

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@ipass.net - Office Manager: Carol Clark pastor@communityucc.org - Rev. Steve Halsted

Website: www.communityucc.org

November 2005

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,

The recent retreat which I led out at Blowing Rock Conference Center proved to be a rewarding and successful event. It is held annually in October sponsored by the Southern Conference to take advantage of the beautiful fall foliage in the mountains. Of the 27 registered, six were from CUCC. They were **Gretchen Aycock, Geraldine Bryan, Marcy & Steve Halsted, Binks Mew and Mary Pruneau**. Perhaps you would like to join the group next year. Mark your calendars now! I'll give a short overview of what we did, but you may want to speak to one of the above mentioned to get a fuller picture.

Our theme this year was "Creation Spirituality." We combined worship (Taizé style) with workshops and field trips as well as free time to explore Blowing Rock (great shops and restaurants). We viewed and discussed three videos: "God's Creation and Global Warming," by the National Council of Churches; "Lighten Up," by Rev. Sally Bingham, founder of Interfaith Light and Power; and "Power Shift," hosted by Cameron Diaz. I have all three videos and would be happy to lend them out to any for home use. We also read and discussed two important environmental resolutions that came from the UCC General Synod held in Atlanta this past July. I have extra copies of these if anyone would like a first-hand look.

Our field trips took us out onto the beautiful Blue Ridge Parkway. We visited the Moses Cone property and mansion, which houses a visitors' center and a Southern Highland Craft Guild arts &

crafts shop. Those mountain folks certainly are talented! We hiked around Bass Lake where the foliage seemed brightest. We visited the Linville Cove Viaduct and visitors' center where we watched a video on the heroic engineering and environmental measures that created this human-made "wonder of the world." Then we drove further to Linville Falls and enjoyed their "natural" splendor.

Over the course of two evenings we watched the movie "Brother Sun, Sister Moon" about the life of St. Francis of Assisi. Francis was known during his day as a nature mystic and today is the Catholic Church's Patron Saint of Ecology.

All in all the retreat was a special time of learning, sharing and fellowship, leaving me with that "can't wait till next year" feeling of anticipation!

Blessings and Peace,

Steve

Church Council

CUCC Council met October 24, as Pastor Steve Halsted was to be out of town for the retreat on the regular meeting date. Council heard reports on past and planned activities from the ministries represented. There will be another meeting on November 14 in order to discuss details of the budget and the nominating committee report to be presented at the November 20 congregational meeting. The pledge campaign will be the subject of special stewardship messages on November 6, and Stewardship Pledge Sunday is November 13.

Several upcoming activities are discussed elsewhere in the newsletter:

- The children will take a major role in the November 6 service (scripture reading, singing, and acting as ushers)
- Marketplace for Meaningful Gifts will be held November 13
- New members will be received (in time to vote at the November 20 meeting!).
- CUCC will host the community Thanksgiving service on November 23.
- **There will be two Advent events:**

:
A family Advent Festival **November 19**, 9-11:45 for preschool through elementary school children and parents.

A simple supper and short service in the Hoffman Room on **December 1**, 6-8 p.m.

There **will** be worship service at 10:30 a.m. on December 25, though there will **not** be church school or Taize.

Deacons

The Deacons spent much of their time at the October Deacons' Meeting talking about feedback received about the worship service. There was general agreement and positive feelings that the arrangement to have someone else preach every fifth Sunday was working well. While this does not necessarily mean that Steve is away every fifth Sunday, it does give him a break and it makes the pulpit available to a variety of messages inside and outside of CUCC.

Other items discussed included feedback on the length of the service, the pace of the hymns, and the process for staff evaluations. **Bill Lamb** and **Edith Sylla** are going to review tools used in past evaluations of the pastor and recommend a plan to include input from the congregation--probably some time this spring. In terms of the length of the worship service, while there are times when the service lasts longer than an hour and fifteen minutes, the Deacons thought we generally ended on time. If anything, we need to be concerned that we start on time since delaying for stragglers can lengthen the service. The need to have the service go beyond an hour is based on practice and feedback from the church school that time is needed

for them to complete their lessons. The comment about the pace of hymns was given to the Arts and Worship Committee. While no specific action was taken, the Deacons also discussed ways in which the older youth could be integrated into the life of the congregation post-confirmation.

