

Congregational News

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

MONTHLY ISSUE

SEPTEMBER 2011

Sunday School Begins

Welcome and Welcome Back!

This Sunday marks the beginning of Sunday School for our children and for the Smith class. This year we will have three classes for children: ages 4-5 (led by Paul Davis), grades 1-4 (led by Amy Usry), and grades 5-8 (led by Jeri Rowe). Beth Mulberry will assist with coordination. We have an excellent curriculum, great teachers, and good snacks — all we need are your children! Classes begin at 10:00 am, and end at 10:50, and will meet on

the lower level — you can enter near the playground.

The Smith Class will also resume this Sunday at 10:00 am. Taught by Clif Karnes, the group is a study on the day's lectionary texts. The format is part discussion and part reflective.

Also for adults, the Jordan/Wisseman Class and the Rowland Class continue to meet on the main level beginning at 9:45 am. All are invited to attend.



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.

Our Next Newsletter

Deadline: Friday, September 30
Publication: Wed., October 5

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

September 11, 2011

Exodus 14:19–31, Ps. 114, Romans 14:1–12, Matthew 18:21–35

September 18, 2011

Exodus 16:2–15, Ps. 105:1–6, 37–45
Phil. 1:21–30, Matthew 20:1–16

September 25, 2011

Exodus 17:1–7, Ps. 78:1–4, 12–16,
Phil. 2:1–13, Matthew 21:23–32

October 2, 2011

Exodus 20:1–4, 7–9, 12–20, Ps. 19,
Phil. 3:4b–14, Matthew 21:33–46





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. Jessica Gudmundson
Nursery Director
jess_gud@hotmail.com

Ms. Judy Page
Office Manager
office@congregationalucc.com
Office Hours: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Monday thru Wednesday & Friday

Ms. Amy Usry
Youth Group Coordinator
amy_usry@yahoo.com

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

The View on Sunday Morning



On Sunday mornings, I have a unique vantage point, especially for the Children's Moment. Most of you see them from the front; I get a closer view, generally from the side, though it's a moving target. In those few moments, I often marvel, not just at their energy but at how the world must look from their young eyes. Consider the fact that few of them were born yet when 9/11 occurred. Consider that for their entire lives, our nation has been at war. Consider the amazing wonders that will unfold in their lifetimes that we can scarcely imagine, and that someday they will be the ones making the decisions.

At such moments I find myself profoundly, deeply grateful for parents who make a commitment to having their children here. I am deeply grateful for this congregation that values people of all ages and stages. Why? The reasons are too many to name, but chief among them is the fact that there are so many, many things that are and will be competing for the attention of these children throughout their lives. Some of these things will be good and some of them not so good.

And while we cannot protect them from all ills and all trials (ah, if only we could!), we can surround them with our love and prayers. And we can be a part of the shaping, forming, encouraging, educating, guiding that is so critical down the road. We can be vessels for what God is already doing in their young lives, helping them to know the God who can be trusted in all times, the God who is the God of love and not hate.

We have seen in the aftermath of 9/11 that tragedy and destruction can bring out both the best and the worst in human nature. People will use faith to build bridges for healing or as a weapon for personal gain. Others simply walk away from faith, dismissing it as irrelevant or worse. These beautiful, curious faces on Sunday are depending on us "to guide them in the way they should go."

In the coming weeks, as we start up our programs, head for our mountain retreat, worship together, and enter this busy Fall season, may we indeed continue in our commitment to follow in the way of the God of love and peace.

— Julie Peeples



10th Anniversary Commemoration of 9/11

Greensboro has been chosen as one of eight cities in the U.S. (along with New York, Boston, the New Jersey area, Philadelphia, San Francisco, DC and Atlanta) to take the lead in making this anniversary a time of reflection, remembrance, and also an outpouring of national service. A number of events are being planned for the entire weekend, culminating in special events at the new White Oak Amphitheater at the Coliseum on Sunday afternoon and evening, September 11 beginning at 4:00. There will be opportunities for hands-on service, a blood drive, a community-wide food drive, a story-telling area where people can share their own experiences from 9/11, and opportunities to learn about area nonprofits. From 6:00 to 7:30 pm, there will be a program featuring the Greensboro Symphony, dance, video presentations, a brief interfaith observance, and more. The event and parking at the coliseum are free.

