

# COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Nurturing Spiritual Growth and Working For Social Justice

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**November 2004**

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

## A Word from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

I am happy to report that the Annual Meeting of the Eastern Association was a time of reunion and renewal in a relaxed atmosphere! Gone was the tension and divisiveness of the past and a new "spirit" of co-operation and celebration was present. The meeting took place on Saturday, October 9, at Gregory Congregational United Church of Christ in Wilmington, NC. Representing CUCC were Nancy and Mike Callahan and myself. The attendance was excellent with the church filled to overflowing!

Our new Associate Conference Minister for the ENCA, the Rev. Verti Powers, spoke on the theme: "The Old Has Passed Away, The New Has Come." She spoke with enthusiasm and vision for the future. She emphasized that we must focus on our common ministries and not dwell on our differences. The two plenary sessions supported this theme.

The first was led by Rev. Richard Edens (Chapel Hill) and Rev. Calvin Brooks (Durham). It focused on the UCC National Identity Campaign known better as the "God is Still Speaking" initiative. More TV and Radio promotions to a national audience will be aired this fall.

The second plenary session was led by Margot and Mark Pickett (Durham) and K. Ray Hill (Raleigh). It was about the new Pastoral Leadership Development Program to further theological training for Clergy unable to afford full Seminary

training. This is an innovative way to bring greater equity of education to all of our ENCA Clergy.

The Rev. Calvin Brooks, President of the ENCA Board of Directors, summed up the importance of our meeting in his annual report when he said: "I believe God wants us to love one another and worship together. In a time that our country is at war and our communities, cities, state, and world appear to have lost their way, the church needs to be that beacon of light in the midst of darkness." I couldn't agree more!!

Blessings and peace,

Steve



## Church Council

The church council has been compiling the 2005 budget that will be presented Sunday **October 31** at the **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**.

For those interested in the status of their 2004 pledges/donations, please contact Sue Richey, [MSR@akc.org](mailto:MSR@akc.org), 454-6376.

## Deacons

### Staff Evaluations

The deacons have completed their staff evaluations. Thanks to Bill Lamb for his leadership in this process.

A committee of deacons will be planning the order for the reception of new members.

Starting in November, time from the pulpit will be available to those in our congregation who are ordained, as well as to those who wish to speak but do not have opportunities to preach on a regular basis. **Sue Rogge** will be preaching November 14.

Pastor Steve is available in his office from 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

--**Peg Hulslander**, Chair

### Arts in Worship

When the Arts in Worship committee held its quarterly meeting in August, Ginny Going of *Colleagues* met with us to discuss the mission of her company and to share some of the work Tom Henderson and she have done in the community with churches using *Interplay*, a spiritual celebration of playful bodily movement first developed by a teacher at Pacific School of Religion. We discussed Ginny's participation in the Interfaith Alliance festival and wondered about the possibility that she and her husband might conduct a Saturday class with and for members of our church during Lent.

If any of you would be interested in contributing to such an event either financially, through participation, through organizing, or through advertising and recruiting participants, please share with Steve or a member of the "Arts in Worship" committee: **Marty Lamb, Peg or Mac Hulslander, Pastor Puati, Mary Matthews, Doug Barrick, or Nancy Callahan.**

*"Develop interest in life as you see it; in people, things, literature, music--the world is so rich, simply throbbing with rich treasures, beautiful souls and interesting people. Forget yourself."*  
(Henry Miller )

-**Marty Lamb**

### Choir Invitation

Imagine yourself in a traffic jam humming a joyful hymn. Listen as you sing to yourself, smiling with

inner confidence: "Nothing can frighten; nothing can trouble; those who seek God can never go wanting," Envision a future where you are walking to dreaded meeting, feeling: "We are marching in the light of God; we are marching in the light of God." Can you picture these scenes being a part of your life? Would you like to have at least one of these events happen?

One step you can take to increase the likelihood that these visions will become reality...Join the CUCC choir! The CUCC choir sings on the first and third Sundays of the month. We meet to practice on the prior Wednesday night at 7:30 in the Hoffmann Room, and again at 9:30 AM. the Sunday mornings prior to singing in the service. We sound better and feel a greater sense of community when we are part of both rehearsals. Won't you join us? Tenors and basses are especially needed these days, but you can-just-carry-a-tune-and-sing-on-key-folks are very welcome as well! The lyrics can really stick with you during the week! **Upcoming rehearsals:** November 3rd and singing on November 7<sup>th</sup>; November 17th and singing on Nov. 28th. Come join us!"

