

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

CAROL IS ON VACATION SEPT 8-22

A Word from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

After a recent sermon I was asked to offer some tips on what we as individuals could be doing in our lives to lessen the impact of global warming. The following would make a good start and I think some of you may have further suggestions to add. Please do and we will list them in future newsletters.

Energy Tips

1. Use compact florescent light bulbs. Perhaps starting with your five most used lights.
2. Do an energy audit of your home. Look to better insulate, especially check for drafty doors and windows. Keep your water heater set between 120-140 degrees.
3. Use recycled goods whenever possible and recycle according to city standards.
4. Drive your vehicle the speed limit and keep it tuned and the oil changed for best fuel efficiency. If possible walk more and drive less!
5. Dispose of toxic wastes properly and use as little as possible.
6. Buy organic products as much as possible and when in need of new appliances buy "Energy Star" products.
7. Close doors and vents to unused rooms to save energy and monitor your thermostats when sleeping and away from the house.
8. Consume less in non-essential goods. Simplify your buying habits.
9. Invest in "nrgreenpower" which is available from your power company to purchase in units.

Information is available on your monthly bill as to how to sign-up. It's an investment in a clean and sustainable energy future.

10. Write, email or call your legislators to advocate for "pro-environment" on timely issues as they are debated.

Blessings and Peace,

Steve

Church Council

We have received notification of the Capitol Campaign for the Southern Conference. They are looking for pledges for the 2006. We will put our pledge into our next budget. Sometime next spring we will also invite individuals to contribute.

I don't know who WE is! Carol)

[We will put a note in the newsletter about the availability of the assisted hearing devices in the sanctuary.????](#)

There will be special offerings on September 11 for Bread for the World and on September 18 for Neighbors in Need.

On September 4, Vertie Powers, Associate Minister of ENCA, will preach and host communion.

Vacation Bible School went very well. We did make a difference. We have received responses back from the letters that were sent to legislators during VBS.

The council approved a request from the Journey Class to design, produce, and sell CUCC t-shirts this spring.

Church Auction - October 15, 2005, will be the date of our annual auction. Handmade items and offerings of services, meals, fun trips are all welcomed contributions on which to bid. (if there's room, should we include the auction bid form here in the newsletter?)

New Members

We will **WELCOME** new members to our congregation on Sunday, September 25. If you are interested in joining our church, please speak to Pastor Steve to be included (787-6422).

Deacons

From August Council minutes:

Bill Lamb said there is a need for a Deacon's chair and vice chair as no one has stepped up from within the Deacons. (Should this be included in the newsletter? Carol)

CUCC expresses our appreciation to **Peg Hulslander** for obtaining the three ministers (Revs. George Reed, Rick Edens and Ann McLaughlin) who preached while Steve was on vacation during July. Several church members have expressed thanks to the deacons for the excellent sermons given by the substitute ministers.

Arts and Worship

Correction: The Susie Allen Choir practices in the Hoffmann Room, named for both **Peggy and Arnold Hoffmann**.

Memorial Garden

Thanks to Carol Kepler for her dedication to the maintenance and monitoring of our lovely garden. Volunteers are always welcome to walk into our garden to enjoy and maintain, should there be a need (pull a few weeds here and there!)

Stewardship

Our pledge drive begins in October. Stewardship Sunday will be November 13

Property

Property report: There will be a **church workday** on September 10 from 9am-noon. Contact **Allan Beidler or David Ledbetter** if you have a project that needs to be included in the list.

Allan is working with **Jim Smith** on the lighting project. They are looking at drop down lighting and lighting for the choir loft.

The "office" in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall is now a supply closet and will not be rented out. We are working toward cleaning out unnecessary items and stowing them properly.

The extra office in the Pilgrim House will now be used for a computer lab for our youth. Thanks to **Suzette Roach and Ron Howell, Jane Smith, Judy and Paul Kiel, Linda Baker, Marcy Halsted, and Allan Beidler** for their continuing help in setting up the room. Their major efforts include cleaning out the room, hauling away old copier, computer parts and other junk, making curtains, painting, rewiring for the computers and constant planning.

