

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

Email: cucc@nc.rr.com - Office Manager: Carol Clark pastor@communityucc.org - Rev. Steve Halsted

Website: www.communityucc.org

August 2010

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

A Word from our Pastor

Dear Friends,

I write to share my joy and excitement with you generated from attending the 25th Anniversary Gathering to celebrate the UCC's Resolution in 1985 to be "Open and Affirming." (ONA)

From July 13-18, Joan McAllister, Skip Stoddard and myself, traveled to San Diego to attend the celebration sponsored by the UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns. The theme was "Any Body, Everybody, Christ's Body." We attended wonderful worship services, workshops, panel discussions, listened to expert speakers, and shared ideas in small groups about what we were doing in our congregations. We joined with Mission Hills UCC from San Diego to march in the spectacular annual Gay Pride Parade. What a joyful and colorful event - that draws a crowd of over 150,000 people together in support of LGBT concerns. The diversity of people there makes a deep impression about what it means to be created in the image of God!-- And to experience the nearness of the "Kingdom of God" that Jesus spoke so eloquently about when we all love one another as he loves us!

For me, one of the highlights of the event was in getting to know several transgender persons and in hearing about their lives and the joys and concerns they experience. From this I realize it is time for CUCC to revisit our ONA statement and enhance it to expand on its inclusiveness to our transgender sisters and brothers. I look forward to sharing more of the fruits of our trip in the weeks and months ahead.

Blessings and Peace,

Steve

Church Council

Church Council did not meet in June, and will meet next in August. Please direct any concerns to Sam Johnson until Edith Sylla's return in mid-August.

Stewardship

From the Asst Treasurer:

Don't let the collection plate pass you by! Coins and dollar bills DO make a difference – any amount is both welcome and useful. It all adds up and helps us meet the goals we have set for church and community.

Property

The church bean patch and tomato and cucumber vines have been (mostly) harvested. The Plant A Row for the Hungry (PAR) program has us on record with a 6.47 contribution to date. This is not bad for a late and minimal planting. Logan's is the central point for collection and distribution (to Interfaith Food Shuttle). The initial local goal posted at Logan's was 500 pounds. That was met and exceeded, and a new 1000 lb. goal set. THAT was exceeded and most recent I saw was 5000! If you are interested in having a CUCC fall crop- and in helping with that, please contact me.

– Submitted by **Vandy Bradow**

Religious Education

Fall Christian questions study, anyone?

I just finished reading Brian McLaren's "A New Kind of Christianity: Ten Questions That Are Transforming the Faith" and would be excited to discuss the book with others. McLaren began a house church which became a megachurch, but he'll help you shed prejudices about what that means. "A New Kind of Christianity" challenged me, delighted me, and renewed my spirit. If you'd be interested in a weekly or biweekly study beginning in the fall, let me know. The book has ten sections, so this would be a long study, but I think we'd need the time to engage in each section. I'd be glad to lead or co-lead. I'm thinking Monday, Tuesday or Sunday night at CUCC or at my house. We could do a brown-bag supper. Older youth and adults, in and beyond CUCC are welcome. For more on who

might gain something by discussing this book and what about it intrigues me, go to <http://cuccinfo.blogspot.com/2010/06/fall-study-anyone.html>.

– submitted by **Jane Smith**

Youth News

The Recent Past...

- ongoing summer Church School fun with children's music program, including camp style singing with youth instrumental and vocal accompaniment
- participation with youth from Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Baptist Youth Camp in the NC mountains where we explored Sabbath through various Christian Streams of Spirituality (June 27-July 2)
- successful participation in Appalachian Service Project (July 11-18)
- God's Green Earth Church-Wide Camp (July 23-25)
- Beach Retreat with High School Youth (July 24-25)

The Near Future...

- preparation and serving of Wright Center meal (August 15)
- 5th Sunday Church School and Youth Group Activities with 5th-12th graders (August 29)
- Possible Pool Party again this year...watch for email!
- Welcome Back Sunday and Fall Church School Curriculum coming soon!

Please direct any questions or ideas about youth programming to **Šanti Matthews** forsanti@aol.com or (919) 961-8814.

Pennies for Pellies

Our children have raised over \$125 thus far in their "Pennies for Pellies" drive. Thank you, all who have contributed. The funds will be sent to the National Wildlife Federation and designated for the Gulf.

Sunday School News

Our summer music program has been a lot of fun. The children have learned a variety of songs and we have been blessed by many young people who are talented musicians and vocalists. In the upcoming weeks we will be making instruments to add to our

repertoire. We are excited that Lavon Page will join us on August 22 to play and sing. We are hoping to share our music with you in September.

