

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

June/July 2010

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

A Word from our Pastor

Dear Friends,

Our lives have been greatly enriched by the spirit of brotherhood/sisterhood that we at Community UCC share with our Congolese friends here in Raleigh. Our first introduction to them began with a phone call from **Fidele Binganisi** to then-CUCC Pastor **Cally Rogers-Witte** (at CUCC 1978-1996). Fidele was newly arrived in Raleigh from the Congo (then Zaire) about 1990, and was looking for a church to attend. By the grace of God he called CUCC and discovered that Cally could speak to him in French! Then in 1992 **Fernand Milandu**, a friend of Fidele's, arrived in Raleigh followed by his wife **Lina**. **Charles & Dongo Pumbu** arrived about the same time and soon there were a core group of Congolese here who desired an opportunity to worship together in the fashion of their home church from the Congo, The Church of the Twelve Apostles (now The Good New Message Church). Pastor **N'Sumbu Puati** soon came to lead their congregation. It continues to worship Sunday afternoons in our sanctuary from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Pastor Puati has now returned to his family and church in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire). Pastor **N'Gudi Yumbu** has assumed leadership. Over the years, our relationship with these families has grown and deepened. In 2009 we together formed a committee to learn more about the history and current events of DRC (Democratic Republic of the Congo). A full description of the program events we developed in the spring of 2009 can be found on our website (www.communityucc.org) under the heading "All Things Congo." We have continued to meet into

2010 and have added to the committee **Miki Kidibu** & his wife **Jolie**. Miki is president of the Congolese Community in NC and also lives in Raleigh. He has been organizing a celebration to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It will take place at the Marbles Museum off Moore Square on Saturday, July 3rd. He has invited Fernand Milandu and me to speak at this event about our "All Things Congo" program. We are honored and excited to do so. Also, Miki has invited up to 15 members of CUCC to attend the limited registration event. If you are interested in attending, please call the church office and we will register you on a first come, first served basis. It will take place from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. with Dr. Georges N'Zongola as the keynote speaker. Invitations have been sent to Gov. Perdue and Mayor Meeker along with other government representatives. Please consider attending and supporting our Congolese friends!

Blessings and Peace

Steve

The Congolese Community of NC
Celebrate the 50th anniversary of Independence
July 3rd – Marbles Kids Museum
You can find information for the conference at
<http://www.cocomnc.com/files/DRC50Flyer.pdf>

CUCC is able to send 15 people. We must register by June 20. If you wish to participate, please send a note to **Miki Kidibu** <KIDIBUYABI@aol.com> by the 20th.

Church Council

The Council met May 10, and announced or took actions as follows:

- The auction netted ~ \$6000, nearly covering the fundraiser income budgeted for 2010.
- The new coffee urn and other kitchen appurtenances for fellowship hour have been bought and placed in use. These were purchased with money from memorials to Sonny Spicer, who loved the “coffee hour.”
- Review of Safe Church policy implementation will be on the September meeting agenda. There is an online course key personnel will be taking; it is also available to any CUCC member.
- A Personnel Committee is being convened by Sam Johnson. After discussion, Council decided current evaluation procedures are adequate and should be followed.
- Recruitment of a ninth Deacon is under way.
- Permission to add a rainbow comma to the CUCC sign was granted unanimously.
- Lavon Page has announced his “retirement” as webmaster this coming December. A transition task force will be formed.

Moderator Sylla announced that the next meeting is set for July 19. Owing to Edith’s travel plans, Sam Johnson will be Acting Moderator May 15 – July 4. Specific current information and news of each Ministry is included in the respective newsletter sections below.

Stewardship

"Is Your Pledge Giving Up-to-date?"

"We are nearing the mid-point of 2010 and the cost of doing ministry in the name of the Risen Christ continues on into and through the summer. Your contributions are needed for us to meet our budgetary commitments this year in faith. Are you up-to-date with your pledged giving? If you are in question, you may contact Carol Kepler (787-7410) for the information. If you are up-to-date, thank you. May your gifts of self and finances be used to the glory of God.

Submitted by **Michael Evans** –
Stewardship Ministry

Deacons

Each Sunday morning our Taizé worship is held at 9:00 until 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary. It is led by the following persons who share the leadership throughout the year: **Doug Barrick, Bernie and Ken Brown, Don and Susan Lane, Lavon Page and Jo Perry, Anne Pope, and Mike Schafale.** We gratefully acknowledge their dedication and faithful service.

