

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

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

**May 2007**

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
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## **A Word from our Pastor**

Dear Friends,

As you know, I will be away on sabbatical and vacation during the months of June, July and August. While I am away, the Deacons have made thorough plans to cover staffing to supply the pulpit, provide pastoral care and offer office hours. Please rest assured that you will be left in very capable hands which are blessed by the hands of God. Our own Nancy Callaham, ordained in the UCC, will serve as interim on a part-time basis to co-ordinate all of this. Nancy is specially trained in doing interim work and brings special sensitivity and many years of experience to us. I am so pleased and thankful that she has been selected for this role.

Much of my sabbatical will be spent out of state. I will be traveling to Italy for two weeks in June and make a pilgrimage to Assisi, where St. Francis began the Franciscan order. In preparation, I have been reading a wonderful, recently-published biography entitled Reluctant Saint: the Life of Francis of Assisi by Donald Spoto. I highly recommend it! I will also be attending the UCC General Synod in Hartford, CT as the UCC celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Sunday June 24.

July will bring some vacation time spent on Cape Cod seeing family and a week of camping with old friends at Acadia National Park in Maine.

During August I will be spending time volunteering along the Gulf Coast to aid the efforts after Hurricane Katrina and working at John's River Valley Camp – UCC in Blowing Rock.

My main focus of study will address issues of how to more fully embody being a “Green Congregation.” Books that I will study in depth include The Great Turning: from Empire to Earth Community by David Korten and Deep Economy: The Wealth of Communities and the Durable Future by Bill McKibben. They would make good summer reading for any of you so inclined to learn more about the “Hows and Whys of a Green Environmental Movement.”

I look forward to my time away for study, work and spiritual renewal and I also look forward to my return as we move into a refreshed time of ministry together.

Blessings and Peace,

Steve

## *Church Council*

**Church Council** met April 16. Moderator John Little presided. Attendees included Pastor Steve Halsted, Moderator-Elect **Diana Koenning**, Immediate Past Moderator **Vandy Bradow**, Treasurer **Mary Pruneau**, and Chairs of Ministries **Allan Beidler** (Property), **Sam Johnson** (Deacons), **Marty Lamb** (Religious Education), and **Gary Smith** (Social Justice).

Treasurer **Mary Pruneau** reports that all CUCC's accounts are on track.

### Deacons

Sam Johnson reported that **Ann McLaughlin** reviewed discernment material for the Ministry, but was not favorably impressed. The Deacons had considered a discernment process regarding the Brown bequest but are now thinking of reviewing the existing covenant and other basic organizational documents for current relevance. The preaching schedule is covered for the period June 3-August 26. Deacons also discussed new members reception.

### Community Outreach

Ministry members met and discussed the Social Justice proposal for a theme. They were "favorably inclined" but the group wants to reflect more. The Agency of the Month program continues. The Women's Center will be the focus agency for May.

### Social Justice

Sue Rogge resigned from the Social Justice Ministry; a replacement will be needed, especially to focus on children's issues. Each Ministry member has a special focus.)

The SJM is looking for Ansel Adams photos to hang on the Art Wall. The Ministry approved contributions of \$200 to Friends of Residents in Long-Term Care, and \$50 to the local chapter of Amnesty International. The Ministry is sending a letter to the Southern Poverty Law Center offering to send a contribution if the organization will agree to send CUCC no further letters or materials. **John Little** drafted a letter on behalf of SJM to City Council in support of the master plan for Horseshoe Farm Park. The Ministry wants to acquire several copies of "Sojourner" magazine for CUCC

distribution to those not acquainted with the publication. **Grady McCallie** will be requesting time for a Mission Moment on Bread for the World. The Ministry endorsed Global Warming as a theme for the Helen Brown bequest proposal. (See also "Helen Brown Bequest, below.)

### Stewardship

**Mary Pruneau** reported that everyone will be called to ask for auction donations and support through attendance. Photos about past auction item activities are posted on the CUCC website.

### Religious Education

**Marty Lamb** reported that the youth committee has been meeting; a special "festival" Sunday is scheduled for May 20. They have also reviewed new curricula. The adult education group is considering sponsoring an environmental study group at 4 p.m. on Sundays, beginning in the fall. **Grady McCallie** and **Mike Schafale** were suggested as resources. **Ellen Beidler** is writing a proposal for a summer program to be offered during the summer at 9:15 (while Forum is in recess).

### Welcoming, Fellowship and Growth

No report.