-- **Bill Lamb**

Arts and Worship

The choir will practice every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. in November.

Property

The lawns have been seeded and aerated; new brass kick plates have been added to the sanctuary doors. **Ken Davis** has joined the Property Ministry and has already made many contributions

Memorial Garden Volunteers

The following is a list of people who have volunteered for specific months. Binks Mew has offered to help others with their month. If there are any other volunteers who want to help during a specific month, please call one of the following:

October – **Sue Cottle**

November – **Carol Kepler**

December – **Carol Clark**

January – **Nancy Stoddard**

February – **Marge Eckels and Binks Mew**

March – **Joan Little**

April – **Linda Baker**

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

Stewardship

At Church Council, Mary Pruneau, in presenting the Treasurer's report, notes that there will be a substantial shortfall in this year's budget. The next year will prove exceptionally challenging unless the budget is reduced, or pledges are increased – either would need to result in a 25% change in the budget to maintain a balanced budget. The proposed budget will be presented to the congregation at the November 20 meeting.

Take Hold of Real Life: Be Generous!

Who are we really, and what is life really? The “life that really is life” depends on “the God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment,” the God who calls us to “be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share” (1 Timothy 6:17-18). We often think that this takes a lot of will power, that it’s just not our nature to share. And yet, even scientists are discovering that, deep down, we really do long to connect with one another, and to share from the abundance with which God has blessed us.

Natalie Angier of *The New York Times* reported on the finding of scientists who probed the activity of our brains: “Hard as it may be to believe in these days of infectious greed and sabers unsheathed, scientists have discovered that the small brave act of cooperating with another person, of choosing trust over cynicism, generosity over selfishness, makes the brain light up with quiet joy.”

Generosity over selfishness: the life that really is life! Our giving to the church is our clear statement of support for a voice for peace; it is a sign of our trust in the God who is still speaking today, not only through the church but through scientists, through our children, through the beautiful creation in which we live. May our giving to the church make every part of our being light up with quiet joy in this season of generosity.

Published by the Stewardship and Church Finances Ministry for us UCC churches

On Saturday, October 15th, we held the **CUCC Auction of gifts, talents, and services**. While enjoying wine, cheese and fellowship, we also viewed the many tangible items brought. The lively bidding started at 7 and went well into the evening – with a total result just over \$5200. Thank you generous bidders.

Religious Education

We Have Learned So Much!

When we started **rotation church school**, we were focused on finding loving and skilled teachers for the children. What we didn’t know were the many ways God enlivens the recruitment process to enrich the whole life of CUCC. As we have tried to honor what God has taught us, we have found that

recruiting teachers is both more complicated and more miraculous. We value these things which God has taught us and want to share them with you. Perhaps they have something to say about recruitment and stewardship at CUCC.

- When a teacher is teaching from his or her God-given gifts and experiences, he or she is most likely to reveal God’s love and mystery. The teaching and the learning become more joyful, easier, and nourishing. Sharing what I love is much less scary than “teaching a lesson.”
- Because teachers are recruited for the particularity of who they are, teaching becomes one vehicle for adults to feel connected to the life of CUCC. Teaching helps build relationships, especially for visiting and new member families.
- Children need to get to know many adults in order to build a circle of elders who will accompany them as they take on their faith as their own. Church school is an opportunity for God to connect soul-family across the generations.
- Parents need to see what and how their children are learning; children need to see that parents value church school enough to spend time supporting it. For that reason, we challenge ourselves to encourage parents to serve through the church school at least once per quarter.
- Teaching about God is a great way to get to know God.
- Recruiting teachers is a ministry of caring which calls for listening and for connecting people to resources at CUCC and beyond. People who are asked to teach because of who they are feel needed and known. A recruitment call frequently becomes a “holy moment” as people share joys and challenges in their lives. When appropriate, the recruiter should pass along information which serves to connect people to the wider CUCC community.

-- Jane Smith

Parents’ Bible Study

The next Bible study of the rotation texts will meet with Steve Halsted on Sunday, November 20, from 9:15 to 10:00. Anne Bailey will provide childcare. To prepare, read the stories of Jesus’ childhood found in Matthew 1:18 - 2:23 and Luke 1:5 - 2:52.

