

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

Office: cucc@ipass.net Pastor: pastor@communityucc.org

www.communityucc.org

Stephen S. Halsted, Pastor

October 2002

Lectionary for October

October 6th, Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Ex 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Ps 19 OR Isa 5:1-7; Ps 80:7-15;
Phil 3:4b-14; Mt 21:33-46.

October 13th, Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Ex 32: 1-14; Ps 106:1-6, 19-23 OR Isa 25:1-9; Ps 23;
Phil 4:1-9; Mt 22:1-14.

October 20th, Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Ex 33: 12-23; Ps 99 OR Isa 45:1-7; Ps 96:1-9, (10-13);
1 Thess 1:1-10; Mt 22:15-22.

October 27th, Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Deut 34: 1-12; Ps 90:1-6, 13-17 OR Lev 19:1-2, 15-18;
Ps 1; 1 Thess 2:1-8; Mt 22:34-46.

With these things in mind, I have decided to offer several "Inquirers Classes" for visitors, friends and members alike so that we can learn and discuss who we are as a United Church of Christ Congregation and what are the benefits of covenanting together in this community of faith. These classes will be held after church on the 3rd Sunday in October and November then skipping December to resume again in January. Mark your calendar now to attend October 20th at noon for the 1st "Inquirers Class". Refreshments will be provided and class will last 30-45 minutes. Hope to see you there!

Dear Friends,

We have been greatly blessed to have many visitors worship with us during the 8 months that I've been here. In fact Carol Clark handed me a lengthy list of people who had signed our caring rolls over that time span and it counted close to 500 different people. Knowing that our membership rolls total about half that number, we can deduce that the other half were friends and visitors. That shows that we are touching a lot of people's lives.

I believe that we in the United Church of Christ have a message of "Nurturing Spiritual Growth and Working for Social Justice" that is a timely message for today's world. This is the "Good News" that we find in the teachings of Jesus Christ. As with any "Good News" we want to share it with others and get the word out about who we are and what we believe as a church. Yet sometimes that can be awkward and difficult because we have to do a lot of explaining to overcome some negative impressions about the "Institution of Christianity" that has left many feeling excluded. We also tend to respect people's right to privacy and not want to impose our faith upon them.

Shalom,

Pastor 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.

The Caring Committee wants to know of the special needs of any of our members and friends so that we can respond to those needs. Please keep us informed by calling Marge Eckels, 787-5552, with any news.

MEETINGS and EVENTS

Sunday October 13 is UCC-Access Sunday. The week of October 13-19 is Disabilities Awareness Week.

Article by Dorothy Miner

What does improving access for persons with disabilities mean to you? Do you think of removing physical barriers by installing wheelchair ramps, adding Braille signs, etc.? It might surprise you that many people with disabilities will say that the biggest barriers they face today are the attitudes of others. Certainly, it has been very important to remove those physical barriers, but the surprising part is how much did not change as a result.

The way we view people with disabilities has not kept up with the times. Our thinking is stuck in the days when charity or the medical reversal of disability were the best we knew. These views both put disability access issues in the category of "helping the helpless". I would like to encourage you to join the many members of the disability rights community who see access in terms of civil rights, with many parallels to race and gender. However, this puts some of the responsibility on us, as our attitudes impose disability on people around us.

We unknowingly impose disability by not learning what we can do to ensure that all people will be able to exercise their talents and choices as we do. Otherwise, we may provide access to our facilities, but not to our community and its activities.

This is not about the Americans with Disabilities Act. This is about people, and the attitudes of people determine whether the spirit of the law is upheld. People with disabilities need access to all parts of community life in order to live full lives and contribute their gifts. There are many creative ways to achieve this because it is the right thing to do, without waiting for legislation to require it.

We can all help by remembering that one of the ways God works through the people around us is by giving them good ideas, and there have been many wonderful ideas developed in assistive technology and universal design. I don't need to know them

all, I just have to stretch my imagination enough to remember they might be there, and to ask, and to realize that this person facing me may be capable of much more than I can see on the surface. God's imagination is infinite, mine is very limited. I can try to reduce the attitudinal barriers that I place in other people's way by keeping that in mind. I invite you to join me.

