

A Living Example of God's Love

"Barefoot Sunday" on June 7

CUCC will participate in the second annual celebration with thousands of other congregations across the country to benefit Soles4Souls™ Inc., the shoe charity.



Soles4Souls has a simple mission — to collect new and “gently worn” shoes to donate to victims of natural disasters and those living in extreme poverty. One of the core groups that help transform its mission from a simple idea into a living example of God’s love is the church.

This year, CUCC and hundreds of other congregations across North America are participating in “Barefoot Sunday,” where people leave their shoes on the altar to be donated to the poor. Barefoot Sunday is a unique opportunity for people to remove their shoes and walk out of worship services barefoot.

“Churches have always been incredibly responsive to our programs,” said Wayne Elsey, Founder and CEO of Soles4Souls. “This engaging event will not only leave a mark on the hearts of your entire congregation, but it will also help Soles4Souls continue our mission to ‘Change the World One Pair at a Time,’” Elsey said.

The efforts of CUCC and participating congregations will go directly toward helping put shoes on

the feet of barefoot children around the world. The U.S. government estimates that 300 million children around the world don’t own a single pair of shoes. A sad irony is that Americans threw away the same number of shoes into landfills last year alone.

About Soles4Souls

Nashville-based Soles4Souls facilitates the donations of both new and used shoes, which are used to aid the hurting worldwide. They have distributed more than 4.3 million pairs (currently donating one pair every 17 seconds) to people in over 125 countries, including Honduras, Uganda, Romania, and the United States.

Soles4Souls is a 501(c)(3) recognized by the IRS; donating parties are eligible for tax advantages. Visit www.giveshoes.org for more information.



All Women Are Invited!

The Spring Salad Supper for the Women's Fellowship will be June 1, 2009 at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Officers will be installed and an offering for Strengthen the Church will be collected. The program will be "Peace in Israel?"



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, May 29
Publication: Wednesday, June 3

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

May 24, 2009

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
Psalm 1
I John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

May 31, 2009

Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Rom. 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15



Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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
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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

Thanks For Giving!



I have recently come across several articles which assert that even in these tough economic times, giving to faith communities

remains strong overall. While many nonprofits are hurting for funds, much of that is due to decreases in grants and government funding. On the other hand, I know of churches in this community that are struggling mightily, some even laying off employees, cutting programs. A painful, distressing place to be.

Given all of that, I simply want to say thank you. Thank you for your great faithfulness in supporting the ministry which is Congregational UCC. I don't know of anyone who is breezing through unscathed by all of this, so your faithfulness is all the more inspiring. And because of the steady giving, we – all of us – continue to feed the hungry, respond to the rising needs in the community, enjoy excellence in our music and education programs, worship together in meaningful ways, support mission and outreach work far beyond our doors, and care for one another as well.

You also continue to respond to calls for canned goods and oatmeal, diapers and clothing, and I do hope you'll take part in our Soles4Souls Campaign! Dig out those shoes! And as always, please don't forget that we need continued financial support through the summer months. Even when you are away, our doors are still open.

What a truly amazing community of faith this is. "Lord, when did we see you hungry, or a stranger, or sick . . . ? I tell you, as often as you did it for the least of these, you did

it for me." Thank you, one and all, for your great faithfulness, your generous spirits.

—Julie Peeples



Congratulations to Our Trexler Scholarship Recipients!

The following have been awarded Trexler Scholarships for the coming year:

Svea Anderson, piano
Ella Heil, piano
Trevor Heil, piano
Katie Humphrey, voice
Rebecca Moore-Painter, cello
Camille Prairie, piano
Will Rowe, guitar

The Trexler Scholarship Fund was established to honor the memory of Don and Ruth Trexler for their years of music leadership at CUCC and in the community. We congratulate all our scholarship recipients!



Keep in Your Prayers ...