Religious Education

Request from the Religious Education Ministry

Do we need new directions or are we on track? The Religious Education Ministry needs to know. Help us to review and evaluate our current classes including Church School, Adult Forum and Bible study groups. We will meet Wednesday September 21st at 6:00 p.m. in the Bradow Room. For more information, call **Sue Cottle** at 772-8288.

Church School

Children Report on Worship – This summer CUCC's 4th-8th graders visited five worship services to learn about the ways Christians worship. You can read their suggestions to the Deacons on ways to strengthen CUCC's 10:30 worship service on the Children and Youth bulletin board. The children took their task very seriously; you can be very proud of how they represented CUCC in our community.

As we begin our fall rotation, the children will be divided into classes as follows:

Preschool-Kindergarten

1st-3rd grade

4th-6th grade

The 4th-6th grade class which will be called the *Journey Class*, and will be meeting in Pilgrim House. The class will focus on the life of Jesus through experiential activities and the new computer lab that is being developed. The other two classes will continue to follow the Rotation Church School curriculum, and they'll be kicking off the year by studying the Good Samaritan parable from August 21-September 11.

On September 18, we'll start a three-week rotation on Jonah. The theme of the rotation is "God Calls Us." The lessons will feature storytelling, games and art

The Journey class will be participating in the 17th Annual *Walk for Hope* on Sunday, Oct. 9. The Walk raises money to shed light on mental illness and improve the lives of all those who suffer from it. This scenic 6.2 mile walk starts at the Angus Barn at 10 a.m. and continues through Umstead Park. It is followed by a celebration with fun, food and music at the Angus Barn shelter. Suzette Roach and her family began participating in the walk three years ago in memory of a family friend who committed suicide. The Journey class would like to have your support. If you can make a contribution or join us on the walk contact Suzette Roach, 460-8678, or suzette134@bellsouth.net.

Parents and any volunteers are needed to help lead Sunday School one time during each rotation. You may sign up in the 1st-3rd grade classroom. See **Anne Bailey** with any questions.

Computer donation sought

The church school is setting up a computer lab which will be used by the children but will be available for any ministry at CUCC. Before we use CUCC money to purchase the computers, we thought we'd see if any of you had upgraded recently and had a unit you would like to donate. In order to run the software (including a great Bible atlas), we need the following:

Windows ME or XP (Windows 95, 98 and 2000 won't work with church school software)

700 mhz processor

128 megs of Ram

48x CD, DVD-capable CD drive

32 megabytes of VideoRAM

(What we would love to have is a Pentium 4, 2.4+ ghz computer with 256 mb+ of RAM and a *quality* videochip or videocard with 64mb of video RAM is a good computer.)

Also, we could save money on our purchases with donated monitors, speakers, or printers. We prefer CRT to flat screen because they are easier to share. If you have an Office suite (including PowerPoint) that you don't need, that would be great, too.

Please call **Suzette Roach** to arrange for us to pick up your donation.

Meanwhile, be dreaming of ways your CUCC ministry could use the computer lab!

Adult Forum begins Fall Semester. Join us at 9:15 -- 10:15 in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall.

September 4 – **Rev. Vertie Powers**, Associate Conference Minister, will discuss the Resolutions adopted at the General Synod.

September 11 – To be announced

September 18 and 25 – Dr. Maria Riemann (one of our own, and are we ever proud to claim her) "Views of the Good Life: An Historical Perspective."

October 2 – Lori Khamala, National Farm Worker Ministry. "The Three Way Contract between FLOC, the Growers and Mount Olive Pickle Company: from the Farm Workers perspective."

October 9 – Bill Bryan, CEO, Mount Olive Pickle Company, will discuss the three way contract from Mount Olive's perspective.

Sunday Bible Study

The group will meet the Sunday after Labor Day, September 11. We will discuss the books that we'll study. Everyone is welcome!

Wednesday Bible Study

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

The Women's Group

Women's Beach Retreat

is being scheduled for Friday September 23rd through Sunday September 25th. It's a time for appreciating God's creations, reading and reflecting, and exploring our lives as women of the church together as we laugh, play, and reach together to expand our visions. If interested in coming, contributing, or learning more, e-mail Marty Lamb at billandmarty@nc.rr.com or call her at 919-4084.

