

# **COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

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**May 2011**

### **CHOIR PRESENTS MOZART'S REQUIEM MAY 1**

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

### *A Word from our Pastor*

Dear Friends,

I am very excited and encouraged about a recent ecumenical relationship that CUCC has begun to establish with St. Paul's Christian Church. We are close neighbors in a number of ways – geographically, theologically and “missionally”! They are located at 3331 Blue Ridge Rd., are progressive and liberal theologically and we share joint missions together on the national church level. Some of you will remember when we celebrated "All Things Congo" on Palm Sunday two years ago when we hosted Sandra Gourdet and LaMarco Cable, both Disciples Ministers, who visited through our joint Global Ministries agencies.

On this year's Maundy Thursday evening we joined with St. Paul's in what we both hope will become an annual shared worship service together for years to come. This year they hosted the event and next year we will host them at CUCC. You may want to put it on your calendar now!!

I was very pleased to see how smoothly and generously the two congregations worked together to share in a simple soup and bread meal (quite delicious), followed by a very nice worship experience with shared communion, shared choir presentation, and shared clergy leadership. The service was in three sections that brought to life the Maundy Thursday experiences of Jesus and his disciples in the "Upper Room," the "Mount of Olives," and the "Garden of Gethsemane."

There was good participation from both congregations as we began to get to know one another. At dinner, I sat with a Montagnard family of refugees from Vietnam who have joined with St. Paul's, and I shared with them about our Congolese friends here at CUCC. All in all, it became very apparent that each congregation has much in common and a bright future of shared ministry experiences awaits us all !

Blessings and Peace

Steve

# Deacons

## Guest Preacher

Jimmy Creech will be the guest preacher on June 26<sup>th</sup> and the ONA Committee will host a reception and book signing after the service. Jimmy has a recently published book, *Adam's Gift: A Memoir of a Pastor's Calling to Defy the Church's Persecution of Lesbians and Gays*.

## Library

Hopefully you drop by our church library from time to time. As Madam Librarian I try to keep it tidy and add a few new books.

Take a look at our interesting and complete new concordance. Peruse some of the recent additions:

Psalms for Praying by Nan Merrill

The Moses Code by James Twyman

My Spiritual Journey by the Dalai Lama

Thumb through the exchange basket and help yourself when you have a book to swap. Lots of good reads!

Feel free to borrow a book. Just sign your name on the sign-up sheet and return it in a reasonable length of time. Yes, please, return any library books you have borrowed.

Do take advantage of this Treasure Trove!

– submitted by **Geraldine Bryan**

## *Religious Education*

### Preschool and Elementary Departments

In January our preschool and elementary children voted to support THE MAKE A WISH FOUNDATION with their Sunday School offerings. **We will be holding a bake sale in the fellowship hall on May 1<sup>st</sup>** following worship to support THE MAKE A WISH FOUNDATION. Some the past recipients of the children's donations include Interact, SPCA, Salvation Army, the National Wildlife Foundation, and a Guatemalan orphanage. Please support the children!!

Our PLANT A ROW FOR THE HUNGRY garden is ready for our seedlings. We will be planting okra, cucumbers, squash and watermelon. Many, many thanks to **Lena Gallitano, Sam Johnson, Carol Clark, Allan Beidler, Nancy & Skip Stoddard, Bill Lamb, and Jane Smith** for

preparing the raised bed for us. We will be planting our garden during Sunday School on May 1st.

We will be completing our study of Jesus resurrection and ascension during the month of May and enjoy a special lesson led by **Linda Baker** on May 8th.

– submitted by **Anne Bailey Zschau**

## Youth News

### The recent past...

**CONGRATULATIONS ON A WONDERFUL YOUTH-LED WORSHIP!**

**and**

**THANK YOU TO ALL ADULTS WHO PARTICIPATED AND SUPPORTED US!**

April also included an ASP Shareholders' Report and Stock Sales, a Palm Sunday egg hunt for CUCC children, an ASP yard sale collection, an ASP Lock-In (for those youth who are attending Appalachia Service Project this summer), and ASP Yard Sale on April 30 in the morning and CUCC Church Auction on April 30 at 6:30 p.m.