Sue Blanton (friend of Charlie & Debra Hertlein), Evelyn Chamberlain, The Dollyhigh Family, Jessica Ellisor (Teresa Earles' niece), Kaye Gardiner (Midge Rasey's daughter), The Guerra Family, Irma Hoff, Henrietta Ingram, Mariana Kuester (Frank Kuester's mother), The Lamberts, Marie McLennan, Virginia Stricklen, Matthew Wagoner (grandson of Margaret Wagoner), Marie Williams, John David Wilson (Pam Aldridge's cousin in Iraq), All looking for employment

Education Notes

Summer Christian Education Events and More



Four Christian Education events are planned for this summer:

On Friday, June 5, all are invited to attend a Greensboro Grass-

hoppers baseball game. Fireworks following the game! Tickets are \$8 for adults, and \$6 for seniors and children under age 12. Make your reservation through the office or by e-mail.

On Sunday, June 7, at Fellowship Hour, we will say Thank You to Regina Hayes (and her trusty sidekick/substitute and partner) Amber McKinnon. We especially hope children who Regina has cared for these past four

years will come with their parents and/or guardians, along with our regular nursery volunteers.



We will be collecting for gifts; checks (*payable to CUCC and marked "Regina"*) may be given to Lynn Hamilton or Pam Aldridge. Or you are welcome to bring your own gift!

On **Sunday, July 19**, following worship, we will have a Church Picnic. We have reserved a picnic shelter at Country Park for the entire afternoon. Paddle boats! Games! More details to follow.

And, our Mission Trip to New Orleans is scheduled for **August 9 through August 16**. We may have over twenty people participating this year!

If you are interested in participating on the work trip, contact Paul. The estimated cost of the trip will be \$125 a person (inclusive of just about everything except tips). Friends who are not active at church

are welcome to participate, depending on space, though their estimated cost will be \$200.

We will be raising funds for the trip in a couple ways, the first being a Silent Auction. If you have goods or services you would like to donate for this most worthy cause, be in touch with Gayle Currie who is coordinating this effort. We plan to hold the auction in July. Perhaps a weekend or even a week at a vacation house or condo, perhaps some lawn care or cleaning or house work, perhaps a catered meal, or some art (we know we have the artists ...). Get in touch with Gayle and she'll help work through the details.

—Paul Davis



Nursery Volunteers Needed

We need a few more nursery volunteers to add to our rotation. If you are interested, speak with Jamie Anderson.



Church School Teachers Wanted

As our Church School season for children winds down, we are ready to recruit teachers for the fall. We may have need for five classes in the fall — simply wonderful! We have great kids, great curriculum, great teachers. We just need a few more. We'd love to work out a rotation for teachers, either to divide the time evenly or to have regular Sundays off. Again, interested in helping? Speak with Paul.



New Youth Group Forming

Parents of Younger Children met this past Sunday, and several expressed interest in the church forming a youth group for children about to enter grades 5 and 6 (with the options to move up or down a year depending on circumstances). We hope the group will begin this summer, meeting twice a month. Several parents said they would volunteer time and energy to get things going. Interested in helping? Speak with Paul.



Great News!

The Red Cross drew twenty-three pints of blood from thirty individuals presenting themselves on Tuesday, May 19th. Twenty of these were CUCC folks.

A special thank you to all who came out to donate and to those who shared their time as volunteers for this vital ministry.

—Bill Smith



Need A Job Or Service? Have A Job Or Service To Offer?

Don't forget about our great community bulletin board, outside the Rowland Room on the east side of the building. It's a great way to leave a job notice or pick one up!

Update on Bread for the World Offering of Letters

Hunger Legislation in Congress

Along with churches of many faiths across the country, our CUCC is participating in Bread for the World's 2009 Offering of Letters. At the Supper Study on March 5, we wrote letters to our representatives in Congress to urge a reform of U.S. foreign assistance. Our request was to end poverty more effectively by eliminating inefficiency and in improving coordination of U.S. assistance programs. The reforms fit well with current hopes to reduce taxpayer expenditure, but at the same time to make a quantum leap forward in eliminating poverty.