Youth Group News, Fall Retreat, School Supplies & More



I am happy to announce that the church has hired Amy Usry to serve as Youth Group Coordinator. She will work six hours a

week, planning and leading the Youth Group, keeping the kids informed and the parents in line (or is it the other way around?). The group will meet most Sunday afternoons, beginning this Sunday, September 11 (time will be announced to parents via e-mail). —Paul Davis



Videographer Needed

The Youth Group needs a person handy with a video camera to help shoot an “infomercial” with them. Should be fun and funny. Call Katherine Rowe at 275-7439 if you can help.



Our Annual Fall All-Church Retreat

Friday, September 30
to Sunday, October 2
Blowing Rock Conference Center

It is a wonderful time in the beautiful mountains, close to peak leaf season, where we together learn, laugh, pray, relax, and eat s’mores. Childcare is available as needed. Registration forms are outside Paul Davis’s office. Attach a check payable to CUCC (marked “Retreat”) to the form and return it to Paul. The deadline for registration is this Sunday, September 11.

School Supplies Drive

Cone Elementary has suggested the following items for donation in our continuing support as their Faith Partner: notebook paper, erasers (including cap erasers), pencils, hand sanitizer, boxes of tissues (mentioned several times), glue sticks, ziploc bags (quart and gallon size), two-prong folders with pockets on both sides.

Collection boxes are located in the Narthex and outside the Fellowship Hall. Money collected in our Change for Change containers will also be used for school supplies at some other schools.



Greensboro Urban Ministry Grocery Store Food Drive

I am looking for volunteers to work a two-hour shift on Saturday, September 24, at the Harris Teeter store on Pisgah Church Road. Some help may also be needed for transporting the food to Urban Ministry. If you are interested, please contact me during Coffee Hour or at my home: 336-294-7026.

—Paul Macy



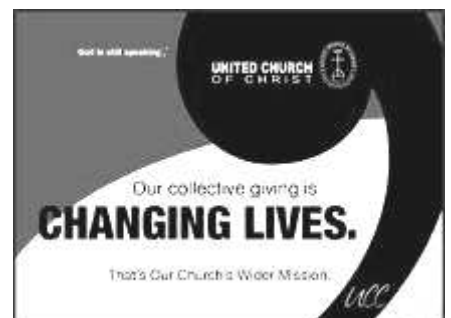
Dream Team

At the church’s Annual Meeting in January, the congregation voted to modify to whom we send our mission funds (Our Church’s Wider Mission: OWCN). One quarter of the funds would go to the Southern Conference, one quarter would go directly to the national denomination in Cleveland, one quarter would be spent on new projects in the conference, and one quarter would be spent locally.

Subsequently, Church Council appointed a Dream Team, to think about and propose how we can spend this local money. We met and prayed, and solicited your thoughts. Then we prayed and met, and met and prayed. Finally, we came up with what we think is an exciting plan.

We have selected three local organizations, and asked each to submit a proposal, advising us on how their group could make use of some of our money and some of our time. We expect to meet with representatives from each group in the next few weeks, and hope by the next newsletter to be able to announce more.

— The Dream Team:
Rod North, Fran Ditto,
Beth Hoagland, Bill
Guill, Ralph Wenger,
Paul Davis, and Julie
Peeples



Among Our Members

Rides Needed, Success Story, Letters to Luke & More

Buel Hmok of our congregation has just started GTCC. She can take the HEAT bus from the Depot; however, getting to the Depot from their apartment in Latham Park is a challenge. If you could join with several other current volunteers in offering a ride to or from the Depot once a week or less, please contact the office, Libby Bowles, or Lynn Hamilton. Thanks!



Nine Weeks of Discipline... \$15...A Lifetime of Health... Priceless

In June, six CUCC women began their journey to eat smarter, move more and be more mindful of their daily health choices. Each participant paid \$15 to be returned upon successful completion of at least 75% of the classes.

Last week, the three women who completed the entire nine weeks weighed in for the final time. Together, Teresa Earles, Edna Olayiwola, and Debbie Burleigh lost a combined total of 59 pounds. With Teresa acting as the coach, the three became regular fixtures at the gym and began monitoring their food intake all while making healthier choices. Even though the class has ended, the change in mindset has remained. All three have now made regular exercise and healthy food choices part of their daily

routines. They lift weights, walk and participate in water exercise classes. They have all added new foods to their diet, grilled okra being a favorite, and have added a variety of healthy options to their usual meal choices.

