

### From the Pastor's Desk

*"I heard the weatherman predict a sunny day  
He did not mean to lie  
I look outside, it's raining anyway..."*  
~ Player

Sometimes we think we know it all. Then something happens that reveals just how little we really understand. A few weeks ago, hurricane Charley slammed into the Florida coast. Just after that, the lectionary text was from Luke 12, where Jesus accuses the religious ones of being able to predict the weather but unable to discern the present time, which, for him means the kingdom of God.

During my sermon, I turned to one of our two resident meteorologists and said rather matter-of-factly, "We can predict the weather can't we, Brian?" I was surprised by his response.

"No. Not really," he said. And I didn't catch the seriousness in his voice. I wish I had. What he had to say was very important.

After the sermon, we spoke more about it. Here's what Brian had to say: Charley was predicted by forecasters to be a category-2/category-3 hurricane hitting Tampa that evening. As a result, a lot of people not in Tampa stayed home, thinking that the forecasters knew the course for certain, and thus were in no danger. In truth, Fort Myers was in the hurricane warning just as much as Tampa, but Tampa was the "likely" spot of landfall.

The forecasters made two mistakes – they underestimated the intensity (it wound up being a category 4 – causing significantly more damage than a 2/3), and erred on the track forecast. In the weather community, the intensity forecast was nearly impossible to make, given our current knowledge of the way nature works. The track forecast was in error mostly due to political reasons. They knew that morning that it was going south of Tampa, but figured a late change in the 'official' track would just create mass chaos, so stuck with what they had.

In any event, instead of a mid-grade hurricane hitting Tampa, we had a pretty major hurricane hitting Punta Gorda. Many folks in Punta Gorda perished because they assumed that forecasters "knew it all", and that they were not in harms way. This was a big downer at the Hurricane Center; they are very upset. ANY loss of life is very troubling for those folks. In addition they are suffering for the political decision to not change the track forecast, even though they knew it was hooking south. Local forecasters (National Weather Service) did all they could to let folks know the weather would be rough, but by then, only 3 hours in advance of the storm, there wasn't really time to do much.

I told Brian I wish we had been able to talk about that during the sermon. Of course, it would have altered the topic I had chosen a bit. And it might have seemed awkward. But, it would have deepened our understanding of the Truth considerably. I would love to have had that discussion with the congregation. It was sobering to me to learn what Brian had taught me.

Now that we know just how fragile our knowledge is, might we therefore find ways to deepen our trust in Christ's abiding, eternal, spiritual presence?

Peace,  
Nathan

### First Sunday Fellowship

First Sunday Fellowship will be Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup> in the fellowship hall following worship. Remember to take a friend with you to the 10:55am worship service and then to go downstairs to the fellowship hall after worship. There will be light wholesome snacks with our fellowship.



**Think of this as hors d'oeuvres  
before your Sunday lunch!**

## Circles

**The Morning Circle** will meet on Monday, September 13 at 10:00am in the church parlor. Please note the change in date.

**The Mildred Suther Circle** will not meet in September.

**The Sisters in Christ Circle** will meet on Tuesday, September 14 at 7:00pm at the home of Ann Rollins, 282 Parks Rd. in Salisbury.

## Churchmen's Fellowship

The Churchmen's Fellowship will meet on Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup> at 8am for the regularly scheduled first Sunday breakfast meeting.

## Address Change

As of July 1, Trinity began receiving all of its mail at 38 Church St. NE 28025-4756, not at the post office. If you mail anything to the church, please make this change in your records.

## Second Saturday Pancake Breakfast

**Second Saturday Pancake Breakfast**  
September 11, 2004

Date ~ Saturday, September 11  
Time ~ 6:00am until 10:30am  
Price ~ \$5 adults  
\$4 seniors  
\$3 children ages 4-11  
FREE for children 3 & under



Volunteers Needed:  
Coordinator  
4 Cooks  
2 Cashiers  
6 for Clean-up  
4 for Set-up  
5 Servers

**A SIGN-UP SHEET IS LOCATED IN THE NARTHEX.**

## Memorial Giving

*To the General Fund*

*In honor of the wedding anniversaries of Wyatt & Lib Moose and Don and Edna Howell, given by Bill & Helen Miller of Roanoke, Virginia.*

## Our Gifts, Attendance & Service

2004 Budget	\$164,310.02
Needed to Date	107,434.00
Offering to Date (as of 8/22)	87,577.00
Average Attendance	70

### Children's Message

JoAnna Cupp

### Sound System

David Bowles

### Acolyte

Patrick Bowles

### Maintenance

Brian Cranford & Keith Eagle

### Liturgists

9/5 Pam King  
9/12 David Bowles  
9/19 Mark Johnson  
9/26 Ann Rollins

### Nursery

9/5 Leanna Howard  
9/12 Pam King & John Roberts  
9/19 Dawn McHale  
9/26 Floryne Misenheimer  
& Elizabeth Cranford

## JRVC Weekend

**Relaxation ~ Fun ~ Food ~ Fellowship**

Please remember the Johns River Weekend October 1-3. This is a weekend in the mountains at our UCC-owned camp. This is a great way for people new to Trinity to get to know the Trinity family. If you have questions about the weekend, please call Pam or Nathan King at 704.933-9018.



