

COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Nurturing Spiritual Growth and Working for Social Justice

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March 2010

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

A Word from our Pastor

Dear Friends,

As we begin our spiritual journey through the season of Lent, let me suggest two resources for your consideration that you could do by yourself in the comfort of your home. I offer these because I realize that many of you are unable to participate in other group study opportunities held here at the church.

First, for those of you who like to read a good thought-provoking book about faith development, let me encourage you to read Finding God in the Questions, by Dr. Timothy Johnson. You may be familiar with Dr. Johnson as the medical editor for ABC News. Before medical school he completed seminary and he has worked in ministry as well as medicine.

Dr. Johnson says this in the first chapter of his book: "For many people, religion provides answers to the big questions of life. For others the absolute claims of religion raise more questions than they answer. I have lived on both sides - and in some senses, I still do. My path of faith has wandered through doubt and belief, often at the same time."

The second suggestion is for those of you who like to use your home computer. The UCC has something called "Still Speaking Daily Devotionals." All you need to do is go to <http://i.ucc.org> and then click on Daily Bible Reading and Devotional. This is under the "What's New" heading. You can then have it emailed to you each day. If you are on Facebook you can have it sent there. I know you will enjoy it!

Blessings and Peace

Steve

Stewardship

CUCC Family Fun Auction Saturday, April 24, 6:30 PM

The CUCC Family Fun Auction is coming up on Saturday, April 24, and we need you to help make it a success! The auction is an annual fundraiser for CUCC. Would you consider donating an item to the auction? Examples of past auction items include:

- * Garden plants
- * Weekends at the beach, lake or mountains
- * A morning of bird-watching & lunch
- * Therapeutic massage
- * Day trips to destinations like Jugtown, A geology field trip or a hike at a state park
- * Pet-sitting, Babysitting, Yardwork, Handyman, and Computer services
- * Delicious homemade cakes, pies, jams etc.
- * Hand-made pottery, quilts, jewelry and original artwork
- * Brunches, lunches, dinners

Please contribute your time, talents or treasure to this wonderful annual event. To make a pledge, call the office and let them know the item, the minimum bid, any conditions (date, maximum/minimum number of people, etc.) AND whether you will be attending the auction. Please enter your pledge of an auction item to the church office by April 20. Pledge forms are available on the next page and on the table in the back of the sanctuary and at the church office, or you can fill out a form on Sunday, April 11 or 18.

Make plans to attend this great annual event. Social and silent auction begin at 6:30 pm; the bidding starts at 7:00 p.m. Child care will be provided, and a great time is guaranteed.

Thanks for your support, and see you at the auction!

TOP TEN REASONS TO GO TO THE AUCTION

- 10. It's a cheap date. Just \$5 to bid and you don't even have to pay a babysitter – child care is included!**
- 9. Help raise important funds for CUCC and have fun doing it.**
- 8. Get fabulous prizes – from a weekend at the beach to handyman service at your house to original art and pottery – and it's all for a good cause.**
- 7. You can enjoy a fine glass of wine (or two) at the same time.**
- 6. Did we mention that child care is provided?**
- 5. You don't have to be able to spell hors d'oeuvres to gobble them up.**
- 4. You might win a *Mystery Box*.**
- 3. You can have a great time with friends and still be in bed by 9:30.**
- 2. There are lots of cool experiences on offer – you could win a day learning about local geology, birding, or win a night at a sing-a-long – and really get to know some of the folks you see in the pews nearby every week.**
- 1. Someone will probably laugh hard enough that wine comes out their nose. DON'T MISS IT!**

CUCC FAMILY FUN AUCTION

Saturday, April 24, 2010

Social and Silent Auction begin at 6:30 pm; Bidding at 7:00 pm

The CUCC Auction gives you a chance to share your talents and services as a gift to the church and to have a great time doing it!! Please think about what special offerings you might put up for bids and then fill out this pledge form.

Refreshments offered: Cookies, brownies, hors d'oeuvres, wine, soft drinks, lemonade, coffee.

Possible contributions (from previous years):

Home-made items such as desserts, jams, paintings, quilts or pottery!!

Services (hopefully youth will be involved) such as babysitting, petsitting, guided specialty tours, entertainment, or dinners either at your place or theirs!!

Resources such as vacation homes, canoes or kayak trips!!

