A Word from our Pastor

Dear Friends,

It is my joy to share with you the news of our daughter Elizabeth’s engagement. She will be married to Matthew Black on May 24 in Albuquerque, NM. It has been Elizabeth’s dream to have her dad perform her wedding ceremony ever since she was a young girl of five when I did the ceremony for my brother (her uncle) and she was swept up in the celebration.

Now it is her turn as a young woman of 25 to celebrate her dream with Matt. He grew up in Raleigh, graduated from Sanderson High School, UNC-Chapel Hill and Wake Forest School of Law. Elizabeth grew up mostly in Albuquerque, graduated from Eldorado High School, New Mexico State University and Meredith Colleges’ Paralegal Program. They both work at Pinna, Johnston, and Burwell Law Firm here in Raleigh. One of their favorite activities together is tutoring young students through a YMCA program. They also enjoy cooking together and participating in a dinner club, as well as sporting activities and hiking.

As I share this family joy with you, I also have recently heard from the Rev. Cally Rogers-Witte (pastor at CUCC from 1978-1996) who wrote to say that her daughter Mary Ann was recently engaged to Christian Ciciarelli. They are presently living in Charlotte where Cally and her husband Frank celebrated Easter with them.

I ask for your prayers for these two young couples as they move toward a life commitment in marriage.

Blessings & Peace,

Steve

Church Council

Excerpts from the minutes of the April 21 meeting:

Treasurers Report – Mary Pruneau
One Great Hour of Sharing offering was a little less than last year, but it was raised just after the offering for Pastor Puati. Regular pledges are coming in and we haven’t incurred any big expenses lately. Income from the Auction was $4,500. If any ministry wants their detailed report, let Mary and she will print it out.

Social Justice – Gary Smith
Justice in a Changing Climate
• Some thanks have been received from groups JCC have supported.
• Jack McKinney organization – becoming involved in that group. The City of Raleigh has put together a Housing study group; CUCC will participate.
• NCIPL vigil for Climate Change was held March 27th. 20 people attended, eight from CUCC. Steve met with Representative Etheridge ahead of time and was on UNC radio.
• April 27 – Grady McCallie will give a Ministry Moment for the Global Poverty Act.
• Maundy Thursday vigil was well attended.
• Ron Howell did a lead test on the water fountain and found that the water was lead free.

Deacon’s Report – Robert Parrish
Refer to Deacons section of this newsletter.

Community Outreach – Jeanne Ledbetter
May 18th Pat Highland from Triangle Pastoral Counseling will be the agency of the month.

The Outreach committee is planning to keep a calendar of all the Ministry Moments for documentation. That way they will keep up with Ministries that the church supported from year to year. If someone wants to do a Ministry Moment, they need to take it to one of the church ministries. That ministry will take it to Community Outreach; Community Outreach will coordinate it with Steve. This will also reduce the number of announcements and requests for monetary support going out to the church.

Stewardship – Mary Pruneau
The Auction was, as anticipated, a big event. It may have been our best attendance ever. The committee is in the process of writing thank you notes.

There will be a Lunch and Learn session on Sunday, June 29. The Deacons and Welcome, Fellowship and Growth will provide lunch and a short learning session. A collection will be taken up and to cover the expenses of the lunch.

Religious Education – Marty Lamb
• Earth Day for the kids – Heather Burkhardt
• First Sunday of the month 12:00 noon in the Bradow room, Green conversation, next on May 4th.
• The Forum has been getting a very large audience in the last few months. Cynthia Ball has been doing a great job promoting it.

Welcome, Fellowship and Growth – Ann McLaughlin
This year, the Ministry is focusing on the “God is Still Speaking” initiative. Local pastors have met regarding this. “Still Speaking” campaign is still functioning nationally in part through television and radio promotions. Nationally, a fund is available to match costs locally. The local church needs to make the contacts and decide on the message. At that point, the National Conference will provide up to 50% of the funds. The National office agreed to provide assistance to the churches in the Fall when everyone is back in school. There is interest among ten churches in the Triangle/Triad area in participating. That means that each church would contribute $200-$300. Steve is on the Steering Committee for this effort. The Administrative Council is on record stating that the Council wants CUCC to participate in this effort. Growth and Fellowship will be the link between the Steering Committee, Steve and the church.

