

# **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

Office: [office@communityucc.org](mailto:office@communityucc.org); Pastor: [pastor@communityucc.org](mailto:pastor@communityucc.org)

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

Stephen S. Halsted, Pastor

May 2003

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### **Lectionary for May**

#### **May 4th, Third Sunday of Easter**

Acts 3:12-19; Ps 4; 1 Jn 3:1-7; Lk 24:36b-48.

#### **May 11th, Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 4:5-12; Ps 23; 1 Jn 3:16-24; Jn 10:11-18.

#### **May 18th, Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 8:26-40; Ps 22:25-31; 1 Jn 4:7-21; Jn 15:1-8.

#### **May 25th, Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Acts 10:44-48; Ps 98; 1 Jn 5:1-6; Jn 15:9-17.

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Dear Friends,

Over the last several months I have been attending meetings of the Interfaith Alliance of Wake County as a member of the Board of Directors. During that time I have received a good orientation to the multifaceted work of the organization. There are eight committees that address a wide range of activities. They are: 1) Community Building 2) Ethics and Public Life 3) Human Concerns 4) The Crop Walk 5) Membership Development 6) The Institute of Religious Studies 7) Diversity Issues and 8) Nominating.

Each member of the Board of Directors is asked to support the work of one of these committees. I have chosen "Community Building" and have been recruited to become its new chairperson. The role of the committee is to promote peacemaking, problem solving, understanding, mutual respect, and goodwill through facilitated interfaith dialogue, forums and other activities.

Last year this was accomplished by sponsoring a series of Forums on three topics: Aging, Death & Dying, and Violence. This year we have helped to sponsor the city-wide "Week of Prayers for Peace" which took place Feb. 24 - March 2. Our congregation participated by opening our doors to the Raleigh community on Friday evening Feb. 28.

The committee is now in the process of organizing a Forum on "Environmental Stewardship." We hope to offer it sometime in late summer. Among the topics we are considering as our main focus are: Global Warming, Green Power, Nuclear Waste Storage, and Creation Spirituality from various interfaith perspectives. If you have any suggestions and/or resources to recommend please let me know.

Hope you all had a happy "Earth Day" on April 22 in gratitude for God's glorious and awe-inspiring creation! Also, don't forget to come out Saturday evening May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 pm to support our annual fund raising auction. It's fun and full of great items. We need you!!

Blessings & Peace,

Steve



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

Following are the names of those who need to be remembered in prayer: Bob Keyes; Jo Lemons; Sister Evelyn Mattern; Nancy Keppel; Sarah Hoffman; Dawn Pickett; Peggy Hoffmann.

## **DEACONS MINISTRY**

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, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm in the Vaughan Wing. Easy folk dances from different countries (includes line and sacred circle dances). Leader Peg Hulslander.

**Monday Lunch Group** meets at 12:15 each Monday in the Hoffmann Room. Bring a sandwich and enjoy.

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**Retirees** – On Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 11 am, the Retirees will have a speaker and short slide program on the history of Joel Lane and Raleigh. Are you familiar with this aspect of our city's beginnings? Come with your sandwich as we learn about this fascinating bit of our past. This will be our final program for the season.

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## **Service Auction**

The Annual CUCC Service Auction will be held on Saturday evening May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Last year it was wonderfully successful and fun. It helped greatly with our budget needs. Let's challenge ourselves to meet or exceed last year's event. The Auction will begin at 7 pm with wine and cheese served. There will be a \$2.00 entry donation.

The Deacons are transforming themselves from the Board of Deacons to the Deacons Ministry! The new Chair of the Deacons for the rest of 2003 is Vandy Bradow; the Chair-Elect and Chair for 2004 is Peg Hulslander. Chairing the Function Groups within the Deacons for 2003 will be: Marty Lamb for Arts in Worship; Marge Eckels, Caring; Vandy Bradow, Sacraments and Chancel; and Geraldine Bryan, Ushers. By virtue of their positions as Chair and Chair-Elect, Vandy Bradow and Peg Hulslander will be members of the Pastoral Relations Committee.

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### **Congregational Evaluation Winter 2003 is Complete**

With a meeting of the Pastoral Relations Committee and Steve Halsted on March 27, the Congregational Evaluation of Winter 2003 has been successfully completed.

Individuals or couples returned thirty-three evaluation forms, which were carefully read by the members of the Board of Deacons. Being reminded of the hurt that previous pastors felt at individual comments returned on a few of the forms, the Deacons decided that the best procedure was to compile and distribute an anonymous sampling of representative comments, with comments relevant to the operations of the Congregation as a whole going to an open meeting held after church on March 9 and with comments concerning Pastor Steve Halsted personally going to the Pastoral Relations Committee for discussion with him.

The Deacons would like to thank all who participated in the process for their thoughtful comments, many of which have already led to adjustments in the way we are operating, with more changes still on the way. In general, most of those who returned evaluation forms expressed satisfaction with the way the church is operating. Of those with concerns or who recommended changes, many recognized that there is a diversity of opinion and preference, for instance about conduct of the Sunday morning services, their length, and the balance in them between worshipful experiences and announcements, mission moments, or joys and concerns.

