

Opportunities for Lent

Update on Small Group Studies

The Congregational Life & 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. 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. Below is a listing of the meeting times, venues, and host facilitator.

For the next two Sundays, we will have people on hand during Coffee Hour to answer your questions and take your signup information. If your schedule permits, feel free to sign up for more than one session (even knowing you will

only want to attend one) and we will place you in a way that balances the size of each group. Or you can convey your preferences to Judy at the church office, either by phone or e-mail.

We are excited to be offering this opportunity and we are looking forward to being in fellowship with our fellow congregants!



Kits for Haiti

We will be assembling hygiene and baby kits after Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall this Sunday, February 7. Snacks will be provided, volunteers welcome.

If you are still interested in purchasing supplies, please follow the link available on the CUCC web site or refer to a recent bulletin or the last issue of this newsletter. Good deals have been found at Big Lots and Babies-R-Us.



Lenten Small Group Studies Schedule

Day	Time	Facilitator	Venue	Topic
Monday	7:00 pm	Lori Welch	Church	Faith Journey at the End of Life: Breaking the Silence
Tuesdays	5:30 pm	Fran Ditto	Fran's Home	TBA*
Wednesdays	7:00 pm	Rod North	Rod's Home	TBA*
Thursdays	7:30 pm	Barbara Rice	Barbara's Home	TBA*

* Chosen from the following:

A Fresh Look at Forgiveness, for Self, for Others, and for Community
An Exploration of Spiritual Disciplines, including Gratitude, Simplicity, and Journaling
Faith Journey at the End of Life: Breaking the Silence at the End of 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, February 12
Publication: Wednesday, Feb. 17

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

February 7, 2010

Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)
Psalm 138
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

February 14, 2010

Exodus 34:29-35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
Luke 9:28-36, (37-43)



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 . . .

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From the Pastor

No Bench-Warmers!



Not being much of a football fan (I know, that is blasphemy to some), the Super Bowl and all its attending hype don't do a lot for

me. Basketball is another matter, though given the sad state of affairs with the Tarheels this year, perhaps I need to just wait for baseball season and hope the Red Sox can cook up something. Of course the Winter Olympics are coming up, in all their colorful array. Some of those competitions are great to watch, though I confess some of the newer ones bring out the protective mother in me and I wonder who would ever let their child go into a sport seemingly designed to break every bone in their body.

Sports can be fun to watch. As our resident Health and PE teachers remind us, they are far more fun to engage in. And we certainly have much more to gain by picking up a tennis racket or baseball bat, going for a hike, or even plugging in a Wii (if that's what you do with it) than sitting and watching.

So you can guess where I'm going with this. Remember what Jesus' brother James said? Be doers and not just hearers of the word. Exercise your faith muscle so it won't atrophy. Stretch it, use it, allow it to be challenged, get it off the sidelines and see if it plays well with others. Yes, you *can* volunteer, take a risk, join a small group, learn to pray honestly and deeply. Try this for a morning exercise routine: get up, thank God, tell God what you need most, ask that God's will be done, then decide to trust that it will, and make a point of getting out of God's way for the rest of the day. Been feeling the need to ask the tough questions, talk about how to

live as a person of faith with others trying to do the same, hear how others make critical decisions in their lives, cope with life's changes, and just have a chance to get to know people on a deeper level than Coffee Hour on Sunday? As a well-known sports ad reminds us, just do it.

— Julie Peeples



Ash Wednesday, February 17

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17. We will gather for a simple supper at 6:00 pm, followed by our service in the sanctuary, which includes the imposition of ashes, at 7:00. In between supper and the service, there will be opportunities for children to learn more about the season and about Ash Wednesday. Come and join us for this ancient, yet new, service, which marks the beginning of the forty day period of reflection and preparation for Holy Week and Easter.



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

New Sunday School Class, Parents' Time Out & More



The new Sunday School Class for 3-5 year olds is beginning — come and join the fun! Fran Ditto will teach the class and parents

are welcome to contact her if there are questions. The classroom is located across from the nursery.

—Paul Davis



Parents' Time Out

We invite parents of our children to come for a time of quiet conversation, coffee cake and coffee or tea, the morning paper, and Wi-Fi access on Sunday, February 7th at 10:00 am. We'll meet in the parlor.



