

COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Nurturing Spiritual Growth and Working for Social Justice

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Stephen S. Halsted, Pastor

November 2002

Lectionary for November

November 3rd, Twenty-Fourth Sunday after

Pentecost

Josh 3:7-17; Ps 107:1-7, 33-37 OR Mic 3:5-12; Ps 43;

1 Thess 2:9-13; Mt 23:1-12

November 10th, Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Josh 24:1-3a, 14-25; Ps 78:1-7 OR Wisd of Sol 6:12-16

or Am 5:18-24; Wisd of Sol 6:17-20 or Ps 70;

1 Thess 4:13-18; Mt 25:1-13.

November 17th, Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Judg 4:1-7; Ps 123 OR Zeph 1:7, 12-18; Ps 90:1-8,

(9-11), 12; 1 Thess 5:1-11; Mt 25:14-30.

November 24th, Twenty-Seventh Sunday after

Pentecost

Ezek 34:11-16, 20-24; Ps 100 OR Ezek 34:11-16, 20-24;

Ps 95:1-7a; Eph 1:15-23; Mt 25:31-46.

Dear Friends,

I'm afraid I'd be lost without my UCC Desk calendar! It keeps me focused and on track with the many and varied areas of ministry that our church and denomination are involved in.

It highlights special Sundays throughout the year so that we don't overlook our connectedness to other UCC congregations and to the ecumenical universal church.

For instance, in October the first Sunday is designated as "World Communion Sunday"; hence, we celebrated with breads from around the world.

Coming up in November we have two specially designated Sundays. November 10th is Stewardship Sunday and you are invited to bring your pledge card to be offered in worship. If you are unable to attend that Sunday, please mail or drop off your pledge card at the church office. We will dedicate our pledge offerings with prayer and later in the service we will re-covenant with God as we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion. November 24th we will celebrate Thanksgiving Sunday by remembering our denominational

heritage with the Pilgrims of Plymouth colony, who gave thanks for God's grace in delivering them to freedom in the "New World". In honor of their legacy we will receive your "Neighbors in Need" special offerings that aid underprivileged people in our society through charitable gifts.

As the month of November comes to a close, the Season of Advent will be upon us beginning Sunday December 1st. To help guide and deepen your anticipation of Christmas blessings, I have ordered Advent booklets for daily readings. For families with children at home the booklet will be "Teach Us Your Paths" with activities that could be done each evening. For singles and couples, the booklet is titled: "The Lord Is Near" with advent meditations from Henri J. M. Nouwen, one of my favorite Christian authors. I hope you will enjoy and grow in spirit by setting aside some quiet time to make use of these valuable booklets. They will be available through the generosity of the Deacons' budget on Thanksgiving Sunday and thereafter at the church office.

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.

Please remember in your prayers: Prayers for The Rev. Howard Cunningham.

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

1 Hours of History Making

You can be there when history is made in Raleigh. **Sit with the CUCC delegation at the Delegates Assembly** of the IAF on Tuesday, Nov. 12 from 7-8:30 p.m. at Oak City Baptist Church (directions on orange sheets in information rack in CUCC hallway).

At the Delegates Assembly, the coordinating group will report on the four proposed areas of the Agenda for Raleigh: Education and Youth, Jobs and Economic Development, Housing and Neighborhoods, and Healthcare. A dozen congregations surveyed 1286 people spanning the generations, the races, the faiths, and the neighborhoods of Raleigh. The proposed agenda was built from the hundreds of suggestions made by those who attended house meetings and completed surveys. [Yes, CUCC, your concerns for good government, the environment and transportation are included in several of these areas!]

Why come to another meeting? Because this one will be amazing! Turnout of between 200 (already committed) and 500 is expected. This will be one of the most racially mixed events I've seen in my 20 years in Raleigh. After the Delegates ratify an agenda, congregations will caucus to commit how many of their membership who will participate in the Action Teams; this is your chance to get in on the ground floor of making change. Some great

speakers are scheduled. This is an intergenerational event (Jane plans to bring Abby so other CUCC children would be welcome). And IAF meetings are famous for ending on schedule!

