost
9:00-9:30 Taizé
**10:30 Worship Service
& Church School**
Fellowship Time
Lectionary:
Gen.22:1-14; Ps. 13 OR
Jer.28:5-9; Ps. 89:1-4,
15-18; Rom. 6:12-23;
Matt. 10:40-42