

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

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CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOVEMBER 20

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 November let our thoughts embrace the heart-felt theme of Psalm 100 which calls us to "Enter God's gates with thanksgiving and God's courtyards with praise! Give thanks to God, and bless God's Holy Name!" (verse 4) This truly is a month to reflect on our many blessings in life and celebrate them with offering our thanks to our Creator God.

Toward the top of our list of blessings is the Church itself and the many ways in which it enriches and empowers our lives. As I look at the month before us I want to share with you the following dates and activities that may enhance your "Month of Thanksgiving" through Church related activities.

Sunday Nov. 6 – 10:30 a.m. Worship and Mini-Pilgrimage around the building and grounds of CUCC.

We will follow Cy King's wonderful message of the previous Sunday "The Legacy and Journey of CUCC - Part 1" with an abbreviated Worship themed on "The Ministry of All Believers" akin to "All Saints Day" with Communion followed by a tour around the buildings and grounds to begin a conversation about the many lives and ministry passions of those affiliated with CUCC over the years who now form what is referred to in the letter to the Hebrews as "so many witnesses as a great cloud on every side..." Please come and here this part of our CUCC story!

Saturday Nov. 12 – "Novemberfest Dinner and Variety Show" 6 - 9pm. Our CUCC Community Thanksgiving Feast with Turkey and all the Trimmings that make for a great culinary delight and evening of entertainment.

Sunday Nov. 13 – "Stewardship Sunday" We will gather in all the pledge cards and offer a special liturgy prayer of dedication and thanksgiving for the blessings of our resources in support of the broad and powerful ministry that it enables and empowers toward the building up of the Kingdom of God!

Thursday Nov. 17 – "Amazing Faith Dinner Dialogues" 6:30pm Sponsored by the Triangle Interfaith Alliance. Held in neighborhood homes with a simple vegetarian meal followed by sharing of people's faith perspectives by selecting different user friendly questions to speak to. To sign-up go to their web site: www.interfaithalliance-nc.org and you will be assigned a home to visit for a wonderful evening with neighbors from all the major faith traditions.

Tuesday Nov. 22 – "Earth Sabbath Celebration" co-sponsored by NC Interfaith Power and Light (NC IPL) and CUCC. 7pm in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall. Come and give thanks for the beauty and bounty of God's Sacred Creation while meeting and networking with other environmentalists and empowering one another in this vital earth justice work that impacts the well-being of all 7 billion people who must learn a "sustainable" life style to live together in harmony to restore our living planet.

Wednesday Nov. 23 – "Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service" 7:30pm held at Holy Trinity

Lutheran Church at the corner of Clark and Brooks Avenues. Our choir will join with the others for a massed presentation that is always a delight.

Sunday Nov. 27 – We gather to begin the "Season of Advent" as we move into the Christmas Spirit of "listening, waiting and watching" for signs of the re-birth of the Christ Spirit among us. We will begin the count down toward the Birthday Celebration of our Lord Jesus by the lighting of the first Advent Candle on our Advent wreath.

Please take time to look at your calendars and mark down the events you would like to participate in, in order to make this a Season of Thanksgiving to remember!!

Blessings and Peace,

Steve

Church Council

Pilgrimage

"With so many witnesses in a great cloud on every side of us..."*

Imagine a crowd cheering you on as you move toward your goal. How much easier it is to keep going when we aren't alone.

At CUCC, our building and grounds are spangled with tangible signs of CUCC-members past and present who incarnate love in action. Witty, curious, courageous, generous, creative, tenacious and very human. We can draw strength from our CUCC cloud of witnesses.

Learn their stories on All Saints Day** – November 6 after 10:30 worship. During Fellowship, take a **self-guided tour** of the building and grounds, discovering the signs, and learning about the lives behind them. Just for fun, we'll have a **scavenger hunt** for clues. Because we want you to stay a bit longer this Sunday, we'll provide **nutritious snacks** to sustain you on your pilgrimage. A **family-friendly** event.

*Hebrews 12:1

** Yes, we know All Saints Day is actually

November 1 and remembers those who have died, but we're being inclusive of the living!

– submitted by **Jane Smith**

Congregation

We call for a Congregational Meeting on Sunday November 20, after worship, to review the proposed budget and nominations report for 2012 and any other business suggested by the Church Council.

Stewardship

Novemberfest!

Plans are shifting into high gear in preparation for our turkey dinner and variety show scheduled for **Saturday, November 12, beginning at 6:00 p.m.** In addition to the great food, we will pick up some CUCC factoids as part of our ongoing "CUCC Stories" theme, plus we will be entertained by, and perhaps participate in, a variety show hosted by Šanti Matthews and CUCC youth. (Hint: bring stories and jokes about fruit.)

