

## Adult Forum Committee

In 2009, CUCC's Adult Forum continued to study a wide spectrum of issues and organizations and individuals working of social and economic justice and peace. We investigated the origins of our denomination and our own spiritual connections and beliefs. A special emphasis was on the work, activities and interests of our own members and leaders including Cy King, Joan McAllister, Michael Evans, Ed Klemmer, Bob Hazel, Sānti Matthews and Lavon Page. The "Conversations on Race" continued as well as special programs marking and celebrating holidays like Martin Luther King's birthday and Christmas.

A review of the 2009 programs:

Jan. 4 - Film: *A View from the Underside: The Legacy of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*.

Jan. 11 – "Public Financing of Elections and Election Reform", Damon Circosta, *NC Center for Voter Education*

Jan. 18 – Marking the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday; Barack Obama's Philadelphia Speech on Race

Jan. 25 – "What to expect from the NC General Assembly session", Rep. Deborah Ross

Feb. 1 - "Budget challenges for cities and counties", Wake Co. Commissioner Lindy Brown and Raleigh City Councilman Thomas Crowder

Feb. 8 - "A Paradigm shift in dealing with rescued animals", Joan Ott, *AnimalKind* Founder and President, and Beth Livingstone, Executive Director

Feb. 15 – "Building a State of Equality", Ian Palmquist, Executive Director, *EqualityNC*

Feb. 22 – "NC's Public Schools" – Dr. June Atkinson, NC Superintendent of Public Instruction

March 1 – "A Clear and Independent Voice for People with Disabilities", Vicki Barrett Smith, Executive Director, *Disability Rights NC*

March 8 – "Challenges for Wake County Courts", Lorrin Freeman, Wake County Clerk of Court

March 15 - "Walter Rauschenbusch and the Relevance of his Social Gospel Theology", Dr. Janet Nelson, Head of Dept. of Religion and Philosophy, Meredith College

March 22 – *The Healing Place*, Development Director Barrett Joyner and 3 residents

March 29 "Conversation on Race; Muslim Culture and Religion", Dr. Shamim Rahman, Mr. Iyad Hindi and his wife Samar

April 5 – Celebrating Palm Sunday; Sandra Gourdet, Executive for African Missions and LaMarco Cable assistant for advocacy and education for the Congo (DRC).

April 12 – (Easter) No Forum

April 19 - “Situation in Israel and Gaza after recent changes in administrations”, Andy Silver and Steve Edelstein.

April 26 - “Earth to Plate”. Daniel Whitaker, Managing Partner, *Green Planet Catering*

May 3 - “Discussing the Ineffable- The Place of Religion in Mass Media”. Frank Stasio, host of WUNC’s “The State of Things”.

May 10 – Honoring Mother’s Day and a Discussion led by Ed Klemmer on belief in God

May 17 -“Working for Social Justice in NC”, Barbara Goodmon

May 24 – “Conversation on Race; Muslim Religion and Culture” continued

May 31 – “Milawi Mosquito Net program”, Eve & Tom Vitaglione

September 6 - “The Peace Movement: A Little History”, Cy King

September 13 – “The NC Budget: Realities & Inequities”, Chris Fitzsimon from NC Policy Watch

September 20 – Health care debate panel, Lavon Page and Bill Wilson, Assoc. State Director for Advocacy, AARP

September 27 – “Needs of youth transitioning out of foster care”, Joan McAllister, *Links* Program

October 4 – “Future of Wake County Schools”, Board of Education member Dr. Anne McLaurin

October 11 – “Theology and History of UCC”, Michael Evans

October 18 – “*Project Ricochet* and other Human Relations projects”, Abeni El-Amin, Past Chair, Raleigh Human Relations Commission and co-founder of *Project Ricochet*

October 25 - Rev. Sekinah Hamlin, Minister of Anti-racism and Reconciliation for the Disciples of Christ.

November 1 – “Environmental issues and Challenges”, Jessilyn Kemp, Public Alert Organizer, NC Conservation Network

November 8 – “Issues facing our youth”, Śānti Matthews, Youth Minister

November 15 – “Experiences of WW II”, wartime veterans Cy King, Bob Hazel, and Erling Gamble (a Conscientious Objector)

November 22 – “Wake County Commission for Women”, Tammy Martin, chair

November 29 -Thanksgiving, no Forum

December 6 – *StepUp Ministry*, Mary Jane Clark, volunteer

December 13 - "Embedding Human Rights in Communities", Prof. Judith Blau, Professor of Sociology at UNC-CH, is President of Sociologists Without Borders (United States chapter)

December 20 – Maria Murray Riemann reads a Christmas story

December 27 – Christmas, no Forum