[An Action Team is the body that does the research, develops the strategy, and implements the steps needed to make change. For those of you who hate meetings that don't do anything, this is the place to jump into the process.]

Questions? Call Daylia Vaughan, Ernie Muenchau, or Jane Smith. Think you might be interested in doing some of that research/strategy/implementation stuff in one of the Agenda areas? Call us to find out more.

Women's Support Group

Stamping for Fun and Pleasure: Thursday, November 21 from 7:00-8:30 pm

The Women's Support Group will have a special event on November 21 when Joan McAllister and friends will be teaching participants fun and easy techniques to create personal "works of art" for Christmas giving. Participants will be able to create two or three projects during the 1 hour workshop that will use a variety of stamping, embossing, and decorating techniques. Joan is a beginner, but her talented co-instructors will stretch your creative mind as you rediscover your creativity. Women who attended the beach retreat in September can attest to the following warning: **This is a highly addictive hobby!**

Pre-registration for this event is required so that the correct amount of materials can be purchased. Participants are asked to contribute \$2 to help cover the costs of the supplies that will be used during the workshop.

Registration is limited to 18 persons. Contact Sally Cook at 467-3642 by November 16 to assure your slot.

Monday Lunch Group meets at 12:15 each Monday in the Hoffmann Room. Bring a sandwich and enter into the lively discussions of Dorothee Soelle's very stimulating book, Theology for Skeptics, Reflections on God.

Retirees

On Monday November 11th at 11:00 am, the Retirees will hear the further adventures of Mark Denlinger's catapult. He has a video which demonstrates these ingenious devices. Come for a fun program and bring a sandwich. Dessert and beverage will be provided. Visitors are always welcome.

An Invitation- Inquirers' Class

To all Newcomers and "inquirers" (Steve's class): The Caring Committee invites you to a brunch following worship on Sunday, November 17, in the Bradow Room. Discussion and questions will be mingled with food. Child care will be provided. The gathering will end by 1:00 p.m. RSVP to Marge Eckels at 787-5552 before November 10. Please come!

Community Thanksgiving Service

This year the Thanksgiving Service for the West Raleigh area congregations (UCC, HTLC, Fairmont Methodist, Pullen Baptist and **WRPC**) will be held at **West Raleigh Presbyterian Church.**

Location: 27 Horne Street (corner of Horne and Vanderbilt)

Date: Wednesday, November 27

Time: 7:30 pm

Parking: WRPC lot, Fairmont lot, street

Nursery: provided

Preaching: will include children's message

Offering: for local mission

Singing: hymns selected from hymnals of the various denominations

Anthems: combined choirs to rehearse at 6:30 pm
Reception afterwards in Fellowship Hall – great time for socializing!

Please bring any family or friends who might be visiting you!



CUCC Christmas Party is December 14

The CUCC Christmas party (for adults) will be held the evening of Dec. 14 at the church. Negotiations are underway to have Mitch Hazouri cater the event since everyone seemed to like the way that Mitch handled the receptions following two recent memorial services (for Isabella Cannon and Paul Marsh). The Welcome and Fellowship Committee will attempt to plan the event so that the food and refreshments will be inexpensive but good quality. Expect more information soon.

Arts in Worship

This fall we have two artists represented on the **Art Wall**. Ted Gregory is displaying his beautiful watercolors--come enjoy scenes from New England to Greece. We also have a portrait done by Cynthia Woodburn who does very reasonably priced custom portraits in charcoal, pastels, and watercolor. Enjoy!

Also displayed are the artist's biographies.

BOARD OF DEACONS

The Board of Deacons will meet Thursday, November 7, in the Pilgrim House.

CHURCH COUNCIL

SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

We will hold CUCC's next Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 8th, immediately following the 10:30 service. We will discuss next year's budget and the pledge drive, as well as provide an update on other church activities. As you know, Semi-Annual Meetings are "open" forums where you are welcome to raise any topic or question you'd like.

