A Word from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

On Sunday, May 30 of this year, we celebrated Pentecost (the birthday of the Christian church) by confirming five of our youth into adult membership in our congregation. These youth had been through a two-year program of study and faith development to prepare themselves to join the church. Each youth was asked to write a short paper that expressed his or her personal and unique faith journey. They then shared their papers by reading from them on the day of their Confirmation.

I can still feel the power of their words and the power of the Holy Spirit as it gave them expression of their faith. It was such an uplifting and affirming moment in the lives of these young people, their parents, and the congregation as a whole. It was a powerful statement of our oneness, and of our unity in Christ!

Following the Confirmation Service, I heard many, many accolades for our youth. People were really impressed with their papers and wondered if they could do so well! Several said they had missed the confirmation process in their youth and wondered if they could do it as an adult. Others said it could be beneficial to take a refresher course to better understand where their faith journey has taken them now in adulthood. Others liked the idea of writing their own papers, as the young people had done.

With all this feedback in mind, I would like to propose holding a course entitled: “Revisiting Confirmation” for any adults and older teens who would like to participate. I suggest that we could use the same confirmation book, “Affirming our Faith”, that the youth found so helpful. I further propose we hold six classes, one per month for September, October, November (skip December) January, February and March. We could culminate by writing our own short papers expressing our faith. I also suggest that we meet on the fourth Sunday of each month after worship and bring a brown bag lunch. Other dates and times can be considered. If there is enough interest, we might divide into more than one class. If this sounds of interest to you, please call the office, at 787-6422, or email me at pastor@communityucc.org.

Wishing you all blessings and peace,

Steve
Church Council

The Council met August 23 to hear reports from the respective Ministries and officers. A number of programs and projects for the fall and winter were discussed, including the above-mentioned proposal from pastor Steve.

All ministry budget proposals for 2005 need to be turned into Carol in the church office no later than Monday, October 18.

The Council again voiced their support and blessings for Luis Alvarenga and Loren McGrail as they continue their journey at Andover Newton Seminary. In addition, we will be sending $500 to help defray their costs. Their new address appears in the roster section of this newsletter.

Next Congregational Meeting: October 31, 2004
--Karen Haley

Deacons

The deacons met August 1. We faithfully hold those in need of care in prayer. We continue to work toward making our Sunday morning service as worshipful as possible. The deacons will meet again on September 1. Please share with them any concerns to be brought before the deacons-- Peg Hulslander, Bill Lamb, Geraldine Bryan, Nancy Callaham, Marge Eckels, Marty Lamb, I.T. Littleton, Mary Matthews, Robert Parrish, Pastor Puati, and Edith Sylla.

--Peg Hulslander

Beginning in September, the CUCC Newsletter will begin a profile series featuring a deacon a month!

Arts in Worship

The next committee meeting will be held at 6 p.m. in the Pilgrim House on Tuesday, August 31. Should you have input, feel free to contact Marty Lamb, Mary Matthews, Nancy Callaham, or a Hulslander.

Religious Education

Heifer Project Report
Thanks for the generosity of our children, youth and adults who raised $1250.00! We are able to exceed our goal of sending one heifer cow and will be able to send two cows and dozens of chickens. We voted on Sunday August 8 to send them to Uganda, Albania and Laos where struggling families will have their lives vastly improved. They will know that Community UCC loves and cares about them.

--Steve Halsted

Getting Our Children Involved
Dear Friends in Christ,

Our children’s Sunday School classes are studying God’s creation and our responsibility as stewards of this creation. Our preschool class is making canvas bags to use for family grocery shopping. Our K-2 class is making a special box for you to place your bulletins in after worship service so the paper can be recycled. Our 3rd-5th grade class is fundraising to purchase cloth napkins to be used at church functions rather than paper napkins. There’s a place in the narthex for contributions.

Please support the children in their efforts and join me in praising God for the most blessed creation of all – our children – who are the future of God’s church.

--Anne Bailey

Adult Forum Begins
After a summer of intellectual and spiritual sloth the Forum will reinvigorate us with some wonderful programs beginning September 5 at the regular time, 9:15 --10:15 a.m. in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall.