Look for the study in the Library and the Anne Bailey in Performance Pond.

Church School

November 6 – our children will help lead the worship service by reading scripture, singing, and acting as ushers. Only preschool children will have church school that day.

November 19, 9:30-11:45 a.m. – Annual Advent Workshop for preschool through elementary children and their families. All of the children must be accompanied by an adult. There will be caroling, crafts, fellowship and more.

November 20 – we will have a special Thanksgiving lesson.

November 27, 2005 – January 15, 2006 – the children will be learning about Jesus as a child. Our theme will be, Jesus was a child just like me!

December 18 – the children will present their Christmas Pageant as their Christmas gift to the church during worship service.

December 25 – Christmas Day, there will be no Sunday school class.

-- **Anne Bailey Zschau**

Thanks!

A big thank you goes out to **Chris Burkhardt (Erik's father)** for making the blocks the children will use at our Advent Workshop on November 19. Each year the children use a wooden block to create another piece to add to their own individual nativity set. This is an activity that the children look forward to each year. Finding the blocks is always the greatest challenge. We really appreciate you CHRIS!

Adult Forum - Join us every Sunday from 9:15 - 10:15 a.m. in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall. Upcoming speakers include:

November 6 - To Be Announced

November 13 - Howard Miller will lead a discussion on "What is Science" as a lead in to the series on Science and Religion

November 20 - Dr. **Ed Klemmer**, "Science, Religion and Truth."

November 27 - Rev. Bob Wallace, "Religion and Science"

Sunday Bible Study

The group meets Sundays at 9:15 in the Bradow Room. Everyone is welcome!

Wednesday Bible Study

This group meets at Pilgrim House at 6:30 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays to discuss the next week's Lectionary selections. For more information, contact **Mike Schafale**, 567-1098. Bring a bag supper.

Saturday Men's Group

The group meets at 9:00 a.m. in the library. More information? Contact **Ed Klemmer**, 847-7992.

Sisters in Spirituality

S.I.S.ers! Feed Your Creative Spirit

The November 17 gathering of the S.I.S. (a.k.a. Women's group) will be a rubber-stamping party! **Joan McAllister** will bring her rubber stamps, papers, envelopes, inks, etc. to provide the material you will need to make your own holiday (or other) cards. Those interested in participating should notify Joan at 851-9674 by November 13 so that she can assure that enough supplies will be on hand. A \$1 contribution is recommended (but not required) to offset the costs. We will meet in the Hoffman Room from 7:00 to 9:00.

Monday Lunch Group

Bring lunch and join us in the Hoffmann Room Mondays at 12:15 p.m. During November, the program will be built around the book, An Interrupted Life, by Elle Hillesum. More information? Call **Geraldine Bryan**.

Retirees Fellowship

Retirees have a real treat in store when they gather November 14 at 10:30 AM in Vaughan Fellowship hall. The guest speaker will be Nancy Olson, owner and operator of Quail Ridge Books and Music. Back by popular demand, Nancy always presents an entertaining and informative program about books and visiting authors. Bring a sandwich and join in the fun. Drinks and dessert furnished.

Social Action

What's the Matter with America?

"From the air-conditioned heights of a suburban office complex this may look like a new age of reason, with Web sites singing each to each, with a mall down the way that every week has miraculously anticipated our subtly shifting tastes, with a long parade of rust-free Infinitis purring down the streets of beautifully manicured planned communities. But on closer inspection the country seems more like a panorama of madness and delusion worthy of Hieronymous Bosch: of sturdy blue-collar patriots reciting the Pledge while they strangle their own life chances; of small farmers proudly voting themselves off the land; of devoted family men carefully seeing to it that their children will never be able to afford college or proper health care; of working-class guys in midwestern cities cheering as they deliver up a landslide for a candidate whose policies will end their way of life, will transform their region into a "rust belt," will strike people like them blows from which they will never recover." -- From "What's the Matter with Kansas?" by Thomas Frank

Peace Vigil

On Wednesday evening, October 26, we held the 3rd Candlelight Prayer Vigil since the beginning of the U.S. War in Iraq. This was to acknowledge and grieve the milestone of 2000 U.S. soldiers dying in this war. Prayers were shared, songs were sung, and silence was respectfully observed. We give thanks to **John Little**, chair of the Social Justice Ministry, for organizing this important community expression of our prayers for peace.