Child care and refreshments will be provided.

Report to the Congregation of Community United Church of Christ on the Results of the Congregation-Wide Survey on Issues Confronting Our Community

From late July to September members of the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) Mission Group conducted a survey of CUCC members to ascertain the issues confronting our community. We received information from 31 members of the congregation through a series of meetings, informal discussions and written surveys. Contributions came from children, teens and adults, from those new to the congregation and from long-time members. The ideas for creative change were many and passionately advanced. A full report of detailed concerns is attached.

The top five issues clusters are:

Accessibility and affordability of **health care**
Care for the **environment**, including good planning and good stewardship
Housing, including affordability and good planning
Nurturing of **youth**, including education and recreation
Economic concerns.

In addition there was an overarching concern for **the way we live together** – neighborhood ties, mutual respect and inclusion, and civil society. The breakdown of these three ways of being together permeated the discussion of the issues.

At the IAF Delegates Assembly, we will be invited to report our top three or four areas of concern. It will also be appropriate to report the overarching concerns about the way we live together. While we will not be able to include the section on economic concerns (exceeds our limit and was mentioned by very few respondents), we will voice support should that issue emerge in discussion.

The IAF Mission Group requests that the congregation:

- a) *Ratify this report as expressing the areas where CUCC would like to see change in our community;*
- b) *Delegate Vandy Bradow, Robert Parrish, Jane Smith, Jim Smith, Edith Sylla, and Daylia Vaughan to present this report and to advocate for these priorities at the Delegates Assembly of IAF in November and in any meetings preparing for that Delegates Assembly.*

Respectfully submitted,

Vandy Bradow, Ernie Muenchau, Robert Parrish,
Jane Smith, Jim Smith, Edith Sylla, Daylia
Vaughan, Margot von Harten
IAF Mission Group
September 16, 2002

1) Accessibility and affordability of health care (health care includes mental health care and care for those with addictions)

- ❑ Ensure easy access to medical care and services
- ❑ Availability of doctors who will see patients with specialized insurance (ex. Medicare, Medicaid)
- ❑ Adequate public transportation to medical services
- ❑ Ensure easy access to medical information and advice
- ❑ Ensure affordable medical care and services
- ❑ Availability of insurance if have pre-existing condition
- ❑ Ensure affordable prescriptions
- ❑ Develop sustainable system of financing of medical care and services
- ❑ Streamline medical administrative procedures (ex. problems with forms, reimbursement, change of insurers, getting a human on the

phone and getting answers, getting approval for procedures)

2) Care for the **environment**, including good planning and good stewardship

- ❑ Recognize that the environment is important to us aesthetically as well as to meet our physical needs and that the environment has value to other creatures as well as to humans
- ❑ Preserve green spaces
 - ❑ Stop clear cutting
 - ❑ Preserve historic sites (ex. home and forest on Wake Forest Road)
 - ❑ Set aside park land
- ❑ Clean up pollution
 - ❑ Runoff from fertilizers, development (ex. down stream neighborhoods, Crabtree Creek)
 - ❑ Toxins in air, land, water
 - ❑ Litter in neighborhoods
- ❑ Enforce landscape ordinances consistently
- ❑ Plan for, develop, and legislate that consumers have the option of green power energy alternative in North Carolina
- ❑ Plan for cleaner transportation
 - ❑ Sidewalks (also addresses needs for meeting neighbors, exercise, access to amenities, care of animals)
 - ❑ Safety (including people with disabilities; special concern about sidewalks on two sides of Wake Forest Road which has heavy foot traffic)
 - ❑ Bike paths (also addresses needs for exercise, inexpensive transportation
 - ❑ Safety for cyclists and pedestrians
 - ❑ Insufficient number currently to be useful for transportation
- ❑ Public transportation
 - ❑ Adequate routes and schedule (ex. to public amenities – concerts, galleries, sporting events - including for weekend events, non-M-F 9-5 health care sites and jobs, weekend routes so people can get to houses of worship)
 - ❑ Promotion
- ❑ Taxis (major source of transportation for people with disabilities)
 - ❑ Affordability
 - ❑ Reliability and availability