For those of us who just can't wait until the Christmas party to imbibe some fruit of the vine, Lavon Page has offered to have **wine available** to accompany the dinner! Just keep in mind that Novemberfest is a fund-raiser, and there will be baskets aplenty for you to fill in gratitude for the bountiful harvest.

Don't forget to sign up through the church office or on the poster in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall, and (very important) **let us know if you will need childcare!**

Last-minute questions or offers? Please contact Skip or Nancy Stoddard, Fawn Pattison, or Santi Matthews.

Stewardship Campaign

You should have received your pledge card for 2012. (If not, we can provide one!) Please fill it out and return it to the CUCC office or simply put it in the offering plate during worship. Please have them in **on or before November 13**, when our gifts will be dedicated during the service.

Copies of the proposed 2012 CUCC budget will be available on the 13th, for those who would like to study it in preparation for the congregational meeting scheduled for November 20 after worship.

– submitted by **Skip Stoddard**

Deacons

Art Wall

To any, and all of you artistic beings in our congregation: The Art Wall (across from the Hoffmann and Bradow rooms) is available for photographs, paintings, fiber art, and/or anything you would be willing to hang. If you're interested, or need coercing, please call Linda Baker (782-7336), or email me: BAKERLL@me.com.

Property

Workday

A big thank you to all who worked on the CUCC's grounds at the October 15 Workday. Fruit trees, bushes, perennials and ground covers were planted as well as some trees, bushes, and grass/weeds removed. Top soil was hauled and added to the areas where the new plants were put in. Mitzi Hole, Lena's gardener and horticulturist, donated some fruit trees, grape vines, bushes and perennials. CUCC members brought their donations of fruit trees, perennials and ground covers. Trees planted were plum, peach, pear, fig, and pomegranate. Perennials planted include hosta, Solomon's seal, lamb's ear, canna lilies, pampas grass, asters, lamium, and ajuga. Also a big thank you to the folks who fed the grounds crew. The lunch was most appreciated. [The November workday has been cancelled.](#)

Sanctuary Windows

Samples of window glass is exhibited in the fellowship hall windows so that the congregation can see and evaluate them. Please take time to view the windows in daylight so that you can express your opinion.

CUCC Sign

A thank you goes to **Joan McAllister** and **Lena Gallitano** for their work with a company to design a sign and to the Property Ministry and Growth Committee for their input in deciding on the choice. The sign has now been ordered and is due for installation in January.

Religious Education

Sunday School News

We are continuing our study of Moses. The children have embraced these lessons! We will finish this unit the week before Thanksgiving.

We have voted for our fall charity and the children selected the Salvation Army Christmas stocking project again this year. Last year we pledged 25 stockings which we filled with YOUR help. This year the children have ambitiously pledged 40 stockings so we are once again asking for your help. A donation box wrapped in Christmas paper will be in our classroom. Please donate small toys, coloring books, crayons, bubbles, toothbrushes, etc. We appreciate your support!!! We will use our Sunday School offering to help purchase items for the stockings.

A reminder!!! The Christmas pageant will be December 11th. Remember that all children are welcome to participate. If you have visiting children on the day of the pageant and they would like to participate please just let Anne Bailey know. We have room for everyone!

Please see the important dates below!!!

October 30 – Make a scarecrow for the fall garden and plant seeds.

November 6 – Children will provide pumpkin muffins for fellowship. We will ice them during class.

November 27 – Make Christmas ornaments during Sunday School. Christmas Pageant practice begins (Thanksgiving weekend)

December 4 – Christmas Pageant practice and costume distribution

December 4 – 5pm Family Advent Workshop, pizza dinner and cookie exchange

December 11 – Christmas Pageant **Cont.**

December 18 – Combined class with Anne Bailey
December 25 – Christmas Day, no Sunday School
January 1 – New Years Day, no Sunday School
January 8 – Class resumes
– submitted by **Anne Bailey Zschau**

Youth News

The recent past:

- **Walk for Hope:** We raised \$890, and five CUCC youth and seven adults participated in this important fund raising event. Walk for Hope helps to promote research to discover the causes and potential cures for mental illness, raises community awareness, and supports effective treatment programs.
- **Lock-In!** Our fall lock-in was attended by nine youth who were enthusiastic, energetic, and excellent at ice skating, "Sardines" (a late night movie) and morning youth room clean-up. A special thank you to Paul Kiel for chaperoning and to Tim Jensen for an elegant and delicious french toast breakfast!
- **Visit to Binkley Church** in Chapel Hill for worship and lunch.
- Youth Church School studies competition: How can we have competition that unifies instead of divides us, and still have fun?
- Youth Church School studies **hunger:** Who eats and who starves?
- **Youth Group Lunch and Variety Show Planning** (Thank you to Maria Riemann for the best ever macaroni & cheese!)
- **Crop Walk!** October 30 at 3:00.

