

# **COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

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**February 2012**

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

### *A Word from our Pastor*

Dear Friends,

At the January gathering of the Earth Sabbath Celebration we were unexpectedly treated to a poetry reading by local poet Ross Andrews. Ross is an environmental scientist and educator who works for the Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department. He has compiled a book of his poems called "Wild Peace" which exudes his spirituality and love of nature. I had read one of his poems at our December E.S. Celebration and word had gotten back to him and he showed up at our January gathering! It was a special treat to meet him and hear his voice share a couple of his poems. One of them titled: "Unfolding Breath" captures a sentiment behind the spiritual deepening we seek during the season of Lent, which begins on February 22 with Ash Wednesday. Here is the poem:

When wisdom comes,  
pause in this unfolding.  
Let it soften in your mind  
and return to the place of true knowing  
below words-  
for although wisdom is transferred in words  
its source-  
the currency of exchange-  
is of the heart,  
without words,  
with only breath.

Further on in this newsletter will be a listing of various Lenten activities for your choosing to enrich our journey toward Easter joy in the Risen Christ who is our inspiration and our peace.

Blessings on the Journey,

Steve

# Church Council

## “CUCC STORIES AND ENVISIONING”

We began our two year process of celebrating our history and looking toward the future last fall with a series of events hearing stories about CUCC’s “working for social justice.” This Lent we’ll turn toward the other half of our unofficial motto, “nurturing spiritual growth.” Please join us in these two experiences.

### Lenten Spiritual Practices Calendar

A calendar in both online and paper versions will be available beginning Ash Wednesday, February 22. Each day will feature a spiritual practice from CUCC’s past and present. Expect a brief, all-age friendly activity and a paragraph written by a CUCCer about how the day’s practice nourishes his or her spirit. Sprinkled throughout the calendar you’ll find stories about how the practice took root at CUCC and information about events when you can “dig deeper” into the practice (see Lenten Opportunities elsewhere in newsletter). Nourish your spirit this Lent!

### Telling and Listening to Stories

Join others in a small group to tell and listen to stories of the intersection of faith and life. Many of us will participate through the ministries, committees, and groups in which we are members; the groups will devote part of their Lenten meeting to the storytelling process. Or, attend one of the scheduled times throughout Lent. You can help us prepare by signing up on the “A Gathering of Friends” bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall or calling the office (787-6422). *We hope each person at CUCC will be part of at least one of the storytelling events*; going through this process together will prepare us well for our “**envisioning**” discussions in the fall.

February 19 (Sunday), 9:15-10:15 am (Forum)

March 21 (Wednesday), 7- 8:15pm

March 25 (Sunday), noon – 1:15pm – bring a brown bag lunch

## *Deacons*

### LENTEN SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES AT CUCC

\*\*\* Family-friendly event

\*\*\***Ash Wednesday worship:** Imposition of ashes and silent reflection

Wednesday, February 22, 7-8pm

Children who are able to sit quietly may enjoy the tactile experience of ashes and writing or drawing during the reflection time.

**Silent Saturday:** morning retreat with centers experienced in silence

Saturday, February 25, 9am-1pm, begin in Fellowship Hall

During a soup lunch we’ll break our speech fast.

**Bible study:** Joshua

Sundays, 9:15-10:15am, Bradow room

**Bible study:**

Wednesdays, March 7 and 21, 6-7:30pm

Bring a brown bag supper and the Bible of your choice.

**Book discussion:** Christianity from a world religion expert's point of view.

TBD: Fridays, March 9, 16, 23, 6 -7:30pm OR Saturdays,  
March 10, 17, 24, 12N-1:30pm

Read one section of Huston Smith's The Soul of Christianity each week before coming (<http://www.quailridgebooks.com/book/9780060858353>). We'll eat soup & bread, then talk about the section.

**Book discussion:** Scriptures about Holy Week

Lenten Mondays, 12:15-1:30pm, Hoffmann room (Monday Lunch Group)

Discuss Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crosson's The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem (<http://www.quailridgebooks.com/book/9780060872601>). Bring a brown bag lunch.