But that is only part of the story. Midway through the class, the three women decided to donate a pound of food to the local food pantry for every pound they lost. They combined the pounds lost with the money from those who did not complete the class and donated 119 pounds of food to the local food bank.

Congratulations Teresa, Debbie and Edna!



Letters for Luke Witham

One of our former youth group members is currently serving the military in Afghanistan.

He has communicated that he is very grateful for cards, letters and packages he is receiving from church folks. Luke was an active member here when he lived in Greensboro and hopes to visit us on his leave in January.

E-mail service is sporadic there, but you may try to contact him at samuel_witham@yahoo.com. Postage for letters and cards is 44 cents and those items should be sent to this address:

PV3 Witham Samuel L
CHARLIE CO 3-21 IN 1-25 SBCT
KAF
APO AE 09355



Address Changes

Irene Fenn
1573 Skeet Club Road
Box 241
High Point 27265
336- 454-4546

Lawrence and Eleanor Lambert
The Kempton, Apt #105
2298 41st Street
Wilmington, NC 28403
910-779-5711

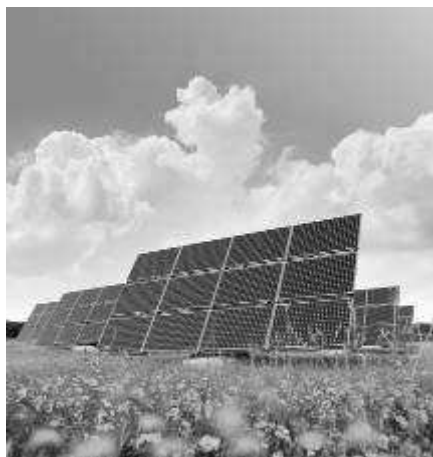
Revision to recent edition of CUCC roster (added apartment number):
Austin Lane
6100 W. Friendly, Apt. 5007
Greensboro, NC 27410
336-856-1755



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.

A Bright Idea – Solar Energy, Honoring Life Deacons



Our church is at the beginning stages of considering installing a solar energy PV (photovoltaic) system which uses sunlight to generate electricity from roof-top panels. A major reason to do this would be to improve air quality, by obtaining electricity from a non-polluting source. The fact that the public in general benefits from the cleaner air fits with our church's goal to be of service to our community. We have the opportunity to be a leader in using solar energy, along with Temple Emanuel of Greensboro and the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Asheville, who have both recently committed to putting in PV systems. For us, another benefit would be that CUCC's annual electricity bill, now about \$9,000, could be reduced by about \$2,000 with a 10 kilowatt PV system. Cost for that is estimated to be \$60,000, based on \$6 per installed watt. This cost may vary depending on the size of PV system actually desired by CUCC. We are looking at various funding options, such as including this in a capital campaign (the path taken by the Temple), or by selling shares (the route taken by FCUCC).

At the recent July meeting of the Board of Management, Bill Barker suggested CUCC consider a

10 kilowatt PV system, consisting of 42 panels installed on the roof of the church's east wing (facing our parking lot). Bill and Lesley Barker report good experience with a similar 3 kilowatt PV system, which they had put on their home's roof in 2008. Their monthly electricity bill was cut in half and the system has been very easy to maintain. Church members may obtain a four-page handout describing PV systems in general, and Bill's specific recommendation for CUCC, by contacting Bill Barker at 336-218-1295 or billbarker5@earthlink.net.

We are seeking your thoughts and comments on this idea. Be in touch with Randy Yardley (ryardley@triad.rr.com) or Mike Dorko (mikedorko@gmail.com).



Honoring Our Life Deacons

Each Sunday through the end of 2011, the Board of Deacons is honoring one of our Life Deacons at Coffee Hour. Please plan to stop by each week to sign a card for the honored individual and to thank him or her for all of their contributions to Congregational. Life Deacons to be honored in the coming weeks: September 11: Arnold Humphrey, September 18: Henrietta Ingram, September 25: Lawrence Lambert, October 2: Austin Lane.



Next Meeting Night

Our boards and Church Council will meet again on Tuesday, September 27th. We will begin at 6:45 pm with a time of prayer. Boards will meet at 7:00, Council will begin at 8:15.

