

## Stewardship

### Let Your Light Shine - Prepare

Fall is pledge season, for charitable groups, like Public Television and Public Radio. Fall is our church's pledge season as well. In some ways, our church is like every other not-for-profit organization — we compete for your attention and seek to earn your trust. After all, there are many fine groups that do many fine things in our community and around the world. But in key ways, we are different. We believe we are called to give to the church out of a sense of gratitude for what God has done in our lives. Other organizations hope people give out of habit and will drive this home by sending out letter after letter asking for money. But not us. We won't harangue, we won't threaten to go off the air, we won't offer you a tote bag, we won't cry and end up with runny mascara. Instead, we will invite you to consider what we are called to do together. Then we will invite you to consider how you would like to join in supporting this ministry we all share, this faith home.

Each Sunday this month we are producing bulletin inserts describing

the areas of our church's ministry. Along with a couple paragraphs of text and some nice pictures on each insert, we show a chart and figures illustrating how we will spend our money this year. What you won't see are the efforts we take to purchase supplies at the lowest possible cost, the ways we cut expenses, or the ways we streamline our work so we are more productive. We run a tight and efficient operation. Nor will you see the full extent of how our church impacts our community, because much of what is given in the name of our church is off-budget — Food for the Food Bank, meals for the hungry, extra money for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, and Santa's Elves. You won't see much mention of the boards and committees on which people serve as members of this church. Yet these things also show that our church is caring and giving.

So, we invite you to consider the ministry of CUCC. Are you fed by what we do here, week in and week out? Can you see all the ways our congregation can continue to shine in this community? If so, we invite you to participate and to deepen your commitment to our church. We invite you to Let Your Light Shine.

Our Stewardship Luncheon after worship on Sunday, November 1. It will be a sit down meal on china. You will be served and you won't have to clean! The luncheon is free, but reservations are required; please call or e-mail the office. We will receive our pledges during worship on Sunday, November 8.



## 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. For details, check out our Visitor Page at [www.congregationalucc.com](http://www.congregationalucc.com).

### CUCC is on Facebook!

Check us out at the following site: [www.tinyurl.com/CUCCFacebook](http://www.tinyurl.com/CUCCFacebook).

### Our Next Newsletter

Deadline: Friday, October 23  
Publication: Wednesday, Oct. 28

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

#### October 18, 2009

Job 38:1-7, (34-41)  
Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c  
Hebrews 5:1-10  
Mark 10:35-45

#### October 25, 2009

Job 42:1-6, 10-17  
Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22)  
Hebrews 7:23-28  
Mark 10:46-52



# 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 Olayiwola**  
Director of Children's Music &  
Bella a Cappella  
olayiwe@gcsnc.com

**Mr. Bill Herndon**  
Organist  
rbbill@triad.rr.com

**Ms. Charlotte Evans**  
Congregational Nurse  
opendoornc@aol.com  
Drop-In Hours: 4<sup>th</sup> Sun. of the month,  
10:00-11:00 am  
Home Visits: Thursdays

**Ms. Evelyn Blane**  
Nursery Director  
evelyn.blane@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

# For All the Saints



In one of the passages in our *40 Day Journey With Kathleen Norris*, the writer asks us to reflect on the people who have had a

profound impact on our faith. Several came to mind for me, but my thoughts quickly turned to Sam Varner.

Sam was a retired UCC minister in eastern Virginia. It would be hard in this brief space to enumerate all that he did, churches served, positions held, all the projects and good efforts he started and/or strengthened. Harder still would be any attempt to measure the full impact of his life on so many others. Sam died several weeks ago; his funeral service was filled with many good Sam stories and a glorious sermon by Yvonne Delk.

It was my honor to serve with Sam on several committees of the Southern Conference, and I would always seek him out at conference gatherings. I cherish the memories of those times when we would chat after the end of a meeting. Chat would soon turn into my asking Sam's opinion on some topic or other, which would then turn into Sam sharing several of his amazing stories. He was a grand story teller.

And the stories were all true. Born in Alabama, Sam had lived through the Jim Crow era and the civil rights movement, and his recounting of personal experiences would leave me speechless. Yet somehow through this crucible emerged a Sam Varner who went on to live a very full life of great courage, much love, and an abiding sense of joy.

There was strength and deep conviction in him, but astoundingly, no bitterness, no hatred when such

would have been understandable. He possessed a keen understanding of human nature, and I benefitted greatly from his insight. Sam taught me that through faith, even the worst suffering can become the basic building material of new life, new hope, new courage. In God's hands, even injustice can be used to forge a lifelong dedication to justice and peace.

As we look toward All Saints Sunday, as we pin bells of remembrance on our banner in the weeks ahead, I invite you to stop and reflect. Who have been your saints, and what have they taught you about faith, about life? What opportunities do we have to raise up more Sam Varners? In the midst of our own trials and joys, are we allowing God to transform us, to make us not simply good, but good for something?

Thanks, Sam. You won't be forgotten.

—Julie Peeples



## Keep in Your Prayers ...

*In order to protect the privacy of the individuals on our Prayer List, this information is not available in the online version of our newsletter.*

**Education Notes**

# Wednesday Supper Study, Bell Banner and More

Supper Study programs are held the first and third Wednesdays, unless a speaker's schedule or special event requires a change. All are welcome, but we need firm reservations or cancellations by Tuesday of the week of the program. Cost: \$5 for adults, \$3 for children (covered dish meals free). Childcare is provided.

