

Stewardship

Share the Vision 2009

Our Stewardship Luncheon will be on Sunday November 2 following worship. Everyone is invited — the meal will be catered and will be free. I am putting together a visual presentation for our Stewardship Campaign, going through several thousand pictures to try to capture the essence of our church. I think I just about have it, and want to share with you a small preview:



It is pretty small right now. You'll have to come to the Luncheon to get the larger story. But what you see (or experience) depends on your perspective. At a glance, our church may mean little to the casual observer. If you keep your distance, this could be your image. This would be a real shame, though, because there is more jammed into this picture than you would think—a lot more.

Stewardship is about placing the church in perspective, and finding your place in the picture. So come closer, get involved, be a part.



Where the world offers political and economic uncertainty, I believe we offer hope. Where the world tells us we never have enough, I believe God's message to us is that our blessings are abundant. So keep looking and keep coming closer to God through this church. I promise there is a place for you here.

—Paul Davis



Bell Banner – To Remember Loved Ones

Our bell banner will be in the Fellowship Hall until All Saints Sunday, when it will become part of our worship procession. All are invited to pin a bell on the banner in memory of loved ones who have died during the past year.



Lunch for Higher Ground

Our next date to serve lunch at Higher Ground is Tuesday, October 28th. Food donations and volunteers are always welcomed. Side dishes are especially needed. Food donations should be at the church by 11:00 am that Tuesday or may be brought directly to Higher Ground (210 East Bessemer Avenue). Side dishes are especially needed. For more information, contact Ish Whitfield (434-250-4364, 434-792-6707 or dancincheffish@msn.com).



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 31
Publication: Wednesday, Nov. 5

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 26, 2008
Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
I Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

November 2, 2008
Joshua 3:7-17
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
I Thessalonians 2:9-13
Matthew 23:1-12



Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Greensboro, NC 27403
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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
Choir Director
jrbsoul@aol.com

Ms. Edna Olayiwoya
Director of Children's Music &
Bella a Cappella
olayiwe@gcsnc.com

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 . . .

Congregational News is published by
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Greensboro, North Carolina

From the Pastor

Gratefully Yours, . . .



Paul and I were both surprised and very touched by the expressions of appreciation during the October 12th worship service, in observance of Pastors Appreciation Day. Thank you all! We quickly made good use of our New Garden gift certificate, selecting new plants to replace the ones that had met with an early demise, and even planted a new plum tree. The weather was so beautiful, and it was great fun to be outside getting some things done we'd put off for too long! Thank you again! You are a marvelous, amazing, loving congregation.

It has been quite a busy season. But as the cooler winds blow in and the leaves turn gold and red and begin to fall, my thoughts turn to some of my most favorite times in worship, just around the corner. All Saints is Sunday, November 2, with Stewardship Sunday following on the 9th. Thanksgiving follows on their heels, and then, Advent! Jimmy and the choirs have a variety of beautiful, moving music in store, we have a mix of cherished traditions and new elements planned, a great luncheon set for November 2, and more to come. While we know that "where two or three are gathered," God is there in our midst, it's even more fun when lots and lots are gathered, so come and worship. You'll be missing something very special if you don't, and we would miss you! Invite a friend and join us.

One last update — I will be participating in an interfaith trip to Israel from December 1-11. Rabbis Fred Guttman and Eli Havivi organized this special effort, with a diverse group of Jewish and Christian, black and white, male and female

faith leaders from Greensboro. It promises to be an exciting time, aimed at strengthening local partnerships and relationships in addition to the opportunity to explore Israel together. I am very excited, and will keep you posted.

