

COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Nurturing Spiritual Growth and Working for Social Justice

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Stephen S. Halsted, Pastor

October 2003

Lectionary for October

October 5th, Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Job 1:1, 2:1-10; Ps 26 OR Gen 2:18-24; Ps 8;

Heb 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mk 10:2-16.

October 12th, Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Ps 22:1-15 OR Am 5:6-7, 10-15;

Ps 90:12-17; Heb 4:12-16; Mk 10:17-31.

October 19th, Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Job 38:1-7, (34-41); Ps 104:1-9, 24, 35c OR Isa 53:4-12;

Ps 91:9-16; Heb 5:1-10; Mk 10:35-45.

October 26th, Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Job 42:1-6, 10-17; Ps 34:1-8, (19-22) OR Jer 31:7-9;

Ps 126; Heb 7:23-28; Mk 10:46-52.



Dear Friends,

As October rolls around once again it is time for the annual meeting of the Eastern North Carolina Association (ENCA) of the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ. As most of you are aware, ENCA has struggled mightily over the last few years over the contentious issue of granting full official standing to our sister church North Raleigh United Church (NRUC).

We have been disappointed and discontented over the efforts of some to keep NRUC from entering into full membership of our Association because they have chosen to be an "Open and Affirming" (O & A) congregation to gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual people. In order to be constitutionally voted into full standing, two-thirds of the delegates must vote favorably. Until now there has been enough opposition to block NRUC. But hope is on the horizon and there appears to be more support for NRUC than previously. I believe this is due to better dialogue and understanding about the

controversial issue of "O & A" and how the polity of the UCC is structured to allow for diversity of opinion on key issues while allowing congregations to be true to their own theological convictions.

With this said, we must move forward with another vote to see if the two-thirds majority is now attainable. Each local individual church is allotted official votes based upon size of the congregation. Also, all clergy holding standing in the Association are allowed to vote. There is another important factor involved - and that is guest attendees. Guests are welcomed to attend to rally a show of support for their particular side, pro and con. In the past the "cons" have prevailed. We must try to counter this with our "pros!" With your positive energy we may turn the tide and welcome NRUC in. That would be a wonderful historic moment to experience! Wouldn't you like to be there and lend your support? The meeting is Saturday, October 11, at 9:00 a.m. here in Raleigh at Poplar Springs UCC, 6115 Old Stage Road. Let's get as many carloads to attend as possible. Spread the word!!!

I will be away on study leave October 13-19 at Mepkin's Abbey, SC and Blowing Rock Assembly Grounds. The Deacons and I have agreed that when I am away or not accessible (e.g. phone out of service), CUCC members can request pastoral care by calling (1) the office or (2) Marge Eckels (Caring). We have a number of clergy within the congregation who have expressed a willingness to provide pastoral care when it is needed.

Blessings & Peace,

Steve



PRAYERS

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

Following are the names of those to be remembered in prayer: Bob Keyes, Jo Lemons, Sister Evelyn Mattern, Nancy Keppel, Bill Hoffman, Betty & Al Adams, Betty Rockow, and Buck Little.

MEETINGS and EVENTS

Thursday, October 16, the Women's Support Group meets at 7:00 p.m. in the Bradow room. Book Discussion: Talk about a book you've especially enjoyed reading this year. Call Sally Cook 467-3642.

Retirees Group - On Monday, October 13th at 11 a.m. the Retirees Fellowship will meet in the parking lot of the J.C. Raulston Arboretum (NCSU) on Beryl Road, rain or shine. The program will consist of a guided tour of the Arboretum. Bring a bag lunch and a drink. Dessert will be provided.
-- I.T. Littleton

CROP WALK

October 5, 2003 is Crop Walk Sunday with emphasis on the needs of refugees. Plan to walk with your family or with our church group. **YOU can make a difference!** For more information, call Marge Eckels at 787-5552. Our walkers need your pledges!

October 19 – Children Lead Worship Service

The service will celebrate the church school theme of experiencing the awe and mystery of God.

This service will give members of the congregation the opportunity to use their intelligences the same way the children do in church school.

Everyone bring something from nature that reminds them of God to place on the communion table.

Join a supportive community of POWERFUL MEN.

Men of CUCC: Roger Manus, Tom Griggs, Paul Kiel and I, with the other men of the ManKind Project, invite you to the NEW WARRIOR TRAINING ADVENTURE weekend in Reidsville, NC (near Greensboro), November 7-9, 2003.

