

# **COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

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**February 2010**

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

### *A Word from our Pastor*

Dear Friends,

As we enter the month of February, the holy season of Lent is right around the corner. It begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17. Please plan to attend our special worship service that evening at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. It is a service of cleansing and healing that prepares us to receive faith renewal and spiritual revival throughout the season of Lent, which culminates with Easter joy on Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>.

Observing Ash Wednesday is a powerful way to begin our Lenten journey of faith. It is intended to confront our human frailties and shortcomings and lead us forward on a six week spiritual pilgrimage of personal growth and discernment of calling as we live into our covenant with God as Christ's disciples.

I also want to lift up special activities on the Sunday preceding Ash Wednesday and the Sunday after. On Sunday February 14, I have signed on with the NC Interfaith Power and Light program of the NC Council of Churches to participate in a national "Preach-In" to address the important issues of "Global Climate Change" and our faith response as stewards of God's good earth. It is the National Council of Churches hope to have thousands of churches across our nation lift up a powerful call on that Sunday to unite people of faith to work for energy conservation, energy efficiency and a strong renewable energy program for our nation.

Then on Sunday February 21, we will welcome the Rev. Sekinah Hamlin, Minister for Anti-Racism and Reconciliation for our sister denomination the Disciples of Christ (DOC). Rev. Hamlin will preach to us and then lead a "Diversity" workshop in the early afternoon as we celebrate "Black History Month" during the designated month of February. Her office is located in Greensboro and she has traveled to us and previously spoken at our Forum as part of our "Conversations on Race" an initiative promoted by the national offices of the UCC.

Hope to see you soon,

Steve

# Church Council

Excerpts from the Council Meeting, 01/11/2010

**Mary Pruneau**, Treasurer, reported CUCC ended 2009 with a surplus and did not go into savings. In the 2010 budget we are increasing our spending and pledges have also increased. About 1/3 of pledges were increased over last year. We have funds from contributions we received as memorials to deceased members and can begin to decide how to spend those funds. Discussion followed regarding purchase of a coffee urn for fellowship and other CUCC gatherings and a walkway on the Dixie Trail side of the church.

A potluck for 2009 and 2010 Council members was held January 29<sup>th</sup> at **Edith Sylla's** home.

**Bayard Alcorn**, Property Ministry, reported that the drain by the Vaughan Wing door was cleaned out after roots had grown into the drain causing heavy rain overflow into the Vaughan fellowship hall. Trees will need to be taken down where the new walkway will be built. The kitchen lights will be replaced in the near future.

**Geri Bowen's** Community Outreach Ministry reports that COM continues delivering 3 lunch routes for **Meals on Wheels** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. Also, a member of the Ministry continues to coordinate the preparation and the serving of meals to the **Wright Center** on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday evening meal.

## Recent COM contributions:

- **Urban Ministry Food Pantry Bags.** Marge Eckels, who delivers the bags to Urban Ministries, has mentioned more than once that the workers have told her how grateful they are for the already assembled bags.
- **Matthew's House (Passage Home).** Money and Christmas gifts were collected for Shelley.
- **Virtual Marketplace of Meaningful Gifts.**

\$495 was raised for the agencies that included

Good News Message Church, Friends of Residents in Longterm Care, Loaves and Fishes, N.C. Peace Action, National Federation for the Blind, and Passage Home.

- **The Christmas Fund** (formerly Veterans of the Cross Offering). \$1470 was collected.

# Congregation

## Annual Reports Online

Annual reports from each ministry of the church are now available on our website in the Resources section.

At the Annual Congregational meeting January 24, 2010, the 2010 slate of Officers and Ministry/Committee members was approved (see end of this newsletter before the lectionary).

# Deacons

## Excerpts of the Minutes of the January 14, 2010 meeting

### Pastoral Report – Steve

- Lenten activities are not yet complete – a separate brochure will be sent before Lent begins.
- The handbell choir from Highland United Methodist Church will play during our worship on April 25.

Pastor Evaluation. The bulk of the meeting involved discussion of the recent evaluation document. In wrapping up, the group agreed that:

- We should set specific goals, and energize around achieving those goals.

- We should share our feelings and impressions (i.e. "how are we doing?") openly and on a regular basis at our meetings.
- The pastor should meet before the start of each church season with all of the staff, and perhaps a deacon, to discuss plans. The fruitfulness of these meetings will be assessed.
- To begin our commitment toward a process of renewal, the deacons and pastor will plan a retreat.

Deacons' Retreat is planned for Saturday, March 6.

Outgoing Deacons. The group expresses our sincere appreciation for all the hard work of the outgoing members of the Deacons Ministry - Robert Parrish (Chair), Margaret Osborne, and Gary Smith. Suzette Roach has agreed to serve as Chair for 2010. New deacons will be introduced at the February meeting.