Reading Group Resumes!

Our reading group will meet on Sunday, February 21, starting 15 minutes after the benediction. The book will be *Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who would Cure the World*, written by Tracy Kidder. The book is in paperback. It is the story of Paul Farmer, who founded a health clinic in Haiti. The church will have several copies available on Sunday in the Fellowship Hall, if you would like to borrow one.

We hope you will join us, whether a veteran of our group, or someone curious to know more about Haiti, or someone interested in reading.



Homelessness in Greensboro

The Morning Circle is sponsoring a program on homelessness in Greensboro at 11:00 am, Tuesday, February 16 in the Fellowship Hall. All who are able to attend are invited to this informative program.

On January 27, volunteers combed the streets of Greensboro, looking for people living in tents, on street corners and in wooded areas. Last year's count was 1,052. Learn current figures. Discuss causes, potential solutions, and road blocks. Learn what are the needs and who the agencies are that are working with this group of people.

The speaker will be Michele Forrest of StreetWatch, an outreach ministry to the homeless of Greensboro.



Greensboro's Annual Housing Summit

Housing Matters for a Sustainable Greensboro: We're on the path to a healthy, green, affordable, fair future!

**Tuesday, February 23
8:30 am – 1:30 pm**

Coliseum Special Events Center

**Keynote speaker:
Shelly Poticha, Senior Advisor for Sustainable Housing and Communities at HUD**

The Housing Summit is a great opportunity to learn about and to provide input on plans to improve housing for all the residents of Greensboro. Anyone who is interested in housing related issues should certainly participate.

Greensboro is well on its way to becoming a national leader and model for sustainable housing options. Safe, fair and sustainable practices will create jobs, reduce

pollution, conserve water, decrease health costs, increase stability, and build social capital.

Come join us on the green path to the future and discover how we'll strive to reach our goal — and how you can be part of the big picture!

To register, please call the Greensboro Housing Coalition at 691-9521, ext. 304, or go online to www.eventsbot.com/events/eb371516997. Scholarships are available, thanks to the City of Greensboro and Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro; contact 373-2723 for eligibility. For special needs, exhibit tables, or other questions, call 691-9521.



CUCC Business

Volunteers

February 7

Lay Reader: TBA
Nursery: Sharon Harper
Coffee Hour: Katherine & Jeri Rowe

February 14

Lay Reader: TBA
Nursery: Lynn Magyar & Susan Lane
Coffee Hour: Connie & Amy Usry

Ushers

Ed Driver, Charles Hertlein,
Frank Kuester, Milton Shaw



Financial Reports

Weekly Income	01/17/10	01/24/10
Pledged Offering\$	5,244.00	\$2,103.00
Unpledged Offering	823.00	458.00
Use of Church	720.00	---
Church Meals	30.00	---
Haiti Relief	2,262.00	1,983.00
Total	\$9,079.00	\$4,544.00

Budget Income/Expense Summary

	1/1-1/24/10	YTD
Income	\$32,600.59	\$32,600.59
Expense	29,199.51	29,199.51
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$3,401.08	\$3,401.08



Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

February 3, 2010

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CUCC Annual Meeting Rescheduled

Due to the inclement weather we experienced last weekend, the Annual Meeting has been rescheduled for Sunday, February 14 at 9:00 am.



Jordan-Wisseman Class Christmas Post Office

The Jordan-Wisseman Class thank their church friends who utilized the class' post office for mailing their Christmas cards this year. To provide this service, a long-time tradition at CUCC, the class suggests a contribution equal to the otherwise required postage.

This year, the proceeds from this annual project amounted to \$485.66, all of which will support the class' contribution to Mobile Meals.

Did You Know . . .

- ... That anyone can order cut flowers or a living plant for the altar on Sunday morning, and after worship, you can bring them to a special someone in the hospital or care center or bring them home?
- ... That in lieu of flowers you can have the open Bible or one of our silk arrangements, and make a contribution to an outreach effort or to the church?
- ... That some people enjoy selecting flowers at the farmers' market for Sunday morning?
- ... That making the arrangements is simple – just call or email the office, or Mary Beth Boone for details!



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