

# **COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

## **Nurturing Spiritual Growth and Working for Social Justice**

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Stephen S. Halsted, Pastor

September 2003

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### **Lectionary for September**

#### **September 7<sup>th</sup>, Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Prov 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23; Ps 125 OR Isa 35:4-7a; Ps 146;  
Jas 2:1-20, (11-13), 14-17; Mk 7:24-37.

#### **September 14<sup>th</sup>, Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Prov 1:20-33; Ps 19 or Wisd of Sol 7:26-8:1 OR  
Isa 50:4-9a; Ps 116:1-9; Jas 3:1-12; Mk 8:27-38.

#### **September 21<sup>st</sup>, Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Prov 31:10-31; Ps 1 OR Wisd of Sol 1:16-2:1, 12-22 or  
Jer 11:18-20; Ps 54; Jas 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mk 9:30-37.

#### **September 28<sup>th</sup>, Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Esth 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22; Ps 124 OR  
Num 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29; Ps 19:7-14; Jas 5:13-20;  
Mk 9:38-50.

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Dear Friends,

Just yesterday, Tuesday August 19, there were two more tragic terrorist attacks that shook our world. One killing twenty people at the U.N. headquarters in Baghdad, the other killing eighteen on a bus in Jerusalem while injuring one hundred more, including forty children. The cycle of violence which is fueled by fear and hatred continues. One feels totally helpless if there are no positive ways to respond. We must do something in order to stay sane and true to our faith.

The great American theologian and preacher, Harry Emerson Fosdick, in response to the horrors of WWII wrote this about "Fear and Faith."

"Fear imprisons, faith liberates  
fear paralyzes, faith empowers;  
fear disheartens, faith encourages;  
fear sickens, faith heals;  
fear makes useless, faith makes serviceable –

and most of all, fear puts hopelessness at the heart of life, while faith rejoices in its God."

Nurturing faith in a world of violence and tragedy has never been an easy thing to do in any age. But as Fosdick so eloquently expresses faith is the antidote to fear, we need to nurture that antidote in our personal lives and our collective life in the human family.

It takes a measure of discipline to develop faith. Two of the tried and true spiritual disciplines that have nurtured faith in countless people are Bible study and prayer. Both of these disciplines can be done either individually or in groups, and I encourage you to begin or continue to use these disciplines on a regular basis during these trying times.

Presently we have a prayer group that meets each Monday in the Hoffmann room at 12:15 pm. They call themselves the "Monday Lunch Group." We also have a Bible study group that meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in the Pilgrim House meeting room. Newcomers are welcome to both groups.

In addition, we are forming a new Bible study group under the leadership of Pat Spearman to take place before worship on Sunday mornings, 9:15-10:15 am. It will begin on Sunday September 7. Pat has used a variety of approaches to Bible study and is open to the group choosing a format that suits it. Please let the church office know if you plan to attend so we can designate a suitable meeting place based upon the number of attendees.

Blessings & Peace,

Steve



## DEACONS MINISTRY

### 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 who need to be remembered in prayer: Bob Keyes, Jo Lemons, Sister Evelyn Mattern, Nancy Keppel, Sarah Hoffman, and Buck Little.

### MEETINGS and EVENTS

Women's Support Group will be on a **Retreat at Topsail Beach**, September 19, 20 and 21.

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Retirees Group will meet Monday, September 8, at 11 am. Bob Jeter will talk about his recently published book, "Walking thru the Valley, a Caregiver's Journey". Bring your lunch. Dessert will be provided.

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#### LAST CALL!

You've read all the publicity and heard the Mission Moment about the Southern Conference deficit; you know the challenge we face.

Be sure to come to the gala "Thanksgiving in September" on **September 6**. "Born Free" will be shown for children at 4:30 pm in the Pilgrim House. Dinner at 6 pm in the Vaughan Wing - \$15 for adults; \$5 for children, prepared by chef Anne Pope and her trusty crew. "Tootsie" will be shown at 7:30 for adults in the Vaughan Wing. Popcorn too!

