

Community Church News ❖ Dec 2014

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Sunday Services – 9:00am & 10:45am (10:30 only on Dec 28)

Dec 7 Special Choral Holiday Service Glenn Mehrbach, Music Director

Celebrate the Christmas music of the Mexican Baroque era (1600-1680) with the Community Church Choir and an 8-piece chamber ensemble of woodwinds, strings, guitar and percussion. Music will include de Padilla's "Missa Ego Flos Campi" and a selection of *villancicos*, or Spanish Christmas carols.

Dec 14 Multigenerational Holiday Pageant Glenn Mehrbach, Music Director

"The 2,000 Year Old Man Tells of Christmas" This year's Children's Holiday Pageant will feature a guest appearance by the 2,000 Year Old Man, present at the birth of the Baby Jesus and all thereafter. He will give eyewitness accounts of events surrounding the first Christmas, based on questions suggested by the youth of the church. For instance: How did Joseph and Mary meet? And how did the animals feel about sharing their stable with these weary human strangers? Answers will then be recreated in scene, song and dance.

Dec 21 "Room in the Inn" Rev. Thom Belote

The Christian story of the Nativity touches repeatedly on the theme of hospitality for the stranger. A poor, expectant family arrives in an unfamiliar city. Needing shelter, they are informed there is no more room in the inn. This morning we'll contemporize this story, asking how it is that we as a society and as a religious community are able to make room.

Dec 24 Two Christmas Eve Candlelight Services Rev. Thom Belote

5:00pm Multigenerational Service: All ages are invited to a lively celebration of Christmas Eve with stories and singing of seasonal hymns. It's a joyful occasion ending with "Silent Night" by candlelight.

10:00pm Candlelight Service: This late evening service is somewhat quieter than the first, with more time for contemplation, but like the first service ends with the singing of Silent Night and the lighting of our candles together.

Dec 28 – 10:30 am Only "the song of david" charlie kast, *reverend emeritus*

The 23rd Psalm continues to be for me a source of great comfort in times of sorrow and distress.

The Community Church 2014 Winter Holiday Events

12/5 Fri	Grinch Night & Community Dinner (6pm)
12/6 Sat	Greening of the Church (4pm) & Chili Dinner (6pm)
12/7 Sun	Special Choral Service featuring Mexican Baroque masterpiece, de Padilla's "Missa Ego Flos Campi," and a selection of Spanish Christmas carols with an 8-piece chamber ensemble of woodwinds, strings, guitar and percussion. (9:00 & 10:45)
12/7 Sun	Holiday and quilts Bazaar during coffee hour (11:45am)
12/14 Sun	Multigenerational Holiday Pageant (9:00 & 10:45)
12/21 Sun	"Room at the Inn" Service by Rev. Thom (9:00 & 10:45) ~ Meet and Greet the Staff with goodies at coffee hour
12/24 Wed	Multigenerational Christmas Eve Service (5:00 pm) Candlelight Christmas Eve Service (10:00 pm)
12/28 Sun	"The Song of David" by rev. charlie kast (10:30 Only) De-greening of the Church (12:00-1:00)

Note: Church Office is closed Nov. 27 & 28, Dec. 25, 26, 29 & Jan. 1



ON MY MIND & IN MY HEART...

Each person or family has their own memories of holiday traditions. As a life-long Unitarian Universalist, here are a few of my memories about what made a traditional Christmas for me:

- "It Came Upon The Midnight Clear" must be sung every Sunday in December. (I grew up in the Unitarian church in which that hymn was written.)
- It is required to recite Sophia Lyon Fahs' poem "For so the children come" (#616) on Christmas Eve.
- While the numbers of angels, shepherds, wise men, and barnyard animals in the pageant can and do change from year to year, no pageant is complete without the inclusion of Norma Faber's feminist poem, "The Queens Came Late"
- Hanukkah, Solstice, Yule may be celebrated more some years than others and our community always embraces people who celebrate these holidays.
- The words for the Christmas hymns in our hymnal are the official words.
- The work of Christmas truly is clothing those who are cold, feeding those who are hungry, sheltering those who are homeless, and gifting those who would not otherwise receive gifts at this time of year.

Each person has their own unique memories of the holidays. There are also the traditions we create together as a church community. If you are around in December, I hope you'll come be a part of our Holiday festivities. If you have family and friends visiting, I hope you'll invite them to come with you and share your church with them. If December takes you out of town, I wish you joyful celebrations and safe travels.