This is your chance to create new, more powerful and more joyful ways of living. The New Warrior knows that the important battles are those within himself. You will be challenged to look at things that are blocking you from getting what you want in life, encouraged to develop a strong sense of personal mission or purpose, and assisted in reclaiming the energies you will need to achieve your mission. Afterward, you can join a group of men who meet regularly and will support you on your journey. The weekend is open to all men over 18 years of age.

To give a sense of what I have gotten from the New Warrior Training Adventure and the ManKind Project, I have never felt more in the presence of Spirit than on these weekends. The ManKind Project has helped me to know in my heart that I, and we all, are God's Beloved, Chosen and Empowered people. My group, called "We Speak Our Truth," meets weekly and I feel blessed knowing that I can be 100% myself in my group.

For more information, come to the Vaughan Wing, 6:30 to 8:30 PM, Sunday evening, October 12, 2003, (Women are welcome too) for a presentation entitled "Head, Heart and Soul". If you can't come, talk to Roger, Tom, Paul or me, or visit the ManKind Project website at www.mkp.org.

-- Jim Smith

CHURCH COUNCIL

At the Church Council meeting held September 15, 2003, the Council took these actions:

- According to the Provisional Constitution, the Church Council shall appoint two members to the Pastoral Relations Function Group. Accordingly, the Council appointed Roger Manus and Grady McCallie. The other members are Vandy Bradow and Peg Hulslander, ex officio, and Lisa Leiser-Banks, named by Steve. Pastoral Relations will be discussed at the next Congregational meeting. The date and time of that meeting is yet to be determined.
- There will be an Advent Retreat of quiet reflection on Sunday, November 30, from 4:00 – 6:00 in the sanctuary. Refreshments will be served afterwards.
- Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 25 around 9:00 a.m. The Welcoming, Fellowship & Growth Ministry will be painting the Vaughan Fellowship Hall. The Ministry will supply the paint, brushes and other equipment. They ask that you supply the willing hands, heart and good humor.

-- Susan Lane for the Council

DEACONS MINISTRY

Dear CUCC,

The Deacons have discussed the fact that nowhere in our past or current organization is there any special recognition or responsibility for CUCC's relationship with the denomination (UCC national, conference, and/or association). Until Steve's recent nomination to the ENCA Board, we had no players at any level in the UCC. We noted that it's very difficult to have any influence on a group in which we play no part, and that we would like to resume our historical role of engagement. We decided that a pleasant first step would be participation in Franklinton Center Day.

Where and what is the Franklinton Center at Bricks? For openers, it's neither in Franklinton nor in Bricks. It's in Whitakers, NC - a UCC

conference, retreat, and educational center that evolved from two separate institutions founded in the late 19th century. Franklinton Christian College was founded by the James O'Kelly Christian Church in 1880 to train black leaders for local churches. Julia Bricks established the Bricks Junior College in 1895 through a gift of land and endowment to the American Missionary Association. The two educational facilities merged in 1954.

The Rev. Ervin Milton, director of the Franklinton Center at Bricks, on the UCC Witness for Justice home page, wrote, "The Franklinton Center at Bricks was one of the few places in the rural south during the 1950s and 60s where blacks and whites could meet and eat together. It served as a spiritual center during integration, and continues to this day to be a place of justice and transformation. Every year, several hundred members of UCC churches of the Eastern North Carolina Association gather on the first week of August to celebrate a cultural and spiritual "homecoming" –Franklinton Center Day.

Traditionally, churches come to bring their annual gift to the center, often bringing along the choir to perform at the worship service held in late morning." This year, Marge Eckels, Robert Parrish, and Vandy Bradow attended, arriving in time for Robert to demonstrate his skill at horseshoes. There were vendors of African arts and crafts, toys and other temptations. The worship service featured a choir and Rev. Ike McDonald, who spoke of the Center as "holy ground" (Jacob's vision of a ladder to heaven, with "angels ascending like prayers to heaven and descending like grace to earth").

Everyone was ready after the service to dig into the barbecue, fish or chicken (also hot dogs, lemonade and ice cream). Since the food sales are the major Center fundraiser of the year, we could both enjoy the food and feel virtuous about supporting a good cause.