September 5 – Steve Smith, "My Journey from Criminal Law to the N.C. Council of Churches."
September 12 – a representative from IPAS on "Reproductive Health in Developing Countries."
September 19 – "Planned Parenthood"
September 26 – "Leadership Styles of Women"

In November Rev. Collins Kilburn will return with a series on Reinhold Niebuhr. Niebuhr was the foremost American theologian of the 20th Century. His influence on religious and secular leaders was, and continues to be, quite amazing.
This summer some of us have been listening to the taped sermons of Martin Luther King during the Forum hour. He was a wonderful preacher as well as a great leader of the “Movement.”

--Cy King

Monday Lunch Group
In September, activities pertaining to the book Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement: A Radical Democratic Vision, by Barbara Ransby, will start. The group meets in the Hoffmann Room Mondays at 12:15 p.m. Call Geraldine Bryan (787-8494) for more information.

Wednesday Bible Study
This group meets at Pilgrim House at 6:30 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. Bring a bag supper.

Sunday Bible Study
Bible Study will resume on September 12 at 9:15 in the Bradow room. We will continue studying Job.

Social Justice

Our Faith, Our Vote: Does God Care if You Vote in 2004?

“Apathy and cynicism are bad for democracy and bad for the soul.”  Rev. Robert Edgar, National Council of Churches.

Learn more by going to “ourfaithourvote.org” and “faithfuldemocracy.org.”

VOTE and encourage friends and neighbors to vote!

--Cy King and the Social Justice Ministry

Church and State
This election year, religion promises to be very much a part of the Presidential campaign. There are those who believe the wall between church and state must be maintained. There are also those who believe that perhaps the wall should be remodeled. Some Catholic bishops have threatened to withhold the Eucharist from a candidate who doesn’t agree with their positions. There are some Protestant clerics who are glad to provide voter guides to the faithful. In 1928 and again in 1960 the issue was between Catholic and Protestant, and candidate John Kennedy found it necessary to confront the “religious issue” head on. What he said to the Greater Houston Ministerial Association in 1960 is worth repeating as the “religious issue,” in a different format, is before us once again. President Kennedy said: “It is apparently necessary for me to state once again—not what kind of church I believe in, for that should be important only to me, but what kind of America I believe in. I believe in an America where the separation of church and state is absolute—where no Catholic prelate would tell the President (should he be a Catholic) how to act and no Protestant minister would tell his parishioners for whom to vote—where no church or church school is granted any public funds or political preference….

“I believe in an America where religious intolerance will someday end—where all men and all churches are treated as equal—where every man has the same right to attend or not to attend the church of his choice—where there is no Catholic vote, no anti-Catholic vote, no bloc voting of any kind—and where Catholics, Protestants and Jews, at both the lay and pastoral levels, will refrain from those attitudes of disdain and division which have so often marred their works in the past, and promote instead the American ideal of brotherhood.”

(Note: President Kennedy did not have the privilege of listening to Cally Rogers Witte, or he would surely have used inclusive language in this important statement!)

--Cy King and the Social Justice Ministry

A Visit With Migrant Workers
On Sunday, August 15, I joined a small group of North Raleigh UCC members to visit a migrant labor camp near Faison, NC. It was a wonderful experience for all of us--visitors and workers. We sang Spanish language songs, shared stories about families, and played a game of "Jeopardy," in which all of the questions pertained to farm worker issues. We topped the day off with a pot-luck meal.

I cannot say enough about the good feeling I derived from sharing time and company with a group of very nice men. Their sense of humor and good will completely disarmed any sense of unease that I felt. I encourage all Community UCC members to consider joining North Raleigh United Church of Christ on September 5 to travel to a
migrant farm workers camp. We will leave around 3:00 p.m. and return around 9:00 p.m. Our responsibility will be to provide food and fellowship to some 20 or so farm workers and their families. Please check your calendar and let John Little (781-0829) know whether you can go. The carpooling location will be announced at a later time.

-- John Little

Stewardship

Church Auction!

