

# **COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

## **Nurturing Spiritual Growth and Working for Social Justice**

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Stephen S. Halsted, Pastor

November 2003

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### **Lectionary for November**

#### **November 2<sup>nd</sup>, Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost**

Ruth 1:1-18; Ps 146 OR Deut 6: 1-9; Ps 119:1-8;  
Heb 9:11-14; Mk 12:28-34.

#### **November 9<sup>th</sup>, Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost**

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17; Ps 127 OR 1 Kings 17: 8-16;  
Ps 146; Heb 9: 24-28; Mk 12: 38-44.

#### **November 16<sup>th</sup>, Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost**

1 Sam 1: 4-20; 1 Sam 2: 1-10 (as a canticle) OR  
Dan 12: 1-3; Ps 16; Heb 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25;  
Mk 13:1-8.

#### **November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

2 Sam 23:1-7; Ps 132 1-12, (13-18) OR  
Dan 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 93; Rev 1: 4b-8; Jn 18:33-37.

#### **November 30<sup>th</sup>, First Sunday of Advent**

Jer 33:14-16; Ps 25: 1-10; 1 Thess 3: 9-13; Lk 21: 25-36.

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Dear Friends,

The week of October 13-19 was to have been a quiet time of contemplation and study for me. It started out as planned with a trip to Mepkin Abbey, a Trappist monastery in South Carolina. Trappist monks trace their history through 1,700 years of Western civilization. They have had a remarkable influence in our arts, education, science and technology. But their solitude, contemplation and humility seem out of place in today's world. Perhaps that is why growing numbers of people are interested in visiting for a day, a week, or even a month, to have something of the monks' simple life rub off on them. That is exactly what I was looking for myself -- but you know what they say about "the best laid plans," something is sure to crop up and change them!

So on Wednesday of that week I was called back to Raleigh to minister to the needs of the Hoffmann family upon the death of longtime member and pillar of the church (she in her delightful, humorous way had referred to herself as a "pillow" of the church) Peggy Hoffmann. Her memorial service on Sunday Oct. 19 was a wonderful testimony to a life lived in service to others and a sharing of her artistic talents, especially music and literature.

Then came the news of Bob Keyes death on Friday Oct. 17 after a lengthy battle with a brain tumor. Bob was a member of the Brooks Ave. Church of Christ while his wife Lily and daughter Sidney attend CUCC. Lily thought it best to choose a neutral site for the memorial, and so I officiated at the Longview Center in downtown Raleigh, on Wednesday evening Oct. 22. This service also was a wonderful testimony to Bob's life lived in the service to others and a sharing of his talents with clients ( many who became his good friends) in woodworking, cabinetry, etc. and Bob's very special way with children. He was also a skilled outdoorsman and felt closest to God in the grandeur of nature.

So while I had my study week shortened and modified from its original plans I was blessed to continue learning how " God's time is not as our time, nor are God's plans as our plans!"

Onward,

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 to be remembered in prayer: Jo Lemons, Sister Evelyn Mattern, Nancy Keppel, Scottie Bell and Buck Little.

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### **News of Sister Evelyn**

As you know, we have held Sr. Evelyn Mattern in our prayers of the congregation from the early days of her battle with cancer. It was announced a while ago that she would be leaving our area to take up residence in the Sacred Heart Home near members of her family. The NC Council of Churches has shared her new address along with word that she is leaving shortly. We send her off with prayers of gratitude for her many major contributions to our area and prayers for God's loving presence to continue to surround her.

Her new address is :

Sr. Evelyn Mattern  
Sacred Heart Home  
1315 West Hunting Park Ave.  
Philadelphia, PA 19140

## MEETINGS and EVENTS

Women's Support Group will meet Thursday, November 20, at 7:00 p.m. in the Bradow Room. Bring one or more recipes and stories to tell about them. Call Sally Cook 467-3642.

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Retirees Group - On Monday, November 10, the Retiree's Fellowship will meet at 11:00 a.m. in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall. Nancy Olson, owner of Quail Ridge Books, will be back by popular demand to show and discuss interesting current books. Bring a bag lunch. Dessert will be provided.

