

Mentoring Program

Special Friends

A dozen years ago or so our church started a program called Special Friends. We plan to revive this wonderful program, with a kick-off meeting on February 25th. Special Friends pairs children from ages 4-14 with adults of the church. It is a combination Big Brother/Big Sister, mentoring, and buddy system, all rolled into one. For the younger people, it gives them a friendly adult face to look for at church; for the older people, it gives them a friendly youthful face to look for. Special Friends pairs have exchanged Christmas and birthday cards and presents, gone to movies and meals, attended sports contests and visited museums, sat together in worship, laughed and cried and



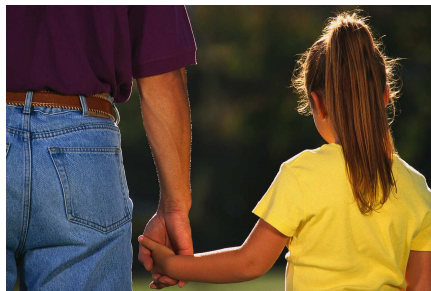
Church Boards & Council

Orientation Meeting

All Boards of the Church: We will have a special Orientation meeting on Sunday, February 11, from 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm. Lunch will be provided.

The two purposes to this meeting are to talk about how the church functions as an organization, and to do some planning for the year.

To accomplish the first goal, we will meet together with the Staff, who will be there armed with infor-



prayed together, as they shared their lives with one another.

Interested? We hope so. We will need about twenty adults to be pair with our twenty children in this cohort. We will have a sign-up table in Fellowship Hall, or you can speak with Karl Schleunes or Beth Hoagland. The young people, and their parents, will receive letters this week inviting them.

We will all meet together on Sunday, February 25, at 5-7.30 pm. Supper will be provided. We will meet one another, eat together, and play some board games together.

In other cultures, these special adults would be uncles and aunts, terms of distinction. Here, we hope you will be a Special Friend.

mation and handouts. Toward the second goal, the individual boards will meet to do some dreaming and planning for the coming year.

Please plan to join us, and let us know by contacting the office to make a reservation. There will even be a couple door prizes!

The next regularly scheduled meetings of the Boards will be on Tuesday, February 27th, beginning at 6:45 p.m.



Congregational
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Worship Schedule

General Assembly: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Refreshments: 12:00 a.m.

Our Mission

As people of Congregational United Church of Christ, we seek to witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, accepting God's call to be a true community of love, compassion, and nurture.

Visitors

Congregational United Church of Christ is a warm, welcoming congregation that is always happy to receive visitors. To help you feel as comfortable and at-home as possible when you visit us, we've put together some information on what the Congregational experience is like — how to get to the church, what to wear (which is pretty much anything you'd like), nursery and Sunday school hours, and more. For details, check out our Visitor Page at our website: www.congregationalucc.com/about/visitors.php.

Our Next Newsletter

Deadline: Friday, February 9
Publication: The week of February 11

News and events can be sent to office@congregationalucc.com.

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

Lectionary Readings

February 4, 2007

Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13)
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

February 11, 2007

Jeremiah 17:5-10
Psalm 1 (Ps. 1:3)
1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Luke 6:17-26



Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Pastor Emeritus

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Drop-In Hours: Wed., 10-11:30 am
Home Visits: Thursdays

Ms. Sarah Downey
Director Children's Music
Bella A Cappella

Ms. Regina Hayes
Nursery Director

Ms. Judy Page
Office Manager
office@congregationalucc.com
Office Hours: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Monday thru Wednesday & Friday

Mr. Sankey Moore-Painter
Treasurer
treasurer@congregationalucc.com

Ministries

- Bible Study
- Children & Adult Choir
- Handbell Choir
- Youth Programs
- Women's Fellowship
- Adult Fun Club

Outreach Programs

- Greensboro Urban Ministry
- Mobile Meals
- Habitat for Humanity
- Potter's House
- Higher Ground
- and many more . . .

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From the Pastor

Choose to Love as God Loves



A number of people have asked for copies of the prayer I used as part of my sermon recently, so I am including it

at the end of this column. I am grateful for all the comments, and again, all the support and prayers during a difficult time in the life of our congregation as we suffered the loss of three cherished members. I know that the families deeply appreciate your support and prayers as well.

We had a good annual meeting, and as a congregation that strives to operate on faith and good stewardship, we pledge to support both our budget and all the wonderful folks elected to lead for the coming year!

Even though the threatening weather forced us to cancel the program with Adora Lee, missionary to South Africa and AIDS consultant for Southern Africa, about a dozen of us enjoyed dinner with her and the chance to hear her stories. Some of what she shared left us almost speechless; the extent of suffering she has witnessed is profound. Yet powerful, too, were her stories of the difference people – individuals, church groups and congregations – can make in the lives of those whose hardships we can scarcely imagine.

So much comes down to choices. Will we choose to care or turn away? To become engaged in the lives around us or be an observer? To criticize or help make things better? Already, in just one month of this new year, members of this church have chosen to make a difference in a wide variety of ways: some have served meals to hungry neighbors, some traveled to D.C. to speak out against the war in Iraq,

some have been sitting by the beds of those who are ill to offer comfort, some are working to raise awareness about Darfur, others are sponsoring someone in a twelve-step group, many are praying on a daily basis. The list goes on and on.

The choice is always ours: what we will do with each precious moment, what our attitude shall be, whether or not we will make room for grace, for the working of the Holy Spirit through it all. We have, God willing, eleven months left in the year. Just imagine the opportunities!

