

## Holy Week Services & Events

### The Journey to Easter

#### **Palm Sunday: April 5**

- ✘ Special music
- ✘ Procession with palms



#### **Maundy Thursday: April 9**

We will welcome about a dozen guests from the Church of the Rhineland, Germany.

- ✘ Covered dish supper, 6:00 pm
- ✘ Holy Communion around the tables, 6:40 pm
- ✘ Service of Tenebrae, Sanctuary, 7:00 pm

#### **Good Friday: April 10**

The sanctuary will be open between noon and 3:00 pm for all who wish to come for quiet meditation



#### **Easter Sunday: April 12**

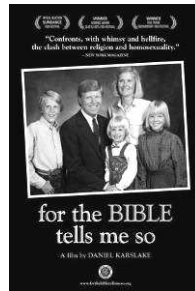
- ✘ Our famous Ham Breakfast! 9:00 until 10:15 am
- ✘ Worship with special music and reception of new members at 11:00 am.
- ✘ Remember to bring cut flowers for the cross!
- ✘ Easter Egg Hunt for the children following worship.

#### **Conversation with the Superintendent of Guilford County Schools:**

#### **Supper Study, March 25**

Mo Green will join us, share his plan, and answer questions. Don't miss it! Menu: Lasagna

Find out about additional Supper Study topics on page 3.



#### **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 Peebles



**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 27  
Publication: Wednesday, April 1

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 22, 2009**

Numbers 21:4-9  
Ps. 107:1-3, 17-22  
Ephesians 2:1-10  
John 3:14-21

#### **March 29, 2009**

Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Psalm 51:1-12 or Psalm 119:9-16  
Hebrews 5:5-10  
John 12:20-33



# Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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10:00-11:00 am  
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**Ms. Judy Page**  
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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

# A Time of Remembrance



Listening to others, I realize I am not alone in feeling that time does, indeed, fly by. We feel we are just beginning to get the hang of parenting small children, and suddenly they are grown. The seasons change while we are still adjusting to the current one. One week we are preparing for Christmas, seemingly the next week we are deep into Lent.

It has been a year since we last walked through this season of preparation. It has been a year since we celebrated Easter together. And yes, it has been a year since the horrible wreck that took the lives of Isa, Jorge, Coleen, and Kivett. For those who did not know them well, life has probably not seemed very different. For others, not a day has gone by without a memory, a prayer for the families, thoughts of "if only."

Unlike time's too-fast pace, healing often comes more slowly.

And our timetables for healing are all unique, as individual as we are. The marking of a year does not necessarily signify the end of mourning, certainly not the end of remembering. It marks a time of pausing, of giving thanks for the strength that has carried us through, reassurance of and gratitude for the fact that we do not journey alone. We have made it thus far and can trust that there is yet more life, more healing, more joy, more beauty to be found.

I hope you will join us for a simple service of remembrance on Saturday, March 21, at 6:30 pm. Isa's family is providing some refreshments following the service, so please join us for that as well. That is something they wanted to do for

our congregation, and we are grateful.

As I write this I am well-aware of other needs for healing: those struggling with health issues, those reeling from job cutbacks or job loss, those who've lost other loved ones or are in the midst of painful situations.

We can at times feel as though we are walking solo through our own Lenten wilderness. Paul and I recently went on a long hike in the mountains with a group of friends. I realized afterward that, had I attempted such a hike alone, I would likely have not made it. The trail markers were not always clear, the way was steep at times, the path twisted and turned. Being with others made the effort much more meaningful and kept me going, one step at a time.

Wherever you find yourself in these waning days of winter, claim your travel companions. Don't go it alone. If your faith doesn't seem quite up to the task, rely on the faith of others for a while. Each turn can afford a new vista, a clearer perspective, a challenge that will yield new strength and hope. To be sure, this is Lent. But friends, Easter is coming. —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, Charlotte Evans, 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, Marie McLennan, Virginia Stricklen, Matthew Wagoner (grandson of Margaret Wagoner), H. O. Williams, All looking for employment

# Well-Rounded Christian Life - Part 3, Book Group & More



This is a continuing part of a series on finding a balanced Christian life. Today, worship.

