

COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Nurturing Spiritual Growth and Working For Social Justice

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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 our Pastor

Dear Friends,

In the United Church of Christ, we like to define ourselves as a church with an “extravagant welcome!” We say, “no matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.” This reflects our emphasis to be intentionally “inclusive” of all people that would choose to worship with us and join in our faith community.

We at Community UCC have been blessed with an influx of new people and families who are attracted to our style of progressive Christianity. We are thankful for their presence and the special and unique ways that they strengthen our faith community.

Another defining characteristic of Community UCC is to respect people’s differing needs about level of commitment to our faith community. Some choose to affiliate with us without officially joining our ranks as members. Others take their time in making a decision about covenanting in membership with us. Covenant is a term we take seriously. It means a sacred trust that one will enter into with all the other members to support one another, bear one another’s burdens and celebrate one another’s joys within Christian community. We recognize our need to honor the “Divine Spirit” and respect one another as God’s children.

With all this in mind, I want to extend an invitation to any and all who are wanting to join in covenant as official members of CUCC. Speak to me or call the office, or email us. We can then look toward setting a date to make our covenant together.

Blessings and Peace,

Steve

Church Council

Congregational Meeting November 5

The church's third annual congregational meeting will follow the 10:30 worship service. The agenda includes

- >Nominations for 2007 church officers, ministries, and committees
- >Presentation and discussion of preliminary budget for 2007
- >Voting on proposal to amend the language of Article II, Ministries of the Bylaws, such that in each Ministry section (1-7) the phrase concerning the Vice Chair, "...shall rotate to the Chair position the following year," would be changed to read, "...may succeed to the Chair position the following year."
- >Reports from Ministries are welcome. Community Outreach will present its proposal for using a portion of the Helen Brown bequest.
- >Discussion of CUCC's definition of membership classes and voting process.
- >Any other church business may properly be brought before the congregation, as this is a regular congregational meeting.

Church Council

Council met on October 17 and heard reports from the nominating committee (Stewardship Ministry), the Treasurer, and the Deacons, Property, Community Outreach, and Social Justice Ministries, and from the Pastor.

Council again took up the request from **Sally Cook** for a proxy vote process. Council notes that the Bylaws currently define three classes of membership. The constitution does not differentiate among these classes when in Article VI it states that "the vote of a majority of members present at the meeting shall be the action of the church." Council agreed the membership categories and voting process should be discussed at the Congregational meeting.

Mary Pruneau, Treasurer, reports the church's capital reserve fund will be depleted when work on Pilgrim House is finished, bringing up the question of where the church must look for additional funds. The members' pledges are coming in as scheduled. However, pledges account for only \$172,000 in our budget of \$228,000. Fundraising and other income sources are expected to cover the difference. It was noted that the church has received a bequest of \$50,000 from **Nancy Keppel**, and is now waiting for it to clear the IRS

Jeanne Ledbetter, nominating committee, suggested that it might be useful to allow Ministry Chairs to serve two years, which would entail a change in the bylaws. It was decided to put before the congregation at the November 5 meeting the change in the wording in the bylaws with regard to the presently anticipated automatic succession of Vice-Chair to Chair of a Ministry: from "shall rotate" to "may succeed." This is to be announced in two bulletins and the newsletter.

-- **Vandy Bradow**, Moderator

Deacons

Plans for upcoming Sundays were discussed:

November 5 – Steve will be absent to attend a wedding. **Ann McLaughlin** will preach and lead the service

November 19 – Jim Seymour will be our guest preacher.

November 22 – There will be a joint service on this Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is hosting at 7:30 p.m.

The Deacons discussed plans for Steve's three-month sabbatical (June through August of 2007). One idea is to engage a part-time interim minister with support from CUCC's in-care pastors and in-care divinity students and from participants in our conference's pastoral leadership development program. **Edith Sylla** will talk with **Peg Hulslander** to call a meeting of the Pastoral Relations committee about preparing the way for a smooth transition to and from the sabbatical.

