

COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Nurturing Spiritual Growth and Working For Social Justice

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May 2006

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

**Summer Newsletter Schedule: June, July/August combined.
September resumes the regular schedule.**

A Word from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

The other day as I was driving into work listening to the world news on NPR, things were sounding pretty glum. I turned off the radio. One can only take so much bad news! It's not that we want to evade reality but we need balance in our lives to give us inspiration to face the challenges before us. I needed a sense of being re-connected to "Spirit" before I arrived at work that day. So, in the quiet of my car, I listened for that "still small voice" within. After several minutes of silence the melody and words of the song "This is the Day" came into my mind and I began to chant it softly:

This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made.
let us rejoice, let us rejoice,
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.

By the time I arrived at work my spirit was ready for the challenges of the day. I was ready to face reality with a renewed spirit. I finished the song singing another of its verses, which goes like this:

This is the day, this is the day
Jesus rose again, Jesus rose again.
we will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.

May the Spirit of the Risen Christ continue to inspire and nourish us all in every challenge we face, as we further the Realm of God on this Good Earth.

Blessings and Peace,

Steve

Church Council

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

JUNE 11

Agenda: Reports and discussions from the ministries and Rich Park

Deacons

Deacons will begin meeting the Thursday prior to the 3rd Monday of each month.

CUCC will be inviting Jim Seymour, an evangelical minister from St. Augustine's College, to preach sometime this fall.

The Deacons will be supporting the confirmands by having a Pentecost Birthday party and potluck on Sunday, June 4.

Steve reports that as the "Still Speaking" theme has resonated, we may continue in some form.

Steve will be away on Mother's Day (at the Clergy Retreat). The Choir is doing a presentation that day and **Sue Rogge** will preach.

Sue Rogge was present to discuss her "In Care" status with the Deacons. She is beginning the process toward ordination in the UCC.

Arts in Worship – "Tutti Frutti" has arrived! Now hanging in the Hoffmann Room for you to check out is the new quilt, "Tutti Frutti", designed, pieced and donated by **Linda Baker**. The quilt was funded from the Sarah Hoffman Memorial Fund. It is a day-brightener and we are so grateful for Linda's sharing her extraordinary talents with us.

Caring Committee

Telling Our Stories -- Lavon Page

In my work at NCSU I've been involved with many audio and video projects, and that has stimulated some thinking about similar projects that could play a vital role at CUCC. The technology of the Internet and digital media offers opportunities that were undreamed of just a few years ago.

One of my projects at NCSU has involved

interviewing faculty working on projects funded by the program I've been directing at the university. I've come to realize that such interviews can serve a variety of purposes, and often give a feeling for the participants that is more intimate than words on a page. The spoken word often carries more weight than the written word. It tells more about who we are and how we feel about things. Also, conversation is very natural as oral communication, but a written conversation is somewhat artificial.

to sum it up: I'm contemplating starting a series of interviews with CUCC people. So far I've thought of three distinct categories. I'm looking for other people who might be interested in such a project, because I'd love to make this into a group effort. So, there is room for ideas regarding who to interview, an opportunity to actually conduct some interviews, and an opportunity to suggest entirely different objectives.

The three categories of interviews that I've been thinking about are these:

1. Oral history. We have so many "old timers" (think Cy and Carolyn, for example) who have stories to tell that are absolutely central to what CUCC is as a church. While some of this is recorded in writing, we have little recorded as oral history. I would like to start building an "oral history" library of interviews with some of these folks. Little preparation would be required. (One of the nicest things I've found in conducting many interviews at NCSU is that interviews can give great results even if they're completely spontaneous. Nobody wants to give a spontaneous speech, but almost anyone can engage in a spontaneous "fireside chat.")
2. We have members who are central to the spiritual life of our church, but who are virtually unknown to many among our regular membership. (Think Jo Lemons, for example.) Wouldn't it be nice to have interviews with people like this as a way of including them more in the life of the church and enabling more of our members to hear their stories?
3. Newcomers, etc. The reason I put the "etc." here is that just because we've worshiped with people for a while doesn't mean we

necessarily know very much about them. Interviews even with people we see occasionally could give more insight into the interests, insights, and spiritual gifts of those who walk among us.

