

Celebrate With Us

Heritage Sunday

This Sunday, we will have a special luncheon to honor our (many!) members who have been a part of this fellowship for 40 years. They will be our special guests, but everyone is invited.

The meal will be baked chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, salad, and a dessert bar to go off your diet for. If you are not a special guest, please bring a dessert, and please consider helping with the meal.

To make a reservation, contact the office. If you would like to help, let us know that as well. We will have two slide presentations compiled by Ken Sell, and we will have a brief presentation on how we all can actively support this church for the next 40 years.



Viewing some of our works of art.



Painting our Tent of Hope.

Choir Follies

The Choir Follies will take place on Friday, May 16th, beginning at 7:00 pm. This event will take the place of our usual Spring Talent Show. Meaning, everyone is invited to participate in the fun, to share seriously or humorously. You will laugh, you will cry, you will ... well, just come and see! There will be a light dessert at the conclusion of the show. If you would like to perform, please be in touch with our Interim Choir Director, Jimmy "MC" Buchanan.



Artbeat At Church

Thanks to everyone who helped with ArtBeat at CUCC. Over 35 artists contributed work, plus the wonderful Eastern Middle School Gospel Choir, plus our Tent of Hope, plus our Church Quilt.

We will have the Quilt out this Sunday for us to continue to work on, and we will have the tent out again soon so we can perhaps finish our work on it. It was a great day!

See more pictures on page 5 of this issue of the newsletter and on the church web site.



A Note of Appreciation

Ju and Gun Hmok would like to extend their gratitude to all for all the support they have received from CUCC — especially all the kindness shown to their new baby, Kelly. Kelly is doing very well — she is up to 8 pounds 6 ounces — and the family is as happy as can be. Thank you!



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, May 9
Publication: Wednesday, May 14

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

May 18, 2008

Genesis 1:1-2:4a
Psalm 8
II Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

May 25, 2008

Isaiah 49:8-16a
Psalm 131
I Corinthians 4:1-5
Matthew 6:24-34



Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

400 West Radiance Drive
Greensboro, NC 27403
Phone: 336-274-5378/274-0838
Fax: 336-370-0297
Web: www.congregationalucc.com

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. Jimmy Buchanan
Interim Choir Director
jrb soul@aol.com

Ms. Amy Maier
Organist
aemaier@spartan.uncg.edu

Ms. Charlotte Evans
Congregational Nurse
opendoornc@aol.com
Drop-In Hours: 4th Sun. of the month
10:00-11:00 am
Home Visits: Thursdays

Ms. Regina Hayes
Nursery Director
regi.hay@gmail.com

Ms. Judy Page
Office Manager
office@congregationalucc.com
Office Hours: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
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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From the Pastor

Milestones



For my family, this is a time for big milestones: two graduations, anniversaries, and a birthday thrown in for good measure. I suppose it is the convergence of all these events that has me pondering a bit about the future.

This pondering is also fueled by the various political campaigns and the seemingly endless saga of our now most infamous UCC pastor, Jeremiah Wright. We have copies of various interviews and essays available at church that Paul and I have found helpful in trying to make sense of it all. So I won't add to the volumes of analyses and opinions or try to explain what can't fully be explained. Rather, let me share a bit of my pondering.

Permit me to say something obvious: life is short. Just yesterday my children were in diapers, waking me up at all hours, and at times, being awfully cute if I do say so myself. Not too long before that, or so it seems, Paul and I were in seminary, considering the possibility of making a life together. Life is short, life speeds along much quicker than we think it will. As the commercial goes, life comes at you fast.