Silent Auction items: *Mystery box*, possible youth treasures (please, no old yard sale items).....

DONATION FORM

Suggestion: If you offer multiple items of one thing, such as jam or cookies, please give us a suggested price and how many of those items you have for sale (if possible) under "Conditions."

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone _____

1. I will contribute: _____
Minimum bid. \$ _____ Dates offered _____
Conditions (if any): _____
2. I will contribute: _____
Minimum bid. \$ _____ Dates offered _____
Conditions (if any): _____
3. I will contribute: _____
Minimum bid. \$ _____ Dates offered _____
Conditions (if any): _____

*Please return this form to the office ASAP. Final deadline is **Tuesday, April 20.***

? I would like to see _____ offered at the auction.

? I would like babysitting services. _____ Or a youth video. _____

? I plan to attend the auction: Yes _____ No _____ Maybe _____

Church Council

During the February 15 meeting, the new Council set third Mondays as regular meetings date. The CUCC Master Calendar is on the website. A key date is May 2, CUCC's second congregational meeting of 2010. Presentation of an economic justice proposal is anticipated.

Council heard Ministry reports from WFG, Deacons, COM, SJM, and the pastor. Most are covered in the respective Ministry sections below. Highlights of business include the approval of the three priority Property Ministry projects for 2010, agreement that we will remain mindful of the goals and concerns of "Justice in a Changing Climate" through each of the Ministries, and designating a task group to make final our Safe Church policy.

For more information, details, suggestions, or offers of help regarding Church Council, contact any officer or any Ministry Chair.

Submitted by Vandy Bradow, Clerk

Deacons

Excerpts from the Minutes of Meeting, Thursday, February 11, 2010

Chair Suzette Roach introduced our new Deacons, Charles Pumbu and McCray Harris.

We discussed the Deacons' role as described in the Constitution and By-Laws and noted that we should strive to plan ahead, especially with regard preparing for the liturgical seasons, and working with and evaluating church personnel. Steve stressed that serving as a deacon provides one with a great opportunity for personal spiritual growth. A Deacons' retreat is scheduled for March 6 at the UCC Black Lake Retreat Center near Asheboro (<<http://www.blacklakeretreatcenter.org/>>).

A flyer listing special worship services and Lenten study opportunities was a recent Sunday bulletin insert, and was emailed to the congregation. Because Easter falls on a first Sunday this year, our service will include communion, whereas the Maundy Thursday service will not.

Other Business

This year's graduation reception is scheduled for May 23. The (non-graduating) youth, led by Šanti, will take care of most of the details.

Arts in Worship has not met as yet. Suzette will see that plans for Creativity Sunday get under way. Skip reported we have a new usher, Beth Heisel. McCray agreed to serve as liaison with the Sacraments and Chancel committee.

ONA Task Force. This new group met first on February 7 and will meet again February 28. We discussed the group's location within the CUCC structure, and whether the Deacons would be the best home. Steve pointed out that the initiation and formation of this group was across the congregation and the various ministries, in a manner similar to JCC and All Things Congo, and might be best referred to as an "Initiative" that helps define as a congregation and is something to celebrate. More discussion was deferred to another meeting.

Pastoral Report – Steve

Steve noted that ONA meeting and the rejuvenated attention to the issue of inclusivity reminds us that we should take care to ensure that important issues receive periodic attention and reassessment.

Pullen Memorial Baptist Church has announced a Lenten workshop involving on the "Enneagram," 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. March 6.

– submitted by **Skip Stoddard**

Property

First, a very big "Thank you!" to all the helping hands at the February 20 work day. We are especially grateful to Mitzi Hole for spending the morning with us and showing us how to prune. From inside to outside, we washed, swept, raked, pruned, picked up, dug up and composted. Many helping hands resulted in fresh shine and sparkle for our CUCC church home. We hope everyone will recognize and enjoy the results.

The Property Ministry is making plans for 2010 and among those plans are the following:

- Four seasonal work days to incorporate projects for all age groups. Mark your calendars for May 15 and watch for future details.
- Sanctuary window replacement
- Dixie Trail parking lot and sidewalk improvement project
- Landscaping for church grounds
- Other – updates & maintenance as needed to include lighting

There is no shortage of both small and large projects that need to be accomplished for the CUCC building and grounds. We will welcome both your suggestions and your help in getting them accomplished. Let's make 2010 a year to focus on both our physical and spiritual needs at CUCC.

