

Our Tragic Loss

In Memory of Isa and Jorge

I don't recall the exact moment, but I remember the feeling. Sometime early in September I had the very certain sense we had indeed found the right candidate for Music Director of Congregational UCC. It may have been when she sang in worship, or perhaps earlier, during her "try-out" rehearsal with the choir, or when the two of us met to talk things through. But she was the one.



Isa felt it too, and said many times she considered it a "God thing," our having been led in this direction together. Isa and her beloved Jorge felt at home here right from the beginning. They received our congregation's warmth, acceptance, humor, and strength as a needed gift, and in return they offered us an abundance of laughter, energy, friendship, and glorious, beautiful music.

When this all came to an end so abruptly on Saturday it was far, far too soon. That was most certainly not a "God thing," but a horrific tragedy brought on by a drunk driver whose circumstances we have yet to learn. As a wise

theologian once said, "God does not necessarily will all things, but God does will good to come through all things." That is true in this sad situation as well.

God is clearly already at work bringing forth good from this loss. In the hugs, the gentle words, the tears shared among friends and strangers, the beautiful music on Sunday, the wonderful memories, the way we are all pulling together and doing whatever is needed and helpful – the list goes on. I want to especially thank the choir and Amy for their courage on Sunday. You blessed us. The Spirit is holding us all, binding us even closer, spreading the first gentle touches of healing balm.

In time, we will find a new Music Director. God will no doubt be in that, too. Our music program will continue to be strong, will continue to grow. We will worship and sing and laugh again. But for now, we grieve together. We will hold their families in our daily prayers.

We will not forget Isa and Jorge. In their time here they brought us so much and became such an integral part of our lives. We will forever honor them with our music, our warm acceptance of all whom God sends our way, and our constant trust in the God whom they loved and trusted, the God who wept last Saturday and who is carrying us through this difficult time to more joyous days ahead. As Easter proclaims, death is not the last word. The God of love and life reigns still.

—Julie Peebles



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 p.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, Mar. 21
Publication: Wednesday, Mar. 26

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

March 30, 2008

Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16
I Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

April 6, 2008

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
I Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35



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10:00-11:00 am
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Ms. Sarah Downey
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Monday thru Wednesday & Friday

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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Education Notes

New Books, Art, Green Team



For the Children's Moment this past Sunday, I read from the book, *Waterbugs and Dragonflies: Explaining Death to Young Children*,

by Doris Stickney. A copy of the book will be on the library cart Sunday, and the text is available at several websites, including this one: <http://belovedhearts.com/stories/Doris-WaterbugsandDragonflies-632617144169637500.aspx>.

—Paul Davis

New Books in the Church Library

Bass, Diana Butler - *Christianity for the Rest of Us*

Borg, Marcus J. - *Jesus*

Keener, Craig S. - *A Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew*

Harrington, Daniel J. - *The Gospel of Matthew*

Wright, N.T. (Tom) - *The New Testament and the People of God*

Look for these books (and others) on the library cart in the Fellowship Hall.

Art at Our Church

In conjunction with ArtBeat Greensboro, our church is going to devote Sunday, May 4 to the arts. We will have a gospel choir in worship, we will have a "Tent of Hope" (a project that benefits relief efforts in Darfur, which we will decorate beginning that day), and a display of art created by our members and friends.

Are you a poet, a painter, a weaver, a writer, a woodworker, a sculptor, a photographer, a drawer? We would like to display your art that day. The works need not be religious, nor do they need to be museum quality. We firmly believe

that the creative impulse both comes from God and is nestled within each one of us, that this creative spirit is active in our church, and is an idea worthy of our attention as Christians.

So bring your art, bring your willingness to look at art, and join us that day for the conversation!

Work Trip

Interested in participating on a work trip this summer? Two possible weeks being considered are July 20-27, and August 10-16. Please speak with Paul if you are interested.