Thanks

Again this year members of our congregation helped staff the Peace Booth at the State Fair. We are all indebted to **John and Joan Little, Dawn Pickett, and Tony and Sue Cottle** for their work in our behalf and in behalf of Peace. We hope the rest of you who attended the Fair visited the Peace Booth.

--Cy King

Welcoming, Fellowship and Growth

Christmas Party

At the September Council Meeting, it was decided that, in the future, the Christmas Party will fall under the Welcoming, Fellowship and Growth Ministry. **Lavon Page and Geraldine Bryan** will be recording stories for both children and adults. These stories will be shown and available for purchase on DVD at the party. Light refreshments will be served.

Fellowship Time

Hot coffee for those cold winter mornings??? Our very popular Sunday morning Fellowship Time needs your help! We need people to assist by bringing snacks, setting up and/or doing clean-up afterwards. There is a sign-up sheet in the kitchen. Why not find someone to partner with once a month? It only requires a small commitment and can be great fun. We particularly need help during December, January and February. Questions? Call **Ed Klemmer** at 847-7992.

Our People

Prayer Requests

Please write 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, Carolyn King, Al Matthews, Al's grandson Blake, Ruby Lamb, John Little, Ed Zschau, Anne Scott, Millie & Americo Scapicchio, Willie Foggie's wife, Nelda, Ann Duffell, Elvah Lee Mansky, and Rose McAllister and family.**

We join our **Congolese community and the Universal Church of the Twelve Apostles (EUDA)** in praying for peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and for the people, especially EUDA family members still at risk there.

Congratulations

To **Kara and Jeff Eckard** upon the birth of their daughter Afton, September 1, 2005.

To **Sally Cook**, chair of the annual United Nations Association dinner held on October 26. It had twice as many attendees as there are UNA chapter members!

Thanks!

The Pickle Jar Players thank the CUCC members (especially the "littles") for your warm reception and kind observations: a wonderful audience. It was only our second presentation and your encouragement is appreciated. We also thank you for the donations; we have now earned at least three drama scholarships, which makes for happy volunteers. Parents of children (from the very young through the teens) interested in drama are invited to inquire about scholarships to a wonderful program. Call Linda O'Day Young at the Raleigh Little Theatre....821-4579.

Love and Joy, **Helen Crisp**

Church Directory


Add:

Martin Eiselt & Annette Berg, 1628 Park Dr., Raleigh, NC 27605, 647-9119, Raleigh, 27605, Martin.Eiselt@t-online.de

Gretchen Aycock, and Lynn Jarvis, shoalslane@msn.com

Change:

Dawn Pickett, 370-4239



Our Young People's Birthdays

11/8/97 – Erin Kiel
11/29/93 – Colton Flick
12/2/95 – Brodie Keeler
12/8/99 – Ben Cole
12/13/92 – Fidel Vandis
12/19/91 – Anna Roach-Howell
12/22/96 – Katherine Lan Manus



Community Outreach

CROP WALK

With the beautiful CUCC banner created by **Linda Baker** leading the way, our group walked the entire route and earned through our sponsors **\$1,795** for the **Crop Walk**. Our thank you goes to Linda, all the walkers, and their sponsors for making it such a successful day! You have helped Church World Service to assist our neighbors all around the world.

Walk for Hope

The Journey class thanks everyone who supported the Walk for Hope. Together we raised \$486 for mental health research! The walk was attended by **Suzette Roach and Ron Howell and Anna and Carson**, also, **Paul and Jackson Kiel**, and **Zach and Ben Cole and their dad, Greg**.



Food Bags will be collected on **Sunday, November 6**, and every **first Sunday** of the month.

We achieved our goal! In October we delivered **25** basic food bags to Urban Ministries. They were very enthusiastic about our contribution, and made clear that they count on our monthly effort and appreciate it very much. Let's continue to meet that goal! **Marcy Halsted** has created a graph to help us keep track of the number of bags we contribute. Let's defy gravity and send the graph over the top!!

