

COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Nurturing Spiritual Growth and Working for Social Justice

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January 2012

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JANUARY 22

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

A Word from our Pastor

Dear Friends,

We are beginning a brand new year!! Could it really be 2012 already? Does anyone else feel like me – the older I get the faster time flies. Seems like only yesterday that my grandson Davis was born, but in calendar time he will be one year old in February. And on January 1st Marcy and I celebrate our 40th Wedding Anniversary. Back in 1972 and looking ahead, I would have thought that projecting 40 years into the future would seem like an eternity, but now it seems closer to a blink of the eye!

As we begin a new calendar year it is good to get grounded in the calendar ahead. That way we get started on the steps that lead us forward. We look to a future that holds the promise of hope for meeting the challenges ahead. We want to make a difference in people's lives. We want to affirm the human and civil rights of all persons under the Law of God and better laws for our society.

On Sunday, **January 8**, our 10:30 am worship service will lift up and celebrate our "ONA" ministry. Then after fellowship time when we celebrate an Epiphany Party in recognition of our babies born in 2011, we will then re-gather in the Sanctuary for a Memorial Celebration of the life of our friend **Al Matthews**. Later that evening we hope to host a Vigil for NC Against Gun Violence.

On **January 15**, as part of the Martin Luther King Day observances, we will welcome guest preacher Rev. Curtis Gatewood. He is the Statewide Coordinator for HK on J. Then on **January 22** we will hold our Annual Congregational Meeting to vote on a new budget for 2012 and vote on nominations for positions for our vital Ministries and the Church Council. Please return your pledge amount if you haven't done so already. Call Skip Stoddard if you have any questions at 571-9199.

I hope you can join us for all three of these special and important Sundays in January to get the New Year started off on the right foot! Wishing you all the benefits of a happy, healthy and holy New Year.

Blessings and Peace,

Steve

Stewardship

We need your contribution in 2012!

Many thanks to all those who have returned pledge cards. However, the pledges so far indicate a significant shortfall for our 2012 budget. Last year we received 80 pledges. So far this year, we have received only 61 pledges for 2012! Each pledge represents a commitment on the part of a member of our CUCC community to do their part to ensure that CUCC has the resources it needs to operate each year.

If you have not yet made a pledge, please prayerfully consider what you might be willing and able to give to support the good works of CUCC, and turn in a pledge card at your earliest convenience. Pledge cards are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary, in the church office, **or the one at the end of the newsletter**. Thank you!

– submitted by **Skip Stoddard**

Religious Education

Sunday School News

Congratulations to the children and the youth who participated in the Christmas pageant. It was the very best ever. Many thanks to everyone who has contacted me since the pageant to say how wonderful it was. I truly did not realize how many people look forward to the pageant every year. The pageant always puts me in the Christmas spirit!

Our Salvation Army stocking drive was a huge success thanks to you all. We were able to fill 40 stockings and donate the remaining items to Toys for Tots! CUCC has made a real difference in our community this Christmas.

Sunday School resumes on January 8. We will begin nominations for our next charity. Please plan to be here and bring your ideas. Looking forward to hearing about everyone's Christmas.

Happy New Year!!!!!!

Anne Bailey Zschau

Adult Forum – meets Sundays at 9:15-10:15 in the Vaughan fellowship hall. Forum will begin 2012 by focusing on various issues of Economic Justice.

You are invited to participate in the following January schedule:

January 1 – **No Forum – Happy New Year!**

January 8 – **Protecting Families in North**

Carolina. Sean Kosofsky, Executive Director of Blueprint NC, will discuss the broad negative implications and economic justice issues of the proposed constitutional amendment to narrowly define marriage in NC.

January 15 – **HK on J** (Historical Thousands on Jones Street) Rev. Curtis Gatewood, Statewide Coordinator for HK on J, will speak at Forum about the Movement. He will also be the guest speaker at the morning worship service.

January 22 – **Current Labor Issues**

MaryBe McMillan, Secretary-Treasurer of the NC AFL-CIO will speak about what is happening with labor today.

January 29 – **Why Occupy?** Josh Harris and Emily Galvin, participants in the Occupy Raleigh Movement, will share their perspectives on the Movement and their experiences in Raleigh.

– submitted by **Shirley Birt**

Welcome, Fellowship & Growth

Newcomers' Supper

Let us treat you to dinner and conversation on Friday evening, January 27. Arrive any time after 6pm for hors d'oeuvres; we'll sit down to dinner at 6:30pm. This is an informal evening to allow you to meet people new and long-time and to ask questions. Please RSVP to the church office by January 25. Let us know if you have any dietary restrictions and if you'd like child care.

Retirees Group

The Retirees will meet on Monday, January 9, at 10:30am in the Vaughan fellowship hall for a program given by Pastor Steve about his experiences while on vacation in Kauai in October. He will be showing "fantastic" slides of Hawaiian landmarks and do a travelogue on the beautiful places that he and Marcy visited. He will also tell about our sister congregation, Church of the Pacific-UCC, where they stayed. Come one and all, bring a bag lunch. Dessert and drinks will be provided.