See you in Church!
- Rev. Thom



MUSICAL NOTES by Glenn

This December 7th the Community Church Choir will be performing music of the Mexican Baroque era (ca. 1580-1660), accompanied by an 8 piece instrumental ensemble of strings, woodwinds, guitar and percussion. We'll be attempting to recreate a Christmas service in one of the great 17th century Cathedrals of Mexico. These services consisted of movements of the traditional Latin Mass (Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus and Agnus Dei) interspersed with "villancicos," or Spanish Christmas carols. The mass I've chosen, written for a double choir (8 parts, often singing antiphonally) was composed by Juan Gutierrez de Padilla, the "maestro de capilla" of the great Cathedral in Pueblo, Mexico. The

villancicos are by various well-known Spanish and Mexican composers of the time.

What attracts me to this music is the combination of the sublime technical beauty of European polyphony with the irresistible rhythmic vitality of Spanish and Mexican folk music. And since Colonial Mexico was a cultural melting pot, you'll also find sounds and language of Caribbean, African and Aztec cultures, as well as various parts of Spain.

I hope you will join us for this exciting service. It will be a joyful way to start off the Holiday season, and a peek into a vibrant culture of long ago.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

GRINCH NIGHT

The Grinch (our own Scott Provan) is coming to town! Please join us Friday, **December 7th** for the All Church Community Supper from 6:00-7:30. A main dish and dessert (with vegan, vegetarian, and gluten-free options) are provided for \$2/person. Please bring a side (vegetable, salad, bread, etc.) to share. This is popular event is fun for all ages. You don't want to miss the opportunity to witness the Transformation of the Grinch in this live performance.



CARING MINISTRY

Our ministry provides visits and emotional support to members who are hospitalized or homebound, lends out Caring Quilts to members to provide comfort and symbolize the support of our community, and assists members in finding resources and support services in times of critical need.

If you have any caring needs you can reach the Caring Ministry at caring@c3huu.org. Joann Haggerty will be coordinating until Dec. 12th and can be reached at (919)929-5573. For the rest of the month, contact Ivy Brezina at [\(415\)663-8703](tel:4156638703). You can also let us know about a caring concern by filling out a Joys and Sorrows card in the Commons. Cards are on the right side on a table as you enter the sanctuary.

STEWARDSHIP

Think about it...

Stronger together, we have...

- ...built 16 Habitat homes
- ...fed 95 families Thanksgiving dinner
- ...lifted the 18 year old legislative ban on same-sex marriage
- ...raised our voices (more than 100) against oppressive legislation during Moral Mondays
- ...signed up for Covenant Groups (74); SEA (145); and Children & Youth programs (183)

Together, we nurture spiritual growth, care for each

other, and effect change in the world.
A message of hope from your Stewardship Team.



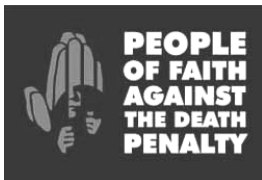
SHARE THE PLATE

SHARE THE PLATE DEADLINE SUNDAY, MAY 3rd FOR REQUESTS JULY-DEC, 2015.

The Share the Plate Steering Committee accepts nominations for non-profit causes that are consistent with the mission of The Community Church twice a year. The deadline for the next submission is October 26. E-mail applications to either Barb Chapman at barbchapman@bellsouth.net or stp@c3huu.org. Current nomination forms can be found on the church website at <http://www.c3huu.org/share-the-plate.html>. Committee members are Jill Baker, Barb Chapman, Jena Kaizen, John Leopold, Jane Provan, Bill Rote, and Susan Spalt.

STP – DEC 7: PFADP (PEOPLE OF FAITH AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY / NC-CIT (NC COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON TORTURE):

Both of these groups share the ethic of restorative justice and appreciation for the value of human life.



Despite repeal in June 2013 of the N.C. Racial Justice Act, the law intended to end racially biased death sentences, PFADP continues to advocate for NC's 160 death row inmates with pending claims to have

their cases examined for racial bias. In May 2014 Winfall became the sixth local government in NC to call for ending the death penalty, joining Boone, Carrboro, Chapel Hill, Durham, and Orange County. www.pfadp.org.

For 9 years, NC Stop Torture Now has championed accountability of county, state, and federal officials to conduct a full, impartial investigation of the torture-linked flights from the CIA-affiliated company, Aero Contractors, Ltd, located in Smithfield, NC. In order to create a formal, public record, NC STN has helped establish NC CIT, composed of non-governmental, respected North Carolinians to undertake this task that requires public awareness and financial support. <http://accountabilityfortorturenc.org/>.



STP – DEC 21: HISPANIC LIASON OF CHATHAM COUNTY / EL VINCULO HISPANO

The Hispanic Liaison of Chatham County / El Vínculo Hispano (EVH) is a bilingual and bicultural community-based organization founded in 1995. EVH continues as a positive force in the lives of thousands of Hispanic families in our region. It also serves as a crucial resource

for other non-profits, law enforcement and government organizations. Based in rural Siler City where Hispanics represent 49.8% of the population, EVH is devoted to helping Hispanic families, women, children and youth prosper in their new community.