**Book discussion:** Our Congregational roots in Hawaii with Steve Halsted

Saturday, March 17, 7-9 pm

Read Unfamiliar Fishes by Sarah Vowell before coming (<http://www.quailridgebooks.com/book/9781594487873>). Steve will show his slides of Hawaii, featuring sites from our Congregational history.

**Centering Prayer and Lenten Meditations** with Steve Halsted (novices welcome)

Tuesdays, March 6 and 20, 7-8pm, Fellowship Hall

**Earth Sabbath Celebration:** worship & friendship for earth's caregivers

Tuesdays, Feb. 28 and March 27, 7-8:30pm, Fellowship Hall

**\*\*\*Easter Egg Hunt**

Sunday, April 1, 10:30 church school

Bring a basket to collect your eggs.

**\*\*\*Easter Resurrection Cross**

Sunday, April 8, after 10:30 worship

Bring a flower or greenery to decorate our resurrection cross in the courtyard. A great place to take family photos, so bring your camera, too.

**Music:**

**\*\*\*Palm Sunday procession**

Sunday, April 1, 10:25am, Courtyard

Wave a palm as we sing and process through the Memorial Meditation garden and into the sanctuary

**Tai Chi**

Every Wednesday, 9:30-10:15 am, Fellowship Hall

Wear comfortable clothing and shoes.

**\*\*\*Walk a labyrinth**

TBD, Meredith College labyrinth beside the chapel

1 hour for quiet walking

1 hour for family-friendly walking

**Yoga** with Ellen and Allan Beidler

TBD Sundays in March after worship (approx. noon) in the Sanctuary (sessions-45min) Wear comfortable clothing. If possible, bring a mat. Bring a bag lunch if you would like to eat with others afterward.

**Novices welcome**

**Are you an alum of the CLAY Faith to Focused Ministries series?** Jane Smith is collecting a list as part of our CUCC Stories work; let her know from which congregation you participated and approximately when.

– submitted by **Jane Smith**

## *Congregation*

The 2012 list of Ministries and Committees was presented at the Congregational Meeting January 22. The list may be found at the end of this newsletter. The new officers and members were installed January 29.

## *Property*

The new CUCC sign is underway as the newsletter goes to press. We hope it will bring attention and new members to our congregation! A special thank you to **Joan McAllister** for her guidance on this project.

The sanctuary windows are ready to be installed as soon as we have a few days together with no rain. Starting date will be any time weather conditions permit after January 23.

Thank you to everyone who helped with CUCC work days in 2011. The Property Ministry completed a number of major projects which would not have been possible without your support. We hope to have your continued support in 2012.

– submitted by **Lena Gallitano**

*Editor's note: A WHOPPING BIG THANK YOU TO LENA for her leadership and care of CUCC's property over the past TWO years!*

## *Religious Education*

### **Sunday School News**

Our Sunday School children are working on a wonderful project and we will be completing it after Valentine's Day. This project takes several weeks and we are enjoying working independently and cooperatively. You will love it when you see it!

Our nominations for our new charity were held the second Sunday of January. Among the new nominations are Hope Reins (a program for autistic children which uses horses for therapy), Hospice, Fisher House (families of wounded soldiers stay here at no charge to be close to the soldiers in the hospital) and Locks of Love (provided wigs for cancer patients). All of these wonderful organizations were nominated by our preschool and elementary children. I can't tell you how impressed I am by the children. They continue to amaze me!

We will be planting the garden for "Plant A Row for the Hungry" again this year. We will plant our seeds in March in our classroom and transplant the seedlings to our garden after Easter!

Special events are coming up. Please see below.

February 5 - make Valentine's for our college members

February 12 - make Valentine's for the congregation and Morningside. Prepare snacks for fellowship.

Palm Sunday - Easter egg hunt

– submitted by **Anne Bailey Zschau**

### **Youth News...**

The recent past...

The new year has started with a new Confirmation Class focus on writing statements of faith. The Confirmation Class consists of a great group of 8 youth who are in the process of being intentional about their faith journey. **Kim Bowen, Šanti Matthews, Jane Smith** and others are facilitating a 5 week series using This I Believe curriculum (you may have heard essays read on NPR). Confirmation (for those who feel that this is the right time for them to celebrate this rite of passage) will be on May 13.