### Graduates

If you or someone in your family is graduating or finishing a degree this school year, CUCC would like to recognize you in the spring. To facilitate the recognition, please send an email or a note to the church office to remind us that you or a family member will graduate this year. Please label the subject of the email or note "Graduate Recognition." Recognition of graduates in 2010 is scheduled for May 23.

### Caring

#### "Your Wishes at the Time of Your Death"

This document allows you to have on file at the church such things as emergency contact information, actions to be taken in an emergency, and last wishes for the celebration of your life at the time of your death. You can print a copy from the Resources page on the CUCC website.

## *Religious Education*

### Children's News

Please notice our bulletin board in the hallway. We are studying ways to follow Jesus in our everyday lives. Our board depicts a game board that never ends because God's love never ends. Please take a look.

February 7 and February 14 the preschool and elementary classes will be making Valentines to send to our college members, Morningside and for our congregation. We need everyone to be here both days to make Valentines!

We are collecting gently used children's books through the end of school. Please remember us as you do your spring cleaning!

Upcoming events include Earth Day, Palm Sunday Easter Egg hunt, and Pentecost!!!!

– submitted by **Anne Bailey Zschau**

### Youth News...

The recent past...

January youth events included a parent meeting, lunch in the youth room and a movie out, a trip by the Leaders class to visit Carolyn King, dinner out and a rental movie at the Roach-Howell home, and lunch and bowling for 5th Sunday fun with 5th-12th graders. We had an Epiphany stargazing night planned, but clouds got in our way. We'll reschedule soon.

The near future...

On February 14 the youth (5th-12th graders) will provide a church-wide Mardi-Gras pancake brunch after worship. February will also include planning for the youth led worship on March 21. Our plan is that each year we will offer a youth led worship during Lent based on a Holy Week event. Last year we decided to focus our worship on Palm Sunday, youth will decide what the focus will be this year, and we will spend weeks writing,

drawing, dancing, and preparing music for this worship. A special thanks goes out to the whole church community for this opportunity. It allows youth to learn what goes into worship planning, and offers them a chance to share their gifts fully in preparing for and participating in a worship experience.

– submitted by Śánti Matthews

## **Pancake Brunch after Worship on Sunday, February 14**



**Come to a Shrove *Sunday*  
Pancake Brunch after church on  
Sunday, February 14.**

**CUCC youth will be cooking up stacks of pancakes. So join in the fun, and help us to use up our butter and sugar before the**

**Lenten season of living simply begins.**

**(Sugar free syrup will also be available.)**



**A financial offering will benefit  
the Jire Orphanage  
in Port Au Prince, Haiti**

### **Forum**

February 7 – Jerry Mikell, Administrative Coordinator of [\*The Coalition for Peace with Justice\*](#), a coalition of individuals and groups working through education and advocacy to establish a just peace in Israel and Palestine.

February 14 – Barbara Walsh, "*Why a change in the Wake County School Board was necessary.*" An active parent in her children's schools in Cary, Barbara will talk about what led her to become a neighborhood activist pushing for changes in the Wake County School Board.

February 21 – Forum will not meet – instead plan to attend in early afternoon the “Diversity Workshop”.

February 28 - TBA

### **Sunday Morning Bible Study**

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

– Ellen Beidler

### **Wednesday Bible Study**

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

### **Monday Lunch Group**

In February, the book of the month is “Fingerprints of God,” and we will have a speaker speaking about healing. Sue Cottle will be leading the group this month. The Monday Lunch Group meets every Monday at 12:15 p.m. in the Hoffmann room. Bring lunch and join us in a sharing of our faith journeys.

### **Saturday Men's Group**

The group meets each Saturday at 9:30 a.m. in the library. In February, The Men's Group is reading “Justice: What's the right thing to do?” by

Michael J. Sandel. (Contact: **Ed Klemmer**).

## *Social Justice*

### **Economic Justice Study Group**

#### **Is There A Christian Response to Our Great Recession?**

We live in a world of immense inequities. Many people are losing jobs and homes while others are enjoying vast wealth.

During Lent we are offering a series of discussions to examine some of the issues which impact all of us. We hope you will join us and share your perspectives and ideas for creating a more just society.

It is the hope of the Economic Justice Study Group that this discussion series will be a prelude to the development of an Economic Justice Covenant for our congregation to consider and adopt at a future time.

