

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

March 2011

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 march the Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 9th. It is a moveable date dependent on the date of Easter. It can happen as early as February 4 or as late as March 10. This year it is as late (almost) as it can be! This mean it's the same for Easter on the other end.

Ash Wednesday is always 46 days before Easter or 40 days not counting Sundays. The 40 days are a reminder of the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert after his baptism by John the Baptist, as Jesus was tested and prepared to begin his public ministry. Ash Wednesday gets its name from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of Christians as a sign of repentance and rededication of one's life to God and to Christ. The ashes are typically gathered after the Palm branches of the previous year are burned for this purpose. The ashes are often mixed with anointing oil as a further symbol of spiritual healing and renewed calling through Christ as his disciples in service to His church.

The officiant marks the participant's forehead with black ashes in the sign of the Cross. Scriptures associated with the ceremony include the following:

“Remember, O human, that you are dust, and unto dust you shall return.” *Genesis 3:19*

“Turn away from sin, and be faithful to the Gospel.” *Mark 1:15*

“Repent and hear the Good News.” *Mark 1:14*

Please join us for this moving and meaningful expression of our faith on March 9 at 7 p.m. as we gather in the Vaughan fellowship hall for a Taizé-style service with ash ritual.

Blessings and Peace

Steve

Deacons

Lenten Activities

Worship Services:

Ash Wednesday

March 9, 7:00 p.m. – Taizé-style Worship with Ash Ritual in Vaughan fellowship hall

Youth Sunday

April 10, 10:30 a.m. Worship

Palm Sunday

April 17, 10:30 a.m. Worship – Palm Processional from Courtyard (gather at 10:15)

Maundy Thursday

April 21, 7:00 p.m. – Tenebrae Candles and Healing Prayer

Easter Sunday

April 24

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service

10:30 a.m. Flower Cross and Resurrection Service

Faith Enhancement Opportunities

1. Centering Prayer Gatherings

Tuesday, March 15 – 7 p.m. Vaughan fellowship hall

Tuesday, April 5 – 7 p.m. Vaughan fellowship hall

2. Study Group – “Chasing Francis” by Ian Cron

Led by Steve Halsted – Discussion of a contemporary novel about a modern-day journey in the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi.

Friday – March 25, April 1, 8, 15 – 7 p.m. – Pilgrim House

3. Study Group – “Post cards from the creative, restless edge of the Church

Led by Jane Smith – For the past six months I’ve been on a Grand Tour of the outskirts of the Church. I’ve traveled through Emergence, the New Monasticism, Big Tent, TransForm, and Virtual Church. I’ve lingered on the border between Where-we-are and Where-we might-be-going. I’ve wondered what will thrive, what will fade away, and what will transform us at CUCC. As on any trip to other cultures, I’ve discovered places I’d like to visit again and places where once was enough. I have a glossary of new words in foreign tongues and loads of photos to share. And I’ve met people, wonderful people, to whom I’d like to introduce you. Join me for:

Mondays – March 14, 28, April 4, 11 – 7 p.m. – Vaughan fellowship hall for stories of the creative, restless edge of the Church. **Warning:** expect 1 hour of homework each week.

4. Earth Sabbath Celebration

Co-sponsored by CUCC and NC IPL

Tuesday – March 22 – 7 p.m. – Vaughan fellowship hall

Continued

5. **Banner Making** – Several Sundays after worship in March TBA.

6. **Tai Chi Exercise and Meditation**

Wednesday mornings – 9:30 a.m. – Vaughan fellowship hall

Lenten events on the GLBT aging population:

Research from grassroots organizations and academic studies show that today's LGBT seniors are twice as likely to live alone as heterosexual older adults and are more than four times as likely to have no children. Many are also estranged from families and rely on a fragile network of friends for help. "Gen Silent" is a one-hour 2010 documentary which addresses the issues facing aging LGBT persons, including discrimination, isolation, poverty, and inadequate access to health care and long-term care services.

