

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@nc.rr.com - Office Manager: Carol Clark pastor@communityucc.org - Rev. Steve Halsted

Website: www.communityucc.org

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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 our Pastor

Dear Friends,

Just a short note to let you know that I am through my surgery for prostate cancer and have now journeyed into the 'promised land' of recovery. I have been carried forward by the power of your prayers, the shower of your get-well cards and the flower sent by the caring committee. It's a gorgeous orchid that sits next to my bed as a constant reminder of the beautiful spirit of healing that you all have blessed me with. My heart is full of gratitude for your loving care.

Each day I feel a little stronger and make progress in the areas that Dr. Tortora, my surgeon, has me working on. It will be a journey toward wholeness with physical, emotional, and spiritual challenges that have already profoundly impacted me and shaped my journey of faith. I hope to be back leading worship on the fifth Sunday of Lent, March 9. Until then, I deeply appreciate your continued prayers.

Blessings & Peace,

Steve

Church Council

Excerpted from minutes of the February 18 meeting (and see items under each Ministry).

Meeting attendees: Joan McAllister, Mary Pruneau, Jeanne Ledbetter, John Little, Robert Parrish, Diana Koenning, Vandy Bradow, and Pam Thompson

Moderator Diana Koenning called the meeting to order, and asked Rev. Parrish (Deacons chair) to lead the group in prayer.

Treasurer's Report

Mary Pruneau reported that CUCC has \$42,000 dollars in the bank, \$171,000 in assets and \$117,000 in reserves. As of January, 25% of 2008 budgeted income was received, and only 10% of budgeted expenses had been spent.

A question regarding budget line items for the Welcoming, Fellowship and Growth Ministry led to a discussion of the roles, responsibilities, and structure of the WFG committees, together and/or separately. Council agreed there should be an effort to define and clarify these matters. Moderator Koenning appointed an *ad hoc* committee for this purpose: **Joan McAllister, Vandy Bradow**, and representatives of Greeters and Growth committees. They are to report their findings to Council.

Robert Parrish reported that during the **Deacons'** February 7th meeting there was a lengthy discussion regarding responsibility and guidelines concerning evaluation and compensation decisions for CUCC paid staff. It was noted that traditionally, Arts in Worship (Deacons) has played this role for the

music and choir directors; Religious Education for church school and youth leadership; and the Deacons as a body for the pastor and office manager. Robert plans to contact **Edith Sylla** and **Carol Clark** for further information and guidance on historical practice and process.

An ecologically responsible, fair-trade source has been identified to supply organic palms for CUCC's Palm Sunday service. A bulletin notice will provide details to the congregation.

Jeanne Ledbetter reported for **Community Outreach** (COM); the One Great Hour of Sharing kick-off will be March 16th. Mission Moments will start then and run through April 13th when the offering is to be collected. The Committee will be participating in the children's message. COM plans to reinstate the Agency of the Month presentations, possibly starting in May with "Stop Hunger Now." COM is discussing a project to record our members' contributions of time and talent to the community.

Mary Pruneau reported that **Stewardship** will meet on March 2nd to decide on dates for an auction and other fundraisers. The hotdog and watermelon lunch will be July 6th. (Practice your spitting!!) There has also been some talk about doing a yard sale; Stewardship will contact the youth group to suggest a collaboration and profit sharing.

Vandy Bradow (Fellowship) represented the **Welcoming, Fellowship, and Growth Ministry** – its Committees will cover Council meetings in the absence of a WFG chair. Vandy advised that the role of the four-person Fellowship committee will act as cheerleaders and helpers for the CUCC activities. The committee suggested a tentative calendar of events and that Council take the lead on coordinating CUCC activities. The church calendar needs to be available at all Council meetings for that purpose. This calendar is maintained by **Carol Clark**, who should be advised of *all* scheduled events. Fellowship asked Council to reinstate the Ministries' sponsoring lunch and a program after church (on the 5th Sundays). The Council agreed and a tentative schedule was sketched out, including other major events identified to date:
March 30th – 5th Sunday lunch and program – **Mary Pruneau** volunteered the Stewardship and

Property Ministries.