The CUCC Youth Group enjoyed lunch and a movie together.

The near future...

We will soon begin preparations for our Lenten youth-led worship service. Each year we offer a worship service during Lent, based on a Holy Week event. We have focused our worship on Palm Sunday, Jesus' prayers in the garden of Gethsemane, and on the Last Supper. Wonder what our theme

will be this year? We will spend several weeks writing, drawing, and preparing music for this worship. A special thanks goes out to the whole church community for this opportunity.

February will also allow Śānti a four day youth leader retreat in Atlanta, GA. The retreat will focus on curriculum planning for youth around Exodus. The planning will apply to our summer BYC (Baptist Youth Camp) camp experience. This will be our third year of participation at this camp of like-minded youth groups from all over the country.

The Youth Group will also enjoy a Leap Year Lenten Labyrinth Lock-In in on in the near future (TBD).

The CUCC Youth Group wants to invite everyone at Community UCC to a camp-out on April 28-29. We have reserved the cabins and a lodge at **CAMP LAPIHIO IN UMSTEAD PARK.**

There is room for 30 participants to stay overnight, but there is no limit to the number of people who can join us for Saturday afternoon games or Sunday morning worship. Youth will host the camp experience. We'll provide games, activities, food, and closing worship on Sunday morning. More details including the theme and sign-up forms will be available in mid-February. If you want to know more or want to help with any aspect of this event, please contact Śānti at [forsanti@aol.com](mailto:forsanti@aol.com).

– submitted by Śānti Matthews

### Forum

Come join us on Sunday mornings at 9:15 in the Vaughan fellowship hall.

February 5: **Mac Hulslander**, Presenter, "Toward a CUCC Economic Justice Covenant"

February 12: Ann Robertson, Attorney, "Our Immigration Dilemma" Ann is President of the Carolina Immigration Attorneys Association

February 19: **Bill Lamb & Jane Smith** – Telling and Listening to Stories (envisioning)

February 26: TBD

## *Social Justice*

### Carpool to HKonJ Rally

The HKonJ rally will be held on Saturday, February 11, beginning at 9:30am at Shaw University. **Edith Sylla** will meet people interested in carpooling at the CUCC Dixie Trail lot at 9am. **Cy King** will be in front of the legislature building around noon to meet those who prefer to wait for the rally at the end of the walk.

The annual HKonJ (Historic Thousands on Jones Street) rally draws together North Carolinians from all walks of life to bring attention to the needs of our citizens. For more information on the 14 points, see [www.hkonj.com](http://www.hkonj.com).

### Next steps after you signed the petition

Many of us signed a petition in the past few weeks to "Bring our war dollars home." The next step in this national campaign is a mass meeting on Monday, February 20, at 11am in the conference room of the Legislative Building. U.S. Representative Walter Jones will speak urging the invited municipal and county legislators to urge federal legislators to stop spending money on war when our needs at home are great. The more of us present to encourage our legislators, the better. The Social Justice Ministry endorsed the associated petition. This national effort is a joint project of Peace Action and American Friends Service Committee. <http://ncpeaceaction.org/posts/tag/bring-war-dollars-home/>

– submitted by Jane Smith

### MONEY TALKS: Our Money and Our Values

Join us for a discussion sharing our stories and our experiences with money. What are the conflicts we face as consumers? What have we learned that can be of value to others? Sunday, February 19, in the Hoffmann Room at 12:00. (A Gathering of Friends and Economic Justice Task Force event)

### A Covenant for Economic Justice: A Lenten Discussion Group

What injustices do we experience in our shared economical lives? What is the role of the church in addressing these issues? What would it mean to become an Economic Justice Church? What does our faith say about what we should say and do? If "God is still speaking", what is being said?

On **Tuesday, February 28**, we will begin a discussion series on a proposed Economic Justice Covenant for CUCC. The series will continue for three following **Tuesdays: March 6, 13, and 20**. We will meet in the Hoffmann Room at 7:00 p.m.

Please plan to join us for an exploration of what it would mean for CUCC to covenant together for economic justice.