Green Church Team

We have several new recycle bins in the building: one in the Narthex for paper, one in the kitchen for plastic, cans, and paperboard, and one in Fellowship Hall for spent batteries, spent compact fluorescent bulbs, and spent ink cartridges. The Team will help you recycle! And the Team, the next two Sundays, will help you save the church time and money, by signing you up to stop receiving a paper version of the newsletter through the mail and to receive an electronic notification that the latest newsletter is available on the internet.

The next meeting of the Green Church Team will be Thursday, April 10, at 6:30 pm. We will view the film, "Wild Caught: The Life and Struggles of an American Fishing Town." This is a feature-length documentary that explores the lives of small-scale commercial fishermen living in Snead's Ferry, North Carolina. The film will be shown at the Weatherspoon Art Museum (corner of Spring Garden and Tate Streets). We hope you will join us!

Montagnards, Heritage Luncheon, Peace Conference

New Baby On The Way For The Hmoks!

Our Montagnard family is expecting a baby very, very soon. Some in the congregation have already made wonderful donations of baby items and funds, including our Women's Fellowship. If you would like to help out, checks can be made to the church, marked for "Montagnard Fund." Gently used baby clothes will also be welcomed!

Heritage Luncheon and Planned Giving Event

The Stewardship Committee will hold a special luncheon on Sunday, May 18, following worship. That day we will honor those members who have been active in our church for more than 40 years, and whose dedication and effort have been a wonderful gift to our congregation. We'll have a special commemorative program (with copies of old pictures from the Achieves) and a slide show. We will also talk about other ways people can make wonderful gifts to our church. The luncheon will be free and everyone is invited. Our honored members and family will be our guests. The rest of us will be asked to bring a covered dish, as our way of expressing a small token of our deep appreciation to those who have given and done so much for our church. Save the date . . . more to come!



The choir and congregation singing the Easter anthem, *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*.

Time To Break The Silence: Southern Churches And War

April 4-5, 2008

New Garden Friends Meeting
801 New Garden Road

New Garden Friends Meeting, in cooperation with Quaker House in Fayetteville and other Friends Meetings are hosting a Peace Conference April 4-5, 2008.

This conference is being held on the 41st anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's powerful speech "Beyond Vietnam — A Time to Break the Silence."

With workshops, panels, and a concluding concert by John McCutcheon, the conference will examine how the spirit of war has corrupted the gospel of Christ, and consider how the church can seek repentance and return to being true followers of the Prince of Peace.

On Friday evening, Logie Meachum and the Gospel Choir of Persimmon Grove AME Church will present special Gospel music. Logie Meachum and Linda Whisnant will continue with dramatic readings from Martin Luther King, Jr.'s powerful speech, "Beyond Vietnam — A Time to Break the Silence," and Charles Marsh's new book, *Wayward Christian Soldiers*, which challenges the promotion of war and militarism by too many churches, especially in the

south. A panel of ministers will respond, followed by open discussion.

On Saturday, workshops will be offered throughout the day based on the theme, Time to Break the Silence: Southern Churches and War. Morning coffee time and lunch will provide opportunities for conversations. You are also invited to unprogrammed worship prior to the workshops.

The conference will end with John McCutcheon in concert Saturday evening.

For more information, call 292-5487 or e-mail newgardoff@aol.com.



April Birthdays

- 2 Ann Steldt
- 4 Keith Taylor
- 4 Gayle Currie
- 5 Melinda Matthews
- 6 Rhonda Davis
- 8 Camille Prairie
- 10 Jeremy Rains
- 12 Anne Kent
- 12 Bob Kingston
- 14 Yueh-Miao Anderson
- 16 Eleanor Lambert
- 16 Susan Lane
- 16 Elyse Topkins
- 18 Becky Taylor
- 18 Zo Tanczo
- 20 Isabelle Powell
- 20 Billy Humphrey
- 20 Ralph Wenger
- 21 Aaron Rice
- 21 Karl Schleunes
- 23 H. O. Williams, Jr.
- 23 Mary Jo Pruett
- 23 Ruby Duncan
- 24 Barbara Whitener
- 24 David Senkus
- 24 Tim Rains
- 29 Kenneth Sell

Choir Rehearsals, Know Your Church, Supper Study

Children's Choir will not rehearse on Sunday, March 30. Rehearsal will resume Sunday, April 6th, from 9:15 to 9:45 am.