WHEN:

Tuesday, February 23

The Corporation, DVD documentary, Part I

Tuesday, March 2

The Corporation, DVD documentary, Part II

Tuesday, March 9

Agenda for a New Economy

Tuesday, March 16

Agenda for a New Economy

Tuesday, March 23

Closing the Gap Between the World We Have  
and the World We Want

TIME: 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

WHERE: Vaughan Fellowship Hall

“It (Agenda for a New Economy) is addressed specifically to people who want to deepen their understanding of why things are going so badly wrong economically, socially, and environmentally and who are looking for real solutions that go beyond putting temporary patches on failed institutions.” (Korten)

“It is time...to ask what we really want from life, and to redesign our economic institutions accordingly. In so doing we should look very closely at evidence demonstrating that once a basic level of material well-being is achieved, the major improvements in our health and happiness come not from more money and consumption, but rather from relationships, cultural expression and spiritual growth.” (Korten)

Resources:

“Agenda for a New Economy” by David Korten  
(Berrett-Koehler Publisher, Inc., 2009, \$14.95,  
196 pages)

“The Corporation”, a DVD documentary based on  
the book by the same name by Joel Bakan

\* It will be helpful to read Korten’s book. If anyone would like to purchase it with a 10% discount, let us know.

\* If anyone would like to ride with someone else to the programs, please let us know.

– submitted by Shirley Birt

### **Is your business LGBT-friendly?**

CUCC is a founding member of the new LGBT Center of Raleigh. The Center is inviting LGBT-owned and LGBT-friendly professionals and business owners to be listed for free on their website's Community Resources section. Contact the Center at [lgbtcenterofraleigh@gmail.com](mailto:lgbtcenterofraleigh@gmail.com).

### **Follow-up on our Offering of Letters**

In October Senator Hagan became a co-sponsor of S.1524, The Foreign Assistance Revitalization and Accountability Act of 2009. This is the bill for which we made a Bread for the World offering of letters in May. Please send Senator Hagan a quick note of thanks.

Have a few extra minutes? Contact Senator Burr, asking him to join as a co-sponsor. This bill has bipartisan support because it truly seeks to build accountability for tax dollars spent and to make sure our foreign assistance helps people in need.

– submitted by **Jane Smith**

### **Attention computer owners!**

I've recently had to replace my decade old computer monitor and I've been doing research. Of course I was looking for an "energy star" certified monitor to make sure I encouraged green manufacture of such components. But what I didn't know was that you can take it a significant step further. There is another standard called EPEAT (Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool) which is an additional tool to help you encourage these products.

<http://www.epeat.net/> "EPEAT is a system that helps purchasers evaluate, compare and select electronic products based on their environmental attributes. The system currently covers desktop and laptop computers, thin clients, workstations and computer monitors."

There are 3 levels of certification, called "gold", "silver", and "bronze" akin to Olympic medals. Gold being the highest level of conformance.

All levels must ALSO start with an "energy star" rating as well. So you get both.

I purchased a monitor that was rated EPEAT Silver. So the next time you are in the market for electronic parts, look for EPEAT certification.

– submitted by **Paul Kiel**

## ***Welcoming, Fellowship and Growth***

### **Sisters in Spirit (SIS)**

SIS group let imaginations run wild and they cut out unique snowflakes representing themselves and shared at January meeting. For February, we'll share our potluck finds together for a meal and then we'll be practicing use of the formula "Visualization + Vocalization + Motion = Manifestation." Is there a new activity you'd like to try, a new path you'd like to walk, a new habit you'd like to develop, or a different drummer you'd like to follow? Perhaps an action you've been procrastinating about or perhaps an unsought dream. Bring your nascent notion, and we'll explore it together using the formula. Come play with us and become a Sister in Spirit. The date is February 23 in the Hoffmann room at 7. See ya'!

– **Marty Lamb**

**The Retirees Group** again this year collected and wrapped Christmas gifts for Meals on Wheels recipients.  
**THANK YOU CUCC FOR YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS!**



## **Retirees Group**

February means it is time for our annual **Valentine Luncheon**.

This year, rather than a pot-luck, we will be serving lasagna (both meat and veggie), a green salad, and the **strawberry dessert** we all 'love'.

Plan to join us on Monday, February 8,  
at **11:00**

for this special time of food and fellowship. Everyone is welcome.

Please call the church office, 787-6422 or Anne Pope, 872-2380, to tell us you are coming so we will know how many to expect.

## **In case of emergency...**

HAITI reminds us that emergencies happen. We want to be able to take care of one another and to be sure all CUCC members are okay. Please send the office the following information by February 17.

- The best phone number for reaching you in the Triangle. Indicate if this is home/cell/business. If you have an alternate phone number we should try, list that one second.
- The best phone number for reaching a friend or family member out of town who would know where you have gone in case of evacuation. Remember to tell us who this person is and his/her relationship to you.
- The email address you would check during emergencies.
- Your emergency contact information might be different from the contact information you'd prefer CUCC use for regular communications. What is your preferred means of contact for regular communications?
- Please confirm your current phone number, email address, and mailing address.