## Homecoming 2004

*Sunday, September 26*

*Rev. Stephen W. Camp, guest speaker*

*United Church of Christ*

*Southern Conference Minister*

from **Don Howell**

To All Church Members:

Please read the following comments by Billy Graham. His observations are so appropriate for Trinity or any other church.

You can chase rainbows all your life but I have never heard of anyone finding the end of one.

Don

### **You might never find a 'perfect' church**

**Q.** *How can we decide whether or not to change churches? our church has some good people in it, but we're not sure we like some of the programs, and we're also not sure we agree with some of the things the denomination stands for.*

**A.** Only you can decide (with God's help) whether you should change churches – but I hope you won't take that step casually. God knows what is best for you, and you should make it a matter of serious prayer.

What should you consider? On one hand, God wants us to grow spiritually by learning his word and applying it to our lives. One of the ways we do this is through our church – coming together to worship him and hear his word. Is the Bible being preached and taught in your church – not just from the pulpit but in other ways, such as youth programs or small group Bible studies? If not, God may be leading you elsewhere.

On the other hand, no church is perfect. As someone has said, if you ever found a perfect church, it would stop being perfect the minute you joined it! Some disgruntled people spend their lives moving from one church to another, but I find they seldom benefit from it. Perhaps God wants you to stay where you are to help your church. Don't just criticize, but pray for your church and ask God how you can help strengthen it.

The Bible says, "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another" (Hebrews 10:25). God considers the church very important - and so should we.

~ reprinted from The Charlotte Observer, May 19, 2004

### **Cabarrus County Fair**

September 11<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>  
Cabarrus Arena & Events Center  
4751 NC Hwy 49N Concord

A September 5 or 12 bulletin from Trinity Church entitles you to free admission to the fairgrounds between the hours of 1:00pm & 3:00pm on Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup>. Check out [www.cabarruscountyfair.com](http://www.cabarruscountyfair.com).

### **Senior Adult Retreat**

Senior Adults from churches throughout the Southern Conference UCC are cordially invited to participate in "**Sacred Places, Sacred Spaces**", a Senior Adult Fellowship Event at Blowing Rock Assembly Grounds. You might want to consider bringing along a van full of seniors from your community! Register soon by calling BRAG at 828.295.7813.

Date: October 18-21, 2004, (Monday-Thursday)

Theme: "Sacred Places, Sacred Spaces"

Resource Leader: Rev. Mark Nanney  
Senior Pastor, First Christian UCC, Burlington, NC

Music Resource Leader: Sarah Anthony

Cost: \$185

The prime season for fall colors awaits you as we explore the sacred places of the High Country and make more room for sacred space in our lives. Through study of Scripture and singing of sacred songs and reflection and discussion, we will fan the faith that calls us to sacred space where God still speaks. Join us for fellowship and a genuine fall pilgrimage.

TELEPHONE/VOICEMAIL ~ 828-295-7813

OFFICE HOURS/RESERVATIONS  
M-F, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

EMAIL: [Jan\\_BRAG@yahoo.com](mailto:Jan_BRAG@yahoo.com)

WEBSITE: <http://www.ucc-brag.org>

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Bill Bourdon,  
[billbourdon\\_BRAG@yahoo.com](mailto:billbourdon_BRAG@yahoo.com)

It's not too late to sign up for this October 18-21, 2004 annual event! But hurry, as this popular retreat may fill up fast.

### **"God is Still Speaking" Bible Study**

"God is Still Speaking" bible study is just around the corner. We will "begin again" with this deep exploration of the scriptures on Monday, September 13. This time of scripture study with prayer will be from 6:30pm to 8:00pm on Mondays.



***Patience with others is love. Patience with self is hope. Patience with God is faith.***

***~ Adel Bestravos***

## August Consistory Meeting Notes

Present for the August 8 meeting were Nathan King, Debbie Johnson, David Bowles, Dan Barrier, Phil Rollins, Robin Drake, Sheila Mahaffey, Kris Monks and David Puckett. Absent were Lex Graham, Dawn McHale, George Smith and Pearl Kobylarz.

