

Ecumenical Effort

Vote Out Poverty

Back in June, Ralph Wenger, Barbara Rice and I attended Sojourners' **Pentecost 2008: Training for Change** in Washington, D.C., a galvanizing weekend of workshops, speakers, and small groups aimed at inspiring people of faith to take action to end poverty.

Upon returning, we organized a CUCC **Vote Out Poverty** team, consisting of Ralph, Barbara and myself plus Bob Williams, Beth Williams, Rod North, Sankey Moore-Painter and Jenny Berggren. For the past few weeks we have been meeting as a small group to study *Hungry for Justice*, a six-week devotional published by Sojourners (www.sojo.net), and to reflect on how we as individuals and as a church can best honor the Gospel call to identify with and care for the poor.

On Sunday, September 21, along with churches across the nation, CUCC will turn its attention to the issue of poverty. "Poverty Sunday" is part of Sojourners' national **Vote Out Poverty** campaign, a bipartisan effort designed to draw a connection between God's concern for the poor and the church's responsibility to the poor. Our worship will flow as it usually does while integrating education and inspiration for the fight against poverty. Before and after the worship service, you will have an opportunity to register to vote at CUCC's own voter registration drive, and to

sign a **Vote Out Poverty** pledge, indicating that you intend to consider candidates running for office through the lens of the poor.

The **Vote Out Poverty** campaign does not end once the election results are in. In the Spring of 2009, we — along with anyone from CUCC who would like to participate — will attend a mobilization in D.C. to assure commitment by the next President and Congress to an anti-poverty agenda. —*Katharine Martin*



CUCC Fall Rally Day: Sunday September 14!

We will begin at 9:30 am with our Opening Assembly, then we will have some goodies to eat from 9:45 to 10:00. From 10:00 to 10:45, the Adult Classes will meet as usual (The Jordan Wisseman Class to the Parlor for this Sunday, the Rowland Class in their room, and the Smith Class in their room). Our children will have the chance to paint our Tent of Hope outside, with the help of volunteers. Their parents will have a meeting in the Fellowship Hall. During Fellowship Hour we will present our fall programs, Christian Education as well as other programs, with displays and information. Join us as we officially kick off Fall at CUCC.



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, September 19
Publication: Wednesday, Sep. 24

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

September 21, 2008

Exodus 14:19-31
Psalm 114
Romans 14:1-12
Matthew 18:21-35

September 28, 2008

Exodus 16:2-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
Philippians 1:21-30
Matthew 20:1-16





Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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10:00-11:00 am
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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 . . .

Congregational News is published by
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From the Pastor

“Lord, when was it we saw you hungry...?”



Imagine a world where there is no longer a need for food collection sites, hunger walks, shelters, or the myriad assistance programs

currently in existence.

Hard to picture, isn't it? Jesus' saying about the poor being always with us appears accurate. Our congregation is engaged in so many great efforts designed at easing the suffering of the poor and those in need: Higher Ground, Mobile Meals, Potter's House, Crop Walk, GUM food collection, emergency assistance, and the list goes on. If we were able to calculate how many people are fed, kept off the streets, able to keep their lights on and their rent paid by the efforts and generosity of CUCC folks, the result would be amazing, I suspect.

This is clearly work that Jesus would have us involved in. And, in addition to helping ease the consequences of poverty, Jesus would want us to do what we can to bring an end to the need for such efforts. The Scriptural references are far too numerous to cite, but among them, Mt.25:31-46, Luke 6:20-25, James 2:15-17, Isaiah 58, Micah 6:6-8, and many, many more.

As you will read elsewhere in this Newsletter, a group of folks are busy studying and planning, working on ways we can do something to help put an end to poverty. This spiritual, bipartisan, constructive effort initiated by Sojourners, an organization led by evangelical Christian and activist Jim Wallis, will invite all of us to consider what we might do. And on Sunday, September 21, we will focus our worship on seeking God's guidance as we strive to be faithful to Christ's

desire for the well-being of all God's beloved children.

Throughout the fall season, our lectionary readings focus on community: how is a true community formed, sustained, nurtured, and sent forth in service? Whether the early Hebrews or the earliest Christians, or 21st century disciples, what does it mean to be a faith community: God-centered, loving, serving? As Jesus taught, if we only care for and about ourselves, we are little more than a social club. And of course as anyone involved in any of the above efforts can attest, as often as we are faithful to our calling to be with the poor, we find Christ there in the midst. —Julie Peeples



A Prayer For The Seventh Anniversary Of 9/11

O God, help us remember:

Those who suffer still from the loss of loved ones and livelihood.