On Saturday, SEPTEMBER 25, we will hold the CUCC auction of gifts, talents, and services in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall. Let us know items you wish to contribute to the auction - skills at cookery, stitchery, artwork, ceramics; invitations to beach houses, Japanese dinners, octogenarian debauchery, champagne picnics, Italian dinners; services such as massages, tutoring, lawn mowing, babysitting, quilt square making, pianist for a party; trips such as nature walks, neighborhood tours, canoe trips, craft towns, area gardens; day use of a tiller or a truck; and more – use your imagination!

6:30 – Wine, Cheese and Fellowship
7:00 – Auction and good times

Start saving your dollars now to purchase from the treasures in September to benefit the church, and commit NOW to what donations you will make to the auction. There is a form for you to list what you will donate located at the back of the newsletter (or notify the church office cucc@ipass.net or Bill or Marty Lamb at billandmarty@nc.rr.com, or 834-4280).

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Welcoming, Fellowship, and Growth

Church Picnic!
Save the date of Sunday, October 10. We have reserved Beech Shelter at Crabtree Lake for the fall church picnic. We can enjoy the area all day. We would love your ideas about what would be fun! Volleyball? Canoeing? Softball? Frisbees? Bird watching? Forward your suggestions to Joan McAllister (851-9674)

Retirees’ Group
The CUCC Retirees’ Fellowship will meet on Monday, September 13 at 11 a.m. in the Vaughan Fellowship Hall. The program will feature Dr. Brad Walker, who instructs teachers for the visually impaired. Dr. Walker’s lessons reach throughout the state by way of distance learning through North Carolina Central University’s facilities. His topic will deal with eye care, including macular degeneration. All are welcome for this meeting, even if not retired but interested in the subject. Bring a bag lunch. Dessert and drinks are provided.

Saturday Men’s Group
Join the group each Saturday at 9:00 in the Library. They are presently working on an anthology entitles Where We Stand – Voices of Southern Dissent, edited by Anthony Dunbar.

WOMEN’S BEACH RETREAT
September 10 – 12
Topsail Beach

"See new things. See things differently"

Participants will be emailed directions and participant list for carpooling plans.

Marty Lamb (billandmarty@nc.rr.com) (834-4280)
New Members

On Sunday, August 22, Lisa Marsh was baptized during our 10:30 a.m. worship service as Lisa wanted to acknowledge the presence of the Christ Spirit working in her life and her joy of recognizing CUCC as her spiritual family.

That same Sunday, we welcomed Cindy Martin as a new member to our congregation! Cindy is the mother of three children who are 20, 17, and 14.

It is with great joy that we celebrate their presence at CUCC within the membership of the spiritual Body of Christ.

Please note: If anyone has been attending our church and is interested in joining our membership, please call the office to speak with Steve or email him at pastor@communityucc.org.

Congratulations

To Robert Parrish, on his new job! He writes:
“After several years of assisting a teacher to educate visually impaired students, I have been selected to be the new Special Education Teacher at the Governor Morehead School. The students I will teach are blind as well as mentally challenged. I will be preparing them in the area of life skills for their future beyond the walls of the school. The students will be taught functional math and language arts as well as leisure and social skills. These students want to learn. The secret is knowing how to reach them and encouraging them to try. I think that they often surprise themselves at how much they can learn. They learn in a variety of ways: through smell and touch, hearing and yes, with whatever vision they have. The students also learn by going on field trips into the community.

Please pray for me in this new endeavor.”

--Robert Parrish

Our People

Many thanks to Judy and Paul Kiel, Jane Smith and Toni James-Manus for their refurbishing and redecoration of the “Waterfalls” (K-2) classroom.

Welcome back, Edith Sylla! Edith has returned from her yearlong sabbatical in Massachusetts, which she spent with her husband, Richard.

Our Youth

Appalachia Service Project

Austin Osborne-Newman, Jack, Jessica, and Sam Alcorn (CUCC’s four participants) returned from Knox County, Kentucky, on Saturday, June 26. Our workers were part of 57 workers stationed in a Headstart Center. There were three crews working on three different projects. One repaired a room, the other replaced a header and did inside repairs, and the third worked on underpinning, carpet and a porch. Space for sleeping was tight and meals were served under 15 x 30 army tents outside. They did have hot showers, but had to drive to a nearby college to have a shower. Evening programs were at a third site just a few minutes away.