## **Movie Night**

On Friday, February 12 (7:30-9:30 PM) we'll feature "Kolya" (Czech Republic - 1996). Come join us for a leisurely evening for the 1 hr. 45 min. movie and popcorn.

Here's the Netflix summary of "Kolya":

In Soviet Czechoslovakia, middle-aged concert cellist and bachelor Frantisek Louka (Zdenek Sverak) is strapped for cash, reduced to playing funerals, when a chance relationship results in his caring for a 5-year-old Russian boy, Kolja (Andrei Chalimon). Political turmoil is imminent on the eve of the Velvet Revolution, while Louka's own emotional upheaval is just as unpredictable in this heartwarming, Oscar and Golden Globe winning tale.

## **StillSpeaking Magazine Debuts**

The United Church of Christ is launching its new high-end-design StillSpeaking Magazine, an oversized, full-color publication that will debut in late April. The 88-page StillSpeaking Magazine will be published twice annually in Spring and Fall. An inaugural, three-year subscription is \$29 if purchased before July 1. Order online at [ucc.org/magazine](http://ucc.org/magazine). Consider ordering a subscription for yourself and, after you have read it, placing it

somewhere other people can enjoy it (your gym, your office snack room, etc.) or taking it to read when you are meeting a friend – it might spark a conversation.

### **CUCC Chairs a Hit**

Local furniture consignment shop  
“Studio 123”



found new homes for four of CUCC's unneeded church school chairs; the sale netted \$36 for CUCC. Now neighboring Beanie + Cecil Baby, which focuses on clothes and items for young children, has taken more of our chairs and plans to paint them. Stop by these two Seaboard Station shops in downtown Raleigh to thank them for working with us; you are sure to enjoy your visit.

## *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; Vandy Bradow's sister Mary Klages Kinley; Al Matthews; Kerma Hazel; Carolyn King; Lisa Marsh; Ann McLaughlin's mother, Frances Cox; Nelda Foggie, Willie's wife, Sam Johnson's father, Sam Johnson, Sr., who is recovering from hip replacement surgery; the people of the DRC, and other victims of war and natural disaster across the globe.**

### **Congratulations**



### **Our Young Person's Birthday**

**2/5/92 – Abby Smith**

**Lisa and Richard Leiser-Banks** welcome their newest granddaughter, Maisie Reed Leiser, born December 1, 2009, to Graeme and Kate Leiser, in Indianapolis. She joins Rachel and Brogan, daughters of Mark Leiser and Angela Bennett of Glasgow, UK.

### **CUCC Directory**

#### **Change:**

**Roger Manus**, 124 Calibre Chase Dr., #207, Raleigh, NC 27609.

Al Matthews, Phoenix Assisted Care, Room 24, 201 Westhigh St., Cary, NC 27513, 650-1038,  
[armatthews@nc.rr.com](mailto:armatthews@nc.rr.com)

#### **Add:**

**Marsha Tai**, PO Box 98411, Raleigh, NC 27624, (919) 676-8975, [agratefulheart@nc.rr.com](mailto:agratefulheart@nc.rr.com)

## Community Outreach



Every new year calls for a review of the previous year. With regard to emergency food bags, in 2009 our congregation contributed 327 bags which were worth, by rough estimate, \$4,905. In January, 2010 we collected 19. There seems to be a problem with obtaining the requested amount of dry milk. Perhaps Urban Ministries can give us suggestions on the solution. Their answer will be made available as soon as possible. Thanks for supporting this effort.

### A Month of Sundays

**February 7 | Fifth Sunday after Epiphany | 9:00 – 9:30 Taizé; 9:15 Bible Study; 9:15 Forum; 10:30 Worship Service with Communion & Church School; Fellowship Time.**  
**Lectionary:** Isa 6:1-8 (9-13); Ps 138; 1 Cor 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

**February 14 | Last Sunday after Epiphany | 9:00 – 9:30 Taizé; 9:15 Bible Study; 9:15 Forum; 10:30 Worship Service & Church School; Fellowship Time.**  
**Lectionary:** Ex 34:29-35; Ps 99; 2Cor 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

**February 21 | First Sunday in Lent | 9:00 – 9:30 Taizé with Communion; 9:15 Bible Study; 9:15 Forum; 10:30 Worship Service, Rev. Sekinah Hamlin preaching, & Church School; Fellowship Time.**  
**Lectionary:** Deut 26:1-11; Ps 91: 1-2, 9-16; Rom 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

**February 28 | Second Sunday in Lent | 9:00 – 9:30 Taizé; 9:15 Bible Study; 9:15 Forum; 10:30 Worship Service & Church School; Fellowship Time**  
**Lectionary:** Gen 15:1-12, 17-18; Ps 27; Phil 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35