### Property

The pew upholstery was installed for Easter Sunday. The Ministry met on Thursday April 12 to summarize needs and assign priorities. The (very energy-efficient) replacement sliding doors for the Vaughan Fellowship Hall have been ordered.

Strong winds felled a large tree behind Pilgrim House April 15. **Joan McAllister** got an estimate of \$1,750 for removing this and three pine trees in the Memorial Garden area. Allan asked the Council for guidance regarding funding. Council voted to use the interest received to date from the Brown bequest to purchase the Vaughan Wing sliding doors. The Pilgrim House skylight blew off today; Pastor Steve Halsted re-secured it.

### Pastor's Report

Steve has interviewed a strong candidate for the nursery attendant position; a final decision is pending background check. Steve will be conducting a gay union ceremony on May 19. Several people have indicated a willingness to become CUCC members. Steve is trying to set up a

date when these new members can join. April 29 or May 6 have been suggested.

### Helen Brown Bequest

Social Justice Ministry Chair **Gary Smith** presented the proposal on global climate approved by the Ministry at its last meeting. After Council discussion, the Social Justice Ministry agreed to have its proposal ready for consideration at the May 20 congregational meeting.

**Allan Beidler** distributed the list of Property Ministry proposed priorities. Motions were made, seconded, and passed to:

- Fund the sanctuary lighting improvement with up to \$30,000 from the Brown bequest; and
- Authorize Property Ministry's pursuing replacement of the sanctuary windows, using any remainder of the \$30,000 from the Property Ministry's allocation from the Brown bequest, plus the the Window Fund, plus gifts. Gifts will be solicited first.
- The two windows in the choir/organ be done first.

### Other Business

Vandy Bradow proposed Council show a DVD produced by NO OLF after services on Sunday. It presents interviews with residents near the Navy's preferred site for its proposed Outlying Landing Facility. Gary Smith advised of Social Justice Ministry's support. Council agreed to sponsor the showing and preparation of supporting materials.

## *Deacons*

**CUCC Deacons** met on April 12, 2007.

Attending: **Jo Perry, Sam Johnson, Steve Halsted, Jim Smith, Ann McLaughlin, Nancy Callaham, Edith Sylla, Gary Smith, Margaret Osborne**

### Communion procedures

Steve requested that Deacons assisting with communion arrive 10 minutes early so he can explain the procedure for that day. Steve agreed to make a communion assistants' "cheat sheet" on standard procedures.

### Discernment Process

**Ann McLaughlin** reviewed the book that Steve shared last time. (see Council report, above).

### Pastor's Report

Steve wants to attend the annual Southern Conference clergy retreat May 14 – 16, hosted by the Eastern Virginia Association in Virginia Beach.

### Summer Preaching Schedule

**Nancy Callaham** passed out the following preaching schedule:

June	3	Nancy Callaham
June	10	Robert Parrish
June	17	Ann McLaughlin
June	24	N'Sumbu Puati
July	1	Nancy Callaham
July	8	Sue Rogge
July	15	Hunter Thompson
July	22	Robert Parrish
July	29	Hunter Thompson
August	5	Nancy Callaham
August	12	Sue Rogge
August	19	Maggie Stoddard
August	26	Anne Pope (Hymn Sing) - may be moved to June 24 (switch with Pastor Puati)

**Next Deacons meeting:** May 10.

April 22, a beautiful and warm afternoon, saw 30 UCC'ers and their animals gather in the courtyard at CUCC. Light refreshments followed the **Blessing of the Animals** with special treats for both animals and people. **Marty Lamb** played the flute for singing, the youth of the church publicized the event, set up and cleaned up and helped pass out programs, as well as prepared the refreshments. The middle schoolers paraded into the circle with kites they had made. Dogs were in the majority, one cat, two guinea pigs, and some worms were in attendance. Many thanks go to **Jane Smith** for her leadership in this event. We look forward to making this an annual event.

## *Religious Education*

### Adult Forum

Join us every Sunday in May, 9:15 -10:15 a.m. in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall. The Forum will not meet in June, July or August.

May 6 – Rev. Collins Kilburn on Bishop Desmond Tutu, His Life, Thought and Contributions.

May 13 – Bishop Tutu continued

May 20 – Bishop Tutu continued

May 27 – **Lavon Page** – Dogma, Doctrine, and Creeds: What do these have to do with us?