We met folk from all around Eastern NC, and Robert's horseshoe partner was the leader of an Ohio youth group that has come for several years to do service projects at the Center. Marge recalled that in years past, CUCC sent youth groups to Franklinton Center for camp activities and was once quite active in service projects. More recently, CUCC has chosen the site for confirmation and

Pilgrimage retreats. We agreed it was a very good day and hope to return with more CUCC folk for future Franklinton Center Days.

Vandy Bradow for the Deacons Ministry

TALENT Multiplied – In response to the challenge from Steve Camp, Southern Conference Minister, who gave each church \$5 as a “talent,” we have multiplied the money more than 200 fold. Our dinner/movie night earned \$1,173.88. Nancy Keppel contributed an additional \$2,000.00. Our TOTAL \$3,173.88! A hearty THANK YOU to ALL who helped.

-- Marge Eckels

PROPERTY MINISTRY

The Property Ministry is in the process of obtaining estimates for re-roofing the sanctuary, classrooms/hall, and the Pilgrim House. CUCC received an insurance payment for re-roofing the sanctuary due to the ice storm damage. The classroom building and Pilgrim House are also in need of re-roofing as evidenced by recent leaks and missing shingles.

Sanctuary lighting improvements are also being pursued. The Property Ministry will have an electrician examine the available power distribution to the sanctuary so that additional lighting can be planned.

The Property Ministry is coordinating a workday on October 25. The plans are to paint the Vaughan Fellowship Hall, at least one classroom, and to clean up the grounds.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRY

Reminder: **Food Bags** will be collected on **Sunday, October 5.**



Our contribution of food bags in September was less than satisfactory. Only a total of **13** appeared. Remember, we’re striving for 25 each month! The need is not 50% less; indeed it is growing. Please bring your emergency food bag on the first Sunday of the month. Be sure to use double grocery bags (one inside the other), tied at the top. Thanks on behalf of all those who benefit.

Change in the CONTENTS of the EMERGENCY FOOD BAGS!

Urban Ministries has issued a new list of groceries which make up a basic food bag. There are only slight modifications, so we should be able to adjust fairly quickly. As of October 1, please change to the following list of food items:

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 |

This new laminated list is available at the grocery cart in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall. Help yourself.
Marge Eckels for Community Outreach

P.S. If you had already prepared your food bag before reading about the change of contents, don’t give it a second thought. Bring your food bag and make changes the following month. Hunger is not fussy!

AIDS CARE TEAM

We would like to thank the congregation for your recent support of our activities. Members generously donated 17 bags of canned goods for the AIDS food pantry. When I dropped our

groceries off the next day, most of the shelves were bare. Actually, I've never seen it so empty.

Also, we are grateful for donations totaling almost \$250 for AIDSWalk, by far our most successful effort ever.

Steve conducted an inspiring prayer service for Bobbi Jo and the care team last month. Along with Bobbi Jo, we were strengthened and encouraged by the songs, prayers, and meditation.

We are pleased to have had Bobbi Jo, our care partner, worship with us several times lately. He commented that he likes it that our church is so friendly. (He usually sits at the back because the seats are more comfortable for him.) Usually a couple of folks from the care team (Etta Barksdale, Linda Baker, Diana Koenning, Sue Cottle or myself) take Bobbi Jo out to eat after Sunday service. Thank you for making Bobbi Jo feel welcome and please feel free to join us for lunch if you feel inclined.

-- Linda Parrish

SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Calendar

October 1 – “Stop the Arms Race Vigil” – at noon on the Fayetteville Street Mall

October 4 – Prayer vigil for Peace in the Middle East. 7 p.m. at the Friends Meeting House on Tower Street

October 4 – Understanding War & Empire at Home & Abroad Conference, N.C.C.U., Health Science Bldg., Durham, sponsored by Breaking the Chains Coalition. Information: Ray Eurquhart, (919) 682-2821, Rayeurquhart@cs.com

October 4-11 – International Days of Protest to Stop the Militarization of Space, sponsored by Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space. Bruce Gagon (207) 729-0517, globaliner@mindspring.com

October 10-11 – CITCA Retreat "Fair Trade Not Free Trade!", Camp New Hope. For information &

to register, call Gail Phares, (919) 856-9468, citca@bellsouth.net

October 12 – N. C. Peace Action's Annual Peacemaker Award Dinner honoring Joe Straley. 6:30 Social Hour, 7:30 Dinner, Community Church, 706 Purefoy Rd., Chapel Hill. Info & tickets, Bill Towe, (919) 469-0831, billtowepa@juno.com

October 20 – 12 noon – Steps of the Wake County Courthouse – Reading of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, followed by a Dutch lunch at the Light House Restaurant

October 22 – Annual United Nations Association Dinner, 6 pm Belk Dining Hall – Meredith College. Speaker Dr. Robert Koehane, Topic: Multilateralism or Unilateralism? Information - Jim Roush, (919) 850-9696, JLRoush@aol.com. Deadline for reservations is October 15.