### Memorial/Meditation Garden

The memorial garden is available for care from you. You can sign up to be responsible for one month out of the year. You can get all the help you need by asking others. The jobs will vary according to the season. A sign up sheet will be available after church on several Sundays. Contact **Peg Hulslander** to volunteer early for the month of your choice: 833-7203. The garden belongs to all of us!

## **Religious Education**

In November, our preschool-thru-fifth-grade Sunday School classes will be discussing the Golden Rule. As we explore treating others as you would like to be treated, we will be learning about missionaries and service work. We are hoping to have several people share their experiences with the children on November 14 and 21. Anyone who is interested in participating, please see **Anne Bailey**.

Remember our Family Advent Workshop on December 4, 9:00 AM-12:00! On December 12, the children will participate in worship.

### 6th/7th Grade Youth Group Schedule

- **Sunday, November 14:**  
10:30 AM - 4:00 PM: Staff the Marketplace Cafe and sell Russian Tea
- **Sunday, November 21:**  
Mystery volunteering & meeting
- **Saturday, December 4:**  
Afternoon: Advent party
- **Saturday, December 18:**  
9:00 AM-1:00 PM: Cook and serve Habitat crew meal

### Adult Forum

The four Sundays in November will mark a departure from the usual Forum programs. Rev. Collins Kilburn, former pastor of CUCC and former Executive Director of the North Carolina Council of Churches, will lecture and lead discussions on the life and thought of Reinhold Niebuhr.

Niebuhr, probably the most influential religious thinker in the history of our country, continues to be read and discussed by both clergy and laity. Collins is a dynamic speaker and his own ministry was greatly influenced by his study of Niebuhr. Please plan to take advantage of this unusual opportunity beginning November 7th, 9:15 AM, in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall.

### Monday Lunch Group

All are welcome to bring your lunch and join us in the Hoffmann Room Mondays at 12:15 PM. For the month of November, the group will be reading *The Red Tent* by Diamont and will have various activities related to the book. This is the Biblical story of Jacob's family told from the women's point of view. Call **Geraldine Bryan** for more information.

### 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. For more information, contact **Mike Schafale**, 567-1098. Bring a bag supper.

### Sunday Bible Study

This group meets Sundays at 9:15 AM in the Bradow Room. Call **Pat Spearman** for more information, 781-0041.

## Welcoming, Fellowship, and Growth

### Church Picnic!

It was a lovely day on October 10, and those who participated enjoyed the CUCC fall picnic at Lake Crabtree. Unfortunately, there was a fundraising marathon for children scheduled at the same time. Every race participant came equipped with a pedaled vehicle, an SUV, two parents and 1.5 siblings, so parking required some true creativity! CUCCers enjoyed chicken, fruit and vegetable salads, lasagna, and other goodies as well as fellowship time in a beautiful and relaxed environment. Definitely worth a repeat!!

### Retirees Fellowship

The Retirees will meet Monday, November 8 at 11 AM in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall. Nancy Olsen of Quail Ridge Books will be our speaker. We look forward to this event each November since Nancy always brings us her latest insights on new books of interest. Come join us and bring your lunch. A dessert and drinks will be provided.

### Saturday Men's Group

Join the group each Saturday morning at 9:00 in CUCC's Library.

-- Cy King

Women's Support Group will not have a meeting in November or December.

## Property Ministry

The Property Ministry announces the temporary residing of **William Stroud** in the Pilgrim House basement apartment. Mr. Stroud is providing various grounds maintenance in-kind services and is available and in need of other job opportunities. Contact Mac Hulslander (833-7203) for details.

# CONGRATULATIONS!



In a small private ceremony, **Jo Perry** and **Lavon Page** were married at their home in Cary on October 16. Steve Halsted officiated, and most of Lavon and Jo's close family attended. During the ceremony, Lavon commented to his new mother-in-law, Helen Perry of Durham, "Helen, it's not often someone has 33 years to evaluate their prospective son-in-law."

## Our Youth



### Our Young People's Birthdays\*

11/08/97 – Erin Kiel  
11/11/87 – Cedric Difuidi  
11/29/83 – Colton Flick  
12/02/95 – Brodie Keeler  
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

## Our People

NCSU professors **Skip Stoddard** and Rod Fodor took 13 geology students on a tour of several volcanoes in Washington and Oregon, including Mount St. Helens.