- Dot and I.T. Littleton

## Church Women United

World Community Day  
Friday, November 7, 2003  
St. Paul's Christian Church  
3331 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh, NC  
9-10:00 – Bible Study  
10-10:45 Registrations/Coffee/Silent Auction  
10:45-11:30 – World Community Day Celebration



## CUCC CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 6

The annual CUCC Christmas party will begin at 6:00 PM on Saturday, December 6, at the Church. The Social Hour will be held from 6:00 - 7:00 (wine, punch, and snacks), and at 7:00, Mitch Hazzouri (of Mitch's Tavern on Hillsborough St.) will furnish dinner in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall. Afterwards there will be Christmas Carols and more fellowship.

Tickets for the event will be approximately \$8 and will be available after 10:30 worship on Nov. 23 and Nov. 30. Alternatively, you may contact Lavon Page ([lavon\\_page@ncsu.edu](mailto:lavon_page@ncsu.edu) or 460-6103) to make your reservation. Please make reservations or purchase tickets by Tuesday, December 2.

This is an "adult" event, but mature youth are certainly welcome. A children's Christmas event is separately scheduled at a different time.

Contact Lavon for more information or to volunteer to help.



The **Common Woman Chorus** will present their Fall concert at Eno River Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on Garrett Road in Durham on Saturday, November 15 at 8:00 pm. This concert marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chorus and, according to second soprano Joan McAllister, is going to be terrific!

### **HARVEST BALL**

Don't miss the Southern Conference of the UCC Harvest Ball. November 7, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., Marriott at the Civic Center in Durham, \$50/person. Contact the Southern Conference for more information at (336) 222-8771.

### ***EMPTY BOWLS TO FEED THE HUNGRY***

Enjoy some fellowship and a lunch of delicious home-made soup and bread, take home a beautiful hand-made bowl, and benefit Loaves and Fishes, all at the same time. This "Empty Bowls" fund-raising event will be held Sunday, November 23 after the 10:30 service. You will have the opportunity to select a pottery bowl at prices ranging from \$5-\$20, then enjoy a simple meal at no additional cost. Families are welcome -- kids eat free when parents purchase at least one bowl! 100% of proceeds will go to Loaves and Fishes, which serves underprivileged children.

Chris Schafale and other members of the Triangle Potters Guild will be donating the bowls and preparing the soup. Volunteers are welcome to join in -- if you would like to assist by making soup, bread, or cookies, or by helping with set-up or clean-up, please contact Chris Schafale at 567-1098 or [candle@intrex.net](mailto:candle@intrex.net).

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### **Russian Tea Sale to Benefit Mission Trip**

Also after worship on Sunday, November 23, the 5th/6th grade class will be selling jars of Russian Tea mix. These would make great Christmas gifts for your neighbors and friends. Proceeds from the

sale will be used for the class's Mission Trip to Washington, DC, in the summer of 2005.

## **DEACONS MINISTRY**

The Deacons met on October 8, spending a significant portion of our time on the budget and staff compensation recommendations. We also talked about the AIDS team work, the youth-led service October 19, Steve's study leave, the ENCA annual meeting, the Interfaith Alliance annual meeting to be held here October 23rd, congregational care concerns, purchase of additional communion ware, the workday to take place October 25th, and other topics (e.g. shoes, and ships, and sealing wax, and cabbages, and kings!).

Plans for Advent are proceeding. It doesn't seem possible, but Advent will be only about a month away when you receive this newsletter. As announced earlier, we will open the season with a November 30 retreat. Please plan to attend, and begin your "Advent Calendar" with other CUCC folk on the very first day of this important season. Arts and Worship reports that the choir's special music will be spread across December rather than concentrated on a single Sunday. This should provide a much better opportunity for all of the congregation to be able to enjoy the special music!

Other events are covered in more detail elsewhere in the newsletter. As always, we are interested in your interests, your thoughts, and your comments.

Vandy Bradow  
For the Deacons

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### **Arts and Worship committee**

The choir is beginning to practice its music for the Christmas season that will include John Rutter arrangements of Christmas carols and some other surprises. We'll be practicing the Wednesday nights before the first and third Sundays in the month. Do join us! The next Arts and Worship committee meeting is scheduled for November 25th at 6:00 should you wish to direct your thoughts and comments to committee members prior to that meeting. Committee members are Karen Haley, Mary Matthews, Doug Barrick, Marty Lamb, and whoever else I have forgotten to list here :-). I leave

you with the message: "Cultivate your garden... follow your own bent, pursue your curiosity bravely, express yourself, make your own harmony." - Will Durant

submitted by Marty Lamb

## CHURCH COUNCIL

### SECOND ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

The Church Council agreed at its meeting of October 20 that CUCC will hold its Second 2003 Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 16, right after the 10:30 service. The two principal items to be discussed are the proposed budget for 2004 and changes to the Provisional Constitution which church members have suggested we consider. As this will be an Annual Meeting, CUCC members also can bring up any items they wish for discussion. Childcare will be available.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

Reminder: **Food Bags** will be collected on **Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>**.