Stewardship

Stewardship Sunday is November 12. Please consider increasing your pledges this year!

If anyone would like to know the status of their pledge payments, please contact **Carol Kepler** at 787-7420 or email at jkepler@nc.rr.com.

Fundraiser a Success!

Over 35 CUCC members and friends gathered on Saturday, October 28 to enjoy fellowship and Anne Pope's special Turkey Dinner. The event raised more than \$500! Thanks to all who came, and especially to all who worked to make this a success.

Religious Education

Church School News

-The church school children are learning about **Abraham and Sarah** during this series of lessons. They're learning about God's promises through storytelling and art.

In November the children will be participating in a worship service. They'll decorate the altar, lead a special litany, and present the children's story. They'll share what they learned about hunger and justice during church school in September and October.

-The children will decorate the Christmas tree in the area outside the Bradow and Hoffmann rooms again this year. Their theme will be "helping hands," in honor of the donations they'll collect for Dorothea Dix Hospital during the Advent season. **They'll be making the decorations on Sunday, November 26**, so be sure to come to church school if you're in town over the Thanksgiving holiday!

-Our annual **Family Advent Festival** will be held Saturday, December 2, from 9:30-11:30. Families with children of all ages, from nursery through high school, are invited to join us. We'll make advent wreaths for families to use at home, sing carols, eat cookies, and get costumes fitted for the Christmas pageant. Questions? Contact **Suzette Roach**, 460-8678.

-The children will present their annual **Christmas pageant** during worship on Sunday, December 17.

BIBLE 101

Continues....

**Sundays – November 5 – November 19
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.**

**Potluck or Pizza (TBD) – 6:00
Bible Study 6:30-7:30 (Vaughan FH)
Or**

Children's Music 6:30-7:30 Hoffmann

The Bible Study will focus on Bible history, major themes, study tools and types of literature. It will look at specific texts as examples but will not be a detailed study of Bible texts. There will be time for questions and answers during each session.

The music time available for the children from 6:30 to 7:30 in the Hoffmann Room will focus on learning basics of understanding musical notes and will focus on learning some newly discovered Shaker hymns of gratitude (including two for January 7th to greet the New Year), Shaker Christmas hymns, and some regular Christmas carols. It should be a time of musical adventure, exploration, and praise. **Marty Lamb** and **Sue Cottle** will be instructors. Separate child care will be provided for the very youngest children who do not wish to sing. We are also considering making a CD on the morning of November 11th at 10 a.m. at the church with the help and support of Lavon Page.

All are invited!

Adult Forum

Join us every Sunday from 9:15 -10:15 a.m. in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall.

Forum Schedule for November:

November 5 – **Diana Koening** (one of our own) "George Lakoff, Framing the Issues."

November 12 – **Sue Rogge** (another one of our own who is "In our Care,") will discuss "The Political Health of Children: Cradle to Prison Pipeline."

November 19 – **Howard Miller** (still another one of our own and Emeritus Head of the Psychology Department at NCSU). Some years ago there was a very popular book titled *Everything I Need to Know About Life I Learned in Kindergarten*. “Taint so,” says Howard. “At age 90 I’m still learning.” He will share some of what he has learned with us.

November 26 – Gerald Surh, Professor of History at NCSU, “Sorrows of Empire.”

Sunday Monday Bible Study

The Sunday morning Bible study at 9:15 AM in the Bradow Room continues to discuss the book of Genesis. We have just finished Chapter 8 with God’s “good news promise” to Noah and his family:

“As long as the earth endures:
seed-time and harvest,
cold and heat,
summer and winter,
day and night,
will never cease”.

We read and discuss about one to two chapters a week. There is no preparation and no homework. Please join us! For more information, call **Gary Smith**, 787-6539.

Wednesday Bible Study

The group meets at Pilgrim House at 6:30 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays to discuss the next week’s Lectionary selections. Bring a bag supper. More information? Call **Mike Schafale**, 567-1098.

Bible Study Internet Resource

Thanks to Hunter Thompson for passing along the amazing “Wabash Center Guide to Internet Resources For Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion.”