– submitted by **Lena Gallitano**

Religious Education

Children's News

The preschool/elementary classes continue to collect gently used children's books through the end of May. Please remember us when you do your spring cleaning!

In February we made and sent Valentines to the college students in our congregation as well as making and distributing Valentines to the congregation on Valentine's Day. We also made Valentines for the residents of Morningside and delivered them to be distributed to the residents.

We continue to update our game bulletin board as we study ways to follow Jesus. Be sure and check it out each week.

Upcoming events include the Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday and our Earth Day Activity April 18.

– submitted by **Anne Bailey Zschau**

Youth News...

The recent past...

5th-12th graders went bowling, had pizza, and learned some new games that are sure to become youth group staples.

We hosted a Shrove Sunday Pancake Brunch after church on Sunday, February 14. Thanks to many youth, and generous adult help (Amy and Tim Jensen, Ron Howell, and Joan McAllister, among

others), we served delicious pancakes to at least 50 hungry people, in a lovely decorated fellowship hall. We also laughed over some competitive food relays, and raised \$241 for the Yahve-Jire Orphanage in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti.

We also began preparations for the Lenten youth-led worship service.

The near future...

We will continue planning for the youth-led worship on March 21. Our hope is that each year we will offer a youth-led worship service during Lent, based on a Holy Week event. Last year we focused our worship on Palm Sunday. This year, youth have decided to focus on Jesus' prayers in the garden of Gethsemane, and on the importance of prayer, the importance of tending to a close relationship with God, and on the importance of being there for your friends in difficult times. We will spend the next few weeks writing, drawing, dancing, and preparing music for this worship. A special thanks goes out to the whole church community for this opportunity.

March will also provide Šánti with the opportunity to attend a four-day youth leader retreat in Nashville, TN with youth leaders from all over the country. The retreat will focus on curriculum planning for youth around the importance of prayer, downtime, and Sabbath. The planning will apply to a summer camp which at least two of our youth are attending, will also provide curriculum material for Journey church school, and will surely inform the overall youth group emphasis for the spring.

Šánti will also be going on an international mission trip to Cuba for a Holy Week pilgrimage. She is excited about this rare opportunity, and will surely come home with stories to tell.

On Palm Sunday, youth will be with Anne Bailey, hiding and helping children find Easter eggs and candy. There will be no youth group after worship; Easter Sunday is a first Sunday of the month. Attend worship with your family, enjoy the new life Easter brings and celebrate!

– submitted by **Šánti Matthews**

Forum

The Forum meets on Sundays from 9:15–10:15 a.m. in the Vaughan fellowship hall. Following is the schedule for March:

March 7 – Bill and Rosemary Pate,
"[Appalachia Service Project](#) Adult Work"

March 14 – [Dr. Norman Camp](#), [Partners for Environmental Justice](#) and the Walnut Creek Wetland Center

March 21 – Chris Canfield, Executive Director,
[Audubon North Carolina](#)

March 28 – (Palm Sunday) Michael Evans,
"Economic Justice in the UCC"

Sunday Morning Bible Study

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

– submitted by **Ellen Beidler**

Monday Lunch meets at 12:15 in the Hoffmann Room. After winding up study of [Fingerprints of God](#), special Lenten sessions begin March 15, when Pastor Steve Halsted and Lavon Page lead a session on nature poetry and accompanying music. On March 22, Margaret Hilpert will coach us in expressing our spirituality with clay. **A healing service is planned for March 29. All members of the congregation are invited to join** the group at 12:45 in the Hoffmann Room for this special worship experience.

--Submitted by **Geraldine Bryan**

Wednesday Bible Study

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

Saturday Men's Group

The group meets each Saturday at 9:30 a.m. in the library. (Contact: **Ed Klemmer**).

Welcoming, Fellowship & Growth

Retirees Group

What a wonderful time we had at our annual Valentine luncheon! Between the great conversation and the delicious food, everyone

enjoyed this special gathering. Many thanks to all who helped to make this a success!

On Monday, March 8th, at 10:30 a.m., we will be going to Assisi - courtesy of Steve, who will lead us visually and verbally in learning more about the life of St. Francis. Bring a sandwich for lunch (dessert is provided) and join us for this interesting program.

