

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS



"That They May All Be One"

November 15, 2006

Bi-Weekly Issue

Congregational
United Church of Christ
400 West Radiance Drive
Greensboro, NC 27403

Rev. Julie Peeples,
Senior Pastor
Julie@congregationalucc.com

Rev. William C. Smith,
Pastor Emeritus

Rev. Paul Davis,
Minister for Christian
Education
Paul@congregationalucc.com

Mr. Woodson Faulkner,
Music Director/Organist

Ms. Charlotte Evans,
Congregational Nurse

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

Ms. Sharen Apple,
Office Manager
Office@congregationalucc.com

Church Phone:
336-274-5378 and 274-0838
Fax: 336-370-0297

Church email:
Office@congregationalucc.com

Website:
www.congregationalucc.com

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

Stewardship Sunday was marked by Nancy Prairie, who in her testimony/stewardship moment told us of her journey growing up



in this church. She recounted just a few of the people who have touched her life (she said she has an even longer list of those she forgot to mention!), members and friends, family and role models. Later in worship, many came forward to bring their pledges and to receive prayer. It was a "touching" worship service. We hugged, held hands, heads touching in

groups of four and five, praying and offering thanks. God does touch us. Indeed, as we sang Sunday, we have

built a house where love dwells, where all are welcome. 2007 Commitment Forms are available in the office and in the sanctuary. Join us in celebrating this "house", our church, and giving thanks to God through our gifts. And, thanks!



The First Men's Prayer Breakfast Retreat was a smashing success. Thirteen men attended, including four who do not participate in the breakfasts. We all met for breakfast, and drove to the splendid retreat center St. Francis Springs. We talked and prayed, we walked in the woods and ate lunch, we spoke of Jesus and some of the challenges in our lives, and we ended with communion. Special thanks to Mike Dorko, Bill Smith, and Paul Davis, who provided leadership for this wonderful day!



Publication of our next newsletter will be the week of November 29. 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.

FROM YOUR PASTOR

My Prayer of Thanksgiving:

For bright blue autumn days and that line of golden trees I pass on my way to church each day, I thank you God.

For beautiful Sudanese faces singing heartfelt praises to you, and for a congregation feeling your Spirit within them so much that they moved to the rhythm and clapped in joy, I thank you God.

For your people, bringing forward a card with a promise, a commitment to give back to you for your great love, I thank you God.

For those who quietly come and set up tables, plant pansies, teach, feed, learn music, make crafts, fix things, work with computers and websites, and the

hundreds of other things folks do to keep things going well here, I thank you God.

For those who are no longer able to worship with us but who enrich us with their stories and their wisdom, I thank you God.

For the young ones who draw me pictures and know where the candy is hidden and are closer to your heart than we often remember, I thank you God.

For the subtle and not-so-subtle ways you remind me, on those days I start to get overwhelmed, just why we are here and why we are a church together, I thank you God.

For family and friends, for life and health and daily bread, I thank you O God. JP

HIGHER GROUND NOV. 28

Our congregation's next opportunity to serve lunch at Higher Ground will be on Tuesday, Nov. 28. If you've never been to Higher Ground, come join us! This very special home-like setting on Bessemer Ave near Elm St. serves men and women dealing with HIV. They come for a meal and good fellowship. If you can't join us, donations of food are welcome too – you can bring them to church by 10:00 Tues. morning or drop them off there. Call Ishmael Whitfield for details.



Dear Friends,

How wonderful it is to have friends like you to help us! Not only did you come to our aid with a margarine donation, but also it came at a time when the needs are again escalating. We are so grateful for friends like your congregation who help with the needs of the hurting and needy in the community. Our community is very

fortunate to have those who will respond to the needs of others, and you were there at just the right time.

As Director of the Food Distribution Center, I am reminded daily of the many families in our area who are in need, and with donors such as you, these needs are met. We are indeed grateful to you folk for the donation.

Sincerely,
Pat Spain
Greensboro Urban Ministry
Food Bank

**LECTIONARY READINGS FOR
UPCOMING SUNDAYS**

Nov 19: 1 Sam 1:4-20; Heb 10:11-14, 19-25; Mark 13:1-8.