Monday Lunch Group

Bring lunch and join us in the Hoffmann Room Mondays at 12:15 p.m. More information? Call **Geraldine Bryan**.

Retirees Fellowship

Plan to join the retirees this fall for interesting presentations and fellowship. Beginning in September, the group meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall. On September 12, **Joan Little** will talk about conservation issues and history. All are welcome, retired or not!

Social Action

Parents of Teens, [\(Input Per Steve\)](#)

Did you know that the No Child Left Behind Act now requires high schools to make student contact information available to military recruiters? Did you also know that the law gives parents and guardians the opportunity to opt out their child from military recruitment lists? For the upcoming school year, you must do so by the end of September, and you have to do it each year.

Here's how to do it. With this easy to use website, <http://www.ucctakeaction.org/ctt.asp?u=6831&l=102788>, you can automatically generate an opt out letter to your superintendent and to the Pentagon. The website helps you locate your school superintendent, and will use your child's

information to generate letters specific to your child. Print, sign, stamp and mail your opt out letters to your local superintendent and to the Pentagon. Be sure to follow-up with your district to make sure your child has been opted out.

Please make this information available to your congregation and members of your community who may not know about the military recruitment mandate and may wish to opt out their children.

Thanks for taking action!

- United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries

Candlelight Vigil held at CUCC

At 7:30 on Wednesday evening, August 17, we held a candlelight Peace Vigil in support of Cindy Sheehan and all military families who have lost loved ones in the War in Iraq. Co-sponsors were NC Code Pink and NC Peace Action. Over 200 people were in attendance as we gathered on the lawn at the corner of Dixie Trail and Wade Avenue. In a public spirit of lamentation, mourning and grieving we lifted up and honored our war dead and injured and our military families, and we prayed for peace and healing. We chanted, "O Lord Hear our Prayer" and "Dona Nobis Pachem" as we felt the spirit move among us. We recognized several veterans and family members of veterans and sought to be respectful and supportive of their presence with us. As we closed the vigil we turned outward from our inner circle toward the world beyond to let our light shine out into the world as a witness for the light of wisdom that will guide us toward our goal of Peace on Earth.

"Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they shall be called Children of God" Matthew 5:9

Submitted by **Steve Halsted**

Some Thoughts for our Just Peace Church to Consider

"Real national security calls for U.S. policies based on strengthening international cooperation and the rule of law, promoting disarmament, addressing the root causes of extremist violence and other deadly conflict.

"The 'global war on terrorism' is a lost cause. You cannot shoot or bomb terrorism out of existence. Terrorism thrives on war; war fighting is its goal. The effective answer to terrorism is prevention, and prevention relies primarily on civil not military power. To prevent and reduce

terrorism, the world must address the profound grievances that give rise to violent extremist groups.

"The next president of the United States {and each one of us} must offer leadership in addressing these issues if the people of the U.S. are to enjoy real security in the future. The next president {and each one of us} must face up to the truth: War is not the answer."

From the Friends Committee on National Legislation Newsletter, No. 691

And this from Howard Zinn. "There is no flag large enough to cover the shame of killing innocent people."

Submitted by **Cy King**

Welcoming, Fellowship and Growth



Our Young People's Birthdays

9/4/04 – Maya Cobleland
9/21/01 – Amanda Klaus
9/26/03 – Elizabeth Nzita
9/28/90 – Thomas Harris
10/5/91 – Ferline Milandu
10/11/01 – Zenna Bryan
10/14/95 – Susie Binganisi-Matuzola
10/14/00 – Isaac Mambueni
10/17/95 – Zack Cole
10/17/99 – Sophia Hase
10/20/02 – Erik Burkhardt
10/21/95 – Ellen Milandu

Prayer Requests

Please write prayer requests on a slip of paper and place it in the offering plate or in one of the prayer jars (Narthex or in Pilgrim House.) Our prayers are solicited for **Jo Lemons, Jo Banks, Carolyn King, Al Matthews, Al's grandson Blake, Ruby Lamb, John Little, Ed Zschau, Anne Scott, Millie &**

Americo Scapicchio and Vandy Bradow's parents, Ida and Roy Klages.