CUCC Business

Volunteers

September 11

Lay Reader: Lesley Barker
Nursery: A. & R. Alexander
Coffee Hour: Teresa Earles
Counters: Nances

September 18

Lay Reader: Anne Barton
Nursery: C. Paschall & L. Harmon
Coffee Hour: Nancy & Chip Prairie
Counters: C. Brewer/Moore-Painter

September 25

Lay Reader: Brenda Schleunes
Nursery: L. Coffee & L. Magyar
Coffee Hour: Lynn Magyar
Counters: Hertlein/Moore-Painter

September Ushers

Betty & Mac Mackenzie,
Sherrill Hall, Karl Schleunes

October 2

Lay Reader: TBA
Nursery: M. Bocci & A. Kelley
Coffee Hour: M. Caviness/B. & F. Kuester
Counters: Hertlein/Moore-Painter

October Ushers

Joann Myrick, Sticky Burch, Clyde Humphrey, Mike Dorko



Financial Reports

Weekly Income	08/14/11	08/21/11
Pledged Offering	\$2,795.00	\$5,398.66
Unpledged Offering	879.00	900.25
Use of Church	375.00	645.00
BRAG Deposits	1,120.00	280.00
Total	\$5,169.00	\$7,223.91

Weekly Income	08/28/11	09/04/11
Pledged Offering	\$1,032.00	\$6,462.00
Unpledged Offering	400.00	243.00
BRAG Deposits	50.00	606.50
Change for Change	335.00	---
Memorial Fund	---	50.00
Use of Church	---	600.00
Total	\$1,817.00	\$7,961.50

Budget Income/Expense Summary

	August*	YTD
Income	\$20,481.41	\$203,219.66
Expense	21,401.44	208,539.51
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$920.03)	(\$5,319.85)

*unaudited

Other News and Notes

Drought & Famine in East Africa, Church Women United



More than 12 million people in the Horn of Africa face a humanitarian emergency—the most serious food insecurity situation in the world today. Parts of Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia are suffering from the worst drought to hit the region in 60 years. Regions with famine emergency (light grey) and catastrophic famine (dark grey) are shown in the map above. Thousands of Somalis have already died of causes related to malnutrition, most of them children. Tens of thousands of lives could be saved, but the window of opportunity to do so is extremely limited.

Bread for the World is urging Congress to not only increase its emergency response, but also to protect funding for investments in the region’s long-term development. Emergency aid is vital right now, but it’s better and cheaper to prevent calamities than to respond to hunger emergencies.

What Can We Do to Help?

We need to write again to our law makers, asking them to invest in food aid and developmental assistance — not to cut it (addresses are listed at the end of this article). Any cuts made now will cost us more in the long run, undermining the pro-

gress already made in reducing maternal and child deaths and severe malnutrition.

We can also give directly to organizations like the Church World Service or Save the Children. If you want donate through our church, write a check payable to CUCC, but with the note “East Africa Famine.” Find more information at the following websites:

- www.churchworldservice.org
- www.savethechildren.org
- www.bread.org



Addresses of Legislators:

The Honorable Howard Coble
US House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515-3306

The Honorable Brad Miller
US House of Representatives
1127 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515-3313

US Senator Kay Hagan
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building,
Washington DC 20510W

US Senator Richard Burr
217 Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington DC 20510



Church Women United Annual Fall Forum

All are invited to come on Friday, September 16, at 10:00 am, as women from twenty-seven Greensboro churches will gather at the Friendly Avenue Baptist Church, 4800 West Friendly Avenue, for a Human Rights Celebration. After a brief time for registration and light refreshments, the program will begin at 10:30 am.

The theme chosen for this year’s forum is “Living the Legacy – Driving the Movement.”

Since its founding as a worldwide ecumenical movement seventy years ago, Church Women United has promoted making basic human rights available to all persons regardless of age, gender, race, culture, religion or nationality. The forum will not only review this legacy, but also will include presentations by representatives of organizations currently addressing human rights issues in Greensboro.

Come! Join women from other congregations as we learn and look for ways we can work together to achieve a more just, caring and peaceful society.

All are welcome! If you have questions or need transportation, contact Eileen Stirling, 852-0170.



Other News and Notes

Save the Date, Servant Leadership, Free Dental Clinic

Mark your calendar now for our Annual Candidates Forum to be held at CUCC on Wednesday, October 19, 2011. The evening will include supper. More details to come.