Nov 26: 2 Sam 23:1-7; Ps 132; Rev 1:4b-8; John 18:33-37.

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

www.congregationalucc.com/education/

VOLUNTEER RESPONSIBILITIES:

November 19 Lay Reader Ann Buffington, Fellowship Hour Fran Ditto and Ann Buffington, Nursery Sharon Montanus and Fran Ditto.

November 26 Lay Reader Ted Fields, Fellowship Hour Judy Groves, Nursery Tricia Sutter and Becky Fleisher.

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 . . . Marvin Borum



ALL SAINTS DAY



Following our beautiful Sunday Church, it is fitting to remember The reading for November 5, following reminder:

"The United Church has been saints, and by an even longer back 20 centuries. The recently Heritage of the United Church of Christ' keeps alive the memory of those saints in seven substantial volumes.

The first volume was published by Pilgrim Press in 1995, the seventh and last in 2005. LTH spans an arc that reaches from the earliest followers of Jesus to the dawn of the 21st century, taking the reader on a journey through time and space. Each volume begins with a cogent historical essay—but the collection's true value is that it allows the saints to speak with their own voice.

When the completed series was dedicated at General Synod in 2005, a child presented the lead editor with filled with blank theological heritage is the next generation chapter"



celebration of ALL SAINTS in our the saints of our UCC denomination. 2006 in our Calendar of Prayer has the

graced for 50 years by countless chain of spiritual ancestors reaching completed "Living Theological the memory of those saints in seven

"volume eight"—a book pages. The UCC's not dead, but living, and will write a new

Congregational UCC Book Group

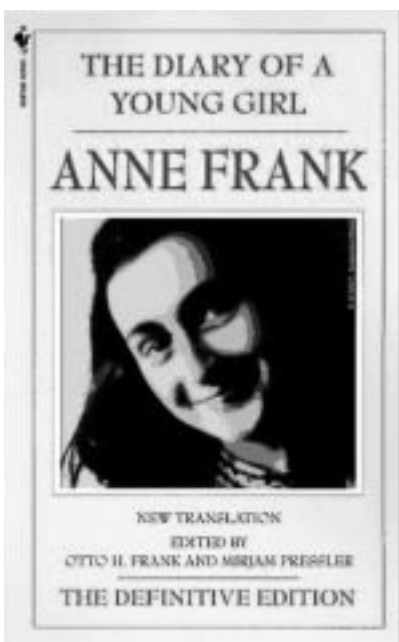
The CUCC book group meets in the CUCC parlor on the forth Sunday of each month after worship at 12:30 p.m. Those who wish to can bring a bag lunch. All are welcome. Below you'll find some details of upcoming and past meetings, books, and related information.

The Diary of a Young Girl: The Definitive Edition By Anne Frank

When: Sunday, November 19, 12:30 p.m.

Where: CUCC parlor

Book: *The Diary of a Young Girl: The Definitive Edition*. Otto M. Frank (Editor), Mirjam Pressler (Editor), Susan Massotty (Translator)



Not on Our Watch - Responses to the Genocide in Darfur

Ralph Wenger – Board of Christian Service

A couple of weeks ago a member of our congregation emailed me asking what the Board of Christian Service and our church as a whole was doing about the horrors occurring on a daily basis in the Darfur province of Sudan. She had just seen the 60 Minutes report of the atrocities in Darfur.

Well, what were we doing? The Board had helped organize and provided leadership for the Greensboro Dear Sudan Campaign. But as I had admitted in a Letter to the Editor of the News and Record the benefits of that humanitarian effort were inadequate and short lived. I would like to put forth several proposals. I am for implementing a number of them.