Saturday, April 2, 1:00 pm: "Breaking Generation Silent." – Film Screening and Panel Discussion at the Friday Center in Chapel Hill. Free. Reservations are recommended but not required. Go to the website, <http://ssw.unc.edu/diversity/about/aging> for registration and further information. Following the film screening, Stu Maddux will facilitate a panel discussion to explore further the strengths and needs of the aging LGBT population. Panel members will include:

Mandy Carter, co-founder of the National Black Justice Coalition and member of the board of SAGE; Debi Lee, lead regional ombudsman for the Centralina Area Agency on Aging and host of the Gay and Gray program at the Charlotte Lesbian and Gay Community Center; Connie Vetter, attorney whose practice focuses on legal services for LGBT individuals and couples; and Dee Leahman, director for the Community Partnership for End of Life Care.

Persons interested in carpooling to the Chapel Hill event, please register online and notify the church office of your interest (787-6422).

In addition to the April 2 event, the film will be shown at the Galaxy Theater in Cary the evening of April 1. Ticket prices are \$20, and proceeds will benefit the LGBT Center of Raleigh.

Sacraments and Chancel

Easter Lilies

In planning for the Easter celebration,
Sacraments and Chancel



would like to decorate the sanctuary and narthex with massed Easter lilies. If you would like to



dedicate a lily or lilies to a loved one, please notify the office and enclose a check marked "lilies" for \$10.00/plant.

Property

The parking lot renovation is complete. This work has disturbed quite a bit of landscaping, so we will be developing plans and identifying plants that we want to add to these areas so they can be installed this fall. With the current drought and summer coming, we will delay any major plantings until then. Please let us know if you have suggestions for specific plants. Be sure to check with us before discarding any that you might be removing from your own landscape, for possible use at CUCC.

The Sunday School classes and Youth Group have been invited to plant a vegetable garden between the new sidewalk and Vaughan Fellowship Hall. We will add timed, drip irrigation in this area so we can hope to have a bountiful harvest for "Plant a Row" this year. We'll be looking for and organizing some helpers, so please let us know how you would like to participate.

Mark your calendars now for our future workdays. As the old saying goes, many hands make light work, so we're counting on you to help. A morning helping CUCC is a great benefit for our physical surroundings but the fellowship with other members is even more meaningful. We hope you'll give it a try. All work days are scheduled from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

- March 5
- April 9
- June 4
- August 27
- October 15
- November 12

– submitted by **Lena Gallitano**

Religious Education

Preschool and Elementary Sunday School News

We will continue our study of the miracles of Jesus until Palm Sunday and resume after Easter. Each week we are learning of another miracle that Jesus performed and talking about faith and believing.

We created Valentines that were mailed to our college students in time for them to be received for Valentine's Day. We also made Valentines for the residents of Morningside which I delivered on

February 13 and of course, they made Valentine hearts and distributed them to the congregation after church.

We will have our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday.

This spring the children will again "Plant a Row for the Hungry" through the program at Logan's Garden Center. Last year our "harvest" was meek but we hope the gardening skills we acquired last year will serve us well this year. Any gardeners who would like to join us, please see Anne Bailey. (I could really use some help watering during the summer months!)

We continue to collect our offering each Sunday and will donate our funds to the "Make a Wish Foundation". The children are very excited about this project. You will hear more about it later.

A special thank you to the volunteers, **Linda Baker, Ellen Beidler, Amy Jensen** and all the parents who make Sunday School so special for our children each week.

– submitted by **Anne Bailey Zschau**

Youth News...

The recent past...

On February 13, we hosted a "hoops with youth" event and had several adults and children join us for basketball fun, hot dogs, and hummus w/ pita after church. Watch for another hotdogs, hummus, and hoops event soon.

Confirmation and Leaders class went on a field trip to the art museum. Journey class enjoyed bread baking with Marcy Halsted.

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

The near future...

March will bring Lent and planning for our youth-led worship, to be held on April 10. Each year we offer a youth-led worship service during Lent, based on a Holy Week event. Youth will spend several weeks writing, drawing, dancing, preparing music, and planning liturgy for this worship. Any adults interested in supporting or participating in this exciting planning, please see Santi. We will spend

three Sundays in March during church school preparing, and there will be a Lenten Lock-In on March 25, also focused on preparation.