### The near future...

Sunday, May 1: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month: no youth group or Church School; enjoy communion Sunday with your family.

Sunday, May 8: Spring Church School resumes. (Mother's Day)

Saturday, May 14: Service Project (Brown Bag Ministry) we will prepare and serve bag lunches to some of the people in our own city who are hungry.

Sunday, May 15: Confirmation Class Parent Meeting, Church School, Lunch, and Shoot Hoops with Youth

Saturday, May 21-22: Confirmation/Leaders Umstead Park Camping Trip (we need chaperones and a camp cook)

Sunday, May 22: Youth Worship at Umstead Park

Sunday, May 29: Church School

Youth Ministry Contact: Santi Matthews  
[forsanti@aol.com](mailto:forsanti@aol.com) or (919)961-8814

## Forum

**The ONA Task Force Presents: Forum On BEING an Open and Affirming Congregation**  
9:00-10:15 am the first four Sundays in May. **Note time. We are starting early so that we can be out in time for church!** Come early, welcome our guest speakers, and learn a lot! Light refreshments, coffee and tea will be provided by the ONA Task Force.

**May 1:** How can a church effectively open its doors to the gay community... and what impact does that have on the straight members of the congregation? Justin Lee, executive director of The Gay Christian Network, will share the insights he's gained from over 10 years of work bridging those two worlds.

**May 8:** Gay parents with children/Parents with gay children: What are we doing and what else can we do to welcome GLBT families, to provide a nurturing environment within our youth activities, and to advocate for them? A panel of gay parents will present and offer opportunities for questions and discussion,

**May 15:** Several youth from Gay Straight Alliance are scheduled to come to talk with us about their efforts in the Wake County Schools; what they experience as GLBT students and allies; how the faith community can offer meaningful support. In addition, Holly Atkins, the Director of Hope for Teens will be available to talk about efforts to respond to bullying of teens.

**May 22:** Congregational discussion pulling together ideas generated from the first three meetings about implementing changes to be more responsive and proactive to the needs of the GLBT community.

**May 29: Memorial Day Weekend: No Forum presentation.**

– submitted by **Joan McAllister**

## *Welcoming, Fellowship & Growth*

### Fellowship

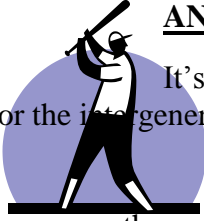
Fellowship hour sign ups have gone extremely well this year. I would like to thank everyone who has participated. As the summer months approach the signup sheet is looking mighty empty. Please,

check your schedules and sign up for May and upcoming Sundays, especially if you have not had a chance to do so this year. Remember simple and healthy food is encouraged. Creativity is welcome. The instructions for serving are in the CUCC kitchen. You are more than welcome to call me for support (832-1226). Sincere thanks to everyone in advance.

– submitted by **Robert Parrish**


## **BALL GAME**

**ANNOUNCEMENT FOR FUN!!!!**



It's once again time for the intergenerational trip to see the **Durham Bulls** play ball! If it's anything like last year, there will be lots of fun and excitement!

Tickets for the game are \$7.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children (12 and under) and seniors (55+). The church will buy a block of tickets for CUCC's group seating. Please call the office 787-6422, **BEFORE May 10<sup>th</sup>** for your reservation to allow plenty of time for "Diamond View" tickets.



Please make your payment via check and place it in the offering plate during Sunday worship service; please note "Durham Bulls" in the memo field. If you choose to pay cash, please see Mary Pruneau or Carol Clark. The game will take place on **Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup>**, at **7:05 p.m.** We will car pool at the church at 6:00 p.m. and then head to Durham for the 7 p.m. game. Come and let's "have a ball"!

