

What Can We Do?

Disaster Relief for Haiti

Church World Service (CWS) has issued an urgent call for "Gifts of the Heart" Kits. Hygiene and Baby Care Kits are urgently needed for survivors in Haiti. This is one very concrete and "hands-on" thing that we as a church can do. In the face of natural disasters, Hygiene Kits can mean the difference between sickness and health for struggling families and Baby Care Kits help young mothers care for their newborn babies. Here are the guidelines for assembling the kits:



Hygiene Kit

- One hand towel measuring approximately 16" x 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb
- One nail clipper
- One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- One toothbrush (in original packaging)
- Six standard size band-aids
- Value: \$10

Place all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure, remove excess air from bag, and seal. **Please do not add toothpaste to the Hygiene Kit.** Cartons of toothpaste that have an extended expiration

date will be added to Hygiene Kit shipments just prior to shipment.

Baby Care Kit:

- Six cloth diapers
- Two T-shirts or undershirts (no onesies)
- Two washcloths
- Two gowns or sleepers
- Two diaper pins
- One sweater or sweatshirt (can be hand-knitted or crocheted)
- Two receiving blankets (one can be a hand-knitted or crocheted baby blanket)
- Value: \$39

Items must be new and under 12 months in size. Wrap items inside one of the receiving blankets and secure with both diaper pins.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can anything else be added to the CWS Kits? No additional items can be added to the Kits, and items are limited to only those listed so that all Kit recipients receive the same materials. In an effort to meet the needs of local agencies in very diverse settings and cultures, CWS works to keep the Kits as useful as possible to meet the needs of recipients. To facilitate international shipping, distribution, and review by Customs officials, the boxes into which the Kits are packed at the warehouse must weigh the same and contain the same number of Kits and components. **Please do not include personal notes, artwork, checks or cash.**

Can we include a note with our Kits? For some Kit recipients to read the note, it would have to be translated into his or her own language. Because this is a time-

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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, January 29
Publication: Wednesday, February 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

January 24, 2010

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
Luke 4:14-21

January 31, 2010

Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Luke 4:21-30



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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
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Ms. Evelyn Blane
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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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consuming and costly process, and is outside the scope of the CWS Kit Program, please do not include notes.

Can we include religious or other symbols on the components or in the Kits? Please do not decorate your Kits with religious or governmental symbols or include components with these symbols. Kits are shared with people based only on need, regardless of religion, and should not be used as a way of proselytizing.

May I designate my Kits for a particular location? The Kits you provide are packed with other same-type Kits and prepared for shipment to various points throughout the world, when and where the need is the greatest. CWS provides assistance to people in need regardless of their race, ethnic origin, or religion. **Do I need to include a donation for processing with my Kits?** CUCC will cover the processing cost. If you would like to contribute toward this, write a check payable to CUCC, with "Kits" on the memo line.

From the Pastor

What We Can Do, For Now, For Haiti



For I was hungry and you gave me food . . .

What can we do? The devastation in Haiti is beyond comprehension, far beyond any

thing most of us have ever witnessed. Getting a church work crew there in the near future is not feasible: volunteer work crews will be severely limited for the coming months until the situation is deemed safe enough by the Red Cross and governmental agencies. But for now we can give. See the info on page one about how to contribute to a kit and the info on page five about how to make a financial contribution. And pray. Daily. For the people, the relief workers, the leaders of Haiti.

I was thirsty . . .

Reports have come in that in contrast to the groups of people roaming the streets looting, threatening survivors with machetes, other groups have been heard singing hymns and praying together, helping survivors. They look to God as their only real hope. And as thirsty as they are for water, they thirst as well for that hope, for signs that

they will not be forgotten. Remember the countless church workers there, striving to address the physical and spiritual needs. Remember, too, that down the road we may all need to call on the world's leaders to follow through on the promises made in these early days, so that the waters of hope do not turn to dust.

I was sick . . .

The situation in Haiti was complicated and barely functional before the earthquake. The people had suffered generations of exploitation, upheaval, deprivation. More than 50% are illiterate; access to medical care has long been a massive problem. As we have learned so painfully in the aftermath of Katrina, a natural disaster becomes a major turning point. Haiti challenges all in the developed world to do the right thing: help rebuild a country, not because there is profit to be made but because it is indeed the right thing to do. And for people of faith, it is what our faith compels us to do.

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me."

— Julie Peeples

Stewardship Update, Small Group Studies and More



Our response to the Stewardship campaign has gone very well. To date, we have 106 pledges, totaling \$246,861. At this point last year, we

had 100 pledges for a total of \$235,283. This is the good news! The challenging news is that when we combine this with our other estimates of income for 2010, and compare it with the budget, we are still about 7% short of our projected spending, about \$20,000. So, if you have not had the chance to return your pledge card, or if you can further assist with helping us meet our expenses, please be in touch with Pam Aldridge our Financial Secretary. Above all, thank you to everyone who gives, because you help make our church vital and strong.