Those who yet strive to bring an end to terrorism in ways marked by integrity and justice.

The moments when our nation and our world seemed united in grief, compassion, and concern for the common good.

The myriad ways you bring good out of evil.

O God, help us forget:

The urge to hate all who differ from and disagree with us.

All pettiness and greed.

The desire to paint your amazing world in simplistic colors and strident boundaries.

Our cynicism, despair, and the need for security at any cost.

Most of all, God, be with us. Be with us all. Amen.

All-Church Retreat, Book Sale, Supper Study



Registration for our All-Church Retreat at Blowing Rock Conference Center is closed and our space is full! I will be in touch

with participants via e-mail with traveling directions, what to bring, schedule, and how to pay the balance. For your information, 57 people will be coming — 21 for the first time! —Paul Davis

Book Sale

The CE Board will have a book sale on Sunday, October 12, following worship. The books will be displayed on the lower level, in the rooms across from the Smith Classroom. We have a wide selection, and books will be priced to move. So, if you have books to donate, bring them to church. If you are looking for some affordable good reading, we hope you come to the sale! Proceeds from the book sale will go to help offset the costs of attending the All-Church Retreat.

Book Group

We will meet on Sunday, September 21st to discuss *My Cousin The Saint: A Search for Faith, Family, and Miracles* by local author, Justin Catanoso. Justin will speak at our first Supper Study on September 17 and we will have the opportunity to purchase books at a discount at that time. We hope to be able to purchase some before then as well; call the office if you would like to reserve a copy.

Confirmation

Letters went out inviting youth to participate in Confirmation, the process by which The Church (our church included) formally nurtures

new members. The Confirmation Classes are a combination of learning about the Church and our denomination, learning about our church, and learning about our walk with God. We provide mentors who help shepherd people through it all. Want to know more? Please be in touch with Paul or Julie. Our first meeting will be Sunday, Sep. 21.

Two Opportunities to Learn More on China

Saturday, September 13th, UNCG will sponsor a Moon Festival (also known as a Mid-autumn Festival), a multicultural Asian event that will take place on the campus. There will be Moon Cakes! Then on Sunday the 14th, Jamie Anderson, member of our church and Associate Professor of History, will give a talk to the Emeritus Society, discussing what will be next for China following the Olympics. This talk will be at the Weatherspoon Auditorium at 3 pm. Both events are free.



Supper Study!

Supper Study begins Wednesday, September 17th. The meal will be lasagna, salad, bread, fruit and dessert. Cost for the meal will remain \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. Reservations must be in Tuesday morning by calling or e-mailing the office or listing your name on the Pew Pad.

First and Third Wednesdays, unless otherwise noted.

September 17: Justin Catanoso, author of *My Cousin The Saint: A Search for Faith, Family, and Miracles* - Justin, husband of musician and CUCC friend Laurelyn Dossett, will share his amazing and moving story of rediscovering family and faith.

Books will be available for purchase.

October 1: Living With Integrity In Tough Times

- Several CUCC members will share their creative ideas for spending less, "going green," simplifying and enjoying life more. Bring your ideas to share as well!

October 15: Our Annual Political Forum

- Come rub elbows with incumbents and candidates. Break bread with community leaders, hear where they stand on various issues. Invite your neighbors and join us!

November 5: Safe Space For Hard Decisions

- How do I talk with my family about end-of-life preferences? What is an Advance Directive? Who decides about life support, critical care, and so on? Lori Welch, a case worker with Hospice of Alamance, will lead us through the maze of issues and important decisions, whether for ourselves or loved ones.

November 12: Safe Space, Part II

(Note change in date.) - Lori Welch will continue the discussion and will be prepared to notarize papers for any who are ready to take the next step.



Attention, Attention

Be sure and stop by to view the architectural rendering of Blowing Rock Assembly Grounds (now officially known as Blowing Rock Conference Center) located across from the upper restrooms. This was given to John Taylor in honor of his serving seven years on the Board of Directors. It is being presented to the Congregational United Church of Christ by John and Joann Taylor. Stop by and see your "home in the mountains."

