

COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Nurturing Spiritual Growth and Working for Social Justice

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April 2010

Newsletter published monthly for Community United Church of Christ (CUCC) members and friends

A Word from our Pastor

Dear Friends,

We now find ourselves entering the final stage of the Lenten journey toward the celebration of Easter Sunday on April 4.

As we enter Holy Week, I invite you to participate in our Maundy Thursday Worship at 7 p.m. on April 1st. At that time we will listen to the story of the “Objects of the Cross” that define the “Divine Self-Sacrifice” of Jesus as the “Suffering-Servant Messiah” who came to redeem the world. We will also participate in a hand-washing ritual symbolic of cleansing our bodies, hearts and souls and done in remembrance of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. (John 13: 1-17) This is a special opportunity to draw ever closer to the Sacred Presence of Christ.

On Good Friday the Sanctuary will be open for private-silent meditation from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. If you choose a group experience, you may want to join others in an ecumenical Pilgrimage for Justice and Peace at the NC State Capital (noon – 2 p.m.) Speakers will address issues like justice for immigrant workers, fair trade agreements, and ending the death penalty.

On Easter Day we offer an ecumenical Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. to be held in the courtyard of the West Raleigh Presbyterian Church (27 Horne St. near the NCSU campus). Our regular 10:30 a.m. service will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion and the Easter Resurrection Cross decorated after worship in the courtyard. Please bring cut flowers from your gardens to decorate the cross.

Wishing you all the joy and blessing of Easter,

Steve

Stewardship

AUCTION

Still haven't collected on an auction item from 2009? Ready for the good news? The items don't expire!! Hopefully, you will be able to collect in 2010. Maybe a phone call on your part will trigger a prompt response!

CUCC Family Fun Auction Saturday, April 24, 6:30 PM

The CUCC Family Fun Auction is coming up on Saturday, April 24, and we need you to help make it a success! Make plans to attend this great annual event. Social and silent auction begin at 6:30 pm; the bidding starts at 7:00 p.m. Childcare will be provided, and a great time is guaranteed. The auction is an annual fundraiser for CUCC. Would you consider donating an item to the auction?

Please contribute your time, talents or treasure to this wonderful annual event. To make a pledge, call the office and let them know the item, the minimum bid, any conditions (date, maximum/minimum number of people, etc.) AND whether you will be attending the auction. Please enter your pledge of an auction item to the church office by April 20. [Pledge forms are found at the end of the newsletter](#) and on the table in the back of the sanctuary and at the church office, or you can fill out a form on Sunday, April 11 or 18.

Thanks for your support, and see you at the auction!

Preview of one auction pledge:

For the April 24 auction I will be offering a one-hour class in which two energies would be transferred, Marielle and Roselle, to be given after one of the Sunday services. Marielle is a heart energy that nourishes and nurtures the inner oneness of body, mind, and spirit, and generally brings individuals to smile and feel more peaceful. Roselle is a lighter energy.

My name is **Marsha Tai** and this class isn't challenging and there are no requirements to take it. I generally stay for fellowship after the church service, so feel free to ask me questions. For anyone who wishes to experience it, I'd be happy to have them feel the energy.

Property

We need your help ... to show the care and attention to CUCC's physical surroundings that you show your own home. By neglecting our property, we're spending money, time and attention on repairs when that money could be used for other important projects. Here are some ways you can help:

- Flush only toilet paper – plumbers are expensive to open clogged drains.
- Turn out lights – our electric bill shows when we're not being "green".
- Turn off the water – one drip uses gallons and gallons of water that we pay for.
- Pick up the litter and recycle – it's an easy habit to establish. It's good for us, CUCC and the earth.

In the next few weeks, look for a Time & Talents Survey. We'll be using the survey to develop a CUCC Volunteer Corps to help us identify those we can call on for support. With everyone's help, we'll be able to accomplish some of our needed projects with our own resources. We hope you'll share your time and talents with CUCC.

– submitted by **Lena Gallitano**

Religious Education

Children's News

In addition to their individual boxes, the children donated their Sunday School offerings collected since the first of the year to One Great Hour of Sharing.

We enjoyed using our world map and globe to locate the different places that our gifts will help other people.