1. Let President Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice know that we expect the United States to stand up and take a leadership role in pressuring the Sudanese government. Reportedly President Bush wrote in red ink in the margin of the report of the genocide in Rwanda “Not on my watch”. We need to help him meet his own commitment. Efforts to do this have not been successful to date, but with the significantly changed political landscape in Washington, it is possible that he will be more responsive for a call to action. Click on www.ucctakeaction.org/darfurhelp to send a message to President Bush and Secretary of State Rice telling them to put pressure on the Sudanese government to allow United Nations peace keepers and humanitarian aid workers into Darfur.
2. Develop a local Save Darfur group. Are there three to four members of our congregation that would be willing/able to commit some time to help organize a Greensboro-based group that would raise awareness and seek avenues for action?
3. Organize a free four-week Bible study on genocide. Information about the study can be accessed at www.dearsudan.org/kit.htm.
4. Order and display a “Call to your conscience: Save Darfur banner for our church. At an individual level you can show your support of Darfur by wearing a Save Darfur wristband. The wristband is green and inscribed with the words: Not on Our Watch – Save Darfur. I will give the first 10 youth and the first 8 adults who indicate an interest a free wristband.

Pray for the victims of the genocide and for Sudan’s President Omar al-Bashir that his heart will be opened and he will intercede to stop the genocide.

Please let one of the Board of Christian Service members or me know which, if any, of the above strategies you would like to see our church adopt. You can see me at church or email me at rwenger@triad.rr.com.

COFFEE HOUR EVENT TO BENEFIT VETERANS

Cindy Hyatt and her cousin are involved in a good effort to offer some Christmas cheer for homeless veterans each year. A meal and a Christmas stocking are provided for about 100 veterans. To help raise money for this special event, there will be a sale at coffee hour on Sunday, Dec. 3 of items that have been donated to raise money for this cause. Items include purses, totes, make-up bags, and some jewelry. 100% of the money raised will be used for this effort, sponsored by the non-profit group "The Walking Wounded," which works to honor service members and veterans.



Treasurer's Report October 31, 2006 Summary of Income and Expense

<u>2006</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Income over Expense</u>
Month of October	\$ 22,217.82	\$ 21,983.63	\$ 234.19
October YTD	\$230,717.29	\$261,961.52	(\$31,244.23)
<u>2005</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Income over Expense</u>
October YTD	\$211,725.31	\$221,479.60	(\$9,754.29)
November YTD	241,921.62	240,760.77	1,160.85
December YTD	275,859.25	270,886.32	4,972.93

Most notable in the above summary is the larger budget deficit through October — a difference of \$21,490 (\$31,244 vs. \$9,754) — compared to 2005.

In 2005, we gained \$14,727 — from a deficit of \$9,754 to a surplus of \$4,973 — in the last two months. Can we gain more than \$31,000 (income over expense) in the last two months of 2006?

We have come to expect income in excess of expense in the last quarter of every year. This has been the pattern because some members delay, for some reason(s), payment of their pledges until late in the year. With only two months remaining, we can only encourage completion of your pledge as soon as possible. Consider also, if you will, a contribution in excess of your pledge so we can eliminate, or at least minimize, the possible year-end budget deficit.

ANNUAL BUDGET HEARING DEC. 10

The annual budget hearing for our congregation will be Sunday, December 10 at 9:00 a.m. Refreshments will be available before the meeting begins. We will take a vote on the proposed budget for the coming year, and will also elect our board members and officers for 2007. Members are encouraged to come, visitors are welcome.

Financial Secretary's Report

Income for November		
November	Regular offering	Total
5	6,437.00	8,020.00
12	3,213.00	3,865.00

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!



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MILLERS!

Anna and David Miller are the proud parents of a baby girl, Lillianna Faith Miller, who entered this world on Saturday, Nov. 11, weighing 8 pounds 8 ounces. Proud big sister is Rosie Miller. Their address is:

502 Walleyford Drive
Berea, OH 44017



Christmas Post Office

The Jordan/Wisseman Class Christmas Post Office will be in operation Sunday, December 3, 10 and 17.

Bring cards that you would normally send to local church members to the "Post Office," which will be set up in the back of the Fellowship Hall. You can then deposit the money that you would pay for postage with any of the class members. Also, whether you send cards or not, please remember to check for cards that may be sent to you. We would like as many cards as possible to be picked up by December 20th.

The money collected for postage is used for many worthy class projects.

«First Name» «Last Name»
«1st Line Address»
«2nd Line Address»
«City», «St» «Zip»

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