Copies of the sampling of representative comments concerning the congregation as a whole have been given to the members of the Church Council for their consideration in the work of the various ministry teams in the coming year. Anyone who has not seen the sampling of comments and who would like a copy may pick one up in the Church office.

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**Audio tapes** of CUCC services are now available. The Caring Committee and the Ushers have worked out a plan to tape services and circulate an audio cassette to individuals interested in listening. If you would like to be one of those individuals receiving and circulating the tapes, get in touch with the church office. You will need to have your own cassette player to listen.

## **CHURCH COUNCIL**

The new Church Council met Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. The representatives for this year are:

Moderator – Everette Noland  
Past Moderator – Susan Lane  
Moderator Elect – Karen Haley  
Deacons Ministry – Vandy Bradow  
Property Ministry – Allan Beidler  
Clerk – Carol Kepler  
Treasurer – Mary Pruneau  
Assistant Treasurer – Sue Richey  
Pastor – Steve Halsted  
Social Justice Ministry – John Little  
Community Outreach Ministry – Jo Perry

Religious Education Ministry , Welcoming,  
Fellowship & Growth Ministry and  
Stewardship Ministry have not yet selected their chairs.

## **CHRISTIAN WITNESS**

### **Wider Outreach -- Our Mission for Mission**

We are a church where mission outside our own sanctuary is an important part of who we are. Wider Outreach Committee is the organization in CUCC that sponsors and supports mission --- from Habitat

to the Wright Center to Urban Ministries to local organizations such as Loaves and Fishes and Step UP... and this is just the beginning of the list.

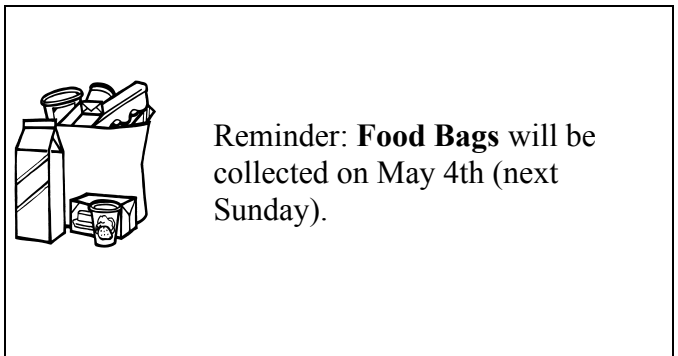
With the new church restructuring, Wider Outreach is finding itself long on tasks and short on folks to do them. We are asking you for help with the following. Call Jo Perry if you are interested.

- 1) CUCC is responsible for the Wright Center meal every third Sunday of the month. We still need helpers for the May 18 meal. We also need someone to coordinate this task on an ongoing basis. Any volunteers?
- 2) CUCC needs to send a representative to ROAR. Any volunteers?
- 3) CUCC needs someone to organize Marketplace for Meaningful Gifts for 2003. Any volunteers?

These are just a few of the ongoing opportunities for mission. We need to support short term special projects as well.

The regular Wider Outreach Committee meeting time is 5:30 on the second Wednesday of each month. The next meeting is Wednesday, May 14. And we're always looking for new members!

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## Social Action Committee

### *Remembering Cesar Chavez*

Cesar Chavez, founder of the United Farm Workers of America, died ten years ago on April 23rd. He was born in Arizona in 1927, and he dedicated his life to organizing farm workers. In his lifetime he never owned a house or earned more than \$6,000 a year. When he died in 1993, 40,000 people marched behind his casket.

Words from Chavez: "We can choose to use our lives to bring about a better and more just world for our children. Working for a just world sometimes means speaking truth not only to power, but to our friends. But if you give yourself totally to the non-violent struggle for peace and justice you also find that people give you their hearts and you will never go hungry and never be alone. And in giving of yourself you will discover a whole new life full of meaning and love."

But it isn't easy and it won't put a dollar in your 401-K

### **Calendar**

May 6 - "Moratorium Lobby Day." People of Faith Against the Death Penalty are sponsoring a lobby day at the N.C. General Assembly to urge legislators to suspend all executions until a study can be made to determine whether justice is administered fairly. Assemble at the N.C. Museum of History auditorium for orientation, 9 a.m.

May 7 - "Stop the Arms Race" vigil will begin its 22nd year on the Fayetteville Street Mall in front of the Century Post Office (noon -- 1 p.m.). You are invited to join the vigil and then a Dutch-treat lunch immediately to follow at the Lighthouse Restaurant where we will "remember" Jim Berry and Father Charlie Mulholland, two who were there early and stood with us for many years.

May 14 - 7 p.m. Quail Ridge Books. A Panel Discussion on "The Patriot Act/Law"  
Panelists: Seth Jaffe, Staff Attorney for N.C. Civil Liberties Union and Frank Whitney, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

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## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Adult Forum – The Adult Forum meets every Sunday from 9:15-10:15 in the Vaughan Wing.