– Submitted by **Shirley Birt**, Economic Justice Task Force

## *Welcoming, Growth & Fellowship*

### **WANTED: COOK FOR 1 CASUAL MEAL FOR 15 PEOPLE**

Do you enjoy cooking? Preparing one Newcomers' Meal might be perfect for you. CUCC pays for the groceries. Contact **Jane Smith** to learn more.

### **Monday Lunch**

Monday Lunch Group meets on Mondays at 12:15 in the Hoffmann room. Bring a sandwich and join. The focus of the group during February:

#### **"Music and the Religious Experience"**

**Lavon Page** will be the leader for these sessions which will run on the first three Mondays in February. The fundamental question will be "Why Do We Sing?" We will consider uses of music in various eras (early church, Middle Ages, 19<sup>th</sup> century, and present day) as well as some uses of music in other cultures and faith traditions. Most of our time will be spent in the Fellowship Hall so that the TV screen can be used for sharing resources on the topic.

### **Retirees Group**

#### **Annual Valentine's Luncheon**

The Retirees will meet on Monday, February 13, at 11:30am (rather than 10:30) in the Vaughan fellowship hall for their annual Valentine's get together and lunch. **CALL THE OFFICE FOR RESERVATIONS.** Come for fellowship at 11. We'll plan to eat at 11:30 a.m. All food and drinks will be provided.

## *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: **Carolyn King; Lisa Marsh; Kerma & Bob Hazel; Nancy Callaham; Betty Watson; Anne Pope; a 3-year old friend of Stephanie's, Ravi Lambiese-Stein, who is suffering from encephalitis; Lee Samuel Ciciarelli, son of Mary Ann and grandson of Cally Rogers-Witte; Pastor Puati's wife; Lina Milandu's father, Pastor Benoit; Julia Robertson's mother, Emily Christopherson; Don Widenhouse, who was seriously injured in a car accident; Fawn's father, Lee Pattison, who is undergoing care for his heart this week and next week; and the people of the DRC, and other victims of war and natural disaster across the globe.**

Bertie Retzer is doing just fine now. Many many thanks from grandparents **Joe and Ann Retzer** for all the prayers and thoughts sent his way these past weeks.

### **Congratulations**

to **Anne Moorman-Smith** on being named NC Elementary Music Educator of the Year AND being honored by WRAL as Teacher of the Week.  
<http://www.wral.com/news/local/video/10612627/#/vid10612627>

**IF YOU HAVE EXCITING NEWS TO SHARE, LET US KNOW SO WE CAN CELEBRATE WITH YOU.**

### **Directory changes**

#### **Email**

Kurk Brewington, [cabin\\_on\\_the\\_pond@live.com](mailto:cabin_on_the_pond@live.com), 919-985-5584

Carol Kepler, [carol6524@att.net](mailto:carol6524@att.net)

**A JCC GREEN TIP:  
EAT LESS MEAT!**

## Community Outreach



### Emergency food bags:

Sunday, January 1, must have been a day everyone was recovering from First Night because we collected only **18** emergency food bags. Maybe we'll recover and meet our goal of **25** bags in February. There are still a lot of hungry folks out there – so keep first Sundays on your calendar for **food bags**.

Food bags will be collected **February 5<sup>th</sup>** and every first Sunday of the month.

### A month of Sundays

**February 5 | Fifth Sunday after Epiphany | 9:00-9:30 Taizé led by Mike Schafale; 9:15 Adult Forum; 9:15 Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service with Communion & Church School; Fellowship Time**  
**Lectionary:** Isa 40:21-31; Ps 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Cor 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

**February 12 | Sixth Sunday after Epiphany | 9:00-9:30 Taizé led by The Browns; 9:15 Adult Forum; 9:15 Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service & Church School; Fellowship Time**  
**Lectionary:** 2 Kings 5:1-14; Ps 30; 1 Cor 9:24-27; Mark 1:40-45

**February 19 | Last Sunday after Epiphany | 9:00-9:30 Taizé (led by Anne Pope) with Communion; 9:15 Adult Forum; 9:15 Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service & Church School; Fellowship Time.**  
**Lectionary:** 2 Kings 2:1-12; Ps 50:1-6; 2 Cor 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