—Julie Peeples



Among Our Members

Beatrice Allen, daughter of Beth Kuoni and Mike Allen, recently collected nearly 700 pounds of food for the food pantry at Greensboro Urban Ministry. This was a part of her senior project and the folks at Urban Ministry were very appreciative. Good work, Beatrice!

*Loving God,
You have led us to this place
Not to shield us from heartache
And the pain of human life,
But to heal us and inspire us,
And to gently redirect us,
Till we see the world as you do
And love it with your love.
Amen.*

(From the Iona Community Worship Book)



Education Notes

Teacher Needed



We are in desperate need of a Primary Sunday School teacher. Katharine Martin needs to take a break to help care for her mother.

Working on a rotation schedule is definitely possible. If you can help, please speak with Paul.

Mark Your Calendar

Planning ahead? Here are some Christian Ed dates to remember.

- The All Church Retreat held at Blowing Rock Conference Center (the BRAG Retreat) will be September 28-30. Deposits and reservations are due by July 15. Cost will be \$253 for two people to a room, with food. Reservation forms will be on the board outside Paul's office with more pricing details.
- Our Intergenerational Vacation Bible School is likely to be the week of July 22-28. Last year we had events throughout the week, and we probably will do the same this year.
- Christmas will be December 25, making Christmas Eve a Monday.

News & Notes

Annual Meeting, Youth, Finances

Annual Meeting Notes

The 2007 budget of \$330,975 was adopted at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 28th, 2007. This is a 3% increase over last year. Other items of business:

- Lori Welch was elected as the new member-at-large
- Barbara Whitener was elected to fill Fleta Moffitt's place on the Board of Deacons
- Three new Life Deacons were named: Maxine Pruett, Evelyn Sell and John Taylor
- Flowers and thanks were given to the four members leaving the Council: Sherrill Hall, Sankey Moore-Painter, Milton Shaw and Lorie Tyson
- The 2006 Annual Report was distributed. Additional copies are available at the church office.



Youth Group

Middle School Youth will meet at church on Sundays, February 11th and 25th from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

The Senior High Youth Group will not be having a Souper Bowl event this year. Sorry—too many church meals and too much traveling!

Looking for Help

Volunteers are needed for the Fifth Sunday Koinonia Group. Due to retirement of many of our group, we are down to two folks. In order for us to continue having coffee hour on that fifth Sunday, we need more people.

Typically, in a year, you would only have to serve one to two times. Please contact Cynthia Brewer if you can help (605-6981 or schnauzers4cb@aol.com – *put CUCC in subject line*).

Margarine or Butter Needed

Please remember to bring margarine or butter to fulfill our commitment to Greensboro Urban Ministry. They use it for their regular meal and food distribution programs. Thank you!

Please Pray For...

Roberta Barrow, Lauren Brower, Megan Cannady, Evelyn Chamberlain, Bob Crews (Cathy Wheeler's father), Ruby Duncan, Ted Fields, Barbara Fillipeli (sister of Reese Kent), Blanche Harper, Beth Haunton (friend of Lorie Tyson), Todd Mitchell, The Family of Fleta Moffitt, The Family of Dell Perry, Ethan Pressmann, Isabelle Pursell (mother of Brenda Schleunes), Flake Shaw III (brother of Milton Shaw), Barbara Wagner (mother of Katherine Martin), Matthew Wagoner (grandson of Margaret Wagoner), The Family of Bob White

Weekly Income	01/21/07	01/28/07
Regular Offering—Adults	2,144.00	4,033.00
Regular Offering—Children	.50	—
Loose Offering	96.00	372.00
Initial Offering Envelopes	10.00	21.00
Memorial Fund	275.00	285.00
Use of Church	—	25.00
Transplant Fund	—	409.80
Bray Income/Nurse	—	25.00
Dear Sudan Project	—	42.50
Total	2,525.50	5,213.30

Reminder: Giving statements are available in the Fellowship Hall. Please help us save postage by picking up this envelope containing useful tax information.



Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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Thank you for worshipping with us.
Please join us again!

Celebrating a Birthday

February

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 3 Irwin Smallwood | 19 Bill Guill |
| 4 Lib Basham | 21 Alexandra Simpson |
| 5 Martha Hall | 22 David Ridge |
| 6 Kimberly Simpson | 23 JoAnne Simpson |
| 8 Barbara Rice | Ishmael Whitfield |
| 9 Elizabeth Rowe | 26 Reid Matthews |
| 11 Jill Mikels (Driver) | 27 Ann Nelson |
| Joann Myrick | 28 Nancy Prairie |
| 13 Bill Powell | 29 Lou Boyles |
| 18 Paul Macy | Kathy Rice |



If you would like to be added to our birthday list, please let the office know.



To My Church Family,
Sincere thanks from me and my family for all the condolences, calls, cards, visits, food, etc., extended to us upon the death of my sister, Fleta. All of your warm, loving gestures make such a tragedy a little easier to bear.

Most sincerely,
*Barbara Hollifield
and Family*

FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS

	February 4	February 11	February 18	February 25
Lay Reader	Alice Franks	Beth Hoagland	Kate Larson	Nancy Glenz
Nursery	Susan Lane Lynn Magyar	Karl Schleunes Linda DeShazo	Nancy Prairie Ann Barton	Katherine Rowe Jenny Grayer
Coffee Hour	Kate Larson Ish Whitfield	Barbara & Sterling Whitener	Nancy & Chip Prairie	TBA
Ushers	Frank Kuester, Reese Kent, John Taylor, Charles Hertlein			