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

Our People

Thanks

With the sudden passing of Mike's father on June 23, we wanted you to know that your prayers and cards of comfort were greatly appreciated. Thank you for your kindness.

Nancy and Mike Callaham

Dear CUCC Family,

Many, many thanks for all your prayers and words of encouragement during my journey with cancer. I'm happy to report that my chemotherapy is completed and all my "numbers" are good. Your support has been so generous and caring and I shall be eternally grateful. I am filled with thanksgiving.

Your sister in faith, **Carolyn King**

From The Interfaith Alliance of Wake County

Community UCC has hosted The Interfaith Alliance Board meetings and some of our events for several years. In many ways you have been the birth place for the Alliance in Wake County.

We have recently accepted an offer of office and event space at the Long View Center on Moore Square. This location will provide increased opportunities for growth and expansion.

Thank you very much for your gracious hospitality over the years. Your support and partnership in the goal of making Raleigh a better community are much appreciated. Blessings to you as your work for a better world continues.

Sincerely, David J. Amidon, Board Chair

From National Federation of the Blind -Wake County Chapter

I wish to express our appreciation for the support provided by your church for our pancake breakfast on Saturday, July 16.

We thank you for the use of your facilities and we particularly appreciate the help rendered by several members of your church.

Sincerely, John Brown, Secretary

Community Outreach

CROP WALK

CUCC has a long tradition supporting the **CROP WALK**. This year let's do even more than ever! We want whole families to turn out, individual walkers too, and lots of supporters. Many people around the world walk several miles a day just to obtain drinking water. We walk in support of them and also to make an effort to eliminate hunger in our county as well as in areas where Church World Service administers food program.

Get involved! Sign up to be a walker. Ask friends to sponsor your walking. Collect all the money you can to reach the goal of \$100 per walker. Do CUCC proud! We want to make a big contribution to this major effort to assail hunger.

On CC proud! We want to make a big contribution to this major effort to assail hunger.

On **OCTOBER 2** walkers will gather in the Vaughan fellowship hall after worship. Each will bring our own bag lunch. Drinks and a dessert will be provided. Then we'll join walkers from around the city at Exploris at 2 p.m., walk the prescribed route (behind a CUCC banner, we hope!), and finish our day with gratitude that we are able to walk to combat hunger.

SIGN UP with Adrienne Talbot or Marge Eckels. Meet the challenge!! Call Marge for further details at 787-5552.



Food Bags will be collected on **Sunday, September 4**, and every **first Sunday** of the month.

The summer doldrums effected our food bag collection in August. We managed to donate only 17 this month. There's still a great need when families are in crisis. Let's do more in September!

Wider Community

There is a **LABYRINTH AT MILLBROOK BAPTIST CHURCH** - The concrete labyrinth is 60' wide, and is handicap accessible. It was built with memorial funds that honor church members. The labyrinth is lit at night, and is available 24/7. A beautiful wooden arch designates its entry off the parking lot behind the church. A Sacred Walk prayer garden is being developed around the labyrinth.

Wider Church

GOD IS STILL SPEAKING **Saturday, September 17**

A gathering with other UCC congregations will be held at United Church of Chapel Hill on Saturday morning, September 17. Donna Schaper will be our keynote speaker. Donna is a UCC pastor in Amherst, MA and consultant with the Still Speaking Initiative. She is married to Warren Goldstein whose Op-Ed on General Synod was printed in the News & Observer on Monday, July 18. There will be workshops with other UCC people about incorporating the God is Still Speaking Initiative into the life of your congregation and how this campaign is shaping the identity of the UCC. Please hold the date – September 17. More information soon.

- **Richard Edens**

**CUCC TO OBSERVE “DAY OF THE DEAD”
(Dias de las Muertas”)**

In observance of All Saints Day this year, members of CUCC are invited to travel south of the border (vicariously, of course) to enjoy an observance of the Mexican traditional celebration of the Day of the Dead. Please make your calendars for Sunday evening, October 30th from 4-6 PM for this occasion which features the creation of altars honoring those

“saints” whose lives have impacted our in significant and faithful ways and the sharing of stories about them. We will be led by former Texan and dreamwork guru, Nancy Huslage, a friend of many at CUCC. A potluck meal together will conclude the activities. More details will be forthcoming from Arts in Worship.

