

## Come and Learn

### Supper Study & Other Amazing Special Events!

#### **Wednesday, March 18, 6:00 pm**

**Healing Touch** – the Rev. Peggy Matthews will speak to us about this helpful, healing practice and will show us how it is used. Menu: Chicken Pot Pie

#### **Wednesday, March 25, 6:00 pm**

**Conversation with the Superintendent of Guilford County Schools** – Mo Green will join us, share his plan, and answer questions. Don't miss it! Menu: Lasagna

#### **Sunday, March 29, 5:00-7:00 pm**

**For The Bible Tells Me So,** – This award-winning, powerful documentary explores the troubled relationship between Christianity and homosexuality. See further info in this Newsletter. Menu: Hors d'oeuvres

#### **Wednesday, April 1, 6:00 pm**

**Put An End To Bullying** – Friends from Equality NC will share with us information about the proposed anti-bullying legislation in the state legislature and why it matters. Menu: Chicken Pot Pie.

#### **Thursday, April 9, 6:00 pm**

**Maundy Thursday** – Covered dish supper (6:00 pm), Holy Communion (6:40 pm), and service of Tenebrae (7:00 pm). We will welcome twelve visitors from the Church of the Rhineland in Germany as our guests. Menu: Covered Dish.

#### **Wednesday, April 15, 6:00 pm**

**A Sudanese Story** – Wel Jok, one of the Lost Boys of Sudan, will join us to share his moving story. He recently returned to Sudan to be reunited with his mother and family members; Jeri wrote about his journey in the News and Record. Menu: Lasagna.

#### **General Supper Study Info**

- Supper at 6:00 pm; Program from 6:30 to 7:30 pm
- Cost - Adults: \$5, Children: \$3 (No charge for Covered Dish, but please make a reservation.)
- Make reservations by indicating your interest on the Attendance Pad in worship or by calling or e-mailing the church office by noon on Tuesday.
- Child care is always provided.



#### **Service of Remembrance**

Last year on March 22nd, our congregation experienced a horrendous loss with the deaths of our Music Director, Isa Dollyhigh, her husband, Jorge Guerra, and Isa's mother. Throughout the past twelve months we have endured, remembered, helped one another grieve and tried to move on as best as we can. On Saturday, March 21st at 6:30 in the evening, we will have a Service of Remembrance. This will be a simple service of prayers, hymns, and an opportunity for us to create together a colorful mosaic, an expression of our love for those we lost and their families. All are welcome to come and be a part of this time to remember and give thanks.



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

#### **Our Next Newsletter**

Deadline: Friday, March 13  
Publication: Wednesday, Mar. 18

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**

##### **March 8, 2009**

Gen. 17:1-7, 15-16  
Psalm 22:23-31  
Romans 4:13-25  
Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9

##### **March 15, 2009**

Exodus 20:1-17  
Psalm 19  
I Cor. 1:18-25  
John 2:13-22



# Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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Congregational Nurse  
[opendoornc@aol.com](mailto:opendoornc@aol.com)  
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10:00-11:00 am  
Home Visits: Thursdays

**Ms. Regina Hayes**  
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[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 . . .

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## From the Pastor

# How To "Do Lent" – Part 2



Imagine you have been given forty days to do nothing but focus on getting your life in order. Time to take stock, figure out what's working and what is not, conduct a spiritual, emotional, and physical house-cleaning, spend all the time you've ever wanted reading what you wanted to read, perhaps going on a retreat, talking with a spiritual director, mentor, or cherished friend, spending some time in solitude.

Few of us ever find such an uncluttered opportunity. What we do have, is Lent. And while we may not be able to take off from work and family duties, there is plenty we *can* do.

We can stop. Set aside twenty minutes per day, preferably all together, but divided into 5-10 minute segments if needed, to stop, breathe, clear our heads and listen.

We can pray. Begin the habit now and by Easter it will be as natural as breathing. Whisper your thanks to God in the morning for another day. Use the simple breath prayer, "You are here, I am here," off and on throughout the day. Use a prayer book. Call to mind people who are in need, and "hold them in the light," as our Quaker friends say.

We can practice a spiritual discipline. Give up something that has become a little too important in our lives (a certain food? Video games? TV?), and make space for God. Rediscover our true priorities. Journal. Fast if you can do so. Give anonymously to a good cause. Ask or offer forgiveness where needed. Make amends.

We can take inventory: what have I allowed to clutter up my life? What do I need to "shed"? Whom or what have I neglected? What one single change could I make in my life that would leave me feeling more positive, energized, hopeful?