**Skip** reports:

"We lucked out and picked the most cloud-free day to visit MSH, so we got a terrific view of it. It is

much more awesome in real life than in photos. The trees that were blown down in the 1980 eruption could still be seen, which surprised me, even though in places there were 20-year old new pines growing amongst them. The trunks of trees that were severed by the blast could be seen where they were partially protected by ridges or rock outcrops. The road up to the volcano runs along the canyon of the Toutle River. That was incredible because we could see where the mudflows had come down and devastated the valley in a wide swath - much wider than the river channel and its normal floodplain. There also were isolated fields of hummocky ground where mudflow deposits were dumped. Along the access road (which has been built since the 1980 event) there are several overlooks to stop and take pictures and look at the volcano. The authorities have completely closed one of them off to the public and have reserved it for media only. I have never seen so many satellite trucks in one place! Apparently all the local TV stations do live reports during all of their newscasts, whether anything is happening or not! And there were also quite a few "civilians" who seemed to be camping out in their cars along the side of the road with a camera tripod set up "just in case."

When we were there (Thursday Oct 7 in the afternoon), there was no activity at all, not even any steam. But when we took off from Portland on Sunday, we got a great view of MSH (and two other volcanoes that still have their tops), and we thought we could see a bit of steam.

It's the closest this geologist has ever been to an active volcano.

The students were a terrific group and we had a lot of fun, in addition to learning quite a bit. We even had a snowball fight on Saturday.

A very special treat for me was that my daughter, **Maggie**, was able to fly up from Berkeley (where she is a divinity student at Pacific School of Religion) and joined our group for the entire trip!

## Profile Series

**June Bolton** continues the series of deacon profiles in this November *CUCC Newsletter* with:

## Bill Lamb

Bill was born in Iowa. Because of his father's job with the American Red Cross, he grew up in a variety of locations, including Japan. He ultimately made the leap to North Carolina after his history teacher at a high school in Germany for military dependents recommended the teacher's alma mater, Wake Forest.

Bill remembers he'd never set foot in N.C. before, but he soon found himself majoring in speech and dating a young woman named Marty. They were married between Bill's junior and senior years. Bill and Marty both attended the UNC School of Social Work receiving MSW degrees and moved to Raleigh in 1975 and have been here ever since. Bill also attended NCSU, part-time and received a Master of Public Administration in 1981. Their son Bert was born in 1977 and now works for IBM.

A very distinguished career began when Bill was hired as a juvenile probation officer in a department that had just experienced massive turnover. All the other court counselors were women, who happily turned all the boys in training school and "anybody big" or violent over to Bill. He continued to tackle mighty societal challenges in a career split nearly evenly between our state's Social Services and Aging Divisions until his official retirement from the position of chief of planning in June 2000.

To hear him tell it, his "retirement lasted two days," but he admits the days in question were Saturday and Sunday. He now works substantial hours (with half-time pay) as Associate Director for Public Service for the UNC Institute on Aging. He also volunteers his expertise and time as a board member for several groups such as the N.C. Association on Aging. The one closest to his heart, he says, is where he feels most needed, with Friends of Residents in Long Term Care. Bill also serves on the Social Work Certification and Licensing Board for North Carolina. His many contributions were honored in March when Bill was chosen by the National Association of Social Workers as Social Worker of the Year.

Spiritually, Bill recalls the non-denominational congregations on military bases as being among his earliest church experiences. He "got caught up in

theology" when he minored in religion in Wake Forest, taking Old and New Testament (like all undergraduates in the 60s) and two other religion courses: world religions and modern Christian ethics. Since their marriage, church involvement has been an important part of what the Lambs do as a couple. Bill recalls a Friends meeting in Raleigh as another influence and feels that tradition is respected here in the CUCC prayer time.

The social aspect of our church and the family-style intimacy are also important to Bill, and he credits the Sunday School program here as an important factor in moving from the Quaker meeting. He enjoys seeing children grow up here and has served "off and on" as a deacon and in other leadership roles for years. For example, Bill chaired the committee to select our current pastor, and Steve recalls, "He made me feel very welcomed and at home here in that search process." Bill recently guided the deacons through the process of evaluating Steve, and as second-in-command to Peg Hulslander, Bill chairs meetings or represents the board as needed. (Steve also pointed out that if you look closely at the church website, [www.communityucc.org](http://www.communityucc.org), you can find an example of Bill's poetry.)

If you think he has no time for hobbies, just ask him about his 1965 Sunbeam Tiger! He jokes that it's "red, of course" and must represent "a mid-life crisis." He loves the fact that it's one of only 7,000 made and was the car Maxwell Smart drove in an early television show spoofing secret agents.