October 25 – CUCC day to staff the Peace Booth at the N.C. State Fair. Call Cy King at 787-5461 to volunteer.

October 30 – “From Pain to Discussion”, Jews for a Just Peace present an Israeli & a Palestinian from The Parents' Circle, a group of individuals who have lost family members to violence. 7:00 p.m. at Community United Church of Christ.

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

-- Cy King
for Social Justice

Volunteers Needed for the State Fair Peace Booth

Volunteers for the Peace Booth on CUCC's day, October 25, are reminded to attend one of the training sessions held in our Vaughan Fellowship Hall on October 8 or 9 from 7 to 8:30 pm. At that time tickets, maps, and information concerning the petitions and other materials will be shared. It is important to attend so that your time at the booth will be more enjoyable and productive.

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

Hey everybody – it's that time of year again! The Stewardship campaign is right around the corner. The theme this year comes from Matthew 6:21 - "For Where Your Treasure Is, There Your Heart Will Be Also."

Our campaign for 2004 will begin on Sunday, October 12 and culminate on Stewardship Sunday, November 9. On that day we will gather and dedicate our pledges to the ministry we want to accomplish in the coming year.

As part of our campaign for filling our ministry teams, we will offer two Ministry Fairs when people may sign up to share their time and talents. These will be after worship on October 26 and November 16.

So, put on your accountant's cap and begin meditating on "Where Your Time, Talent and Treasure Is, There Your Heart Will Be Also" – and filled to overflowing!

-- Bill Bryan for Stewardship

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

CUCC Church School News

Preschool – 4th Grade

Our children are learning about David during this rotation. Our lessons come from the book of I Samuel.

On September 28 we had a special lesson including music. On October 5* we will have a real sling shot demonstration. On October 12 we will be completing our study of David and working on the worship service we will lead.

On October 19 the children will lead the worship service. We will practice on Saturday, October 18 in the morning.

Please stop by and see the new rug in our K-1 class and the new rug and tables in our grade 2-4 class. Many thanks to the church for these gifts!

* October 5 - Due to a special Sunday School lesson, teachers will not be bringing children back for communion. Parents may come and get their children if they desire.

The **Adult Forum** - meets in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall, 9:15-10:15 a.m. each Sunday morning.

Calendar

October 5 – Mr. Bill McGrady of the N.C. Dept of Public Instruction will discuss "No Child Left Behind" legislation as it relates to Wake County and North Carolina.

October 12 – Debra Ross, Representative from House District 38 will discuss her first term as a legislator.

October 19 – Ferrel Guillory, UNC professor and former political writer for the News & Observer will discuss politics in 2003.

October 26 – Dr. Padmini Hands, Professor of Textiles at NCSU and President of the Wake Interfaith Alliance will discuss the work of the Alliance from her Buddhist faith perspective.

WE AREN'T THERE YET!

If you were in church on Sunday September 21st you heard Margaret Osborne's Mission Moment on Method Child Development Center and our congregation's commitment of \$10,000 to the Capital Campaign to build a new facility. You heard that Al Adams of our congregation had made a significant initial pledge to get us started and we are started. As of this writing we have \$3,000 in hand, but as you can see we still have a long way to go. If you have not yet made your gift or pledge, we urge you to do so as soon as possible. If you have already made a gift, and the realization that it may not be all that you want it to be has just hit you, please feel free to make another gift or to increase your pledge. \$10,000 is an ambitious goal and to meet it some of us are going to have to make substantial gifts to supplement the more modest gifts of \$25, \$50, and \$100 that some

of the rest of us have made or will make. It would take 400 gifts of \$25 to reach \$10,000, and we don't have 400 people, so please think prayerfully about what you can give and then write your check to Method Child Development Center (on memo line write "Method on the Move/Capital Campaign") or make your pledge. As one of the founding churches for RICH Park and Method Day Care Center, we must do our part to continue the vital educational work for some of the 53,000 children under the age of five living in Wake County. Seven in 10 mothers of these children work outside the home and are in need of day care. Quality day care is important for our community and for each one of us who live in this community. Please give generously.