Tent of Hope, Santa's Elves, Higher Ground & More

A reminder that we will be painting the Tent of Hope before and after church next Sunday, September 14th. Our completed tent will be taken to the Mall in Washington D.C. to be displayed from November 7th-9th with other tents from over 100 communities in the United States. This UCC sponsored activity is a symbol of our concern for the embattled Darfurian people. Please consider participating.

Santa's Elves

Have you ever wanted to visit Santa's workshop and meet his elves? Well, here is your chance to actually be an elf yourself! Santa's Elves are a group that provides gifts, groceries and holiday goodies to families in need. We work in cooperation with school systems and other community sources that refer the families to us. The number of families that we can take will be determined by the size of the families and number of elves that we have.

Last year we were able to help ten families and a total of 36 children have a happier holiday. I can't begin to explain the positive effect that this program has had on the families that we have helped over the past ten years.

All the families are identified by a number only as to keep their identity confidential. The children are identified by first name and age only. Keeping the identities of these families is crucial to the success of the project and with this format we have been successful in doing that.

The Board of Christian Service has given their full support to this project. This would be a great holiday project to do with family, friends or co-workers. We need to have all our elves in place by October 26 in order to determine the number of families that we will be able to help.

There are many ways that you can participate in this effort:

- Buy non-perishable food items
- Buy gifts for a child
- Donate gift cards (Wal-Mart, Target, Kohls, grocery stores)
- Help sort the food
- Make holiday treats (cookies, fudge etc)
- Donate cash
- Help put together the gift baskets

If you think that you would be interested in becoming an elf or want more information, you can e-mail me at santaselfgso@aol.com.

—Santa

Lunch for Higher Ground

Congregational's next serving date at Higher Ground is Tuesday, September 23rd. Food donations (especially side dishes) and volunteers are always welcome. Ish Whitfield will be away and Robin Dorko will be in charge. For more info, contact Robin — or you may contact Ish and he will make sure to pass the message on to Robin.

Potter's House Lunch

Reporting for duty at the Greensboro Urban Ministry Potter's House on August 29th were: Cynthia

Brewer, Mike Dorko, Clif Karnes, Rod & Emily North, Bill & Winnie Smith — plus a large group from three other congregations, two of them African American, all dedicated to serving some of "the least of these" in the service of Jesus.



CUCC Business

CUCC Food Donations to Greensboro Urban Ministry

8/28-9/10/08: 112 pounds

Boards & Church Council: Tuesday, September 23rd

6:45 pm: A Time of Prayer

7:00 pm: Boards meet

8:15 pm: Council meets

Volunteers

September 14

Lay Reader: Diane Brewer

Toddler Nursery: Sharon Montanus

Coffee Hour: Barbara Rice

September 21

Lay Reader: TBA

Toddler Nursery: S. Harper & S. Frye

Coffee Hour: L. Hamilton & S. Lane

September Ushers

Betty & Mac Mackenzie,
Sherrill Hall, Karl Schleunes

Financial Reports

Weekly Income	08/31/08	09/07/08
Pledged Offering	\$19,874.00	---
Unpledged Offering	745.00	---
Pledged/Unpledged*	---	5,388.00
BRAG Deposits	50.00	100.00
Music Library	50.00	---
Use of Church	---	525.00
Total	\$20,719.00	\$6,013.00

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

Budget Income/Expense Summary

	August	Year-to-Date
Income	\$17,739.85	\$204,955.65
Expense	19,862.64	204,665.51
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$2,122.79)	\$290.14

Keep in Your Prayers . . .

Sue Blanton (friend of Charlie & Debra Hertlein), Lauren Brower, Evelyn Chamberlain, Bob Crews (Cathy Wheeler's father), Mark DeHaven, Fran Ditto, The Dollyhigh Family, Jessica Ellisor (Teresa Earle's niece), Emily Field, Kaye Gardiner (Midge Rasey's daughter), The Guerra Family, Beth Haunton (Lorie Tyson's friend), Barbara Hollifield, The Lamberts, Amber McKinnon, Millie Muskovin, Virginia Stricklen, Matthew Wagoner (Margaret Wagoner's grandson), H. O. Williams

Back to school! Getting back into routine! Summer vacation is over!