- ❑ Plan for and enforce plans for land use (see also items in **Housing**)
 - ❑ Redevelopment of older areas (ex. old farmers' market off Capital Blvd., downtown)
 - ❑ Approve development consistent with plans for public transportation, public education diversification
- ❑ Plan for water use
 - ❑ Reduce water consumption
 - ❑ Plan for long term needs

3) **Housing**, including affordability and good planning

- ❑ Plan for and enforce the plan for
 - ❑ Diversity in neighborhoods
 - ❑ Range of housing prices and purchase/rental
 - ❑ Balancing the need for housing/business construction with the need to preserve the environment
- ❑ Construct many more units of lower cost housing (rental and purchase) throughout the community
- ❑ Enforce building codes so that existing housing stock is safe and livable (deteriorating maintenance and appearance of rentals invites crime)
- ❑ Provide for sufficient emergency shelter
- ❑ Preserve old buildings
- ❑ Build community centers to connect neighbors and ensure that neighborhoods are safe, nurturing and pleasant places to live
- ❑ Encourage and enforce landowner and developer accountability to communities

4) Nurturing of **youth**, including education and recreation

- ❑ Develop good neighborhood-based recreational facilities for youth and teens (helps create sense of neighborhood as well as providing safe, supportive environment)
- ❑ Diversify schools and recreation facilities
- ❑ Provide high quality public education for everyone
- ❑ Support educational staff with increased benefits and lowered administrative load
- ❑ Provide access of information to all citizens

- ❑ Provide educational support both within school and after hours for children from economically disadvantaged neighborhoods who have inadequate support at home

5) Economic concerns

(a handful of respondents felt passionately about this issue; CUCC supports the inclusion of this area should the Delegates Assembly choose to address it)

- ❑ Provide emergency food for free or at reduced prices
- ❑ Provide emergency necessities for free or reduced prices
- ❑ Insist that Raleigh, Wake County, North Carolina pay a living wage (this becomes an example and first step to private employers) Upgrade job opportunities

The way we live together

- ❑ Nurture a sense of community in neighborhoods
 - ❑ Demonstrate respect for each other in our speech, actions and attitudes
 - ❑ Encourage communication between people, being careful to include newcomers and children/youth
 - ❑ Invite people to be involved in processes, recognizing each person’s importance to the community, being careful to include newcomers and children/youth
 - ❑ Encourage respect for and participation in public institutions (ex. education); these are our common grounds
- ❑ Encourage corporate commitment to the community and families (e.g. Ben and Jerry’s or SAS “ethic”)
- ❑ Embrace the diversities of our community and institutionalize that in our social structures.
 - ❑ Positive action in deliberately including people
 - ❑ Negative action in enforcing anti-discriminatory laws and policies
 - ❑ Provide Spanish instruction and cultural instruction for all police officers
 - ❑ Expand inter-cultural contact opportunities
- ❑ Provide information to newcomers about services and amenities in community

- ❑ Insist that our elected representatives work well together rather than polarizing, dividing, or focusing solely on their own re-election
- ❑ Recognize and embrace the leadership role that Raleigh plays in creating change statewide given our status as state capital. Legislators are here, physically. We are their neighborhood and they will hear/read about discussions of local concern.

CHRISTIAN WITNESS

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Many thanks to all who helped with the pictorial directory. We hope you will enjoy your directory when it arrives sometime early in 2003. We’re counting on your ordered pictures to be back in late November or early December.

WIDER OUTREACH COMMITTEE

CUCC Walkers Raise Funds and Have Fun

A group of CUCC members spanning the generations kept a vigorous pace at the CROP walk, raising **\$1840.00** to feed hungry people in Raleigh and around the world. Long-time CUCC members mingled with newcomers in ever-changing conversation clusters. The beautiful weather contributed to the festive time. Next year, join us for some fun and fundraising!