Cy King and Margaret Osborne
 Campaign Coordinators for
 "Method on the Move"

**WELCOMING, FELLOWSHIP
 AND GROWTH MINISTRY**

We would like to publish more items of interest under "Our People." For example, where are our young people in college and what programs of study are they following? What interesting travel have members been experiencing? New babies? Help us by turning in such news to the office by phone or email, 787-6422, or cucc@ipass.net. Please include your name on any items submitted for the newsletter. Also, would you please put your name and the date on any items put on the hall bulletin boards. We recently removed some things of ancient vintage! We will be assigning the task of keeping the general bulletin boards current. A box labeled "Church Historian" has been placed in the robing room. Items removed from the bulletin boards may be placed there if you think they have historic value.

-- Carolyn King for Communications

OUR PEOPLE

- Nine women enjoyed Marty Lamb's hospitality at the women's retreat at Surf City – not a hint of Isabel!
- Charles Pumbu's brother will be returning to the Democratic Republic of Congo on October 25. He will be carrying \$2,500

worth of medicines supplied by Stop Hunger Now. CUCC members provided support for this effort. We send our thanks to the Rev. Ray Buchanan for making this possible.

- Jack and Carol Kepler announce the arrival of their granddaughter Lindsey Ann Kepler. The daughter of Robert and Tracey Kepler in Cary, she arrived on Sept 11 with arms flailing, lungs calling out commands, and feet kicking. She's unbelievably strong. Can hold up her head for a bit, turn on her side...all kinds of tricks. 9 lbs, 3 oz, 20 _ inches. A beauty.
- Welcome home to Ruth and Ed Klemmer, just back from China. Tell us all about it.

Youth Birthdays

October Birthdays*

- 10/5/91 – Ferline Milandu
- 10/14/95 – Susie Binganisi-Matuzola
- 10/14/00 – Isaac Viadef
- 10/17/99 – Sophia Hase
- 10/21/95 – Ellen Milandu

November Birthdays*

- 11/8/97 – Erin Kiel
- 11/11/87 – Cedric Difuidi
- 11/85 – Garrett Waddell

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

OUR CONDOLENCES TO

- Bill Hoffman and his family upon the death of his wife Sarah. Sarah passed away peacefully late Thursday night, September 4. Many of us attended her memorial service on September 12. Bill's address is 3409 Wembley Ct., Raleigh, NC 27607.

- Betty and Allen Adams. Betty's mother, Margaret Anderson Blomgren, died September 13. A memorial service will be held October 11 at the Kensington Congregational Church in New Britain, CT.
- Betty Rochow upon the death of her husband Ted. Ted passed away June 23rd at the age of 95. The Rochows left Raleigh five years ago and Betty lives at 7030 Evergreen Woods Trail, Spring Hill, Florida 34608.

ROSTER UPDATES

Changes:

Margot von Harten – phone number is 782-3889.

Helen Crisp – email helenoftroy2222@aol.com.

Joyce Scapicchio, 5400 Neuse Forest Rd., Raleigh, NC 27616, (919) 876-0501.

Linda Baker, email bakerl@mindspring.com

Edith and Richard Sylla – 43 Linnaean St., Apt. 3A, Cambridge, MA 02138, (617) 876-6726.

REPORT FROM ROAR

Jane, Gary and Abby Smith represented CUCC at the ROAR Candidates Forum September 29, 2003. Organizations (neighborhoods, advocacy, Christian/Islamic/Jewish congregations) sent 139 people with an additional guest section of over 20 people to this standing room only meeting. WOW! The meeting began with a celebration of the relationship which has begun to be built between ROAR and city government (both staff and council). Mayor Meeker received ROAR's congratulations on the city's addressing over 95% of the 605 items for attention discovered in the Housing and Neighborhood Audit conducted this summer. Mayor Meeker credited the city staff and thanked ROAR for beginning this ongoing, positive relationship.

In the candidates' forum, questions were addressed to candidates for Mayor of Raleigh, Raleigh City Councilors, and Wake County School Board Members. A copy of the responses to questions posed at the ROAR Delegates Assembly is posted on the Social Action Bulletin Board