Current technology offers inexpensive, easy, and effective ways to share such digital resources. Ten years ago the options would have been pretty much restricted to distribution as tape recordings or audio CDs. By contrast, it's now possible to offer even large collections of audio material via the Internet so that it's instantly accessible from anywhere and nicely organized and labeled. And for large archives that don't even require an Internet connection, it's possible to package 50 to 100 hours of high quality audio on a single DVD which can be played via a web browser on any reasonably modern computer (or via iTunes or iPod as kids do).

I've discussed this idea with the Caring Committee already, because there are obvious aspects of this that relate to the mission of that group. But there are other aspects as well. For example, someone shopping online for a church might find it very useful to "meet" some CUCC members via online interviews. So there are aspects of this idea that relate to church growth, publicity, and welcome and fellowship. Please contact me, **Lavon Page** at lavon@mac.com) if you're interested in talking about or helping with such a project.

Stewardship

**The CUCC Auction
is just around the corner!
Saturday, May 20th**

See Page 8 of the newsletter for the Pledge Form

Religious Education

CUCC to offer FAITH TO FOCUS

While "God is still speaking", what's being heard relating to vocational/avocational "callings"? Are you (or others you know) seeking clarity or direction or purpose for your energies, gifts or satisfactions? FAITH TO FOCUS offers a faith-based discernment process conducted in the context of a supportive community. It provides a successful

and helpful way for laity and clergy to claim their various ministries in, to, through or beyond the local church. Is your work, your ministry?

There will be a brief orientation to the series being projected for the fall on May 21st and June 18th following Sunday worship. Please contact **Steve Halsted** or **Mac Hulslander** (833-7203) for further information.

Belief, faith and spiritual growth?

Would you enjoy having an opportunity to discuss your questions of belief, faith and spiritual growth in a setting where children and adults are welcome? **Julia and John Robertson** are hosting a potluck at their home on Sunday, May 7, at 5:00 p.m. After everyone eats, the children can enjoy John's big backyard while the grownups talk about their questions of belief. You need not bring a child to attend! To help Julia plan for chairs and tableware, please give her a call at 788-8824.

The content of the discussion will be determined by the group. If there is enough interest, this could be the start of an ongoing monthly discussion group.

-- **Jane Smith**

Church School

During the month of May our elementary and preschool Sunday School classes will be studying confirmation. During this time we will be praying for our confirmands each week and working to help make their confirmation day a truly special event. Confirmation Sunday is June 4.

Adult Forum

Join us every Sunday from 9:15 -10:15 a.m. in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall.

Forum Schedule for May

May 7 – A panel of young people on "War and How We View It."

May 14 – "Aristotle's Children", led by **Ed Klemmer**

May 21 – "What history teaches about reason and religion", led by **Edith Sylla**

May 28 – "Poverty is the flip-side of militarism", led by **Cy King**

Sunday Bible Study

We meet in the Bradow Room at 9:15 and we will continue to study Isaiah in May. Everyone is welcome! For more information, call **Pat Spearman**, 781-0041.

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 and is now studying *Sailing the wine-dark sea: why the Greeks matter*, by Thomas Cahill. All are welcome. Contact: **Ed Klemmer**, 847-7992.

Sisters in Spirit

SIS will not have a meeting in May. If you are interested in being contacted or in contacting SIS folk for "spur of the moment" activities, send an email to **Vandy Bradow** (vbradow@aol.com).

Retirees Fellowship

Retirees will meet at 10:30 on May 8 in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall. Tommy Goldsmith, Raleigh native, Features editor of the News and Observer, Bluegrass Musician (he was part of the Nashville scene for several years) and editor of "The Bluegrass Reader" will be our guest speaker and performer. Foot tapping and dancing permitted. All are welcome. Bring your sandwich and join the fun even if you are not retired! Dessert and beverage will be provided.