—Julie Peeples



Update: Driver's Court Case

On October 21, in the courthouse in Hillsville Virginia, a plea agreement was formally entered and accepted by all parties involved in the wreck that took the lives of Isa, Jorge, Isa's mother Colleen, and their beloved dog Kivett. The driver of the truck that hit Isa and Jorge's vehicle was sentenced to eighteen months in prison and ordered to pay restitution of funeral costs. Original charges of involuntary manslaughter and driving under the influence were reduced to reckless driving due to technical problems with the state's case. Even though the family early on had expected greater jail time, they concurred with this agreement, and are relieved to have some closure for this part of the ongoing process. They are very grateful for the prayers and support of the congregation.

Rev. Peeples' Oct. 19th sermon included her letter to the driver, and will be posted on the church website in the next few days.

Education Notes

Appreciation, Men's Retreat, Book Sale, Book Group



I want to thank the church for the certificate presented to me a week ago. You have been most patient with me as I have taken many of you off

into the areas of our nation that cry out for hope. You have provided that sense of hope, with your efforts, your good wishes and prayers, and with your money. A cynical leader of one of the organizations I used to work with (he is no longer with the group either) once told me that when one is down, there may be empty offers of help, but when it comes down to it, no one will really stand with you. Thank you for repeatedly proving this guy wrong.

—Paul Davis



Men's Retreat

On Saturday, a dozen of us will spend the morning at St. Francis Springs Prayer Center, on retreat. Should the spirit whisper to you to join us, please call Paul and there will be space.



Book Sale

Thanks to our shoppers and workers, we raised about \$325 to offset the cost of our All Church Retreat. The leftover books will be taken to Edward McKay's where will get store credit which will be converted into gift certificates. We will offer these for purchase at a future fundraiser. Thanks to all who gave books to the church as well!

Book Group

Our long-awaited discussion of Justin Catanoso's book, *My Cousin the Saint*, will take place this Sunday around 1:00 pm in the Parlor. If you read the book or even if you heard Justin speak at Supper Study, please join us.



Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Commendation Of Reverend Paul Davis

In recognition of the work of Reverend Paul Davis, the Church Council of the Congregational United Church of Christ approves the following resolution:

1. Whereas: Under the leadership of Reverend Paul Davis, members and friends of Congregational United Church of Christ completed two-one week mission trips to New Orleans, Louisiana during the summer of 2008. Both of these trips accomplished their objectives of working toward the improvement of lives of victims of hurricane Katrina. In addition, the lives of the participants were enriched by exposure to the reality of serving others and simultaneously experiencing the benevolence of those served. This was accomplished under the umbrella of both physical and spiritual leadership provided by Paul.
2. Whereas: The work trips to New Orleans during the summer of 2008 are only the latest examples of a tradition of leadership service exemplified by Paul. His efforts have been repeated over the course of years beginning with the first mission trip lead by him in the summer of 1992 to Harland, Kentucky. He has lead or participated in 21 work trips in this country and three to Honduras. He takes to heart the advice from the Epistle of James, "...to be doers of the word and not hearers only...", and enjoys the opportunity to do both when leading groups.

The Church Council of Congregational United Church of Christ hereby commends Reverend Paul Davis for the leadership and hard work he has provided in this effort of physical service and spiritual growth

This resolution presented to the Reverend Paul Davis on Sunday, October 12, 2008.

Kenneth Sell, Church Moderator

Supper Study, WNCA History

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 - 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.

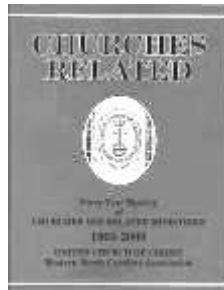


Keep in Your Prayers ...

Jennings Berry (father of Pam Aldridge), Lauren Brower, Evelyn Chamberlain, Bob Crews (Cathy Wheeler's father), Mark DeHaven, Fran Ditto, The Dollyhigh Family, Jessica Ellisor (Teresa Earle's niece), Emily Field, Kaye Gardiner (Midge Rasey's daughter), Alice Gilley (mother of Marjorie Liles), 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

WNCA History

If you ever wondered what the Western North Carolina Association is all about, now you have a wonderful opportunity to find out in a new book, *Churches Related, 1965-2005*. This attractively printed 300-page volume has just come off the press. It includes a brief history and a color photo of each church building of the 120 churches of the WNCA. In addition, it lists the pastors who served during this period.