Access Sunday is October 13, 2002, and **Robert Parrish** will be preaching.

Women's Support Group

Meeting nights – Starting on Thursday night, October 17th, meetings will be on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Hoffmann Room and thereafter in the Bradow Room.

Meeting plans for October 17:

What were your favorite popular songs when you were in your teens? In a recent sermon, Steve Halsted talked about the closeness he felt as a teenager to the thoughts expressed in Bob Dylan's lyrics such as "Blowin' in the wind" and about the ways in which we are all affected by the state of the world at the time we are growing up. Some of us may have been taken back to our youth by the recent news stories of the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of Elvis Presley's death. For you was it war protest songs or civil rights songs? For the Women's Support Group meeting on Thursday, October 17, please be ready to talk about the songs that meant a lot to you when you were growing up. If you can bring a recording or lyrics, that would be great.

Monday Lunch Group meets at 12:15 each Monday in the Hoffmann Room. Bring a sandwich and enter into the lively discussions of Dorothee Soelle's very stimulating book, Theology for Skeptics, Reflections on God.

Retirees

CUCC Retired Folks will meet October 14 at 11a.m. in the Vaughan Wing for the monthly get-together and lunch. The program will be a natural history video presentation called "Take a Closer Look: Plants and the Cherokee". It tells the story of the Cherokees and the plants that are a part of their world and culture. Everyone is invited. Come, bring a sandwich, and enjoy the program and fellowship.

Bring Bread

October 6th is World Communion Sunday and after church, everyone is invited to bring bread for a delightful lunch of breads from around the world. Let us break bread together in a celebration of this special Sunday.

Just imagine a big slab of delicious bread spread with butter or cheese – yum yum!

Tai Chi is on hold until November.

BOARD OF DEACONS

The **October meeting** has been rescheduled. The Board of Deacons will meet Thursday, October 10th at 7:30 in the Pilgrim House.

Arts in Worship

This fall we have two artists represented on the **Art Wall**. Ted Gregory is displaying his beautiful watercolors--come enjoy scenes from New England to Greece. We also have a portrait done by Cynthia Woodburn who does very reasonably priced custom portraits in charcoal, pastels, and watercolor. Enjoy!

Also displayed are the artist's biographies.

CHURCH COUNCIL

**SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
HELD**

A special congregational meeting was held Saturday, September 28 in the Vaughan Wing of the church. The meeting was called in order to consider amending some of the words and phrases that appear in the CUCC constitution and by-laws and to vote on recommendations for further changes to the church's organization. In addition, the congregation was given a status report about the plan to purchase a new church organ and to hire a part-time Christian education coordinator who will organize and administer programming for children and youth. The IAF Mission Group received input on the report it will give from CUCC to the IAF Delegates Assembly. These matters will be acted on officially at the next regular meeting of the congregation.

A quorum was declared; the resolution to approve the amendments to the constitution and by-laws that were distributed to the congregation on September 8 were approved, with some minor word changes. In addition, the congregation approved a recommendation to add a Board of Growth & Discipleship and a Board of Stewardship. It also approved a recommendation to redefine the Board of Christian Education.

There was not enough time to consider a number of other recommendations that the Church Council had previously approved for the congregation to vote on. The meeting was adjourned, and another special congregational meeting will be called as soon as is practical to study and vote on these recommendations.

CHRISTIAN WITNESS

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Pictorial Directory Appointments

Sign up for photographs is well under way. Don't get left out! We need your smile! Each family participating gets one free 8 x 10 portrait and a free directory. You will need to plan for 45 minutes to an hour to have the picture made, select your pose, and order any additional copies, if you so choose. You pay for additional pictures at the time you are photographed. The finished pictures purchased will be returned in ample time for holiday giving. Sign up at church October 6 or October 13.