Sisters in Spirit

March 23rd we'll gather for our potluck (It's always a mystery whether or not meals are nutritionally balanced, but amazingly, they usually ARE!!) at 7 and afterwards learn about PRAYER SHAWLS.

Gale Cass will show us how to make them and teach us how they have been used in churches to inspire. If you would like to try making a shawl at the meeting (optional), you'll need three skeins of homespun Lion brand yarn and size 11 knitting needles. Come learn with welcoming friends."

– submitted by **Marty Lamb**

Movie Night

The once-a-month foreign film series continues on March 12 at 7:30 PM with "Fuse" (2004) from Bosnia. Jo's recommendation of the Czech film "Kolya" for Feb. 12 proved quite popular, so I'm going with Jo's advice again in March.

This is one of only two Bosnian films that I've seen, and both of them were in some way related to the war in Bosnia that took place in the 1990s. The other one ("No Man's Land") was black humor at its blackest, whereas "Fuse" is much lighter but still includes some biting satire. "Fuse" is not a war movie. It's set in the years after the war when President Bill Clinton is using a visit to a small Bosnian town in the war zone to showcase the success of the West's intervention in the war. Here's the way that Netflix describes the action ...

In the days leading up to a postwar visit from President Bill Clinton, the denizens of a Bosnian town try desperately to make it look as if everything's fine, despite the fact that the community is teeming with graft. While a local gangster (Senad Basic) is forced to pretend his cathouse is a cultural center, the unhinged former police chief (Bogdan Diklic) is hatching a plan to avenge his son's death by abducting Clinton.

– submitted by **Lavon Page**

Community Outreach

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:

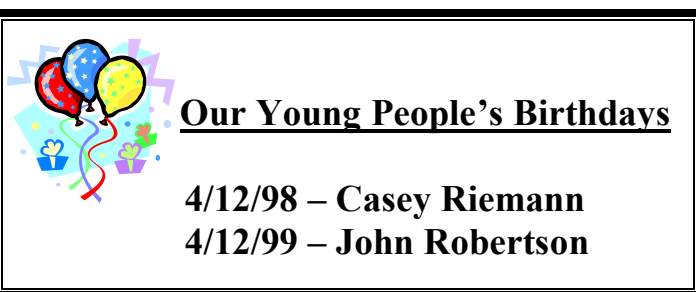
Jo Lemons; Al Matthews; Kerma Hazel; Carolyn King; Lisa Marsh; Ann McLaughlin's mother, Frances Cox; Nelda Foggie, Willie's wife; Sam Johnson's father, Sam Johnson, Sr.; the people of the DRC, and other victims of war and natural disaster across the globe.

Congratulations

– to **Fawn Pattison** and the Toxic Free NC staff!

The Carolina Farm Stewardship Association has named Toxic Free North Carolina as the nonprofit of the year for helping grow the sustainable food movement. The grass-roots advocacy group has been seeking solutions to pesticide pollution since 1986. This year, it helped create North Carolina's food policy advisory council and lobbied for funding for the NC Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund.

– to **Geri Bowen** on the birth of her grandson, Alexander Daniel Bowen, on February 19, to her son Peter and his wife, Steph, in Ottawa, Canada. Alex weighed in at 6 lb. 9 oz. He and his parents are all doing fine.



CUCC Directory

Change:

Maria Riemann, 204 E. Park Dr., Raleigh, 27605,
murrayriemann@mac.com

OGHS

CUCC's One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be collected on Sunday, March 28th. OGHS is a Lenten offering. Coin collection boxes and a calendar of ideas and activities will be distributed during the Children's Sermon on Sunday, February 28.

Through One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), the United Church of Christ members reach out in the name of Christ to:

1. **Build sustainable communities:** OGHS supports self-help programs in more than 80 nations to build sustainable communities that enable people and communities to stand against and rise above hunger, disease, illiteracy, and other forces of injustice that deny and destroy dignity.
2. **Respond to disaster:** OGHS provides emergency and long-term assistance to people in the aftermath of hurricanes, tornadoes, storms, floods, tidal waves, fires, explosions, technological disasters, civil strife, war, or other natural or human-caused events. On average, OGHS responds to a disaster once every 2.5 days.
3. **Minister to refugees:** OGHS responds with advocacy and help, hope and hospitality for people who have been uprooted from their home of origin. More than 30 million of the world's people are uprooted at any given time.