April – Earth Day activities?

May – Church Auction

June 29th – 5th Sunday; the Deacons will sponsor

July 6 – hot dog and watermelon feast

August 31st – Religious Education will coordinate with WFG on this 5th Sunday (separate or combined with Welcome Back Sunday)

September 20th – all-church fellowship event; **Joan McAllister** will look into reserving a shelter at Lake Wheeler.

October – maybe a State Fair outing – especially for people who may have a difficult time getting around but who would love to go to the fair.

November 1st – Fundraising dinner – All Saints' Day – (Square Dance, Folk Dance, etc.)

November 30th – 5th Sunday lunch and program (WFG- Thanksgiving leftovers!)

December: two parties – one for children, one especially for adults on December 13th.

January 2009 - Epiphany Party

More information will be forthcoming about these and other events as plans develop.

Moderator Koening asked that all groups (Religious Education, Youth Group, etc.) run their dates by the Council to avoid conflict and duplication.

Joan McAllister said it was easy for **Property** to select the lights for the church because everyone picked the same ones! Final drawings and arranging for contractors are in the works. Bids will be obtained for wallboard installation; the drywall will be mold-resistant. A discussion about the doors followed. Joan is still working on pricing for them, but she described how the doors would complement the existing structure of the church and showed pictures of recommended examples. For the actual installation, the Sunday service will need to be relocated for one or two Sundays. Details will be provided when installation dates are firm. Joan reported that the bricks in the sidewalks are buckling seriously and need to be re-laid soon. It was suggested that the bricklayers who build for NCSU be contacted. Joan and Mary will work on costs for lighting, doors, etc. Council was reminded that the church could borrow from itself to cover the costs. Council asked that the Property develop a plan to get the windows replaced very shortly after

the lights and doors, perhaps funded by offering naming opportunities.

Pastor's Report

Robert reported for Steve that he is doing well and that he and Marcy are very appreciative of all the cards and prayers and the orchid from the Caring Committee.

Social Justice and Religious Education

No report/not represented.

Pastor Nsumbu Puati from the Congolese Church has been called back to the DRC. **Moderator Koening** will be in touch with the Congolese community to determine how best we could show our appreciation of Rev. Puati.

Steve Camp (Southern Conference) mentioned during his recent CUCC sermon the "Live the Vision" effort that the Southern Conference has undertaken. Treasurer Pruneau noted that CUCC committed in 2006 to support this with \$5,000 paid over a period of years. The church has sent \$500 and is covering the remainder in its budget.

Minutes submitted by **Pam Thompson**

Deacons

Excerpts from the **Deacons Ministry** minutes of the February 7, 2008, meeting

Present were Robert Parrish, Gary Smith, Margaret Osborne, Sam Johnson, Jim Smith, Skip Stoddard, Roger Manus, Ann McLaughlin. Pastor Steve Halsted was absent owing to upcoming surgery.

Jim opened with a scripture reading; Gary had an opening prayer.

Communion -Deacons discussed service by intinction that conducted February 3, in which the choir was served separately, and concluded it went well. More discussion followed; Robert asked **Roger Manus** to continue with his evaluation of CUCC communion service procedures.

Personnel Issues

The group spent time reviewing the Ministry's constitutional responsibilities for personnel management, and the roles and requirements for

Pastoral Relations and Personnel committees, and will seek more information. .

Ushers report. Sam reported that the practice of restraining entry during the call to worship had been tried during January, at Steve's suggestion and because of a complaint about the number of people entering late. **Edith Sylla** was the head usher for January. Sam noted that Edith had said that it is sometimes difficult to cut off the entry of persons. It was noted that coming and going during a service is common in Catholic services and perhaps in other churches. It was expressed that late entry and coming and going may not be a serious problem and perhaps we should not even try to restrain entry. No final decision was made, but Sam noted that the ushers will use discretion with regard to restraining entry of persons into the sanctuary and will continue to evaluate the procedure. Sam noted the importance of clearing the aisle so that so that Steve and the scripture reader can proceed to start the service on time; this is the Ushers' responsibility.

