

Congregational News

*Spirituality. Community.
Diversity. Justice. Peace.*

BI-WEEKLY ISSUE

OCTOBER 28, 2009

Let Your Light Shine

Stewardship 2009

November 8 is Stewardship Sunday. During worship we will begin receiving our 2010 pledges, when we invite everyone to come forward in church to receive a blessing. Everyone – members, friends, visitors – whether you pledge or even give. It is a wonderful tradition in this church. It helps us remember that it is not the size of the gift (or the size of the giver) that is important. What matters is that we all come to receive a blessing prayer, a symbol of God's blessing for our lives.



This year we will offer you two pledge cards, one for gifts of money and one for gifts of time. Our boards and committees have compiled a variety of ways you can serve God by helping in our church and our community. Would you be willing to give an hour a week? How about two hours a month? How about one morning or afternoon each season? Our church needs your help and we'll make good use of your time and energy, just like we will make good use of your financial contributions. Two pledge cards, two ways for you to offer thanks to God.

Pledges are hopeful statements; they are not contractual obligations. A pledge is what you hope you will be able to give in the coming year.

If you can give more, wonderful! If you can give less than you had hoped, we will remain grateful for your gifts. The only thing we really ask of you is to give God thanks and praise.

It is not too late to make reservations for the Stewardship Luncheon for this Sunday (November 1). Call or e-mail the office before noon on Friday! The menu sounds delectable: Chicken Sausage Jambalaya with salad, rolls, dessert by Cynthia Brewer, tea and coffee – plus we will have a vegetarian option. You will be served. We will clean up. We will have child care. And the meal is free!



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.



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.

CUCC is on Facebook!

Check us out at the following site: www.tinyurl.com/CUCCFacebook.

Our Next Newsletter

Deadline: Friday, November 6
Publication: Wednesday, Nov. 11

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

November 1, 2009
Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9
Psalm 24
Revelation 21:1-6a
John 11:32-44

November 8, 2009
Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17
Psalm 127
Hebrews 9:24-28
Mark 12:38-44



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
rrbill@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. 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 . . .

Congregational News is published by
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From the Pastor

Walking Reflections



Not too long ago I walked along a beautiful beach, my mind preoccupied with change: how quickly the season was chang-

ing and how so many people I know are facing major changes in their lives. Then I glanced out to the incoming tide and saw two dolphins playing in the surf. I picked up a shell and remembered: in the midst of change, look around for what is constant, be still and know the One in whom "no shadow of turning we see."

Not too long ago I walked down a wooded trail, my mind weighed down with the thoughts of all the things I wish I *could* change but cannot. Then I looked up and saw the red and gold leaves floating down to earth on a cool breeze, and remembered: change what you can, trust that some changes will come in due time, and let the rest go.

Not too long ago I sat in the empty sanctuary late one sunny afternoon and watched as the light danced through the multi-colored window panes. And my heart overflowed with gratitude for the One who brought forth the oceans and the forests and all the sacred spaces, who sustains us through change and works good in all things we cannot change, and who has blessed us with the gift of each other, fellow travelers on the way.

Blessings to all of you on your journey through autumn.

—Julie Peeples

Special Sundays In November!

November brings with it some very special Sundays. Our All Saints Sunday is November 1, with a Stewardship Luncheon following our morning service. We will be receiving new members during the service. Stewardship Sunday is November 8; during the service we will bring our commitments to the congregation for the coming year. November 15 will be Confirmation Sunday, when we will confirm and receive into membership our three confirmands. November 22 is the Sunday before Thanksgiving, and then the 29th is the first Sunday of Advent. Join us for worship, and invite a friend!



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

40-Day Journey, Supper Study, Santa's Elves



The Congregational Life Committee of the Board of Deacons will hold a covered dish luncheon on Sunday, November 22,

from 12:30 to 1:30 pm. Our guests will be members of the Montagnard Grace Community Church, the group that has been meeting in our building for the past five months. Both groups have been looking for ways to get to know one other, and we hope you will join us. They will be bringing food to share as well, so it should be an early Thanksgiving delight.

—Paul Davis



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, Nov. 11 at 7:00 p.m.



Wednesday Supper Study

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.

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! Mary Coyne Wessling, a local comedienne/storyteller, will lead us in an evening of laughter and storytelling! 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.



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 will be determined by the size of the families and number of elves that we have.

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 identity confidential. The children are identified by first name and age only. Keeping the identities of these families confidential is crucial to the success of the project, and with this format we have been successful in doing that.

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 November 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 gift cards (Wal-Mart, Target, Kohls, grocery stores)
- Help sort the food
- Make holiday treats (cookies, fudge, etc.)
- Donate cash
- Help put together the gift baskets

If you are interested in becoming an elf or want more information, you can e-mail Santa at santasegso@aol.com.