– submitted by **Peg Hulslander**

Property

Thank you to all the participants of the May 15 Spring Work Day at CUCC! As planned, we cleaned closets, cabinets and the Bryan-Berry building. Some discarded items were placed on Craig’s list for sale and we’re still working on others that need repair before donating or trying to sell. Perhaps you saw the mounds of discards but items were first offered to the following for re-use before the final trash pick-up:

- Church members and visitors
- Helping Hand Mission
- Rocky – a scrap metal dealer who happened by
- Neighbors and others who sorted through the pile at the street.
- And finally to the city for a special free trash pick-up

Have you noticed the CUCC vegetable garden? The first cucumbers have been harvested, we have green cherry tomatoes, and the green beans are forming. Our “Plant a Row for the Hungry” seems to be off to a very successful start thanks to **Vandy Bradow** and the **Congolese congregation!** Our first donation, of .63 lb., was recorded June 14.

Don’t forget, if you haven’t filled out a Time, Skill & Talent Survey for the Property Ministry – you can find a copy attached to this newsletter or on the table in the sanctuary. We won’t call you constantly but it would be helpful to know if you can lend a hand with church projects.

– submitted by **Lena Gallitano**

Compost Pile We are making progress with our compost pile (next to the Bryan-Berry Building, thanks to CUCC members and our yard service. We will probably be able to begin using it when we plant our fall crop of vegetables this August.

When you bring plant material (food scraps, apple cores, citrus peelings, veggie scraps, egg shells, etc.) for composting, please put it on TOP of an existing pile (not in on the ground in front of it), then cover with adjacent dry material. By doing this we will have better breakdown and fewer flies and other unwanted six-legged visitors.

Our compost pile needs to be periodically turned (bottom to top). Any and all are welcome to do this at your convenience. A pitchfork is the best tool; please call me at 781-5137 if you need to borrow one and/or want company for the task.

--submitted by **Vandy Bradow**

Religious Education

Sunday School News

Preschool and elementary classes

“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!”

Preschool and elementary classes will be "making a joyful noise unto the Lord" this summer. We will be learning a variety of Christian songs with a summer camp flair, making instruments, and constructing our bulletin board in the hall. For several weeks we will combine classes with the youth. Many of our youth will be playing musical instruments for us and helping us to learn songs. What a wonderful way for our youngsters and youth to stay in touch and form a bond!!! We also request any members of our congregation who play an instrument or sing, please join us in our classroom after the "Children's Message." We would love to have you any Sunday that you are able to join us!!!

We are collecting glass jars (no tops) and metal bottle caps for an end of summer project. We also continue to collect gently used children's books through the end of June. Please drop off any donations in our large classroom adjoining the kitchen. As always, your support is appreciated.

This summer our Sunday School offering will be going to rescue the pelicans and animals of the Gulf

coast. Many thanks to all of you who have donated to “**Pennies for Pelies**” thus far. The children are very excited about this project. The vote to support these animals was unanimous!

We will have a special surprise for you in September!!!!!!!!!!!!

– submitted by **Anne Bailey Zschau**

Youth

The Recent Past...

June 6 - Youth (5th-12th grade) attended the O&A sponsored luncheon, film (*Call Me Malcolm*), and panel discussion on the experiences of transgender individuals. It was very enjoyable and helpful!

June 13 - Youth (5th-12th grade) began their summer participation with children's church school, which is focused on learning Christian hymns and camp songs. Youth are providing vocal and instrumental accompaniment in this camp-style summer church school.

June 18 - An exciting night including church-wide International Night featuring photos and stories from **Anna Roach-Howell's** trip to Japan, and **Šánti Matthews'** trip to Cuba. This will be followed by a Lock-In for 5th-12th graders, ending in an early morning service project helping the Federation for the Blind with yard sale set-up.

June 22 - Youth (7th-12th grade) celebration of Anna and Abby, as they have graduated.

June, July, and August - CUCC art wall will feature photos from Japan and Cuba taken by Anna Roach-Howell and Šánti Matthews.

The Coming Months...

July and August will include

- ongoing church school fun with children's music program
- participation with youth from Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Baptist Youth Camp in the NC mountains (June 27-July 2)
- participation in Appalachian Service Project (July 11-18)
- preparation and serving of Wright Center meal (August 15)
- 5th Sunday welcoming of new 5th graders (August 29)

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

Celebrate

God's Green Earth Weekend - July 23-25th, 2010

(An intergenerational adventure)

for the schedule see:

<http://www.communityucc.org/groups/climate/greenearth.pdf>

Social Justice

Time to Move Your Money?

This is the title of a Jim Wallis essay in the March issue of "Sojourners," the magazine of Faith in Action for Social Justice. It is a response to the foreclosure crisis that has caused so much suffering, maybe not for us personally, but for so many.