Like most churches, we gather weekly for worship, to sing and pray, to hear God's Word spoken and proclaimed, to give and to receive, to be with others in a shared experience. Worship is not the same as a lecture, or a concert, or theater, or a social club, even though we hope and try to do our best week after week. I have a very difficult time worshiping by watching a service on television or the internet, though I can easily worship with strangers at a new church or even in a different tradition. One of the qualities of worship is being part of a community (even if for a day). Another quality of worship is the invitation to transcend where we are physically and emotionally, and come in contact with God. Invite, because it is hard to tell someone to transcend to a particular place; where you "go" depends on you and God. Transcend, because while we believe and proclaim that God is with us, we also know our sense of God is more profound at some times than it is at other times. So worship is a community event.

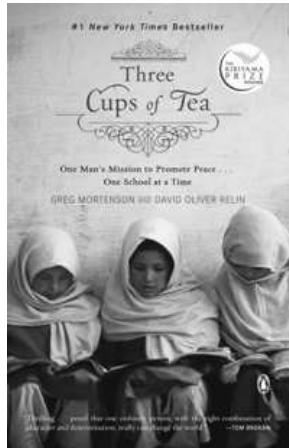
And yet, worship can also be solitary. When we pray, when we think about and study scripture, when we meditate to either focus our mental awareness or clear our minds of that which distracts so we find calm and inner-peace, we also are accepting the invitation to transcend ourselves and come into contact with God. We cannot do all this alone; the church is a social entity. And we cannot do all this in a group; Jesus went off by himself to

pray. And we cannot do the same thing all the time; we grow through different experiences.

So finding balance is less about finding a place that is comfortable and safe than it is the awareness that we will be safe as we move through life. God does not call us to the mountain-top to stay there. God calls us there to tell us to get down from the mountain-top and be with God's people. And, we are invited to try different paths on the way up and on the way down. So, come to worship, listen in new ways for new things, pray in new ways. God will be with us, and always urging us to a deeper relationship with God.

Next time, give.

—Paul Davis



### Book Group

Our next book will be *Three Cups of Tea*, by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin. We will meet and discuss *Three Cups of Tea* on Sunday, April 5, in the Parlor following worship. By Sunday the Church Library will have several copies of the book available for loan. They will be on the book cart in Fellowship Hall.



### ArtBeat at CUCC 2009: May 3

Last year we joined in the week long city-wide arts festival, and displayed works of art from over three dozen members and friends, filling the sanctuary with wonderful pieces. This year we will do it again, on Sunday May 3. Artists from our church, young and old, experienced and beginners, will be invited to participate again. So start your creative engines!

In addition, we will have a performance by the Touring Theater of North Carolina, our "in house" acting company, Wednesday, May 6th, at Supper Study.



### 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 lucky suggesters.

## Upcoming Events

# Inquirers' Classes Continue, Higher Ground and More

Would you like to know more about Congregational? Ever wonder what "UCC" means? Are you curious about what it actually means to be a member of a church? Join us for a series of classes on Sunday mornings. The first was held this past Sunday, but there are two more: March 22 will focus on the United Church of Christ, and March 29 will focus on what church membership means.

We plan to receive new members on Easter Sunday, April 12. Whether you are interested in joining, or simply want to know more about CUCC, you are welcome to come to the classes, which will meet in the church parlor.



### Where is Your Treasure?

If you were searching for God's treasure, you'd find it in people. Every person, in every nation on earth, is treasured by God! Yet for many people, life can be searingly tough.

One Great Hour of Sharing joins our hearts with God's by providing decisive aid when disaster strikes and by helping refugees rebuild their lives. Your gift strengthens struggling communities with basics like education, health care, tools, seeds, and wells.

When we care for God's treasured children, we ourselves are transformed. We see more clearly what matters most in life and are inspired to live courageously. Our hope rises as we realize new life is possible.

1 Timothy 6:18-19a exhorts us "to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up . . . the treasure of a good foundation for the future." Our treasure lies in honoring God, doing God's will, and loving God's treasured people.

May you find your treasure, and your heart, through sharing resources and changing lives with a generous gift to One Great Hour of Sharing. Special envelopes will be distributed on March 22nd with the collection being taken up on Sunday, March 29th. Extra envelopes will also be available that day.



### Supper Study

**March 25: Conversation with the Superintendent of Guilford Cty. Schools** – See article on page one.

**April 1: 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.

**April 15: 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 Rowe wrote about his journey in the News and Record. Menu: Lasagna.

