

Needs revising – 12/15/09 cc

## 2009 REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Community United Church of Christ

Raleigh, North Carolina

January 24, 2010

This has been a rather sad year for the board of deacons as several members of Community United Church of Christ (CUCC) have died. Yet, the board followed through with the charge of providing spiritual support for the members of this congregation.

The Deacons were responsible for providing people to read scripture as well as deliver the children's message every Sunday. Members of the board also performed the special and spiritual task of serving communion in the worship services held every first Sunday.

As stated earlier, our congregation had several members pass away. This has led the **Ushers** Committee to create a flexible but standard list of people to help in ushering responsibilities at memorial services and funerals. Also, the number of deaths in our church this past year has led our Caring Committee to work even harder (see Caring Committee Report).

In May the Deacons Ministry helped to arrange for a reception for our graduates. Signed cards were given to each of them as well as some special gifts.

In September the **Arts in Worship** committee led a special worship service which encouraged everyone to know that they have gifts that can be shared. Members of our church talked about how they make use of their gifts both in our church and in the Raleigh Community.

Many thanks go to the **Sacraments and Chancel** committee for their dedicated work in providing and preparing the elements for communion services this past year. Also the effort the committee made in making the sanctuary look beautiful and appropriate for each Sunday is greatly appreciated.

As it supported the other Lenten offerings, this past spring the Deacons Ministry sponsored a tour of the Stations of the Cross which were being displayed at Duke Chapel. The tour was both informative and spiritual. It also related to the series of sermons Rev. Steve Halsted presented on the Stations of the Cross. Together they made the Lenten and Easter season deeply meaningful.

During Advent the Deacons Ministry of CUCC sponsored an evening devoted to guided meditation. A film was presented highlighting advent from an Irish Catholic perspective. Also, a DVD about the birth of Christ created by Lavon Page and Geraldine Bryan was shown. Along with following the meaningful tradition of making stone soup earlier in the evening, the emphasis on meditation made lives much richer.

This past year the deacons officially welcomed Rev. Michael Evans for in care status in our congregation and Maggie Leidheiser Stoddard is in the process of being given in care status. The church has greatly benefited from and has been strengthened by their wonderful ministerial skills.

Members of the Ministry created a survey to what might be done to create better opportunities for connecting beyond the church walls. Although there were some great ideas that came forth, the survey was not responded to very well. The ideas that came forth as well as survey technique will be revisited in 2010.

Respectfully Submitted by Robert Parrish