"Clearly," Wallis writes, "the financial crisis is a structural meltdown that calls for increased government regulation of banks and other financial players.... But at its core, this is also a spiritual crisis. More and more people are coming to understand that underlying the economic crisis is a values crisis, and that any economic recovery must be accompanied by a moral recovery. This should be a moment to re-examine the ways we measure success, do business, and live our lives; a time to renew spiritual values and practices."

This all sounds a little pretentious for those of us in the pews but fortunately Wallis has a suggestion that almost any of us can implement that will send a message to big banks that have shown such shameless immorality in all of this: "Move Your Money." He and his wife have closed their accounts at Bank of America and moved their money "to a local bank that has behaved more responsibly." Many of us have the opportunity of joining a credit union and that is probably a better option. There are any number of these and chances are that you can find a way to become a member of one of them. The service is usually excellent and the interest on savings and CDs is generally better than banks. The Self Help Credit Union in Durham will enable you "to do well while doing good." There are also numerous local banks that are more concerned with Main Street than Wall Street.

This message is brought to you by the recently constituted Task Force on Economic Justice. We hope to send other helpful suggestions your way in the coming months and we also invite you to join the Task Force if you have an interest in determining what economic justice is and how we here at CUCC can find it. Call **Shirley Birt**, 552-5371.

Welcoming, Fellowship & Growth

Simple, Healthy Fellowship

As chairperson of the Fellowship Committee of CUCC, I would like to thank everyone who has supplied refreshments during our fellowship after worship. For future Sundays - a gentle reminder, please remember to make these items simple, healthy snacks. For instance, cheese and crackers and/or fruit would be fine. However, individuality and creativity are welcome. Again, thanks to those of you who have hosted as well as those who will volunteer in the future.

– Submitted by **Robert Parrish**

Monday Lunch Group invites you to come and grow with us spiritually as we discuss a different spiritual topic each Monday throughout the summer from "Weavings; a journal of the spiritual Christian Life." Monday lunch meets each Monday at 12:15 in the Hoffmann room.

Sisters in Spirit (SIS) will be meeting for potluck in the Hoffmann Room at 7 P.M. Tuesday, June 29th, followed by discussion of quiet private places we have liked to occupy and why.

We'll follow up with meeting on Tuesday, July 27th at 6 PM, (earlier than usual), at the back of the NC Art Museum property to walk the trail including the Chamber of the Clouds, a quiet, private place to explore together. We'll go out to eat together after trekking the trail that night.

Please note that the beach retreat this year will be Sept. 17th through the 19th. Place dates on your social calendars. Do consider playing with us!

– submitted by **Marty Lamb**

Songs for Summer 2010

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; Jane & Loy Sigmon (David's mother diagnosed with ALS); Nancy Callaham; Sam Johnson's father, who has pneumonia; those caught in flash floods, the people of the DRC, and other victims of war and natural disaster across the globe.

Bill and Marty Lamb became grandparents on May 31 with the birth of Simon Charles Lamb to Ashley and Bert Lamb of Somerville, MA. Babies are such a nice way for people to start out! Let's smile!

Charles Gregory Matthews, son of **Šanti and Matt Matthews**, graduated from Athens Drive High School June 9. Charlie will be attending Cape Fear Community College in the fall. He is a gifted artist and plans to study graphic design.

"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"
"This Little Light of Mine"
"You Can't Get to Heaven"
"Kum Ba Yah"
"When the Saints Come Marching In"
"The Lord's Army"
"Johnny Appleseed"
"We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder"
"Michael Row the Boat Ashore"
"The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock"
"All Things Bright and Beautiful"
"Rise and Shine and Give God the Glory, Glory"
"I Sing a Song of the Saints of God"
"Swing Low Sweet Chariot"
"This is the Day"
"Let Us Break Bread Together on Our Knees"
"Blest Be the Tie That Binds"
"Do, Lord, Remember Me"
"Seek Ye First"
"Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"
"I'm Gonna Sing When the Spirit Says Sing"
"Tell Me the Stories of Jesus"
"This is My Father's World"
"All God's Children Have a Place in the Choir"

Community Outreach

Our Young People's Birthdays



6/18/2009 – Ruth Ann McCallie

6/27/1997 – Colleen Barrick

7/2/01 – Greer Eckard

CALLING ALL MUSICAL INDIVIDUALS!!!!!!

PLEASE JOIN THE CHILDREN FOLLOWING THE "CHILDREN'S MESSAGE" TO SING OUR CHRISTIAN SUMMER CAMP SONGS OR PLAY YOUR INSTRUMENT WITH US. WE WOULD TRULY LOVE TO HAVE YOU HELP US WITH OUR MUSIC THIS SUMMER!!! EVEN IF YOU CAN COME JUST ONCE IT WOULD BE GREAT!!!!!!!!!!!!!! NO NEED TO "RSVP" – JUST COME BE WITH US!!!!!!!!!!



