

First Congregational Church (UCC)  
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Hendersonville NC 28739-4013



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An Open and Affirming Congregation

# The CONGREGATIONAL CHRONICLE

Volume 35, No. 9

United Church of Christ

November 2011

## Notes From the Moderator

Once again, I find myself writing this a bit early since Pat and I will be away from October 16-23, so my apologies if pieces are obsolete or the information isn't the very latest.

- September 24 was another "first" for First Congregational as 26 (amazing number, don't you agree?) of our people participated in the Hunger Walk. It was a joy to check our web-site later and see that the little "thermometer" showed us at \$4,200 - reasonably close to the ambitious goal of \$5000, especially since this was our first participation in the event. Thanks to those who walked as well as those who sponsored the walkers monetarily.
- The new Pictorial Directory is available – if you don't have one yet, please pick it up at the Church Office. It certainly reflects the hard work of Pat Argue, Jackie Green, and Lorraine Cochran. The activity pages in particular capture the essence of our church. A somewhat different version of the Directory is available on-line through Olan Mills. Our Web Team

will develop a method of accessing this directory from our own web site that is as simple as possible. We will have the directory available only to members of the church family, so it will require a password.

- Based on the discussion of the possible rental of Fellowship Hall to MCC Sacred Journey at our September 25 congregational meeting, I've appointed a study group (John Walters, Geoffrey Naylor, Carl Schoendorfer, Jean Orost, Ann Allen, and Claire Willey) to develop the facts that should "fill in the gaps" raised by several members in their questions. The group is interested in your thoughts, so feel free to communicate directly with them. Once their work is completed and everyone is informed on the matter, we expect to have another congregational meeting to "take the matter off the table" and have an up-or-down vote.
- The "Building Inclusive Churches" training originally scheduled for October has been deferred until February. Whether it will be held

here or not has not yet been decided – the Episcopalians may be the host since I understand they have about fifteen people who want to take the training.

- Pat and I took our first turn at serving dinner at the Rescue Mission on October 8, and once again it was relatively easy work – one of those cases where you get better than you give in terms of the thanks of the folks who get a hot meal. I'm sure there's room for more people if you're so inclined – it only takes an hour or two at very widespread intervals, so come on along!

- “Feed the Kids” is also proceeding smoothly. It is such a breath of fresh air to see FCC members out in the community lending a helping hand.

- While I am in total agreement with the importance and seriousness of Hendersonville Mainstay's “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes” event held recently, I must confess with a wry smile that the sight of Richard in very high red stiletto-heeled shoes was one for the books. Janet immortalized the occasion on film, and it's on the web site. I doubt that the footgear was Manolo Blahnik, but it was ... er... ah.... interesting.

- Speaking of Social Justice, the UCC has long been a leader in this area. You might recall Bishop Spong's flattering remarks in this regard during one of his lectures here. By now you've seen in the Bulletin that we're forming a Social Justice group within the Ministry to the Larger Community, similar in concept to the group that presently oversees our efforts in Mission and Service. Lacking a crystal ball, I

have no clear idea what this initiative will ultimately look like (the initial meeting isn't until after I submit this article), but it is something definitely worth doing. I'm sure we all have one or more issues in this arena that draw our attention, so this will be the opportunity to participate in some constructive action on those topics. Please join in!

- In an effort to consolidate some of our many pictures in one place, a Picture Archive has been assembled containing more than 1200 photographs. An index to these pictures, breaking them down into ten categories, has also been developed. The Archive has been installed on Bev's computer so that it will be readily available. Now all we have to do is keep it up to date!

- By the time this issue comes out, the Every Member Canvass will be history and I can only hope that the results exceed our fondest hopes. Fingers crossed...

- The final event in the 2011 Concert Series, the Smoky Mountain Brass Quintet, is coming up on November 6 (check). I heard these folks play a couple of years ago, and they're really fine. Interestingly, they are also a non-profit organization, so what they earn by playing at concerts gets plowed back into music and music education - another reason to come out and listen. This also marks the last concert in what has been, over the years, a fixture in our annual schedule. In 2012, we will not sponsor a Concert Series on our own. Whatever initiative we undertake in this area will be in collaboration with another group such as Hendersonville Chamber Music.