**October 21: Our Annual Political Forum** - Come meet the candidates, share a meal with your elected leaders. Menu: Lasagna.

**November 4: Postcard From The Environment** - What are the birds, bees and butterflies telling us? Dennis Burnette will be our speaker.

**November 18: A Time to Laugh!** Brush up your routine, find some new (clean) jokes, and be prepared to laugh. All ages are welcome to channel their inner comedian and have a turn at the mike.



**All Saints: November 1**

Each year for All Saints Sunday worship, we carry in a banner with the names of those in our congregation who died in the past year, and another banner with little bells pinned on in memory of loved ones. The bell banner will be in the Fellowship Hall through Nov. 1, for you to pin your bells on as you remember a beloved saint in your life.



**A New Baby!**

Congratulations to Regina and Amber Alexander on the birth of their daughter, Emery Caroline, born at 10:12 pm on October 8th. She weighed 6 pounds, 6 ounces and was 19 inches long.

**Higher Ground**

Our next serving date at Higher Ground is Tuesday, October 27. Food donations and volunteers are greatly appreciated. Please have food at the church by 11:00 am on Tuesday, the 27th, or, bring it directly to Higher Ground. For more information contact Ish Whitfield, 434-792-6707, 434-250-4364, ishmaeldwhitfield@msn.com, or ask Robin Dorko, Clif Karnes, or Henrietta Ingram.

Thanks to all who have volunteered and/or donated food!



**40 Day Journey Continues**

Many thanks to the 35 people participating in our *40 Day Journey with Kathleen Norris!* Our final gathering will be on Wednesday, November 11th at 7:00 pm.



**Notes of Thanks**

Dear Congregational,

Thank you so much for all the school supplies that you donated to The Pathways Center. We appreciate your thinking of us. We have thirty children living at Pathways attending school. We thank you for your kind and caring hearts!

Sincerely,  
*Susan Taylor*  
*Activities Program Coord.*

Dear Congregational UCC,

Thank you for your support of Mary's House! We appreciate your gift of school supplies. The residents wish to add their gratitude for your thoughtfulness.

A total of eighty-six mothers and ninety-three children have been welcomed to Mary's House. We have expanded our program: Mary's

Homes is a joint project of Mary's House and the Greensboro Housing Authority. These are scattered site homes for homeless mothers in recovery and their children, for whom we provide support services.

Sincerely yours,  
*Craig Thomas,*  
*Executive Director*  
*Janzlean Laughinghouse,*  
*Clinical Director*



## CUCC Business

**CUCC Food Donations to Greensboro Urban Ministry**

10/09/09: 12 pounds



**Volunteers**

**October 18**

Lay Reader: Karl Schleunes  
Nursery: K. & T. Kohlphenson  
Coffee Hour: T. & J. Heil

**October 25**

Lay Reader: Ralph Wenger  
Nursery: T. Heil & A. Barton  
Coffee Hour: R. Yardley & B. Woody

**Ushers**

J. Myrick, S. Burch,  
C. Humphrey, M. Dorko



**Financial Reports**

Weekly Income	09/27/09	10/04/09
Pledged Offering	\$1,094.00	\$6,250.00
Unpledged Offering	251.00	463.00
Use of Church	410.00	550.00
BRAG Deposits	65.00	100.00
Pastor's Disc. Fund	100.00	---
Miscellaneous	137.92	88.00
CROP Walk	---	15.00
Neighbors in Need	---	50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,057.92</b>	<b>\$7,516.00</b>

**Budget Income/Expense Summary**

	September	YTD
Income	\$18,372.12	\$241,054.65
Expense	28,120.72	232,417.01
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$9,748.60)	\$8,637.64



**Congregational**

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

OCTOBER 14, 2009

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## Holiday Service Project: Santa's Elves

Have you ever wanted to visit Santa's workshop and meet his elves? Well, here is your chance to actually **be** an elf yourself! Santa's Elves is a group that provides gifts, groceries and holiday goodies to families in need. We work in cooperation with school systems and other community sources that refer the families to us. The number of families that we can take is determined by the size of the families and number of elves that volunteer.

Last year we were able to help seventeen families with a total of fifty children have a happier holiday. I can't begin to explain the positive effect that this program has had on the families that we have helped over the past eleven years.

All the families are identified by a number only so as to keep their

identities confidential (children are identified by first name and age only). Keeping the identities of these families confidential is crucial to the success of the project.

The Board of Christian Service has given their full support to this project. This would be a great holiday project to do with family, friends or co-workers. We need to have all our elves in place by Nov. 8 in order to determine the number of families that we will be able to help.

There are many ways that you can participate in this effort:

- Buy non perishable food items
- Buy gifts for a child
- Donate cash or gift cards
- Help sort the food
- Make holiday treats (cookies, fudge, etc.)
- Help put together the gift baskets

If you are interested in becoming an elf or want more information, you can e-mail Santa at [santaselfgso@aol.com](mailto:santaselfgso@aol.com).

—*Darci Mozgai*



### Have you saved the date?!



**Sunday, October 18th  
Second Annual Health Fair!  
12:00 to 2:00 pm**

***Flu shots • Exhibits • Screenings  
Something for everyone!***