

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS



"That They May All Be One"

November 1, 2006

Bi-Weekly Issue

Congregational
United Church of Christ
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Greensboro, NC 27403

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Music Director/Organist

Ms. Charlotte Evans,
Congregational Nurse

Ms. Sarah Downey, Dir.
Children's Music/
Bella A Cappella

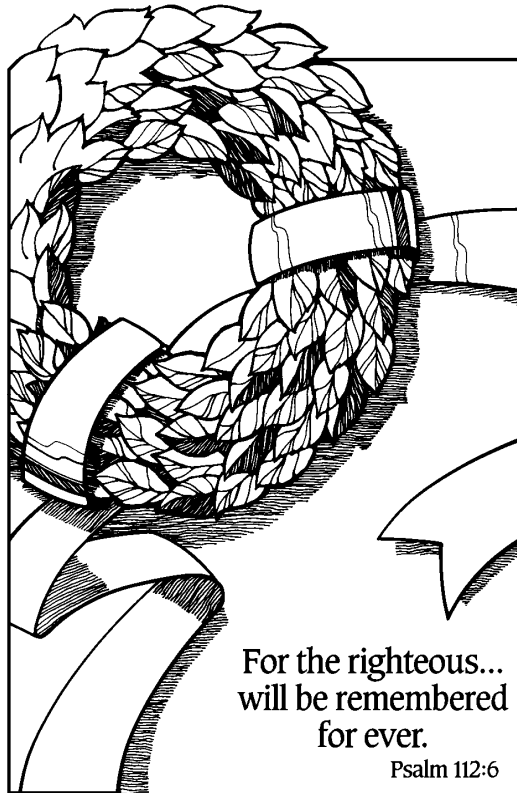
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Sunday School: 9:30 am
Sunday Service: 11:00 am



For the righteous...
will be remembered
for ever.

Psalm 112:6

NOV. 5 ALL SAINTS

BANNER

On Sunday, Nov. 5 we will celebrate All Saints Sunday, a special tradition in our congregation. On All Saints Sunday we give thanks for those whose faith in years past has served to strengthen our own faith journey, we remember in particular those who have died in the past year, and we rejoice that God continues to gather people of faith with us.

In the fellowship hall for the next few weeks you will see a red banner and a small basket of bells. Everyone is invited to pin a bell or bells on the banner in memory of loved ones who have died. This banner and a banner with names of church members will be carried in the procession in worship on Nov.5.

Publication of our next newsletter will be the week of November 14. News and events can be sent to office@congregationalucc.com.

Can't wait for news? Check out our web site, www.congregationalucc.com. It is up-to-date, relevant, interesting, lively, and available 24 hours.

Please note our new email addresses!

FROM YOUR PASTOR

These next two Sundays are rich with meaning in the history of the Christian church. Of course, we bring to them our special CUCC flavor, and they hold personal meanings and memories for many, still All Saints Sunday and Stewardship Sunday spring from the very heart of the Christian message: community and life given in service for others. Christ has shown us how God wants us to live together on this planet: caring for one another, helping to carry each other's burdens, watching out for those who cannot watch out for themselves. We were not put here to live for ourselves alone.

In Protestant belief we are all saints. Yet at certain times we pause to give thanks for those special saints who have shown us that it is indeed possible to live as God designed, those who lived their lives for others, those who taught us with their lives what it means to be a Christ-follower, who loves as God loves us. We

remember all who have died and gone before us whose presence is keenly missed. And we celebrate that God continues to call to us new saints from near and far, and strengthens us for the work of teaching our children well.

All of which also comes under the heading of stewardship, does it not? The letter of First Peter reminds us we are to be good stewards of the grace given to us. Stewardship is about money, finances—make no mistake about it. And, it is much more. Stewardship is the recognition that all good gifts, including the gift of the people who have graced our lives with their love and courage and example, are from God. How we care for (steward) these gifts in gratitude is more about a way of life than a once-a-year thought.

Please join us for all the upcoming Sundays of worship.

JP

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS



Evelyn Chamberlain . . .Roberta Barrow . . Jimmy Perry, son of Dell Perry . . .Lauren Brower . . . Matthew Wagoner, grandson of Margaret Wagoner . . Blanche Harper . . . Beth Haunton, friend of Lorie Tyson . . Megan Cannady . . . Bob White . . . the family of Ann Umstead . . . Marvin Borum

VOLUNTEER RESPONSIBILITIES:

November 5 Lay Reader Jon Michael Aldridge, Fellowship Hour Beth and Harold Ashworth, Nursery Sharon and Clif Karnes

November 12 Lay Reader Hannah Davis, Fellowship Hour Gayle Currie and Leisa Slensby, Nursery Kris Myles and Amanda Wolf

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR UPCOMING SUNDAYS

- Nov 5: Ruth 1:1-18; Ps 146
Heb 9:11-14; Mark 12:28-34.
- Nov 12: Ruth 3:1-5, 13-17; Ps 127;
Heb 9:24-28; Mark 12:38-44.

Note – you can find out more about these readings at our church's website and the Smith Class page:

www.congregationalucc.com/education/

Do you like to bake Bread?