Caring Committee. Robert reported **Bill Lamb** is the new chair of the Caring Committee. A number of member concerns were discussed.

Holy Week planning: Steve is expected to be back in the pulpit by **Palm Sunday**. Skip Stoddard's daughter Maggie provided information on a source for "fair trade" palms produced with sustainable practices. The Congolese will be asked to lead the congregation into the sanctuary again this year. It was agreed that the hand washing ceremony should be included in the **Maundy Thursday** service as it has in the past and that communion should also be included. Final planning for this and **Easter Sunday** will resume at the March meeting, when Steve is expected back.

Minutes provided by **Sam Johnson**

Arts in Worship.

CUCC thanks **Julia McIntosh** for the beautiful watercolor paintings displayed last month on the art wall. CUCC is very grateful that our talented members are willing to share their art. In March, **Judy Smallwood** will be displaying some of her paintings.

April 20th has been designated "**Creativity Sunday**" as an opportunity to share the talents God

has given us. Artworks of every kind – poetry, music, dramatic readings, quilts, paintings, pottery, etc. – will be used/displayed during worship and at fellowship time. Can you write new words to a hymn (remember Keith Petersen’s “Sit down, sit down for Jesus”?) or offer a different perspective on Scripture? Thanks to those who completed the survey - all ideas are welcome; call **Peg Hulslander** (833-7203) to offer YOUR gift.

-submitted by **Peg Hulslander**

Calling all singers:

Our choir welcomes any and all who would like to participate. Choir practice is twice a month at 7:00 pm in the Hoffmann room, on the Wednesday evening before the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. On those Sundays we practice in the sanctuary from 9:30 to 10:20 am prior to the 10:30 service.

- submitted by **Carol Kepler**

CUCC’s observance of LENT continues:

Lenten Film Series

Films are shown in Vaughan Fellowship Hall. Popcorn is provided.

March 7 – Tender Mercies (1983), the movie for which Robert Duvall won a Best Actor Oscar. A film illustrating that grace is a gift rather than something earned. (100 minutes)

March 14 – Jesus Christ Superstar (1973). At Easter 1971, the youth at CUCC darkened the sanctuary and played the album "Jesus Christ Superstar" for the congregation as a worship service. Firmly rooted in the music and culture of the early 1970s, this film presents the temptations of Christ and his ragged band of followers in a way that transcends time and culture, while at the same time presenting a fascinating snapshot of the era in which the film was made. (108 minutes)

Lenten Prayer Series

March 4 will conclude the series on prayer from an African-American perspective. The content and discussions are based on the book entitled *Prayer in the Black Tradition* by Rev. Harold Carter. The group meets in the Bradow room from 7:00 P.M. until 8:15 P.M.

Justice in a Changing Climate Lenten Series “Global Warming Science and Policy” will run as four 1.5 hour weekly sessions continuing through March 16, after church at CUCC (about 12:15 p.m.). Session 1: What *is* climate change? Session 2: How do we know it is happening? Session 3: Why are some people still skeptical, and how should one talk with them? Session 4: Reasons for hope – how shall we help?

Labyrinth Walk (see below) – March 1

Religious Education

Church School News

The Church School enjoyed a field trip across the street to Morningside Assisted Living in February. The residents were blessed with their heavenly voices and hand-made Valentines.

On March 9th there will be a parents meeting at 9:15 in the Pilgrim House. We will be discussing the end of the year activities, summer calendar, and future service projects. Child care and coffee will be provided. Please come with lots of ideas.

March 16th (Palm Sunday) the kids will be having their annual egg hunt on the CUCC lawn after the service. If you are interested in volunteering, please talk to Ms. Anne Bailey.

The church school kids are continuing to help others by collecting new and gently used children's books for Children's Department of Wake Med Hospital. Please bring books to the large church school room.

-- submitted by **Heather Burkhardt**

News From the CUCC Youth Corner...

Thanks to all who have supported and attended February's events thus far. The new faces and smiles at Frankie's and at church school were great fun to see. Coming up SOON so don't forget...