In October we contributed 21 food bags to Urban Ministries. We're getting closer to our goal of 25 food bags per month. Keep buying the *new list* of items for the basic food bag. Check the poster on the grocery cart in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall, and be sure to take a laminated list available there (also printed below).

### FOOD BAG LIST

- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1 lb. grits        | 2 cans tomatoes        |
| 1 lb. rice         | 2 cans applesauce      |
| 1 lb. dried beans  | 2 1-qt. pkgs dry milk  |
| 2 cans green beans | 2 pkgs Macaroni/Cheese |
| 1 can carrots      | 1 jar peanut butter    |

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### Volunteers Needed - Wright Center

*"I was hungry and you gave me food to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me drink"* (Matthew 25:35). The Helen Wright Center provides shelter to 36 women who would otherwise be homeless (you may know it as the Ark Shelter). CUCC is responsible for the evening meal at the Wright Center on the third Sunday of each month. This is a very rewarding opportunity for service, with no long-term commitment required. If you are willing to help (for example, to make a main dish, salad, or vegetable, and/or to help serve the meal), please contact Marty McLean, 846-6929. We need volunteers for December 21 or January 18.

-- Marty McLean

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**CROP WALK** was a BIG success! Our team raised \$1,862.50. Our goal was \$1,000, so we did well. Congratulations to all who participated and thanks to their sponsors too. Twenty-five percent of this amount will be distributed to food programs locally; the remainder will be used wherever in the world there is need for food, clothing, water and shelter.

## PROPERTY MINISTRY

The Property Ministry has reviewed two bids for the re-roofing project and selected Roach-Lamberg Roofing to do the work. Roofing the sanctuary, classroom, and Pilgrim House will take approximately one week. The contractor has promised to cover all shrubs and driveway areas, keep the trucks on the parking lot, and keep the grounds clean of nails, shingles, and other debris.

We have determined that the electrical circuit serving the sanctuary is near capacity, but there is enough additional capacity in the breaker panel to allow us to investigate options for improving the electrical lighting.

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### Workday – October 25

A big thank you to all the folks who came out to work Saturday. The inside crew did a huge job of painting the Vaughan Fellowship Hall and the

2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> graders classroom. The outside crew made a big dent in cleaning up the steep bank – weeds, saplings, and unidentifiables were removed. Liriope was planted in some of the bare spots.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

### **CUCC Church School News**

Our new rotation began on Sunday, October 26. We will be learning about Moses. Moses was a leader who helped his people become free. We will also learn about young people who are heroes today.

### **Congratulations**

to the **children** on the wonderful worship service they led on October 19!

### **Calendar**

Sunday, November 23 – Children prepare and serve food for fellowship (remember, this means clean up too!)

Saturday, December 6 – Advent workshop

Sunday, January 4 – International Epiphany Party

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In November, the **Adult Forum** will present a series on “Globalization: what is it and what are the consequences?” The forum meets in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall, 9:15-10:15 a.m. each Sunday morning.

### **Calendar**

November 2 – We will view a video of the Bill Moyer’s program, NOW, dealing with Globalization and its effect on workers in Third World Countries.

November 9 – Dr. Dale Hoover, Professor Emeritus and former Chair of the Department of Economics at North Carolina State University, will discuss Globalization and its long-term economic consequences.

November 16 – Bill Bryan, President and CEO of Mt. Olive Pickle Company, will consider Globalization from the perspective of a North Carolina Corporation that is moving into the world

market both as a producer of pickles and as a purchaser of cucumbers on the world market to produce those pickles.

November 23 – To be announced

November 30 – Ajamu Dillahunt, President of the Postal Workers Union, covers the topic “Globalization and Racism.”