And when, in the blink of another eye, we find ourselves years down the road, what will be said about this particular moment in time? Will we all have to explain to our children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren that we missed the boat on world peace, on cleaning up the environment, and ending hunger because we became obsessed about all the misadventures of Britney and Lindsay, and the diversionary missteps of a Chicago preacher? Will our descendants scratch their heads

when they read about the history of this time and ask, "What were they *thinking?*"

Troubled starlets aside, these are interesting, if somewhat strange, times in which we live. We can communicate across continents in split seconds, we use satellites to tell us where we are, yet we seem to be losing our ability to actually speak to and hear one another. We want the sound bites, the first and only impressions, the snap judgments, even when we know full well the nuanced, deeper truth is far more interesting and constructive. It is faster and more convenient to judge, to divide into camps, and to volley verbal attacks from behind the barricades, than to allow ourselves the time and space to acknowledge some of those nuanced truths: that humans are layered, complex beings who can say remarkably insightful and honest things one day, and sound like an utter fool the next. That none of us should be judged on the basis of what someone else says. That we have a long way to go and much work to do when it comes to race and ethnicity in this country, but we won't make it an inch further until we can lay the weapons down on all sides and see each other as children of the same God. That we are a nation with a proud and courageous history, that is also marred by some of the worst behaviors humans are capable of toward each other. That we have what we need – courage, good will, desire for justice for all – which will make it possible to make things better, by the grace of God, whether this "better" refers to race relations, environmental restoration, or the peace and well-being of our planet's inhabitants.

As my children move into new stages in their lives, my hope is that they will be able to hear the

Jeremiah Wrights of this world, the good stuff and the not-so-good, and know that they have been raised in a church and denomination that honors freedom, acknowledges injustice, makes room for disagreement, and strives always to work for reconciliation. I hope they and their descendants will cherish living in a land that can face the worst and still draw out the best in its people. I hope they will live into these new stages with a deep, abiding sense of trust in the God who has seen them through thus far, and who holds all our times in loving and strong hands.

Beyond all this, I hope they remember that life is short. Forget the diversions and choose instead to live – fully and gratefully – each day, each moment.

—Julie Peebles



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, 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, Natama Summers (Henrietta Ingram's niece), Charles Stricklen, Virginia Stricklen, Matthew Wagoner (Margaret Wagoner's grandson), H. O. Williams

Board of Christian Service

Higher Ground

The next day to serve lunch at Higher Ground is Tuesday, May 27th. Food donations (especially side dishes) and volunteers are indeed welcomed. For more information, contact Ish Whitfield at 434-792-6707, 434-250-4364, or dancincheffish@msn.com.



Good News

Red Cross drew 27 pints of blood from 33 individuals presenting themselves on Monday, May 5th. Twenty-three of these were CUCC folks, headed by Julie and Paul.

Also volunteering were: James and Libby Bowles, Clif and Sharon Karnes, Paul Macy, Kathy Schroetter, Fred Cromartie, Marjorie Liles, Karl Schleuners, Harold Ashworth, Martha Nance, Beth Hoagland, Teresa Earles, Ann Buffington, Rod North and Alice Franks, Jamie Anderson, Ann Roberts, Barbara Rice and Mark Matthews, twenty-two in all. There were also five from Peace UCC, two from First Christian, two who saw the sign on Friendly Avenue, one recruited by Marjorie Liles (a friend) and our CUCC postman, Marty Liinangi.

I learned that we have at least six VIP (regular) donors who give about every two months. They are Diane Brewer, Paul Davis, Teresa Earles, Clyde Humphrey, Kate Larson and Randy Yardley. If there are others, please let me know so we can get the full picture of our people's contribution to this vital ministry.

—Bill Smith

Education Notes

Work Trips



We have two work trips to New Orleans this summer: July 20-27, and August 10-17. Reservations are due now! Deposits of \$50 will hold your space. Speak with me for more info.

—Paul Davis



Honor Our Graduates

With spring comes the season of graduations. The church will honor our graduates on Sunday, June 1. Please let the office know if your person is winding up her or his latest educational regimen, any honors earned, and plans that will ensue.



Green Church Team



The Green Church Team will meet on Thursday, May 22nd at 7:00 pm, in the Church Parlor. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The latest edition of United Church News has an excellent two-page article on what some UCC churches are learning and doing to become "Green." You can find this article posted outside Paul's office, on our church web site, or at www.ucc.org.