Thank You Sunday School Teachers

Many thanks to all of our Sunday School teachers last fall and spring. Hats off to our preschool teachers **Ellen Beidler, Linda Baker, Sally Cook, Gretchen Aycock, Jennifer Wells, David Sigmon** and all of the parents and friends who helped out. Our preschool teachers rotate and are actually in the classroom once a month. If you are considering a way to serve the church, please consider teaching Sunday School. It is so much fun and not a huge commitment.

– submitted by **Anne Bailey Zschau**

Social Justice

Celebrating Freedom

On July 3 some CUCC'ers joined the Congolese Community of North Carolina in celebrating the 50th anniversary of Congo's liberation from Belgium. What could have been a dry conference was instead filled with joyful music, art, and concrete direction for action together. It was a privilege to be part of the conference (Fernand and Steve presented our All Things Congo work) and, even more, to be among so many Congolese as they talked about their own hopes and road-blocks to action. We made great connections for future work. For photos, a short video, and details, go to <http://cuccinfo.blogspot.com/2010/07/why-were-we-inspired-at-celebration-of.html>. Talk to **Don, Shirley, Vandy, Margaret, Fernand, Jane, Gary or Steve**; we'd love to pass along our impressions.

Justice in a Changing Climate

The CUCC Community Outreach Ministry asks us to make gifts of room fans for "Cool for Wake". Ongoing Climate Change is making our summers warmer and increasing distress for those who cannot afford to escape the heat into air-conditioned buildings. The Justice in a Changing Climate steering committee will donate \$200 from our Climate Change reserve to provide fans for Wake County residents. We want to challenge CUCC members to match this gift. With this combined effort, we will help 20 to 40 families be cooler and safer this summer. Checks can be made out to CUCC with **Cool 4 Wake** in the memo line OR

directly to **Cool 4 Wake**, Wake County Human Services, P.O. Box 46833, Raleigh, NC 27620 (see *Jeanne Ledbetter's* article, below – Ed.)

Thanks for all you do.

Gary Smith, Chair

Welcoming Fellowship & Growth

2010 P2e Champions



Congratulations to our watermelon seed-spitting victors. This year's winners are:

Erin Kiel 22.5', Jackson Kiel 18', Jeanne Ledbetter 22', and Paul Kiel 25.5'

Sisters in Spirit (SIS)

No SIS meeting in August - SIS Beach retreat is scheduled for Sept. 17-19th, 2010 in Surf City. Details will follow; let Marty know of your questions and intent to come, to reserve a spot so that we can be "planful."

– **Marty Lamb**, 834-4280, billandmarty@nc.rr.com

Foreign Film series resumes August 20

The British film "Dear Frankie" (2004) will be the next selection in the foreign film series, scheduled for 7:30 PM on Friday, August 20. This is a delightful and light-hearted comedy that will entertain you and leave you feeling good - A great film for popcorn, fun, and fellowship. Here's the Netflix spin on this film ...

Faced with the prospect of raising her son, Frankie (Jack McElhone), with a good-for-nothing man, the resourceful Lizzie (Emily Mortimer) spirits him away to Scotland with good intentions and pretends the boy's father is aboard the HMS Accra. But after years of Lizzie's skillful lying, the jig is up when Frankie learns the ship is docked right by their home. Now, the only way to protect Frankie's heart is to find a man willing to pose as his dad.

Our People



Home and Technical Handyman Services

Retired, busy or can't afford a contractor? I am skilled, affordable, and available to provide technical services and perform minor home maintenance, repairs and household chores including:

- Computer hardware/software installation, maintenance and support
- Internet media research and support services (eg, online searches for travel, home and health-related information, recipes, books, photos, videos, music)
- Basic digital photography
- Guitar string replacement and tuning
- Writing Services (eg, letters, invitations, greeting cards, brochures, resumes, inventories)
- Home audiovisual electronics installation, maintenance and support (eg, vcr/dvd, home theater, ipod)
- Minor plumbing (eg, leaky faucets, toilets, clogged drains, garbage disposals)
- Minor electrical repairs (eg, lamps and other appliances)
- Automotive (eg, oil changes, car washing, minor repairs)
- Home repairs (eg, minor carpentry, drywall, ceiling repairs)
- Lawn and garden care (eg, mowing, raking, watering, weeding)
- Errands (eg, mail, recycle, shopping)
- Household chores (eg, general cleaning, heavy lifting and furniture moving, cleaning: gutters, garages/attics/fireplaces/grills)
- Plant and pet care (eg, watering, feeding, walking, aquarium maintenance)

Contact: McCray Harris (919) 605-2619/tmccharris@yahoo.com or for professional biomedical/technical writing services visit my website: www.biomedicalartisan.com.

