

All-Church Family Retreat

Reservations Due This Sunday

The All-Church Family Retreat will take place September 25-27. The theme for our retreat will be Prayer, and we will explore several types of prayer. The cost is \$50 per adult and \$25 per child (double occupancy). Reservations are due by August 23. Checks should be made out to the church, attached to the reservation form (found outside Paul's office), and left in the office. The retreat is underwritten in part by the Board of Christian Ed., the Book Sale, and the Silent Auction of credit vouchers. Sunday is last day to sign up. Don't wait – sign up today!



Sunday School Begins!

Sunday School will begin for our children and the Smith Class on August 30th at 10:00 am. We'll have an Opening Day party, a common lesson for the day, and some activities we can share together. We'll meet in the basement, and move from there to the classrooms. Hope you will join us!

For Sale: Church Pews

We have two pews that are 8 feet long, two pews that are 12 feet long (they come in two sections), and we have several sets of theater-style seats with pew ends.

These are "extra" pews that we no longer need (the pews formally were for the choir and were replaced by chairs, and the balcony seats were taken out to make room for the sound system and for the hand-bells).

The Board of Management will hold its own silent auction and offer these to the highest bidder. Bid sheets will be on each pew and section of seats. They have been appraised at \$250 and \$175 for the pews. The bidding will start a bit lower. The auction will end on August 30 and winners announced in worship.

If you require help moving the pews, this can be arranged for an additional \$25 per section.

Proceeds from the sale will benefit the All-Church Retreat.



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, August 28
Publication: Wednesday, Sep. 2

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

August 23, 2009
1 Kings 8:(1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43
Psalm 84
Ephesians 6:10-20
John 6:56-69

August 30, 2009
Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



Our 2009 Work Trip Crew – see more pictures throughout this issue and a report on page 3!



Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Drop-In Hours: 4th Sun. of the month,
10:00-11:00 am
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Office Manager
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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

Coming Soon: Programs on Health Care and Immigration



What an incredible group we had working in New Orleans!! You can read more about the trip in this newsletter, check out the

website, and hear some reflections in worship on Sunday. I felt very fortunate to be with such a hard-working, fun, caring group. You can all be proud of the work accomplished, and the way in which it was carried out! Many thanks to Paul for his steady and tireless leadership.

I have been working on plans for programs in the Fall, focusing in particular on having an informative program on health care reform, and also a series on immigration reform. Why these topics? Several reasons: each impacts our lives, they are playing out on national and local levels, and they are, fundamentally, both practical and moral/faith issues that call for careful consideration.

As I worked on the series on immigration, a local group began planning a town hall gathering on the subject, hoping to have Sen. Kay Hagan participate. It occurred to me that this would be a great way for us to learn more about the issue and to hear from one of our elected leaders, so I agreed to have the forum here at Congregational. That was before the rash of town hall meetings on health care reform that turned into ugly shouting matches! However, although immigration reform is also a controversial topic, I think it is important to offer this to all interested, and great care is being taken to prevent the problems with the health care gatherings.

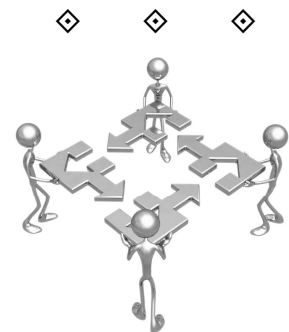
I am excited about this opportunity. Our congregation is known in the community as a place where

people can come together to learn, to be in support groups, to gather for various good efforts. We are in a unique position: we can offer the community a sanctuary, a safe haven where even tough issues can be discussed with integrity and respect. As a congregation, we have witnessed the value of doing just that. This forum will offer all of us and those in our community a chance to hear about the complex issue of immigration reform and how it impacts our community. There will be time for brief presentations and questions and answers. We are working hard to ensure it remains a respectful, calm, productive gathering. If you would like to help with this, please let me know.

And I hope you will plan to join us: **Thursday, September 3 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.** Childcare will be available.

This will not be our only opportunity to learn more about this subject. And I will keep you posted on the plans for a program on health care reform as well. The more people of faith become involved in these issues in ways that are well-informed, substantive, and respectful, the more hope there is for positive outcomes. Our democracy and our faith rely not on shouting out at one another, but on *living out* what we say we value most.

—Julie Peoples



Education Notes

2009 Work Trip Report, Younger Youth Group



Our 2009 Work Trip is over. Last week, nineteen of us worked at two sites in New Orleans – seven in the Pontchartrain Park area (we

worked just down the street on the second trip last year), and a dozen people in the Marrero area, south of the Mississippi River. The former group joined forces with five people from New Hampshire (part of a larger group from New Hampshire), so we ended up with a dozen folks at each of our sites.

On Tuesday, the Pontchartrain Park folks from our church went to another site, to help a homeowner clean out her FEMA trailer and clean up her yard, in bright sun and heat that exceeded 105°F. The homeowner has health issues and does not get around very well. She also had cats living in her trailer, and her yard had not been tended this year. That was a difficult day. But otherwise, the work was smooth.