A reminder that our church currently recycles office paper (bulletins!) in a basket in the Narthex, plastics and paperboard in the kitchen, and batteries, compact fluorescent bulbs, and ink cartridges in the Fellowship Hall.

SSHHH!! A Love Offering For Amy Maier – Pass It On!

Our wonderful accompanist, Amy Maier, will be leaving soon. May 18 is her last Sunday before moving back home to Maine.

Amy has been invaluable this past year, offering beautiful music in worship, faithfully working with the choirs, being available for funerals and special services. In the past month she has also been a vital leader in keeping the music program strong and vibrant.

We would like to take up a Love Offering to give to Amy as she begins a new chapter in her life. If you would like to contribute, checks can be made to the church, marked for Love Offering. We'd like this to be a surprise, so share it with others, but not Amy!!



Know Your Church



The Women's Fellowship President

The president of the Women's Fellowship, Nancy Glenz, is a voting member

of the Church Council. This is her sixth year on the Council.

The Clerk

Dorothy Ballinger is the clerk of the Church Council. She records and distributes the minutes of Council and the congregational meetings. This is her twelfth year as clerk.



This is the last in the "Know Your Church" series. If you would like an expanded version of this information in booklet form, please see Katharine Martin (727-9789).

Trexler Music Scholarships

For a number of years our church has provided scholarships to students who study music. The Trexler Scholarships are named for Ruth and Don Trexler, who led our church music programs for a number of years. Forms to apply for this scholarship are located outside Paul's office. They are available to members and friends, adults and children.

Cyclone Relief

The United Church of Christ has established a special fund to help relief efforts in Burma (Myanmar). You can contribute directly by going to this secure link: https://secure.ga3.org/03/myanmar_cyclone_response. Or you can donate to the church and mark it for cyclone, and we'll send the money along. UCC.org has more information about our denomination's relief efforts.

UCC News

The UCC has posted a message from Bill Moyers, concerning Jeremiah Wright, and you can read this story at www.ucc.org/news/moyers-beware-the-terrible-s.html.

Flowers on the Altar

Our Flower Calendar is entirely clear – empty for the next few months! Is there someone you'd like to remember or honor? A special anniversary coming up? You can make our worship space even more beautiful and mark an important event, memory, or relationship at the same time. Just reserve a Sunday on the calendar by the office door, and let the office know your plans. We have helpful information that makes the process easy!

Next Board & Council

Meeting Night

The Boards and Church Council will have their next regular meetings on Tuesday, May 27, beginning at 6:45 pm with a time of prayer. Board meetings begin at 7:00, Council at 8:15.



CUCC Business

Volunteers

May 18

Lay Reader: Randy Yardley
Toddler Nursery: Krista & Tina Kohlphenson
Children's Church: Paul Davis
Coffee Hour: Nancy & Chip Prairie

May 25

Lay Reader: Ed Driver
Toddler Nursery: Tricia Sutter
Children's Church: Linda DeShazo
Coffee Hour: Paula & Alan Harder

May Ushers

F. Kuester, J. Taylor, C. Hertlein

Financial Reports

Weekly Income	05/0408	05/11/08
Pledged Offering	\$6,673.00	\$2,275.00
Unpledged Offering	1,243.00	762.00
Memorial Fund	75.00	120.00
Miscellaneous	205.00	110.00
Use of Church	500.00	---
Supper Study	152.00	---
Mission Trip	50.00	---
Total	\$8,898.00	\$3,267.00

Budget Income/Expense Summary

	April	Year-to-Date
Income	\$28,097.91	\$114,025.60
Expense	\$36,908.50	\$106,541.59
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$8,810.59)	\$7,484.01

Other News and Notes

Faith to Succeed

From Lutheran Family Services of the Carolinas

“In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.” —Romans 8:37

Ryan, who is diagnosed as mildly mentally retarded, came to an LFS Carolinas adult group home on his birthday in November 2007. Extremely talkative and standing over six feet tall, he quickly made an impression on the staff. They recognized that he had the ability to pursue many things, but lacked motivation to do much outside of the house.