### General Supper Study Info

- Time - Supper: 6:00 pm  
Program: 6:30-7:30 pm
- Cost - Adults: \$5, Children: \$3
- 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.

### Lunch for Higher Ground

Our next date to serve lunch at Higher Ground is Tuesday, March 24th. Food donations (side dishes especially, salads, vegetables, etc.) and volunteers are welcomed. Food donations must be at the church by 11:00 am or they may be taken directly to Higher Ground at 210 East Bessemer, Greensboro. For more information, please contact Ish Whitfield (434-792-6707, 434-250-4364, or dancinchefish@msn.com).



## April Birthdays

- 2 Ann Steldt
- 4 Keith Taylor
- 4 Gayle Currie
- 5 Melinda Matthews
- 6 Rhonda Davis
- 8 Camille Prairie
- 10 Jeremy Rains
- 12 Anne Kent
- 12 Bob Kingston
- 14 Yueh-Miao Anderson
- 16 Eleanor Lambert
- 16 Susan Lane
- 16 Elyse Topkins
- 18 Becky Taylor
- 18 Zo Tanczo
- 20 Isabelle Powell
- 20 Billy Humphrey
- 20 Ralph Wenger
- 21 Aaron Rice
- 21 Karl Schleunes
- 23 H. O. Williams, Jr.
- 23 Ruby Duncan
- 23 Mary Jo Pruet
- 24 Barbara Whitener
- 24 David Senkus
- 24 Tim Rains
- 29 Kenneth Sell

# Easter Flowers, German Visitors, Scholarships

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 unclaimed 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.



## 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.



## This I Believe

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

Many thanks to Charles Chamberlain, Bill Guill, and Barbara Whitener for sharing their wonderful "This I Believe" essays in worship these past three Sundays! 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!!



## 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!

## Dear Friends of Greensboro Urban Ministry . . .

It would be impossible to tell you how much your food donations mean to this ministry and its various programs. The need for food and other essentials has escalated over the past several months. The ranks of the hungry more and more include single mothers with low-wage jobs, married couples who are unable to keep up with soaring housing costs, and able-bodied people who cannot find jobs. These problems have heightened due to rising costs of basic needs. We are grateful for your support and your commitment to helping those in need.

*Pat Spain  
Food Distribution Director*

# CUCC Business

## Volunteers

### March 22

Lay Reader: Gayle Currie  
Toddler Nursery: Jon & Marie Nance  
Coffee Hour: Lynn Magyar

### March 29

Lay Reader: TBA  
Toddler Nursery: B. Fleischer & S. Covington  
Coffee Hour: K. Ritter & E. Essick

### March Ushers

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

## Financial Reports

Weekly Income	03/01/09	03/08/09
Pledged Offering	\$5,877.41	\$3,800.00
Unpledged Offering	947.13	747.70
OGHS	193.00	50.00
Clergy SS Offset	3,678.50	---
Use of Church	525.00	57.00
Pastor's Disc. Fund	---	100.00
Total	\$11,221.04	\$4,879.70

## Budget Income/Expense Summary

	Mar. 1-15	YTD
Income	\$15,632.74	\$77,097.50
Expense	7,541.37	53,439.45
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$8,091.37	\$23,658.05



**Congregational**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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*To date, fifty-seven households have requested to be removed.*

## In Our Community

### Save the Date

**Extreme Makeover:  
Dining with Friends Edition  
Saturday, May 16, 2009  
9:00 pm**

### Greensboro Coliseum

Who doesn't need a little nip/tuck after twenty years of fabulous desserts?

Join us at the Greensboro Coliseum for a new and improved Dessert Gala to support Triad Health Project featuring the music of Sleeping Booty band.

*New look, new sound, same wonderful cause.*

*You won't want to miss it!*



### Book Signing

Lynne Hinton, North Carolina author and UCC pastor will be reading and doing a book-signing of her latest novel, *The Order of Things*, at the Barnes and Noble Bookstore at Friendly Shopping Center on Tuesday, March 31, at 7:00 pm. Her other books include *The Last Odd Day*, *The Arms of God*, and her New York Times Bestseller, *Friendship Cake*.

Kirkus Reviews write of *The Order of Things*, "An oddly satisfying little novel from Hinton, most of which takes place during a single night at a mental institution. The emotional journey these two strangers make offers a spiritual truth about the power of confession and forgiveness."