Recycle Phones for Method Child Development Center



Have an old **cell phone** that you no longer need? Bring it to Margaret Osborne at church. She'll drop them off at Method Child Development Center for their cell phone fundraiser. Method continues to be one of the few day care centers which is deliberately multicultural and seeks to include lower

income families. CUCC was one of Method's founding churches and still has a member on the Board of Directors (Margaret).

By the way, Method Child Development's excellent program has some **openings available for children**. If you know of anyone looking for a great program where children from diverse families learn and play together, talk with Margaret.

Want to make a difference in the world?
JUSTICE AND COMPASSION

It can be hard to decide which organizations across the country will be good stewards of our financial gifts.

Neighbors in Need, the autumn offering of the United Church of Christ, is one of those terrific ways to channel your financial resources. Our gifts combine with those from other UCC churches to support effective work in communities across the United States and in Puerto Rico.

* **1/3** of the offering is used by the Council for American Indian Ministry which supports the twenty American Indian congregations of the UCC. The UCC is unique in its relationship to American Indian churches as an autonomous Council.

- * **2/3** of the offering supports
 - **justice advocacy*
 - **direct service projects* such as
 - *the hunger action ministry,
 - *just-peace programs, and
 - *community grants.

To see a list of groups who have received grants or to learn more about NIN, check out www.ucc.org/steward/nin.

You'll see some groups you recognize and many, many creative local and national efforts that may be new to you.

CUCC will be collecting donations in the annual Neighbors in Need offerings on **Sunday, November 24**. You are also welcome to send a donation to the church office; mark **NIN** on the memo line.

Chris Schafale's Pottery Sale and Loaves and Fishes

Chris Schafale has offered to bring her beautiful pottery to church on **November 24** after worship for you to purchase. Her display has been a highlight of Marketplace of Meaningful Gifts and we're glad she's willing to continue the tradition despite MMG's hiatus. As usual, 1/3 of the proceeds will go to Loaves and Fishes, a children's ministry. Loaves and Fishes pairs volunteers with children who could benefit from a little extra support in their school work and their lives. This after school program has made a huge impact on the lives of many children and their parents. So bring your wallets to the fellowship time after worship and do some holiday shopping while you support a wonderful organization.

Christmas Wright Center Meal

If you would like to help cook and/or serve the Wright Center meal on December 15, call Jane Smith (787-6539).

Reminder: **Food Bags** will be collected on November 3rd (next Sunday).



In October we contributed 21 emergency food bags. Personnel at Urban Ministries really welcome our so-called "basic" food bags with the contents we provide. They are very useful when requests come in because they are all assembled and do not require extra work by the personnel. Please keep up the contributions. We are still aiming for 25 food bags per month. Thanks!

SOCIAL ACTION

Social Action Calendar

November 3 – “Ode to Peace Concert” – Sunday, November 3, Concert at 3:00 pm, Reception at 4:00 pm, United Church of Christ, 1321 Airport Road, Chapel Hill. Make reservations by October 24 by writing a \$25.00 check payable to NC Peace Action and mailing it to P.O. Box 10384, Raleigh, NC 27605.

November 6 – “Stop the Arms Race” vigil. 12 noon, Fayetteville Street Mall.

November 8 – A Victory Party to celebrate the movement for “Voter-Owned Elections” in NC. North Carolina Voters for Clean Elections and Democracy South invite you to celebrate a victory! Friday, Nov. 8, 7 pm – until. Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 4907 Garrett Rd., Durham. RSVP Erin Byrd, 838-8683.

November 9 – Rev. Sally Bingham: A Religious Response to Global Warming. Sponsored by Climate Connection: the NC Interfaith Ecojustice Network. Saturday, Nov. 9, 4 pm, Centenary United Methodist Church, 646 W. 5th Street (next to the County Library), Winston-Salem, NC. Contact: Laura Hummingbird Frazier, (336) 993-5321.