Leap Day Labyrinth Lock-In

February 29, 6:30pm thru 8:30am March 1.

We will be sharing a meal at the Pilgrim House, playing games, watching a movie, and creating and walking a Labyrinth in the fellowship hall. **The Labyrinth will also be available for the larger church to walk on Saturday, March 1, from 9-11 a.m. So youth, come to the lock-in; everyone else, please drop by and experience a**

Lenten Labyrinth journey. Catherine Fairbanks will be facilitating this church-wide walk.

Church School

Church school continues. We'll meet March 9 and 16. High school finishes up with our Lenten track: Who am I, and how do I nourish my spirit? We'll be taking a personality type indicator test, and creating self-portraits.

Lunches

Lunches after church are working out well. Sunday, March 9, bring your lunch money, and join us for Jersey Mike's Subs. Sunday, March 16, we'll have lunch brought in. On both of these lunch days in March, plan on staying until 1:30 and bring your cameras, if you have one.

As always, call or e-mail **Santi** with questions or suggestions, (919)961-8814, forsanti@aol.com

Adult Forum – Sundays at 9:15 a.m. (Vaughan)

Forum Programs

March 2 – HOW OUR STATE IS FAILING PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

Ann Akland, past President of NAMI Wake County. Implementation of the NC Mental Health Reform Act has completely eroded the safety net of services for people with severe mental illnesses. Concerned citizens can help by becoming informed and getting the plight of people with mental illness into the mainstream of public discourse.

March 9 – NORTH CAROLINA COMES OF AGE

Thomas Goldsmith, N&O Generations reporter and Bill Lamb, Associate Director for Public Service, UNC Institute on Aging. A discussion about the rapid growth of North Carolina's older adult population and the resulting public policy issues facing the State and our community.

March 16 – AFFORDABLE HOUSING: WHY SHOULD YOU CARE AND WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Chris Estes, Executive Director, NC Housing Coalition. The Coalition leads a campaign to ensure that working families, people in crisis, seniors, and persons with disabilities may live with dignity and opportunity.

March 23 – EASTER SUNDAY- NO FORUM.

March 30 – WORKING FOR CLEAN WATER
Dean Naujoks, Upper Neuse Riverkeeper.

Sponsored by the Neuse River Foundation, Naujoks and his counterpart on the Lower Neuse patrol the watershed by water, air and ground to find and eliminate sources of pollution.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Please join us Sunday mornings at 9:15 in the Bradow Room as we "read the Bible again for the first time." There is no preparation and no homework.

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. Bring a bag supper. More information? Call **Mike Schafale**, 567-1098.

Saturday Men's Group

The group meets each Saturday at 9:00 a.m. in the library. The contact for more info is **Ed Klemmer**.

Monday Lunch Group

Bring lunch and join us in the Hoffmann Room Mondays at 12:15 p.m. In March, **Vandy Bradow** will lead discussions and activities based on the conversations and letters of Brother Lawrence.

Social Justice

Justice in a Changing Climate

Great Home Energy Projects How-To Guide

Want to tackle making your home more energy efficient? Check out "Home Energy Projects: An Energy Conservation Guide for Do-It-Yourselfers" - http://www.southface.org/web/resources&services/publications/large_pubs/Home-Energy-Projects.pdf.

On February 18, a group of CUCC members toured the **Waste Management Recycle America facility**. Lena Gallitano reports: "We were surprised to be greeted with donuts and coffee and we enjoyed them very much - at least I enjoyed my two! Christine, our tour guide, answered many questions for us and showed us a DVD on the recycling process. She gave us a copy that we can show at church - it's short and very informative. We can plan a second trip in April in the late afternoon

Did you know:

- PVC has no end use and it is what many of the "clam shell" packages are made of? They're the ones that snap together and are very difficult to open: two reasons to avoid them!
- Aluminum cans can be used, recycled and made into another can in 60 days?
- There is no market for green glass? Recycle ALL glass but if you have a choice, chose clear or brown. Think twice on those beer bottles! Blue glass is also harder to re- use.
- Shredded paper may not be recycled because of the processing system? It is not recyclable at this facility but goes into the garbage. Are other processing facilities the same?
- Many bottles in plastic bags cannot be processed because of the sorting operation and the hand labor involved? Leave the bottles loose in your recycle bin or at least in a bag that will fall open when thrown into the collection trucks.
- For containers, the order of the most recyclable is: aluminum, clear glass, brown glass?
- That pizza boxes contain a wax and cannot be recycled no matter HOW clean?