### Church School Calendar

May 19 – Stop Hunger Now – packaging food items

May 20 – Children will participate in Service

June 3 – Last day of Church School for the church school year. **Hot Dog Cookout Celebration!**

### Sunday Morning Bible Study

The Sunday morning Bible study, meeting at 9:15 AM in the Bradow Room, continues to explore the book of Genesis. We read and discuss about one to two chapters a week. There is no preparation and no homework. Please join us! For more information, call **Gary Smith**, 787-6539.

### 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. 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 Saturday Men's Group book for reading and discussion for May is The Causes of War by Geoffrey Blainey. For more information, call **Ed Klemmer**, 847-7992.

### Monday Lunch Group

Bring lunch and join us in the Hoffmann Room Mondays at 12:15 p.m. In May, **Geraldine Bryan** will lead a program on Noah (Genesis).

## Property

Our thanks to **Joan McAllister** for handling the research and purchase of our **cushions** on the pews in the sanctuary. Our comfort level is greatly improved!

### Memorial/Meditation Garden

Our thanks to **Warren, Elizabeth, Neil and Ben Savage** for tending our garden in April.

Caretakers for May are **Heather & Chris Burkhardt**; for June, **Ann and Joe Retzer**.

If you are interested in keeping our garden in its supreme glory, please contact **Peg** to volunteer for a month in the near future, 833-7203.

Guidelines for upkeep tasks of the garden are in the office and will be mailed to those who volunteer.

## Welcoming, Fellowship & Growth

There will be no **Sisters in Spirit (SIS)** meeting in May.

### Retirees Fellowship – (2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays, monthly)

The Retired Group will meet Monday, May 14, at 10:30 in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall. The speaker will be the Training Officer for the 919 Emergency Center. Bring a sandwich; drinks and dessert will be provided. Everyone is welcome. The Retirees will not meet during the summer.

### Communications

The Communications Committee is pleased  
Note that activity pictures are being taken and submitted. Keep up the good work, folks! We want to make sure that we have a true sampling of the life of our church in our new pictorial directory. Individual and family



photos will be taken the second week in October, so please note that week on your calendar. More later!



## Social Justice

CUCC sent full petitions to Senators Elizabeth Dole and Richard Burr in support of the **NO OLF** initiative.

### **Time to Break the Silence**

In our church and thousands of churches around the country and the world, at concerts, sporting events, political rallies, conventions, fundraisers, and many other venues, there have been vigils, prayer services and moments of silence in response to the tragic shootings at Virginia Tech. We all want to express our horror, our outrage, our sympathy and support for the families and loved ones of those who were murdered in Blacksburg, Virginia.

But the time has come to break the silence. The time has come to make noise, to shout, to scream "no more of this carnage." The thirty-two who were killed on that terrible day were more than have ever been killed at one time in the history of our country, [By one person? In this situation? Deliberately? With a gun? Other than war? – need alternate language] but every day, yesterday, the day before, and for days without end at least that many will fall victims of gun violence. The time has come to break the silence. And how do we make our shouts heard? We write our Representatives, our Senators, our legislators. But in order to amplify our shouts, to make sure that they are heard day in and day out, we need to join with others so that our shouts are a crescendo that can not be ignored, calling loud and clear for gun control legislation.

There are at least three groups that deserve our support:

Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence,  
Education Fund  
1225 Eye St., NW  
Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20005-3914  
[www.bradycenter.org](http://www.bradycenter.org)

North Carolinians Against Gun Violence,  
Education Fund  
P.O. Box 9204  
Chapel Hill, NC 27515

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

Coalition to Stop Gun Violence,  
Education Fund  
1023 15th St. NW, Suite 301  
Washington, D.C. 20005

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

Make your voice heard. Send them money, help them lobby, show you care and that you are outraged that in our "civilized" nation we allow such barbarity to take place every day.

### **Break the Silence**

**Cy King – Social Justice Ministry**

## Our People

### **Prayer Requests**

Please write your prayer requests on a slip of paper and place it in the offering plate or in one of the prayer jars (Narthex or in Pilgrim House.) Our prayers are solicited for **Jo Lemons, Jo Banks, Al Matthews, Ruby Lamb, Lisa Marsh, Kerma Hazel, Mamie Scott, Geri Bowen's mother, Nancy Cross' cousins Carolyn and Jean, the family of Bill Bradow, David Ledbetter's father, Bill, June Bolton, Joan McAllister, Scottie Bell, Bobby Barnes, Rhonda Zingraff & Charlie Thomas, people of the DRC, and other victims of war and natural disaster across the globe.**

CUCC expresses our condolences to the family of **Kay Cope** who passed away Sunday, April 29. The memorial service will be held at CUCC Sunday, May 6, at 12:30 p.m.