Bella A Cappella will resume rehearsal Monday, March 31, from 6:00 to 7:00 pm.



Easter Breakfast

Many thanks to all who helped with the Ham Breakfast: Charlie Hertlein, Ish Whitfield, Clif Karnes, Harold Ashworth, Mike Dorko, Paul Davis, Randy Yardley, Sankey Moore Painter, Sticky Burch, and John Nance.

Know Your Church: The Board of Christian Service

The Church has four Boards that carry out much of the non-paid work of the Church.



Ralph Wenger chairs the nine member board of Christian Service. This board is responsible for identifying and implementing

needs and opportunities for service in our community, the nation and the world. This board also identifies matters relating to social justice and the mission of the church. This is the third year that Ralph heads this board. The chair of this board is a member of the church council.

Supper Study Schedule

April 2: Special Musical Guest

We will welcome Rebecca Schaeffer as she comes to sing for us. Rebecca is from Germany, and a friend of Rev. Chris Burr, a UCC minister in Lexington. Chris is quite enthused about the musical talents of this young woman, who happens to be blind yet plays several instruments. *Menu: Covered Dish*

April 9:

China: What We Need to Know Now

Join us for an engaging two-part series led by our own Sterling Whitener and Jamie Anderson, both extremely knowledgeable on the subject!

Menu: Lasagna, Salad, Rolls

April 16: China, Part Two

Menu: Chicken Pot Pie, Salad

April 23: To Be Announced

Menu: Baked Fish, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable, Salad, Bread, and Dessert

April 30:

Healthy Communications

Rebecca Starnes from the Family Life Council will lead a program on fostering good communications in relationships.

Menu: To be determined

General Supper Study Info

- Time - Supper: 6:00 pm
Program: 6:30-7:30 pm
- Cost - Adults: \$5, Children: \$3
- Reservations are required and are due by noon on Tuesday.
- Make reservations by indicating your interest on the Attendance Pad in worship or by calling or e-mailing the church office.
- There is no charge for Covered Dish meals, but please make a reservation.
- Child care is always provided.

Next Board & Council Meeting Night

The Boards and Church Council will have their next regular meetings on Tuesday, April 22, beginning at 6:45 pm with a time of prayer. Board meetings begin at 7:00, Council at 8:15.



CUCC Business

Volunteers

March 30

Lay Reader: Mac Mackenzie
Toddler Nursery: Nancy Prairie & Anne Barton
Children's Church: Stephanie Shoaf
Coffee Hour: Cynthia Brewer & Melinda Matthews

April 6

Lay Reader: TBA
Toddler Nursery: Jon & Marie Nance
Children's Church: Stephanie Shoaf
Coffee Hour: Katherine & Jeri Rowe

April Ushers

Joann Myrick, Sticky Burch,
Clyde Humphrey, Mike Dorko

Financial Reports

Weekly Income	03/16/08	03/23/08
Pledged Offering	\$4,531.00	---
Unpledged Offering	1,319.04	---
Pledged/Unpledged*	---	\$5,189.00*
Memorial Fund	290.00	50.00
Supper Study	81.00	---
OGHS	180.00	50.00
Easter Lilies	153.00	72.00
Live the Vision	500.00	---
Misc.	---	250.00
Total\$	\$7,054.04	\$5,611.00

*Pledged & Unpledged breakdown of total offering not yet available at time of publication.

Budget Income/Expense Summary

	Thru 3/23	Year-to-Date
Income	\$24,308.29	\$84,002.50
Expense	\$20,196.30	\$69,004.56
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$4,111.99	\$14,997.94

Alcohol Use Among Youth: Strong Families and Strong Church Ties Make a Difference!