<http://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/Internet/>

At this site you can find links to religion and art/music/spirituality (with great slide shows and music clips), on-line Bibles in many versions, Christian history, theological studies...even a lectionary guide with resources from popular movies to facilitate deep study on the Bible readings of the week.

Saturday Men’s Group

The group meets each Saturday at 9:00 a.m. in the library and during November will study *The Best American Science and Nature Writing*, edited by Brian Greene and Tim Folger. For more information, call **Ed Klemmer**, 847-7992.

Monday Lunch Group

During the first two Mondays in November, **Peg Hulslander** will play selected audiotapes and lead a discussion afterward. **Carolyn King** will lead an Advent study during the remaining November Mondays and the first Monday in December. The group will close out the year with its traditional Christmas activities. Bring lunch and join us in the Hoffmann Room Mondays at 12:15 p.m.

Welcome, Fellowship & Growth

Sisters in Spirit (SIS) formerly Women’s Group, won’t have a regular meeting in November. Stay tuned for spontaneous email ideas and invitations.

Retirees Fellowship – (2nd Mondays, monthly)

Retirees have a real treat in store when they gather November 13 at 10:30 a.m. in the 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. You do NOT have to be retired, just available!

In December, the Retirees will again wrap Christmas gifts for **Meals on Wheels** participants. As you begin your Christmas shopping, remember to pick up items these folks can use (umbrellas, flashlights, towels, chocolate, etc.).

Coffee and snacks during fellowship after worship are only there if we all help! A sign-up list is in the kitchen. Please add your name soon and remember to check the list periodically as a reminder for your Sunday! Call **Ed Klemmer** for info, 847-7992.



Christmas Cabaret

Save the date of Saturday, December 9 for the adult CUCC Christmas Cabaret. This affair will include heavy hors d'oeuvres, wine and dessert. Monetary donations will be accepted at the event (for food and wine). Dress in your Christmas finery and come ready to enjoy the food and fellowship. The event will begin at 7:00.

If you would like to help by baking a cake for the dessert table, please call Marcy Halsted at 461-0545.

Property

The partial sub floor and new tile floor in the sunroom of **Pilgrim House** have been completed. The tiles in the narthex will be replaced using the extra tiles that are stored in the basement.

At the last council meeting, \$8,600 was approved for waterproofing the basement. However, the contractor found that the Pilgrim House basement waterproofing could not be done until the basement walls are reinforced because the whole structure sits on a solid concrete block. To go forward with the waterproofing, the contractor will need to install six steel beams for support, for a substantial increase in price. Council approved the additional work.

After the waterproofing of the basement is completed, the apartment in the basement has to be refinished. It was decided to put the cost of this project into next year's budget.

Floors in the church building are all now shiny. Willie Foggie, our custodian, put his magic touch upon them!

Memorial/Meditation Garden

Thanks to **Heather and Chris Burkhardt** for the care they gave to our garden in October. If anyone would like to help "groom and maintain" the garden, please contact one of the following who have volunteered their time for a month:

November – **Sam Johnson**

December – **Sue Cottle**

January – **Shannon and Glenn Core**

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

Please contact **Carol Kepler** if you can help.



Energy Matters

Have you turned on the heat in your house yet? November marks the beginning of heating season for Community United Church of Christ, as well as the three month period that have historically had the highest heating bills. During the coldest winter months, our heat bills for Pilgrim House and the Sanctuary have averaged \$1600 per month.

You recently received a letter from the Stewardship Committee outlining the anticipated costs and needs of the church and requesting that you increase your pledge. We do need to increase our budget. However, we also need to reduce the waste of our precious financial and energy resources so that we can better meet the mission of our congregation. Stewardship does mean giving, but it also means CONSERVATION.

You can make a great difference by the way that you use the facilities of the church, and by the way that you are vigilant to its use by other persons. Be watchful. Re-set thermostats that are left too high; close windows that are left cracked open; wear an extra layer of clothing rather than crank up the heat. Let's see if we can keep the costs down this year.