### **May Calendar**

May 4 - Mike Schafale will continue the discussion led by John Little on the History of the Conservation Movement in the U.S. by talking about "The Modern Land Conservation Movement."

May 11 - Sally Buckner, poet, teacher and writer on "Poets and Peace." Sally will read from her own work and other peace poets and discuss their writings. This should be a wonderful session.

May 12 - "A Path to Peace and Healing in the middle East," sponsored by The Tikkun Community (Tikkun ... to heal, repair, and transform the world), 7-8:30 p.m. at Eno River Unitarian Fellowship, 4907 Garrett Road, Durham, N.C. See the Social Action Bulletin Board for more information.

May 18 - Howard Miller is arranging a program on "Haven House."

May 25 - Rhonda Zingraff will update us on the "Death Penalty." Following a wonderful presentation by Rhonda at a Congregational Meeting, CUCC adopted a resolution calling for a "Moratorium on the Death Penalty." On May 6 "People of Faith Against the Death Penalty" will hold its Lobby Day at the Legislature. Rhonda will bring us up to date and provide us with guidance on what we should be about on this important issue.

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### **CUCC Church School Calendar**

**May 4** - Communion – The children will learn about the ritual and symbolism of Communion.

Preschool – Anne Bailey Zschau

Elementary students – Anne Bailey Zschau

**May 11** – Open and Affirming – illustration of how Jesus accepted everyone

Preschool – Jeanne Ledbetter

Elementary – Suzette Roach

**May 18** – Accessibility – lesson to show how the church wants to be accessible to ALL people.

Preschool – Anne Bailey Zschau  
Elementary – Jane Smith, Yeu Li Yeung

**May 25** – Just Peace – explanation of what it means to be a Just Peace church

Preschool – Toni James Manus  
Elementary – Gary Smith

## **SPECIAL DAYS**

### **Youth Birthdays**

#### **May Birthdays\***

5/2/02 – Elsa Viadef  
5/8/86 – Reagan Binganisi  
5/11/90 – Jospin Milandu  
5/18/89 – Carina Saavedra  
5/19/88 – Christian Binganisi

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

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

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

## **OUR PEOPLE**

### **Congratulations**

Our former pastoral intern Ursula Schmitt-Pridik is now Frau Doktor Ursula Schmitt-Pridik, having received her Ph.D. at a ceremony the week after Easter. She plans to visit the United States and CUCC in early June and will bring a copy of her Ph.D. dissertation, which, according to the German system, had to be published as a book before the

final awarding of the degree (she passed her Ph.D. oral examination exactly a year ago).

### **Memoriam**

Condolences are extended to the Manring family. Both Betty Manring and her husband, Edward R. Manring, passed away recently – within days of each other. Betty has been a longtime friend of this congregation.

## **ROSTER UPDATES**

Address change:

Correct entries for both Jo Perry and Lavon Page. They have moved to 101 Dundee Court, Cary, NC 27511, 460-6103.

Email changes:

Sue Cottle –to [muey@nc.rr.com](mailto:muey@nc.rr.com).

Bob Lathlaen – to [RLathlaen@aol.com](mailto:RLathlaen@aol.com).

Add:

Kathy Widenhouse, 3223 Mill Run, Raleigh, NC 27612, 510-5117.

Remove:

Betty Manring

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## **LET US CELEBRATE HABITAT**

The Kembe house is complete and they have moved in! The dedication date for their house is set for Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, at noon, so mark your calendars for a Habitat for Humanity block party for our volunteers, neighbors and any others who care to join us. Live music will be provided by our homeowner’s band, so come out and celebrate this grand moment.

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

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Please join  
R.O.A.R. (Raleigh Organizing for Action and  
Results)  
For Our Next Delegate Assembly  
Tuesday, May 27, 2003  
7:00 pm – 8:30 pm  
Mount Pleasant Worship and Outreach Center  
1424 Sawyer Road, Raleigh



This is the Raleigh version of IAF.

Agenda:

- Public commitments from local officials to assess our Neighborhood Audit Report and clean up our neighborhoods.
- Reports from all 4 of our Action Teams.
- Dates for future audits and actions.

It is very important to have our best attendance, as our group will sit by our *CUCC sign* (we could look pitiful or good!). Call CUCC's office if you need directions.

## ON THE LIGHT SIDE

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?"

The son replied, "I do know!"

"Okay," said the father – "So, son what does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy. It means Basic Information Before Leaving Earth."

As we sow our spring gardens – let us remember the church garden:

Three Rows of Squash  
Squash indifference  
Squash criticism  
Squash gossip

Four Rows of Turnips  
Turn up for meetings  
Turn up with a smile  
Turn up with a visitor  
Turn up with a Bible

Five Rows of Lettuce  
Let us love one another  
Let us welcome strangers  
Let us be faithful to duty  
Let us truly worship God  
Let us give liberally

## DID YOU KNOW?

The church office is again offering to be the keeper of "Your wishes at the time of your death". We are including a copy of the form here in the newsletter. You can submit this form for the first time or update it if you have previously submitted the form.