There is a brief history and photos of the benevolent institutions that were founded by the united efforts of congregations of the WNCA over the past 150 years. It gives a brief history and mentions many members who willingly gave of their time and effort to make these institutions succeed. In some instances, members gave huge amounts of money to underwrite these ministries. In 40 pages, the work of Elon University, Catawba College, Elon and Nazareth Children's Homes, our Retirement Homes, Blowing Rock Conference Center, John's River Valley Camp and Black Lake Retreat Center is described. Our congregation regularly contributes money to these institutions. This book will give you a better understanding of the benevolent work that we support.

The book is available for \$25 until the end of the year. See me if

you are interested in purchasing a copy. Our church library was given a copy by the E. & R. Historical Society, Southern Region.

—Kenneth Sell



CUCC Business

CUCC Food Donations to Greensboro Urban Ministry
10/7/08-10/22/08: 38 pounds

Volunteers

October 26

- Lay Reader: Robin Dorko
- Toddler Nursery: Nancy Prairie & Sunny Covington
- Coffee Hour: Paula & Alan Harder

October Ushers

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

November 2

- Lay Reader: Debra Hertlein
- Toddler Nursery: Jon & Marie Nance
- Coffee Hour: Harold & Beth Ashworth

November Ushers

- Frank Kuester, John Taylor, Charles Hertlein

Financial Reports

Weekly Income	10/12/08	10/19/08
Pledged Offering	\$2,223.00	11,771.00
Unpledged Offering	829.71	854.36
Supper Study	11.00	131.00
Men's Retreat	20.00	140.00
Neighbors in Need	50.00	1,059.00
CWS/CROP	---	120.00
Book Sale	---	274.00
Oatmeal for GUM	36.21	---
Total	\$3,169.92	\$14,349.36

Budget Income/Expense Summary

	10/1-10/19	Year-to-Date
Income	\$31,306.42	\$270,518.31
Expense	10,381.42	242,357.26
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$20,925.00	\$28,161.05

School Supplies, Oatmeal, Vote Out Poverty

School supplies have been delivered to Mary's House, Clara's House, Cone School and Jones School. We made a lot of people happy! Thanks for such a great job of donating!



Oatmeal for Urban Ministry

I am happy to report we made our quota of oatmeal for September, plus we are well on our way into our quota for October. We turned in 64 pounds of oatmeal two weeks ago! I have spoken with Urban Ministry and they say they use at least 50 containers a month of oatmeal—and that is a lot of oatmeal! There is another church that supplies oatmeal, so I am asking that we attempt to donate 25 containers each month. Keep them coming to give them a good supply. Thanks for helping out so well and please continue!

Libby Bowles



Update: Vote Out Poverty

Last month we invited members of the congregation to consider signing voter pledge cards that made overcoming poverty central to how they would cast their ballot in the 2008 U.S. Congressional and Senatorial elections. A total of 86 individuals made this commitment.

A spreadsheet with the names of these individuals, and a letter

explaining the Vote Out Poverty (VOP) campaign, was sent to candidates for the Senate seat in North Carolina and to those running for the House of Representatives from Districts 6, 12, and 13. Each candidate also was sent a Candidate Pledge Form and a self-addressed, stamped envelope in which to return the form. In brief, the form asked the candidate to pledge that: "During my time in office, I will work to put poverty on the national agenda, by partnering with local community leaders and colleagues in Congress, so that we can change the face of poverty in the United States and around the world."

As of October 18, two candidates have returned signed pledges: Congressional District 12 - Ty Cobb, Jr., and Melvin Watt. Harold Coble from Congressional District 6 called me to indicate that he conceptually was in agreement, but felt uncomfortable signing it at this time in light of the economic situation. He indicated that, if elected, he would reassess the pledge during the next congressional session and hope to be able to sign it at that time.