Please take time to notice our new bulletin board entitled, "Easter, a new beginning".

We continue to collect gently used children's books to donate to the Method Road Community. Please remember us as you do your spring cleaning.

WE NEED YOUR GENTLY USED CHILDREN'S BOOKS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

In April we will celebrate "Earth Day" and in May we will be preparing cupcakes again this year for fellowship to celebrate Pentecost.

– submitted by **Anne Bailey Zschau**

Youth News

The recent past...

What a marvelous worship we shared on March 21- Youth Sunday! Sitting at the feet of our 5th-12th graders proved to be powerful, moving and worshipful for us all. Thank you youth, for sharing your gifts so gracefully and graciously! Thanks be to God for your presence among us!

See some photos from Youth Sunday on the church website and blog page!

The near future...

Sunday, March 28 (Palm Sunday): Youth will join Anne Bailey during worship in hiding Easter eggs and candy for the youngest in our church family. The little kids will love you for it!

Sunday, April 4 (Easter Sunday!): Enjoy worship with your families, and the new life it brings!

Sunday, April 11, April 18, and April 25: We'll have church school again-YAY, and youth group for 7th-12th graders!

Saturday, April 24: 5th-12th graders will help provide childcare and take turns participating in the silent auction.

Friday, May 7: Looks like this might be a good time for a Durham Bulls baseball game; mark your calendars, and save the date!

Sunday, May 9 (Mother's Day): Confirmation Sunday (Jackson and Carson are coming down the home stretch.)

Sunday, May 23 (Pentecost): Worship celebrating our graduates with reception/celebration afterward. (Join us in honoring Abby and Anna!)

– submitted by **Śānti Matthews**

Forum

The Forum meets on Sundays from 9:15–10:15 a.m. in the Vaughan fellowship hall. Following is the schedule for April:

April 4 – Happy Easter (**NO Forum**)

April 11 – Dr. Richard Sylla, “Crisis, Recession, Reform: Perspectives from Wall Street.”

April 18 – Updates on Health Care Reform and Wake Co. Schools

April 25 – Celebrating Earth Day: NC Greenpower and Interfaith Power & Light

Sunday Bible Study

Please join us Sunday mornings at 9:15 in the Bradow Room. Newcomers are welcome.

– submitted by **Ellen Beidler**

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. Bring a bag supper. More information? Call **Mike Schafale**, 567-1098.

Monday Lunch meets at 12:15 in the Hoffmann Room.

--Submitted by **Geraldine Bryan**

Saturday Men's Group

The group meets each Saturday at 9:30 a.m. in the library. (Contact: **Ed Klemmer**).

Social Justice

Justice in a Changing Climate

Simulcast brings progressives and evangelicals together on creation care

Have you wondered how to discuss your concerns about global warming with Christians who are politically conservative? Shouldn't our shared faith allow us to talk with one another and work together?

Wednesday, April 21, 7:30 p.m., we have the opportunity to join "Hope For Creation: A Live Simulcast." Join Gary and Jane Smith for this groundbreaking evening featuring "worship and teaching to celebrate all that God creates as well as our call to be good creation stewards." Thousands of Christians world-wide will be tuning in. All you have to do is be in your seat in the Fellowship Hall at 7:30 p.m. For more information about this effort, look at <http://www.blessedearth.org/simulcast/>.

CUCC to Host PFLAG Support Group

PFLAG was founded in the early 1970's by Jeanne Manford, who marched with her gay son in the Pride Day parade in New York City. Encouraged by the reaction of other gay youth and their families, she initiated the first support group in 1973. Since its inception PFLAG has grown to

have chapters in every state and a membership of over 200,000 members and supporters. PFLAG is an organization for parents, family members, and friends of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) persons. The purposes of PFLAG are to provide support to families, to provide educational events, and to advocate actively for laws and policies that acknowledge the basic rights of the GLBT community.