In conclusion, Bill values variety in life and considers himself very lucky to be able to decide what he can do. CUCC is just one of the beneficiaries of his talents and enthusiasm!

## Prayers

The Monday Lunch Group offers prayers each week for those persons and needs of which they are aware. Please write requests on a slip of paper and place it in the offering plate or in one of the prayer jars (back of the sanctuary or in Pilgrim House.)

Our prayers are especially solicited this month for our caretaker, **Willie Foggie**, who will be recuperating three to six months from back surgery.

Please continue to remember **Jo Banks, Nancy Keppel, Jo Lemons, Audrey Leiser, Evelyn Littleton, Ted Mew, R. D. Watson, Chris Schafale, Sue Cottle and Margot von Harten.**

We send condolences to the family of **Virginia Howells** upon her death October 11. Virginia had lived the last eight years at Carol Woods Retirement Center in Chapel Hill.

## Community Outreach

### Potluck Dinner

**The Habitat Partnership House** is sponsoring a potluck dinner on Saturday, November 6, at 6:30-8:00 PM. It will be held at Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Finlator Hall (on lower level of building). Parking is available in a lot at the back of the church on Cox Avenue and in the Lutheran Family Services parking lot adjacent to the church on Cox Avenue. If these lots are full, space may be available at the back of the Brownstone (Holiday Inn) Hotel, or where permitted on street. Each partner family is asked to bring a dish (entree, side, or dessert) for six to eight people. Pullen will provide drinks, dishes etc, and childcare. The dress is informal.

PLEASE SIGN UP AFTER CHURCH SO PULLEN WILL KNOW BY NOVEMBER 3 HOW MANY WE WILL HAVE ATTENDING, AND ABOUT OUR CHILD CARE NEEDS.

### CROP Walk

Thanks to the generous sponsors of strong walkers, the CUCC Crop Walk was a great success! Our team raised \$1,007, a wonderful contribution to combat hunger. Twenty percent of that total – about \$200 – will be sent to local food programs. The remainder is shared with programs to meet world-wide needs. CONGRATULATIONS, Walkers all!

- Marge Eckels

**MARKETPLACE OF MEANINGFUL GIFTS  
IS BACK!**

After an absence of two years, we are happy to announce again that Marketplace of Meaningful Gifts will be held on Sunday, November 14, from 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM. It will take place in the Vaughan Fellowship Wing of our church.

There are 11 Agencies that have been invited to participate. They are:

- The Alliance of AIDS Services/Carolina
- Church of the 12 Apostles
- Haven House
- Interact
- Jubilee Peace Center
- Koinonia Partners
- Loaves and Fishes
- National Federation of the blind
- North Carolina Peace Action
- 10,000 Villages
- Women's Center of Wake County

There are three ways to participate in the Marketplace. First, you can contribute to one of these worthwhile organizations in the name of a friend, relative or for yourself. In return, you'll receive a gift card to give to your loved one. Second, you'll also find an exciting array of beautiful crafts, cards, jewelry, books, ornaments and other gift items to purchase. Third, you can learn about the work these agencies are performing simply by visiting the various exhibits.

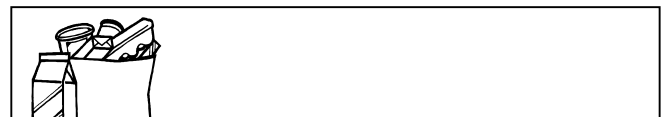
There will be a Marketplace Café operated by our 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> grade youth group. They will provide soup, snacks and beverages for a nominal cost. Their famous Russian Tea will also be available. Proceeds will go to their mission trip to Washington, D.C.

Plan to attend! We promise it will be a heart-warming and worthwhile event!

- Susan Lane

The **Give A Child a Smile** suitcase drive for children in foster care brought in 41 suitcases. Special thanks to **Sue Rogge** who conducted a successful mini drive at work, and to **Glen and Shannon Core** who delivered the suitcases to the rally site.