– submitted by **Robert Parrish**

### Sisters in Spirit (SIS)

Not sure what our topic will be – but SIS will be meeting for potluck at 7 on May 31st. Come prepared for surprise.

– submitted by **Marty Lamb**

### Retirees

The Retirees Group is happy to welcome back Tom Earnhardt, co-producer of "Exploring North Carolina" (PBS), as the speaker for the meeting at 10:30 a.m., Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy his delightful presentation. Bring a sandwich; drinks and dessert are furnished.

## Monday Lunch

The discussion of *Creation Continues* continues (pun irresistible) in May. Monday Lunch meets 12:15-1:45 p.m. 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 & Bob Hazel, the Milandu family, Nancy Callaham**, those impacted by the oil spill; the people of the DRC, and other victims of war and natural disaster across the globe.

### Our Young People's Birthdays



5/1/03 – Alex Bumgardner

5/23/09 – Jesse Leidheiser-Stoddard

6/1/2000 – Cammy Riemann

6/13/1995 – Carson Roach-Howell

6/19/2009 – Ruth Ann McCallie

## *Community Outreach*

### Wright Center

CUCC's volunteers for April 17 were **Heather Burkhardt** and **Heather's friend Lisa McQueen** serving and **Nancy Stoddard, Jo Perry, Maegan Mohr** and **Jeanne Ledbetter** preparing the food.



### **Emergency food bags:**

Thanks to **John Little** for delivering our collection of **22** emergency food bags to Urban Ministries this month. In their annual report to the community Urban Ministries reports that our congregation contributed **3,120 pounds** of food last year. That's about a **ton and a half(!)** from our small church alone. Their total collection amounted to more than 200 tons. Despite all that tonnage there is still hunger in Raleigh! Keep your contributions coming!

Food bags will be collected **May 1<sup>st</sup>** and every first Sunday of the month.

– submitted by **Marge Eckels**

### **Your JCC Green Tip for May: Reduce Your Use of Paper Towels**

**This month, reduce your use of paper towels. The paper industry is one of the worst polluters, and paper towels contribute to the 40 percent of landfill content from paper. In addition to using wood pulp, the manufacturing of most paper towels involves bleaching with chlorine-based chemicals that can lead to the release of toxic emissions.**

**Instead of paper towels, reach for cleaning cloths that can be washed and reused. If you do use paper towels, try to use them sparingly. Buy ones made of recycled paper that will be biodegradable; some are even 100 percent recycled paper and petrochemical-free.**

**The deadline for our June Newsletter is May 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

**Continued**

## **A Month of Sundays**

**May 1 | Second Sunday of Easter | 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:** Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Ps 16; 1 Pet 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

**May 8 | Third Sunday of Easter | 9:00-9:30 Taizé led by Amy Jensen & Lavon Page and Jo Perry; 9:15 Bible Study; 9:15 Adult Forum; 10:30 Worship Service & Church School; Fellowship.**  
**Lectionary:** Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Ps 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Pet 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35

**May 15 | Fourth Sunday of Easter | 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:** Acts 2:42-47; Ps 23; 1 Pet 2:19-25; John 1:1-10

**May 22 | Fifth Sunday of Easter | 9:00-9:30 Taizé led by Anne Pope; 9:15 Bible Study; 9:15 Adult Forum; 10:30 Worship Service & Church School; Fellowship Time.**  
**Lectionary:** Acts 7:55-60; Ps 31:1-5 15-16; 1 Pet 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

**May 29 | Sixth Sunday of Easter | 9:00-9:30 Taizé led by Doug Barrick; 9:15 Bible Study; 9:15 Adult Forum; 10:30 Worship Service & Church School; Fellowship Time.**  
**Lectionary:** Acts 17:22-31; Ps 66:8-20; 1 Pet 3:13-22; John 14:15-21