Pastor’s Report – Steve Halsted
• SOC Annual Meeting June 26th and 27th in Eastern Virginia. As Steve will be on vacation then, it was decided that Hunter would be the official representative for our church.
• At the Annual Conference last year, the Conference took up a collection. They are suggesting a gift of six dollars per member. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided to send $1,000 this year.
• ENCA Champions – Hunter and the Eastern Association is starting up a program where each church has a representative – preferably lay – to attend a workshop on May 31st. The purpose is that person will be a conduit of information from the Association to the Congregations and vice versa. The Association is beginning to implement some workshops and training. It was decided that instead of a person, it would be a position. That way, when the person changes, there is still a representative. Some discussion ensued and it was decided that either the moderator elect or immediate past moderator would be the position. John Little and Sam Johnson will decide who will hold this position between before the end of May. More than one can attend, but only one person will be the official liaison.
• Ann remarked that the calendar is on the website and that it would be good to make sure that all calendars are updated.

Property – Joan McAllister
Joan provided a handout with tasks performed and their costs. Expenses include lighting, doors, walls, sidewalk repair, powered vents for Pilgrim House and more crush and run for the parking lot. The committee agreed that the work should be done correctly so it will last. Robert made the motion to approve the repairs and expenses at $59,244. John Little seconded. Motion passed.

Next meeting is May 19th

**Deacons**

Excerpts (not yet) from the **Deacons Ministry** minutes of the meeting April 10, 2008.

**Pastoral Report**
Steve will be in New Mexico the weekend of May 25 for his daughter’s wedding.

**Caring Committee**
Robert reported that: Jo Lemons is continuing to do well under the care of the Vietnamese family. Mike Callaham’s Mother passed away recently. Robert will send a card on behalf of the Deacons. Tom DeVito, Don Lane and Pastor Steve are doing well after their surgeries.

**Discussion of Communion**
Roger will write a procedure for performing communion. It will be discussed at the next Deacons meeting and posted in the ushers closet after it is approved.

**Discussion of Graduate Sunday**
Suzette has talked with the Alcorms and it was determined that Graduate Sunday (to honor high school graduates) will be held on May 18. Suzette, Margaret, Steve, and Santi Matthews are doing the planning.

**Arts in Worship report**
The Creativity Sunday was held on April 20. There was no sermon at the service. Instead, a hand bell choir performed and there was special singing. There was also a special presentation of art and poetry after the services. Peg Hulslander, Ann Moorman-Smith, and Doug Barrick did the planning for this event.

**Ushers’ report**
Sam noted that the schedule for ushers is posted in the Robing room.

**Sacraments and Chancel**
No report

**Service to Honor Scientists**
We discussed a special Sunday service to honor scientists. The following points were made:

1. The UCC is using the idea of "honoring scientists" as a public relations campaign to indicate that the UCC is a "thinking" church and does not see religion and science as incompatible.
2. If we honor one vocation then it might be argued that we should honor the many other occupations and vocations as well.
3. Robert suggested that we compromise by having a special day to honor all vocations. It would be held next September in conjunction with Labor Day.

**Service to Honor Caregivers**
We discussed a special Sunday service to honor caregivers. Suzette suggested that her friend, Meredith, who is an ordained UCC minister might be available to preach on this theme. It was decided that we could plan this on one of the Sundays that Steve is out on study leave or vacation, perhaps in July.

**New Congolese Pastor**
Robert will invite the new Congolese pastor, **Claudio Ngudi Yumbu**, to our May Deacons meeting. At that meeting we could discuss the possibility of having a reception for him that would include both our church and the Congolese church.

**Protocol for Hosting Guest Pastors**
Robert discussed the need for a protocol for hosting special guest pastors after services. This would ensure that someone is responsible for hosting special guest preachers. He will present this to the Council. It was questioned whether "taking a guest preacher out to lunch after a service" is necessary. The response was that this is an old southern tradition. It was also noted that this is a tradition in the black church.