—Paul Davis



Giving Statements and Offering Envelopes

2009 statements are available in the Fellowship Hall and 2010 Offering Envelopes are available in the narthex. Please help us save postage and pick up yours soon as possible.

If you are interested in giving to the church electronically, please be in touch with Pam, who can provide you with forms and more info.

Small Group Studies

The Congregational Life and Spiritual Connections Ministry Teams are sponsoring study group discussions for those interested in exploring spiritual issues in a relaxed and small group format. These small groups will meet for 75-90 minutes, once a week for six weeks during Lent, beginning the week of February 21 and ending the week of April 1. Several groups are planned to meet in members' homes, and one may meet at church. We promise short reading assignments on evocative topics such as "A Fresh Look at Forgiveness, for Self, for Others, and for Community," "An Exploration of Spiritual Disciplines, including Gratitude, Simplicity, and Journaling," and "Faith Journey at the End of Life: Breaking the Silence at the End of Life." We also promise good company, good conversation, and good fellowship.

Groups will be scheduled for different times during the week to accommodate a variety of schedules—definitely several weekday evenings and perhaps other times as schedules permit. Sign up will begin on Sunday, January 31, in the Fellowship Hall after worship. More details will come. We look forward to seeing you during Lent.

Coffee Hour

Please help us expand our pool of Fellowship Hosts by volunteering to host a Coffee Hour – it is a simple task that will help to ease the load for individuals who are serving several times a year. Hosts simply provide food and beverages for the fellowship time following worship. Paper products are stocked by the church. Please see or contact Milton Shaw if you can help (288-2119, miltonshaw@triad.rr.com).

Higher Ground

Our next date to serve lunch is Tuesday, January 26th. Volunteers and food donations are always welcomed. Please have food at the church by 11:00 am on the 26th. For more info, contact Ish Whitfield at 434-792-6707, 434-250-4364, or ishmaelwhitfield@msn.com.

Annual Meeting

The CUCC Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 31st at 9:00 am.

CUCC Business

Volunteers

January 24

Lay Reader: Gayle Currie
Nursery: Lynn Magyar
Coffee Hour: Milton Shaw & Bill Guill

January 31

Lay Reader: TBA
Nursery: Jeri Rowe
Coffee Hour: M. Matthews & C. Brewer

Ushers

Joann Myrick, Sticky Burch, Clyde Humphrey, Mike Dorko

Financial Reports

Weekly Income	01/03/10	01/10/10
Pledged Offering	\$4,028.38	\$3,854.40
Unpledged Offering	386.00	445.00
Use of Church	45.00	860.00
Memorial Fund	---	20.00
Clergy S.S. Offset	---	2,500.00
Total	\$4,459.38	\$7,679.40

Budget Income/Expense Summary

	December	2009 YTD
Income	\$48,610.69	\$339,013.73
Expense	33,903.01	335,816.61
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$14,707.68	\$3,197.12

Women Unite! February 5 is Women's Heart Awareness Day — Wear your RED!

Although men are more likely to have a heart attack, women are more likely to die of a heart attack! Be in the know! Understand the symptoms and warning signs.

- Chest discomfort. Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes or goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.
- Discomfort in other areas of the upper body. Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.
- Shortness of breath. This feeling may occur with or without chest discomfort.
- Other signs of discomfort. These may include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.
- As with men, women's most common heart attack symptom is chest pain or discomfort. But women are somewhat more likely than men to experience some of the other common symptoms, particularly shortness of breath, nausea/vomiting and back or jaw pain.



If you or someone you are with has chest discomfort, especially with one or more of the other signs, don't wait longer than five minutes before calling 911. It is important to call 911 rather than drive yourself or someone you are with to the hospital. Remember, time is of the essence. Ambulances are set up like "mini" intensive care units! You want that type of care as soon as possible!

*Source: Go Red for Women: About Heart Disease and Stroke.
www.goredforwomen.org.*

February is Heart Health Month—remember these dates!

Friday, February 5th:

Women go red! Wear your red!

Sunday, February 28th:

Annual Blood Pressure check!
Everyone should have their blood pressure checked at least once a year. Come by the nurse's station and get yours checked. All ages! (Including kids!)

Stay Healthy!

—Charlotte Evans



A Dance for Hope

Saturday, February 6, 2010

5:00 – 7:00 pm

**The Guilford Ballroom "B"
Koury Convention Center
3121 High Point Road
Greensboro**

All proceeds go directly to Greensboro Urban Ministry. Tickets may be purchased in person at the

Greensboro North Fred Astaire Dance Studio, by calling 336-271-5959, ext. 339, or by e-mailing byrd@gumistry.org. Tickets are \$25 each and are tax deductible. For more information, please visit www.danceforhope2010.blogspot.com.

Sponsored by Greensboro North Fred Astaire Dance Studio



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.

