

# **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@ipass.net](mailto:cucc@ipass.net) - Office Manager: Carol Clark [pastor@communityucc.org](mailto:pastor@communityucc.org) - Rev. Steve Halsted

Website: [www.communityucc.org](http://www.communityucc.org)

**March 2005**

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,

For the past several months, I have been involved in meetings with other clergy in Raleigh who are progressive-minded in their faith perspectives. We are hoping to create a stronger and clearer voice as an alternative to the conservative voice of the Religious Right. We have now created a statement of identity and belief and secured a web-site domain. It is [progressivechurches.org](http://progressivechurches.org) which we hope to have up and running soon. We also hope to advertise our congregations in the News and Observer.

One of the important issues we are concerned with is support for marriage equality in relation to same-sex marriage. On March 15 there will be a Lobby Day: "Defending Our Families – Protecting Our Constitution." We will begin the day at Pullen Memorial Baptist Church with breakfast, worship, and training in lobbying, then move to the General Assembly Building in downtown Raleigh for a noon rally and an afternoon of lobbying. Here is the schedule for the day:

**8:30** Breakfast

**9:15** Interfaith worship service

**10:00** Lobby training

**12:00** Rally at the General Assembly Building

**1:00** Begin lobbying our legislators in small groups, encouraging them to defeat a constitutional amendment that would ban same-sex marriage.

This event is not just for clergy and other religious leaders. We want you to encourage as many people as possible to come to Raleigh on March 15 and participate in this exciting experience.

Blessings and peace

**Steve**

## **Church Council**

In its February 20 meeting, the church Council addressed a number of topics, including:

- a proposal to reclaim Pilgrim House's lower level for the youth group
- a proposal for support of youth participation in ASP, summer 2005
- listing CUCC as a supporter in PFLAG's annual Independent ad
- a letter of thanks from Miracle Smith, recent guest soloist
- the need to assure that no one operates either the new copier or the new dishwashing appliance without receiving training for proper operation
- Pastor Steve's participation in General Synod (Atlanta, July 1-5), and the opportunity for other CUCC members to attend.
- Community Outreach planning for One Great Hour of Sharing in April
- Initiation of a "Sanctuary Enhancement" capital project including a new lighting system, new windows, and drywall to cover cinderblock.
- Purchase of new PC equipment for CUCC's office.

**- Vandy Bradow**

Thanks to all who supported the Valentines Dinner & Movie on Saturday, February 12. You made it a wonderful success and we raised over \$600 for our annual budget. Thanks especially to our chefs **Marcy Halsted, Don and Susan Lane, and Sue Richey**. Also to **Lavon Page and Jo Perry** for technical assistance on the big screen movie! And thanks to all those who helped on set up and cleanup!

## Deacons

The **Easter Sunday** (March 27<sup>th</sup>) service will begin with a processional of the choir and the congregation bringing flowers to the Flower Cross in the front of the sanctuary. You are invited and encouraged to bring flowers for this occasion and place them in buckets of water that will be in place. Flowers will then be provided to the choir and the congregation as they enter the sanctuary.

**Memorial Meditation Garden....** Now that the Garden has been in place for about a year, we urge all of you to use this lovely special area for appreciation of beauty, a spot for quiet meditation and also possibly as a memorial for either yourself or a loved one if and when the need arises. If you are interested in placing remains in the Garden, please discuss your wishes with our pastor. A copy of the Covenants which govern the use of this area may be obtained from the office.

- Carol Kepler

### Art Wall

We appreciate **Lily Keyes** for sharing her photographs of Maine taken by both Lily and Bob. On your way to fellowship after worship, stroll by the Art Wall located outside the Bradow and Hoffmann rooms.

**Folk Choir** – Starting February 27, Maria Riemann and Mike Schafale will be taking over the leadership of the Folk Choir. We are most grateful for the superb job Sally Cook has done for the past two years.