If you have not noticed the floors in the Vaughan fellowship hall and classrooms, you have not been to church! Willie Foggie has burnished the floors to brilliance, and they look wonderful. **Please pick up furniture when moving (not dragging) and clean**

up any black scuff marks or spills so that they will stay looking beautiful. Jane Smith and a volunteer work crew will be painting the ceiling tiles and trim in early November, so the Vaughan Wing should look like a different place soon.

Joan McAllister, Co-Chair, Property Committee

Social Justice

Autumn is the season that is almost always bitter-sweet. The spectacular display of leaves and flowers fills the senses and saddens the heart as we attempt to reconcile fiery beauty and earth-to-earth degeneration all around us. Our popular music also reflects this autumnal paradox. Think of the songs “Autumn in New York,” “September Song,” and “Autumn Leaves”. (If you haven’t reached age 55, you may have to look them up!) Each projects a haunting beauty in both lyric and melody. Autumn also carries a spiritual message. For those of us concerned with the overwhelming social justice needs of our world—the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse can seem quite real—it will do well to recall that just as the dying leaves of autumn contribute to renewed life in the spring, so all things happen in God’s good time. The test of our faith is to retain hope knowing that we will never comprehend God’s reasons and to acknowledge that in all life, as in autumn, there is much sweetness amid the melancholy.

-- Submitted by **John Little**

Our People

Prayer Requests

Please write your prayer requests on a slip of paper and place in the offering plate or in one of the prayer jars (Narthex or in Pilgrim House.) Our prayers are solicited for **Jo Lemons, Jo Banks, Al Matthews, Ruby Lamb, Elvah Mansky Lee, Vandy Bradow’s parents, Ida and Roy Klages, Lisa Marsh, Kerma Hazel, Mamie Scott, Geri Bowen’s mother, Nancy Cross’ cousins Carolyn and Jean, Howard Miller, David Ledbetter’s father, Bill, June Bolton, Joan McAllister and people of the DRC and other victims of war and natural disaster across the globe.**

Dawn Pickett is living with her mother in Harker’s Island on the North Carolina coast. She is writing

for “The Gam”, a weekly newsletter for the Barrier Islands area. Her new address is: 135 Pegiott Street, Harker’s Island, NC 28531.

Vandy Bradow and granddaughter **Olivia** both won blue ribbons and “great big rosettes” at the NC State Fair Flower and Garden Show. Congrats!



Our Young Peoples’ Birthdays

11/5/03 – Andrew Kim
11/8/97 – Erin Kiel
11/18/05 – Ian Burkhardt
11/24/05 – Mina Kim
11/26/98 – Hope Davis
12/8/99 – Ben Cole
12/12/01 – Faith Davis
12/19/91 – Anna Roach-Howell
12/22/96 – Katherine Lan Manus

Community Outreach

Crop Walk

The 2006 Raleigh_Crop Walk was a huge success! An enthusiastic group walked “because they walk” and gathered from equally enthusiastic supporters a **grand total of \$1,606** for this year’s Crop Walk. CUCC is very grateful to both walkers and supporters for their contribution to the needs of people all around the world. Church World Service as well as local helping agencies will benefit. **THANK YOU!**

Walk for Hope

The 19th annual Thad and Alice Eure Walk had more than 1,600 walkers and raised \$350,000. This organization is dedicated to find cures for mental illness. The first event was held in 1988: 200 participants raised \$35,000. Since that time, the Walk for Hope has raised \$2 million. This money has been a factor in attracting an additional \$89 million for local research in this disease.

Walkers from CUCC raised \$982! Thanks to **Jack and Sam Alcorn** for helping organize this event.

What a great day! **Thanks to everyone** for your participation and your enthusiasm. With **Jack and Sam Alcorn**'s help, we raised **\$982!**

HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR



Unfortunately only 19 food bags were contributed in October. We had a slump! Maybe we can make up for the shortfall in November. Let's try! Emergency needs continue unabated. What we contribute can make a difference in the lives of hungry families. Thanks for your faithfulness! **Food bags** are due **November 5** and every first Sunday of the month.