November 9 – “The Moratorium is Now” – People of Faith Against the Death Penalty: 2002 Annual Conference. Saturday, Nov. 9, Greenville, NC. For additional information Call 933-7567.

November 12 – Triangle Sponsoring Committee/Raleigh IAF Chapter Delegate Assembly. 7:00–8:30 pm. Oak City Baptist Church, 608 Method Road.

November 14 – The ACLU of Wake County invites you to the annual W.W. Finlator Awards Dinner. Thursday, November 14, NCSU University Club. Social hour 6:30, Dinner at 7:00. Bill Towe will receive the Finlator Award. Keynote speaker will be Daniel Pollitt. \$25. For reservations, call Clay Stalnaker 833-8303.

December 5- International Human Rights Award Dinner. Mary-Lou Leiser-Smith will receive the award this year at the NCSU University Club. 6:30 pm on Thursday, Dec. 5. \$27. For reservations, call Joyce Scapicchio, 571-1874.

At a time when war seems eminent, events – rallies, marches, vigils, demonstrations – are planned on short notice. Watch the Sunday Bulletin and your email for announcements.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CUCC Church School Program:

November 3: Hunger - Serving Others - preschool and elementary

Elementary students special communion service in church school

Middle – Bradow Room

November 10: Hunger - Cooking the Wright Center Meal - preschool and elementary

Middle School students stay in worship.

November 17: Hannah, Mary and Elizabeth - Visiting storyteller and Art - preschool and elementary

Middle – Bradow Room

November 24: Hannah, Mary and Elizabeth - Visiting storyteller and Music - preschool and elementary

Middle – Bradow Room

ADVENT ACTIVITIES PLANNED

Advent Children's Celebration - December 8

Plan to bring a brown bag lunch and stay after worship with your family on December 8. Preschool and elementary families will be working together to make a banner which will be used in the sanctuary in the season of Christmas. *Dress to get messy and have fun.* Bring your favorite Christmas carol tape or CD to play while we work and, if you have any made, some Christmas cookies to share as we admire our work. Family members who don't attend CUCC are welcome to join us to work on the project. During Advent, we are celebrating families!

Children and Youth to Lead Worship - December 15

Mark your calendar to reserve Saturday morning, December 14, to practice for a Children and Youth Sunday on December 15. We'll be leading the congregation in remembering the birth of Jesus.

Children and Youth will stay in worship for the last Sunday of Advent, December 22.

Where are my pennies going?

Your pennies will be used to buy food that you will use to cook a meal for the women at the Wright Center. We'll be cooking in Church School on November 10. *Keep bringing those pennies!*

Adult Forum

The Adult Forum meets each Sunday morning 9:15–10:15 in the Vaughan Wing. Please join us to hear informed speakers and to participate in stimulating discussion.

November schedule:

November 3 – “Two Jews Visit the West Bank” – Tom Stern and Tema Okum describe their recent visit to Israel and Palestine. Illustrated with slides they took while traveling in the occupied territories.

November 10 – Ruth Klemmer has arranged for a panel of experts to address the problems and the pleasures of “Aging.”

November 17 and November 24 – Diana Koenning has arranged two sessions on the plague of our time, AIDS.

Center for Defense Information

Submitted by Cy King

Following the discussions in the Adult Forum on “What it means to be a Just Peace Church when our Nation is at War”, a Committee was appointed to investigate existing organizations that are doing research on how to avoid war and how to create a more peaceful world. The several members of the Committee each investigated the work of an

organization that is doing such work and reported the results of their research to the Forum. The result was that those present decided that of the organizations investigated the Center for Defense Information is doing the most effective work and so we wanted to share with the Congregation what we learned about the Center and to encourage support of their efforts.

The Center for Defense Information was founded in 1972 by recently retired senior U.S. military officers. CDI is a non-partisan, non-profit organization committed to independent research on the social, economic, environmental, political and military components of global security. To ensure the ability to provide objective analysis, CDI accepts no government or defense industry funding. Its central aim is to educate the public and inform policy makers about issues of security policy, strategy, operations, weapon systems and defense budgeting, and to create solutions to the problems of today and tomorrow. CDI is dedicated to the concept that the public and political leaders can, and will, make wise choices on complex security matters when provided with facts, and practical alternatives.