Regardless of your convictions about the VOP campaign, those of us who have worked on the campaign hope you will take part in the election and make your voice be heard through the ballot box.

*—Ralph Wenger
VOP Pledge Manager*



Drive Against Hunger Golf Tournament

**October 30, 2008
Meadowlands Golf Course
Winston-Salem**

Thirty eight million Americans live in households that experience hunger or the risk of hunger. Unfortunately, we find many of these people right here in the triad area. Last year alone, Crisis Control Ministry, Open Door Ministries and Greensboro Urban Ministry combined, help feed over 100,000 hungry people in the Triad.

You can help fight this on-going crisis in our community and have fun while doing so! Chick-fil-A, in their continuing effort to fight hunger in the Triad, invites you to the Fifth Annual Chick-fil-A Drive Against Hunger Golf Tournament.

Visit cfadriveagainsthunger.com to learn how you can help "drive" hunger out of the Triad!



Film Screening Benefit Event

What happens to a child, a culture, a nation, when in some communities up to 95% of the men are gone?

"In the Absence of Men"

November 14 • 7:30 pm

**Eno River UU Fellowship
4707 Garrett Road, Durham**

\$10/adult, \$17/pair, \$20/family

A pre-release sample reel of the documentary, a discussion on Mexican immigration issues, and a Q&A session with the filmmaker, Robin Arutt. Your attendance helps to complete this film.

For more info contact Dave Austin (daustin@mindspring.com or 919-286-1473).

In Our Community

Santa's Elves, Church Women United, and More

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 co-operation 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 to Darci Mozgai.



Church Women United World Community Day

"God's Wisdom Sets Us Free" is the theme for this year's celebration to be held on Saturday, November 1, at the Triad Native American United Methodist Church, 3010 Monterey Street, Greensboro.

The morning's program will begin at 10:00 am with registration and coffee. Rev. Deborah Seuss of First Friends Meeting will lead the Bible study at 10:30 with the program of celebration starting at 11:00. There will be no luncheon at this meeting, but childcare will be provided to enable more women to attend.

Church Women United is a world-wide ecumenical movement which is racially, culturally and theologically inclusive and which celebrates unity as it works to promote a world of justice and peace.

Come! Join with women from other Greensboro churches as we celebrate World Community Day. The ecumenical action committee has designate Faith Action International as this meeting's recipient of donations, and requests paper products or used household items for immigrant families.

If you have questions or need transportation, contact Eileen Stirling, 852-0170.

When I Knew

A Program Sponsored by GSAFE (Gay Straight Advocates for Education)

Have you ever wondered if sexual orientation or gender identity is a choice? Do LGBT individuals just wake up one day and decide to be lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered? Is there a moment when they know for certain they are LGBT?

Join us as we listen to the stories of several LGBT individuals from various backgrounds. Hear from them when they, their families, and/or others knew they were somewhat different.

For further information, e-mail contact@gsafe.org.

When I Knew
October 27 • 7:00–8:30 pm
Kathleen Clay Edwards Branch
Library Meeting Room
1420 Price Park Rd., Greensboro



26th Annual Ecumenical Celebration of Thanksgiving

**"Looking Back, Moving
Beyond the Dream"**
Sunday, November 23 • 4:00 pm
**Dana Auditorium, Guilford
College, Greensboro**
**All Ages – Interfaith – Music –
Dance – Free Admission**
**Join us in celebrating our rich
diversity as a community.**

Notes of Love and Appreciation



Thank you for your expressions of condolence, cards and prayers following the death of my brother, Dean Sell, M.D. Your caring has meant much to me.

—*Kenneth Sell*

To my church family,

Words cannot describe my gratitude toward all of you during my surgery and ongoing recovery. For all the visits, cards, food, prayers, etc., thanks and love to all.