**Personnel Evaluations**
Robert suggested that we establish a Personnel Committee as required by bylaws. Robert will ask Edith Sylla to be on this committee. It was determined that Robert and Sam will evaluate Pastor Steve Halsted and secretary, Carol Clark, and the Arts in Worship committee will evaluate organist, Doug Barrick and music director, Ann Moorman-Smith. There is uncertainty of who does the evaluation of Sunday school personnel, Anne Bailey Zschau and Šánti Matthews. Robert will try to get clarification from Council.
Other Business
Robert made two suggestions:
1. We should have a seminar about race relations.
2. The deacons should have a retreat to get to know each other better.

The next meeting will be May 8. 2008

The Meeting adjourned with the peace song.

- submitted by Sam Johnson

Yearly Evaluation
The Deacons Ministry is in the process of doing the yearly evaluation of Rev. Steve Halsted. To aid in this effort, the deacons are inviting members of our congregation to share any comments about Steve and his job performance. Please send any thought(s) you would like to share to: Robert Parrish, rep7@bellsouth.net. Please send your comments by June 5th.

- submitted by Robert Parrish

Library
Gretchen Aycock “purchased” a free a subscription to “Organic Gardening” for the church library by saving her yogurt tops. The magazine is on the “gardening shelf” in the Church Library. If you decide to take it home, please sign the “check out” sheet to let others know you have it and return it as soon as possible.

Arts in Worship
A special thank you to all those who contributed to last week's Creativity/Creation Sunday. We are creative people. Thanks be to God. Photographs of the day are on our website www.communityucc.org/events

Religious Education

Adult Forum – Sundays at 9:15 a.m. (Vaughan)
The Forum will not meet June through August.

The May Forum schedule:
May 11 – TBD- Mother's Day program
May 18 – Karen Rindge, Exec. Director of “Wake Up Wake County”
May 25 – Will Hooker "Sustainable Living"

News From the CUCC Youth Corner...
The CUCC youth have had a great April with an amazing creativity Sunday, and the wonderful beginnings of our Cup of Life Church School curriculum. Summer plans are taking shape, and we look forward to great fun in the near future. The following are youth events scheduled for May and beyond. Please e-mail forsanti@aol.com or call (919)961-8814 with thoughts, questions or ideas.

Friday, May 2: 6:30-9pm Social. Game Night! Including pizza, chips, soda and candy.
  ▶ Note, in May, we will have church school and lunch on the 1st and 3rd Sundays instead of our regular 2nd and 3rd Sundays. On May 11 (Mother's Day) Šánti will be out of town. Enjoy worship and lunch with your Mom!! As usual, we will have church school, but not lunch on the fourth Sunday, May 25 (Memorial Day Weekend).

Sunday, May 4: 10:30-2 Journey and Friends combine for Cup of Life church school and youth lunch with planning meeting. Lunch brought in today, Bring money if possible.

Sunday, May 11: Mother's Day-No church school or lunch.

Sunday, May 18: 10:30-2 Journey and Friends combine for church school which will be spent decorating for the reception for graduates. After church, we'll celebrate with graduates and help clean-up.

Sunday, May 25: 10:30-12 Cup of Life church school for all youth. No lunch together today.

Sunday, June 15-Wednesday June 18: In Our Own Backyard mission camp. Three of our current 6th and 7th graders have are participating in this local mission camp. This year, the focus will be on environmental issues which exist in our own backyard. This is an overnight camp held at Pullen Memorial Baptist Church.

Thursday, July 24-Monday, July 28: Our group is looking forward to attending the UCC National Youth Event at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

- submitted by Šánti Matthews

Church School News
Worms, compost, and birdhouses… OH MY. The children had a wonderful time celebrating Earth Day on Sunday, April 19. They spent their time painting colorful birdhouses to take home and to beautify the small garden near the back entrance of
the church. We hope that everyone will enjoy their handiwork.

The children will assist in worship on May 18th. Each child will be assigned a role through their church school class. Activities will include readings, handing out bulletins, and conducting the offering. Please have the children arrive at 10:15 for this special Sunday.

-- submitted by Heather Burkhardt

**Sunday Morning Bible Study**
Please join us Sunday mornings at 9:15 in the Bradow Room as we "read the Bible again for the first time." There is no preparation and no homework.