Questions? Call: Carolyn King, 787-5461

Photography will take place at the following times:

Wednesday – October 30 – 2:30 - 9:00 pm

Friday – November 1 – 2:30 - 9:00 pm

Saturday – November 2 – 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

WIDER OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Reminder: **Food Bags** will be collected on October 6th (next Sunday).



In September we nearly achieved our goal! Members contributed 22 emergency food bags, a really splendid "haul." Let's keep that up – and even surpass our goal of 25 each month! The shelves often are nearly bare at Urban Ministries. Emergency needs continue at a high level. Share your good fortune and help to feed hungry families. The lists of needed items are available at the food cart in the Vaughan Wing. Please use double (that means one bag inside another, not two bags side by side) and tie securely.. The food bag donations are collected the first Sunday of the month. Thanks!

SOCIAL ACTION

Social Action Calendar

October 2 - Stop the Arms Race Vigil. 12 noon
Fayetteville Street Mall.

October 6 - The 2002 Raleigh **CROP WALK** for hunger will be on Sunday, October 6. The WALK raised \$46,357 in 2001, and has a goal of \$60,000 for 2002. Let's help meet and exceed this goal by signing up to walk, to sponsor, or to do both! For info call Marge Eckels at 787-5552.

October 9 and 10 - Peace Booth Training Sessions
7 p.m. Vaughan Room CUCC. Peace Booth workers should attend one of the sessions.

October 12 - 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. 2002 Civil Rights Symposium "School Desegregation in North Carolina." North Carolina Museum of History. Call 715-0200 x 304 for details and to register

October 21 - 12 noon. Reading of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Wake County Court House steps, Fayetteville St. Mall.

October 24 - United Nations Day Annual Dinner. Dr. Richard Rubenstein will speak on "The Potential Role of Conflict Resolution in World Affairs." 6:30 p.m. Meredith College, Belk Dining Room. Reservations call Ed Klemmer 847-7992.

October 24 - The Interfaith Alliance of Wake County will celebrate seven years of service to the community at its Annual Meeting to be held Thursday, Oct 24, 7-9 pm, at Greystone Baptist Church, 7509 Leadmine Road in Raleigh (at the corner of Leadmine and Sawmill). All members are urged to attend as we review this year's progress and elect our board for 2003. The keynote address will be given by Scott Alexander, Associate Professor of Islam & Director of Catholic-Muslim Studies at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. Scott will be speaking about the importance of interfaith dialogue. Not only does it help build bridges of understanding, acceptance, and trust among the diverse, often competing, and sometimes conflicting groups, but engaging in interfaith dialogue also affects our personal growth.

Scott will discuss authentic interfaith dialogue as a forum for affecting a deep and lasting personal transformation within the individual such that she or he becomes a "converted outsider" with respect to the faith tradition of the religious other. RSVP Daylia Vaughan, dayliav@bellsouth.net.

November 1 - Wake County ACLU Annual W.W. Finlator Dinner. 6:30 p.m. NCSU University Club. Professor Dan Pollitt keynote speaker. Bill Towe is recipient of the award. Reservations call Clay Stalnaker, 833-8301

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CUCC Church School Program:

October 6* - Abraham and Sarah's walking journey
- preschool and elementary
- Video of Bono and Chris Tucker
- middle

*Classes will stay the whole time, but any elementary or middle student who would like to participate in communion is invited to return to worship.

October 13 - Ability Sunday - preschool and elementary
- Follow up of discussion on Bono and Chris Tucker - middle

October 20 - Hunger - Eating - preschool
- Art - elementary
- Church Missions (Habitat) - middle

October 27 - Hunger - Service - preschool
- Games and Video - elementary
- Church Missions – middle

Veggie Tales Movie - Oct. 19

Want to see the new Veggie Tales movie? Some of us will be going on Saturday, October 19, in the early afternoon. Watch for more information about place and time in upcoming bulletins. Let Jane Smith (787-6539) know if we should look for your family at the theater and if your family would be interested in going to a playground for an hour afterward.