ADULT FELLOWSHIP RETREAT

October 17-20, 2005

Blowing Rock Conference Center

Are you looking for an adult retreat experience to recharge your spiritual batteries?? Or maybe you would like to get away from the busyness of everyday life and appreciate the peacefulness available in Blowing Rock? Either way, you are invited to attend our annual Adult Fall Fellowship event October 17-20 (Monday 4 pm – Thursday breakfast); for a cost of \$185 you receive 3 nights and 8 meals, plus program, fellowship, worship and music! Leadership is provided by Rev. Steve Halsted and Lee Mahan Evans.

Theme: “Creation Spirituality in the New Millennium”

What better time than autumn in the colorful mountains around Blowing Rock to appreciate and celebrate the goodness and glory of God’s Creation!! Come and relax and spiritually recharge as we worship through attunement to the elements of earth, water, fire and air and the Spirit of the Risen Christ. Christian tradition has lifted up both the Bible and the Book of Nature as Revelation of God’s Holy Spirit. It seems that, to our detriment, today’s world has lost touch with nature. Therefore, we may take this opportunity to regain a sense of AWE and REVERENCE in order to fulfill our Biblical role of proper stewards of God’s Creation. The Adult Fellowship group will study, discuss, meditate, worship both indoors and out in nature (aided by field trips and walks), sing and perhaps even dance! Steve will bring his guitar and you are invited to bring along an instrument of your choice. Come and join together for a Happy, Healthy and Holy Retreat experience!

Fellowship is an important part of the event. Some participants come alone, some bring friends and family and some churches send Sunday school adult classes or senior citizen groups. Whichever way you choose to enroll, please know that each person is welcome and folks who attend have opportunities to make new friends.

Blowing Rock Conference Center – 2005 Adult Fellowship Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Daytime Phone # _____ Home Church _____

Email address _____

Please register me/us for October 17-20, 2005, Adult Fellowship

I/we would like a: ___ Single Room ___ Double Room Preferred Roommate: _____

_____ I/we have enclosed a check payable to BRCC for \$50 (Deposit toward \$185 total cost)

_____ Please charge \$50.00 to my/our Visa/MasterCard# _____

Exp Date _____ V-code on reverse side _____ (last 3 digits)

Please return to BRCC, PO Box 2350, Blowing Rock, NC 28605

[CALENDAR](#)

814 Dixie Trail
Raleigh, NC 27607
September 2005 Newsletter

Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Raleigh, NC
Permit #914

The deadline for our October 2005 Newsletter is
September 19th.

Non-Profit

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

A Month of Sundays

September 4, Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 – 9:30 Taizé; 9:15 Adult Forum; 10:30 Worship Service with Communion & Church School; Fellowship Time
Lectionary:
Exod 12:1-14; Ps 149
OR Ezek 33:7-11;
Ps 119:33-40;
Rom 13:8-14;
Matt 18:15-20

September 11, Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 – 9:30 Taizé; 9:15 Adult Forum & Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service & Church School; Fellowship Time
Lectionary:
Exod 14:19-31; Ps 114
OR Exod 15:1b-11, 20-21 or Gen 50:15-21;
Ps 103:(1-7), 8-13;
Rom 14:1-12;
Matt 18:21-35

September 18, Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 – 9:30 Taizé with Communion; 9:15 Adult Forum & Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service & Church School; Fellowship Time
Lectionary:
Exod 16:2-15; Ps 105:1-6, 37-45 OR Jon. 3:10-4:11; Ps 145:1-8; Phil 1:21-30; Matt 20:1-16

September 25, Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 – 9:30 Taizé; 9:15 Adult Forum & Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service & Church School; Fellowship Time
Lectionary:
Exod 17:1-7; Ps 78:1-4, 12-16 OR Ezek 18:1-4, 25-32; Ps 25:1-9; Phil 2:1-13; Matt 21:23-32