Stretch your budget in a good cause and help us **meet the challenge**. Call Marge Eckels for last-minute reservations – 787-5552. DON'T MISS THE FUN!

Dear CUCC,

I am writing this between helping run a symposium in Raleigh and vacationing with my brother and sister-in-law in Cashiers, so will be (mercifully?) brief.

The Deacons met August 6—information available from any of us, and details from our faithful and accurate scribe, I.T. Littleton. We spent time discussing ideas for Advent and Lent (yes, already!), and made plans for **World Communion Sunday October 5. PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR**, as you are all invited to bring breads from your heritage and around the world. We will display and use them during worship service for communion, then move them to the Vaughan Wing fellowship hall where we'll continue to "break bread together!" Please remember to bring them **BEFORE** the worship service – by 10:15, please!

We discussed a number of ideas brought to us by the Church School Rotation Steering Committee (CSRSC) from their retreat the preceding weekend. You'll be hearing more from them, but we especially look forward to October 19, when the youth will be entirely responsible for leading the worship service, and to a family Advent event December 6, sponsored by the CSRSC. It will be held in the morning and afternoon in the Hoffmann Room and the Pilgrim House, including a brown bag lunch. Other Advent events, sponsored by the Deacons, will include a caroling party, December 20 or December 21 after church and an intergenerational Epiphany party on January 4. Stay tuned for more news and more details.

We agreed to the CSRSC's request that the choir robe storage be removed from the Waterfall Way classroom to free up space for weekly classroom use. Arts and Worship, with the Property Ministry, will discuss and decide on alternative storage (temporary and long-term).

We agreed that a sensitivity training class, similar to that provided by the Triangle J Regional Ombudsman program, for advisory committee members would be both educational and entertaining for CUCC folk of all ages. Bill Lamb

## CHURCH COUNCIL

### Meeting Notes

The Ministries need to begin the process of preparing their 2004 budget requests. This includes reviewing 2003 expenditures year to date for the Ministry and estimating the 2004 costs of Ministry plans. The stewardship drive is expected early this fall.

The Sunday school classroom use is expanding – more children are coming to church. Wonderful!!! Many changes in building use will happen for Sunday mornings. Please be on the lookout for them and be supportive of the growing Sunday school.

Please keep the older children under supervision while in church on Sunday. There have been some signs of unsupervised childish behavior that is not appropriate on Sundays.

- Everette Noland

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Reminder: **Food Bags** will be collected on **Sunday, September 7.**



We did it! In August we contributed 25 emergency food bags. That's our **goal** and is a real feather in our cap. Just keep up that level of giving. Urban Ministries is striving to meet the needs of hungry people and needs our monthly help. **THANKS!**

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## SOCIAL JUSTICE

Death Penalty: North Carolina is experiencing a busy season in public executions. William Quincy Jones was lethally injected on 20 August. Henry Hunt is scheduled for execution on 12 September and Joseph Bates is slated for the same fate on 26

will look into acquiring the materials, and other Deacons, including Robert Parrish and Vandy Bradow, will assist. The activities include emulating the experience of vision and mobility impairment (e.g. by donning special glasses, wearing garden gloves to thread a needle). Those willing to help with this (probably next spring), please contact the church office.

I have been told that with the new Deacons organization it is sometimes hard to tell exactly who is working on what. All twelve Deacons discuss and decide on all the areas of responsibility, but for easy reference, the contacts are:

Ushers: Geraldine Bryan

Arts and Worship: Marty Lamb

Caring: Marge Eckels

Sanctuary and Chancel: Pastor Nsumbu Puati  
and Vandy Bradow

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer and "Welcome Back" to fall and Advent activities at CUCC!

Peace, Vandy Bradow - For the Deacons

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### Arts and Worship Team

"I am a firm believer that the imagination needs time to go browsing. It needs space. It needs the spirit of unfettered play."

-Sue Monk Kidd

Let me suggest you browse and play at the Art Wall this month outside the Bradow and Hoffmann rooms while incorporating in yourselves the beautiful photographs on display from Mac Hulslander. His spiritual gifts have been enriching our lives in the church for many years, as this wall reminds us.