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; David Sigmon's mother, Jane; Nancy & Mike Callaham; Sam Johnson's father;** those impacted by the oil spill; the people of the DRC, and other victims of war and natural disaster across the globe.

CUCC sends Condolences to:

Fidele Binganisi and his family upon the recent death of his father in the Congo.

Ann Elleman and her family upon the death of **Tom**, July 22, 2010.

Our Young People's Birthdays



8/8/06 – Tess Cobeland

8/16/94 – Jackson Kiel

9/1/05 – Afton Eckard

9/20/04 – Maya Cobeland

9/28/04 – Eli Sigmon

Adrienne Talbot and John Little were married Saturday, July 10, 2010, at CUCC before their two families and many friends. A reception was held following the ceremony in the church's fellowship hall. Photos of the event may be viewed by clicking on johnnandadrienne.webhop.net

CUCC Directory

Change:

Adrienne Talbot is now Adrienne Little, and her email address is Adrienne_Talbot@yahoo.com.

Gray McKay is now Gray Woodard, and her email address is graywoodard@gmail.com.

Community Outreach

COOL4Wake

It's HOT! There's an opportunity for us to "Be Cool" and offer support for Cool for Wake again this year.

Cool for Wake is a program offered through Wake County Human Services. They provide free fans to qualifying clients who cannot afford to cool their homes. Fans are available to active clients who did not receive one in 2009. Households must be referred by a Wake County Human Services employee or health professional, not have air conditioning, and include a senior citizen, disabled adult or child.


Cool for Wake welcomes donations of fans, new or in good condition, or cash. If you would like to donate cash, please make your check out to CUCC and place Cool4Wake on the memo line. If you are interested in donating a fan, please contact **Jeanne Ledbetter**.

Be Cool!

Polypropylene Plastic Cap Recycling Update

We have collected MANY, MANY caps for Aveda's recycling program. If you would like to begin recycling caps, visit their web page for appropriate items to recycle and for their mission. <http://www.aveda.com/aboutaveda/caps.tmp>
Deposit your caps in the Vaughan Wing in the can on the hutch by the sliding glass doors.
Thank you for your contributions.

Jeanne Ledbetter



Emergency food bags: Our congregation has continued its generous contribution of food bags in July. A total of **24** were delivered to Urban Ministries. We are offering major support to families in need, so thank you for your faithfulness.

Food bags will be collected **August 1st** and every first Sunday of the month.

Wright Center

CUCC thanks our volunteers for preparing and serving the Wright Center Meals.

May participants:

Servers: **Doug Barrick family**
Preparers: **Sherrill Alexander, David and Jeanne Ledbetter, Sue Rogge, Skip Stoddard**

June participants:

Servers: **Geri Bowen and Anna Peck**
Preparers: **Vandy Bradow, Sally Cook, Lena Gallitano, Vivian Hunter**

July participants:

Servers: **Stephanie Welsh, Bill & Zenna Bryan**
Preparers: **Aurora and Ted Gregory, Michael Evans, Amy and Tim Jensen, Kerry Little, Sally Roberson, Sue Rogge, Marsha Tai**

August participants:

Servers: the YOUTH
Preparers: the YOUTH

SAVE THE DATE!



CROP Hunger Walk

Saturday, October 2, 2010

9:15AM – 11:30AM, Marbles Kids Museum
Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty

Come one, come all! Old, young, and in-between! Bring the kids and the dog! Walk 3.1 miles in downtown Raleigh and help change the lives of hungry people. Last year, folks from Raleigh congregations raised \$40,000 which benefited both local agencies and Church World Service, helping hungry people to grow or get food. Not familiar with CROP? Learn about it in a 5-minute video. Type in on Google, *YouTube From Small Seeds: CROP Hunger Walk*.

In September, we'll sign people up for the walk.

Questions?

Email **Geri Bowen**, gerihb@earthlink.net

Wider Outreach

AND THE YOUTH AND THE BLIND WILL WORK TOGETHER

Have you ever heard the saying, “I went to a fight and a hockey game broke out”? This is not exactly what happened with the youth of CUCC and the members of the Wake Federation of the Blind. However, a beautiful lesson in conflict resolution did take place.

It seems that the Wake Federation of the Blind booked the Vaughan Wing of CUCC to prepare for its annual yard sale. Thus, the organization booked this location on June 18th for its June 19th sale. However, the youth group booked the same room for the night June 18th so it could have an evening of showing films and pictures of international trips. The youth were also using this room as a part of a “lock in”. Well, what could be done?

Well, the Wake Federation got together their armor as the youth mounted their missile, just kidding. Actually and in working with **Šánti**, the Youth Director, the members of the Wake Federation agreed to stage their wares for the yard sale in various parts of the church. Along with this, it was agreed that the youth group would help set up the yard sale in the churchyard.