Both groups worked on sheet rock: the West Bank group hung some boards and finished a great deal of sheet rock that had been done the previous week, while the Pontchartrain Park folk hung some boards after correcting some framing issues.



On Wednesday we took the afternoon to tour New Orleans, including in the Lower Ninth Ward, where we saw great progress, in part thanks to the group headed by Brad Pitt, Make It Right New Orleans (www.makeitrightnola.org). In the Lower Ninth, we saw eight completed homes, and several others under construction. The houses were distinctive, whimsical, environmentally friendly, and flood-resistant. Elsewhere, we saw more people, experienced more traffic, saw more stores open and busy. Even so, the head of UCC Disaster Recovery Ministries in New Orleans, Alan Coe, told us that the rebuilding effort was about half finished.

During the week we had the chance to visit two of the houses we worked on last year, and we had



hoped to attend the house-warming ceremony at one, but the event had to be postponed because one of homeowners was sick. We were happy that both houses were complete.

Friday evening and Saturday we toured the waterfront area and Bourbon Street. Both were lively. We left the area late Saturday afternoon and drove to Meridian Mississippi, where we spent the night, and arrived in Greensboro Sunday evening.

I hope you will visit our web site where you will find pictures and words from trip participants: <http://sites.google.com/site/congregationaluccworktrip2009/>.

On behalf of the group, we thank you for your support and generosity and trust you placed in us to represent you in New Orleans.

—Paul Davis



Younger Youth Group

Younger Youth Group will have their next meeting on Friday August 28, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Dinner will be served and fun will be had. This group is for youth in 5th-7th grades. Be in touch with Beth Hoagland or Karen Ritter for more info.

Back to School Safety



It is back to school time already!! Seems like we just finished for the summer! As we are gearing up with school supplies and

new clothes, it is also a good time to review some safety tips.

- **Communicate with your child CLEARLY about emergency information.**

- What to do if their ride is late or does not show up to pick them up.
- A list of emergency contacts. Tape these inside their notebook or other accessible place. Program an ICE number into their cell phones – ICE stands for “In Case of Emergency.” (This is a standard for everyone. If you were in need of emergency assistance, emergency personnel would check your cell phone for your ICE contact number.)
- Arrange with a trusted neighbor who your child could go to in case they needed help; communicate that arrangement with your child.

- **Bicycle safety**

This is a good time to check to see if the helmets still fit! Also check your child’s bike to ensure parts are working correctly and nothing is in need of repair. Review bicycle safety with your child.

- **H1N1**

- Develop a plan on how you will care for your child who could potentially be out of school for several days (a week or longer).
- Understand that the H1N1 will present like a cold, therefore cold symptoms need to be treated like the H1N1.

- Contact your pediatrician for procedures on how to manage the H1N1.
- Vaccines should be available by the middle to end of October. Your pediatrician will have more detailed information about the vaccine and your child.

- **Backpacks**

- If your kids are carrying too much weight on their backs and shoulders, they may stretch or strain their muscles and cause direct injury to the spine.
- Help your child sort through everything before packing up and see what can be left at home that day. Place heaviest items in first; the closer they are to a child’s back, the less strain they will put on those muscles.
- Buy an appropriately sized backpack, one that ends just a few inches above the waist. Use a backpack that has soft, padded straps to maximize comfort.
- Look for a pack with compartments that help distribute the weight. Consider trying one of the models with wheels that your child can pull.
- It might be more “cool” to carry a pack over just one shoulder, but encourage your child to carry theirs over both shoulders. This will better distribute the weight.
- Make sure your child bends their knees when they first lift their packs, to avoid further strain on their back muscles.

- **Safety rules for children who stay home alone.**

- If your child must be left home alone, you will need to give your child some basic training.
- Take a tour of your house together. Make sure your child can lock and unlock the doors and windows. If your child is allowed to operate certain ap-

pliances, make sure he knows how. The same goes for adjusting the temperature on the thermostat.

- A keypad door lock eliminates the hassle of keeping track of keys. The problem might be if your child can remember the code to access the keys!
- Complete a home safety survey. Check each room and your yard for hazards you might not have noticed before – anything from frayed appliance cords and loose area rugs to broken glass in the back storm door.
- Make sure your child knows how to call 911. Post your work numbers and those of neighbors he could call for help. Write your home address and phone number on the list, so your child won’t forget them in a moment of panic.
- Go over with your child what to do in case of a fire. Have fire drills and practice different escape routes. *Stress that if there is a fire your child should leave the house immediately and not try to put out the fire themselves.*
- Space heaters are another high-risk appliance and should not be used by children in self-care.

Additional back to school safety tips can found at the following websites: www.usa.gov, www.aap.org, www.familyeducation.com.

Stay Safe!
—Charlotte



Higher Ground, Boards & Council, Among Our Family

Our next date to serve lunch is Tuesday, August 25. Food donations and volunteers are always welcomed. Food should be at the church by 11:00am on the 25th, or brought directly to Higher Ground.