**Wednesday Bible Study**
This group meets at Pilgrim House at 6:30 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays to discuss the next week’s Lectionary selections. Bring a bag supper. More information? Call Mike Schafale, 567-1098.

**Saturday Men's Group**
The group meets each Saturday at 9:00 a.m. in the library. In May we will read The Paradox of Tar Heel Politics by Rob Christensen. The contact for more info is Ed Klemmer.

**Monday Lunch Group**
In May, Monday Lunch will be discussing A Thousand Splendid Suns, by Khaled Hosseini. The leader is Joan Little, 781-0829. Bring a lunch and come join us in the Hoffmann room at 12:15 p.m.

**Social Justice**

**From Justice in Changing Climate**

Please go to this web site [http://www.uccecoaction.org/](http://www.uccecoaction.org/) to see information on the "United Church of Christ EcoAction" task force. It provides resources, networking and guidance for environmental programming in the congregations and conferences of the United Church of Christ. The web site has important UCC-wide statements and directions that we can strongly support.

The Justice in Changing Climate steering committee is hosting a "Tea" gathering of Churches involved in issues of Climate Change. The gathering will be May 4. If you interested in participating this working-networking event, please contact Gary Smith (787-6539).

- submitted by Gary Smith

**Encouragement for Pr. Puati**

When Pr. Puati left for his new ministry in the Democratic Republic of Congo, he said all he needed from us at this time were prayers. So please do keep him regularly "in the light."

Meanwhile, we could do something else to provide some regular encouragement. Sign up to be his email-pal for one month. During that month, send him periodic emails of encouragement - whatever that means to you. Regular electricity and internet hookup are not a guarantee, so he might not respond, but he'll find your messages when he hooks up periodically. The second part of your task is to let the Social Justice Ministry know if you learn of anything we might do to be of concrete support in his ministry.

- submitted by Jane Smith

**Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom Hashoah)**
The 2008 Holocaust Remembrance Day will be held at Meredith College in the Jones Auditorium on May 4. The featured speaker is Esther Starobin, a Kindertransport child. Kindertransport was the rescue program that brought thousands of Jewish children from Nazi Germany to England in the late 1930's. A panel discussion is scheduled from 1:30 to 2:50 with Ms. Starobin, a second Kindertransport survivor and a historian from Meredith College. The Commemoration ceremony will be held from 3:00 to 4:30. The ceremony will include a lecture by Ms. Starobin, presentations by public officials and local clergy, a candle lighting ceremony, Holocaust-related music and dance performances.

**Property**

Our Spring Workday on April 26 was again led by the diligence of Nancy Stoddard with loads of chores being done by faithful laborers:

Mac Hulslander, Joan McAllister, Alan Beidler, Carol Clark, Ben Malonda, Anthony Malonda, Bill Malonda, Claudio Ngudi Yumbu, Sam Alcorn, Jack Alcorn, Bayard Alcorn, Sam Johnson, Ruth Klemmer, Edith Sylla, Paul Kiel, Stephen
Koenning, Susan Cottle, Margaret Osborne, Lena Gallitano, and Skip Stoddard

A few things (window washing, cleaning gutters, washing toys in the nursery, and working on boxwood removal) began earlier in the week but there was lots of activity on Saturday. The wooden gym set on the playground was given a coating of wood preservative, the bank was weeded, shrubs pruned, playground toys washed, and lots of leaf and pine straw raking was done. The boxwoods inside the brick wall at the front of the church had to be removed since the roots had caused cracks in the wall. This was an awful job and the folks who dug the monsters up deserve a special commendation!

Go team! A big thank you to all the folks who came out and helped with CUCC's spring workday.

Our thanks to Grady and Fawn who tended the Memorial/Meditation garden in April. The Manus family will tend the garden in May.

 Welcoming Fellowship and Growth

Retirees Fellowship – (2nd Mondays, monthly)
The Retired People will meet at 10:30 on Monday, May 12. Col. Kenneth Everhart, Chief of the Enforcement Division of the NC Wildlife Resources Commission will be the speaker. Bring a sandwich for lunch; dessert and drinks are provided. Come join us! Everyone is welcome.

