

Stewardship

We Are a Church Filled With Life!



We want you to set aside two dates: Sunday, November 2nd and Sunday, November 9th. On the 2nd we will have a Stewardship Luncheon with have good food and great information about the ministries of this church and our hope for 2009. Then, November 9th will be Stewardship Sunday, when we begin receiving pledges for next year. Please save the dates!

2008 has been a challenging year for our church community, one tinged with sadness, one filled with activities (look at the past two weeks alone). There were times when I felt, "No more, God! We

can't handle any more because our wells are dry and our tanks are empty. We are tired. Please let us get through the present crisis." Then, sometimes God will give us just a little more anyway, as if to say: dry wells? Seriously?

It is then I realize that our church is filled with hope and laughter and spirit. As a church we have been blessed with energy and enthusiasm and amazing people whose wells seem always flowing. As a church, our "tanks" seem filled to the brim. And when I feel empty, someone is there to offer a hand. God is always transforming us. Share the Vision will be an opportunity to tell one another how God and this church keeps you filled and nourished. Share the Vision will be an opportunity for us to give back. Share the Vision. Because together we are a church filled with life.

—Paul



2008 All Church Retreat, courtesy of Elizabeth Rowe. We had eleven people attending for the first time.



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, October 17
Publication: Wednesday, Oct. 22

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

October 12, 2008
Exodus 32:1-14
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

October 19, 2008
Exodus 33:12-23
Psalm 99
I Thessalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22



Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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julie@congregationalucc.com

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paul@congregationalucc.com

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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

An amazing day, an amazing church



Like many of you, being a fairly intuitive type, I can often walk into a place and sense what kind of atmosphere reigns

there. Businesses, churches, medical offices — you can quickly get a feel for how well people get along there, how much they enjoy being there, whether there is much life in the place, and so on.

For our guests this past Saturday at the WNCA annual meeting, there could have been little doubt about what kind of place Congregational is. And so many comments reflected that. “How beautiful the grounds are!” “Your people are so friendly and helpful.” “Best lunch ever at one of these annual meetings.” “Everything looks so welcoming and clean.” I could go on and on.

Sheriff Andy Taylor had a great line about someone who felt very proud: “Why, you could throw him in the river and skim off proud. . .” Friends, I am always proud of this congregation. But Saturday, you could have thrown me in the river . . . Everything looked great, all the plans worked out well, the music was outstanding, we had an amazing corps of volunteers. And the lunch really was spectacular. There was no line, no waiting. People just came in, sat down, and there was food!! Really good food!! People served as greeters, singers, parking attendants, tellers, communion servers, cooks, clean-up crew, delegates, and more. Whenever something was needed, someone stepped in. And all was done in a spirit of kindness, good humor, and teamwork.

And the amazing thing is, this wasn't some kind of miracle. It's

part of who we are. To be sure, it took a lot of work on the part of many people, but Saturday was a wonderful and accurate reflection of the character of this church.

I am so, so grateful to all. Special thanks to Becky Fleischer, Bill Guill, and Paul Davis for their many extra hours and effort. Thanks, all who took part.

For the next three weeks, our Scripture readings, sermons and worship will focus on community. How do we, as a people of faith, find reason to rejoice? What does it mean to support one another in our journeys of faith? How do we, as a faith community, “love God back,” as Ann Lamott says? This series will then culminate on All Saints Sunday, Nov. 2, when we consider our life together as a living witness of past, present, and future.

There is indeed life here. There is welcome, and generosity. The atmosphere is not just positive, but filled with the Spirit. Join us.

—Julie Peeples



There were many helpers who made the day successful, including chefs Butch Jenkins and Ish Whitfield.

Education Notes

All Church Retreat, Supper Study, Santa's Elves



Fifty-nine people from our church, including eleven first-timers, participated in our annual All-Church Retreat at Blowing Rock the weekend

of September 26-28. Though the weather was rainy, the company was delightful, the discussion heartfelt, s'mores abundant, the food quite good, and the topic — Sharing our Sacred Stories — timely and profound. Thanks to all who came!