The United Church of Christ unites with Christians from eight other Protestant denominations and Church World Service in One Great Hour of Sharing, multiplying the effectiveness and extent of our witness many times over. Begin planning ahead to give generously!

Mark your calendar too. **There will be an international potluck following the service on Sunday, March 28th to celebrate our OGHS offering.**

All gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing are tax deductible. Designated gifts will go to a specified area of response, but non-designated gifts are encouraged. OGHS can then address future hidden

and forgotten emergencies around the world. For much more information about OGHS, go to:

www.ucc.org/oghs


If you prefer to designate your gift to relief efforts in Haiti this year, make your check payable to CUCC with 'OGHS-Haiti Earthquake Relief' in the memo line. For ongoing information about the UCC Haiti relief effort, go to: www.ucc.org/disaster/Haiti.

To give to the OGHS offering online, go to: www.ucc.org/oghs mentioned above and hit the red 'DONATE' button to link to the contribution form.

– submitted by **Ann Retzer**

The women at the **Wright Center** enjoyed a meal on Feb. 21, prepared by **Carol Clark, Joan McAllister, and Anne Pope** and served by **Mary Pruneau and Carol Clark**. The women at the Center are always very grateful for the dinners we prepare. If you'd like to help cook and/or serve on some third Sunday of a month, email/call Julia Robertson, jarobertson@wcpss.net, 788-8824.

Three **Meals on Wheels** routes were delivered on Feb. 10 by **Shannon and Glenn Core, Marge Eckels and Sally Cook, and Sue Cottle** and her neighbor



February's collection yielded **22** emergency food bags - almost meeting our goal of 25. As always, Urban Ministry's staff comments with appreciation on the fact that our assembling the basic bags saves them a lot of precious time. Keep them coming! Dry milk in 3-quart boxes seems to be available again. Substituting cans of fruit rather than glass jars of applesauce is acceptable. Next collection date: **March 7, 2010.**

Wider Church

Ucc.org website

I was preparing a lesson the other day for confirmation class. I was looking for ideas to brighten the class discussion on the topic, JUSTICE & PEACE. I went to the UCC website at www.ucc.org.

I clicked on the subtitle "Change the World" and saw a list of topics. The topic I chose was "JUSTICE". There I found an article called, "The Chronicles of Coffee". I drink coffee and this caught my eye. Did you know our UCC has been working for a fair trade price to be paid to small farmers & coops so they can adequately support their families in the attitude of God's gift of creation for the sustenance of all? Go to www.ucc.org to be strengthened in your witness by these and other fine articles.

– submitted by **Michael Evans**

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

Community United Church of Christ
814 Dixie Trail
Raleigh, NC 27607
The newsletter can be found on our web page:
www.communityucc.org
March 2010

The deadline for our April Newsletter is March 22.

A Month of Sundays

**March 7 | Third
Sunday in Lent |
9:00-9:30 Taize; 9:15
Bible Study; 9:15
Forum; 10:30
Worship Service
with Communion &
Church School;
Fellowship Time.
Lectionary:
Isa 55:1-9; Ps 63:1-8;
1 Cor 10:1-13;
Luke 13:1-9**

**March 14 | Fourth
Sunday in Lent |
9:00-9:30 Taize; 9:15
Bible Study; 9:15
Forum; 10:30
Worship Service &
Church School;
Fellowship Time.
Lectionary:
Joshua 5:9-12; Ps 32;
2 Cor 5:16-21;
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32**

**March 21 | Fifth
Sunday in Lent
9:00-9:30 Taize with
Communion; 9:15
Bible Study; 9:15
Forum; 10:30
Worship Service &
Church School;
Fellowship Time.
Lectionary:
Isa 43:16-21; Ps 126;
Phil 3:4b-14;
John 12:1-8**

**March 28 | Sixth
Sunday in Lent |
9:00-9:30 Taize; 9:15
Bible Study; 9:15
Forum; 10:30
Worship Service &
Church School;
Fellowship Time.
Lectionary:
Ps 118:1-2, 19-29;
Luke 19:28-40; Isa
50:4-9a; Ps 31:9-16;
Phil 2:5-11;
Luke 22:14 - 23:56**