—Darci Mozgai



CUCC Business

Volunteers

November 1

Lay Reader: Jeri Rowe
Nursery: TBA
Coffee Hour: Katherine & Jerry Rowe

November 8

Lay Reader: Pam Aldridge
Nursery: TBA
Coffee Hour: Rod North & Alice Franks

Ushers

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



Financial Reports

Weekly Income	10/11/09	10/18/09
Pledged Offering	\$1,500.00	\$4,277.00
Unpledged Offering	721.00	681.46
Use of Church	400.00	45.00
Supper study	10.00	---
Neighbors in Need	820.49	310.00
BRAG Trip Deposits	40.00	---
Clergy S.S. Offset	1,795.50	---
Missions Women's Fell.	---	250.00
Miscellaneous	---	162.00
Total	\$5,286.99	\$5,725.46

Budget Income/Expense Summary

	10/1-26	YTD
Income	\$25,732.57	\$266,787.22
Expense	38,680.24	271,097.25
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$12,947.67)	(\$4,310.03)

Immigration Event at CUCC, 24-7 Prayer Event & More



From Hostility to Hospitality: The Immigration Debate & People of Faith

Join the North Carolina Council of Churches for informative free mini-conferences about how immigration is affecting North Carolina.

**Saturday, November 14, 2009
9:30am-12:00pm**

**Congregational
United Church of Christ**

This program is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. Generous support for this program has been provided by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation.

- Why don't immigrants just "get legal?"
- How are faith communities involved?

Please help us spread the word about these thought-provoking events. Breakout sessions will include:

- Immigration Law & Local Enforcement
- Faith-Based Settings & Social Challenges Facing Immigrants
- Immigrants & the Economy
- Immigrants & the Education System

Co-sponsored by the American Civil Liberties Union-NC, the American Friends Service Committee, El Pueblo, Inc., the NC Justice Center, the Office of Peace and Justice/Respect Life at the Catholic Diocese of Raleigh, and more.

For more info or to register, go to www.welcometheimmigrant.org/Greensboro.

24-7 Greensboro

*"They all joined together
constantly in prayer."
– Acts 1:14*

**A week of non-stop creative
prayer for the city of Greensboro
November 1-8, 2009
853 South Elm Street**

Events include an All Saints Day celebration, lots of "prayer art" opportunities, live music and worship, Taize prayer night, drum circle night, special stuff for kids. All denominations welcome! For more information and to sign up, go to www.24-7greensboro.org.



People of Faith Against the Death Penalty

People of Faith Against the Death Penalty will be celebrating its fifteenth anniversary! Come hear keynote speakers and Triad residents, Jennifer Thompson-Cannino and Ronald Cotton, authors of the *New York Times* bestseller, *Picking Cotton*, a memoir detailing their powerful story of forgiveness and hope. The annual awards banquet will be held on November 7th at 6:00 pm at Temple Emanuel, located at 1129 Jefferson Road in Greensboro. For more information or to buy tickets, please visit www.pfadp.org or contact Kristen Smith at 933.7567 or ksmith@pfadp.org.



North Carolina A&T Holiday Tradition

**Black Nativity
by Langston Hughes**

**Harrison Auditorium
N.C. Agricultural & Technical
State University**

**Show Dates:
Thursday, December 3
through Sunday, December 6**

**Show Times:
Thursday, Friday, Saturday,
Sunday at 8:00 pm;
Saturday & Sunday at 3:00 pm**

This high-energy gospel musical chronicles the birth of Christ, using vibrant songs and dance of praise and worship. Storytellers guide us through the glorious words of the Holy Scripture allowing the audience to fully experience this biblical re-telling.

Because *Black Nativity* is a favorite and performances sell out early, NC A&T is offering the opportunity to purchase group tickets in advance – before they go on sale to the public. Group rates for 20 or more people are \$12/adult, \$10/senior citizen, \$5/students and children (12 and under). If you are interested in purchasing group tickets, see the CUCC bulletin board for an order form. Please complete and mail the form and payment to the theatre on or before November 13 to take advantage of this opportunity.

CWU at CUCC, Women's Assembly, Veteran's Day



Women's Fellowship To Host Church Women United

On Saturday morning, November 7th, women from thirty-five Greensboro congregations will gather at our church to celebrate Church Women United's annual World Community Day, and you are invited!

At 10:00 am, the morning will begin in the fellowship Hall with registration and light refreshments. At 10:30 am, in the Sanctuary, Rev. Mary Harris will lead a Bible study based on scripture from Genesis.