Small Groups

We will offer two small groups this fall (probably in October). Teresa Earles will lead a group study on prayer and Julie and Paul will again lead a book discussion on Rob Bell's book, *Love Wins*. More details to follow on both of these opportunities.



Choices at the End of Life

Wednesday, September 14
6:00 to 8:00 pm
Moses H Cone Memorial Hospital
Area Health Education Center
Rooms 0029-0031

Have you thought about your choices at the end of life? Are you prepared for others to make decisions about the treatments you want or do not want at the end of your life? Join members of the Cone Health Palliative Care Team and Ethics Committee for an information session about end-of-life care

and advance directives documents. Participants will also have the opportunity to complete the documents after the program.

This program is free, but registration is required. Register on line at www.conehealth.com/classes or call 336-832-8000.



Servant Leadership School of Greensboro Orientation & Reception

Tuesday, September 13
5:30 to 6:30 pm

Thursday, September 15
11:00 am to Noon

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Café Space – 211 W. Fischer Avenue
(Next to Sacred Garden Bookstore)
336-275-0447

An information session on the basic principles and spiritual practices of servant leadership as well as an orientation to The Servant Leadership School of Greensboro's courses and curriculum and faculty. Information will also be provided about offerings at Healing Ground. This event will be facilitated by the Rev. Timothy Patterson, Ruth Anderson, Ph.D. and others in the servant leadership community.

For current course offerings and to register online, go to www.servantleadergreensboro.com.



Free Dental Clinic

North Carolina Dental Society
Missions of Mercy
Friday, November 11
Saturday, November 12
Greensboro Coliseum
Doors Open at 6:00 am

Patient Details:

- One service per client: cleaning, extraction or filling
- No appointments
- This event will provide free basic dental care to adults whose income is 200% of federal poverty guidelines: \$21,660 for singles, \$29,340 for married couples or \$44,100 for a family of four.
- Expect long waits outdoors, regardless of the weather.
- A picture ID and proof of income is required.
- No childcare will be provided.
- Eligibility screening will occur.
- Number of clients served will be based on dentist availability.

Volunteer Details:

- Dental professionals who want to volunteer for the Free Dental Clinic may sign up online at www.ncdental.org/ncds/NCMOM.asp.
- General volunteers may volunteer at www.conehealth.com/momclinic.
- For questions about volunteering, please call 336-832-8602.





Congregational
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

September 2011

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Calendar of Events

Regular Weekly Events

Sunday	9:20 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	9:45 am	Rowland & Jordan-Wisseman S.S. Classes
	10:00 am	Smith and Children's Sunday School Classes
	11:00 am	Worship
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Friday	7:30 am	Men's Prayer Breakfast (Panera, W. Market St.)

Upcoming Special Events

Sunday, Sep. 11	4:00 pm	10th Anniversary Commemoration of 9/11 at White Oak Amphitheater
Monday, Sep. 12	6:00 pm	Women's Fellowship Salad Supper
Wednesday, Sep. 14	11:45 am	Lunch at Friends Homes Guilford
Thursday, Sep. 15	9:30 am	Mobile Meals at Peace Church
Tuesday, Sep. 27	10:30 am	Women's Fellowship
	7:00 pm	Women's Fellowship
Tuesday, Sep. 27	6:45 pm	Boards & Council Meetings



Upcoming Birthdays

9/7 Fran Ditto	9/19 Jay Harder	10/5 Will Rowe	10/13 Zack Hertlein
9/7 Kate Larson	9/20 Margaret Wagoner	10/6 Diane Brewer	10/14 Jo Fleischer
9/8 Lucia Rueppell	9/24 Ted Fields	10/8 Clara Scarborough	10/14 Anika Rueppell
9/10 Cathy Wheeler	9/24 Peter Patterson	10/8 Cate Coffee	10/16 John Cary
9/11 Beth Hoagland	9/26 Evelyn Ridge	10/8 Emery Alexander	10/16 Helen Core
9/11 Isaac Prairie	9/29 Pam Aldridge	10/9 Earl Wang	10/18 Bernice Driver
9/11 Karen Ritter	10/1 Sherrill Hall	10/12 Irene Fenn	10/19 John Heil
9/15 Austin Lane	10/3 Sally White	10/13 Trish Shroyer	10/21 Courtney Kent
9/15 Holly Humphrey	10/4 Melissa Bocci	10/13 Florence Hilliard	10/21 Walter Burch