We can get involved. Serve a meal. Get up to speed on a current social justice issue. Show up at a local effort that promotes a stronger community, or that will benefit the neediest in our midst.

We can worship. On Sunday mornings we are not just a collection of individuals doing our own thing. We are responding to God's invitation to be a beloved community.

And of course, I still encourage you to write your "This I Believe" essay and share it with me!

We may not have the luxury of stepping away from our real lives for the next few weeks of Lent, but we have a rich, opportunity-filled time in which to draw ever closer to the One who draws near to us. May this season be filled with surprising blessings, fruitful waiting, and new spiritual growth for all.

—Julie Peeples



### Lenten Sermon Series

For the season of Lent, and tying in with our "This I Believe" focus, Julie will offer a series of sermons based largely on the Book of Psalms, exploring basic beliefs about God. The following are the focus texts for the coming four Sundays: March 8: Psalm 22:23-31. March 15: Psalm 19. March 22: Psalm 107:1-3,17-22. March 29: Jeremiah 31:31-34.

## A Well-Rounded Christian Life, Book Group & More



I will offer a seminar for parents, "What to Tell Our Children About Easter," on Sunday, March 18, from 10:00 to 10:40 am in the

Church Library. Refreshments will be provided. We hope this will give parents a chance to help talk with our children about our faith, in an age-appropriate way, because discussing Easter means discussing the death and resurrection of Jesus, and then death and resurrection in our own lives. Join us! —Paul Davis

### Book Group

The next meeting of the book group will be Sunday, March 8, when we will discuss *This I Believe: The Personal Philosophies of Remarkable Men and Women*. This book is a collection of essays drawn from the NPR series of the same name, and on which we are giving much attention this winter and spring. The essays are short (see page one of the newsletter), provocative, more like poems than essays in that they convey more than 300 words worth of typical prose. We suggest everyone read the following essays:

- "Be Cool to the Pizza Dude," by Sarah Adams
- "When Ordinary People Achieve Extraordinary Things," Jody Williams
- "A Morning Prayer in a Little Church," by Helen Hayes

As you make your way through the book, think about one or two others that strike you and we'll discuss them as well. Reading all of the essays would be just great too! There are two volumes – Volume One is in paperback, so we'll use that. It is available at the usual places, as well as from NPR.

Our next book will be *Three Cups of Tea*, by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. Mortenson will be in Greensboro, speaking at the Carolina Theater, on Thursday, April 2 at 7:00 pm. We will have a limited number of tickets and will offer them to book group participants first. We will meet and discuss *Three Cups of Tea* on Sunday, April 5, in the Parlor following worship.

This is from a review of the book on Amazon. "...*Three Cups of Tea* should be read for its inspirational value rather than for its literary merit, the book's central theme, derived from a Baltistan proverb, rings loud and clear. 'The first time you share tea with a Balti, you are a stranger,' a villager tells Greg Mortenson. 'The second time, you are an honored guest. The third time you become family.' An inspirational story of one man's efforts to address poverty, educate girls, and overcome cultural divides, *Three Cups*, which won the 2007 Kiriyama Prize for nonfiction, reveals the enormous



obstacles inherent in becoming such 'family.'" You can find more information about the book or the author at [www.threecupsoftea.com](http://www.threecupsoftea.com). come, but save the date!

### This I Believe

#### A dialogue on personal values, civic ideals, and core beliefs

Many thanks to Barbara Whitener for sharing her wonderful "This I Believe" essay in worship on Sunday! Have an essay? Share it with Julie or Paul. Need help writing yours? See the previous Newsletters, or ask Julie or Paul for some assistance. Want to hear more essays from others in the congregation? Join us for worship!

### Recommendations Needed

The CE Board is in the process of revamping the Church Library, and is seeking some advice. What Children's books would you recommend? Parents and grandparents, what books have you enjoyed reading to children, either because of a religious theme or even a strong ethical theme? E-mail your suggestions to Paul. The Board will go over the list, and will offer a prize for your suggestions, given to two luck suggesters.

### ArtBeat 2009: May 3

Last year we had our own version of ArtBeat at CUCC, and displayed works from over two dozen members and friends. This year we will again set aside a day to celebrate the arts, on Sunday, May 3. We'll give you the chance to show off your skills and talents, and display your works around the church building. More details to follow.

# Music Scholarships, Visitors, Flowers, Darfur Action



## Music Education Scholarship Funds Available For Children & Youth

If interested, pick up a Trexler Fund scholarship application at the church office (or call to have one mailed to you). The deadline for submittal is April 1st.

