

# Congregational News

Spirituality. Community.  
Diversity. Justice. Peace.

BI-WEEKLY ISSUE

SEPTEMBER 24, 2008

## WNCA to Meet Here

### Annual Gathering

On Saturday, October 4, CUCC will have the honor of hosting the annual meeting of the Western NC Association of the Southern Conference, UCC. We expect around 200 participants from UCC churches in the association, an area that spreads from Whitset in the east to Asheville and Tryon in the west. 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. And, if you by chance "borrowed" some tables, chairs, flatware, etc. now would be a great time to return them!



### 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 [santasegso@aol.com](mailto:santasegso@aol.com), or you can speak with a member of the Board of Christian Service.

-Santa



### 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](http://www.congregationalucc.com/about/visitors.php).

### Our Next Newsletter

Deadline: Friday, October 3  
Publication: Wednesday, Oct. 8

News and events can be sent to [office@congregationalucc.com](mailto:office@congregationalucc.com).

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

### Lectionary Readings

#### September 28, 2008

Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16  
Philippians 2:1-13  
Matthew 21:23-32

#### October 5, 2008

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20  
Psalm 19  
Philippians 3:4b-14  
Matthew 21:33-46



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

**Rev. Julie Peeples**  
Senior Pastor  
[julie@congregationalucc.com](mailto:julie@congregationalucc.com)

**Rev. William C. Smith**  
Pastor Emeritus

**Rev. Paul Davis**  
Minister for Christian Education  
[paul@congregationalucc.com](mailto:paul@congregationalucc.com)

**Mr. Jimmy Buchanan**  
Choir Director  
[jrb soul@aol.com](mailto:jrb soul@aol.com)

**Ms. Charlotte Evans**  
Congregational Nurse  
[opendoornc@aol.com](mailto:opendoornc@aol.com)  
Drop-In Hours: 4<sup>th</sup> Sun. of the month  
10:00-11:00 am  
Home Visits: Thursdays

**Ms. Regina Hayes**  
Nursery Director  
[regi.hay@gmail.com](mailto:regi.hay@gmail.com)

**Ms. Judy Page**  
Office Manager  
[office@congregationalucc.com](mailto: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 . . .

Congregational News is published by  
Congregational United Church of Christ,  
Greensboro, North Carolina

## From the Pastor

### The Ripple Effect



One morning last week started out in a particularly sweet way here at church. I opened a small envelope

addressed to me, with a return address I did not recognize. Inside was a handwritten note and a check. The check was an extremely generous donation to the church. In the note, the writer explained how two people in our congregation had shown "unconditional love and support" during a time of need, and how they clearly live out their faith. The donors wanted to give back to the church in gratitude.

That one incident has me reflecting on the basic power of human compassion. Often we do not realize the ripple effect our actions, our behavior, our attitudes have on others. Two people reached out with selflessness and care to others going through a tough time. They were simply doing what seemed right to them to do. Those on the "receiving end" have now reached out to share the blessing they felt. And more will benefit from that act of selflessness and care, through the ministry of this congregation. The blessing goes on giving.

It is simple, basic, perhaps even too obvious to mention. But it is worth a moment's pause to think about. We have a limited number of years, days, hours, minutes on this earth. And in each of those, the choice is ours. We got out of bed this morning: will our attitude be one of thankfulness or resentment? Will we choose to snarl at the world today or to bless it? Will we retreat in cynicism or reach out in compassion? Will we live in fear or risk engaging the world and its people to discover what God might be up to?

And by our attitudes, behavior, and actions, what are we choosing to teach our children?

There are weighty, serious, and at times, frightening issues demanding the attention of all of us these days. It is easy in such times to begin allowing our humanity, our capacity for compassion, joy, and gratitude to slip away. But especially in times such as these, it is precisely these aspects of life that can keep us grounded and faithful. Whether we are on the giving or the receiving end, they feed our hope.

Please don't hear this as a scolding, or as one more thing to do to try to achieve some illusory level of perfection. It isn't any of that. Please hear it as an invitation, one in which I include myself. We all have this day. There are things that will happen today that are beyond our control: the weather, the season, the choices others make. Much else is within our control. What ripples will we choose to send forth into the world? *-Julie Peeples*

### Keep in Your Prayers ...

Sue Blanton (friend of the Hertleins), Lauren Brower, Evelyn Chamberlain, Bob Crews, 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, Judy Page, on the death of her father Don Krchma, The Lamberts, , Hyatt Nolan, Brad and Becky Snyder (son and daughter in law of Lynn Hamilton). H. O. Williams

# BRCC Retreat, Supper Study, & More



Plans are set and S'Mores materiel is being laid in. The All Church Retreat at Blowing Rock Conference Center begins Friday.