## Deacons' Profile Series

**June Bolton** continues the series of deacon profiles.

*NOTE: subjects of interviews are provided a draft to review, with an opportunity to edit the text.*

### Mary Matthews

Deacon Mary Matthews loves pets, knitting, singing, her family and the United Church of Christ, which came to her aid during a personal crisis 30 years ago. At that time, a friend recommended a UCC church in Rhode Island. Members quickly surrounded her with support, and she's been loyal ever since, even though her husband comes from a fundamentalist family with ties to Bob Jones University.

Mary, too, was raised in an authoritative household and a conservative church. Born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. She was the only child of a dentist and a dental assistant who practiced together and kept close tabs on their daughter. Mary's grandfather was the preacher at the Church of God the family attended. When Mary enrolled at nearby Millersburg State College, her grandfather worried that her major in science might cause her to question creationism. Mary remembers, though, being closer to him than to her parents, and, although she has long since moved on from his theology, her admiration for the way that he preached that all humans should be treated as equals has remained with her.

Mary became a math teacher, married, and had two children, Amy and Jason. When the children were eight and five years old, the conventional pattern of Mary's life was abruptly shattered when her first husband left her to face serious emotional and financial challenges on her own. It was during this crisis that the UCC church enveloped the family with love and practical support, even sponsoring them on family weekend activities.

“My spiritual life developed through the adversities of my life,” Mary recalls now. She says church members helped out in a way that was very soothing, looking over her without trying to direct or control her life. They also got her involved in lots of activities, including taking flowers to people who, in some cases, were in even worse situations than she was. Since then, Mary says she has always been proud of what the UCC has done and wants to emulate those ideals.

Mary also remembers some dramatic answers to prayer during that time. For instance, there was the evening computer course she took that was being given for the very first time. Shortly afterward, she was offered not one, but two assistantships, in computer science at the University of Rhode Island right across from the church. Soon, she was working as a programmer, a career which eventually took her to Florida and then to Huntsville, Alabama, where she worked with Spacelab.

During that period, she joined MENSA, and that's how she met Alfred Matthews. They were married at a UCC church in Florida. They have been in the Triangle area about six years, and though retired, Mary says, "we don't sit home and complain about being old."

A lifetime love of learning has been reflected in their participation with the NCSU Encore program, through which they've taken numerous classes, including "Medicine Through the Ages," and "Scottish History." They are currently adding to their ever-broadening education through their current selections, "The Human Genome" and "Exploring the Da Vinci Code," which looks at Leonardo Da Vinci's art while exploring the theology behind it.

Similarly, both participate in the Adult Forum at CUCC. In addition, Mary is in her third year as a deacon, serves on the Arts in Worship Committee and sings in the choir. Mary says she appreciates how our church has many activities directed to the individual, particularly those who are intellectually inclined, and how those with various gifts are encouraged to use them.

According to Steve, "Mary really understands the heart and soul of the UCC. She has a great loyalty to the church and a real sensitivity to people who have been through struggles that have been laid upon them by injustices in our society."

Steve adds that he misses seeing Mary at Tai Chi, but this doesn't mean she's avoiding physical activity. On the contrary, in recent months Mary and Al have been frequenting the Rex Wellness Center near their home in Garner, usually three times a week. There, Al uses the gym for strength training while Mary participates in water aerobics

classes, reflecting a love of being in the water that dates back to her childhood. They also keep up with a large family, which includes Mary's two grandchildren.

Mary does spend some time at home, taking care of her husband and indulging in still another passion, reading and collecting mysteries. She estimates she has 700-800 covering one of her walls. In any case, it's clear Mary has learned how to unlock some of the perplexing "locked doors" of human existence and shares these keys with her characteristic warmth and enthusiasm through CUCC.

## Religious Education

During Lent, there will be **Bedtime Stories for All Ages** – Cuddle up with some hot chocolate as we listen to Geraldine Bryan tell the stories of Jesus' life. Sign a cocoa mug on the youth bulletin board to help us know how much cocoa to bring. Saturdays, 6:30-7:15 p.m., February 26, March 5 and 12, in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall. Bring a friend. The early hour means you still have time to go out afterwards.