## Easter Flowers

We have traditionally used lilies on Easter Sunday, inviting people to order a lily in honor or memory of someone special in their lives. This year, due to a variety of reasons, we will offer a new alternative. We will have one, or perhaps two large, colorful arrangements of cut flowers. For \$5, you can donate toward this arrangement in honor or memory of someone. The funds raised, beyond the cost of the flowers, will go to the Discretionary Fund, which provides emergency assistance to those in need. And, at the end of the service, the flowers can be used to supplement the flowers we bring to place on the outside cross as a symbol of resurrection and new life.

The Deacons have approved this change for several reasons. The cost of lilies has again risen, making it too expensive for some to participate. Often, there have been un-

claimed lilies that end up being discarded. The large arrangement gives us the chance to help those in need during this difficult time. In addition, there are some among us who are rather allergic to lilies and who suffer a bit on that Sunday as a result!

We invite all who wish to contribute to our new Easter Flowers. Order forms are available at church.

## Flower Volunteer Needed

Do you enjoy working with flowers? We are looking for someone to help with the altar area on Sunday mornings: encouraging folks to sign up to provide flowers, ordering poinsettias and other special arrangements, checking the candles.

If interested, please let our Head Deacon, Becky Fleischer, or Julie Peebles know.

## CUCC to Welcome German Visitors

On Thursday, April 9, about a dozen visitors from the Church of the Rhineland in Germany will join us for supper and worship. The Southern Conference has a long and rich partnership with this denomination; their visit will include various places and churches in NC and Virginia, and then the Church House in Cleveland. Please bring extra food to share and give them a warm Congregational welcome!

## You Bring 'Em, I'll Take 'Em

We had a great haul last week for Urban Ministry: 86 pounds of donated food. That's our second highest total, so congrats and keep up the good work!

—Katherine Rowe

## Call for Action in Darfur

Last month *Darfur Action* presented members of Congregational United Church of Christ with the opportunity to let President Obama know of our concern about the continuing genocide in Darfur. Post cards were made available for members to sign which called on the President to take the action he had promised during his campaign. A total of 74 post cards have been mailed as a result of this initiative. Darfur Action would like to thank you for your concern and interest in this crisis situation.

—Ralph Wenger, *Darfur Action*



## CUCC Business

### Volunteers

#### March 8

Lay Reader: Margaret Byrd  
Toddler Nursery: S. Lane & L. Magyar  
Coffee Hour: Lib Basham

#### March 15

Lay Reader: Debra Hertlein  
Toddler Nursery: N. Prairie & A. Barton  
Coffee Hour: Tammy & John Heil

#### March Ushers

B. & M. Mackenzie, S. Hall, K. Schleunes

### Financial Reports

Weekly Income	02/15/09	02/22/09
Pledged Offering	\$4,847.00	\$1,846.48
Unpledged Offering	974.00	583.00
Blanket Fund	100.00	---
Memorial Fund	25.00	120.00
Work Trip	100.00	---
Supper Study	---	106.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,047.00</b>	<b>\$2,655.48</b>

### Budget Income/Expense Summary

	February	YTD
Income	\$20,864.58	\$61,485.55
Expense	22,847.28	45,580.95
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$1,982.70)	\$15,904.60

# Congregational Nurse Program Anniversary



Our Congregational Nurse program is ten years old! Please plan on attending the anniversary celebration on Tuesday, March

24, 7:00 pm. This celebration will take place at the Christ United Methodist Church on Holden. The celebration will include a beautiful worship service followed by a reception. We are especially honored by our own Julie Peeples delivering the worship message!

Congregational United Church of Christ was one of the first churches participating in the Moses Cone Congregational Nurse program! Come celebrate the journey!

Stay Well!

—Charlotte

## Helping Those In Need

Many years ago an active member of the church, Charles Smith, stipulated in his will provisions for a fund to be used by the pastor to assist those with emergency needs, whether they were members or simply people coming to the church for help. Over the years, the interest from this fund has done just that: helped prevent evictions, kept the lights and heat on, provided food till the next paycheck arrived, bought medicines, even helped keep someone in school. The money is set up as a discretionary fund, and good care is taken to see that those who seek assistance truly are in need and have exhausted other sources of help.

Over the years, others have contributed either to the principal of the fund or simply to the amount available to distribute. In the last few months, requests for help have more than tripled, and continue to increase. Rev. Peeples has been an

active part of a group of pastors and social service agency representatives who are working together to try and better coordinate assistance, as nearly all congregations and agencies are also seeing increased demand for limited funds.