This facility does not handle any material from Raleigh but does process some of the other local towns recycled materials. It is a single stream recycling facility so there is no sorting required. They do all the work - by machine and hand labor!

Is there any interest in contacting Sonoco Recycling (the company that handles Raleigh's waste) to get a similar tour? Contact Lena Gallitano, lena.gallitano@ncsu.edu

Thinking Green

We shared many good ideas, many challenges we face, and set a few goals for ourselves at home during the **“Thinking 'Green' in the Bleak Midwinter”** meeting. We built community through the rituals of prayer, success sharing, questioning, research presentation, and goal setting each week. We make incremental changes as we reiterate the mantra to ourselves, “Nothing's too small to make a difference.” We are all here to learn, and to look for the balance point between the extremes of (1) self-satisfaction that can lead to lack of consciousness of changes we can make and (2) feeling so bad and overwhelmed that we are paralyzed. Some of us have decided to challenge ourselves by taking the Sustainable Household

Challenge and decrease our carbon consumption by 10% in 2008. How about you?

Some accomplishments mentioned thus far by group members are:

- improvement in bundling errands
- learning of more websites to use for consultation
- turning down thermostats
- developing plan for home in response to energy audit findings
- more solar clothes drying
- commuting more on bicycle
- not putting pedal to the metal in driving
- put more blankets on your bed; wear a hat to bed

To stay focused and energized, I've volunteered to be in the Bradow Room (or a room nearby) on the first Sunday of each month in 2008 at 12 noon should anyone wish to come by for us to inspire each other in our carbon reduction mission. This is purely optional, and I'll just read or analyze my home data for 15 minutes if no one comes, but I wanted to offer this as an option to you in our new year. If something comes up on a first Sunday that means I shall NOT be there, I'll e-mail ahead of time to that effect. A reunion of us "homeys" (and really others who may wish to be working , too, at reduction of carbon consumption at home) was requested in six months, September. Sooo, it's being scheduled on the calendar: *SEPTEMBER 21st, 2008* probably in the Bradow Room, 12:00 noon to 1:30. There'll be grapes, water, and peanut butter sandwiches, and anything else you may wish to bring. Does it help you to refocus your personal energies to set and achieve goals for carbon reduction as you visualize yourself sharing with us in September some of your accomplishments? Then visualize away (!!!) and place the date and time on your personal calendar ;-).

“Through His Spirit, God himself is present in His creation. The whole creation is a fabric woven and shot through by the efficacies of the Spirit.” -Juergen Moltmann, German theologian and author of /Theology of Hope

-- Marty Lamb

Property

See Council notes (above) for status of lighting and other projects.

Our thanks to **Linda Baker** who tended the Memorial/Meditation garden in February. The Alcorn family will do so in March.

Welcoming, Fellowship & Growth

A CHAIR IS NEEDED FOR THE MINISTRY!

Stacks of Pancakes Convivially Consumed

Our first Shrove Tuesday pancake supper was a success. About two dozen folk enjoyed delicious pancakes and bacon prepared and served up by **Linda Baker, Linda Parrish, Peg Hulslander, and Vandy Bradow. Sally Cook, Ed Klemmer, and Mary Pruneau** were among those who helped as we marked the end of Epiphany. **Lena Gallitano** won the prize for most consecutive pancake flips (25), while **Sam Johnson** bested the field to win the pancake race (run to the finish while flipping cakes in a skillet). Congratulations!

-submitted by **Vandy Bradow**, Fellowship

Retirees Fellowship – (2nd Mondays, monthly)

The Retired People will meet at 10:30 on Monday, March 10 to hear from archaeologist John Clauser about Southern Folk Cemeteries. Now retired from the Archaeology Branch of the NC Department of Cultural Resources, John has some delightful stories to share. We are looking forward to his presentation. Bring a sandwich for lunch; dessert and drinks are provided. Come join us!