## Lectionary

### 21st Sunday after Pentecost, Nov 6

Theme: Ready to Shine

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

or Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16

or Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20

Or Amos 5:18-24

Psalms 78:1-7 or Psalm 70

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

### 22nd Sunday after Pentecost, Nov 13

Theme: Abundant Possibilities

Judges 4:1-7 or Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Psalms 123 or Psalm 90:1-8 (9-11), 12

I Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

### 23rd Sunday after Pentecost, Nov 20

Theme: Reign of Christ, Thanksgiving Sunday

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalms 100 or Psalm 95:1-7a

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

### First Sunday of Advent (Year B), Nov 27

Theme: Longing

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

I Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

## Daylight Savings Time Ends

2:00 a.m.

Sunday, November 6th



## ATTENDANCE

### October

2: 108

9: 126

16: 119

23: 110

Average Weekly Attendance:

116

**Church Office Hours**  
**Monday-12 Noon - 3**  
**Tue thru Fri 9 -3**  
**9:00—Noon**

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The Rev. Dr. E. Richard Weidler, Pastor  
Beverly A. Ward, Administrator/Musician  
Charles Littleton, Custodian

# Thank You!

From the  
**Pardee Interfaith Chaplaincy Program**  
Thank you for your gift. Without concerned individuals, churches and civic organizations, the chaplaincy ministry and pastoral care program at Pardee Hospital would not be possible.

*Rev. Charles D. Kirby, Chaplain*

—\*—

From  
**Neighbors in Need**  
Thank you so much for your generous gift. Two thirds of this gift supports the Justice and Witness Ministries and one third is designated to support the Council of American Indian Ministry. A powerful coalition of faith and non-religious communities have formed to address the serious crisis relating to global poverty and climate change.

We are thrilled to report that we will reach our goal of training 300 justice leaders in our Justice Leaders Engaging and Developing curriculum by the end of 2011. We continue to take justice ministry closer to the people.

These initiatives would be impossible, were it not for the help of people of compassion and commitment. Again, thank you.

*Paul Osgood, Chairperson JNM Development Committee*  
*M. Linda Jaramillo, Executive Minister*

From the  
**Ministry of Hope**  
We want to express our gratitude for your generosity in support of the Ministry of Hope Chaplaincy Committee. Your contribution will make an immediate difference in the lives of the incarcerated women at the Swannanoa Correctional Center.

*Sincerely, Evelyn Quigg, Board Member*

—\*—

From  
**Blowing Rock Conference Center**  
Your gift is helping to make great things happen! In the past two years we were able to update all of the rooms in the North Corriher Lodge and make numerous other needed repairs.

Participation in the youth ministries program continues to grow. We hope to add a late August weekend event in addition to the Winter Youth Event.

And finally, a new staff residence has been completed - debt free.

Please know that the Board of Directors and I sincerely appreciate your support. We could not be of service to so many without your generous donations.

*William Bourdon, Executive Director*

—\*—

From  
**Hendersonville Rescue Mission**  
Our thanks for your many, many gifts!

*Rev. Anthony S. McMillan, Executive Director*

- The updated appearance of the Chronicle that began last month reflects the efforts of Hilarie Glasgow, who has significant expertise in this area and is helping Bev with some of his tasks. Thanks, Hilarie.
- Finally, we all have more than a little to be thankful for, so I hope you have a pleasant Thanksgiving and let's all remember to give thanks for what has been bestowed upon us.

Ed Argue

## Pictorial Directory

The committee hopes that all members have now received the newly-published Olan Mills directory. If you have not, please let Bev know. Also notify him if there are any additions or corrections to your listing. The on-line directory, which contains ONLY member photos and contact information, no activity pictures, will soon be available through the church website ([www.fcchendonville.org](http://www.fcchendonville.org)) via a members-only password, which will be e-mailed to those with addresses. If we don't have your e-mail address and you want directory access, please let Bev know at [fccucc2@bellsouth.net](mailto:fccucc2@bellsouth.net)

**The Henderson County Churches Uniting Community Thanksgiving Service** will be held at St. James Episcopal Church on Sunday November 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.. All are invited to attend.



