

Congregational News

Spirituality. Community.
Diversity. Justice. Peace.

BI-WEEKLY ISSUE

NOVEMBER 11, 2009

Stewardship Update

Let Your Light Shine!

We are off to a fantastic start in our Stewardship campaign. Thus far, we have seventy-four pledges with a total amount pledged of \$200,785. This includes twelve new pledges! Plus twenty-six people turned in Pledge Cards stating they will give a portion of their time. They will be contacted in the next week or so to get them plugged in.

Remember, your financial pledge is confidential; only our Financial Secretary, Pam Aldridge, will see it. You can mail your pledge cards to the office, or, for the next two Sundays, you can hand them in after worship by placing them in the Stewardship Basket, and one of our ministers will be available to offer you a blessing. Thank you for your generosity!

We have collected on CD all the 2009 Stewardship materials. Let us in the office know if you would like a copy so that you can view the slideshow at home, or share it with someone who was not able to attend.



Special Sundays in November & December!

November 15th will be Confirmation Sunday as we confirm and receive into membership our three confirmands. November 22nd we will share a covered dish luncheon with the Montagnard church, and

the 29th is the first Sunday of Advent. Plan to come to worship fifteen minutes early each Sunday in Advent for our special prelude music. Bill Herndon will play the Bach Advent Chorales on November 29th, December 13th and December 20th. On December 6th, the Neo-Black Gospel Choir of UCCG will be with us. Join us for worship, and invite a friend!



Newsflash - North Pole: Santa's Elves Update

We have begun collecting nonperishable food items for the eleven families and thirty-six children that will be served through the Santa's Elves program. You may leave food items in the Narthex or outside the Fellowship Hall through Dec. 6th.

It's still not too late to become an elf! If you are interested, please e-mail me at santaselfgso@aol.com.

—Darci Mozgai



Wednesday Supper Study 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.

All are welcome, we need firm reservations by noon on Tuesday, November 17th. Menu: Chicken Pot Pie — \$5/adult, \$3/child. Childcare will be provided.



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 27
Publication: Tuesday, Dec. 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.

Lectonary Readings

November 15, 2009

1 Samuel 1:4-20
1 Samuel 2:1-10
Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25
Mark 13:1-8

November 22, 2009

2 Samuel 23:1-7
Psalm 132:1-12, (13-18)
Revelation 1:4b-8
John 18:33-37



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: 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 . . .

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Greensboro, North Carolina

From the Pastor

A Moment for Thanks-Giving



I sometimes walk along Friendly Avenue, often glancing at the drivers of the cars going by in such a hurry. To my great dismay,

an alarming number of them are staring straight down, not looking out on the road ahead. No, they are not praying. In all likelihood, they are texting on their cell phones. Recent studies indicate we are more at risk from drivers text-messaging than from those driving drunk.

Most of us, myself included, multi-task. We attempt to do many things at once: writing out a grocery list while checking e-mail and watching the news. Sorting through the mail while on hold on the phone. It can be a good thing, a productive use of time. The problem comes when it evolves into a daily, minute-by-minute habit, till we reach the point where we really aren't paying full attention to any of the tasks at hand. We start getting that sinking sense that we are not living our lives so much as we are rushing through an endless blur of to-do lists.

On the other hand, there are times when we suddenly stop, and in our pausing, life flows back into the quiet space: a hawk in flight takes your breath away, the sound of a violin plays in the distance and you become still, listening. Something reminds you of a sweet memory and a smile spreads on your face. Such pauses in our day can renew us if we let them.

So put down the phone. Resist the urge to check Facebook one more time. Look around and notice where you are. What's the weather like? Are there still leaves clinging to the tree in your backyard? How blue is the sky? Why are your

shoulders all tensed up? Are you actually tasting the food you are eating? Stop and notice for a moment. And ask one further question: what are you grateful for, right now, this very minute?

Your answer to that may be something seemingly trivial, or it may be something fundamental, universal. You may be grateful that you found a parking spot, or that the sky really is blue. You may whisper a quiet word of thanks that you are reasonably healthy, or that you know where your loved ones are. Perhaps you can rest in the moment's awareness that you live in a beautiful area, in an amazing country.