Sisters in Spirit (SIS) will not meet on Thursday, March 20, as it is Maundy Thursday.

NEEDED NOW: Fellowship Hour Folk

We need many folks – a few at a time – to set out beverages and simple nibbles for fellowship hour after Sunday morning services in the upcoming weeks. Contact **Ed or Ruth Klemmer**, phone 847-7992 or email erklemmer@earthlink.net.

CUCC Online Resources

How many times have you found yourself wondering who is responsible for some particular church function, or what a particular group or committee in the church is currently doing? How

are newcomers or visitors able to find out what groups or activities in the church might appeal to them? If someone moves into our area, how do they find out enough about CUCC to decide whether a visit is in order? All of this information should be provided by our website (communityucc.org). But while the CUCC website has been up for more than 10 years, we've always had large gaps in the information that can be found there.

Soon we'll be making our most concentrated effort yet to fill in the gaps and update old information. **Jane Smith** will be coordinating the effort to gather new content for the web site, and I strongly urge you to help Jane by providing information she may request from your group or committee. Our goal is to develop a valuable resource for use by present members as well as a guide to newcomers and visitors. The website is the most valuable vehicle we have to publicize the work of our groups and committees. Yes, we do request year-end reports from the various ministries. But these stacks of paper are distributed once a year at a congregational meeting and then rapidly filed away. If you want people inside or outside the church to have a regular avenue for keeping up with what your group is doing, the CUCC web site is the way to do it. Thanks.

- Submitted by **Lavon Page**, Communications Committee, Welcoming, Fellowship, & Growth Ministry

Church Directory

Add:

Leigh Winfrey, 720 Gorman St., Apt. 022, Raleigh, NC 27607, 512-9660, spacesocks@gmail.com

Life Touch Directory

Ann McLaughlin, Communications chair, reports that the new church directory is in its final proofreading. 82 people are pictured in the directory; those persons are entitled to a free directory. Others who wish a pictorial directory will be charged \$5. The church is getting a total of 130 directories. It is our custom to give a free directory to new members. We should be able to get additional directories during the next 2 years.

What does it mean to "Grow?"

--"Ponderings" from **Jane Smith**
I realized I think of "growth" in the context of

church in two ways. The most obvious connotes pushing growth, for example forcing forsythia to bloom indoors long before true spring. To my way of thinking, this includes things like setting goals that a church will add 20 new members a year or accosting strangers to "save" them. The other kind of "growth" is what Abby is doing. God made her. She has a certain genetic makeup. She has her own life experiences and personality. Co-chair of her personal Growth Committee, my job is to make sure she gets enough rest, healthy food, exercise, friend-time, stimulating environments and tools like books and travel. Without those tools her growth would be stunted, but there is no way to say that I am "making" her grow or that I can "plan" for her to be 6'0" tall.

In pondering the work confronting the Growth Committee, I've been thinking about what God is inviting us to do. What do you think about this metaphor? God has created and loves people "out there" who are already engaged in a spiritual journey. God might be urging some of them to head to us because we have something they need and/or they have something we need. In other words, we could be more faithful together than apart. This means that CUCC's job is to be as visible as possible so that anyone hunting for us is able to find us. And what we want them to see is God waiting, smiling, light on, welcoming meal prepared, big hug - like the prodigal's father. Not because these folks have been "bad," but because they are looking for home, and we know there are siblings we've never met, and we can't wait for our family to be reunited.

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you're welcome here."

Our People

Prayer Requests

Please write your prayer requests on a slip of paper and place it in the offering plate or one of the prayer jars (Narthex and office). Prayers are solicited for: **Jo Lemons, Al Matthews, Ruby Lamb, Lisa Marsh, Mamie Scott, Nancy Cross' cousins Carolyn and Jean, David Ledbetter's father, Bill, June Bolton, Scottie Bell, Rhonda Zingraff's husband Charlie, Joan Little, Kerma Hazel, Gretchen Aycock's mother, Mary, Linda Rudisill's husband Sid Holmes, Moni Sawhney, Sonny Spicer, Mike Callaham's**

mother, Jenny, Dot Littleton, and Tom DeVito, Steve Halsted, Don Lane and Steve Koenning who are all recuperating from surgery and the people of the DRC, and other victims of war and natural disaster across the globe.