CUCC thanks you for being the hearts and hands of Christ in the wilderness!

Following are reports from two of our participants:

I have to say that my biggest experience that I took away from ASP was getting to know the people from this church and other churches. During the fundraising you never really get to interact with your peers however while building the house or just hanging out at the center you are forced to. Building the house requires that you must use team work and in this team work you must work with people you did not previously know. The week started out with many separate groups of people who had known each other before ASP but as the week progress you could see the groups merge into one large group.

--Austin Osborne-Newman

This year on ASP has been an eye-opening one. It was my fourth year and the woman we worked for was very shy. I had a hard time seeing her. We did learn that she was a high school dropout who lived off disability and she told me how important an education was almost everyday. She said it was one of the biggest mistakes of her life to drop out of school. At the end of the week, she was with her mother and could not say goodbye to us in person. I was very disappointed because I wanted to see her
on the last day. But, she wrote us a touching letter on how much she had appreciated the work we had done on her home and how we would always have a special place in her heart. That letter was an expression of what she was too shy to say to us and it showed me how much of an impact we really made on her. I feel our work crew really “built on rock” in our bond with her.

--Jessica Alcorn

-excerpts taken from The Prints – the newsletter of the People of The Prince of Peace Episcopal Church.

Note: Sunday, September 12, after morning fellowship time, please stay to see pictures of ASP and to hear the youth talk about their experiences and answer your questions about ASP.

Did you know that money for the CUCC Hunger Fund helps defray the costs of preparing these meals?

Did you know that our Hunger Fund is now empty??? Money for this fund is NOT part of the Church budget: we must rely on separate donations from members.

We need your help in two ways:
First, please prayerfully consider making a donation to this Fund. Put your donation in the collection plate or mail it to the church office. Be sure to put "Hunger Fund" at the bottom of your check.

Second, if you would like to help prepare and/or serve the meal for the Helen Wright Center, please contact Geri Bowen at 781-3068. We promise that it will be a rewarding experience!

--Susan Lane

Community Outreach

Our Hunger Fund Needs Help!!!
Did you know that one of our church's most important ministries is serving the needs of the hungry and the homeless?

Did you know that on the third Sunday of the month CUCC members prepare and serve dinner for residents of the Helen Wright Center, a shelter for homeless women in downtown Raleigh?

Our New Habitat Home Project
Plans have now been finalized among the sponsors to begin construction on Saturday, September 11, 2004. There will be a special “Ground Breaking” ceremony on that date from 12 noon to 1 p.m. All are welcome to attend. At that time we will meet Regina Richardson and her son Jalen (22 months) who will be recipients of this home. It will be
located in Southeast Raleigh on lot #2 at Rosalynn Place (2450 Jimmy Carter Way) off Poole Road.

Financial and labor sponsorship is being shared by six churches and the Wells Fargo Bank, which is matching the churches’ donation of $24,000.

The six churches involved are Pullen Memorial Baptist, Millbrook Baptist, Community UCC, North Raleigh UCC, Hillyer Memorial Christian, and Covenant Christian. This ecumenical partnership reflects growing ties between the UCC, Christian Disciples of Christ and Alliance of Baptists.

The CUCC Saturday work schedules and lunch schedules are included on a separate sheet for you to keep with your calendar. There will be three churches’ members working together on any given Saturday, from 8:30 a.m till quitting time in the middle to late afternoon. Volunteers may also work Friday mornings from 8:30-12:30.

CUCC has been assigned to provide lunch for the work crew on September 18, October 16, and December 18. Let me know if you or your church group would like to take responsibility for one of these dates, i.e. youth group, deacons, etc.

Don’t miss this wonderful opportunity to put your faith into action as we build faith, hope and love into the lives of Regina and her son Jalen.

--Steve Halsted

**Marketplace of Meaningful Gifts**

We are delighted to be hosting the Marketplace of Meaningful Gifts again this year! Marketplace is an exciting and heart-warming bazaar where you and your family can buy gifts and make donations that support some worthwhile organizations.