Emergency food bags: We continue to contribute generously to Urban Ministries with emergency food bags each month. In May we gathered **21** bags, just short of our goal of 25. As you have heard many times, during the summer months the bags are more important than ever because children are not able to get their usual school day breakfasts. Emergency food bags can fill an important need! Please keep up your contributions. Thanks.

On June 6 we collected **23** emergency food bags. That's pretty good while we're in vacation mode. Just keep them coming – and thank you!

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

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: Šanti Matthews

Organist: Doug Barrick

Choir Director: Anne Moorman-Smith

Newsletter: Carol Clark and Vandy Bradow

A Month and a half of Sundays

June 20 | Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time |

9:00-9:30 Taize; 9:15 Bible Study; 10:30

Worship Service with Maggie Stoddard

Preaching & Church School; Fellowship Time;

Lectionary: 1 Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a; Ps 42 and 43 or Isa 65:1-9; Ps 22:19-28; Gal 3:23-29;

Luke 8:26-39

June 27 | Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time |

9:00-9:30 Taize; 9:15 Bible Study; 10:30

Worship Service with Robert Parrish preaching & Church School; Fellowship Time;

Lectionary: 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14; Ps 77:1-2, 11-20 or 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21; Ps 16; Gal 5:1, 13-25;

Luke 9:51-62

July 4 | Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time |

9:00-9:30 Taize; 9:15 Bible Study; 10:30

Worship Service with Communion & Church School; Fellowship Time;

Lectionary: 2 Kings 5:1-14; Ps 30 or Isa 66:10-14; Ps 66:1-9; Gal 6(1-6), 7-16; Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 11 | Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time |

9:00-9:30 Taize; 9:15 Bible Study; 10:30

Worship Service & Church School; Fellowship Time;

Lectionary: Amos 7:7-17; Ps 82 or Deut 30:9-14; Ps 25:1-10; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37

July 18 | Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time |

9:00-9:30 Taize; 9:15 Bible Study; 10:30

Worship Service with Michael Evans preaching & Church School; Fellowship Time;

Lectionary: Amos 8:1-12; Ps 52 or Gen 18:1-10a; Ps 15; Colossians 1:15-28; Luke 10:38-42

July 25 | Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time |

9:00-9:30 Taize; 9:15 Bible Study; 10:30

Worship Service & Church School; Fellowship

Time;

Lectionary: Hos 1:2-10; Ps 85 or Gen 18:20-32; Ps 138; Col 2:6-15, (16-29); Luke 11:1-13

Time, Skill & Talent Survey

Name: _____ Date: _____

I prefer to be contacted by:

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Place an "x" in the box of the one category (two if Retired) that best describes you now:

- _____ Administrative support (secretary, cashier, etc.)
- _____ Craftsman (foreman, mechanic, etc.)
- _____ Technician (Telephone, computers, printer, etc.)
- _____ Manager (administrator, self-employed)
- _____ Sales (underwriter, sales worker, etc.)
- _____ Professional (doctor, teacher, etc.)
- _____ Service (police, health worker, etc.)
- _____ Laborer (construction, stockman, etc.)
- _____ Farming, fishing, forestry
- _____ Homemaker
- _____ Student (full-time)
- _____ Other _____

_____ Retired – Please mark **Retired & a Category** that best describes your work experience.

I have a passion for and experience in the following area(s):

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| _____ Building things | _____ Leading or facilitating teams |
| _____ Computer hardware/software | _____ Managing, planning and directing work |
| _____ Creating objects of beauty | _____ Providing truck or towing service |
| _____ Recruiting others | _____ Research |
| _____ Encouraging others | _____ Other: _____ |
| _____ Evaluating and analyzing data | |

I can serve the church and community through personal skills and talents in:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| _____ AC/Furnace repair | _____ General yardwork |
| _____ Cabinetry | _____ Heavy lifting |
| _____ Carpentry | _____ Landscaping / lawn care |
| _____ Carpet and tile | _____ Pruning and weeding |
| _____ Cleaning | _____ Mechanics |
| _____ Computer | _____ Painting |
| _____ Drawing | _____ General housekeeping |
| _____ Electrical | _____ Plumbing |
| _____ Flooring | _____ Roofing |
| _____ Furniture repair | _____ Sheetrock |
| _____ General housekeeping | _____ Washing windows |

_____ Other: _____

_____ Please contact me, I'm willing to support the care and maintenance of CUCC.

Community United Church of Christ

814 Dixie Trail

Raleigh, NC 27607

The newsletter can be found on our web page:

www.communityucc.org

June-July 2010

The deadline for our August Newsletter is July 19.