Greensboro Urban Ministry's annual Feast of Caring is coming up on Thursday, Nov 16. Part of the tradition of this great fundraiser and community building event is to have homemade bread and rolls with the wonderful soups. If you would like to make either bread or rolls, please let Ralph Wenger or the church office know by Sunday Nov 5.

Thanks!

A Congregational Welcome

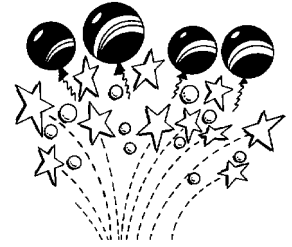
To our newest members:

Ed and Andrea Benz
1309 Crosswinds Drive
High Point, NC 27265

CONGREGATIONAL PROFILES

Included in this newsletter are the latest additions to our Congregational Profiles. Many thanks to Ken Sell for keeping these up to date!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER



4. Dr. James Brewer
8. Roger Gibbs
Sarah Rice
Lewis Duckworth
Brooks Truitt
9. Lynn Wright-Kernodle
11. Becky Bulla
Travis Phillips-Macy
13. Mary Burch
14. Don Bright
20. Bryan Jenkins
Lawrence Lambert
22. Milton Shaw
27. Cindy Caveness Cole
John J. "Jeff" Langston
28. Ruthann Wenger
30. David Powell

We are currently working on an updated birthday list. If your birthday has been omitted, please call or email the church office.

NURSES NOTES

CPR Training:

On Saturday Nov 4 the church will sponsor a training class for CPR and to learn how to use our Automatic Electronic Defibrillator (AED). Call the church office to register.

Charlotte Evans RN, BSN, MN, Congregational Nurse

Stewardship News

It seems every group imaginable is after our money. Public radio and television, politicians, worthy (and maybe some questionable) non-profits, all seeking a share of that 2.2% we give, on average. Readers of this newsletter are not average and we think this church is not average! Our giving ranges from something around \$100 to something around \$12,000, with an average gift from a "regular" giver being \$1362. We have 163 regular givers. Our average pledge is \$2146, and 107 people (individuals or families) pledge. If you regularly give, we would like you to pledge. But, whether or not you pledge, we would like you to consider giving the church more next year than you did this year. How about an additional \$1 a day? At that rate, we would more than meet our budget.

Stewardship is about more than money, though. That may seem unusual, since stewardship is so closely linked with the budget and thus with spending (and giving). But, consider the early church: people were invited to participate and did so without regard to their financial status. The poor and the rich, everyone was welcomed. Indeed, the disciples, the first Christians, spent little time on their own finances (several wealthy women took care of the expenses, look at Luke 8:1-3). The focus in the early church was on living a good and Godly life as a community. These goals should be our goals. We are called to this church to be first a community, to offer what we have and to receive what we need (look at Acts 2:43-47).

Last year, along with our pledge sheets we included a sheet on using one's time. About 90 people responded, offering a variety of things that enhanced our Christian community. How did you do? We'll ask again, and we ask you to take this very seriously. Our lives together, our church itself, is incomplete without you, without your interests and gifts and energies. I am incomplete without *you*, and with *you* we are a better church. So, please consider prayerfully how God has blessed you and what you can offer to your church. Stewardship Sunday is November 12th.

Youth Groups News

Last Sunday the Middle Youth Group was shut out from the corn maze due to inclement weather. Instead, we watched the movie "Akeelah and the Bee" and had an enlightening discussion about people's ability to change, how people become motivated, and persevering in the face of adversity, followed by a lively game of "sharks and minnows." Thank to Jim and Melanie for lunch.

On Sunday the 5th we will try the maze place again! Please let me know if your child(ren) is/are planning on attending, to help me plan for transportation. Cost is \$8.00. We should be done at the maze around 3:30, which would get your sons and daughters home before 5:00. Should it rain, our back-up plan is to stay at the church, and we would be done at 2:30.

We will then be meeting again in November on the 19th after church.

Just a reminder that the middle schoolers/high schoolers meet for Sunday School every Sunday at 10:00 AM. Jeri Rowe and I are sharing the responsibilities for teaching the curriculum, and we welcome any and all of you to come check it out with your offspring, or just send them while you check out Cliff Karnes class that follows the lectionary.

Peace, Rod

Sr. High Youth Group News

Our group met last Sunday at my house, and we had a great conversation!

Next week we will not be meeting on Sunday, but on Tuesday, November 7th, 7:30 pm, at the Green Bean Coffee House. Join us, to honor election day, a school day off, and a cool chance to get together to talk!

Barbara Rice

REMEMBER—STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY!

Stewardship Sunday is November 11. That morning we will begin receiving our pledge forms, by bringing them forward following the sermon. After worship we will have a covered dish luncheon with entertainment! Plan to set aside this day and join us in worship and to break bread together.

Supper Study News

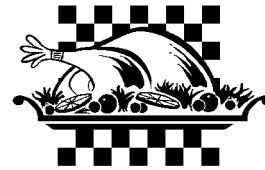
NOVEMBER 8—The Spiritual Development of Children

Charlotte Evans, our congregational nurse, will offer a program on the abundant and rich spiritual development of children. This informative program will be of interest to parents, grandparents, and anyone who works with children.