Monday Lunch Group

Bring lunch and join us in the Hoffmann Room Mondays at 12:15 p.m. In May, **Steve Halsted** is leading a discussion on the book *Many Lives, Many Masters* by Brian Weiss, M.D. which discusses the issues of death and the afterlife from the experience of a psychiatrist and an extraordinary patient. The book is very interesting and thought provoking!

Property

Thanks

A **BIG THANK YOU** to **Geraldine Bryan** and **Paul Kiel** for painting and decorating the living/dining room of the Pilgrim House! Our

thanks also go to the Property Ministry and the congregation for organizing and participating in the April 29th clean-up day.

Workday

We had a great workday! Many, many thanks to **Geri, Christine, Jane, Marge, Allan, David, Steve, Mac, Peg, Linda B., Lynda W., Bayard, Austin, Jack Geraldine**, and anyone else there I didn't see! The windows are clean, the sidewalk is re-leveled, the janitor's closet is painted and cleaned, the robbing room has been organized, the little garden is weeded, the memorial garden spruced up, the roof and gutters are clean, eaves are scraped, mulch renewed, pine straw-tree branches-trash picked up, wisteria roots dug, a Colorado blue spruce tree was planted at the Wade Ave. sanctuary entrance as a memorial to Allan Eckels from the members of Marge's book club, and Mac earlier planted two Harlequin Glory Bower trees near the Bryan Building..... We had a great day with beautiful weather. Thanks to everyone!!

There is more to do, of course! We still need help fixing loose tiles in the narthex, repairs on playground equipment, painting trim on the eaves of the Sunday School wing, and routine maintenance of the grounds. Volunteers may call Allan re these items and anything else you see that needs attention.

- **Allan Beidler and Joan McAllister**

Memorial/Meditation Garden Volunteers

If anyone would like to help "groom and maintain" the garden, please contact one of the following who have volunteered their time for a month:

May – **Heather and Chris Burkhardt**

June – **Binks Mew**

July – **Carol Clark**

Chores include: keeping weeds pulled, dead branches picked up, leaves raked, checking status of plants, and watering as needed.

Please contact **Carol Kepler** if you can help.



Energy Matters

Each month your Property Committee will be publishing a new column called "Energy Matters" as a part of an ongoing campaign to reduce energy use here at CUCC. We hope that you will find the information helpful at home as well!

Fact: CUCC's electricity bills for June -August was over \$1,100 in 2004 and \$1,080 for 2005. Usage for those three months was close to 12000 kwh each year

Like you, CUCC experiences a dramatic increase in electric bills during the summer. While we cannot control the per-kilowatt costs of electricity, we can reduce our consumption by following some basic guidelines. You will notice some changes at the church, including installation of motion-sensor light switches in the bathrooms, replacement of standard lamp bulbs with fluorescent bulbs, and the use of fans in the Vaughan fellowship hall. Please help reduce our usage and costs this year so that we can direct our funds in more meaningful ways!

Tips for the home from energyhawk.com:

- Use window, ceiling and floor fans to augment the effectiveness of your air conditioning system rather than cranking down the thermostat. Ceiling fans can help you feel as comfortable with the thermostat set at 82° as you are at 78° without fans, and for a fraction of the cost.
- If you are landscaping, plant deciduous trees on the south and west sides of your home. They will not interfere with the solar heating you need in winter but will provide shade in summer.
- Cut off your lights when not in use, and use fluorescent bulbs rather than incandescent.
- Cool your house at night by opening windows and using fans to vent heat from your house.

Joan McAllister
Co-Chair, Property Committee

Social Justice

The Men's Group has been reading *The Left Hand of God* by Rabbi Michael Lerner. A couple of passages on "hot button" issues that trouble most of us seem worth our consideration.