"Piecing Earth Together" is the theme of this year's celebration. Our guest speaker will be Carolyn Allen, former mayor of Greensboro.

The Ecumenical Action committee has requested that we bring paper goods — towels, napkins, cups, tissues — which will be taken to Higher Ground for their use.

Come! Take advantage of this special opportunity to meet women from other churches and help us give them a warm welcome!

If you have questions, please call Eileen Stirling, 852-0170. We hope to see you on November 7th.



Disciples of Christ Women's Quadrennial Assembly

Disciples women have gathered every four years for worship, study and mission for more than half a century. Registration is now open for the next major gathering of women, the "2010 Quadrennial As-

sembly," which will take place June 23-27 in Greensboro, N.C. The Quadrennial Assembly gives an opportunity for women (and a few men) to enjoy outstanding speakers, gifted teachers, inspiring music and an opportunity to enlarge their circle of faithful women.

The theme of the gathering is "Awake! Awake!" Since 1957 the Quadrennial Assembly has allowed women from across the United States and Canada and beyond to become friends. Keeping in line with the Quadrennial Assembly's theme, women will be challenged to awake to new ways of living out their Christian faith in these days and "for such a time as this." To register or get more details, go to: www.quadrennial.org.



Love and Fellowship

"Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."

—1 John 4:11-12

Veterans who have faithfully served our country are living on the streets and under bridges in the Carolinas everyday. November 11 is Veterans Day and we ask you to join us in honoring the men and women who have sacrificed for our country like Ralph, a resident at Kinard Manor.

Ralph served his country with ten years of service in the Army, including time in Vietnam, after

which he worked as a recruiter. Along the way Ralph began to struggle with Bi-Polar Disorder. Without proper medication and support Ralph lost his job at IHOP Corporation and bounced from family member to friend. In July, Ralph exhausted the kindness of his last friend, and was now homeless. He spent two weeks under the steps at Finley Park in Columbia, SC praying for his life. The Veteran's Administration (VA) gave him medication and put him on a waiting list for housing. While waiting, Ralph visited a local shelter that insisted he listen to a sermon before he could receive food to take his medication. Ralph felt as if they were putting conditions on his life and left.

In August, after returning to the VA, Ralph was sent to Kinard Manor, our transitional house for homeless male veterans in Greenwood, SC. After a visit from our Program Director, Terry Weeks; IHOP Corporation gave Ralph a second chance. He had a home and a job. He is taking his medication and working hard to get back on his feet. When asked what has been important to him this last month at Kinard Manor, Ralph said, "The fellowship the Lutheran Church gave me. They put no conditions on my life. They said, here – my doors are open. They showed me love. If they serve the same God, I want to be a part of it."

Ralph is finding peace and self-direction. He is one of 200,000 veterans in our country who call the streets and bridges home every night. Through the work of LFS Carolinas, the Veteran's Administration and faithful supporters of our ministry he is now on his way to finding healing and wholeness.

—Lutheran Family Services of the Carolinas



Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

OCTOBER 28, 2009

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Electronic Giving Program

Contributions Made Easy

Save time, simplify your life, and support ministry and mission! Our electronic giving program utilizes automatic electronic funds transfer technology that allows you to make contributions without having to lift a pen to write a check or reach into your wallet for cash!

Here is how it works: you authorize a specified amount of money to be electronically transferred directly from your checking or savings account to the church account (to be applied to our regular offering). You also specify the frequency of the transfer. (Authorization forms are available outside the church office and the Fellowship Hall.)

Electronic giving is fast, safe, and easy! In fact, it is less risky than

checks, as it cannot be lost, stolen, or destroyed in the mail, and the rate of accuracy is high. There is no charge for the transfer and you save the cost of the check. You can change or cancel your authorization of transfer at any time by notifying us in writing. Speak with Pam Aldridge, our Financial Secretary, for more information.



Spring Forward . . .

FALL BACK!

Daylight Saving Time ends at 2:00 am on Sunday, November 1 – don't forget to set your clocks back one hour!

November Birthdays

- 5 Olav Rueppell
- 6 Marjorie Liles
- 6 Harley Fleischer
- 8 Lewis Duckworth
- 8 Roger Gibbs
- 8 Sarah Rice
- 8 Brooks Truitt
- 9 Lynn Wright-Kernodle
- 11 Becky Bulla
- 11 Travis Phillips-Macy
- 12 Linda DeShazo
- 13 Mary Burch
- 16 Teresa Earles
- 20 Bryan Jenkins
- 20 Lawrence Lambert
- 22 Milton Shaw
- 24 Jude Grayer
- 27 Bonita Olds
- 27 Cindy Caviness Cole
- 27 Jeff Langston
- 28 Ruthann Wenger