Sisters in Spirit (SIS)

SIS will meet on the 5th Tuesday, January 31st, at 7 PM in the Hoffmann room for a potluck and discussion of travel. Several of us have been on outings this past year (Kathy C. to Singapore, Vandy to Shanghai, Kathy W. to travelogues on TV). We'll be sharing some of our experiences and how travel to new places benefits our lives. Come "travel" to and with SIS... and expand our horizons.

– submitted by **Marty Lamb**

P.S. Looking ahead, on the fifth Tuesday in March, we'll be led in a session from Gray Woodard on "The Power of Word", following potluck.

Saturday Men's Group

For the month of January, the group is reading "No god but God" by Reza Aslan. The contact for more info is **Ed Klemmer**.

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; 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; Bertie Retzer who is recovering from recent surgery; Don Widenhouse, who was seriously injured in a car accident; Anne Pope;** and the people of the DRC, and other victims of war and natural disaster across the globe.

CUCC sends condolences to:

Doug and Sheila Barrick upon the sudden death of their daughter Kristin Leigh Barrick. A memorial service was held on December 1 at First Presbyterian Church in downtown Raleigh.

Shannon and Glenn Core upon the death of Shannon's sister Bonnie Jane Jensen.

Al Matthews died December 12 after a long battle with Parkinson's Disease. There will be a memorial service for **Al Matthews** after worship and fellowship on Sunday, January 8.

CUCC welcomes new members

Greg and Megan Fackler Bretz
Śānti Matthews
Laurel Powell and Richard Nichol
Cara Spurlock-Street

Directory changes

Email:

Geraldine Bryan, gpbryan@gmail.com

Mary Matthews, maryknit@nc.rr.com

Gray Woodard, gray.woodard@yahoo.com

Home:

Nancy and Mike Callaham are now in their new one-level home with a new address and phone number: 104 Tobacco Farm Dr., Apex, NC 27502, (919)387-8245.

Our Young People's Birthdays



1/6/98 – Caelan Eckard

Community Outreach



Emergency food bags:

Our December collection surpassed all previous collections! Urban Ministries welcomed our **40** emergency food bags and reminded us that this year there has been a large increase in need. Thank you to all who participated so generously.

To review our effectiveness in this effort, we contributed an average of **22.5** bags per month, with a total year's value of **\$4,320**. Hallelujah!! Blessings on contributors and recipients.

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

Wider Outreach

Wright Center

On December 18, the meal was cooked by Nancy Stoddard, Carol Clark, Gale Cass, Amy Jensen, & Grady McCallie. The servers were Julie and John Robertson.

Chili

Loaves and Fishes Ministry, a non-profit organization, will be selling "The World's Best" meat and veggie chili at \$10.00 per quart in freezer containers. Please place orders with Shannon Core, 846-0902 or use the sign-up sheet on the Coming Events bulletin board in the hallway. Pick up your orders at Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church, 4921 Six Forks Road, north entrance, on Friday, January 27, 2012. Times will be announced at a later date. I have been a volunteer with Loaves and Fishes for 25 years and have witnessed the success of this valuable program.

– submitted by **Shannon Core**

Pledge Card for 2012

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

I plan to give beginning _____ \$ _____ each _____ week
(date & year) _____ month

for an annual total of \$ _____

I understand that this commitment can be changed at any time by giving notice to the appropriate church officer

Signed _____

A Month of Sundays

January 1 | New Year's Day | 9:00-9:30 Taizé led by The Browns; 9:15 NO Adult Forum; 9:15 Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service with Communion & NO Church School; Fellowship Time

Lectionary: Isa 61:10-62:3; Ps 148; Gal 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40; Isa 60:1-6 Ps 72:1-7, 10-14; Eph 3:1-12; Matt 2:1-12

January 8 | First Sunday after Epiphany | 9:00-9:30 Taizé led by Mike Schafale; 9:15 Adult Forum; 9:15 Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service; Fellowship Time

Lectionary: Gen 1:1-5; Ps 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11

January 15 | Second Sunday after Epiphany | 9:00-9:30 Taizé (led by Lavon Page) with Communion; 9:15 Adult Forum; 9:15 Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service – Rev. Curtis Gatewood Preaching; 10:45 Church School; Fellowship Time.

Lectionary: 1 Sam 3:1-10 (11-20); Ps 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Cor 6:12-20; John 1:43-51

January 22 | Third Sunday after Epiphany | 9:00-9:30 Taizé led by Doug Barrick; 9:15 Adult Forum; 9:15 Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service; NO Church School; Fellowship Time.

Lectionary: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Ps 62:5-12; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mark 1:14-20

January 29 | Fourth Sunday after Epiphany| 9:00-9:30 Taizé led by Anne Pope; 9:15 Adult Forum; 9:15 Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service; NO Church School; Fellowship Time.
Lectionary: Deut 18:15-20; Ps 111; 1 Cor 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28