Get the Government Out of Marriage

"Marriage has traditionally been a holy union sanctified by some spiritual community. And that is what it ought to remain. The government should have nothing to do with it. Instead, the government should create for its own secular and civil purposes a civil union. All legal rights that the state now gives to married couples should be given to civil unions, including tax benefits, property-sharing rights, child visitation rights, power over the other's health care in the event of incapacity, shared pensions, and inheritance rights.... Civil unions should be available to any two consenting adults. There should be no criteria with regard to gender of partners or their sexual orientation, ethnicity, race, religion or political orientation." (Pages 262-263)

Abortion

"Make it safe, legal and rare. And make childbearing safe, economically supported, and surrounded by a loving community that celebrates the mystery and miracle of life and that honors and rewards the parent or parents who have undertaken the difficult and beautiful task of raising children.... If you want to reduce the number of abortions, provide adequate contraception and sex education that does not stigmatize sex or tell people that they've been bad unless they've lived up to a supposed ideal of abstinence....

"Spiritual progressives should be unequivocal in opposing any attempts to make abortion illegal. But we should be equally unequivocal in recognizing abortion as a tragic loss not only for the individual woman who has chosen to undergo it but also for the entire community. The miracle of life flowing through us deserves to be treated with sanctity and care, and when life is snuffed out, this is an occasion for communal sadness and mourning." (Page 267)

Children's Defense Fund

Are you are supporter of the Children's Defense Fund? Do you receive alerts through their Action Network? **Jane Smith** would like to learn about your experiences with CDF. (Jane reports to our Social Justice Ministry on this organization). Please call (787-6539) or email (smithjeg@mindspring.com).

Would you be interested in attending the CDF Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry as a representative of our congregation and then report back to CUCC ways in which we might more effectively advocate for justice for children? The conference is July 17-21 at Haley Farm in Tennessee. For more information on the conference, go to http://www.childrensdefense.org/Proctor_Registraton_06.pdf. Contact **Jane Smith** if you are interested.

Our People

Prayer Requests

Please write your prayer requests on a slip of paper and place in the offering plate or in one of the prayer jars (Narthex or in Pilgrim House.) Our prayers are solicited for **Jo Lemons, Jo Banks, Al Matthews, Ruby Lamb, Ed Zschau, Millie & Americo Scapicchio, Willie Foggie's wife, Nelda, Al Matthews' mother, Mildred, Elvah Mansky Lee, Lisa Leiser-Banks' uncle, Bill Pamplin, Vandy Bradow's parents, Ida and Roy Klages, Lisa Marsh, Kerma Hazel and the people of the Democratic Republic of Congo and other victims of war and natural disaster across the globe.**

Congratulations!



Our Young Peoples' Birthdays

5/8/86 – Reagan Binganisi-Matuzola
5/11/90 – Jospin Milandu
5/18/89 – Carina Saavedra
5/19/88 – Christian Binganisi-Matuzola
6/1/2000 – Cammy Riemann
6/4/97 – Isaac Milandu
6/5/99 – Anna Johnson
6/5/99 – Elizabeth Johnson
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

On May 10, twelve ladies will be trekking on the train to Charlotte to attend the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit at the Discovery Place museum.

Raleigh's Artspllosure is Saturday/Sunday, May 21/22. **Carol Clark** will be displaying and selling her pottery as a participant in the Triangle Potters Guild tent, within the City Market.

CUCC Directory

Add:

Julie Snee, 516 N. Boundary St., Raleigh, NC 27604, 834-6312, thesneeze@intrex.net

Community Outreach

HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR



We seem to have topped off our **food bag** contributions at **22** for the past two months. That's really very good, a commendable amount. Our hope is to achieve a consistent 25 bags at some time, so keep your bags coming each first Sunday of the month. This month we will collect and deliver them on **May 7**. Thanks for your faithfulness.

Meals on Wheels

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month at Meals on Wheels, and MOW and CUCC both want to express our appreciation to the members of our congregation and neighbors who have supported our efforts to deliver hot meals to shut-ins. Our church is proud to deliver meals to 4-5 routes on the second Wednesday of every month. Serving as either regular deliverers or substitutes, we would like to acknowledge **Glenn and Shannon Core, Sally Cook and Marge Eckels, Sue Cottle and Susan Skidmore, Carol and Jack Kepler, Irene Doak, Vandy Bradow, Linda Baker, Joan and John Little** and various neighbors.