March will also include a movie night: "*Rango*" a chameleon with an identity crisis, on opening night, March 4.

Special note: We want to thank **Bill Bryan and Bayard Alcon** for shooting hoops with us, and thank Bayard also for repairing the toilet in the youth room!

– submitted by **Śānti Matthews**

Forum

From Mammon to Manna: Sabbath Economics and Community Investing...*Continues*

March Forum calendar:

- 6 A Sabbath Economics Household Covenant
- 13 Dr. Michael Schwalbe, Professor of Sociology at NC State University. His interests and publications include issues of class and inequality.
- 20 Surplus Capital, Stewardship and Social Investing
- 27 Community Investing

Social Justice

CUCC sponsors art exhibit

The national tour of "Windows & Mirrors: Reflections on the War in Afghanistan" will be swinging through North Carolina March 25 to April 15 at Guilford College in Greensboro. CUCC is proud to be a major sponsor. The tour is a joint project of the Chicago Public Arts Group and the Philadelphia Mural Arts Program under the leadership of the American Friends Service Committee. The exhibition features 45 4' x 6' mural panels by artists from across the US and 15 framed drawings by Afghan high school students. God speaks to us through the gifts of the artists among us. The Social Justice Ministry, in approving the sponsorship, hopes that all those who see the exhibit will be transformed and that from the experience, creative public dialogue seeking to end the war in Afghanistan will emerge. A copy of the exhibition catalog is on the Social Justice Ministry bulletin board; please enjoy at CUCC. The artwork is impressive.

Join us on a field trip to Guilford College on Saturday, March 26. We'll leave from CUCC in the

morning, view the exhibition, and head to Ganache for lunch. Contact Jane Smith for details on tickets and carpooling.

Welcoming, Fellowship and Growth

CHEAP SEATS – LAST CHANCE!

Wondering where you will seat people for Easter dinner? Needing a few extra chairs for an upcoming card game? Take advantage of CUCC's **CHAIR SALE**. We are selling 50 of our old folding chairs for \$5 apiece. A little spray paint and they will be presentable!! Contact the office at (919) 787-6422 to reserve yours!

Sisters in Spirit (SIS)

Thirteen Sisters in Spirit gathered at the home of **Kathy Clift** February 22nd, where she and Athena Tracy prepared a Greek feast for those in attendance February 22nd, complete with learning about stories of visits to Crete, Athena's ancestors, Greek Mythology, why Madonnas don't smile, that **Vandy Bradow** knows how to drape chitons, that **Kathy Widenhouse** wears a brown chiton very well, that **Vivian Hunter** looks good with leaves in her hair, and much, much more.

► There's talk of our taking an art museum tour some approaching Friday night with Athena, the Docent, as our guide. Watch this newsletter and church bulletins for more information on this as plans develop.

In March we'll be playing the card game "5 Crowns" at the church the last Tuesday in the month, March 29th at 7 p.m. with snacks. Y'all come.

Retirees Group

On March 14, the group will gather to learn about the Hospice Program. Michael Blanchard, Vice President for Development of Hospice, will be the speaker. Anyone interested is invited to join us in

the Vaughan fellowship hall at 10:30 a.m. Bring a sandwich; drinks and dessert will be furnished.

Monday Lunch

Most of Lent, Geraldine Bryan will be leading a discussion of the book *Creation Continues, a psychological interpretation of the Gospel of Matthew*, by Fritz Kunkel. Monday lunch meets each Monday at 12:15 in the Hoffmann room.

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: **Al Matthews, Carolyn King, Lisa Marsh, Ann McLaughlin's mother, Frances Cox; Kerma Hazel, the Milandu family, Mark Denlinger, Ted Gregory, Vandy Bradow**, those impacted by the oil spill; the people of the DRC, and other victims of war and natural disaster across the globe.