To accomplish its goals, CDU makes known its research in publications, a television series, a weekly e-mail newsletter and in books. Since 1972 The Defense Monitor has provided timely information to the country about military programs and it has focused public attention on key international security issues. The Defense Monitor is published regularly and distributed to 25,000 individuals, including members of Congress and their staffs, State Department officials, students and faculty at military academies and war colleges and the media. Articles in the most recent issue include: “The Afghan Campaign One Year On”, “Operation Enduring Freedom and Military Transformation”, and “Funding for counter terrorism: Who Gets What?” Our Church subscribes and copies of the Monitor are in the Church Library.

America’s Defense Monitor is a weekly television series broadcast on PBS and cable stations across the U.S. We are negotiating with Channel 4, our local PBS station, to have the series broadcast locally. New releases include: “The Next Space Race”, “Star Wars: New Hope or Phantom

Menace?”, “Colombia in Crisis”, and “The Military Industrial Squeeze”.

Lengthier publications include: “World Military Database 2002” providing detailed information on military forces, personnel, budgets, deployments and security arrangements for the United States and around the world; “Homeland Security: A Competitive Strategies Approach”; and “Reforging the Sword” which proposes an alternative U.S. military force for the first quarter of the 21st century.

For additional information on this important organization and its research, log on to www.cdi.org.

OUR PEOPLE

A HASED WEEKEND

Submitted by Robert Parrish

I was very proud to represent our church in serving as one of the pastors at a very special retreat. The retreat was mainly for adult persons that have autism.

The retreat was held at Camp Royell in Moncure, N. C. The people attending the retreat were from group homes and towns throughout central North Carolina. The word Hased is a Hebrew word that means the covenant and love of God. Hased weekend retreats are based on other church weekend retreats, such as the Emmaus Walk of the Methodist Church, where the main themes of the life of Christ are enacted, experienced, and portrayed.

The theme of this Hased weekend, which was the fifth such weekend held, was the “fruit of the Spirit” (see Galatians 5:22). The fruit of the spirit were greatly felt as both the leadership team and retreaters depicted the life of Christ through drama. Everyone put on costumes and played various parts in these dramas which covered such areas as the birth of Christ and his baptism. After each drama discussions and activity based on the dramas were done. Following this, worship services were held.

As I had the opportunity to lead worship and to preach, I will never forget the unique experience of seeing persons with autism work with others as team leaders. This made a very special impact on me in helping to understand that we are all a part

of the body of Christ. The joyful singing, hugs given, and loved shared from this weekend will be with me for years to come.

STEWARDSHIP

GIVE GOD THE BEST

To begin this year’s stewardship campaign, we have been blessed with people in the congregation who have been willing to share their thoughts on giving to God’s work through CUCC. Many thanks to Edith Sylla, John Little and Sue Rogge who spoke with warmth and candor (as well as humor!) on October 20th and to Geraldine Bryan who inspired us all with her mission moment on October 27th. Hopefully, these messages and the one scheduled for November 3rd by Steve, will be helpful as you consider your pledge to CUCC for the coming year. Many of you may have decided what you can afford, but please give that decision another look, focusing on our theme: “Giving God the Best”. Sunday, November 10th, is our special Stewardship Sunday when we will present our gifts to God and receive the gift of Holy Communion. Extra pledge cards will be available for those who left their own at home, as well as for those who wish to increase a pledge already made!

....the Finance Committee

SPECIAL DAYS

Youth Birthdays

November Birthdays*

11/8/97 – Erin Kiel
11/11/1987 – Cedric Difuidi
11/25/1985 – Garrett Waddell

December Birthdays*

12/13/1995 – Teresa Fletchinger
12/13/1992 – Fidel Viadef
12/19/1991 – Anna Roach-Howell
12/22/1996 – Katherine Lan Manus

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