Wider Community

The ManKind Project of the Greater Carolinas

is pleased to announce a "special screening" of the feature film, *Peaceful Warrior* on Friday, November 10, 2006 at 6:45 PM at CUCC. Based on the best-selling novel, and spiritual classic, "Way of the Peaceful Warrior" by Dan Millman, the movie chronicles the inspiring story of Millman's Olympic dreams, near fatal accident and life changing encounter with a mysterious spiritual philosopher/teacher, "Socrates." Tickets can be purchased through www.virtuous.com. All net proceeds from this screening will be donated to CUCC. Contact **Jim Smith** at 919 302-6874.

7th Annual

Jenny Elder Fitch Memorial Lecture

Fifty Great Native Plants for the Southeast

Sunday, November 5, 3–5 pm

The Carolina Inn

Please join us for a special gardening lecture by **William Cullina**, nursery manager for the New

England Wild Flower Society, the oldest and possibly most widely known plant conservation organization in North America. He will discuss the uses of native plants and wildflowers in the landscape and the gardening approach known as "ecological gardening." Bill Cullina's beautifully illustrated books will be available for purchase and signing during a reception following the program. This event is *free* and open to Garden members, guests of The Carolina Inn, and the public. 919-962-0522, www.ncbg.unc.edu

Submitted by **Vandy Bradow**

Wider Church

DAY-TO-DAY CONTACTS AT CUCC

Pastor: Rev. Steve Halsted

Office Manager: Carol Clark

(Office hours: 9 a.m.- 1 p.m., Monday-Friday)

Moderator: Vandy Bradow

Treasurer: Mary Pruneau

Asst. Treasurer: Carol Kepler

Clerk: Mary Pickering

Ministry Chairs:

Deacons: Jo Perry

Welcoming, Fellowship, and Growth: Sue Rogge

Stewardship: Bill Bryan

Property: Allan Beidler and Joan McAllister

Religious Education: Sue Cottle

Social Justice: John Little

Community Outreach: June Bolton

Organist: Doug Barrick

Choir Director: Anne Moorman-Smith

Come
Marketplace of Meaningful Gifts

Sunday, November 12th
11:30-2:00--Vaughan Fellowship Hall

Meet
representatives of these
ten local agencies:

Alliance of AIDS Services / Carolina
Church of the 12 Apostles
Friends of Residents in Long Term Care
Haven House
Interact
Koinonia Partners
Loaves and Fishes
National Federation of the Blind
North Carolina Peace Action
Women's Center of Wake County

Learn
about their missions and the meaningful work they do

Contribute
to their causes by purchasing beautiful crafts, cards, jewelry, books,
ornaments
for a friend, relative, or for yourself,

Enjoy
a snack at the Marketplace Café, served by our youth.

A Month of Sundays

November 5 |

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 – 9:30 Taizé;
9:15 Adult Forum & Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service with Communion (Ann McLaughlin preaching) & Church School; Fellowship Time
Lectionary:
Ruth 1:1-18; Ps 146
OR Deut 6:1-9;
Ps 119:1-8;
Heb 9:11-14;
Mark 12:28-34

November 12 |

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 – 9:30 Taizé;
9:15 Adult Forum & Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service & Church School; Fellowship Time;
Lectionary:
Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17;
Ps 127 OR
1 Kings 17:8-16;
Ps 146; Heb 9:24-28;
Mark 12:38-44

November 19 |

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 – 9:30 Taizé with Communion;
9:15 Adult Forum & Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service (with Jim Seymour preaching) & Church School;
Lectionary:
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;
Mark 13:1-8

November 26 |

Reign of Christ
9:00 – 9:30 Taizé;
9:15 Adult Forum & Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service & Church School; Fellowship Time
Lectionary:
2 Sam 23:1-7;
Ps 132:1-12, (13-18)
OR Dan 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 93;
Rev 1:4b-8;
John 18:33-37