Our count now is 65 people, 22 of whom are coming for first time!

### 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 Class room. 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.

### Volunteers Needed!

We have many fine young people, the soul of the church. But we are desperately seeking a few good helpers, volunteers who will nurture our young people. For Children's Church, we take children too old for the nursery and too young to sit through worship, up to first graders, and we have our own program. We have curriculum, craft ideas, group activities – we just need a couple people each week to assist. Be in touch with Cathy Wheeler if you are willing to spend some time with these wonderful young people.

### Supper Study

**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 and 12: 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. This will be a two part series.



### Maintaining Civility and Respect in a Rather Uncivil Season, Or, how do we disagree on political matters without losing our religion

As we enter the final weeks of a highly contested, high stakes political season, it can be challenging to engage in meaningful, respectful conversations where there is diversity of opinion. I offer the following suggestions as guidelines.

While it may be tempting to simply never talk about such things, I would suggest the opposite: we need to talk about significant and, yes, controversial matters with fellow sojourners in faith. We need to learn from one another.

In the larger public sphere, tactics such as personal attacks, exaggeration, in some cases outright

lying, and winning at any cost seem to reign. But if we are to live what we say we believe, there is another way:

- 1) Assume there is a diversity of opinion present in any political conversation. This holds true at church, too.
- 2) Set a tone of respect, and call each other on it when the line is crossed.
- 3) Stick to substantive issues.
- 4) Don't repeat what you cannot verify.
- 5) Ask those whose opinions differ from yours to say more, to clarify, and listen to them rather than planning your next response.
- 6) Refrain from derogatory labels, names, and stereotypes. Just don't go there.
- 7) Identify underlying values that you all hold in common.
- 8) Assume that the others are at least as concerned, as sincere, and as intelligent as you are.
- 9) Consider together if there is a possible "third way" when dealing with a complicated, controversial issue. What possibilities haven't been explored yet? Is there some viable solution which combines the best of both sides?
- 10) Find common ground where possible, agree to disagree where no common ground exists, and challenge yourselves to keep an open mind and heart.

And remember, we say we believe in the power of forgiveness, grace, love and hope. But none of these work unless you practice them!! Creating a safe space for difficult conversations is a good and even sacred effort. Be not afraid.

--Julie Peebles

# Neighbors in Need, Interesting Items, & Musical Notes

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on Oct. 5, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the US. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through UCCTakeAction.org, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, new updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically,



forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hockak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska.

Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. There churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the US.

Neighbors in Need helps make another world possible. It needs your support. Please give generously.



### Book Group

Our group postponed in September, and we will meet on Sunday, Oct 19 to discuss My Cousin The Saint: A Search for Faith, Family, and Miracles by local author, Justin Catanoso. Copies of the book are readily available, just ask around

### Green Church

You have not heard from us for some time, so let us bring a couple items to your attention. The Supper Study program next week will be a discussion of what we are doing to utilize less energy. The church received an energy audit this summer and the Board of Management is studying those results. Finally, the New York Times has a blog, Green Inc.(go to greeninc.blogs.nytimes.com) that looks at the business of being "green".

### Musical Notes

**Bella A Capella**, our women's choir, will begin rehearsals on Mondays at 6 pm. They meet in the choir room. All women are welcome to join them.

**Our Children's Choir** will begin rehearsals on Sundays, from 12.15 pm until 1 pm. This is open to all children from about the age of four to fifth grade (or even beyond). They will begin rehearsing on Sunday October 5, and not this Sunday. One option they will be exploring is forming a Children's Bell Choir, and thinking about using some of the Sunday time to rehearse handbells. We will need a parent volunteer to sit in with the children And we will provide snacks for our hungry hard-working musicians.

**The Chanel Choir** rehearses on Sundays beginning at 9.30 am.



Below, our Choir Director Jimmy Buchanan, literally leaping for joy at the prospect of *you* joining choir!



**Other News & Notes**

# CUCC Health Fair, Ways We Can and Do Give



I hope you will save the date of Sunday, October 26, when we will have our First Annual Health Fair at CUCC!

We have some exciting events in the works, including blood pressure screening, blood sugar testing (for those who stop eating by 10 am!). We will have a nutritionist who will offer body-fat analysis, a Children's Table, and of course the always popular Flu Shots. Sign up for the flu shots will begin on Sunday October 5. Stay tuned!