I invite you, this Thanksgiving season, to pause and give thanks. Thank a veteran, thank your significant other, thank the cashier at the grocery store. Thank God from whom all these, and so many more, blessings flow.

And please, don't text while you drive.

—Julie Peeples

P.S. And speaking of giving thanks, I am especially grateful for all those who worked hard to provide the outstanding Stewardship Luncheon November 1st. Thanks, also to Paul for the wonderful video presentation. Finally, thanks to all for your faithful giving to this congregation!



News and Notes

Higher Ground, Feast of Caring, AIDS Walk & More

We will serve lunch at Higher Ground again on Tuesday, November 24th. Food donations and volunteers are always welcomed. Please have food at the church by 11:00 am on that Tuesday or take it directly to Higher Ground.

For more info, contact Ish Whitfield (434-792-6707, 434-250-4364, ishmaeldwhitfield@msn.com), or speak to Robin Dorko, Clif Karnes, or Henrietta Ingram.

Thanks to those who helped serve in October: Robin Dorko, Clif Karnes and Lee Kirkman. Special thanks to Ed Driver and Greensboro Urban Ministries for the ongoing donations of bread and desserts.



Greensboro Urban Ministry's Annual Feast of Caring

**Thursday, November 19, 2009
First Baptist Church
1000 West Friendly Avenue**

The public is invited to drop in for a simple meal of soup and bread any time between 5:00 and 7:00 pm on Thursday, November 19, for the 18th annual *Feast of Caring*. This meal, in the soup kitchen tradition, kicks off the Greensboro Urban Ministry's annual operating fund campaign. Attendees are requested to make their 2010 Annual Pledge or Gift at the event. The event is free – no reservations necessary.

Individuals making a pledge or donation (\$20 min.) at the event can

choose a handcrafted pottery bowl (limit one bowl per family) or four Honor Cards. Over thirty potters from the Seagrove area and Guilford and Rockingham counties have donated items for this event.

A variety of soups will be served throughout the evening along with homemade bread donated by more than twenty-five Greensboro organizations. The Temple Emmanuel Youth choir and the Bobby Doolittle and Jim Carson duo will provide musical entertainment.

William Mangum's 2009 Holiday Honor Card, "Moving On," will be made available for a minimum donation of \$5 per card. This is the 21st year for the Urban Ministry Honor Card and over \$2 million in total funds has been raised through the Honor Card program over the past 20 years with more than \$240,000 raised last year. Thanks to Bill's artistic donation and the sponsorship of Wachovia Bank, 100% of the proceeds from the card go to support Urban Ministry.

Beginning November 20th, Honor Cards will be available at Wachovia Banks (all Greensboro branches), William Mangum's Fine Art Gallery, Barnes & Noble Book-sellers (Friendly Center), Leon's Style Salons, Greensboro Urban Ministry (305 West Lee Street), and many Greensboro congregations.



The 18th Annual Winter Walk for AIDS

**Sunday, December 6, 2009
War Memorial Stadium**

Opening ceremony starts at 2:00 pm; walk begins at 2:30 pm. Registering is easy – simply go to www.winterwalkforaids.kintera.org and click on "Participant Information."

Next Board & Council Meeting Night

The Boards and Church Council will have their next regular meetings on Tuesday, December 1st, beginning at 6:45 pm with a time of prayer. Board meetings begin at 7:00, Council at 8:15. This is a change from the regular "fourth Tuesday" meeting night due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.



CUCC Business

Volunteers

November 15

Lay Reader: Ken Sell
Nursery: Kirsten Joseph and Michelle Kennedy
Coffee Hour: Lynn Hamilton and Susan Lane

November 22

Lay Reader: Stephen Paschall
Nursery: Jeri Rowe and Nancy Prairie
Coffee Hour: Cancelled due to Covered Dish Luncheon

Ushers

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



Financial Reports

Weekly Income	10/25/09	11/01/09
Pledged Offering	\$2,579.00	\$6,968.11
Unpledged Offering	1,103.00	948.47
Use of Church	60.00	550.00
Supper Study	150.00	---
Neighbors in Need	---	25.00
Miscellaneous	---	25.00
Total	\$3,892.00	\$8,516.58

Budget Income/Expense Summary

	October	YTD
Income	\$25,732.57	\$266,787.22
Expense	38,612.17	271,029.18
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$12,879.60)	(\$4,241.96)

Quit for a Day – Quit for Life!