This year’s participating agencies include:

- The Alliance of AIDS Services/Carolina
- Church of the 12 Apostles
- Haven House
- Interact
- Koinonia Partners
- Loaves and Fishes
- National Federation of the Blind
- North Carolina Peace Action
- Ten Thousand Villages
- Women’s Center of Wake County

**Save the Date!** The **Marketplace for Meaningful Gifts** will be held in our church on Sunday, **November 14**, from 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. If you would like to help with any of the planning activities, or if you’d like to pitch in the day of the event, please contact **Susan Lane** at 846-5881.

--Susan Lane

**Prayers**

The Monday Lunch Group offers prayers each week for those persons and needs of which they are aware. Please write requests on a slip of paper and place it on the offering plate or in one of the prayer jars at the back of the sanctuary or in Pilgrim House. Our prayers are especially solicited this month for our caretaker **Willie Foggie** who will be out for back surgery 3-6 months, beginning this month. Please continue to remember **Jo Lemons, Nancy Keppel, Ted Mew and Evelyn Littleton**.

Our condolences and prayers go to **Bernie Brown** and her family upon the death of her father in July.

**Roster**

**Add:**
- Lena Gallitano, 2907 Hostetler St., Raleigh 27609, 571-0388, Lena_Gallitano@ncsu.edu.
- Cindy Martin, 929 Northbrook Dr., Raleigh, NC 27609, 788-9994.
- Rebecca White, 7601 Graylin Dr., Raleigh, NC 27612, 785-1356.

**Changes:**
- **Nancy Newell** and **Betty Anne Ford**’s address is 180 Cedar Cross Way, Louisburg, NC 27549, (252) 438-2438, nancy@devsolutions.us, baf@devsolutions.us.
- **Luis Alvarenga** and **Loren McGrail**’s address is 17 Park St., East Hampton, MA 01027, (413) 527-7260, luisalvarenga@mac.com.
The Wider Church

The Eastern North Carolina Association’s 38th Annual Meeting is fast approaching. In their invitation, ENCA President Calvin Brooks and Associate Conference Minister Vertie Powers announce, “Our theme for this year is “New Beginnings: Celebrating Our Hope for the Future (2 Corinthians 5:17-20). We are excited about this year’s offering and pray you will come away renewed and refreshed for the journey.” The meeting will be held at Gregory Congregational UCC in Wilmington, NC, on October 8 and 9. Friday evening will be for fellowship beginning at 6 p.m. and the meeting will last through lunch Saturday. If you are interested in attending, as delegate or participant, please call the office for a registration form, or you can register onsite from 9-10 a.m. Saturday, but lunch and/or child care are provided only to attendees pre-registered by September 21. The announcement letter concludes, “We want to see your face in the place at our Annual Meeting.”

The Wider Community

Method Child Development Center has moved

By the time you get this newsletter, Method CDC will be operating in a new location! After an unsuccessful attempt to raise enough money to build an entirely new Child Development Center, Method has chosen a different route. Method decided to move to 900 Trailwood Drive, into the old Campus Child Care Center. The Campus Child Care Center closed its doors several months ago, making its building available. Facing the unlikelihood of constructing a new center in the limited time that it has remaining in the basement of Pullen Memorial Baptist Church, Method CDC board decided on the move to Trailwood Drive. The building was painted, and the necessary repairs were completed. If all goes as planned, when you receive this newsletter, Method will have been operating in its new location for over two weeks. More information will be coming soon. Drive by or call the center and stop in to see it. You should be pleased.

-- Margaret Osborne

The Interfaith Alliance/Exploris Global Faiths Forum Series

Each session will be held at Exploris in downtown Raleigh (http://www.exploris.org) from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. on selected Sunday afternoons. Admission is free and all are welcome. There will be presentations on world religions delivered from both the academic and practitioner perspectives. The lectures are planned to last approximately an hour with time afterwards for questions, discussion and socializing.

The first of the series, held August 29, focused on Hinduism, with presentations by Dr. Leela Prasad, Assistant Professor of Ethics and Indian Religions, Department of Religion, Duke University, and by Dr. Umesh Gulati, Professor Emeritus, East Carolina University.