If you would like to contribute, either to the principal or to the discretionary fund itself, your contribution would be greatly appreciated. Be assured that funds will only be used for clearly demonstrated needs, and payment is nearly always sent directly to the utility company, landlord, or other agency. Our policy is to avoid handing out cash. Checks can be made out to the church, marked "discretionary fund."

Through the compassion of Charles and Pauline Smith, hundreds of individuals and families have been helped in a time of need. We can continue their faithful outreach through giving as we are able.

## When Death Knocks:

### A Community Symposium

Speakers and workshop at First Lutheran Church addressing end-of-life options that are creative, healing, affordable and gentle on earth.

#### Friday, March 27, 6:30-8:30 pm

Free presentation by author Mark Harris, who wrote *Grave Matters: A Journey Through the Funeral Industry to a Natural Way of Burial*

#### Saturday, March 28, 9:00-3:30 pm

Workshops on funeral myths/ facts, natural burial, organ donation, Muslim & Jewish funeral practices, hospice and end-of-life care and more. Storytelling by Logie Meachum and lunch are included. Preregistration is required: 379-0037; cost is \$20.

*Sponsored by the Funeral Consumers Alliance of the Piedmont, FaithAction International House, and the Sophia Center for Life Studies of Greensboro.*

## Film Screening:

### ***For The Bible Tells Me So*** **Sunday, March 29, 5-7 pm**

This hour and a half long documentary, as New York Magazine states, "confronts, with whimsy and hellfire, the clash between religion and homosexuality." Salon.com notes that it is "Powerful! A brave and noble effort to heal a gaping wound in our society."

Through the experiences of five very normal, Christian, American families we discover how people of faith handle the realization of having a gay child or family member.

Following the film we will have time for discussion. Childcare will be provided and there will be light refreshments. Invite your friends and family members and join us as we continue to seek greater understanding and common ground as people of faith.

—Julie Peeples

## Keep in Your Prayers ...

Sue Blanton (friend of Charlie & Debra Hertlein), Becky Borum, Lauren Brower, Evelyn Chamberlain, Sunny Covington, Carlene Dix, The Dollyhigh Family, Uldine & Lewis Duckworth (on the death of Uldine's brother, Ben Foster, in Wake Forest, NC), Jessica Ellisor (Teresa Earle's niece), Kaye Gardiner (Midge Rasey's daughter), The Guerra Family, Beth Haunton (Lorie Tyson's friend), Henrietta Ingram, The Lamberts, Jack Register and Butch Jenkins (on the death of Jack's mother), Virginia Stricklen, Matthew Wagoner (grandson of Margaret Wagoner), H. O. Williams, All looking for employment



**Congregational**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Congregational United Church of Christ  
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Greensboro, NC 27403

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## Among Our Members

I would like to thank everyone for your prayers, cards and visits during my recent bout with a broken ankle and then a broken hip. I am recovering very well and it has been wonderful to get back to church recently. My thanks to everyone.

—*Irene Fenn*

Ralph and I would like to express our gratitude for all of the prayers and support we have received following my back surgery. The cards and expressions of concern and encouragement helped us through what seemed like a long ordeal. The meals were very much appreciated. The time spent with me by members of the church early in my recovery made it possible for Ralph to get out to buy things we needed and to have a short respite for himself.

I have just finished my physical therapy and am making progress on a weekly basis. Although the neurosurgeon says it will be over a year before I'm completely healed, I'm looking forward to getting back to a more normal routine. This whole process was made so much easier by your care and help.

—*Ruth Ann & Ralph Wenger*

### **In Our Thoughts & Prayers**

We extend our sympathy to our custodian, Renae Williams, and her family on the loss of her brother, Douglas Carl Shelton, on February 23rd. If you wish to extend your condolences, please send them to:

Renae Williams  
7018 Friendship Church Road  
McLeansville, NC 27301

## March Birthdays

- 1 Angie Ramsey
- 10 Susan Burkholder
- 11 Krista Kolphenson
- 11 Beth Mackenzie
- 15 Robin Dorko
- 18 Margaret Elliott
- 20 Rachael Patten
- 22 Evelyn Sell
- 22 Allen Gibbs
- 22 Alice Matthews
- 24 Heather Jenkins Espitia
- 28 Katie Humphrey
- 29 Martha Brewer
- 30 Lisa Driver Conlon
- 30 Judy Page
- 31 Marie McLennan
- 31 Terry Moore-Painter