The **Jo Lemons' Lenten study group** are watching and discussing videos on Islam, Buddhism, Judaism and Coptic Christianity. They meet on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. at Jo's home at 3011 Mayview Rd.

### Church School Schedule

- March 6: The story of Jesus and the moneychangers
- March 13: The story of foot washing and the Last Supper
- March 20: *Palm Sunday*. Prayer and the Garden of Gethsemane
- March 27: *Easter Sunday*. The story of the resurrection appearances

### **Adult Forum**

The Forum meets on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall. Come and join us for the upcoming topics .

March 6: Ashley Goff, representing the Wake County Literacy Council. Her topic is: "Literacy Issues and Needs in Wake County."

March 13: Abby Emanuelsohn, of the Multiple Sclerosis Society, will be discussing "Medicaid & Medicare: User Friendly? What about 'Reform'?" from the viewpoint of those with a chronic illness.

March 20 & 27: AFRUS-AIDS and Maryknoll Productions award-winning film: "Coming to Say Goodbye; Stories of AIDs in Africa." This organization is affiliated with the One Great Hour of Sharing that CUCC participates in.

### **Sunday Bible Study**

This group meets Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in the Bradow Room. Call **Pat Spearman** for more information, 781-0041.

### **Monday Lunch Group**

All are welcome to bring lunch and join us in the Hoffmann Room Mondays at 12:15 p.m. For more information, call **Geraldine Bryan**.

### **Wednesday Bible Study**

This group meets at Pilgrim House at 6:30 p.m. on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays to discuss the next week's Lectionary selections. For more information, contact **Mike Schafale**, 567-1098. Bring a bag supper.

## **Welcoming, Fellowship, and Growth**

### **Fellowship opportunity**

Fellowship time after church, with light refreshments in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall, is an important part of our church activities. It serves not only our members but also visitors and makes us a friendlier congregation. To continue this program we are asking members to sign up to help one Sunday a month to provide snacks, make coffee or clean up. If you can do this, please contact **Ed Klemmer** at [erklemmer@earthlink.net](mailto:erklemmer@earthlink.net) or 847-

7992. Three or four people will work together each Sunday.

If you cannot commit to once a month but would be willing to take responsibility for specific dates (or simply help on call), please let Ed know.

### **Retirees Fellowship**

CUCC Retired Folks will meet March 14 at 11 AM in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall to hear a presentation by Jon Heisterberg about PEOPLE/WILDLIFE conflicts and problems. Jon directs the USDA Wildlife Damage Control program in North Carolina, dealing with such matters as nuisance beavers, deer overpopulation in urban areas, non-migratory wild geese in golf course communities, or bears in the back yard. Learning to live in harmony with wildlife is a real challenge for us all - rural and urban dwellers alike. Come learn about this vital subject. Bring a bag lunch, dessert will be provided.

### **Women's Support Group**

The Women's Support Group will not meet in March. The Group needs women to organize one event for a third Thursday night meeting in the Bradow Room at 7 p.m. It can be a potluck, a book discussion, a creative writing time, a speaker, etc. Event announcements can be given to the office at least three weeks before the event. The office will email the congregation as well as announce it in the Sunday church bulletin.

## **New Members**

We welcomed new members to our church Family at the 10:30 Service on February 20<sup>th</sup>. They are: **Chris and Heather Burkhardt, Mary Pickering, and Betsy Towler.**

Chris and Heather have lived in Raleigh for about 9 years. They have a son, Eric, who is 2. Chris works as an Environmental Consultant for Froling & Robertson. Heather, who has a Masters Degree from East Carolina University, works for North Carolina Aging and Adult Services.