From Michael Evans - I began pastoral ministry at Trinity Christian UCC, Skippack, PA on February 1, 2011. This would not have been possible except for the ministry you shared with me and my wife. I am extremely grateful to God and to you for this opportunity. The moving of stuff is complete. The unpacking and settling continue. The members here have been gracious and welcoming. The snow has melted and we are having North Carolina weather. I live in the parsonage, a stone's throw from the church office. I love it. I am learning the roads and the multiple names for roads and places. The congregation was formed in 1863 and came into the UCC through the Reformed tradition. There are UCC congregations e-v-e-r-y-w-h-e-r-e, two or three on the same stretch of road. There is a UCC college the next town over. The UCC climate here is very different from my experience in North Carolina. Thank you for all you allowed me to do while I was among you. May the Lord richly bless your ministry at Community United Church of Christ.

Sabrina Richards, **Adrienne Little's** granddaughter who is a freshman at NCSU, is available to baby-sit and/or pet-sit. She loves children and has her own car. If you are interested, call the church office for contact information.

Our Young People's Birthdays



4/12/98 – Casey Riemann

4/12/99 – John Robertson

4/21/98 – Leah Jensen

Community Outreach

One Great Hour of Sharing, (OGHS), as part of Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM), is one of the four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. Did you know...

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- In cooperation with Global Ministries, Church World Service, Action by Churches Together, Interchurch Medical Assistance, Foods Resource Bank, Oikocredit, Freedom from Hunger and hundreds of local partners around the world, OGHS is part of a remarkable network of service and caring that is efficient, effective and faithful. Administrative costs are typically less than eight percent annually.

The United Church of Christ unites with Christians in eight other Protestant denominations and Church

World Service in One Great Hour of Sharing, thus multiplying the effectiveness and extent of our witness many times over. The UCC annually channels more than \$3 million dollars through One Great Hour of Sharing to humanitarian needs in the world.

CUCC will collect our OGHS offering on April 3.
 – submitted by **Jo Perry**



Emergency food bags:

Again our total emergency food bag collection amounted to **27!**

Mike Schafale delivered them for us.

Many thanks to him and to all of you for your continuing generosity. Let's continue to exceed our goal.

In 2010, CUCC donated 3100 lbs of food to Urban Ministries – that's over 1 ½ tons of food!!!!

Food bags will be collected **March 6th** and every first Sunday of the month.

Wright Center

Those preparing the meal for February were **Maria Riemann, Gray Woodard, Sam Johnson, Amy Jensen and Roger Manus**. Servers were **Roger & KL Manus, and Amy & Leah Jensen**.

Wider Outreach

Notes from the CUCC Appalachia Service Project Team



Planting flowers this spring?

If you plan to plant annuals or buy a hanging basket this spring, the CUCC Appalachia Service Project team would like to sell them to you. Campbell Road Nursery has offered to partner with us. You buy a \$15 coupon; trade the coupon at Campbell Road for: a flat of 36 annual flowers OR a hanging basket of annual flowers OR three 4 inch pots of specialty annuals OR three 4 inch pots of herbs. The nursery is on Tryon Road near Jones Franklin Road; your coupon can be redeemed between April 22 and May 9. The ASP team

appreciates the consistent support from this congregation and hope that this fundraiser offers a service, too. Get your coupons from **Jackson or Paul Kiel, Carson Roach-Howell or Ron Howell, Gary or Jane Smith, Santi Matthews**.

A personal note from Jane: Campbell Road Nursery is my favorite place to shop for annuals. Choice of colors will depend on the day you shop, but I have never been disappointed. A nice feature: mix and match your flat.



Phil Campbell, the owner, is excited to be supporting our ASP group; her church does ASP, too. She offers us a generous \$6.50 on each coupon. So, if you buy 70 hanging plants, you send one youth to ASP. (Just kidding.)



YARD SALE!!!!

Your treasures needed for ASP yard sale

We know you need to clear out your home so that you have space to buy wonderful items at the CUCC auction. The CUCC Appalachia Service Project team has come to your rescue! Donate your treasures to our April 30 yard sale. Then, that night, go to the auction to find new treasures! If you have items to donate, contact a member of the ASP team (Carson, Jackson, Ron, Paul, Gary, Jane or Santi). We ask that all items be in good condition. No clothes, please. Closer to the event we'll advertise a date to drop items at CUCC.