Thanks to all who have donated food and/or volunteered their time! This could not be done without you!

For more info, contact Ish Whitfield (434-792-6707, 434-250-4364, dancincheffish@msn.com).



Boards & Council

The next meeting of our boards and council will be Tuesday, August 25th, beginning at 6:45 for a time of prayer. Boards meet at 7:00, council at 8:15.



September Birthdays

- 1 Ed Taylor
- 1 Dawn Humphrey
- 5 John Nance
- 6 Fred Cromartie
- 6 Evelyn Chamberlain
- 7 Kate Larson
- 7 Fran Ditto
- 8 Lucia Rueppell
- 10 Cathy Wheeler
- 10 Robyn Greenberg
- 11 Isaac Prairie
- 11 Beth Hoagland
- 11 Karen Ritter
- 15 Holly Humphrey
- 15 Austin Lane
- 19 Jay Harder
- 19 Tony Macy
- 20 Margaret Wagoner
- 24 Ted Fields
- 24 Peter Patterson
- 26 Evelyn Ridge
- 29 Pam Aldridge

Please Keep in These Individuals in Your Prayers

Jim Boyles, Evelyn Chamberlain, the Dollyhigh Family, Jessica Ellisor (Teresa Earles' niece), Kaye Gardiner (Midge Rasey's daughter), Irma Hoff, Henrietta Ingram, Eileen Jarrett-Morales, Mariana Kuester (Frank Kuester's mother), Austin Lane, The Lamberts, Marie McLennan, Carly Mozgai, Elise Norris, Melissa Paschal (granddaughter of Margaret Wagoner), Virginia Stricklen, Matthew Wagoner (grandson of Margaret Wagoner), Marie Williams, John David Wilson (Pam Aldridge's cousin in Iraq), All looking for employment



News from the Pressmans

We've just heard from Faith Pressman's daughter, Mary Louise, who reports that Faith fell and broke her hip. She will be in a Special Care Unit for several weeks to recover. Meanwhile, Bill uses a wheelchair and receives some assistance with daily chores, but is able to visit Faith regularly. Their address is: Bill and Faith Pressman, 2221 Mockingbird Road, Harrisburg, PA 17112.



Helping Our Families in Need

There are several families in the church who are struggling with finances because of health care issues or lost employment. The Pastor's Discretionary Fund is used to assist people in this way. A gift to the

church, earmarked for this fund, will go to directly assist folks with such pressing needs. The Pastor's Discretionary Fund receives money from the Charles Smith Fund investment income and your specific gifts. If you know of someone who has immediate needs, have them be in touch with Julie.



CUCC Business

Volunteers

August 23

Lay Reader: Robin Dorko
 Toddler Nursery: Lynn Magyar
 Coffee Hour: Ann & Rick Barton

August 30

Lay Reader: Kate Larson
 Toddler Nursery: Jeri Rowe & Sunny Covington
 Coffee Hour: Melinda Matthews, Ann Roberts, Cynthia Brewer

Ushers

Ed Driver, Charlie Hertlein, Frank Kuester, Milton Shaw



Financial Reports

Weekly Income	08/02/09	08/09/09
Pledged Offering	\$6,376.00	\$2,162.00
Unpledged Offering	842.95	221.00
Use of Church	50.00	537.50
BRAG Deposits	175.00	---
Work Trip	1,322.89	2,060.00
Total	\$8,766.84	\$4,980.50

Budget Income/Expense Summary

	Aug. YTD	YTD
Income	\$10,189.45	\$209,092.91
Expense	1,712.61	187,193.31
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$8,476.84	\$21,899.60



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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Going Back to School

From Lutheran Family Services of the Carolinas

For the children served by LFS Carolinas, going back to school means a lot more than doing homework.

For David, going back to school means being able to enjoy his childhood.

David and his three siblings, Kristy, Will and Bobby, came into foster care with only each other and the clothes on their backs. Both their mother and grandmother had a drug addiction, forcing the children to fend for themselves. In their attempt to find normalcy among the abuse and neglect they suffered, they formed their own family structure, where at nine years old David took on the role of caregiver

for his younger siblings, all between the ages of three and five.

When the children first arrived in the home of Richard and Carol McWhorter, David found it very hard to relax. Concerned with the well being of his brothers and sister he was on constant alert. All four of them worried about things that no child should have to worry about, like when they would have their next meal. As Carol tucks them into bed at night, they would ask her, "Are we going to have breakfast tomorrow?"

In just the few months that the kids have been with Richard and Carol, they have shown many improvements. The consistency that the McWhorters have given them provides the stability they need to

be able to enjoy being kids again. This past school year David got his first "A" on a report card. He is still behind in school, but Richard sits with him every night to help him learn how to work through his homework by himself. This upcoming year he is excited to show how much he has progressed. David is also learning to let go of his role as parent and learn how to have fun. He looks forward to playing baseball in an after school program, something he never had the chance to play before. He can relax knowing that he and his siblings are being taken care of.