—*Barbara Hollifield*

Dear Congregational UCC,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of school supplies for my classroom. It means the world to my students that someone really cares!

Many thanks and blessings,
—*Rosanne Ramsay*
2nd Grade, Cone Elementary

Dear Julie, Paul and Members of Congregational UCC,

I thank you on behalf of the Western NC Association, the Board of Directors and for myself for the well prepared and festive setting you provided for our annual meeting of the Western NC Association. The sanctuary, yard, board meeting room and dining area were so festive and joyful looking. The outdoor reception area for fellowship before

the meeting was well organized and nice on such a beautiful autumn day! The planning for the worship service made for an inspiring time to be aware of God's presence with us. The meal was delicious! The members who were able to direct auto traffic and provide assistance inside the building were appreciated. All of the effort to provide adequate meeting rooms and display areas was helpful.

Thank you for all that each of you did to enable us to have a pleasant, friendly, beneficial, and healing association meeting. A ministry well done that should bear good fruit into the future!

Best wishes to each of you as God continues to work in and through your lives to accomplish good.

Peace and Hope,
—*Jamie Fonville*
Vice-President, WNCA

To Our Friends at Congregational United Church of Christ,

On behalf of the volunteers and staff at Greensboro Urban Ministry's Food Bank, we wish to express our appreciation for your support during our Fall Food Drive. We are pleased to report that we received 56,721 pounds of canned and packaged food items from the September and October grocery store drives.

We are grateful for the time given by your volunteers in order to make this food drive so successful. Due to the work of so many people across our community, we are able to continue to provide help to many who are in need. On a typical day, we provide an average of 50+ bags of food with each weighing 30+ pounds. In order to meet very basic needs, we provide approximately

7,500-8,000 pounds of emergency food each week.

Volunteers from your group collected 342 pounds of canned and packaged food items and \$42.01 in cash/checks from the customers at Sam's Club. Please accept our appreciation for those who worked so hard. You folk are amazing. This was such a wonderful gesture.

—*Pat Spain*
Greensboro Urban Ministry



Congregational Nurse Notes

Attention Boys and Girls! Have a Safe Halloween!



- Carry a flashlight
- Walk, don't run
- Stay on sidewalks
- Obey traffic signals
- Stay in familiar neighborhoods
- Don't cut across yards or driveways
- Make sure costumes don't drag on the ground
- Approach only houses that are lit
- Stay away from pet animals you do not know

Add your own tips by writing them on the pumpkin picture you can find enclosed with this newsletter. Bring your written ideas to the Children's Table at our Health Fair on October 26 . . . and receive a surprise!!!

Stay safe,
Charlotte Evans RN, MN, CN



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

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Reminder

Flu Shot Clinic & Health Fair

Sunday, October 26th
Noon to 2:00 pm in the
Fellowship Hall

There will be something
for everyone!



- Flu Shots
- Tables With Information for the Entire Family
- Blood Sugar Testing (*If you want your blood sugar tested, please do not eat after 10:00 am.*)
- Blood Pressure Screening
- Children's Table
- Alternative Therapies
- Communicable Diseases
- Breast Cancer Awareness

November Birthdays

- 5 Olav Rueppell
- 6 Marjorie Liles
- 6 Harley Fleischer
- 8 Lewis Duckworth
- 8 Roger Gibbs
- 8 Sarah Rice
- 8 Brooks Truitt
- 9 Lynn Wright-Kernodle
- 11 Becky Bulla
- 11 Travis Phillips-Macy
- 12 Linda DeShazo
- 13 Mary Burch
- 20 Bryan Jenkins
- 20 Lawrence Lambert
- 22 Milton Shaw
- 24 Jude Grayer
- 27 Bonita Olds
- 27 Cindy Caviness Cole
- 27 Jeff Langston
- 28 Ruthann Wenger