EVH's current programs:

- Family Services – direct services and referrals for hunger relief, health & nutrition, legal referrals and clinics, tax assistance, interpretation/translation, and advocacy.
- Youth Leadership – build leadership skills, gain self-esteem in the Hispanic identity and attain job/technical skills that will provide a path to higher education and/or career.
- Income Development Center – employment assistance for displaced, underemployed and unemployed individuals.

For more information, please visit our website www.hispanicliaison.org

STP – DEC 24: MINISTER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND AND THE COMMUNITY CHURCH BENEVOLENCE FUND

WITHIN THESE WALLS

MINISTER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND and BENEVOLENCE FUND

The board of trustees recently clarified the differences between the Minister's Discretionary Fund and the Benevolence Fund, both of which were established to provide financial assistance in times of crisis. Under the new policy, the Minister's Discretionary Fund will be used to help individuals within our church community, and the Benevolence Fund will be used to help those outside our church community. The main reason for this change was to better ensure confidentiality for our members and friends.

Individuals within our church community who need help should meet with Rev. Thom to discuss their need. Requests for Benevolence Fund disbursements should be submitted in writing to the ministry chair, Katie Donovan. The request must specify the nature of the need, the amount requested, when the funds are needed, and what effect the financial gift is expected to have on the recipient and the situation. The only restriction to this fund request is that the recipient cannot be an organization already receiving a Share the Plate offering.

A DATE TO "FA LA LA":

The holidays are near and it's time to deck our halls with boughs of holly (and pine and balsam etc.) The annual Greening of the Church will take place on Saturday, **Dec. 6** from 4 to 6 p.m. followed by our traditional chili, cornbread and salad supper from 6 to 8. This is a fun event for the whole family. There will be child care for the little ones and fun crafts for small hands. We'll hang garlands, make wreaths and greens

arrangements and adorn some trees. We'll also assemble gift baskets for women at Chatham County's "Family Violence and Rape Crisis Center."

So collect some fresh greens and bring a poinsettia to transform our Sanctuary and Commons. Collect household supplies for the baskets and sign up for the supper. Be sure to warm up your vocal cords on December 6th because we'll be singing carols too!

WHAT IS THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY?

The Committee on Ministry was created by the Board for the purpose of monitoring the health and progress of the various ministries of the church. Another role of the committee is to support the minister by helping him achieve his goals, and to report to the Board our assessment of progress toward those goals. In addition, the committee will facilitate dialogue and right relations between the minister and the congregation.

If you have concerns about the minister or the shared ministry of the church contact us or visit the committee's web page at <http://www.c3huc.org/committee-on-ministry.html>. The six members serving staggered 3-year terms are Lillie Bonzani and Ivy Brezina (class of 2015), Erich Lieth and Bruce Paden (class of 2016), Jenny Warnasch and Mary LeMay (chair) (class of 2017).

CHURCH SOFTBALL SHIRTS:



The Flaming Chalice softball team has designed a team shirt, which is available for sale to all church members and friends. They are short-sleeved Royal Blue, polyester jerseys with a crew neck and 2 buttons. On the left chest is a custom designed flaming chalice logo with the words "Community Church". If you would like to order one or

more shirts, please contact Nils Brubaker (ncb52@earthlink.net).

COMMUNITY DINNERS

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us on the first Fridays of the month for fun and fellowship. We meet in the Jones Building at 6:00 to share a meal. \$2/person covers the main dish and dessert. Please also bring a side dish (salad, vegetable, bread, fruit, etc.) All are welcome!

December 5th with the Grinch!

January 2nd

February 6th

March 6th

April 3rd

May 1st

IFC (INTER-FAITH COUNCIL) NEWSLETTER:

Bountiful Bags for IFC: The Community Church will be handing out bags, after both services on December 7th.

They can be returned on the 14th and 21st. As the Holiday's are approaching and more families are in need of food, give generously. Items needed are: pasta and sauce, grits, canned tuna, canned fruits, rice, soup, cereal, mac n cheese, mixed vegetables and toilet paper. For those that would like to give personal items to HomeStart (women) could use socks, underwear, bras and umbrellas. Community House (men) are in need of socks and underwear. Thanks to all the donations made to IFC during this current year

DO YOU HAVE A FAMILY MEMBER WITH MENTAL ILLNESS?