Where are my pennies going?

Your pennies will be used to buy food that you will use to cook a meal for the women at the Wright Center. We'll be cooking in Church School on November 10. *Keep bringing those pennies!*

Adult Forum

October 6 – Monica Cunto “10,000 Villages.”

October 13 – Laura Deaton Klauke of the Rural Advancement Fund, on the “International Contract Agricultural Reform Program.”

October 20 – Dr. Dan Figgins on “Global Environmental Politics.”

October 27 – Dr. Stephen Zunes “The Case Against a U.S. Invasion of Iraq.”

Some will remember Hugh and Ithmer Wolfe, residents of Springmoor and active members of CUCC and regulars at the Forum. Dr. Zunes is married to their granddaughter and he has spoken at CUCC several times in the past. Dr. Zunes is Associate Professor of Politics at the University of San Francisco and the author of Tinderbox: U.S. Middle East Policy and the Roots of Terrorism. His article, “The Case Against War” appeared in the September 20th issue of The Nation.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Church Newsletter April 1982

“Inner Peace/World Peace Spiritual Retreat for CUCC”

- Trust God’s Spirit
- Pray for Peace
- Pray for your enemies.

“Jesus Christ said, ‘Peace is what I leave with you; it is my own peace that I give you. I do not give it as the world does.’ (John 14:27)

If you would like to focus your own thoughts and prayers on the connections between inner peace and world peace, you are encouraged to join others in our congregation for a spiritual retreat at the beautiful UCC owned Crumpton Conference Center near Roxboro on Friday and Saturday, April 16 and 17 (1982).”

“The Raleigh Peace Initiative gained community-wide support this month from a coalition of political, church, civic and professional groups and individual citizens.

The Rev. Ann Calvin Rogers-Witte told the crowd of 104 persons that the church was ‘turning over to the community’ the petition drive for a nuclear weapons freeze.

The Raleigh Peace Initiative plans to collect at least 7,600 signatures of registered voters calling on the city council to adopt a ‘freeze’ ordinance. The ordinance would require the city manager to call on the president to negotiate with the USSR a halt to the development, testing, production and future deployment of nuclear arms.”

OUR PEOPLE

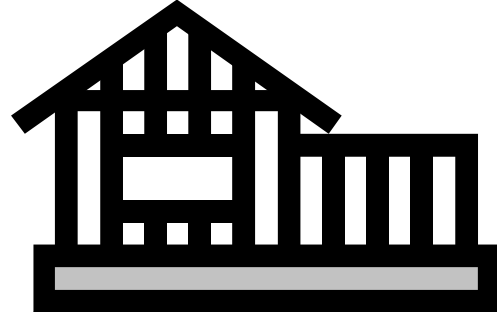
Cannon Centre Dedication at Elon

On Wednesday, September 18, Marge Eckels, Vandy Bradow, Carolyn King, Anna Aceti, and Ann McLaughlin attended the dedication of The Isabella Cannon Centre for International Studies at Elon University.

The celebration was splendid, and numerous people with international connections participated including a number of Elon foreign students. The Fall Convocation followed the dedication, and Benazir Bhutto, former Prime Minister of Pakistan, spoke at both the dedication and convocation. The day was a very meaningful pleasure for all of us, and we can imagine that Isabella is delighted.

Sertoma Art Center is having their Fall Arts Festival and October 5 & 6, 10 am – 4 pm.

Autumn Cobeland is one of the featured artists and will have some of her artwork available.