PFLAG-Triangle serves Raleigh, Durham, Chapel Hill and communities throughout the Triangle and points east. The group has been meeting in Durham for years, and has a robust membership. CUCC approached PFLAG-Triangle to offer our church as a meeting site for an additional Raleigh support group. Our offer was gratefully accepted. Members of CUCC who wish to attend these meetings are welcome. The support groups offer a time for each person to share as much of their story as they wish to share. Each person will be at a different place in his or her journey to love and acceptance. All information shared in the meetings is confidential, and the community of trust that develops offers healing and insight to those in need. Meetings at CUCC will be held the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. PFLAG Triangle group meetings are held at the Eno River UU Fellowship in Durham. For more information on PFLAG, go to www.pflag.org. The PFLAG support line is 919-929-0192.

– submitted by **Joan McAllister**

All Things Congo

Engaging, short reads to brighten your day, Global Ministries delegation "postcards" make you want to pack your bags for the Democratic Republic of Congo. Each delegation member records impressions of a day visiting Equateur Province. You'll read of hopeful work being done with UCC money as they visit a variety of projects, including the dedication of repairs to a school that would have been closed due to weather damage, a hospital wing, the Ikenge Farm (funded with OGHS money!), and a microcredit lending group founded by pastors' wives. The daily diary mixes travelog with a peek into the wonderful church community in Equateur Province. To find the internet link, go to the CUCC blog (you don't need to sign in).

– **Jane Smith**

Welcoming, Fellowship and Growth

Newcomers' Supper, Friday, April 16

Unwind after a busy week while you learn a bit about Community United Church of Christ, and we learn a bit more about you! Please bring an appetite and curiosity. Appetizers will be served at 6:00 p.m., and dinner at 6:30.

RSVP to the CUCC office by Tuesday, April 13 – 919-787-6422 or cucc@nc.rr.com

Please tell us if you need childcare (ages) and if you have any dietary restrictions.

Catch the wave –

UCC premiers a new video **with your help**

The United Church of Christ's StillSpeaking Ministry will launch a new powerful video spot on the Internet on April 16 at 9:00AM. At first the video message will be delivered to tens of thousands by email, through internet ads, and posts to social networks. Then, as the day unfolds, "God is Still Speaking" will sweep the internet like a mighty wave - reaching millions - **but only with your help!**

9:00 a.m.: The video is launched. Go to

<http://www.ucc.org/god-is-still-speaking/april-16.html> for a first peek. Watch it, let it sink in.

9:02 a.m.: Share the link on your social networks and through email. Invite family, friends, co-workers, and church members to watch and share the video. Add your reaction on this blog. Does this video reflect how you experience God's presence through CUCC? **Is this how you hear God still speaking?**

Fellowship Hour Sundays still available

If you would be willing to prepare the drinks and light snacks for a fellowship hour, contact Robert Parrish. Money is available to reimburse those who so request.

Movie Night

Thanks to those who have suggested films for use in this foreign film series. I started with 4 films in mind that I wanted to show for certain, and about a dozen other likely candidates. So far we've seen 2 of the 4 plus 2 films recommended by Jo. In April we'll make another attempt at Zelary (Czech Republic - 2003), the film that was cancelled in October because the floor of the fellowship hall was

waxed, and cancelled again in November because of the death of Jo's sister.

Watching this movie several times about 3 years ago (twice in one week) was what provided my primary motivation to lead this foreign film series. I had never heard of this film prior to seeing it the first time, and I came to realize that nobody else had either. So I roped some other folks (including John and Joan Little) into coming over to my house for a viewing. A few days later John commented to Joan, "We should see more foreign films." Joan responded that the problem with foreign films is that you have to read subtitles. John pointed out that the subtitles in *Zelary* didn't seem to prevent Joan from enjoying the movie. "Oh, but that movie was in English," Joan replied, indicating that within a few days of viewing this Czech film, Joan had forgotten it was a foreign language film.

Here's the storyline as provided by Netflix:

This gorgeously shot World War II drama tells the story of a clash between two different worlds and two different people. Eliska, a nurse in a city hospital, donates her blood to save the life of injured mountain-dweller Joza, and the two form a strong bond. When the resistance group Eliska belongs to is discovered by the Gestapo, she's forced to seek refuge with Joza, leaving her urban life behind and starting anew in the remote mountains.

This film is "R" rated and is (like our first film, *The Lives of Others*) a bit gut-wrenching. But this film, like the first, is also a very uplifting film that illustrates how unexpected blessings can arise from apparent tragedy.