### **Our Young Peoples' Birthdays**

5/25/01 – Jared Kim  
6/1/00 – Cammy Riemann  
6/4/97 – Isaac Milandu  
6/12/93 – Angelina DeVito  
6/13/95 – Carson Roach-Howell  
6/16/98 – Samuel Dubois  
6/24/95 – Jonny Cookmeyer  
6/27/97 – Colleen Barrick

## Church Directory

### **Change:**

**Jeanne and David Ledbetter,**  
[davidledbetter@bellsouth.net](mailto:davidledbetter@bellsouth.net)

**Margot von Harten,** (919) 612-4315

## *Community Outreach*

### **CUCC's AGENCY OF THE MONTH**

The Community Outreach Ministry has initiated a program through which the nonprofit agencies that CUCC supports with its treasure and with the talent of its members are identified and celebrated. Each month an agency will be selected as the CUCC Agency of the Month. The agency will be introduced with a Mission Moment, with a bulletin board display, and with a Newsletter article. The first agency to be honored as the CUCC Agency of the Month is . . .

### **INTERACT**

Interact is a private, nonprofit agency which provides safety, support, and awareness to victims and survivors of domestic violence and rape/sexual assault. Interact promotes violence-free relationships and communities through collaboration, public information, education, and advocacy. Interact was formed in the 1980s by the merger of three Wake County agencies: Rape Crisis Center, Women's Aid, and Child Abuse Prevention Services. Interact is the only confidential domestic violence prevention program serving Wake County's population of 650,000. Each year over 20,000 families in crisis are served by Interact, which fulfills its mission through the support of its volunteers and the community. Interact recently purchased the YWCA on Oberlin Road. This new home will enable Interact to expand its services and to provide office space for its collaborative partners.

Submitted by **Tom Young**

**Fernand Milandu** presented the Children's Message Sunday, April 29, relating the theme "Who Is My Neighbor" for our **One Great Hour of Sharing** celebration. The children, armed with baskets collected the offering (envelopes and 30 lbs.

of cardboard banks) from the congregation. The celebration then concluded with a potluck feast attended by many and expanding into the courtyard. We thank you for your \$3150+ in donations for us to help so many people in need.

### **HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR BY BRINGING FOOD BAGS!**



Urban Ministries has moved to a new location on Capitol Boulevard. On the first day they were open, our April contribution of **30 food bags** was most welcome. We surpassed our goal!! Thanks to all who made this

happen. Keep giving; hunger still persists.

Food bags are due **May 6** and every first Sunday of the month.

Submitted by **Marge Eckels**

## **Wider Church**

UCC's General Synod, June 22-26 in Hartford, CT  
– see Pastor's message on the front page.

### **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: John Little

Treasurer: Mary Pruneau

Asst. Treasurer: Carol Kepler

Clerk: vacant

Ministry Chairs:

Deacons: Sam Johnson

Welcome, Fellowship, and Growth: Vacant

Stewardship: Carol Kepler, Interim chair

Property: David Ledbetter, Allan Beidler Jan.-June,  
and Joan McAllister July-Dec.

Religious Education: Marty Lamb

Social Justice: Gary Smith

Community Outreach: Tom Young

Organist: Doug Barrick

Choir Director: Anne Moorman-Smith

## TWO IMPORTANT EVENTS FOR MAY 19<sup>TH</sup>!!!

### Stop Hunger Now

Remember May 19, Noon – 2 p.m.



Our re-scheduled packaging event for Stop Hunger Now is May 19, 12 noon until 2 p.m. We had 63 volunteers signed up in January when our date had to be unavoidably changed. Please do plan to meet this commitment if at all possible. If you cannot be with us, please phone **Carolyn King**, 829-0780. The Sharehouse sets up the line according to the number of volunteers expected. We will have a table in the narthex on May 6 so you can verify your participation and make your donation if you have not done so. (This is not mandatory for your taking part in this effort.0 If there are new folks who would like to sign up to help, they may do so at this time.