Haiti Earthquake Update

Global Ministries received news that Patrick and Francoise Villier are safe. Patrick is the president of CONASPEH, a grassroots movement of 6,000 congregations and our largest Disciples and UCC partner in Haiti for almost three decades. Patrick is also a member of the Common Global Ministries Board. We also learned that Polycarpe Joseph, the House of Hope Director, is safe. The leaders of our two denominational partners in Haiti are alive. We are grateful to God for this, but deeply saddened by the loss of so many.



To see the latest updates as we receive them at Global Ministries, please follow this link and return to it regularly:

<http://globalministries.org/news/lac/haiti-earthquake-what-we.html>

The blog posting from Kim Bentrrott, GM missionary in Haiti with her husband Patrick and son Solomon provides the latest details:

Dear Friends and Family,

I will write more later, but just want to let you all know that Patrick, Solomon and I are safe. We had just gotten home when the earthquake hit, our apartment building went from 3 stories to 2 in one sickening crunch, but our space stayed miraculously in tact and the people on the first floor got out in the nick of time.

We had a group working with CONASPEH here with us from Ten-

nessee. All members of the group were safe. Had they been on time for dinner, this note would have a different tone. Not all people in the guest house got out alive. We took the group to the embassy yesterday and they should be able to leave the country via the Dominican Republic in the next few days.

CONASPEH building has been flattened. All my nursing students were inside. Yesterday we helped pull bodies out of the wreckage and heard some voices within the rubble. Efforts continued frantically all day to reach them.

Patrick and Francoise Villier are safe. Their house seems to have held. They lost one of their foster care children in CONASPEH.

Communications are horrible. The phone network is either jammed or down completely. The manager of the guest house and our DEAR FRIEND has taken us under his wing and brought us up the mountain. He has a family with a 3 year old girl and a new born to consider as well. We are trying to figure out our next move at this point.

I will write more soon. Please pray for Haiti. In a minute's time, buildings crumbled and life was lost. So much life. And even with that said, I think the hardest times are still coming as people try to figure out how to put their lives together again.

Much love. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

—Kim, Patrick and Solomon

You can follow updates from the Bentrrotts on their blog: www.kimandpatrick.blogspot.com.

At this time the most urgent need is for funds for emergency relief. Global Ministries has wired funds from the Disciples Week of Compassion (WOC) and the UCC

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) to CONASPEH and House of Hope, our denominational partners in Haiti. Thank you for your generous contributions.

As we walk in solidarity with CONASPEH and the House of Hope during this difficult time, let us re-affirm our commitment to pray for them and their leaders, Patrick Villier and Polycarpe Joseph. Let us do all that we can to help “meet God’s people and creation at the point of deepest need” with our gifts and service. Let us also remember that as Disciples and UCC, our *Critical Presence* with our partners in Haiti will be required over the long haul as we help rebuild the infra-structure that is so essential to the life-giving ministries of our partners. For those that have visited the CONASPEH headquarters and the House of Hope center, you will know how important these places are to the ministries of our partners. May God give us all grace for the journey ahead!



In light of the horrific devastation in Haiti, our church received a Special Offering on Sunday, January 17th and will do so again this coming Sunday, January 24th. We will forward the offering to our denomination's relief efforts in Haiti. Make checks payable to CUCC and note “Haiti” on the memo line.



Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

January 20, 2010

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Among Our Members

Congratulations to Bill Guill!

We congratulate Bill Guill who was recently installed as president of the Greensboro Regional Realtors Association. We wish him the best of luck, safe travels, and a successful year of service!



In Our Thoughts & Prayers

We extend our sympathy to Phyllis Abbott and her family on the death of Luther Abbott on January 8th, 2010. The memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 20th, at Piedmont Crossing in Thomasville.



Our Newest Member

The baptism of Emery Caroline Alexander, daughter of Regina and Amber Alexander, was celebrated on Sunday, January 10.



Mark Your Calendars

Join us for an informative program related to homelessness in Greensboro on Tuesday, February 16th at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Our special guest speaker will be Michelle Forrest from Streetwatch. More details to follow. All are welcome!

*Sponsored by the Morning Circle
of the Women's Fellowship.*

February Birthdays

- 3 Irwin Smallwood
- 4 Lib Basham
- 5 Martha Hall
- 6 Kimberly Simpson
- 8 Barbara Rice
- 9 Sharon Karnes
- 9 Walter Patten
- 9 Elizabeth Rowe
- 11 Joann Myrick
- 13 Bill Powell
- 16 Kay Swofford
- 18 Paul Macy
- 19 Bill Guill
- 22 David Ridge
- 23 JoAnne Simpson
- 23 Ishmael Whitfield
- 23 C. P. Gause
- 24 Lynn Hamilton
- 26 Reid Matthews
- 27 Ann Nelson
- 28 Nancy Prairie
- 29 Lou Boyles
- 29 Kathy Rice