The near future:

- **November 6**, first Sunday of the month - No Church School for youth or Youth Group - but, please join communion worship with your family and participate in celebrating the lives of people who have been part of our 130 year journey together at CUCC. After worship on this theme, people will fan out over the property to discover short bios of the many, many people who have been honored in our building. Just for fun, we'll have a scavenger hunt for specific details. Fellowship healthy snacks will be scattered around the rooms of this CUCC Stories Pilgrimage.

- **3rd Annual Youth-Led Variety Show! Saturday, November 12.** This year's theme is The Giving Tree: Sharing the Fruits of our Generosity. Sign up in the narthex to share an act in our show, and make your reservations for dinner ASAP by contacting the church office.
- **Sunday, November 27**, help CUCC children **make Christmas ornaments** in Church School, and then go with Youth Group to lunch and to pick out our **Christmas Tree!**

For information about CUCC youth events or programming, contact Sánti at forsanti@aol.com or call 961-8814.

Adult Forum – meets Sundays at 9:15-10:15 in the Vaughan fellowship hall.

Forum November Schedule

"Rachel Carson and the Significance of Nature"

November 6 – **John Little** – "The Life and Works of Rachel Carson"

November 13 – **Fawn Pattison** – TBD

November 20 – John Connors – "Chimney Swifts: Past, Present and Future"

November 27 – **Mike Schafale** – TBD

Welcoming, Fellowship & Growth

A Gathering of Friends

CUCC hikes in Umstead Park November 13

Work off your turkey dinner from Novemberfest! by joining others on one of three walks through Umstead Park on Sunday, November 13. McCray Harris has charted a stroll, a walk and a hike; we'll all begin at 1:00, then peel off as we choose the length that suits us.

Come spend a leisurely Fall afternoon walking/hiking the *Inspiration Trail* (an easy short 0.3 mile loop) and based on ability, continuing down to the Old Company Mill Site on Crabtree Creek [Option to return the way we came in for a short (2 miles) hike or the more adventurous may

complete the *Old Company Mill Trail* loop (moderate 5.8 miles)]

Friends are welcome. Bring a bag lunch to eat at CUCC after worship before we head over to Umstead. Or, stop for a quick restaurant meal and meet us there.

Hold the date: CUCC Family Advent Workshop

Sunday, December 4, 5:00 PM

Hands-on activities and a simple supper
You need not bring a child to be welcome!

Hold the date: CUCC Adult Christmas Party

Saturday, December 10, 6:00 PM

Heavy hors d'oeuvres & entertainment
Adult evening; no child care provided, so arrange for a babysitter at home.

Hold the date: Rutter's Gloria Concert

Sunday, December 18, evening

Fairmont United Methodist Church

CUCC's choir will join the choir of Fairmont, soloists and musicians to present this gorgeous piece of music. (Curious about the *Gloria*? Listen to a version by The Cambridge Singers at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PHBhDyi6nA>)

Sunday brunch

Did you know that an informal group of friends heads to a local restaurant for brunch many Sundays after Fellowship? To find out where they are going any Sunday you are free, talk to **Kathy Widenhouse, Vivian Hunter or Sally Cook**. People of all ages are welcome.

Wednesday Matins: A later start time?

I looked forward to our weekly time of prayer and conversation and am a bit sad the fall series is over. We're considering resuming in January and wonder if a 7:30-8:15am time would suit more people? If a 7:30 start would be better for you, contact **Jane Smith**.

Sisters in Spirit (SIS)

SIS dates for coming year 2011-2012:
(fifth Tuesdays and one fifth Thursday)
November 29th
January 31st
March 29th (the Thursday)
July 31st

September (tba beach retreat)

October 30th

Retirees Group

Retirees and their friends will meet in the fellowship hall at 10:30am on the second Monday of the month. Bring a sandwich, drinks and dessert are provided.

November 14th---Nancy Olsen, owner of Quail Ridge Books, will join us again to discuss recent books of interest.

December 12th---**Anne Pope** will lead us in wrapping Christmas gifts for recipients of Meals on Wheels. Boxes will be placed throughout the church soon to begin collecting gifts for the Meals on Wheels recipients.

