

Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt

Nothing Says "Jesus is Risen" Like a Good Ham Biscuit

As we have for many years, our Easter Sunday activities will include a Ham Breakfast from 9:00 to 10:15 am, led by members and friends of the Men's Prayer Breakfast. This year we will feature home-grown organic, free-range eggs from our chicken gurus, Bill and Milton, and Sankey. Plus free-range grits, home-grown country ham, and organic biscuits. Donations will be cheerfully accepted.

Following our worship service and our parade of flowers to the cross, we will have an Easter Egg Hunt (actually two hunts, one for smaller children and one for larger children). Before the hunt, parents and children and helpers will meet in the church basement, hear a little about the significance of Easter eggs, and then go to the egg hunting grounds.



Welcome German Visitors

On Maundy 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!



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday: April 5

- ✘ Special music
- ✘ Procession with palms

Maundy Thursday: April 9

We will welcome our guests from 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 & reception of new members at 11:00 am.
- ✘ Remember to bring cut flowers for the cross!
- ✘ Easter Egg Hunt for the children following worship.



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, April 17
Publication: Wednesday, April 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

April 5, 2009

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29, Mark 11:1-11

April 12, 2009

Isaiah 25:6-9, John 20:1-18

April 19, 2009

Acts 4:32-35, Psalm 133, I John 1:1-2:2 John 20:19-31



Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

400 West Radiance Drive
Greensboro, NC 27403
Phone: 336-274-5378/274-0838
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

Mr. Bill Herndon
Organist
rbill@triad.rr.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
Congregational United Church of Christ,
Greensboro, North Carolina

From the Pastor

Good News Hunting



“Isn’t there any GOOD news???” I’ve heard more than one person pose that question recently, and I admit to wondering the same

thing at times. More revelations of multi-million dollar bonuses, the marking of yet another anniversary of the wars in Iraq and Pakistan, and closer to home, so many people experiencing hardship with job cut-backs, illness, injury, or other crises. So is there any good news?

I will leave the stock market predictions and stimulus packages to the experts. Perhaps we should look closer to home, start with some basics.

If you are reading this, it means you woke up this morning. That may be the ultimate good news. Not a bad place to start.

If you are reading this, you are connected in some fashion to a faith community that cares about you, cares about the world around us. Ain’t-a-that good news, as the spiritual says?

If you are connected in some fashion with this faith community, you are actually helping to *create* good news: you are helping to feed the hungry in various ways, you are rebuilding homes in New Orleans, you are part of a group of people who care enough to show up with a casserole when needed, offer a hug, pray for one another, share stories of faith, learn new hymns, swap job info, welcome newcomers. Sounds like good news to me.

A few days ago I spotted a very negative, hateful bumper sticker. I got angry as I thought about people who not only believe what that sticker said but willingly broadcast it. As my good mood began to slip away, a sudden thought occurred:

what if I noticed instead how many cars had positive bumper stickers, or none at all? As I looked around at all the other rear bumpers in the parking lot I started to laugh. The negative sentiment was outnumbered by a long shot.

Now, I am not suggesting that we simply shut out the bad news, ignore reality and put on a happy face. Neither do I think that our congregation has the answers and we can just live in our own little cocoon. But when it comes to finding good news to keep our spirits going, to hold fast to our hope, then perhaps we have to start small and take careful note of what is at hand, what is all around us, right before our eyes. Maybe during times like these we need to make this our new daily habit, much as we would exercise an underused muscle.

Watch for those acts of kindness, participate in countercultural efforts of generosity, risk hoping, expecting the best rather than the worst from people. The world doesn’t need any more naysayers. The world needs hope-bearers: those willing to co-create good news with the God who woke us up this morning.

I hope you will invite a friend and join us for the special observances of Holy Week. And be with us as we celebrate the best Good News of all on Easter Sunday: God, in Christ, overcomes hatred and death with extravagant love. No one and nothing can separate us from that Good News.

—Julie Peeples



**Here are a few suggested
small Acts of Kindness!**

Well-Rounded Christian Life - Part 4, Book Group & More



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

An essential part of being human is the desire to give to others, to share what we have. Greed twists this desire, whispering that fear that there may not be enough. Of course that is not true. Many of us find it much easier to give than to receive gifts, in part because we are uncomfortable feeling dependent on someone else. Pride twists this, whispering the words we repeat, I can take care of myself. Of course that is not true either. The truth is we need one another. The truth is God does not want us to be alone, that God is made known through the church, and that the church community usually has what it needs to be sufficient. Where one has a need, another has a resource. The trick is for all of us to be open both to giving and to receiving. My need may be just the thing you feel called to give.

I don't want to go all, "Its a Wonderful Life" on you (I have my

own struggles with doubt and pride and greed), but allow me two examples. Years ago I served an urban church, and a neighbor church began a evening meal ministry for the poor, and invited us to take part. So I made the suggestion our church provide one meal a month, and figured the cost would be about \$100. I was met with a resounding no: where would we ever get such money, we could barely meet our budget! With some sharpness in my voice and attitude, I responded, we'll just use the spare change we bring to church. This was before credit and debit cards, when people actually had spare change. I put a plate out at coffee hour and simply asked for spare change to feed the poor. Each month, we receive between \$90 and \$110, mostly in change. Twenty-five years later, that church still feeds the poor with its spare change.

The second example is from our own church. For the past two years our church's stewardship efforts have deliberately not mentioned money very much. Rather than sound like a television ministry, we spoke of what our church does and invited people to participate. Your response has been just wonderful.

Our church is blessed in so many ways. We are not a wealthy church or a church of wealthy people. We have a number of people who have been adversely effected by the recession. Yet, by God's grace, somehow we seem to have the financial resources we need to meet our expenses, to give to missions and special needs, and to keep our building in good order. So thank you for giving of yourselves, for your trust and faithfulness.