The quarterly Arts and Worship committee will be held this month and we'll be following up on some ideas bubbling for, of all things, Lent. We'll see where the spirit leads. Choir is back in session for the year. Do consider joining. We sing the first and third Sundays and practice the Wednesday nights before those Sundays in the Hoffmann Room at 7:30. Peace!

-Marty Lamb

September. Please consult Sunday bulletins for updates and activities.

War, Imperialism, and the Arms Race: Breaking the Chains Coalition is sponsoring a conference entitled, "Understanding War and Empire." The conference will take place at North Carolina Central University in Durham on Saturday, 4 October. A small fee will be asked for, but no one will be denied admission for financial reasons.

The first Wednesday Vigil Against the Arms Race will meet at 12:00 noon on the Fayetteville Street Mall, 6 September 2003.

"March on Raleigh" to focus attention on issues important to people with developmental disabilities, September 17. More information to follow.

Environment: Congregation members wishing to know how their elected officials in Washington and Raleigh have voted on vital environmental matters can obtain information from the following sources: the League of Conservation Voters has a website that tallies the votes by each representative and senator on selected environmental issues and provides a score card. Log on to [www.lcv.org](http://www.lcv.org) for further information. The Conservation Council of North Carolina performs a similar evaluation of members of the NC General Assembly. Go to [www.conservationcouncilnc.org](http://www.conservationcouncilnc.org) to see how your representatives and senators voted on vital issues regarding nature.

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### Volunteers Needed for the State Fair Peace Booth

CUCC's day to staff the Peace Booth at the NC State Fair is Saturday, October 25 from 9 am to 9:45 pm. We will need two persons, one must be an adult, for each of the two hour shifts. Volunteers are urged to attend one of the two training sessions held here at our church on October 8 or 9, 7 till 8:30 pm. Please call Cy King at 787-5461 to volunteer. The theme of the booth this year is "Striving for Peace: a World without Fear."

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### CUCC Church School News

Welcome Back! We hope everyone had a wonderful summer.

This year the elementary class has been divided into two classes. The kindergartners and first graders will be meeting in Waterfall Way. Our 2nd-4th graders will be meeting in Performance Pond. Our older elementary will be meeting in Pilgrim House. The preschoolers will still be in the preschool room.

Congratulations to our third graders who received Bibles on August 17 - Jonny Cookmeyer, Anna Hase, Jackson Kiel, and Carson Roach-Howell.

In September we will continue our study of Psalms and begin a new rotation on David.

We have some exciting activities planned for the Christmas season. Look for details later in the fall.

Remember, we would love to know if you would like to lead a Sunday School class. The lesson is prepared for you in advance. It's a great way to get to know our young people!

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### Adults

**A new Bible study** class will begin on Sunday, September 7, 9:15-10:15 in the Bradow Room.

The **Adult Forum** returns after a summer hiatus. It meets in the Vaughan Room, 9:15-10:15 am each Sunday morning.

### **Calendar**

September 7 – Dr. Sarah Shield on the "Background to September 11, and What Next in Iraq." Dr. Shields, an Associate Professor in the History Department at UNC Chapel Hill, teaches courses on the history of Islamic civilization, the Arab Israeli conflict, the modern Middle East and Middle East women.

September 14 – Dr. Sami Halaby will discuss "American Foreign Policy as it Relates to the

Middle East.” Dr. Halaby, a Palestinian Christian born in Jerusalem, came with his family to the U.S., in 1951. He is a physical chemist who worked for Corning and Warner Lambert before retiring to Raleigh in 1998.

September 21 – Patricia Camp on “Threats to Civil Liberties in Post September 11<sup>th</sup> North Carolina.” Ms. Camp is Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina. She is also the wife of our Conference Minister, Rev. Stephen Camp.

September 28 – Dr. Howard Miller is arranging a series on Wake County Public Schools that will begin on this date. This should be a must for all parents and grandparents who have children in our public schools and for all the rest of us who care about our children and our community.

