

Stewardship Sunday

Share The Vision 2009

We have used words and phrases this stewardship season like perspective, hope, life, abundant blessings. Your place in the picture. A place where everyone is welcome. Overflowing wells. Our gifts represent our hopes. Let me offer another phrase: Our gifts and pledges, consecrated to the glory of God, proclaim our faith that God is at work here.

These phrases can all seem a little ethereal, and we thoughtful, intellectual believers are right to be suspicious of ideas that are light, airy, tenuous, or lacking in material substance (a dictionary definition of ethereal). Ethereal can also mean of heaven or heavenly, not of this world. Indeed, in a very real sense our Christian ideas are and must be ethereal. Things of God are not of our world, and cannot be explained solely with worldly logic. Our hopes transcend what we see and what we expect. That's what happens when God comes into the equation.

Nathanael, the early disciple in John's Gospel with his own suspicions, has a wonderful line on hearing about Jesus: "can anything good come out of Nazareth?" How can Jesus be who you say he is? The same thought comes to us all the time. Can good come out of anything we do, as Christians and as members of this church? Can I really make a difference? The response given to Nathanael, the response given to the first disciples, the response I offer you: "Come and see."

Come and see what God is doing. Come and see what *you* are doing, through your efforts and your gifts. It is ethereal: it is of God.



All Saints Sunday: A Feast Of Great Food, Powerful Photos, Shared Memories

Special thanks to all who helped to lead, feed, sing, ring, and generally make our 2008 All Saints Sunday one to cherish and remember. Thanks to all the musicians, the kitchen crew, to Pam Aldridge for the beautiful "Names Banner," the deacons, and Paul Davis for the amazing presentation and brochure. We remembered those we've lost this year: Blanche Warren, Helen Humphrey, Isa Dollyhigh, Jorge Guerra, Bill Simpson, Clyde Rudd, and Jim Brewer. And we lifted up all the good things happening, through all the living saints in our midst!

As we move into our Stewardship time, we have the wonderful opportunity to build on the foundation others have laid, and to keep our ministry together going strong.



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, November 14
Publication: Wednesday, Nov. 19

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

November 9, 2008
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Psalm 78:1-7
I Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

November 16, 2008

Judges 4:1-7
Psalm 123
I Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30



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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
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 . . .

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From the Pastor

Gratitude . . . For All The Saints!



This year has brought way too many changes already, but there is one more change which I am very excited about: we have

hired a new accompanist! His name is Bill Herndon, and he will begin working with us on Dec. 1.

For those of you who were here for worship on October 5, you had the chance to hear Bill play the organ. And wow, did he play! He is an amazing musician, on both organ and piano. He stepped in with the choir rehearsal and impressed all with his abilities and rapport. Bill brings many years of experience in church choirs, most recently serving with Second UCC in Lexington. In addition, he works on the maintenance crew of the U.S. Postal Service. He lives in High Point.

I know you will join me in giving Bill a warm CUCC welcome!

And, though I have said it several times before during the past few months, let me say it again: we owe a huge debt of gratitude and love to our choirs. Jimmy has done a marvelous job of pulling everyone together and continuing to build on a strong foundation. Now, with Miss O heading the Children's Choir and Bella a Capella, and with Bill on the keyboards, we have a complete and amazing team!

From the bottom of my heart, thank you, singers, bell-ringers, leaders, all. You have continued to provide us with music of beauty and substance, uplifting and strengthening us in our faith. And you have done this through the most difficult of times and through all the subsequent changes.

This coming Sunday is our Stewardship Sunday. We will bring forward our commitment cards, gather with families and friends for prayers of blessing, and offer to God our deepest gratitude.

Our congregation depends on every one of us responding as generously as we can; not only to "meet the budget," as important as that is, but to show where our heart, our gratitude lies. And we indeed have much for which to be grateful.

—Julie Peeples



New Members November 16

We will welcome new members on Sunday, November 16 during our worship service. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member, please let Rev. Peeples know this week.



Keep in Your Prayers ...

Jennings Berry (father of Pam Aldridge), 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), Alice Gilley (mother of Marjorie Liles), The Guerra Family, Beth Haunton (Lorie Tyson's friend), Barbara Hollifield, The Lamberts, Hyatt Ford Nolan, Virginia Stricklen, Ruthann Wenger, H. O. Williams, Rosa Williamson

Nursery Notes, Book Group, Supper Study & More



Because this is Stewardship Sunday, there will be childcare during worship this Sunday only for children up to 4 years old. Sunday, families are encouraged to come forward together to turn in their Pledge Cards. This is a wonderful way to teach our children about giving and receiving, because as families we will offer our hopes and receive a prayerful blessing. —Paul Davis

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Stewardship Brochure: Come & Share the Vision

Extra copies of the stewardship brochure will be available at the Stewardship stations at church, along with Pledge Cards, and electronic giving information. Clif Karnes is working on putting the brochure on the website as well.