Emergency Contact Information Update

Have you given Jane Smith

(smithjeg@mindspring.com or 919-787-6539) your emergency contact information? We'll use this information to make sure you are okay in the unlikely event of a regional emergency (hurricane, evacuation, flu quarantine). If you consider yourself part of the CUCC family (whether or not you are a member), we'll want to know you're okay. Needed:

- Names of people in your household (even if they aren't associated with CUCC)
- Phone # to reach you in an emergency
- Email to reach you in an emergency (the one you will check frequently)
- Contact person who is likely to know where you are & phone # (Please let this person know you have our permission to contact them about you)
- Did you have any changes in your everyday contact info during 2010? (address, phones, email)

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; Kerma & Bob Hazel; Nancy Callahan; Betty Watson; Fidele Binganisi; Phil Lamm, Steve & Marcy's neighbor with lung cancer; 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; Frank Gailor who is having surgery this week; those impacted by the oil spill; the people of the DRC, and other victims of war and natural disaster across the globe.

Would you continue our prayers for **Pr. N'Sumbu Puati**? When CUCC friend Pr. N'Sumbu left Raleigh to return to ministry in the Democratic Republic of Congo, we asked him how we could support him in his work. We knew we were sending him to the difficult work of serving a growing church in the middle of the war-torn and impoverished country he loved. His one request was that we continue to pray for him and so we have kept that commitment over the years.

Would you be willing to pray for Pr. N'Sumbu for one month? We ask that you pray for him frequently and that you send him a card or an email at least once during that time. Jane Smith will provide you with his contact information. Perhaps this is something your family would like to do together? Pr. N'Sumbu has children and grandchildren and would appreciate artwork prayers sent by some of our younger members.

– submitted by **Jane Smith**

long advocate and pioneer for women's rights and for racial and social justice, will be awarded to one exceptional student each year who meets the standards of the WomenNC Interview Committee.

Donations to the Carolyn King CSW Scholarship can be made by writing a check to WomenNC (write Carolyn King CSW in the memo) and mailing it with the completed form below to : WomenNC, 4432 Blueberry Woods Lane, Cary, NC 27518.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Preferred Phone _____

Email _____

Tax-Deductible Contributions

___ \$2300 (Full Scholarship) ___ \$1500 ___ \$1000

___ \$500 ___ \$250 ___ \$150 ___ Other

Community Outreach

NIN offering. We have collected over \$2000 to date.

Crop Walk. CUCC's contribution to CWS was over \$2400.

Wright Center. There are currently 25 - 30 people in the shelter on a regular basis. Summer residence was down because it always drops in the summer plus the shelter had an invasion of bed bugs.

Margaret Osborne and Mary Pruneau are serving in November and **Julia and John Robertson** will serve in December.

Our Young People's Birthdays



11/2/06 – Kestrel McCarthy

11/8/97 – Erin Kiel

11/18/05 – Ian Burkhardt

11/20/08 – Anna Burkhardt

11/26/98 – Hope Davis

12/8/99 – Ben Cole

12/12/01 – Faith Davis

12/22/96 – Katherine Manus

Congratulations

WomenNC is honored to create the **Carolyn King Scholarship Fund** which will support WomenNC's university fellows in their research presentations at the United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women. The scholarship, intended to honor the legacy and example of Carolyn King who is a life-



Emergency food bags:

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

The deadline for our December Newsletter is November 21.

A Month of Sundays

November 6 | Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time y | 9:00-9:30 Taizé; 9:15 Adult Forum; 9:15 Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service with Communion & Church School; Fellowship Time

Lectionary: Josh 24:1-3a, 14-25; Ps 78:1-7 or Wisd of Sol 6:12-16 or Amos 5:18-24; Wisd of Sol 6:17-20 or Ps 70; 1 Thess 4:13-18; Matt 25:1-13

November 13 | Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time | 9:00-9:30 Taizé; 9:15 Adult Forum; 9:15 Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service; Fellowship Time

Lectionary: Judg 4:1-7; Ps 123 or Zeph 1:7, 12-18; Ps 90:1-8 (9-11), 12; 1 Thess 5:1-11; Matt 25:14-30

November 20 | Reign of Christ | 9:00-9:30 Taizé with Communion; 9:15 Adult Forum; 9:15 Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service; 10:45 Church School; Fellowship Time.

Lectionary: Ezek 34:11-16, 20-24; Ps 100; Ps 95:1-7a; Eph 1:15-23; Matt 25:31-46

November 27 | First Sunday of Advent | 9:00-9:30 Taizé; 9:15 Adult Forum; 9:15 Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service; 10:45 Church School; Fellowship Time.

Lectionary: Isa 64:1-9; Ps 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-3