Sisters in Spirit (SIS) will meet May 15th in the Bradow Room at 7:30 p.m. Come for "Dessert and Conversation". We'll touch on topics of the day - issues you really care about - ones you want to share opinions about. This will be a major exchange of ideas. Don't miss it! For information call Marge Eckels at 787-5552

Growth

Why are you a member of CUCC?

Jane Smith would like to quote you on CUCC's website. A word, a verbal image, a sentence or two, an anecdote, a photo - these can give potential CUCC members a taste of our life together. Send your comments to Jane by May 31.

Our People

Church Directory
Change:
A better address for Nsumbu M. Puati is P.O. Box 607, Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo R.D.C.

Prayer Requests
Please write your prayer requests on a slip of paper and place it in the offering plate or one of the prayer jars (Narthex and office). Prayers are solicited for: Jo Lemons, Al Matthews, Ruby Lamb, Lisa Marsh, Mamie Scott, Scottie Bell, Rhonda Zingraff's husband Charlie, Joan Little, Kerma Hazel, Gretchen Aycock's mother, Mary, Linda Rudisill's husband Sid Holmes, Steve Koenning, Tom Elleman, Karen Haley's father Byron, Geraldine’s sister-in-law Pat, Vandy’s dad, Roy Klages, Carolyn King, and Anne Bailey’s mother who is recovering from surgery, and the people of the DRC, and other victims of war and natural disaster across the globe.

CUCC sends our condolences to:
Binks Mew upon the death of her mother.
Betsy Towler upon the death of her mother.

The family of Dr. Harvey Bumgardner. Quoting from Harvey’s obituary in the N&O he “was a member of Community United Church of Christ… and was proud of the liberal tradition of the church and the role that the congregation played in the civil rights movement at that time”

With the passing of Jenny Callaham, Mike's Mother, on March 28, 2008, we would like to thank the congregation for their prayers and kind words that brought us comfort in our time of grief.
Sincerely, Mike and Nancy Callaham

Our Young People’s Birthdays

5/11/90 – Jospin Milandu
6/1/00 – Cammy Riemann
6/4/97 – Isaac Milandu
6/12/93 – Angelina DeVito
Congratulations!

Binks Mew has a new grandson! Parker Henry Mew was born March 30th in Washington, D.C. Christian and Caroline Mew are Parker’s parents.

Jack Alcorn and Sam Alcorn, sons of Sally Roberson and Bayard Alcorn, will graduate William G. Enloe High School on June 14 as members of the Class of 2008. Both plan to attend North Carolina State University in the fall. Congratulations Jack and Sam!

Thomas Harris, son of McCray Harris of Raleigh and Janna Scott of Durham, is graduating from Cary High School on June 12, 2008. He is currently planning an Eagle Scout Project to benefit CUCC and plans to attend UNC-Greensboro in the fall. Congratulations Thomas!

Community Outreach

One Great Hour of Sharing Collection
On Sunday, April 6, at a well-attended potluck dinner, we celebrated our One Great Hour of Sharing offering: $3,083 to help our neighbors around the world -- building sustainable communities, helping refugees and victims of disasters. To see where your money will go, click on http://www.ucc.org/oghs/. You will see a familiar face there if you click on the gray box that says “Refugee and Immigration”; it has a photo of a man carrying straw.

Agency of the Month.
Triangle Pastoral Counseling has been helping people for more than 30 years, providing counseling which integrates spirituality and psychology. Initially, all counselors were pastors, but in 2003, they added psychologists and social workers, and now have a staff of 16 (many part-time), including two Spanish-speaking therapists. Last year, Triangle Pastoral Counseling provided more than 6,000 therapy sessions for individuals, couples, families and children. CUCC’s contribution from the Community Outreach Ministry helps to keep this agency running and to enable them to never turn anyone away for lack of money. During our 10:30 worship on May 18, a representative from Triangle Pastoral Counseling will tell us in more detail about the agency’s work.

HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR BY BRINGING FOOD BAGS!
April’s collection of food bags totaled 19, a respectable number, but 6 bags below our goal. Consistency is, of course, helpful to Urban Ministries. They depend on a steady number of contributions to offer to needy clients. Let’s try to keep our numbers high.