—Paul Davis

Supper Study!

October 15: Our Annual Political Forum, 6:30-8:00 pm - 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, 6:00-7:30 pm - 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, 6:00-7:30 pm (*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.

General Supper Study Info

- 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.
- Child care is always provided.



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 is 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 is 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 are interested in becoming an elf or want more information, e-mail santaselfgso@aol.com, or speak with a member of the Board of Christian Service.

Memories of the 2008 All-Church Retreat



Hannah Davis, attending her 17th retreat leading in charades.



We spent much of our time talking in small groups.



Sunday worship ended with communion.

Higher Ground, Giving Statements, Among Our Members

Our next date to serve lunch at Higher Ground is Tuesday, October 28th. Food donations and volunteers are always welcomed. Food donations should be at the church by 10:45 am that Tuesday or may be brought directly to Higher Ground. Side dishes are especially needed. For more information, contact Ish Whitfield (434-250-4364, 434-792-6707 or dancincheffish@msn.com).



Giving Statements

Giving Statements for the third Quarter are now available. Please find the box in the fellowship hall where envelopes are alphabetized for your convenience. In order to save postage, statements will be mailed only upon request. It will be helpful if each donor will pick up the individual statement as soon as possible. Folks who pledge are reminded to check progress on meeting personal goals. If you have questions, contact Pam Aldridge at 674-0910.

Keep in Your Prayers ...

Jennings Berry (father of Pam Aldridge), Lauren Brower, Evelyn Chamberlain, Bob Crews (Cathy Wheeler's father), Mark DeHaven, Fran Ditto, The Dollyhigh Family, Emily Field, Kaye Gardiner (Midge Rasey's daughter), Alice Gilley (mother of Marjorie Lyles), The Guerra Family, Beth Haunton (Lorie Tyson's friend), Barbara Hollifield, The Lamberts, Virginia Stricklen, Brad and Becky Snyder (son and daughter-in-law of Lynn Hamilton), H. O. Williams, Rosa Williamson



Sunday, October 5th, was World Communion Sunday and during our call to worship, Claire Anderson was one of four people who brought forward breads from around the world.



New Address

Rebecca Borum
4100 Well Spring Dr. Apt. 2211
Greensboro, NC! 27410
336-286-7991



It's a party! For Kate Larson!

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, October 18, 2008
6:00-10:00 pm

Larson's Lodge
5609 Richland St., Greensboro
299-9098 (H), 908-2076 (M)

RSVP: klarson1@triad.rr.com

Inspired by the Heinz 57 varieties symbol, I decided to celebrate my 57th birthday by inviting all of you, my 57+ varieties of family and friends, over for some fun.

Live music, provided by Saludos Company, dancing, food and drink and YOU!! Bring the kids!

Come dressed to be outside (and we'll work out the details if the weather doesn't cooperate).

No gifts—but if you feel so inclined, a small donation may be made to the Southern Poverty Law Center.
—Kate

Book Sale

Our annual book sale will take place following worship this Sunday, October 12th. We will open to the public at 1:00 pm. Helpers and sorters are welcome to come Friday afternoon and assist with setting up the sale, beginning at 5:00 pm.



CUCC Business

CUCC Food Donations to Greensboro Urban Ministry

9/21/08-10/06/08: 20 pounds

Volunteers

October 12

Lay Reader: Flora Taylor
Toddler Nursery: Tricia Sutter
Coffee Hour: Sharon Harper

October 19

Lay Reader: Bill Guill
Toddler Nursery: S. Lane & L. Magyar
Coffee Hour: S. Shoaf & T. Sutter

October Ushers

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

Financial Reports

Weekly Income	09/28/08	10/05/08
Pledged Offering	\$414.00	6842.00
Unpledged Offering	499.00	1084.50
Supper Study	5.00	780.00
BRAG Deposits	337.50	200.00
User of Church	---	570.00
T-Shirts	---	20.00
Neighbors in Need	---	50.00
Total	\$1,255.50	\$9,546.50