**Have you saved the date?!**



**Sunday, October 26th**  
**First Annual Health Fair!!!!**  
**12:00 to 2:00 pm**  
**Flu shots**  
**Exhibits**  
**Screenings**  
**Something for everyone!**

**Clothing Drive**

Grace Allen, as part of her Silver Award for Girl Scouts, is doing a winter clothing drive for those in need. Adult and children's clothing, coats as well as scarves, mittens, etc., will be collected. She will have a collection box out near our food collection box and begin the collection on Oct. 5th. The girls of

her troop are learning about homelessness in our community, and we applaud her and their efforts. So, clean out your closets, and help Grace help share with people in need.

**CROP Walk**

The 28th Annual Greater Greensboro CROP Hunger Walk will take place on Sunday, October 19, 2008 - 2:30 PM. It will begin at NewBridge Bank Park.

The Walk is an annual 5k community walk that raises desperately needed funds to feed the hungry, not only in Greensboro, but all over the world.

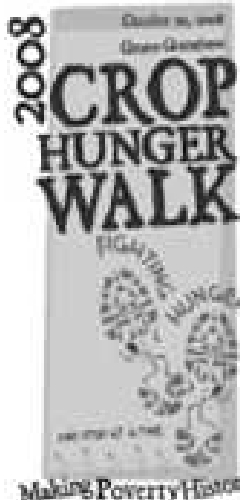
We are dedicating this year's walk in memory of our friend and colleague, Bill Glasgow (1926-2008). Bill cleverly enlisted and orchestrated the 5,000 participants to march in solidarity against hunger through downtown Greensboro, raising over \$230,000. In his memory, help us raise \$250,000!

Last year, \$57,500 (or twenty-five percent) of the money raised went to Greensboro Urban Ministry's Potter's House Community Kitchen which provides a free meal to over 350 people every day. Seventy-five percent went to Church World Service, an international relief agency that

provides emergency aid and supports sustainable self-help development. Over the past 28 years, the Greensboro CROP Hunger Walk has raised a cumulative total of over \$4 million with more than \$957,000 going to Potter's House.

Bring canned food items to your Walk for Greensboro Urban Ministry's Food Bank. This collection is part of WFMY News 2's "Food 2 Families" food drive.

For more information, contact: Ralph Wenger or a member of the Board of Christian Service.



## CUCC Business

**CUCC Food Donations to Greensboro Urban Ministry**

9/20/08: 67 pounds

**Volunteers**

**September 28**

Lay Reader: Anne Barton  
 Toddler Nursery: Tracie Cranford  
 Coffee Hour: TBA

**September Ushers**

Betty & Mac Mackenzie,  
 Sherrill Hall, Karl Schleunes

**October 5**

Lay Reader: TBA  
 Toddler Nursery: Krista & Tina Kolphenson  
 Coffee Hour: M. Caviness/F. & B. Kuester

**October Ushers**

J. Myrick, S. Burch,  
 C. Humphrey, M. Dorko

**Financial Reports**

Weekly Income	09/14/08	09/21/08
Pledged Offering	\$4080.00	1216.00
Unpledged Offering	919.00	483.00
Use of the Church	100.00	
BRAG Deposits	100.00	75.00
Miscellaneous		500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5199.00</b>	<b>2390.00</b>



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

NONPROFIT ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 GREENSBORO, NC  
 PERMIT NO. 44



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-four households have requested to be removed.

## Among Our Members

Mabel and HO Williams wish to amend and extend their recent note of thanks, to include Louis and Uldine Duckworth for their thoughtful assistance.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Judy Page and her family Brian, Courtney, Griffin, and Duncan, on the death of her father Don Krchma. Don lived in Milwaukee, where the funeral service will be held. Judy will be away for another week or so, as she and her brother spend time with her family there.

**October Birthdays**

- 1 Sherrill Hall
- 2 Arnold Johnson
- 3 Sally White
- 5 Wilson Rowe
- 6 Diane Brewer
- 8 Clara Scarborough
- 9 Earl Wang
- 12 Irene Fenn
- 13 Florence Hilliard
- 13 Trish Shroyer
- 13 Zachary Hertlein
- 14 Jo Fleischer
- 14 Anika Rueppell
- 16 John Cary
- Helen Core
- 17 Parker Acrey
- 18 Bernice Driver
- 19 Lorie Tyson
- 19 John Heil
- 21 Courtney Kent
- 21 Walter Burch
- 24 Laura Yountz
- 24 Jeph Patterson
- 27 Tammy Heil
- 29 Ed Shroyer
- 30 Lynn Magyar