Marketplace of
Meaningful Gifts
November 13
11:30 – 2:00
Vaughn Fellowship Hall

Buy beautiful crafts, cards, jewelry, books, ornaments and other gifts while donating to these organizations and learning about their meaningful work. And enjoy lunch at the Marketplace Café.

The CUCC Youth will be manning the Café. Please consider making a food donation. Recipes and food items needed will be posted on the Youth Group bulletin board across from the kitchen.

Lavon and Geraldine Bryan will be recording stories for both children and adults. These stories will be shown and available for purchase on DVD at the Market Place for Meaningful Gifts.

Wider Church

In an amazing outpouring of compassion, CUCC has given over \$9,000 for Neighbors in Need and Hurricane Katrina relief! Treasurer Mary Pruneau reports that the money is still coming in!

The University Park Community Thanksgiving Service is hosted by one of the several neighborhood churches each year. This is our year! **The service will be held at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 23**, in our sanctuary, with a combined churches' choir. Please make a special effort to come and greet our neighbors!

Contact people in the day-to-day life of CUCC

Office Manager: Carol Clark
(Office hours: 9 a.m.- 1 p.m., Monday-Friday)
Moderator, Bill Bryan; Treasurer, Mary Pruneau;
Asst. Treasurer, Carol Kepler
Ministry Chairs (vacancy in Welcoming, Fellowship, and Growth):
Deacons, Bill Lamb; Stewardship, Bill Bryan (Acting); Property, Allan Beidler; Religious Education, Sue Cottle; Social Justice, John Little; Community Outreach, June Bolton; Communications, Ann McLaughlin.
Organist: Doug Barrick
Choir Director: Anne Moorman-Smith
Christian Education Director: Anne Bailey Zschau

“The Once and Future Christmas”

An Advent Mini-Retreat

Thursday, December 1, 6-8 p.m.

Come and share:

- simple (provided) soup supper,
- hot chocolate,
- your memories of an event, or a tradition, that defines for you the true Christmas spirit, and
- thoughts and ideas for using those memories to evoke those experiences of the spirit *this* Christmas, *this* year.

“...and still their heavenly music floats, o’er all the weary world...”

There will be a sign-up sheet after worship service during November.

Community United Church of Christ
814 Dixie Trail
Raleigh, NC 27607
November 2005 Newsletter

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The deadline for our December 2005 Newsletter is
November 21st.

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

A Month of Sundays

November 6

All Saints Sunday
9:00 – 9:30 Taizé;
9:15 Adult Forum;
10:30 Worship Service
with Communion.
Children help lead the
service: preschoolers
attend Church School.
Fellowship Time
Lectionary:
Josh 24:1-3a, 14-25;
Ps 78:1-7 OR Wisd of
Sol 6:12-16 or Amos
5:18-24; Wisd of Sol
6:17-20 or Ps 70; 1 Thess
4: 13-18; Matt 25:1-13

November 13

Stewardship Sunday
9:00 – 9:30 Taizé; 9:15
Adult Forum & Bible
Study; 10:30 Worship
Service & Church
School;
MARKETPLACE OF
MEANINGFUL GIFTS
Lectionary:
Judges 4:1-7; Ps 123 OR
Zeph 1:7, 12-18; Ps 90:
1-8, (9-11), 12; 1 Thess
5:1-11; Matt 25:14-30

November 20

Thanksgiving Sunday
9:00 – 9:30 Taizé with
Communion; 9:15
Adult Forum & Bible
Study; 10:30 Worship
Service & Church
School; Fellowship &
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING
Lectionary:
Ezek 34:11-16, 20-24;
Ps 100 OR Ezek 34:11-
16, 20-24; Ps 95:1-7a;
Eph 1:15-23;
Matt 25:31-46

November 27

First Sunday of Advent
9:00 – 9:30 Taizé; 9:15
Adult Forum & Bible
Study; 10:30 Worship
Service & Church
School;
Fellowship Time
Lectionary:
Isa 64:1-9; Ps 80:1-7,
17-19; 1 Cor 1:3-9;
Mark 13:24-37