Things turned out wonderfully. The youth did a tremendous job in helping the Wake Federation of the Blind set up the yard sale. The monies raised

from the sale exceeded \$550.00. Members of the youth group benefited because this was made a part of their service project. Everyone won.

The Bible does it, “but the youth and the blind worked together”. Conflict resolution can be accomplished in almost any situation if people are willing to be open-minded. In this case, it was a beautiful thing for all to see.

– submitted by **Robert Parrish**

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

Ministry Chairs:

Deacons: Suzette Roach

Stewardship: Michael Evans & I.T. Littleton

Property: Lena Gallitano

Social Justice: Gary Smith

Community Outreach: Geri Bowen

Welcoming, Fellowship & Growth: Jane Smith

Religious Education: Marty Lamb

Children’s Education: Anne Bailey Zschau

Youth Ministry: Šánti Matthews

Organist: Doug Barrick

Choir Director: Anne Moorman-Smith

Newsletter: Carol Clark and Vandy Bradow

Wider Church

Gulf Oil Spill

You are invited to read more about UCC’s part in the cleanup effort on the UCC’s website:

<http://www.ucc.org/gulf-oil-spill/>

WHAT YOU CAN DO RIGHT NOW

GIVE You can provide assistance for families whose livelihoods and employment have been negatively impacted by the oil spill and who may fall through the cracks of other assistance programs. Your generosity will help make it possible for these families to meet their basic needs.

PRAY Lift up prayers for the people of the gulf, for the livelihoods that will be affected and for the devastated environment.

TAKE ACTION -NEW- The Senate is taking up energy reform. In the wake of the Gulf Coast oil spill disaster, let them know it’s time to turn words into action and pass strong climate and energy legislation.

VOLUNTEER If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please call the Deepwater Horizon Response Volunteer Request Line at 1-866-448-5816 or visit their Web site.

A JCC GREEN TIP: IMPROVE YOUR FUEL EFFICIENCY

Understand that your brakes are your mileage enemy. Think ahead and coast up to stop signs, slow down so that you don't have to stop for traffic lights. Leave more room between you and the car ahead and use your brakes less. Avoid driving with your foot on the brake pedal. Always gently accelerate, avoiding jack-rabbit starts and stops. Avoid idling for more than 30 seconds. Using cruise control saves gas.

About tires. Make sure your tires are aligned. Poor tire alignment causes tires to wear out more quickly, but it also forces your engine to work harder. Check the tire pressure at least once a month and before a long trip when the tires are cold—before the tire is driven. Use the vehicle manufacturer's recommended tire pressure found on a label located on the driver's door or door post, or check the owner's manual (not the tire sidewall number that just indicates the max pressure for the tire). Tires in newer vehicles with tire pressure monitoring systems need to be checked too; a low pressure warning occurs only after tire pressure drops 25 percent below the vehicle manufacturer's recommended pressure.

From a mechanical side, keep your car's engine well-maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions. Make sure your gas cap is in good working order. Check your air filter. Keep your load as light as possible at all times—no junk in the trunk.

—gleaned from www.thedailygreen.com and the rubber manufacturers association (for more about summer driving tips and tire safety and, go to: <http://rma.org>)

A Month of Sundays

August 1 | Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time | 9:00-9:30 Taize; 9:15 Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service with Communion & Church School; Fellowship Time;

Lectionary: Hos 11:1-11; Ps 107:1-9, 43 or Eccl 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23; Ps 49:1-12; Col 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

August 8 | Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time | 9:00-9:30 Taize; 9:15 Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service & Church School; Fellowship Time;

Lectionary: Isa 1:1, 10-20; Ps 50:1-8, 22-23 or Gen 15:1-6; Ps 33:12-22; Heb 11:1-3, 8-16; Luke 12:32-40

August 15 | Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time | 9:00-9:30 Taize with Communion; 9:15 Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service & Church School; Fellowship Time;

Lectionary: Isa 5:1-7; Ps 80:1-2, 8-19 or Jer 23:23-29; Ps 82; Heb 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56

August 22 | Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time | 9:00-9:30 Taize; 9:15 Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service & Church School; Fellowship Time;

Lectionary: Jer 1:4-10; Ps 71:1-6 or Isa 58:9b-14; Ps 103:1-8; Heb 12:18-29; Luke 13:10-17

August 29 | Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time | 9:00-9:30 Taize; 9:15 Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service & Church School; Fellowship Time;

Lectionary: Jer 2:4-13; Ps 81:1, 10-16 or Sirach 10:12-18; Ps 112; Heb 13:1-8, 15-16; Luke 14:1, 7-14

Community United Church of Christ
814 Dixie Trail
Raleigh, NC 27607
August 2010

The deadline for our [September Newsletter](#) is August 23rd