Mary Pickering is the great niece of the late Susie Allen and Fannie Bell Jones, two sisters who were long-time CUCC

Betsy Towler was a member of both Covenant Community and the West Raleigh Presbyterian churches. Another former member of Covenant, Lavon Page, introduced Betsy to our church several years ago and she has been attending ever since. Betsy currently is an R.N at Dorothea Dix, working with the children and adolescents.

## Words of Appreciation

We were blessed to be surrounded by family and friends at CUCC as we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary on January 30th and our heartfelt thank you goes out to each of you who made this event so special, joyful and memorable. Special recognition is due **Anne Pope, Betty Anne Ford** and **Nancy Newell** who merged and implemented plans (many of which were a surprise) with the assistance of our son Thomas, Kathy and Kirby; **Geraldine Bryan's** beautiful arrangements of rose bouquets and **Ed Klemmer** for his role of roving photographer. We know there were many others who served in various aspects. The many cards, messages and stories were enjoyed and greatly appreciated. We thank each you!

Blessings and peace, **Shannon and Glenn Core**

**Willie Foggie** has returned to work and we are so pleased to see him back! Willie sends his heartfelt thanks to those who have remembered him with prayers, cards, calls and gifts.

**Jane Keppel Benson** and family writes: "Please convey our appreciation to the girls (and mom's) who sang with our children, the hosts of the reception, and all those in the church community who have conveyed love and support (to **Nancy**). I am thankful that my mother was part of such a beautiful community."

## Our People

**June Bolton** - June has been hired as the Office Manager for Friends of Residents in Long Term Care. Friends is a nonprofit citizen advocacy organization for residents in North Carolina's long term care facilities and their families. There is a

CUCC connection to Friends--Bill Lamb and Roger Manus serve on its board.

**Cindy (Martin) Higgins** and **Brent Cangelos** were united in Christian matrimony on Valentines Day in our Sanctuary. Our best wishes to the new couple as they celebrate their love on this special date!



### Our Young People's Birthdays

3/3/88 – Amanda Bowen  
 3/24/90 – Nick DiVito  
 4/10/04 – Ashley Difuidi  
 4/11/89 – Austin Osborne–Newman  
 4/12/98 – Casey Riemann  
 4/12/99 – John Robertson  
 4/15/90 – Z.B. Haislip  
 4/21/94 – Sidney Keyes

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 continue to remember **Carolyn King**, who is recuperating from surgery, **Jo Banks, Jo Lemons, Audrey Leiser, and Eunice Durgin.**

Our condolences to the family of **Ted Mew** who passed away February 16, 2005, after a courageous battle with cancer.

## Community Outreach



**Food Bags** will be collected on **Sunday, March 6**, and every **first Sunday** of the month.

In February my car was loaded down with 28 food bags – a goodly number. Some were “make-ups” and others were “in advance”, so we can't rest on our laurels. Demand for food assistance continues to be very high at Urban

## From the Archives

### *PRAYER OF INVOCATION*

Commencement at NCSU.  
12/16/92 Cally Rogers-Witte

Come, Spirit of the Living God; come, ground and source of our: being, come Creator of this awesome universe and precious Savior of each, lovely individual person; come Ruler of the Universe- the one who has commanded the lighting of lights at this season, come Great Spirit, come Allah, come Christ Jesus, come Spirit of the one true God known by so many names, revealed in so many ways; come to us now, fill this place and this time and each one of our hearts. Come, God of great and God of small; come, God of our weary years, God of our silent tears; come, God of the whirling planets and God of each glistening dewdrop; come, God of the many nations and God of this one planet earth, come, God of teeming cities and God of rural crossroad communities; come, God of intellect and wisdom, God of feeling and vision; come, God of all peoples everywhere and God of each unique person here today, God of each graduate, each teacher, each friend and family member; come, Spirit of the Living God, breathe your life into us again this morning, remind us of the hallowed nature of this occasion; come to us at this time of ending and beginning, deepen us down to be aware of your presence with us, among us, in us, at this very moment.