CUCC at the Durham Bulls this spring

Interested in going to a Durham Bulls game? Contact Robert Parrish for details.

Retirees Group – A “green” field trip

As a follow-up to the Forum presentation by Dr. Norman Camp, the retired group, led by **Lena Gallitano**, will meet at the Walnut Creek Wetland Center on Monday, April 12th at 11:00. Anyone interested is invited to join us. Bring a lunch – we will picnic either at the Center or at a nearby park. Directions from the church to the Center are available at the church office or check Mapquest for 950 Peterson Street. Binoculars will be useful but

not necessary. Further details will be available as we near the date.

Sisters in Spirit (SIS)

SIS in March found several chatting about parenting adult children as we learned about prayer shawl making and “pot-lucked” in the library. Some of us even tried our hand at starting to knit a shawl ourselves, not TOO complicated and very pretty. THANKS SO MUCH TO **GALE CASS** FOR SHARING!

On April 27th, at the 7 p.m. SIS meeting, we'll try pot luck again (oh, the tasty fare we're discovering!) and have a rhythmic drum circle afterwards led by Vandy Bradow. Bring any rhythmic percussion instruments you may have from home and/or we'll raid the kitchen for pots and pans. Join the rhythmic flow of life...

– submitted by **Marty Lamb**

P.S. September SIS beach retreat will be either the weekend of Sept. 17th or 25th. Exact dates will be announced later in summer.

Our People

Prayer Requests

Please write your prayer request on a slip of paper and place it in the offering plate or one of the prayer jars (Narthex and office). Prayers are solicited for: **Jo Lemons; Al Matthews; Carolyn King; Lisa Marsh; Ann McLaughlin's mother, Frances Cox; Kerma Hazel; Gary Smith; premature Katherine Mew (Binks' granddaughter);** the people of the DRC, and other victims of war and natural disaster across the globe.

Thanks

Thank you for your prayers, cards and calls. Gary is recovering well and enjoying his daily walks. He expects another couple of months before he is back 100%.

Jane, Gary & Abby Smith

My sister, Mary Klages Kinley, got the good news that what she called her “come to Jesus” mammogram showed no remaining cancer cells. THANKS to all for your prayers.

Vandy Bradow

CUCC thanks **Śānti and the youth** for their well-prepared worship service March 21.

CUCC Directory

Add: **Gray McKay**, 8334 Wycombe Lane,
Raleigh, NC 27615, 417-5411, gmckay@nc.rr.com



Our Young People's Birthdays

4/12/98 – **Casey Riemann**
4/12/99 – **John Robertson**

Community Outreach



Thanks to the generosity of our congregation, **31** emergency food bags were delivered to Urban Ministries for the month of March. It was a really heavy load! It is good to know that the agency is able to supplement these basic food items with fresh produce, other canned goods, meat and bread, when available. Know that the “basics” are essential.

Food bags will be collected April 4th and every first Sunday of the month.

On March 10, our three usual routes for Meals on Wheels <http://www.wakemow.org/> were delivered by **Glenn and Shannon Core, Sally Cook and Marge Eckels, and Sue Cottle.**

Our **One Great Hour of Sharing offering** this year so far totals more than \$5000 (without having yet calculated the value of 13 lbs of coins), a significantly larger amount than in previous years. This special mission offering of the United Church of Christ supports programs in more than 80 countries for building sustainable communities, welcoming refugees and reconstructing lives following disasters. OGHS dollars enabled immediate response to the recent earthquakes in Haiti and Chile.

If you missed it, **you can still donate**

- online at <http://www.ucc.org/oghs/>. (Click on the red “donate” button above the photograph; be sure to indicate CUCC for “congregation.”)
- by check made out to CUCC, with OGHS noted at the bottom.

Stop by the main hall bulletin board hall to see the new **Global Ministries Calendar**, with photos of UCC Global Ministries programs around the world.