Condolences

We send our condolences to our AIDS Care Team upon the death of their care partner.

Jo Lemons now has a young couple and their 7-month old little girl, **Saron**, living with her. Jo says they would appreciate toys and clothing for Saron. These could be delivered to the church office or directly to Jo at 3011 Mayview Rd. (Call her to let her know you will be coming: 828-8519.)

Congratulations

Karen Haley, who has accepted an exciting new teaching and research position at Northern Illinois University, beginning in August. Son **Z.B.** has been accepted at UNC, so both will be going off to new adventures this summer!



Our Young People's Birthdays

3/24/90 – Nick DeVito
 4/6/01 – David Snee
 4/11/89 – Austin Osborne-Newman
 4/12/98 – Casey Riemann
 4/12/99 – John Robertson
 4/15/90 – Z. B. Haislip

Community Outreach

One Great Hour of Sharing

This year's One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be on Sunday, April 13. Coin collection boxes and a calendar of ideas and activities will be distributed during the children's sermon on March 16.

Through One Great Hour of Sharing, United Church of Christ members reach out in the name of Christ to:

- Build sustainable communities: OGHHS supports self-help programs in more than 80 nations to build sustainable communities that enable people and

communities to stand against and rise above hunger, disease, illiteracy, and other forces of injustice that deny and destroy dignity.

- Respond to disaster: OGHS provides emergency and long-term assistance to people in the aftermath of hurricanes, tornados, storms, floods, tidal waves, fires, explosions, technological disasters, civil strife, war, or other natural or human-caused events. On average, OGHS responds to disaster every 2.5 days.

- Minister to refugees: OGHS responds with advocacy and help, hope and hospitality for people who have been uprooted from their home of origin. More than 30 million of the world's people are uprooted at any given time.

The United Church of Christ unites with Christians in eight other Protestant denominations and Church World Service in One Great Hour of Sharing, multiplying the effectiveness and extent of our witness many times over. During this season of Lent, begin thinking about One Great Hour of Sharing and how you can support Community UCC's offering this year.

-submitted by **Ann Retzer**

HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR BY BRINGING FOOD BAGS!



We maintained our “average” and contributed 22 emergency food bags. They are always welcomed with much appreciation at Urban Ministries. If you cannot contribute a complete food bag, it is certainly acceptable to contribute

what you can – for example, a carton of dry milk, or boxes of macaroni and cheese, or cans of vegetables. Such contributions will be obvious because of their lesser size and will be delivered for use. Perhaps it will challenge us to develop a new “accounting system.” At any rate, all contributions are very helpful and will keep Urban Ministries well stocked.

Food bags are due **March 2** and every first Sunday of the month.

Submitted by **Marge Eckels**

Wider Community

Reverend Puati to Return to Kinshasa

It was a surprise and shock both for the Congolese community and CUCC to learn recently that **Pastor Nsumbu Puati** would soon be leaving us. (Pastor Puati has been serving as pastor to Raleigh’s Good News Message church who congregate each Sunday at 1:30 in the sanctuary at CUCC.)

On February 24 some 125 people gathered from across North Carolina and from as far away as Montreal and Toronto to participate in a special farewell service for **Pastor Nsumbu Puati**. Pastor Puati is answering a call from **Isaac Dizolele, Founder and head of the Good News Message church**, to play an important role at the church’s headquarters in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo. Pastor Puati plans to leave in mid-March for the long trip via Ethiopia to the DRC.

There were many messages honoring and celebrating Pastor Puati’s service in the USA over the past decade, including one from the president of the Raleigh Congolese community, many from clergy and members of the Good New Message Church (formerly the Universal Church of the 12 Apostles), and from CUCC, where Pastor Puati is also a member and has served as Deacon. Moderator Diana Koenning and Deacons Ministry Chair Robert Parrish were among some dozen CUCC congregants attending. There was time for personal goodbyes at the end of the service and during the reception following.