- Joan McAllister



Common Woman Chorus has entered its twentieth year of existence and performs a wide range of music to local audiences, with a strong focus on choral pieces and songs expressive of women's lives and experiences. Throughout its growth, the chorus has remained true to its original mission: to strive to grow musically even as it remains a no-audition chorus that welcomes women of all musical skill levels. The name of the chorus is derived from lines composed by poet Judy Grahn:

*For a common woman is as common  
as a common loaf of bread...  
and will rise.*

- Joan McAllister

## Community Opportunities

Common Woman Chorus, a 45-member women's chorus based in Durham, will give a human voice to the breast cancer experience with the North Carolina premiere of composer Diane Benjamin's "Where I Live: A Breast Cancer Oratorio." This powerful composition presents songs and narratives based on the writings of breast cancer patients and survivors. The performance will take place on Saturday, November 13 at 8:00 PM in the Meymandi Hall of the BTI Performing Arts Center in Raleigh. The concert will be interspersed with information about the concert beneficiary, the Breast Cancer Resource Directory of North Carolina.

This resource directory, which is available free in hard copy and on-line at [www.bcresourcedirectory.org](http://www.bcresourcedirectory.org) is a 300- page library of information for breast cancer patients and their loved ones. Information covers everything from understanding the language of the diagnosis to treatment options to where to buy wigs and prostheses, to a listing of survivors who are available to support people. Tickets are available through the BTI box office and Ticketmaster. For further information, contact [Joan.McAllister@ncmail.net](mailto:Joan.McAllister@ncmail.net) or at [phocas@mindspring.com](mailto:phocas@mindspring.com). 80% of the profits from

the concert will be donated to the directory. Tickets are tax deductible.

## Roster

Add:

**Richard Haas**, 122 Gilbert Ave., Raleigh, NC 27603, 395-5612.

**Worth Lewis**, Morningside Room #243, 801 Dixie Trail, Raleigh, NC 27607.

**Julia Robertson**, [jarobertson@wcpss.net](mailto:jarobertson@wcpss.net).

**Anne Scott**, Morningside Room #242, 801 Dixie Trail, Raleigh, NC 27607, 832-4623.

Change:

Suzette Roach, [suzette134@bellsouth.net](mailto:suzette134@bellsouth.net).

Ron Howell, [ron\\_howell@bellsouth.net](mailto:ron_howell@bellsouth.net).

**Happy 80th  
Gera**



Flamingoes on your lawn, a plastic corsage, and a crone card  
selected by **Linda Baker** – what else could you want for your birthday?



A proper tea, of course! The **Monday Lunch Group** came through for **Geraldine Bryan's 80<sup>th</sup>**. **Carolyn King** brought the jellybean cake (GB = “Jellybean” to her grandchildren) and wrote the Jellybean lyrics to a song *sung through fake teeth* (supplied by **Peg Hulslander**). **Mary Pruneau** presided over the tea table, graced by cucumber sandwiches and a plastic flower arrangement by **Vandy Bradow**. Gifts included flaming hot pink feather flamingo slippers and a bear Spirit stone. Geraldine said she never laughed so much!

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The deadline for our December Newsletter is  
November 15<sup>th</sup>.

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

Non-Profit  
Organization

## A Month of Sundays

### November 7

Twenty-third Sunday  
after Pentecost

**9:00 – 9:30 Taizé**

**9:15 Adult Forum &  
Bible Study**

**10:30 Worship Service  
& Church School;**

**Fellowship Time**

**Lectionary:** Hag 1:15b-  
2:9; Ps 145:1-5, 17-21  
or Ps.98 OR Job 19:23-  
27a; Ps 17:1-9; 2 Thess  
2:1-5, 13-17; Luke  
20:27-38

**Food Bags Due**

### November 14

Twenty-fourth Sunday  
after Pentecost

**9:00 – 9:30 Taizé**

**9:15 Adult Forum &  
Bible Study**

**10:30 Worship Service  
& Church School;**

**11:30 Marketplace**

**Of Meaningful Gifts**

**Lectionary:** Isa 65:17-  
25; Isa 12 OR Mal. 4:1-  
2a; Ps 98; 2 Thess 3:6-  
13; Luke 21:5-19

**9:00 – 9:30 Taizé with  
Communion**

**9:15 Adult Forum &  
Bible Study**

**10:30 Worship Service  
& Church School**

**Fellowship Time**

**Lectionary:** Jer 23:1-  
67; Luke 1:68-79 OR Ps  
46; Col 1:11-20; Luke  
23:33-43

**10:30 Worship Service  
& Church School;**

**Fellowship Time**

**Lectionary:** Isa 2:1-5;  
Ps 122; Rom 13:11-14;  
Matt 24:36-44

### November 28

First Sunday of Advent

**9:00-9:30 Taizé; 9:15  
Adult Forum & Bible  
Study**

### November 21

Twenty-fifth Sunday  
after Pentecost