Book Group

The Book Group will meet on Sunday, November 16th, in the parlor about 30 minutes after worship. Our selection this month will be the Gospel of Mark, a follow-up on last year when we read the Gospel of Matthew. The beginning of Advent marks a beginning of a new liturgical year, and each year has a focus on one of the first three gospels; 2009 will be the Gospel of Mark. Join us!

Supper Study!

November 12: Safe Space For Hard Decisions, Part II, 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 continue to lead us through the maze of issues and important decisions, whether for ourselves or loved ones. She will be prepared to notarize papers for any who are ready to take the next step.

- Cost - Adults: \$5, Children: \$3
- Make reservations by noon on Tuesday by calling or e-mailing the church office or by indicating your interest on the Attendance Pad in worship.
- Child care is always provided.

Supper Study programs will resume in January.



Decent Care: A Seminar

**Friday, November 7, 2008
9:30 am-12:30 pm**

**Greensboro Central Library
Tannenbaum-Sternberger Room**

Presented by:

The Reverend Ted Karpf

Partnership Officer, the World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland; Senior Fellow, Duke University Health Inequalities Program, the Terry Sanford Institute for Public Policy; Principle Editor: Restoring Hope: Decent Care in the Midst of AIDS (2008); Canon for Global Health, Episcopal Diocese of Washington, DC

Robin Y. Swift, MPH

Director, Clergy Health Initiative, Duke University; Associate Director, NC HIV Training Center, Duke University; Assistant to the Director/Visiting Lecturer in Public Policy Center for Health Policy, Duke University

In 2006, the World Health Organization convened a Ford Foundation-supported Global Consultation on Decent Care in Vevey, Switzerland. Leading ethicists and theologians joined faith- and community-based groups that provide prevention, treatment, care and support services for people living with HIV (PLHIV) throughout the world. Outcomes included identifying core values essential to decent care, contextual issues that frame the HIV pandemic, operational parameters to help gauge the success of care services, and over-all goals for the development of decent care.

The essential findings of the Consultation were that each PLHIV should have the most competent care available, that such care respond to breadth of life and health issues, with the development and management of that care under the individual's direction. Focusing less on the "healthful results" of traditional models of care, the model of decent care strives to reintroduce fundamental values at the heart of the caring process. Restoring an individual's health is only possible if the individual's hope--hope in a flourishing future--is restored as well.

Free registration required. E-mail: jamesfkeith@hotmail.com. Seating is limited.

Sponsors: Triad Health Project/ Higher Ground Interfaith Network, Greensboro Housing Coalition, Greensboro Public Library

Tents of Hope, E-Giving, Food Donations, Parking

Our beautiful tent will be going to Washington, DC, November 7-9 to join 300 others. We will be participating in an interfaith weekend to promote awareness of the situation in Darfur, and then we have the opportunity for our tent to be shipped to the Sudan to be used in a refugee camp. In order for our tent to be shipped and utilized as shelter, we need to raise approximately \$200. If you wish to make a contribution, go to www.tentsofhope.org, or get a check to Barbara Rice (558-1242), or to our church office. Barbara will be our representative at the interfaith weekend. Checks should be made to UCC Central Atlantic Conference, please note in the memo "for Tents of Hope."



Change of Focus From Oatmeal For Awhile

We have definitely made our quota of oatmeal for October and November already. Plus, Urban Ministry has a good supply of oatmeal at this time. James and I were told that they need canned fruits and canned vegetables. So let's change our focus from oatmeal to canned fruits and canned vegetables for awhile. Thanks as usual for all you do.

—Libby Bowles

Electronic Giving Is Available

Many of our members enjoy the carefree option of giving their pledges electronically. There is information about this form of giving on our church website, along with an authorization form you can download to get started. Forms are also available near the church office and fellowship hall. If you already give electronically, pledge cards will have a special section where you can indicate any desired changes in your giving, or pledge to continue your current plan.

Participating members find that this plan of giving assures that their pledge is always given on time and saves check writing and remembering weekly envelopes. The church benefits by this regular kind of giving. If at any time you need to put a "HOLD" status on your account, that is done easily by contacting the church financial secretary.

Initiate this plan any time by dropping your authorization form in the church plate or mailing it to CUCC to the attention of Pam Aldridge.



A Note About Parking

We are once again marking off several parking spaces on the west side of the church on Sunday mornings (the parking lot is the east side), designating them as handicapped parking spaces. Please help us reserve these spaces for those who need easier access into the building. Thanks!!



Next Board & Council Meeting Night

The Boards and Church Council will have their next regular meetings on Tuesday, November 25th, beginning at 6:45 pm with a time of prayer. Board meetings begin at 7:00, Council at 8:15.