## **A TIME TO REMEMBER –** **A TIME TO GIVE**

In 1969 CUCC, along with four other congregations, saw and met a need for low income housing in Raleigh. With the help of the Federal Government the five churches built RICH (Raleigh, Interchurch Housing) Park in Method. CUCC continues to be a part of RICH and our Moderator, Everette Noland, serves as chairperson of the RICH Board.

It soon became apparent that the children of RICH PARK would need day care and so the same five churches created Method Day Care Center to provide affordable, quality day care for children. Carolyn King served as chairperson of the Board for the first few years while the center was located at the Oak Park Baptist Church in Method and members of our congregation have always been part of the Board and have frequently served as volunteers.

In 1974 the Center outgrew Oak Park and relocated to Pullen Memorial Baptist Church so that it could serve more children. There it has been able to serve and prepare for success in school nearly 2000 children from diverse ethnic and economic backgrounds. The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services Division of Child Development

has awarded the Center a four star out of five star licensure rating.

Now under its new name, Method Child Development Center has launched a \$1.5 million Method on the Move capital campaign to build a new center that will meet the growing need for accessible, affordable, quality childcare for families. There are 53,000 children under the age of five living in Wake County, and 7 in 10 mothers with children under the age of five work outside the home. The need is obvious, and, as one of the founders, CUCC has an obligation to help. Land has been acquired on Agnes Street near Centennial Campus and the capital campaign is under way with Senator John Edwards as Honorary Chair (three of their four children attended Method Day Care Center.)

The Church Council has authorized a special campaign for our Congregation with a goal of \$10,000 to support the building campaign. The other founding churches will be mounting similar efforts and together we can make a significant contribution to an institution that has hand will serve thousands of children in our community. Please give this opportunity prayerful consideration and be prepared to make a significant contribution to this important part of CUCC’s heritage and Raleigh’s future.

- Cy King

## **OUR PEOPLE**

Geri Bowen has a new job as a librarian at Enloe High School, and is taking online courses in ECU's Master's of Library Science Program.

### VICTORY OF LIFE.

Even after twelve months , I still feel the sting of the sword planted by death in my heart. A rush of sad feeling comes often over my soul, just as it had when my baby girl passed away, renewing the grief. A big piece of my life seems to be missing. God did not take away my pains, he did not delete the memory. I recall my visits at the Duke hospital intensive care nursery. She lay in a small bed with tubes. How I wanted to help but there was nothing I could do. I was deeply terrified by the hopeless prognosis from the doctors. I was not prepared to let

her go. I was not ready to believe that. No machine could measure the emotions I felt inside the day of my daughter's funeral. It was more than heartache. In the bleak months following her burial, there was just sadness and a life ended so soon. I would have never survived this whole year if the Good Lord had not wrapped me in His divine arms. I had experienced a tremendous amount of affliction, but also a tremendous outpouring of love and support. By providing the strength I need to walk through life on my own, God shows that He is present in every moment of our journey in this world. He is with us every step of the way. Words from Pastor Steve's sermon during the memorial service keep resounding in my thoughts "VICTORY OF LIFE OVER DEATH". She never made it home as we all wished in our prayers. With God, she is home indeed. Praise be the Lord, our shepherd.

Dominique Difuidi.

## **CUCC MEMORIAL GARDEN** **FUND**

All of us have seen the impressive beginnings of the Memorial Garden which has been on the drawing board for awhile. Once constructed, it should provide us welcome relief from the noise of Wade Avenue as well as a spot to visit and reflect, providing a sacred area in which to scatter ashes of loved ones.

To date, Mac Hulslander has provided the planning and backbreaking labor to shape the garden. However, completion of this church project will require more than just Mac's efforts. We need to help in two areas: financing and maintenance (upkeep and weeding). The cost of the project is estimated to be about \$10,000 and will probably include some donated plantings. Currently we have approximately \$2100 in a reserved fund. We would appreciate receiving individual donations to this CUCC fund at any time.

Council has agreed to form a Memorial Garden ad hoc committee under the auspices of the Property Ministry. To date, Mac and Peg Hulslander, Carol Kepler, Allan Beidler, Vandy Bradow, Geraldine Bryan, Kathy Widenhouse, Carol Clark, and Ann McLaughlin have agreed to participate. We invite anyone wanting to help the garden effort in any way to contact either Carol Kepler, Mac or the church

office. We urge you to support the building of this sacred place with your hands and heart.