## The Quilters Group...

...has had their organizational meeting, decided on a course of action, and named themselves! **The Piece Makers** will meet next at the church on Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 noon. They will bring their lunch and then proceed to view the wall hangings at Grace Lutheran Church. Please consider joining in what is sure to be a fun and inspiring endeavor—and, by the way, no previous experience is needed!

## MCC Lease Questions

At the last congregational meeting the motion to lease the Felix Building to the MCC Sacred Journey Church and provide them with some office space was tabled because there was not enough information available at that time. As a result Ed Argue, our moderator, asked Ann Allen, Geoffrey Naylor, Jean Orost, John Walters, Claire Willey and Carl Schoendorfer to ascertain the questions members have, gather information to address those questions and write a report for information purposes which members can use in making their decision.

To help us please list your questions or concerns and leave them in the box by the receptionist labeled MCC Lease Questions by Nov 18. We will attempt to get answers to your questions for a future congregational meeting. The questions you submit can be anonymous.

Thank you for your help



## Mission and Service Ministry

We recently received a letter from the Rev. Geoffrey Black, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. He was happy to share the good news with us that our church is a "Five for Five" congregation of the UCC. That is, in 2010 we gave to Our Churches Wider Mission (OCWM) and the four special mission offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, and the Christmas Fund. Rev. Black wrote, "**You are a leadership church in the United Church of Christ**, and we thank you for your faithful generosity and the breadth of your vision for ministry. Through your support of the wider mission of the church, you are *changing lives* in your own neighborhood *and* in places far away, reaching out in compassion and justice to imagine and then build a better world." You can read all of Rev. Black's letter on the Mission bulletin board in the hallway just outside the sanctuary.

On the local front, our members have become very active in service to our community. Our participation in the Hunger Walk was a spectacular success and our volunteers are assisting on a regular basis the Feed the Kids program and serving meals at the Rescue Mission.

We will again sponsor the Two for One program with our remaining mission dollars in 2011. The way that you participate is to write a check to First Congregational Church in the amount you wish to contribute and on the "Memo" line designate one of the selected causes to direct your money. The Mission and Service ministry will match your donation to that agency up to the limit of funds available.

Agencies suggested for additional contributions are as follows:

Church World Services  
Interfaith Assistance Ministry  
Free Clinic  
Mainstay  
Habitat for Humanity  
My Place  
Hendersonville Rescue Mission  
Sixth Avenue PRP  
Habitat for Humanity (local chapter)  
Feed the Kids

These are agencies, mostly local, that we have supported this year and in the past. If your favorite is not on the list, make a suggestion. Our objective is to support non-profit, service-oriented organizations, preferably with some local tie. If you have any questions or suggestions, see Rev. Weidler or leave a note in the Mission and Service mail cubby.



## Birthdays & Anniversaries



### November Birthdays

- 1: John Sams
- 4: Andrew Kilpatrick
- 8: Barbara Dillon
- 9: Jill Bierwirth
- 11: Walter Larsen  
David Wallis
- 15: Marnie Chase
- 17: Al Hope
- 19: Nicholas Pence Sr.  
Sally Magill
- 23: Faith Andrews
- 26: John Walters
- 29: Jeannie Stewart
- 30: Trisha LaGrange

### November Anniversaries

- 6: Curt & Carla Cline
- 22: John & Frances Sams



## THE LUNCH BUNCH

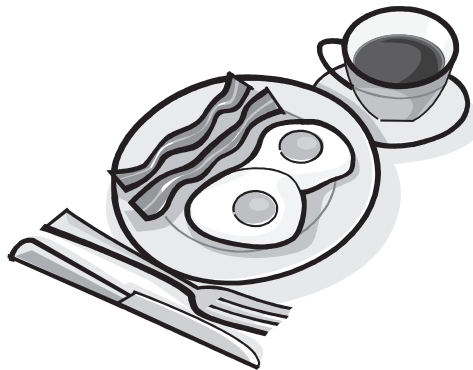


Will not meet in  
November

December Meeting  
TBA

## BREAKFAST WITH THE GUYS

Men of the church meet  
at **Dixie Diner**  
Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>,  
at 8:30 am  
Sign up on the bulletin board  
in the reception area.