The meal will be Chicken Pot Pie, salad, fresh fruit and a dessert.

MORE SUPPER STUDY...November 15- Finding the HOLY in the Holidays. With Thanksgiving a week away, and Advent soon to follow, it's not too soon to plan this holiday season with a focus on what matters most. Join us as we share ideas for toning down the craziness and enhancing the joy and peace.

The meal will be a Thanksgiving Preview.



Treasurer's Report

	September	Year to Date
Income	24,221.85	208,499.47
Expenses	33,215.89	239,478.42
Difference	(8,993.89)	(31,478.42)

Financial Secretary's Report

Income for October

October	Regular offering	Total
8	3,785.32	5,350.32
15	4,511.50	5,277.60
22	2,788.00	3,044.25
29	4,605.00	5,655.76

BOARD NEWS

From the Board of Management – Linda DeShazo

Have you ever wondered what the responsibilities of your church Boards and Council are? Below are a few of the duties that fall under Board of Management. Remember that this board is made up of nine members and a Chair. As you can see from the partial list of duties, **there are many chores with few hands**. Surely some of you will see some tasks listed below where you have strengths. Please let your BOM members know of your **“willing hands”** so that we can keep our churches needs met.

- Deal with all personnel issues; vacancies, advertisements, applications, interviews hiring, raises, performance appraisals, etc.
- Yard care – weeding, mowing, flowers, pruning, removing undergrowth from the parking lot
- Vacuum air vents of appliances to remove dust. Change air filters annually for the heating unit.
- Periodically purge closets throughout the church.
- Ensure that the copy machine, computer system, and heating and air conditioning systems work.
- Make sure that the lights outside on the walkway, those that shine on the steeple and those that shine on other signs work.
- Ensure that the bulbs inside the sanctuary, fellowship hall, classrooms, etc. are all working.
- Cut back the undergrowth on all outside church signs.
- Replace rugs or carpets, as needed, throughout the church. Get floors waxed and carpets cleaned as needed and provide oversight for housekeeping issues.
- Ensure that we have copy paper and toilet tissue as needed.
- Be responsible for all building interior and exterior changes and up-fits, inclusive of roofing and painting.
- Coordinate mandatory audits of the churches financial records.
- Ensure that the church phone is being answered.
- Coordinate the stewardship campaign for fall.
- Oversee the audio system for the sanctuary and fellowship hall.
- Review and approve outside use of the church facilities.



Board of Christian Education – by Sankey Moore-Painter

The board is planning the annual Advent Workshop on December 3rd, from 4-6:30 pm. There will be a soup dinner afterward and a grand finale of lighting the outside Christmas tree! Everyone is welcome to attend!

Christmas Tree Fans – As you know last year we had a wonderful tree, courtesy of Sterling and Barbara Whitener, and Bill Guill and Milton Shaw. This year, the Board of Christian Education wants to continue this great event, but they need some help. Anyone have a trailer that could be used to fetch a tree from the Whitener estate? Anyone have some time to fetch a tree? To help wrap lights around a tree? Any fans of brilliantly lit outdoor trees who want to donate some funds to help buy lights (a very long and sad story about last year’s lights, but suffice it to say we need more lights). Contact Sankey, and we will put your good efforts to great effect. Our tree lighting ceremony, with hot chocolate and cookies and carols, will be following the Advent Workshop on December 3rd.

Men's Prayer Breakfast Retreat

For over a year, the Men's Prayer Breakfast has met every Friday. Now, we are branching out a little to announce a Men's Prayer Breakfast Retreat. The event will be on **Saturday, November 11, from 10-3**, at St. Francis Springs Prayer Center in Stoneville. We will eat, talk, pray, contemplate the beautiful setting of a beautiful season in our state, with beautiful men from our church, and free from the pressures of work and other obligations. You don't have to be a breakfast regular to attend; we know that for some we meet too early and for others we meet too late. All men are welcome! **The cost will be \$20**, which will include lunch, and reservations are required. Speak with Paul if you want more information or wish to attend.

Thursday Theology at Rioja's

Conversations about religion in our lives. 4:30-6:30.
TRY IT!

Men's Prayer Breakfast

We meet every Friday at 7 am, at Oakcrest Family Restaurant, on Battleground Avenue and Oakcrest Avenue. Men and boys welcome!

Higher Ground

Our next opportunity to serve will be Tuesday, Nov. 7. See Ish Whitfield for details.

WORLD COMMUNITY DAY — CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

SATURDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 4TH AT 10 AM

FIRST MORAVIAN CHURCH

304 South Elam Avenue

All are invited to attend this special program entitled, "Signs of healing." The women's Interfaith Institute of Seneca, N.Y. has prepared the materials which will help us gain a new perspective on differences and guide us toward the common ground which unites us.

Since its founding as a racially, culturally and theologically inclusive organization, Church Women United has celebrated unity. Join us as we try to discover new ways to connect in our own ever more diverse society and our increasingly fractured world.

If you need transportation, call Eileen Stirling, 852-0170. This program will not include lunch.

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