-Carol Kepler

## **MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

We are pleased and thankful to be welcoming Nancy and Mike Callaham to our congregation. They have worshipped with us many times this past year and will be asking for a letter of transfer from their previous setting so that they may join with us. They have provided the following information about themselves to help us to get to know them better.

*---Nancy and Mike Callaham have been married for nineteen years and are currently residing in Cary. They have lived in the Chicagoland area, Florida and two years in Marburg, Germany, with Mike's previous employment. Nancy is a graduate of the Chicago Theological Seminary and is a UCC ordained minister. She has specialized training for interim ministry and is a member of the Sacred Dance Guild. Mike, born in Roanoke, Virginia, has a Master's Degree in bio-chemistry and is employed with Wyeth Vaccines in Sanford as a Project Coordinator in Technical Services. He is a sports enthusiast and enjoys tennis and bowling. ---*

An **Inquirers' Class** will be held after worship on Sunday Sept. 21 in the Bradow Room for any and all visitors who have worshipped with us over the summer and are considering membership in our congregation. This meeting will be to offer information about our church and denomination and to answer questions that newcomers may have.

## **REFLECTION**

Recently I was tearing pages out of a small notebook to salvage the remaining unused portion of the notebook for further use. On one of the pages I tore out was a note that I had written on May 23, 1986 in Oaxaca, Mexico. Reading the note brought up a long-forgotten memory.

The complete text of the note is as follows:

Cafeteria Alex on a small side street in Oaxaca

offers character to match its food. It is run by one or sometimes two young women, one of whom plays with her baby behind the counter as she works. The dining area consists of six small tables and is largely open onto the sidewalk. A proper breakfast of "huevos Oaxacaneos" (eggs bathed in hot sauce with pinto beans), fresh squeezed orange juice, and hot tea or coffee costs about 85 cents.

A small red squirrel has taken up residence in the restaurant. Occasionally one of the women will set him on a window ledge and give him a strawberry or a piece of apple which he quickly devours.

In general, Mexicans appear to take a very tolerant view toward beggars and street vendors. All sidewalk cafes and most indoor cafes make no effort to evict vendors or beggars who wander in off the street to solicit the customers. In the Hotel Real (Royal Hotel) in San Cristobal, one of the better hotels in town catering almost exclusively to tourists, street people sometimes outnumber diners as they wander among the tables which are covered with clean, white table cloths.

On one occasion here in Cafeteria Alex, an elderly street woman wandered in and started to eat leftovers off a table that had not been cleared. Far from evicting her, the young woman in charge came over and spoke kindly to her. Both were smiling, and it became clear that the old lady must be a regular visitor. There was no hint of reprimand in the manager's tone, and she appeared to be inviting the old lady to come back to the kitchen for more to eat. This appeared to us a marked contrast from the tendency in the U.S. to consider poverty an embarrassment and to push it out of sight. We want to make our street people invisible. The last place we would want to confront them would be in our restaurants.

Submitted by Lavon Page

Add:

Nancy and Mike Callaham, 207 Hunters Crossing, Cary, NC 27511, 859-2861.

Ruth Roldan and Feliz Gullus, 4416 Archibald Way, Raleigh, NC 27616, 878-5652.

Heather and Neal Ramee. 413 Dixie Trail, Raleigh, NC 27607.

Changes:

Anne Bailey Zschau has moved to 101 East Drewry Lane, Raleigh, NC 27609.

Sharon Flesh – correct phone number is 941-5855.

Mary and Al Matthews each have their own email addresses. Mary, [maryknit@bellsouth.net](mailto:maryknit@bellsouth.net) and Al, [armatthe@bellsouth.net](mailto:armatthe@bellsouth.net).

## **SPECIAL DAYS**

### **Youth Birthdays**

#### **September Birthdays\***

9/28/90 – Thomas Harris

#### **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

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

## **ROSTER UPDATES**