## Can You hear Me Now?

We are now in need of more people on the roster to work at the sound booth, mainly during regular Sunday services, and other special services or programs when the sound system is required. Anyone who is interested, please stop by the sound booth after the services or contact Curt Cline at 606-6718 or Dick Clinton at 693-5408.



## Fellowship Supper

Betsy Fedder of Pisgah Legal Services will be the speaker at our November 21<sup>st</sup> Fellowship Supper. Pisgah Legal Services fights to bring justice to the most vulnerable people in Western North Carolina – disadvantaged children, senior citizens, families at risk of homelessness and victims of domestic violence.

Eating begins at 6:00 and the talk will follow. Everyone is invited. Please bring a covered dish for eight and cups, plates and silverware for yourselves. To be sure that enough tables are set up please sign up on the first or second Sunday before the meeting or call the church office. Please join us.

## Theology Study Group

*Reconciliation*  
by Michael Battle  
dealing with the theology of  
Bishop Desmond Tutu.  
Next meeting is  
November 30<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.



**1:30 - 3:30 PM**  
**Course fee \$10**  
**Group**  
**Discussions**

**(Updated Location: First Congregation Church at Fifth and White Pine)**

**Please note: This course is 6 consecutive Tuesdays w/ exception of Nov. 8, Election Day.)**

## A **FORCE** MORE POWERFUL TUESDAYS, OCT. 25, - DEC. 6

A six session documentary series on nonviolent social change will include  
**Nashville 1960s sit-ins;**  
**Gandhi's 1930s civil disobedience,**  
**the overcoming of apartheid;**  
**Danish resistance to Hitler;**  
**1980s Polish Solidarity;**  
**and Chilean overthrow of**  
**the Pinochet government.**

**TO REGISTER call Charley Rogers**  
**(696-3121 or 674-1959) by Fri. Oct. 21.**

**HOLIDAY COOKIE AND BOOK SALE** *Saturday, December 3, 2011*  
*10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.*  
*Church Fellowship Hall*

The First Annual Holiday Cookie and Book Sale is fast approaching. Volunteers are needed to make cookies and to donate new or gently used books. The Planning Committee is working diligently to make this event one that will be enjoyed by all. Advertisements in various publications will announce the sale to the community with the hopes that many will attend. That means **we need lots of cookies!**

A lucky person will hold the winning raffle ticket and go home with a basket that will hold delicious home baked treats along with other items to enjoy. Raffle tickets will be for sale during this Holiday Sale with the drawing taking place at 1:00 P.M.

There are sign-up sheets available in the Fellowship Hall - look for the bright tri-fold display which gives directions for the cookie-makers and book donors. Books can be brought now to the Fellowship Hall and be put on the stage at the front of the Hall. Only books that are in good condition can be displayed for sale. There will not be an auction, as advertised, at this First Annual Sale but will be attempted at a different time.

The next meeting for the **Planning Committee** will be in the Church Library on Monday, November 7th at 10:00 A.M. **Please come!**



# Pastor's Page

"My cup (and mailbox) runneth over ..."

By Richard Weidler

This Fall has been filled with enormous changes in my life, and the lives of my family. Six months ago I was living alone with my dog, Mishka, Andrew was still in college, Janet was living 300 miles away and serving God at Pilgrim UCC in Birmingham, Rebecca was about to begin a summer internship in Washington, DC at GLSEN, and my father was doing fairly well as a 95 year old N. Y. Yankees fan looking forward to another World Series championship.