Think you can't quit? Tried before and didn't quite stay smoke-free? That's O.K. Quitting takes practice! This year, give it a try and

see if one day just might change your life.

American Cancer Society's 33rd Great American Smokeout November 16, 2009

How do I double my chance of quitting?

- Considering using medicine such as Zyban (available with prescription) – the patch or gum. Discuss this with your health care provider or pharmacist.
- Read up: self-help materials can increase your chance of success.
- Enlist friends and family to help you.
- Call toll-free 1-800-QUIT-NOW. Counseling is available in English and Spanish, 8:00 am to midnight, seven days a week!

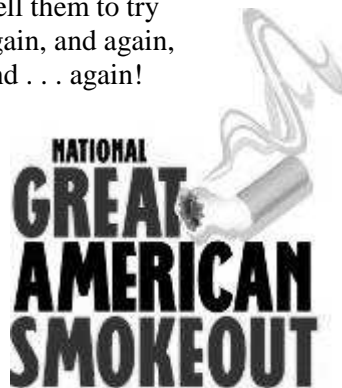
Hints for quitting tobacco:

- Try cinnamon gum or toothpicks.
- Keep a water bottle handy.
- Brush your teeth right after you eat.
- Avoid alcohol or coffee, which trigger cravings.
- Keep a list of your reasons to quit on hand, or use a picture of loved ones to remind you.
- Frequent smoke-free restaurants and other venues – see a list at www.tobaccofreeguilford.org.
- Call a friend or a quit line.
- Use cough drops to soothe your throat.
- A hot shower, aspirin, or massage will help deal with unpleasant side-effects of withdrawal.
- Throw out all cigarettes, lights and ashtrays. Dry clean your clothes and clean your house.

- Exercise often to help stabilize mood and control weight.

Helping someone you love quit:

- Leave them a daily note or e-mail of encouragement.
- Bring fresh flowers for them to smell.
- Fix them a care package with gum, candy, or straws to chew.
- Join an exercise class with them or offer to walk with them every day.
- Tell them you love them and want them around.
- Call to check on them.
- Be patient if they are irritable – quitting is hard!
- Encourage them if they slip – one slip isn't the end of the road.
- Never condemn or blame.
- Tell them they are your hero!
- Take them out to eat at a smoke-free restaurant or to a concert or museum where smoking is prohibited.
- Tell them to try again, and again, and . . . again!



Holiday Open House

**American Friends Service
Committee
Saturday, December 5, 2009
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
6306 W. Market St., Greensboro**

Enjoy holiday treats and hot drinks; pack humanitarian assistance kits, view short films from the Immigrant and Refugee movie-making class,

learn more about the work of the this group and how to get involved..



Covered Dish Luncheon With Montagnard

Grace Community Church

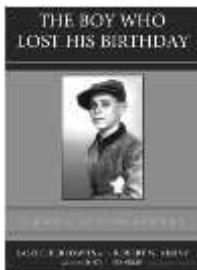
The Congregational Life Committee of the Board of Deacons will hold a covered dish luncheon on Sunday, November 22, from 12:30 to 1:30 pm. Our guests will be members of the Montagnard Grace Community Church, the group that meets in our building. They will be bringing food to share as well, so it should be fun! We will have people in the kitchen to receive your food that day, keep it cool or warm as needed. There will be no Coffee Hour that day. So that there is plenty of parking in our lot and along East Radiance Drive for their members, try parking at Leon's or at the restaurant behind them. We hope you will join us and we will have a big group with lots of food!



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.