Facts every parent and youth worker must know:

- Every day, 7,000 adolescents under the age of 16 have their first drink of alcohol
- The number of people under 18 years of age using alcohol for the first time has doubled over a ten year period rising from 1.9 million in 1991 to 3.8 million in 2001.
- Over 19% of underage drinkers were binge drinkers and 6% were heavy drinkers. Binge drinking is defined as five or more drinks on the same occasion at least once in a 30 day period of time. Heavy use is defined as five or more drinks on the same occasion on at least five different days in the past 30 days.
- Among the 14 million adults aged 21 or older who were classified as having past-year alcohol dependence or abuse, more than 95% had started using alcohol before age 21.
- Alcohol is the leading contributor to causes of death for those under age 21.
- 28% of suicides by children ages 9-15 can be attributed to alcohol.
- Parents tend to underestimate underage drinking dramatically, particularly their own children.

Youth Access to Alcohol

- Most parents express concern about youth drinking and support public policy actions to reduce youth access to alcohol, however youth still obtain alcohol from adults

- More than 90% of 12th graders report that alcohol is “very easy” or “fairly easy” to get.

Youth Perceptions About Alcohol

- A study of 5th through 11th grade students found that those who are exposed to and enjoy alcohol advertisements have more favorable beliefs about drinking and say they are more likely to drink in the future and consume alcohol.
- Youth who perceive their parents would “strongly disapprove” of their use of substances were less likely to drink or use drugs than youths who perceived their parents would “somewhat disapprove” or “neither approve nor disapprove.”

Youth, Alcohol and Mental Health Problems

- Adolescents with serious behavioral problems were nearly three times more likely to use alcohol than those with low levels of behavioral problems.
- Among 12-17 year olds who are current drinkers, 31% exhibited extreme levels of psychological distress and 39% exhibited serious behavioral problems.
- Adolescents with high levels of serious emotional disturbances were nearly twice as likely as adolescents with low levels of serious emotional disturbances to have used alcohol in the past month.

Participation in Faith-Based Activities

- In 2003, among youth ages 12-17 who attended religious services 25 times or more in the past year, 7% had used an illicit drug in the

past month. Among youth attending LESS often or not at all, 13.4% reported use of an illicit drug in the past month

- Among youth who agreed or strongly agreed that religious beliefs are a very important part of their life (76%) only 8.8% used an illicit substance in the past month. In contrast, among youth who disagreed or strongly disagreed that religious beliefs are a very important part of their life, 19.2% used an illicit substance in the past month.

Stay Well,
Charlotte Evans RN, MN, CN



Keep in Your Prayers ...

Luther & Phyllis Abbott, Lauren Brower, Evelyn Chamberlain, Mike Connelly (Clif Karnes' brother-in-law), Bob Crews (Cathy Wheeler's father), Fran Ditto, The Families of Isa Dollyhigh & Jorge Guerra, Bernice Driver, Jessica Ellisor (Teresa Earle's niece), Emily Field, Bob Foster, Kaye Gardiner (Midge Rasey's daughter), Betty Gibbs, Beth Haunton (Lorie Tyson's friend), The Lamberts, Marie McLennan, Jordyn Pickett, Bill Simpson, Natama Summers (Henrietta Ingram's niece), Charles Stricklen, Matthew Wagoner (Margaret Wagoner's grandson), Wilbur Parrott's father



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To date, sixteen households have requested to be removed.

In Memory of Isa and Jorge

Memorial Service on April 5

Our church will have a memorial service for Isa Dollyhigh and Jorge Guerra, who died in a car accident the day before Easter, on Saturday, April 5, at 2:00 pm. We expect relatives from both of their families to be present, along with friends from the many places Isa and Jorge lived. And we expect lots of musicians, so we will have a worship service where music will play a large role. Our choir will sing, our handbells will ring, we will cry and laugh and pray, all to remember our friends, all to the glory of God.

We will have a reception following the service in Fellowship Hall. If you would like to bring finger food, or if you would like to

help set up or clean up for the meal, you can sign up on Sunday in Fellowship Hall, or be in contact with either Ann Barton or Milton Shaw. If you would like to help usher or assist with parking, you can also sign up Sunday in the Fellowship Hall, or contact Paul Davis.