Budget Income/Expense Summary

	Sept.	Year-to-Date
Income	\$34,256.24	\$239,211.89
Expense	30,991.04	235,964.30
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$3,265.20	\$3,247.59

Men's Retreat, Community Events

The Men's Prayer Breakfast, which meets every Friday from 7:00 to 8:00 am, will have its Annual Saturday Retreat, on Saturday, October 25. This is open to all men of the church, and you don't have to be a part of our breakfast group. We will meet at St. Francis Springs Prayer Center in Stoneville, an absolutely lovely setting for retreats. We will begin at 9:00 am and go until about 2:00 pm. The cost is \$20 per person, and will include lunch. However, first time participants in the retreat can come for half price! Our theme will be "Sharing our Story: A Sacred Conversation with Men."

If you would like to carpool to Stoneville, some of us will meet at church at 8:00 am. If you are interested in coming, please be in touch with Paul.



Conscious Aging: A New Vision for Growing Older

Exploring Opportunities for Personal and Spiritual Growth in the Second Half of Life

Presented by:
Adult Center For Enrichment
in collaboration with
Second Journey, Inc.

October 24, 2008

The Empire Room
203 South Elm Street
Greensboro, NC

- You may register online at: www.acecare.org or by phone: 336-274-3559.
- Space is limited. Registrations must be received by the October 17 deadline. Registration will not be available at the door on the day of the event.

Holiday Auction

Please join us for the Mental Health Association in Greensboro's Second Annual Holiday Auction.



Live Auction Featuring:

An Original Sculpture by Frank Holder

Fabulous Silent Auction Items Including:

- Original paintings by local and regional artists
- Pottery by regional potters
- Sculpture, prints and other art items
- Jewelry
- Decorative furniture and accessories
- Concert and theater tickets
- Sports tickets
- Restaurant gift certificates
- Gift baskets
- Unique stocking stuffers
- And more!

Saturday, November 8, 2008
6:30 - 9:00 pm

Foundation Place
330 S. Greene Street
Downtown Greensboro

\$25.00 Admission per person
Festive Attire

Music by Turner Battle and a
special guest performance by
Laurelyn Dossett

Heavy hors d' oeuvres, wine and beer - Join us for a festive evening of holiday shopping and invest in mental wellness.

Space is limited!

For reservations please call 373-1402 or make reservations online at www.mhag.org/auction. Please respond by November 3, 2008.

Thank You!

Thanks to everyone who helped with the WNCA Annual Meeting. There was a massive cleaning campaign, a massive decorating campaign, a massive food campaign (including a luncheon, snacks, coffee/tea breaks, and fresh fruit), a massive "greeting and meeting" campaign (including traffic coordinators, hosts, ushers, ballot counters). It was just wonderful, and we want to thank the following: The Chancel Choir, Jimmy Buchanan, Konstantza Chernov, Paul Macy, Cathy Wheeler, Teresa Earles, Dot Ballinger, Becky Fleischer, Bill Guill, Clyde Humphrey, Sharon Karnes, Margaret Byrd, Eileen Stirling, Nancy Bennett, Barbara Whitener, Beth Hoagland, Anne Barton, Paul Macy, Lorie Tyson, Milton Shaw, Ish Whitfield, Butch Jenkins, Bill Smith, Winnie Smith, Irwin Smallwood, and Virginia Strickland.

There were probably others and sorry if you were left off the list, but it was a great effort. We received many heart-felt compliments, and we should be proud!



Following the morning worship service, the business meeting was held. All was calm.



Our Fellowship Hall was tastefully appointed for an even tastier lunch.



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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-four households have requested to be removed.

Reminder

Food Donations for Greensboro Urban Ministry

We have an ongoing commitment to Greensboro Urban Ministry to provide twenty-five containers of oatmeal for their food pantry on a monthly basis. The oatmeal can be left on the kitchen counter here at the church and will be delivered to GUM.

In addition, small containers of peanut butter, regular cans of vegetables, meats, and fruits are especially needed at Greensboro Urban Ministry (place them in the specially marked container outside the kitchen). Your generosity will assist people in our community who are struggling to make ends meet.

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!