The **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)** offers a free 12-week **Family-to-Family** Education Program that provides support and information in a confidential setting for family members of persons living with major depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, panic disorder, OCD, and borderline personality disorder. NAMI Orange will hold a class at Chapel Hill Public Library on Sundays, **Jan. 11 - March 29**, from 2-4:30 pm. Class size is limited, so you must pre-register. To register, contact Nancy Brickman (nbrickman@nc.rr.com or [919-542-1377](tel:919-542-1377)). For more information, contact Nancy Brickman or Maggie Scarborough (mescarb@gmail.com or [919-306-3885](tel:919-306-3885)).

OPEN MIC NIGHT IS COMING!

We are going to start something new on January 2, immediately following the All-Church Community Supper. We will have an Open Mic Night, from 7-8 PM. It promises to be a great deal of fun! And, sharpen up your talents, whether they be poetry, drama, music, magic, or dance. Everyone and everything (almost) is welcome! There will be a chance to sign up on line. Questions? Ask Linda Thompson, Ivy Brezina or Marion Hirsch.

CONCERT SERIES HELP NEEDED:

Many thanks to the workers for the Kruger Brothers Concert. We made over \$2000!! We now need baked goods and helpers for the Friday, Dec. 12 Barefoot Movement concert. Please contact Jane Provan at janerivaprovan@gmail.com if you can help with food. We also need some able bodied folks to help with breakdown in the sanctuary after the concert. Contact Terry Baker at bakerwt@yahoo.com if you can help. Helpers get in free!

OUTDOOR CONNECTIONS:

New Years in Nag's Head, Jan. 9-11. Our most popular trip. Miles of open beaches, cypress swamps (Charles Kuralt Trail and eagle observatory at Mattamuskeet) and Red Wolf refuge. Hundreds of thousands of swans, snow geese, ducks, shorebirds and pelagics. Reasonable prospects for bears and peregrines. Expert guides and loaner optics. Good food, great company and cheap ocean front rooms at the Surfside Hotel (#1 in Nag's Head). RSVP: chandler-dorfman@mindspring.com

WOMENCIRCLE PLANNING FOR 2015:

WomenCircle will meet on Friday **December 5** from 1-3:30 PM in the Straley Room. Please come and bring your ideas for monthly programs- from book discussions to games and trips. Previous years have included candle making, yoga, solstice celebrations, beach trips, etc. With your brainstorming and help, we will have another terrific year ahead for WomenCircle events. If you can't come, please let me know your ideas before then. Questions? contact Joann Haggerty at [919-929-5573](tel:919-929-5573) or joannhaggerty@gmail.com or Sindy Barker at [919-969-4529](tel:919-969-4529) or sindybarker@aol.com



ECO's Environmental CORner:

First Sunday Recyclables - Dec. 7: Recycle your incandescent holiday lights (working or not). (Home Depot is also accepting lights and will give you coupons for LED lights). Also, **batteries** (AAA - D, button, rechargeable), **corks** (natural and synthetic), **plastic pencils, pens, and markers**.

Soy Candle and Gift Bag Class: Make sustainable soy candles and/or gift bags at a class on Wednesday, Dec. 10, 7:30-8:30pm in the Community Building. Cost is \$5 for candles, free for gift bags (bring old calendars if desired). Questions and RSVP by Sunday 12/7 to ECO@c3huu.org.

Want to make your holidays greener? ECO has a tip sheet for ideas on reducing your holiday footprint. Check it out at www.c3huu.org/eco.

Composting. Did you go out to empty the composting pail and discover that the compost bin is gone?? Fear not – the church is still composting! The compost and leaf bins have been moved to the edge of the backyard.

UU CONNECTIONS:

Short-term rental needed:

A retired UU minister and his wife need to move to Durham in late November or early December in order to be close to family while he deals with a colon cancer diagnosis. They would like something close to the Davis Park area of South Durham, with 1 or 2 bedrooms, and 1.5 - 2 baths. They are also willing to be flexible while waiting until an apartment situation near their daughter can be arranged.

If you know of various possibilities you could e-mail hughesbj4339@gmail.com

OFFICE NEWS:

The office will be closed for the Winter Holiday on December 25, 26, 29 and on January 1 for New Year's Day.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

January Newsletter Submissions need to be in by Dec 14th!!!

*** Submit articles to c3hoffice@gmail.com. Please remember the new 150-word limit for submissions.

*** If you would like to learn more about joining the Community Church of Chapel Hill, please contact our Director of Welcoming Ministries, Jacqueline Brett by calling the office (919) 942-2050, emailing c3hmembership@gmail.com, or find her at one of our Sunday services. Whether you are brand new or a long time attendee, and whatever your beliefs or background, we welcome you to our community of friendship and ideals.





The Community Church of Chapel Hill
Unitarian Universalist

106 Purefoy Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514