Rather than pushing Ryan to explore specific activities, the staff at the group home let him make his own choices and offered him support and encouragement to pursue his own goals.

In a short amount of time, Ryan began proving that the faith the staff placed in him was well deserved. After seeing a housemate participate in karate, he decided to take on the sport. Ryan has been taking karate since January and has progressed to a yellow belt and has even competed. He says karate teaches him “respect and discipline,” two traits that have also come in handy in accomplishing another goal- securing employment.

Ryan got a job working at a local grocery store and uses the money he earns to pay for his own karate lessons. He attends church, and, after watching the presidential primary speeches, decided he wanted to have a say in the upcoming election and plans to vote in November. After graduating from high school, Ryan has moved on to aspirations of going to college. He is currently in the application process and wants to study criminal justice.

And Ryan has a lot more on his to do list. He has expressed an inter-

est in learning to cook and also wants to get his driver’s permit. The staff could not be more thrilled with the way Ryan has tackled the challenges before him. They believe he is on the right track to gaining more and more independence and inevitably achieve all the goals he has set for himself.

Your partnership helps courageous individuals like Ryan develop and reach goals they might never have imagined for themselves.

Thank you for supporting the vulnerable members in your community!
—LFS Carolinas



A Note of Thanks from BRCC

Dear Friends at CUCC,

Great things are happening at the Blowing Rock Conference Center, and your gift of \$300 is helping to make them happen. In 2007 we were able to invest more than \$100,000 in BRCC’s infrastructure, improving or building new sidewalks, stairs, porches, water lines, earth moving, and outdoor lighting. The new sidewalks and stairs tie the buildings together and enable guests to move between buildings in a safe and practical fashion.

At the same time, our youth ministries program continues to grow and mature. Our 2008 Winter Youth Event for the Southern and Southeast Conferences of the United Church of Christ again saw great participation from a wide range of churches from the two conferences.

Again, thank you for your gift. Please know that the Board of Directors and I sincerely appreciate your support. As a not-for-profit corporation, we could not be of service to so many without your generous donations.

—William Bourdon, Exec. Dir.

More ArtBeat



Midge Rasey contemplating the art.



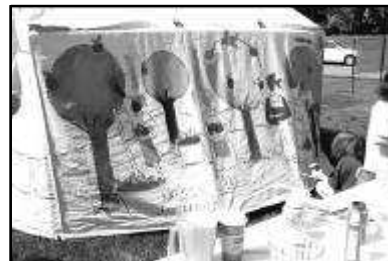
Carlene Dix using Sankey Moore-Painter's Finger Labyrinth.



Our Southern Conference Board of Directors President, the Rev. Dian Jackson, joined us for the day.



A heartfelt response to the Eastern Middle School Gospel Choir. Isa would have been proud of our waving hands!



Later in the morning with our Tent. It is beautiful!



Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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The newsletter is available online. If you like this option and **PROMISE YOU WILL READ IT**, we will stop mailing you the newsletter and you can save us some money and save the world some paper. We will send you an e-mail letting you know when the newsletter is available along with a link to take you to it directly.

To date, fifty-two households have requested to be removed.

As You Plan Your Summer . . .

Summer Bible Workshop

Advance notice that we will hold our Summer Bible Workshop on July 29-31. This is our CUCC version of what some churches call Vacation Bible School.

Summer Bible Workshop is intergenerational, with classes and activities for children and adults. We also offer nursery care. We will meet that Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday beginning around 5:30 pm for supper and we will have really good food. Our theme will tie in to Greensboro's Bicentennial and will include field trips to historical places in the community.

Save the dates and join us!

John's River Valley Camp

We have camping forms for Johns River Valley Camp, a certified and bona fide church camp, a ministry of the Southern Conference, and wonderful place. They offer camps for youth entering fourth grade and older, and even a family camp. The church offers some scholarship assistance for Johns River camps. The forms are outside Paul's office.

The camp experience enriches lives and changes the world. Camp provides children with a community of caring adults, who nurture experiential education that results in self-respect and appreciation for human value.