Our Habitat House

On Saturday September 21st, we began our partnership with St. Luke’s Catholic Church in building a home for the family of Emanuel Kembe. It was a pleasure to meet and work alongside Emanuel who is originally from the Sudan. At noon we held a blessing ceremony of dedication for the new home led by our pastor Steve Halsted and Father Joe Mulrone of St. Luke’s. Emanuel’s home is one of 18 Habitat Houses being constructed at Wickham Dr. in Cary. It is lot #14. We worked mostly with shovels and rakes to level the crawl space of the foundation and bury the drainage pipe around the house. It was hard but very satisfying work to accomplish. Soon the flooring and wall structure will begin. Please sign-up on the chart in the Narthex to help out on construction or with lunches. We need your help! It is a wonderful way to put “hands to work and hearts to God.”

LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

Thank you ALL!

I want to thank everyone in the congregation for a very special Installation Service and Reception on September 8th. I feel blessed to minister with you in accepting the cost and joy of discipleship as our UCC Statement of Faith reminds us. A special thanks for the beautiful Green Stole with the olive branches which will serve as a reminder for us all to work together for peace with justice.

In Gratitude,
Steve

Thanks from Ramona

submitted by Pat Spearman

To my family in Christ:

I thank God and our Lord Jesus Christ, for bringing each of you in my life. I really appreciate the things that all of you are doing for me. Now I know that I have a family in this country, people of God with a willing heart to give the love of Christ to those who needs it. May God multiply in blessings all that all of you are doing for me.

“and we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.” 1 John 4:16

Thanks to all of you from my heart.

In Christ,
Ramona Rosario

Words from Dominique Difuidi

The tragedy of losing my daughter Alisha, brought a lot of tears and sadness among us. My mind replayed on and on the event, as if I were watching a horror movie. I tortured myself with questions. Why did this happen? Why ...! My emotions swing back and forth in great waves. I spent moments sobbing uncontrollably. Now I find myself in a state of utter calm, peaceful in the knowledge that God gives us life, that we return to him in death to

receive eternal life, that Alisha is alive, safe, sound and happy in God’s hands.

I found myself thinking back to the terrible loss some of us have suffered years ago when their loved ones passed away – I do believe that faith is what had pulled them through. Beyond these darkest moments of confusion and despair, God is with us all the times. Faith is what makes all of our bitter experiences, even our terrible pains, comprehensible. Praise be the Lord.

Through friends, tears, love, gifts, food, flowers, visits, comforting words, cards, hugs and prayers, I feel God’s love and blessings surrounding both me and my family. God is with us all the times. Blessed be His name.

Dominique Difuidi

STEWARDSHIP

Quotable quotes from “Joyful Newsletter” consulting editor Stan Toler’s book, Stewardship Starters)

“Don’t give ‘til it hurts. Give ‘til it feels good!”
- author unknown

“Generous giving produces rejoicing in one’s soul.”
- David M. Vaughn

“We make a living through what we get; we make a life through what we give.”
- Winston Churchill

“There are three conversions necessary: the conversion of the heart, the mind, and the purse.”
- Martin Luther

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Elaine Loyack has asked that her name be removed from CUCC's membership role.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORGAN FUND NEWS!

We have received a very generous offer from an anonymous member who would like to see us have a new organ by Christmas.

The offer is a \$5000 gift, if the congregation can match that amount. This potential \$10,000 should give us enough capitol to purchase a quality organ that will meet our musical needs for decades into the future. Our present organ has been in service for over 30 years and is ready to be retired!

Kent Miner has responded to this initial challenge with another! If we reach our \$5000 goal, he offers another \$1000 if this amount is matched and could be used as an organ fund for maintenance and music.

God is richly blessing this ministry; now it's up to us to respond!

Pastor Steve

SPECIAL DAYS

Youth Birthdays

October Birthdays*

10/2/97 – Paul Lee
10/3/92 – Ruben Suarez
10/5/91 – Ferline Milandu
10/13/84 – Nathan Koenning
10/14/95 – Susie Binganisi
10/17/99 – Sophia Hase
10/18/84 – Taylor Griggs
10/21/84 – Thierry Binganisi
10/21/95 – Ellen Milandu

November Birthdays*

11/8/97 – Erin Kiel
11/11/1987 – Cedric Difuidi
11/25/1985 – Garrett Waddell

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