Come to us, be joy and peace in us, hear our thanks and praise. We thank you this day for the opportunities you have placed before us for learning and service, for growing and developing, for changing us, for staying true to our inner selves; We thank you for the people who have supported and nurtured and inspired us toward this moment - family members, room-mates, friends, teachers, role models along the way; We thank you for your promise to be with us every step we take into the future.

We know that you do not promise us wealth or security or material success, and we are grateful that you do promise us your constant loving presence in trouble and in rejoicing, in joy and in sorrow,

whatever the future may hold. We thank you for teaching us that we are all interconnected, that what happens in Somalia or Bosnia or India or Los Angeles relates to what happens in Raleigh, North Carolina, that war anywhere or famine anywhere or torture anywhere or prejudice anywhere is our personal concern, that you love all people -equally and deeply -and that you long for your world to live in peace and harmony; enable us to do our part toward that goal.

Hear now our silent prayers as we give thanks for the experiences of the past and commit ourselves to the future to which you call us, the future for which you have gifted us with particular talents and skills and knowledge, the future that will both serve the common good and fulfill a deep longing within us ...*(silence)* ... Praise be to You. O God. Amen.

--Submitted by **Cy King**

## Roster

### **Add:**

Vivian Hunter, 5100 Glen Forest Dr., Raleigh, NC 27612 , 782-8100.

Mary Pickering, 2103 Breeze Rd., Raleigh, NC 27603, 783-7318.

Tom and Pat Young, 7510 Wellesley Park S., Raleigh, NC 27615, 847-0081.

Kurk Brewington, [theteckie@hotmail.com](mailto:theteckie@hotmail.com).

## Wider Community

Rev. & Mrs. W. W. Finlator have moved to the Springmoor Retirement Community. Their address is 27 Springmoor Drive, Raleigh, NC 27615

**Labyrinth** On the Second Saturday of every month, from 9:00 to 1:00, the Canvas Labyrinth at Pullen Memorial Baptist Church will be available for walking. You may enter through the parking lot.

The deadline for our April 2005 Newsletter is  
March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Community United Church of Christ  
814 Dixie Trail  
Raleigh, NC 27607  
March 2005 Newsletter

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

---

The Newsletter can be found on our web page:  
[www.communityucc.org](http://www.communityucc.org)

## A Month of Sundays

### March 6,

Fourth Sunday in Lent  
**9:00 – 9:30 Taizé;**  
**9:15 Adult Forum &  
Bible Study;**  
**10:30 Worship Service  
with Communion &  
Church School;  
Fellowship Time**  
**Lectionary:**  
1 Sam 16:1-13; Ps 23;  
Eph 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

### March 13,

Fifth Sunday in Lent  
**9:00 – 9:30 Taizé;**  
**9:15 Adult Forum &  
Bible Study;**  
**10:30 Worship Service  
& Church School;  
Fellowship Time**  
**Lectionary:**  
Ezek 37:1-14; Ps 130;  
Rom 8:6-11;  
John 11:1-45

### March 20,

Palm Sunday  
**9:00 – 9:30 Taizé with  
Communion;**  
**9:15 Adult Forum &  
Bible Study;**  
**10:30 Worship Service  
& Church School;  
Fellowship Time**  
**Lectionary:**  
Isa 50:4-9a; Ps 31:9-16;  
Phil 2:5-11; Matt 26:14-  
27:66 or Matt 27:11-54;  
Ps 118:1-2, 19-29;  
Matt 21:1-11

### March 27,

Easter Sunday  
**9:00-9:30 Taizé;**  
**9:15 Adult Forum &  
Bible Study**  
**10:30 Worship Service  
& Church School;  
Fellowship Time**  
**Lectionary:**  
Acts 10:34-43 or  
Jer.31:1-6; Ps 118:1-2,  
14-24; Col 3:1-4 or  
Acts 10:34-43;  
John 20:1-18 or  
Matt. 28:1-10; Isa 25:6-  
9; Ps 114; 1 Cor 5:6b-8;  
Luke 24:13-49