If you are interested in helping occasionally, either with the church teams or as a volunteer working directly with Meals on Wheels, please call either Carol Kepler (787-7420) or Carol Clark in the church office (787-6422) for more information.

Wider Community

The Church Council decided that the gift from Daylia Vaughn for hurricane relief will be sent to Dillard University to help rebuild a library that was destroyed by Katrina.

Wider Church

The Southern Conference Annual Meeting will be held at Catawba College on June 8-10. The theme of the meeting this year will be "**Live The Vision: Engage in ... Restoring of Faith, Creating New Communities of Faith, and Faithful Mission!**"

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: Vandy Bradow

Treasurer: Mary Pruneau

Asst. Treasurer: Carol Kepler

Clerk: Mary Pickering

Ministry Chairs:

Deacons: Jo Perry

Welcoming, Fellowship, and Growth: We need a chair for this Ministry!

Stewardship: Bill Bryan

Property: Allan Beidler and Joan McAllister

Religious Education: Sue Cottle

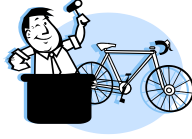
Social Justice: John Little

Community Outreach: June Bolton

Communications: Ann McLaughlin

Organist: Doug Barrick

Choir Director: Anne Moorman-Smith



Pledge Form
CUCC AUCTION
 Saturday, May 20 2006

The CUCC Auction gives you a chance to share your talents and services as a gift to the church, all at one of the silliest events of the church year! Please think about which of your special creations and offerings could be put up for bids. You might contribute

- Home-made items** such as desserts, jams, paintings, quilts, or pottery!
- Services** such as babysitting, pet sitting, guided tours, entertainment, or dinners!
- Resources** such as vacation homes, canoes or kayaks!
- Other items** for the silent auction.

Name: _____ Email _____ Telephone _____

1. I will contribute: _____
 Minimum bid \$ _____ Dates offered _____
 Conditions, if any: _____
2. I will contribute: _____
 Minimum bid \$ _____ Dates offered _____
 Conditions, if any _____
3. I will contribute: _____
 Minimum bid \$ _____ Dates offered _____
 Conditions, if any _____
4. I will contribute: _____
 Minimum bid \$ _____ Dates offered _____
 Conditions, if any _____

I am willing to support the auction (set up, clean up, assist auctioneer, etc.) on May 20
 Yes ___ No ___ by helping to _____.

I would be interested in seeing _____ made available at the auction.

I plan to attend the 7:30 auction Yes ___ Maybe ___ No ___

I plan to be there in time for wine, cheese, and the silent auction at 7 pm. Yes ___ No ___

Community United Church of Christ
814 Dixie Trail
Raleigh, NC 27607
May 2006 Newsletter

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The deadline for our June Newsletter is
May 22nd.

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

A Month of Sundays

May 7 – Fourth
Sunday of Easter.
**9:00 – 9:30 Taizé;
9:15 Adult Forum &
Bible Study; 10:30
Worship Service
with Communion &
Church School;
Fellowship Time**
Lectionary:
Acts 4:5-12; Ps 23;
1 John 3:16-24;
John 10:11-18

May 14 – Fifth
Sunday of Easter.
**9:00 – 9:30 Taizé;
9:15 Adult Forum &
Bible Study; 10:30
Worship Service
(Sue Rogge) &
Church School;
Fellowship Time**
Lectionary:
Acts 8:26-40;
Ps 22:25-31;
1 John 4:7-21;
John 15:1-8

May 21 – Sixth
Sunday of Easter.
**9:00 – 9:30 Taizé
with Communion;
9:15 Adult Forum &
Bible Study; 10:30
Worship Service &
Church School;
Fellowship Time**
Lectionary:
Acts 10:44-48; Ps 98;
1 John 5:1-6;
John 15:9-17

May 28 – Seventh
Sunday of Easter.
**9:00 – 9:30 Taizé;
9:15 Adult Forum &
Bible Study; 10:30
Worship Service &
Church School;
Fellowship Time**
Lectionary:
Acts 1:15-17, 21-26;
Ps 1;
1 John 5:9-13;
John 17:6-9