As you get back into the swing of fall, it is a good idea to resume good eating habits. (for those of you who never

go “off” the nutritional wagon — cheers!!) A couple of reminders:

➤ **Do not skip breakfast.**

Breakfast provides energy and nutrients that help both kids and grown-ups keep up with their day. Compared to those who skip breakfast:

- Are more likely to get the nutrients they need each day, like calcium, iron, and more!
- Are able to concentrate and learn better at school and perform better at work
- Are less likely to be overweight.
- Have more energy.

➤ **What makes a good breakfast?**

- Low fat cereals or grains, especially whole grains
- Fruit, fruit juices or vegetables
- Low-fat or skim milk, or other calcium rich foods.

➤ **Add more calcium to your daily routine**

It is important to eat and drink a wide variety of calcium-rich foods and beverages everyday. Getting calcium in your diet can be easier than you think if you try and work it into your daily routine.

- Drink low-fat milk or fortified fruit juice during your coffee break at work.
- Try drinking low-fat flavored milk.
- Enjoy calcium rich snacks like yogurt, cheese and crackers and pudding.

- Order a latte or cappuccino (skip the fat by requesting skim milk) in place of black coffee. While caffeine can interfere with calcium absorption, consuming the amount of steamed milk typically added to latte or cappuccino readily offsets this effect.
- Choose foods with more calcium such as dark green leafy vegetables, fortified fruit juices and fortified cereals.

Be Healthy,
Charlotte Evans RN, MN, CN

Have you saved the date?!



Sunday, October 28th
First Annual Health Fair!!!!
12:00 to 2:00 pm
Flu shots
Exhibits
Screenings
Something for everyone!



Church Women United

Church Women United begins its program year with its meeting on Friday morning, September 19th, at Celia Phelps United Methodist Church, 3709 Groometown Road, Greensboro.

The national organization was founded in 1941 to be a racially, culturally, theologically inclusive Christian women’s movement cele-

brating unity in diversity and working together for a more just and peaceful society in our local communities as well as nationally and world-wide – a truly ecumenical effort which has been recognized by the United Nations for its international efforts in support of literacy programs for women and children. It has also at times worked cooperatively on inter-faith programs.

The Greensboro unit currently includes members from 33 churches representing eleven denominations. Take this opportunity to meet women of faith from other congregations in a morning of fellowship beginning at 9:30 with registration and coffee followed by a devotion and program.

The Ecumenical Action Committee requests that we bring non-perishable items for the Urban Ministry food bank.

Please call Eileen Stirling, 852-0170, if you have questions or need transportation.



Western NC Assn. of the UCC To Meet Here October 4th

CUCC will have the honor of hosting the annual meeting of the Western NC Association of the Southern Conference, UCC. We expect around two hundred participants from UCC churches in the association. The deacons are working on the lunch and hospitality. We will need lots of volunteers to help greet and guide people, help with parking, serving food, cleaning up, ushering, and so on. If you can help, please let Julie, Paul, Becky Fleischer or Bill Guill know. We will have three delegates plus clergy representing our congregation; all are welcome to attend as visitors.



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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Congregational United Church of Christ
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Among Our Members & Friends

To all the loving, caring and giving people of CUCC,

There are not enough words to express how much your prayers were needed and felt over the past year. Thanks for the mountain of cards, the delicious food you brought to our home, the many visits at the hospital, Clapps Nursing Center and at our home. A very special thanks to Julie, Charlotte, Eileen, Winnie and Dr. Smith.

Please keep us in your prayers,
H. O. & Mabel Williams



Thanks from a Visitor

Dear Rev. Peeples,

I visited your church this past Sunday and would like to thank you

and your church family for the blessing I received during your service and visiting time after worship. I would also like to tell you that yours is the most welcoming church I have ever visited, and I visit A LOT of churches.

I live on a farm east of Danville, VA and now that my children are on their own (sort of, one is in college), I frequently treat myself to little weekend adventures. I find all kinds of wonderful things to do, stay over Saturday night, and visit a different church each time before I head home. I have family in your area so I come to the Triad more often than anywhere else I go, and I have visited 6 churches in your area in the last 2 years. I thought you and your congregation would like to know that I have never been treated

better than I was at Congregational last Sunday. Can't keep information like that to myself!

So, thank you, and I am sure I will be back sometime.

Best wishes,

Laurey Solomon



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