Holocaust Presentation, Thanksgiving, Light Up a Life



Holocaust Survivor Speaks to Greensboro Community

Sunday, November 15 at 1:00 pm
Temple Emanuel
1129 Jefferson Road, Greensboro

Rabbi Laszlo Berkowits, will speak about his experiences during the Holocaust. Rabbi Berkowits is the author of *The Boy Who Lost His Birthday*. It is the uplifting story of one man's journey from boyhood in rural Hungary to triumph over oppression during the Holocaust and finally to a role as a spiritual leader in America. Rabbi Berkowits' compelling memoir recounts his happy childhood memories in Hungary where he was a member of a thriving Jewish community. Stricken with wartime poverty, Berkowits and his father left their home and family behind to seek work in Budapest. It was there that they were rounded up with other Budapest Jews and shipped by sealed train to Auschwitz in the summer of 1944.

Rabbi Laszlo will talk about his treacherous experience as a sixteen year-old boy surviving in the notorious Nazi concentration camp until its liberation by American troops.

There will be a question and answer period after the Rabbi's talk and he will be available to sign his book which will be for sale that day.

Please plan to come early and stay after the program to shop at Temple Emanuel's Holiday Bazaar. There will be art, jewelry, clothing, pottery, food items, crafts, photos, stationery and much more to choose

from. The proceeds support the Temple Emanuel Preschool. Please call the Temple office, 292-7899, for more details.



27th Annual Ecumenical Celebration of Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 22 - 4:00 pm
Dana Auditorium on the Guilford College campus

"Celebrating Our Community Kaleidoscope," the theme of this year's program, will focus on our city's growth & development as a multi-faceted community. It is designed to look back at our city's history and honor those early settlers of many faith and ethnic traditions who have made it their home and the contributions they have made. The program will also challenge us to move forward together to continue working to make Greensboro the best community it can be for all of our residents. By featuring the variety of faith and ethnic traditions in the Piedmont, the program fosters an appreciation and greater understanding of our changing community and people of every heritage.

Sponsor: Piedmont Interfaith Council and Greensboro Human Relations Commission



Light Up A Life

You are invited to attend the 25th annual *Light Up A Life* service on Sunday, December 6 at 5:00pm. This year's service will be at the sanctuary of West Market Street United Methodist Church, 302 West Market Street, in downtown Greensboro.

This meaningful interfaith service is a time to honor the memories of special friends and family members. Serving as this year's guest speaker is the Rev. Michael Moulden, Rector at St. Francis Episcopal Church in Greensboro.

Musical selections will be provided by William Allred, organist, the First Korean Presbyterian Church Men's Choir, directed by Jung Sun Park, West Market Street United Methodist Church's Hand Bell Choir, directed by Alice Ann Johnson, and Nancy Pitkin, singer/songwriter.

After the service, you are invited to view the HPCG Tree of Remembrance, also in downtown Greensboro. This tree, known for its extraordinary number of tiny white lights, serves as a wonderful symbol of hopefulness. It will be lit during the Festival of Lights on Friday evening, December 4 and remain lit through December 31.

You are encouraged to place a light on the HPCG Tree of Remembrance by making a contribution of \$10 or more in honor or in memory of a special friend or loved one.

Your tax-deductible gift will help Hospice and Palliative Care of Greensboro provide care and support for children and adults in our community. A *Light Up A Life* gift is a wonderful way to recognize friends, neighbors, co-workers, teachers, and babysitters during the holiday season. We will acknowledge your gift and notify the person or family you are remembering with a lovely seasonal card.





Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

November 11, 2009

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Among Our Members

Please make note of the following address changes in your church directory:

Rick & Anne Barton
1105 Meade Drive
Greensboro, NC 27410-4419
336-852-1837

Sunny Covington & Cheryl Smith
1412 S. Moody Avenue
Tampa, FL 33629

Teresa Earles
3203 North Hayden Street
Greensboro, NC 27407-3631
336-688-8310

John & Tammy Heil
4457 Kari Lane #4
Hermantown, MN 55811

Robert Kingston & Wilbur Parrott
P.O. Box 14755
Greensboro, NC 27415

Marie Williams
c/o Judy Williams Palmer
8909 Seacrest Drive
Kernersville, NC 27284



A New Baby!

We celebrate with Brent and Katharine Martin on the birth of their daughter, Annabel Mere Martin, who was born at 10:55 pm on November 1, 2009. Annabel's vitals: 7 pounds, 2.4 ounces, 20.5 inches long.

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