Foreign Assistance Reform Act of 2009 (H.R. 2139)

The Obama administration plans to coordinate all agencies involved in anti-poverty programs – key appointments are pending (e.g. the Director for USAID). Meanwhile, on April 28, 2009, Rep. Howard Berman (D-CA) and Rep. Mark Kirk (R-IL) introduced the “Initiating Foreign Assistance Reform Act” (H.R. 2139) in the U.S. House of Representatives. This bill requires the president to develop and implement a comprehensive national



Thanks to US foreign assistance, Esther is going to school in Nicaragua. Helping girls stay in school is one of the ways to enable poor people to grow enough food to feed their families.

strategy for global development. It also requires a transparent reporting and monitoring of effectiveness of U.S. foreign assistance.

If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noon day.
—Isaiah 58:10

Keep writing!

Now is a good moment to help to win passage of this legislation, by asking your representative in Congress to cosponsor H.R. 2139. It is important for our representatives to know that we care. Most CUCC members live in districts represented by Howard Coble or Brad Miller – their respective addresses are as follows:

The Honorable Howard Coble
U. S. House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515-3306

The Honorable Brad Miller
U. S. House of Representatives
1127 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515-3313



New Address

Barbara Hollifield
3247 Cypress Park Road Unit D
Greensboro, NC 27407
336-547-0639



Boards & Council

The next meeting of our boards and council will be Tuesday, May 26th, beginning at 6:45 pm for a time of prayer. Boards meet at 7:00, council at 8:15.

Lunch for Higher Ground

Our next date to serve is Tuesday, May 26. The menu will be baked chicken. Food donations and volunteers are always welcomed. Please have food at the church by 11:00 am on Tuesday, or take it directly to Higher Ground.

For more info, contact Ish Whitfield at 434-792-6707, 434-250-4364, or dancinchefish@msn.com.



CUCC Business

Volunteers

May 24

Lay Reader: Bill Guill
Toddler Nursery: Nancy Prairie and Anne Barton
Coffee Hour: Lori Welch and Peg Stephenson

May 31

Lay Reader: TBA
Toddler Nursery: Jon & Marie Nance
Coffee Hour: Karen Ritter and Ellen Essick

May Ushers

E. Driver, C. Hertlein, F. Kuester, M. Shaw

Financial Reports

Weekly Income	05/10/09	05/17/09
Pledged Offering	\$1,958.00	\$3,601.84
Unpledged Offering	592.88	541.66
Memorial Fund	40.00	235.00
Use of Church	525.00	---
Montagnard Family	---	150.00
Total	\$3,115.88	\$4,528.50

Budget Income/Expense Summary

	May YTD	YTD
Income	\$15,761.18	\$132,942.99
Expense	3,347.34	108,691.05
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$12,413.84	\$24,251.94

Homerun for Homelessness

The First Annual Homerun for Homelessness Event will be held on Monday, June 1st at NewBridge Bank Park where the Greensboro Grasshoppers will play the Lakewood BlueClaws. The event will kick-off at 6:00 pm with a kids' carnival on Natty's Hill, and at 7:05 pm, the opening pitch will be thrown.

This Community Celebration will be an educational event designed to celebrate the first two years of implementation of Guilford County's Ten Year Plan to end chronic homelessness. Learn about our successes and help honor our friends as they celebrate their accomplishments since starting with our program and securing housing. The focus of the event is on community involvement and will give Guilford County residents an opportunity to learn how to make a difference in our community.

We hope you will join us for this event. This is a wonderful way for the faith community to demonstrate the love of God for our neighbors while enjoying an All American pastime. Make this a fun-filled annual family tradition! There will be games and lots of fun for kids of all ages. It's an opportunity for youth groups, outreach departments, ladies' and men's study groups, Girls and Boy Scouts, and others, to have an evening of fellowship while supporting a worthwhile cause that impacts friends and neighbors in our own backyard. They can enjoy spending time with old friends while making new ones.

Enjoy an evening of baseball with friends and family while supporting our program! For group ticket purchases, a portion of the proceeds of every ticket sold will be donated to the Partners Ending Homelessness Initiative. If you are interested in group sales, please

contact Brian Lee of the Greensboro Grasshoppers at 336-268-2887 or brian@gsohoppers.com.