—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 and the Spaghetti lunch – get your food and bring it to the parlor. The Church Library has three copies, plus a youth version of the book, on the Library Cart in Fellowship Hall.



ArtBeat at CUCC 2009: May 3

May 3 we will devote our morning service to art, looking, observing, thinking about, and creating. We will turn our already attractive sanctuary into a display area filled with art. Bring your works and bring your friends!



Lisa Kennedy, Jack Register and Butch Jenkins are received into membership on Sunday, March 29th.

A Few Small Acts Of Kindness!

- Greensboro Urban Ministry needs clothing, in addition to food items. 271-5959
- FaithAction International House needs diapers for immigrant families. 379-0037
- The Barnabas Network needs furniture for those moving into permanent housing. 370-4002

Pick one need and be part of someone else's good news!

Upcoming Events

Supper Study, Spaghetti Dinner, Film Screening

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: Baked Chicken.

April 9: 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.

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

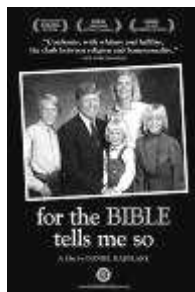
- Time - Supper: 6:00 pm
Program: 6:30-7:30 pm
- Cost - Adults: \$5, Children: \$3
- Make reservations by indicating your interest on the Attendance Pad in worship or by calling or e-mailing the church office by noon on Tuesday.
- Child care is always provided.

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 Ellis (Teresa Earle's niece), Kaye Gardiner (Midge Rasey's daughter), The Guerra Family, Beth Haunton (Lorie Tyson's friend), Irma Hoff, Henrietta Ingram, The Lamberts, Marie McLennan, Bill Smith, Virginia Stricklen, Matthew Wagoner (grandson of Margaret Wagoner), Mabel Williams & Family, All looking for employment

Spaghetti Dinner: April 5

On Sunday, April 5, the Choir will be sponsoring a Spaghetti Dinner after worship. There will be singing, frolicking, and a lot of fun. The Choir will accept donations of any amount as all proceeds are going to help the Eastern Guilford Middle School Chorus travel to sing at Kennedy Space Center next month. All are invited to come and have some food and fun after church and support a worthy cause! For planning purposes, please RSVP to Jimmy Buchanan or the office.



Film Screening Rescheduled!
For The Bible Tells Me So
Sunday, May 17 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.

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!



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 Ruby Duncan
- 23 Mary Jo Pruet
- 24 Barbara Whitener
- 24 David Senkus
- 24 Tim Rains
- 29 Kenneth Sell

Easter Flowers, Sound System, This I Believe

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 and are due Palm Sunday, April 5.



Sound System

The Board of Management and The Church Council received a proposal in January to augment our sanctuary sound system and to correct some nagging issues (like the hums and the buzzes and the loud pops). The work was done this past Saturday,

and we think the improvements are wonderful.

In addition to getting better sound out of our main speaker, we have added two small choir speakers, to help them hear, and we adjusted the hearing assist unit and devices to they work better. We also added new cordless microphones and new mounts for the pulpit and lectern microphones to improve their performance, so that we put better sound into the system. We welcome your comments. The funding for this project came from Memorial Funds, money given in memory of people who have died, along with a special gift from a couple who attended our church for a few months and who wanted to help provide for better sound in the sanctuary. Thanks to all who gave their time and who make memorial gifts.



This I Believe

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

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



Giving Statements

Giving Statements for the first quarter are now available in the Fellowship Hall. Statements for this quarter will be mailed only if requested. We are trying to save postage, and it will be helpful if members and friends will pick up statements from the church.



CUCC Business

Volunteers

April 5

Lay Reader: Roger Gibbs
 Toddler Nursery: K. Joseph & M. Kennedy
 Coffee Hour: M. Caviness & B. Kuester

April 12

Lay Reader: Robin Dorko
 Toddler Nursery: Sharon Montanus
 Coffee Hour: S. & B. Whitener

April 19

Lay Reader: Harley Fleischer
 Toddler Nursery: S. Harper & S. Frye
 Coffee Hour: L. Hamilton & S. Lane

April Ushers

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

Financial Reports

Weekly Income	03/15/09	03/22/09
Pledged Offering	\$4,572.00	\$2,415.00
Unpledged Offering	790.00	879.80
Memorial Fund	10.00	---
OGHS	200.00	160.00
Women's Fell. OCWM	250.00	---
Easter Lilies	10.00	55.00
Work Trip	50.00	---
Supper Study	---	85.00
Total	\$5,882.00	\$3,594.80

Budget Income/Expense Summary

	March	YTD
Income	\$28,332.27	\$89,797.03
Expense	25,495.32	71,393.40
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$2,836.95	\$18,403.63



Congregational
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
GREENSBORO, NC
PERMIT NO. 44



The newsletter is available on-line. 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-seven households have requested to be removed.

Among Our Members

Dear Friends,

We extend special thanks to all who have touched our lives during this sad time of my brother's death. Church family holds a special place in our hearts.

Sincerely,
*Uldine & Lewis
Duckworth*



CUCC Friends and Family:

I have been honored to serve as the CUCC Nursery Coordinator for the past three and a half years. I have seen the children here learn and grow and have faith that they will become more than they can

even imagine. Each child has taught me a little more about life, and working with all the families has been a pleasure.

However, it is now time for me to take another role in the life of CUCC . . . that of a parent myself. Amber and I are expecting and I am due at the end of October. With that said, it is now time for me to pass the torch; the church is now looking for a new Nursery Coordinator. I will continue my role through the end of the school year and will help with transitions until that time. Thank you for allowing me to be part of your children's lives.

Regina Hayes