Everything has changed, or as Walter Brueggemann frames our life's experience, I have gone from orientation, to dis-orientation, and am now in process of working towards re-orientation. Andrew has now graduated from college and, like many of his peers who have been unable to find a job, has moved home with me. Janet resigned her position as the pastor of Pilgrim UCC, and she will be moving home the first week of November: Rebecca is partially through her senior year at Davidson and has recently been tendered an offer for employment in Charlotte beginning this summer. My father died on October 15<sup>th</sup>, exactly 16 years to the day after my mom's death. And lastly, I have recently celebrated my 60<sup>th</sup> birthday!

Through all of these changes I have gained much strength through my faith in a loving and ever-present God who offers light amid the darkness, and hope in the midst of despair and sorrow. The earthly channel through which I have experienced God's presence, support, and love has been my church family. With each of the above changes, you, the members of FCC have offered your support and love to me and my family. Over the past three years, I have heard testimonies of our members giving thanks and praise to the church for the outreach of kindness and compassion offered and received, and I have celebrated from the pulpit the Christian compassion I have seen in this church. I can now offer personal testimony not only for what I have seen, but what I have experienced. Before leaving for Richmond, VA I had already received numerous cards. I took those cards with me and read them as I prepared to bury my father---I gained spiritual strength from your words and your kindness. Upon returning home, my mailbox was filled with even more cards of sympathy. And then just when I thought it was over, I started receiving birthday cards!!

Thank you for your love. Thank you for spiritually holding me up during these difficult days. I would not have been able to conduct my father's Memorial Service, and graveside service without the love of my biological family and the love and support of you, my spiritual family.

**SEE YOU IN CHURCH  
SUNDAY MORNING  
AT 10:30 AM!**

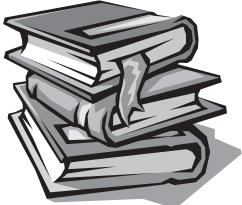


## Forum News

### Focus on Forum

- ☑ We thank our October presenters, Mark Fagerlin for his stimulating session on "The Controversy of Social Justice" and Jill Bierwirth and Larry Anderson for their provocative series on "God-Talk."
- ☑ November begins with the **Rev. Posey Jackson** and our own **Roy Harris** exploring "The Kingdom of God" on **November 6**.
- ☑ On **November 13**, **Rep. Chuck McGrady** will discuss "Being a Moderate Representative in Contentious Times."
- ☑ **November 20**, our own **Rev. Barbara Rathbun** will begin a two-part study of "Marriage," starting with the history of it and conclude on **December 4** with the theology of it. There is **NO Forum** on **November 27** (Thanksgiving Sunday).
- ☑ Remember, all points of view are welcome... no correct doctrine required. A FORUM is just that...an open exchange of views. Join us at any time. No pre-requisite attendance or courses necessary. Continue to be ready, willing and eager on **Sundays at 9:15 a.m.** for these spirited opportunities for growth and learning. ALL ARE WELCOME, so plan to attend and spread the word near and far about our great sessions.

Ministry to Members and Friends



## LIBRARY NOTES

Please keep an eye out for new materials coming to the library later in November.

In the meantime, there are plenty of wonderful books, movies and CD's to check out from the existing collection. If you have never checked out materials from the library it is very easy and there is a "How to Use the Library" notebook that explains exactly what to do. Look for it on the back wall to the right of the New Arrivals shelf. Thanks, Carla Cline, Librarian

## FCC Book Club

The FCC Book Group will meet on Thursday, November 17, at 2:00 P.M. in the church library. This is our annual meeting to select books for the coming year. It is a fun, lively, and informative meeting, as we review and discuss new selections for reading next year. All are welcome.

In December we will be reviewing a book by Tony Blair entitled "My Journey - My Political Life".

For information  
Janice Walters  
696-3177

**Condolences of the congregation are extended to the families and friends of the following who have died recently:**

LeRoy M. Brain (September 18, 2011)  
The Rev. Edwin R. Weidler (October 15, 2011)  
Howard L. Allen (October 22, 2011)