Children's Building Site and ASP Stockholders' Meeting

Bring your parents to the **Children's Building Site** after worship on April 11. What does it feel like to paint a wall? Hammer a nail? Climb a ladder to repair a ceiling? Lay a vinyl floor? The 2009 & 2010 Appalachia Service Project teams have prepared four centers to give future ASPers a chance to try a bit of ASP. Also during fellowship time, **ASP stockholders** will hear the annual report from the 2009 team. Everyone can enjoy photos from last year's trip and munch on standard ASP fare: PB&J sandwiches and fruit.

Wider Outreach

Mark Your Calendars!

Saturday, May 1, 2010

7:00 pm

Community UCC Sanctuary
814 Dixie Trail, Raleigh NC

Multicultural Concert featuring
Common Woman Chorus of Durham NC
**Prophetic Voice of the Good New Message
Church (KCC)**

Donations gratefully accepted at the door.
Proceeds will benefit both CWC and the Congolese families of KCC

DAY-TO-DAY CONTACTS AT CUCC

Pastor: Rev. Steve Halsted,

Office Manager: Carol Clark

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

Moderator: Edith Sylla

Treasurer: Mary Pruneau

Asst. Treasurer: Carol Kepler

Clerk: Vandy Bradow

CUCC FAMILY FUN AUCTION

Saturday, April 24, 2010

Social and Silent Auction begin at 6:30 pm; Bidding at 7:00 pm

The CUCC Auction gives you a chance to share your talents and services as a gift to the church and to have a great time doing it!! Please think about what special offerings you might put up for bids and then fill out this pledge form.

Refreshments offered: Cookies, brownies, hors d'oeuvres, wine, soft drinks, lemonade, coffee.

Possible contributions (from previous years):

Home-made items such as desserts, jams, paintings, quilts or pottery!!

Services (hopefully youth will be involved) such as babysitting, petsitting, guided specialty tours, entertainment, or dinners either at your place or theirs!!

Resources such as vacation homes, canoes or kayak trips!!

Silent Auction items: *Mystery box*, possible youth treasures (please, no old yard sale items).....

DONATION FORM

Suggestion: If you offer multiple items of one thing, such as jam or cookies, please give us a suggested price and how many of those items you have for sale (if possible) under "Conditions."

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone _____

1. I will contribute: _____
Minimum bid. \$ _____ Dates offered _____
Conditions (if any): _____
2. I will contribute: _____
Minimum bid. \$ _____ Dates offered _____
Conditions (if any): _____
3. I will contribute: _____
Minimum bid. \$ _____ Dates offered _____
Conditions (if any): _____

Please return this form to the office **ASAP**. Final deadline is **Tuesday, April 20**.

? I would like to see _____ offered at the auction.

? I would like babysitting services. _____ Or a youth video. _____

? I plan to attend the auction: Yes _____ No _____ Maybe _____

Community United Church of Christ

814 Dixie Trail

Raleigh, NC 27607

The newsletter can be found on our web page:

www.communityucc.org

April 2010

The deadline for our "May" Newsletter is April 19.

A Month of Sundays

**April 4 | EASTER |
9:00-9:30 Taize; 9:15**

Bible Study; 9:15

Forum; 10:30

**Worship Service
with Communion &**

Church School;

Fellowship Time

Lectionary:

Acts 10:34-43 or

Isa 65: 17-25;

Ps 118:1-2, 14-24;

1 Cor 15:19-26 or

Acts 10:34-43;

John 20:1-18 or

Luke 24:1-12

**April 11 | Second
Sunday of Easter |**

9:00-9:30 Taize; 9:15

Bible Study; 9:15

Forum; 10:30

Worship Service &

Church School;

Fellowship Time

Lectionary:

Acts 5:27-32;

Ps 118:14-29 or

Ps 150; Rev 1:4-8;

John 20:19-31

**April 18 | Third
Sunday of Easter |**

9:00-9:30 Taize with

Communion; 9:15

Bible Study; 9:15

Forum; 10:30

Worship Service &

Church School;

Fellowship Time

Lectionary:

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20);

Ps 30; Rev 5:11-14;

John 21:1-19

**April 25 | Fourth
Sunday of Easter |**

9:00-9:30 Taize; 9:15

Bible Study; 9:15

Forum; 10:30

Worship Service &

Church School;

Fellowship Time

Lectionary:

Acts 9:36-43; Ps 23;

Rev 7:9-17;

John 10:22-30