The remaining sessions scheduled for 2004 are:

Sunday, September 12
Topic: Islam
Speaker: Iman Earl Abdul Malik Mohammed, a representative of The Mosque Cares, the largest Muslim organization in America

Sunday, September 26
Topic: Buddhism
Speaker: Bill Aiken of Soka Gakkai International USA in Washington, D.C.

Sunday, October 24
Topic: Native American Faiths
Speaker: TBA

Sunday, November 21
Topic: Baha’i
Speaker: Jay Green and Ray Estes of the Triangle Area Baha’i Community

Sunday, December 5
Topic: Sikhism
Speaker: Dr. I.J. Singh, New York University, New York

There will also be Forums on Christianity and Judaism are being planned for January and February 2005.
# Habitat Construction, Meal, and Devotional Schedule

**Alliance of Baptists/UCC/Disciples Churches Build**

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<th>Week</th>
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++ *(CUCC in Bold)* These congregations are responsible for providing construction volunteers each week. If weather or other events cause the cancellation of work on any of these dates, the churches assigned for the cancelled day will be added to the end of the schedule (ie we will stick with this schedule rather than shifting forward if we miss a work day). We will add additional dates if necessary to complete the construction.

* These congregations will be responsible for providing lunch for all the workers that day (approximately 15-25 people total) and someone from their church to lead in a brief devotional at 8:30 am before the work begins.
CUCC AUCTION 2004 – September 25th, 6:30 p.m.  
PLEDGE

There will be wine and cheese beginning at 6:30 p.m. The live auction will start about 7:00. Past favorites include a canoe trip, weekend getaway, festive events and gourmet treats, babysitting or handyman services.

--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

I’LL CONTRIBUTE

My own creation(s) _________________________________
Minimum bid $____
(e.g. painting, print, framed needlework, pottery, sculpture, book, framed photograph, stained glass, special paper, original jewelry ….)

My own specialty service
1) __________________________________________________________
Minimum bid $________
Date(s)offered______________________________________________
Conditions, if any ___________________________________________
2) __________________________________________________________
Minimum bid $_____ Date(s) offered___________________________
Conditions, if any ___________________________________________
3) __________________________________________________________
Minimum bid $____ Date(s)offered_____________________________
Conditions, if any ___________________________________________

PLEASE specify WHEN the offered service is available, giving alternate dates if you like, or within a window of three months. ALL AUCTION SERVICE OFFERS WILL EXPIRE AT THE END OF 2005.

I’LL SUPPORT:
I plan to attend the auction YES!! ______ MAYBE _____ NO _____
I plan to be there in time for wine, cheese, and socializing at 7 p.m. ______


Name _____________________________ email ____________________________________________
Address and phone number IF not listed in CUCC directory: ___________________________ Phone: _______________
The deadline for our October Newsletter is September 13th.

The Newsletter can be found on our web page: www.communityucc.org

A Month of Sundays

September 5
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9:00 – 9:30 Taizé;
9:15 Adult Forum begins
10:30 Worship Service and Church School;
Lectionary: Jer 18:1-11; Ps 139:1-6, 13-18
OR Deut 30:15-20; Ps 1; Phil 1:1-21;
Luke 14:25-33
Food Bags Due

September 12
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9:00 – 9:30 Taizé;
9:15 Bible Study begins
10:30 Worship Service and Church School;
Lectionary: Jer 18:1-11; Ps 139:1-6, 13-18
OR Deut 30:15-20; Ps 1; Phil 1:1-21;
Luke 15:1-10

September 19
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9:00-9:30 Taizé with Communion;
10:30 Children lead the Worship Service
Lectionary: Jer 8:18-9:1; Ps 79:1-9 OR Amos 8:4-7; Ps 113; 1 Tim 2:1-7, Lk16:1-13

September 26
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
10:30 Worship Service and Church School;
Lectionary: Jer 32:1-3a, 6-15; Ps 91:1-6, 14-16 OR Amos 6:1a, 4-7; Ps 146; 1 Tim 6:6-19;
Luke 16:19-31