Mark your calendars: Children's Building Site and ASP Shareholders Meeting Sunday, April 10, after worship.



This brief program during Fellowship gives our youngest members a chance to try their construction skills and our 2010 shareholders a briefing on the work in Tennessee that they made possible last summer. Plan to linger after worship until 12:30. An ASP-style lunch will be

continued provided. And, yes, you can buy shares in our 2011 trip to Kentucky on April 3 or 10 after worship.

– submitted by **Jane Smith**

The Coalition for Peace with Justice brings to North Carolina a series of extraordinary people making a difference on the ground in Israel.

All have risked public censure, career, and physical harm to stand for their beliefs. Come hear the stories of their journeys and sacrifices and the messages they bring of hope, solidarity and peace based on freedom, justice and human rights for all.

Jewish Boat to Gaza: Two Peoples – One Future: two Jews on the September 2010 -Jewish Boat to Gaza - one a boat captain and the other a 82-year-old Holocaust survivor, tell why they tried to break the blockade of 1.5 million Palestinians. **7:30 PM, Thursday, March 10,** St. Francis of Assisi Church, Anthony Hall, 11401 Leesville Road, Raleigh. More info? See website [www.stfrancisraleigh.org/mapsandphotos].

Sponsored by the Coalition for Peace with Justice (www.peace-with-justice.org/). (919) 274-1991

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: Peg Hulslander

Treasurer: Mary Pruneau

Asst. Treasurer: Carol Kepler

Clerk: Sam Johnson

Ministry Chairs:

Deacons: Bill Lamb

Property: Lena Gallitano 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

JCC's Green TIP: BEGIN DEVELOPING YOUR PERSONAL 'GREEN MINDSET.'

Consider The Zero Waste Home Blog's motto:

'Refuse, refuse, refuse. Then, reduce, reuse, recycle. (And only in that order.)'

Get creative, but to get started with **REFUSING:**

1. Refuse the plastic bag, paper ones too. BYOB: bring your own bags.
2. Refuse using/being given plastic bottles of water.
3. Refuse most freebies - nearly always things you don't need.
4. Refuse excessive packaging or toxic ingredients. Write letters to manufacturers.
5. Refuse food and/or drinks served in non-recyclable containers.
6. Refuse to let junk mail go from your mailbox straight to your recycling bin. Cancel it altogether.
7. Refuse extra school/work papers. Opt out or work something else out whenever possible.

(from <http://zerowastehome.blogspot.com>)

– submitted by **Ann Retzer**

A Month of Sundays

March 6 | Last Sunday after Epiphany | 9:00-9:30 Taizé led by Bernie & Ken Brown; 9:15 Bible Study; 9:15 Adult Forum; 10:30 Worship Service with Communion & Church School; Fellowship Time.

Lectionary:

Ex 24:12-18; Ps 2 or Ps 99; 2 Pet 1:16-21; Matt 17:1-9

March 13 | First Sunday in Lent | 9:00-9:30 Taizé led by Jo Perry & Lavon Page; 9:15 Bible Study; 9:15 Adult Forum; 10:30 Worship Service & Church School; Fellowship Time.

Lectionary:

Gen 2:15-17; 3:1-7; Ps 32; Rom 5:12-19; Matt 4:1-11

March 20 | Second Sunday in Lent | 9:00-9:30 Taizé led by Mike Schafale (with Communion); 9:15 Bible Study; 9:15 Adult Forum; 10:30 Worship Service & Church School; Fellowship Time.

Lectionary:

Gen 12:1-4a; Ps 121; Rom 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17 or Matt 17:1-9

March 27 | Third Sunday in Lent | 9:00-9:30 Taizé led by Susan & Don Lane; 9:15 Bible Study; 9:15 Adult Forum; 10:30 Worship Service & Church School; Fellowship Time.

Lectionary:

Ex 17:1-7; Ps 95; Rom 5:1-11;
John 4:5-42