**February 26 | First Sunday in Lent | 9:00-9:30 Taizé led by Lavon Page; 9:15 Adult Forum; 9:15 Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service & Church School; Fellowship Time.**  
**Lectionary:** Gen 9:8-17; Ps 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

## Wider Outreach

### Wright Center

The following people were the cooks January 15: Geri Bowen, Peg Hulslander, Tim Jensen, Edith Sylla, and Marsha Tai. They served 31 ladies and there wasn't a drop of food left after dinner on Sunday. They had firsts, seconds, and even thirds. They loved the lasagna (all three pans). The servings for the broccoli were perfect and the desserts were enjoyed by all. **Heather Burkhardt** served the meal with my friend Audrey Edmisten and her daughter Sydney and Edmisten (age 13) and Kendall Daniels (age 13).

Comments included: "This is the best meal I've had since I've been here" and "I'm going to sleep well tonight with my full belly".

Officers

Moderator: Skip Stoddard  
Past Moderator: Peg Hulslander  
Moderator-Elect: Marty Lamb  
Clerk: Lena Gallitano  
Treasurer: Carol Kepler  
Asst. Treasurer: Carol Clark  
Historian: Edith Sylla  
Librarian: Geraldine Bryan

Open and Affirming Task Force

Cathy Marshal (Co-Chair)  
Lee Frazier (Co-Chair)

Economic Justice Task Force

Shirley Birt (Chair)

ESL & Friendship Task Force

Margaret Osborne (Chair)

Justice in a Changing Climate

Task Force

Gary Smith (Chair)

Deacons Ministry

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Vandy Bradow  
Bill Bryan  
Heather Burkhardt  
Lee Frazier  
McCray Harris  
Cathy Marshall  
Charles Pumbu  
Betsy Towler

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Peg Hulslander (Chair)  
Linda Baker  
Doug Barrick  
Marty Lamb  
Anne Pope  
Ted Gregory

Caring

Sue Cottle (chair)  
Shannon Core  
Marge Eckels  
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Bill Lamb  
Mary Matthews  
Ann McLaughlin  
Mary Pruneau  
Betsy Towler  
Margaret Osborne  
Lavon Page  
I.T. Littleton

Sacraments and Chancel

Vandy Bradow (Chair)  
Linda Baker  
Geraldine Bryan  
Autumn Cobeland  
Sally Cook  
Adrienne Little  
Carol Kepler  
Binks Mew  
Sharda Sawhney  
Kathy Widenhouse  
Mac Hulslander (sub)  
Aurora Gregory (sub)

Ushers

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Bayard Alcorn  
Chris Burkhardt  
David Cass  
Gale Cass  
Sam Johnson  
Bill Lamb  
David Ledbetter  
Maegan Mohr  
Karen Preston  
Spec. Occ., Subs. & Assoc.  
McCray Harris  
Michael Hebert  
Joan McAllister  
Jane Smith  
Edith Sylla

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Vandy Bradow  
Carol Clark  
Glenn Core  
Lena Gallitano  
Mac Hulslander  
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Social Justice Ministry

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Gary and Jane Smith  
Fidele Binganisi  
Don Birt  
Shirley Birt  
Julie Elkins  
Frank Gailor  
Kori Gay  
Cy King  
Adrienne Little  
Grady McCallie  
Edith Sylla  
Cynthia Ball

Community Outreach Ministry

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Jeanne Ledbetter (secretary)  
David Sigmon  
Amy Jensen  
Gray Woodard  
Richard Nichol  
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(vacant)

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Cynthia Ball  
Lena Gallitano  
Gregg Flynn  
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Marge Eckels – liaison  
Shirley Birt – liaison

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Joan McAllister  
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Gray Woodard  
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Nancy Stoddard  
Bill Bryan  
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Lynn Davis  
Lynn Jarvis

Communications Committee

Vandy Bradow (newsletter)  
Carol Clark (newsletter)  
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Jane Smith, CUCC N&C blog  
Paul Kiel, blog backup  
Śānti Matthews, Youth  
Facebook  
Lavon Page

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Bill Lamb  
Karen Preston  
Mary Pruneau  
Skip Stoddard

Nominating Committee

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Peg Hulslander  
Julia Robertson