Let's bat a homerun for homelessness!

*Jehan Benton, Director
Partners Ending Homelessness Initiative / Family Service of the Piedmont*



Keeping Hope

By Lutheran Family Services of the Carolinas

“Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”

Romans 12:11-12

Often times, the faces of those who are considered refugees are those of families – mothers and fathers in search of a place where their children can grow up happy and safe. Unfortunately, unbearably long separations are not unusual for refugee families seeking to be reunited with children and spouses who have been separated by war. For Kenneth Waiswa* it took more than a decade to reunite with his family.

Originally from Uganda, Kenneth fled to Ethiopia to escape persecution in his home country. It was there he met his wife, Aamina,* and began to raise a family. Unfortunately, conflict broke out in Ethiopia as well, forcing him and his family to flee once again. To truly be safe, the family decided to come to the United States.

Kenneth and Aamina traveled to Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa, to obtain the proper paperwork to be brought to the United States but

they faced a dilemma; one of their children was not with them. Amidst the conflict they had been separated from their 4-year-old daughter who was with relatives in a village roughly 400 miles away.

Getting back to her was nearly impossible. The village was so remote that a motorized vehicle only traveled to it once a year. There were no roads and the land between them and their daughter was filled with dangers — wild animals, bandits and rough terrain.

There was no way to reach her and the authorities refused to issue her a visa unless she was present with her parents. The family had to make the difficult decision of leaving while the application for her visa was processed. They hoped she would be able to follow soon after but more unexpected barriers drove a wedge between them. Authorities suspected she was lying about her age and denied the visa.

After arriving in the United States, Kenneth and his family tried for years to reunite with their daughter. Finally, they came to LFS Carolinas for help. In addition to finding the family an apartment and helping with Kenneth's job search, the agency assisted the family with their federal immigration benefits application and coordinated their efforts with the U.S. Embassy in Addis Ababa.

A private laboratory conducted a DNA test using a sample sent from their daughter in Ethiopia and one provided by Aamina. The test finally resulted in confirmation of their biological relationship. In October 2008, after more than a decade of separation, the family was reunited. LFS Carolinas works every day with families like the Waiswas to bring them hope in the midst of despair.

**Names changed for confidentiality.*



Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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Honoring Our Graduates

We will honor our graduates on either Sunday, May 31 or June 7. If you have a graduate in the family, please let the office know which Sunday would work best you.

David Froetschel, grandson of Sterling and Barbara Whitener, is graduating in the top 10% of his class from Oglethorpe County High School in Athens, Georgia, and will attend the University of Georgia.



Jeffrey Karnes is graduating from Grimsley High School and will attend UNC-Greensboro.

Heather Langston graduated with an Associates Degree from GTCC, with plans to continue her education at UNC-Greensboro.

Abby Myles is graduating from Grimsley High School and will attend UNC-Wilmington as a N.C. Teaching Fellow Alternate.

Emma Yardley is graduating from Grimsley High School and will attend UNC-Wilmington.

If you have a graduate who is not listed here, please provide the office with their name, degree/ honors earned and future plans.

June Birthdays

- 3 Midge Rasey
- 3 Cheryl Smith
- 3 Meghan Davis
- 4 Erin Shroyer
- 4 Charles Chamberlain
- 5 Emily Thomas
- 6 Stephen Cromartie
- 7 Margery Veatch
- 8 Ed Driver
- 9 John Taylor
- 10 Lindsay Gibbs
- 10 Jim Boyles
- 11 Lee Huggins
- 13 David Rice
- 13 Bailey Covington
- 15 Eli Wang
- 15 Jeff Shroyer
- 15 Addie Bardolph
- 17 Lori Welch
- 20 Rosemarie Miller
- 20 Jackie Patterson
- 23 Jaime Kent
- 27 Sterling Whitener
- 29 Chip Simpson
- 30 Betty Mackenzie
- 30 David Miller