Just a note: If you donate miscellaneous food items instead of a complete bag, please chose items from the list of foods used in the emergency food bags. Then they can be added to the Urban Ministries’ inventory of foods they use. Thanks for everything!

Food bags are due May 4 and every first Sunday of the month.

Submitted by Marge Eckels

Wider Church

Upcoming events may be found on http://www.soc-ucc.org/


Wider Community

ASP Stock Sale
Thanks to the generous support of CUCC, Jack Alcorn, Sam Alcorn, Austin Osborne-Newman, and Abby Smith raised $1,200 by selling stock for the
Appalachia Service Project (ASP). The Church Council approved $600 in matching funds to bring the grand total to $1,800.

The CUCC youth will be joined by Jane and Gary Smith for the ASP trip this year. In addition to selling stock, each participant contributed $100 of personal funds for the trip as well as participated in several fund raising activities sponsored by The Prince of Peace Episcopal Church in Apex.

Youth and adults will travel to Wyoming County, West Virginia during the week of July 13-19. ASP is a Christian home-repair ministry serving poor families in rural Appalachia. Everyone who purchased stock for ASP will receive a postcard from the youth while they are in West Virginia.

- submitted by **Sally Roberson**

**A cappella group does ASP Fundraiser**

If you enjoy a cappella music, treat yourself to a night with **Word on the Street**, a local group who gets rave reviews. They are performing Saturday, May 10, to assist the **ASP team** in raising the roughly $18,000 needed to pay for building supplies for this summer's trip. The music is paired with scrumptious desserts for a mere $5.00 admission. At intermission, you might decide to bid on a variety of silent auction items or buy a $1 raffle ticket to try to win one of three fabulous baskets. The evening of music and dessert is being held at the ASP team's sponsoring church, The Prince of Peace Episcopal, in their beautiful and homey sanctuary at 1200 N. Salem St. in Apex. The event runs from 7:00-9:00 pm.

- submitted by **Jane Smith**

**DAY-TO-DAY CONTACTS AT CUCC**

Pastor: Rev. Steve Halsted  
Office Manager: Carol Clark  
(Office hours: 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Monday-Friday)  
Moderator: Diana Koenning  
Treasurer: Mary Pruneau  
Asst. Treasurer: Carol Kepler  
Clerk: Pam Thompson

Ministry Chairs:  
Deacons: Robert Parrish  
Stewardship: Fawn Pattison  
Property: Bayard Alcorn and Joan McAllister  
Religious Education: Marty Lamb  
Social Justice: Gary Smith  
Community Outreach: vacant  
Welcoming, Fellowship & Growth: vacant  
Youth Ministry: Sánti Matthews

Organist: Doug Barrick  
Choir Director: Anne Moorman-Smith

**CALENDAR CAN BE VIEWED ONLINE ON OUR WEBSITE**

[www.communityucc.org/calendar](http://www.communityucc.org/calendar)
A Month of Sundays

**May 4** | Seventh Sunday of Easter | 9:00 – 9:30 Taizé;
9:15 Adult Forum & Bible Study; 10:30 Worship (with Communion) & Church School; Fellowship Time
**Lectionary:**

**May 11** | Pentecost Sunday | 9:00 – 9:30 Taizé; 9:15 Adult Forum & Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service & Church School; Fellowship Time
**Lectionary:**
Acts 2:1-21 or Num 11:24-30; Ps 104:24-34, 35b; 1 Cor 12:3b-13 or John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39

**May 18** | First Sunday after Pentecost | 9:00 Taizé with Communion; 9:15 Adult Forum & Bible Study; 10:30 Worship & Church School; Fellowship Time
**Lectionary:**
Gen 1:1-2:4a; Ps 8; 2 Cor 13:11-13; Matt 28:16-20

**May 25** | Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Times | 9:00 – 9:30 Taizé; 9:15 Adult Forum & Bible Study; 10:30 Worship Service & Church School, Fellowship Time;
**Lectionary:**
Isa 49:8-16a; Ps 131; 1 Cor 4:1-5; Matt 6:24-34