#### Directions to Sharehouse

Go north on Capital Blvd. (U.S. 1 N). Where the road splits, stay left toward Wake Forest and Henderson. You will eventually pass Old Wake Forest Rd. on the left and soon go under 540. At the second traffic light after going under 540 turn left onto Gresham Lake Rd. Watch for Burwell St. on your right and proceed on Gresham Lake to the next right which will be Welborn. Turn right onto Welborn and then turn right onto Wellington Court. The Stop Hunger Now Sharehouse is 3200 Wellington- the phone there is 954-9480.

Be aware the the Sharehouse is some distance from the church, so allow plenty of time to arrive by noon. Also please make your own car-pool arrangements.

## CUCC FAMILY FUN AUCTION

Saturday May 19

Social starts at 6:30 pm-- Auction at 7:00 pm

Featuring **Karen Haley** as auctioneer, the highest bidders will go home with promises of gourmet dinners, parties, culinary treats or services among the wonderful offerings. There will also be **Silent Auction** items.

The cost will be \$5.00 at the door to buy a bidding number....OR just come for FUN.

OR...you may bid by PROXY if you absolutely can't make it. Just give your friend your budget and tell them what items to bid for, or let them surprise you.

We need your participation ... both as donors and buyers to benefit our church budget.

Fill out your pledge form and turn it in to the office (or offering plate) ASAP.

**There will be plenty of time to bag food for Stop Hunger Now earlier in the day.**

#### Save the date:

Let us know ahead if you need babysitting help during the auction.

Bring your family and friends.

Bring lots of money! (cash or checks cheerfully accepted)



Pledge form  
**CUCC FAMILY FUN AUCTION**  
 Saturday May 19, 2007

Social begins at 6:30 pm; Bidding at 7:00 pm

The CUCC Auction gives you a chance to share your talents and services as a gift to the church and to have a great time doing it!! Please think about what special offerings you might put up for bids and then fill out this pledge form.

Refreshments offered: Cookies, brownies, hors d'oeuvres, wine, soft drinks, lemonade, coffee.

**Possible contributions (from previous years):**

**Homemade items** such as desserts, jams, paintings, quilts or pottery!!

**Services** (hopefully youth will also get involved) such as babysitting, petsitting, guided specialty tours, entertainment, or dinners either at your place or theirs!!

**Resources** such as vacation homes, canoes or kayak trips!!

**Silent Auction items:** Mystery box?, possible youth treasures (please, no old yard sale items).....

*Suggestion: If you offer multiple items of one thing, such as jam or cookies, please give us a suggested price and how many of those items you have for sale (if possible) under "Conditions"*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

1. I will contribute: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Estimated value \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Minimum bid. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Dates offered \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conditions (if any): \_\_\_\_\_
2. I will contribute: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Estimated value \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Minimum bid. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Dates offered \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conditions (if any): \_\_\_\_\_
3. I will contribute: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Estimated value \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Minimum bid. \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Dates offered \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conditions (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return this form to the office **ASAP** so we can begin to publicize the offerings by Sunday May 6 and May 13. Last items may be added by **Wednesday May 16.***

- ? I would like to see \_\_\_\_\_ offered at the auction.  
 ? I would like babysitting services. \_\_\_\_\_. Or a youth video \_\_\_\_\_.  
 ? I plan to attend the auction: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Maybe \_\_\_\_\_

Community United Church of Christ  
814 Dixie Trail  
Raleigh, NC 27607  
May 2007 Newsletter

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The deadline for our June Newsletter is  
May 21<sup>st</sup>.

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

## **A Month of Sundays**

**May 6** | Fifth 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 11:1-18; Ps 148;  
Rev 21:1-6;  
John 13:31-35**

**May 13** | Sixth  
Sunday of Easter |  
**9:00 – 9:30 Taizé;  
9:15 Adult Forum &  
Bible Study; 10:30  
Worship Service &  
Church School;  
Fellowship Time  
Lectionary:  
Acts 16:9-15; Ps 67;  
Rev 21:10, 22-22:5;  
John 14:23-29 or  
John 5:1-9**

**May 20** | Seventh  
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 16:16-34; Ps 97;  
Rev 22:12-14, 16-17,  
20-21;  
John 17:30-26**

**May 27** | Pentecost  
Sunday | **9:00 – 9:30  
Taizé; 9:15 Adult  
Forum & Bible  
Study; 10:30  
Worship Service &  
Church School;  
Fellowship Time  
Lectionary:  
Acts 2:1-21 or  
Gen 11:1-9;  
Ps 104:24-34, 35b;  
Rom 8:14-27 or  
Acts 2:1-21;  
John 14:8-17, (25-27)**