Reverend Puati spoke of his mixed feelings about the new assignment. Though he will miss the church and people in the US, he affirmed that he must remember his call and commitment to God. He closed his message with a heartfelt, “I thank you, I love you, I will miss you.”

We of CUCC share those feelings – We will miss the many ways he enhanced our worship experience but understand that his homeland calls. We will be looking forward to hearing from him often, and wish him a joyful reunion with his wife and family. We send him “home” with our blessings and best wishes for his new responsibilities. A CUCC special reception & farewell will be held March 9 during fellowship.

- submitted by **Vandy Bradow**

CAROLINA CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF
THE MIDDLE EAST AND MUSLIM
CIVILIZATIONS
UNC FEDEX GLOBAL EDUCATION CENTER

FORM IN TRANSLATION

The Art of Judith Ernst
February 29 - May 31, 2008

JOIN US for an opening reception at the FedEx Global Education Center at 5:30 on February 29! What does “international education” mean in 21st century North Carolina? Does it mean learning about the “other,” about exotic, less-studied places and cultures? Or does it mean engaging creatively with cultures other than our own in a way that not only teaches us about those cultures, but also enlivens our thinking about our own history and traditions?

There are three different aspects of Judith Ernst’s art that are highlighted in this exhibit. In her gouache paintings illustrating an ancient Buddhist Jataka tale, she re-visions for a modern audience the visual spirit that informed early Buddhist painting and sculpture in India.

In another series of paintings she uses Indian and Persian art as a starting point to bring out the similarities between the Old Testament Song of Songs and Asian traditions in which there is an implied continuum between longing for one’s lover and the primordial longing of the created to be back, united with our origins, at one with the Creator. Some original gouache painting from this series will be shown, but also the entire series will be shown in large-format giclee prints accompanied by text from the Song of Songs. Viewers can view the images and read the entire text in sequence.

Finally, there will be a number of ceramic pieces exhibited, some of which are three-dimensional versions of images found in Ernst’s painting. Others are what she calls “metaphysical pots” that are inspired by Asian metaphysical ideas, focusing on the dual themes of the Water of Life, or the source of creation, running out and into the Infinite Ocean, or the goal of mystical transcendence.

Learn more:

[Song of Songs: Erotic Love Poetry](#), adapted and illustrated by Judith Ernst

[Earth Embracing Space](#), Ceramic art by Judith Ernst

DAY-TO-DAY CONTACTS AT CUCC

Pastor: Rev. Steve Halsted
Office Manager: Carol Clark
(Office hours: 9 a.m.- 1 p.m., Monday-Friday)
Moderator: Diana Koenning
Treasurer: Mary Pruneau
Asst. Treasurer: Carol Kepler
Clerk: Pam Thompson

Ministry Chairs:

Deacons: Robert Parrish
Stewardship: Fawn Pattison
Property: Bayard Alcorn and Joan McAllister
Religious Education: Marty Lamb
Social Justice: Gary Smith
Community Outreach: vacant
Welcoming, Fellowship & Growth: vacant
Youth Ministry: Šánti Matthews

Organist: Doug Barrick
Choir Director: Anne Moorman-Smith

Community United Church of Christ
814 Dixie Trail
Raleigh, NC 27607
March 2008 Newsletter

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The deadline for our April Newsletter is
March 24th.

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

A Month of Sundays

March 2 | Fourth Sunday in Lent | **9:00 – 9:30 Taizé; 9:15 Adult Forum & Bible Study; 10:30 Worship (with Communion) & Church School; Fellowship Time**
Lectionary: 1 Sam 16:1-13; Ps 23; Eph 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

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

March 23 | Easter | **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

March 30 | Second Sunday of Easter | **9:00 – 9:30 Taizé; 9:15 Adult Forum & Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service & Church School; Fellowship Time;**
Lectionary: Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Ps 16; 1 Pet 1:3-9; John 20:19-31