## **STILL TIME**

We continue to inch toward our goal of \$10,000 for the Capital Campaign to build a new home for the Method Child Development Center. As one of the five founding churches of what was then Method Day Care Center, we feel a special responsibility to see that the Center continues to offer quality child care for some of the numerous families in Wake County that have a need for child care. At this writing we are about halfway to our goal of \$10,000 but there is still time, and certainly there is still the need, for you to make your pledge or gift. If you have questions or comments please call Margaret Osborne, our representative on the Method Board, at 266-1143, or Cy King at 787-5461.

Cy King and Margaret Osborne  
Campaign Coordinators for “*Method on the Move*”

## **WELCOMING, FELLOWSHIP AND GROWTH MINISTRY**

WANTED: Busy persons who do not have time or energy for long term commitments! The Welcome Fellowship and Growth Ministry needs help to continue the wildly popular after-worship fellowship time. This is a great opportunity to contribute your talents without signing on forever. We need people who will make cookies to be frozen and used as needed; people who will stay until 1:00 on Sundays to help make sure the dishes are washed and the tables are put away; and people who will help set up between Forum and 10:30 worship.

Please call Joan McAllister at 851-9674 if you are interested. Operators are standing by.

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY**

### **Calendar**

November 14-15 – Conference, “Bridging the Divide: Toward a Just Peace in Israel & Palestine,” Chapel Hill, national and international speakers. Coalition for Peace with Justice & Friends of Sabeel N.A. Mary Lou Leiser Smith: [mloupwj@nc.rr.com](mailto:mloupwj@nc.rr.com), (919) 967-5181

### **A Social Justice Issue Survey to the CUCC Congregation**

With your help from this survey, the Social Justice ministry of CUCC intends to center on needs more effectively and to offer leadership for the congregation with more focus. We know that you rely on us to carefully plan how to share our resources in the justice struggles of our times. As you might expect, limited funds guarantee hard choices. But we apply the best information we have and always trust God’s blessings to follow our offerings. We also have limited schedules and they also call for hard choices. We know that members of CUCC will put themselves as well as their dollars to work for justice. We want to keep you informed of ways that you may do that from season to season, but we want those communications to be mindful of your priorities. When we ask you to consider spending some of your time, we want to ask on behalf of the causes that you would most want to support. Neither you nor we can do “all of them.” Your responses to this survey will guide us toward accepting the limits to what we seek to do, and having the courage to do the things we can, hopefully with the wisdom to know the difference. Ahh, serenity!! Thank you in advance for your thoughtful reflections on these choices listed on the next page.

## STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

Our campaign for 2004 began on Sunday, October 12 and will culminate on Stewardship Sunday, November 9. On that day pledges will be received and dedicated.

## OUR PEOPLE

### Youth Birthdays

#### November Birthdays\*

11/8/97 – Erin Kiel

11/11/87 – Cedric Difuidi

11/25/85 – Garrett Waddell

#### December Birthdays\*

12/13/92 – Fidel Viadef

12/19/91 – Anna Roach-Howell

12/22/96 – Katherine Lan Manus

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

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#### **From Loren McGrail**

"I head off for trial today (October 20) to be judged by my fellow citizens for my prayerful actions on April 9. We are being tried for trespassing. Please hold me in your prayers and pray that our voices get heard this time. Let this be my testimony that on April 9, 2003 I joined a public interfaith worship service to pray for peace, to end the illegal and unjust war against the citizens of Iraq."  
(Loren's full statement is posted on the Social Action Bulletin Board.)

- submitted by Cy King

## OUR CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to the family of **Peggy Hoffmann**. Peggy passed away early Tuesday morning, October 14. A memorial service and reception was held here at CUCC to which Peggy requested flowers from your gardens be brought in her memory. For those who would like to contact the family, Ted's address is Ted Hoffmann, 1212 Sherron Rd., Durham, NC 27703, and Rosemary's address is Rosemary Hoffmann, 1211 E Street SE, Washington, DC 20003

Our prayers and condolences to the family of **Bob Keyes**. Bob passed away Friday, October 17. Lily Keyes' address is 2413 Rock Ridge Ct., Raleigh, NC 27612.

## ROSTER UPDATES

Additional Info:

Stephanie Welsh and Bill Bryan's email – [swelsh111@yahoo.com](mailto:swelsh111@yahoo.com).

## CONCERT

An **Ecumenism Concert** featuring **Emmanuel Kembe** and his reggae style band will be held Saturday, November 22, around 7 p.m. at St. Luke's. Details of the event will appear later. St. Luke's and CUCC partnered in building a Habitat House for the Kembes.