CUCC Business

CUCC Food Donations to Greensboro Urban Ministry

10/23/08-11/05/08: 14.5 pounds

Volunteers

November 9

Lay Reader: Barbara Whitener
 Toddler Nursery: Becky Fleischer & Sunny Covington
 Coffee Hour: Chip & Nancy Prairie

November 16

Lay Reader: Becky Fleischer
 Toddler Nursery: Kirsten Joseph & Michelle Kennedy
 Coffee Hour: Teresa Earles & Debbie Saie

November Ushers

Frank Kuester, John Taylor,
 Charles Hertlein

Financial Reports

Weekly Income	10/26/08	11/02/08
Pledged Offering	\$2,237.00	
Unpledged Offering	398.00	
Designated Gift	3,000.00	<i>Figures not available</i>
Use of Church	145.00	<i>at the time of publication.</i>
CROP Walk	150.00	
Neighbors in Need	25.00	
BRAG Deposits	50.00	
Men's Retreat	60.00	
Memorial Fund	50.00	
Oatmeal for GUM	36.00	
Book Sale	70.00	
Total	\$6,471.00	

Budget Income/Expense Summary

	Oct.	Year-to-Date
Income	\$34,099.67	\$273,311.56
Expense	25,926.95	257,902.79
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$8,172.72	\$15,408.77

In Our Community

Light Up a Life, Holiday Grief Seminar, Feast of Caring

Hospice and Palliative Care of Greensboro's (HPCG) 24th Annual Light Up a Life campaign provides a wonderful opportunity to remember a loved one or to recognize friends, neighbors, co-workers, teachers, and babysitters during the holiday season.

Place a light on the HPCG Tree of Remembrance by making a contribution of \$20 or more in honor or in memory of a special friend or loved one. Your tax-deductible gift will help HPCG provide care and support for children and adults in our community. Your gift will be acknowledged and the person or family you are remembering will be notified. Online gifts may be made to Light Up A Life throughout November and December at www.hospicegso.org.



Holiday Grief Seminar

**Tuesday, November 11, 2008
7:00 – 9:00 pm**

**Hospice & Palliative Care of
Greensboro – Main Building
2500 Summit Ave., Greensboro**

An uplifting and informational seminar addressing both child and adult grief. No reservations required.



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).

A group from First Presbyterian Church will be attending, and if anyone is interested in joining them, please contact Rev. Peebles.



Greensboro Urban Ministries Annual Feast of Caring: Thursday, November 20

The 17th Annual Feast of caring will be held at First Baptist Church, 1000 West Friendly Avenue, Greensboro. Drop in anytime between 5:00 and 7:00 pm for a simple meal of soup and bread. No reservations are necessary.

This meal, in the soup kitchen tradition, kicks off Greensboro Urban Ministry's (GUM) annual operating fund campaign and is your opportunity to give a gift or make an annual pledge for 2008-09.

GUM is often the last place people turn for help. They continue to see record numbers of men, women, and children requesting food, shelter, clothing, emergency assistance and pastoral care. Indi-

viduals give over half of their \$3 million budget. Since GUM is not a United Way agency, it must raise all its own funds.

William Mangum's 2008 Honor Card titled "First Light" will be unveiled and made available at this event. When you make a pledge or give a donation (\$20 minimum) at the feast, you will receive a hand-crafted pottery bowl donated by local and Seagrove potters (or four Honor Cards).

This will be a time for the community to come together to fellowship, to enjoy food and music, and to renew their commitment to the poor and homeless.



Dear CUCC Friends

Some of you may remember my mother, Selma Macy who was a member here from about 1947 until 1957 when she moved back to her hometown of Greenwood, South Carolina. Many of you have responded to my previous requests for prayers for her. Due to her increasing confusion related to dementia, Mom recently had to enter an assisted living facility.

Whenever I have gone home to visit, she often asks me if I still go to Congregational and if anyone there remembers her. I would like to ask that if anyone does remember Mom, even if you met her after she left the church, and would like to send her a brief note or card, that you do so. It would mean a lot to her, and to me. Her address is: Selma Macy, Room 304, Emerald Gardens, 201 Overland Drive, Greenwood, SC 29646

We will also appreciate your continued prayers.

Peace,
Paul Macy



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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-four households have requested to be removed.

Notes of Appreciation

Dear Rev. Peoples & CUCC

Each day, our agency provides vital services to individuals and families in crisis or transition. I am continually delighted by the incredible support the agency receives from donors like you, which makes our work possible.

Thank you for your recent gift to the Clara House shelter. As you may know, Clara House provides emergency shelter for women and children escaping violent homes. This shelter is the only one of its kind in the Greensboro community.

On behalf of Family Service of the Piedmont and all those we serve in the community, thank you.

Sincerely,
Tom Campbell
Interim President

To the Higher Ground Crew

I want to thank all of those who have been a major part in assisting at Higher Ground: Robin Dorko, Henrietta Ingram, Clif Karnes, Bob Williams.

Our next serving date is Tuesday, November 25th. Please join us!

—Ishmael Whitfield