- Dan Barrier will conduct a monthly review of the checking account register. Because there is no need, stocks have not been sold as was approved at the July meeting. The accounting firm will be contacted for a line item clarification. Phyllis Baucom will be contacted for an update on the Memorial & Improvement funds.
- Pastor King reported the following: Passed out Second Saturday Pancake Breakfast fliers. Consistory members were asked to post them in businesses they frequent. "God is Still Speaking" pamphlets were passed out and members were encouraged to hand these to non-members. There were mixed results with the call list. Bobby Bonds will be the contact person the week of August 8 while Pastor King is on vacation. There had been mild vandalism at the church with the handicap parking sign pulled up and a lighted cigarette dropped into the mail slot. Bob Baucom is checking into putting a tin box at the mail slot. There will be discussion with the Maintenance Committee regarding the purchase and installation (in cement) of "No Trespassing Signs". If the church registers the signs with the Police Department, they will patrol the area. A motion was approved to purchase two "No Trespassing" signs from Broome Sign Company with funds from the Memorial & Improvement Funds and place one at the Bully Shop parking lot and the other in the church's upper parking lot. It was also approved to register the signs with the Police Department.
- Harold Holste is gathering artifacts for the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2006.
- Katherine Barrier discussed ideas on Christian Education.
- David Bowles reported the cost of materials to build a new sign for the front property is approximately \$128.
- Betty Klutz advised that the basement of both the church and the Bully Shop are included in the actual square footage. Betty advised that if Trinity increased the deductible from \$500 to \$1000, it would save \$248 annually. A motion was approved to increase the insurance deductible to \$1000.
- George Smith will video the church and its contents for insurance purposes. The tape will be stored in the church's safe deposit box located at First Charter Bank, Concord, NC.
- Approval was given for the Cabarrus Quilt Guild to use the fellowship hall on Monday, December 13 from 6:30pm to 10pm.
- A letter of notification from McGill Baptist Church, Concord was read stating that Jeff & Susan Lowdermilk and daughter Ashley and Charles Ray Goodman were received into McGill's membership on July 25, 2004.
- A motion was approved that if Trinity is not in contract with the current accounting firm, that Trinity immediately move to use the accounting services of Cynthia Beane.
- Possible changes in health insurance provider for the pastor are being looked into.
- Rose Edwards brought to the Consistory's attention the need for new choir robes, stating that the current robes were purchased at approximately the same time the church renovations were completed, around 14 to 15 years ago. This, plus consideration of replacing the chancel paraments, will be addressed by the Worship Committee.
- There will be a rally at Holy Covenant on August 28<sup>th</sup> from 12 noon until 3pm. This rally will be to "Celebrate the Heritage – Embrace the Future of the UCC".

There is only one way to get full satisfaction from life and that is to live the way you believe God wants you to live. Live with God in that secret place of the spirit and you will have a feeling of being on the right road. You will have a deep sense of satisfaction. The world will have meaning and you will have a place in the world, work to do that counts in the eternal order of things. Many things will work for you and with you, as long as you feel you are on God's side.

~ Unknown

**Hurricane Charley**  
*from your WNC Association Office*

As we pray for persons impacted by Hurricane Charley, I ask your immediate assistance in relaying information to our UCC local churches and friends. No volunteers or material donations are requested at this time. Many media reports are asking for volunteers and donated goods -- please do not respond to these requests. Coordination efforts are being established in Florida and when this information is known it will be shared with you via the UCC web site.

You are asked to send only financial donations to the UCC National Disaster Ministries office via the Conference office or directly to Wider Church Ministries marked for: Emergency USA (hurricane recovery). Funds from One Great Hour of Sharing Offering and from Emergency USA Special Fund will be transferred ASAP to the UCC Florida Conference for immediate relief needs and to Church World Service as part of our ecumenical commitment.

What is known as of this morning is that the Pilgrim UCC in Port Charlotte has partially collapsed; and the Congregational UCC in Punta Gorda has lost all of its windows. Bill and Deanna Wealand (UCC Florida Conference Disaster Response Coordinators) along with Ruth Richardson and Paul Binder are checking on UCC members and other churches. Phone lines are working sporadically so it may take some time to determine extent of damages. Bill and Deanna are located in Daytona and are without electricity.

Information will be posted on [www.ucc.org/disaster](http://www.ucc.org/disaster) response. Please check this site and share information with our local churches.

Florence Coppola  
Executive, National Disaster Ministries  
United Church of Christ Wider Church Ministries

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**Music Notes**

**Introducing ...** The all-new, multi-aged Trinity handbell choir! A time worn concept returns to Trinity: that of the one-room schoolhouse, with people of all ages studying together. In our new handbell choir, fourth graders can work with seniors (as in senior citizens); musicians of all ages can come together for work and play, and our services will be all the richer. Classes are pegged for every other Sunday at 9:00am, beginning Sunday, September 19. When we have enough players to ring two octaves, we'll be off and running. Call Theresa at 704.895-1630 if you'd like to join in the fun.

**Worship & Arts Classes** begin Sunday, September 12 at 9:00am, and probably will be held every other week. We will welcome some new five-year-old faces to our children's music program, and look forward to working with the returning musicians, too. Thanks to Lori Jones for agreeing to help with the classes; it's a good idea to have another adult on the premises during classes, and Lori's talents are a bonus! Parents, we'll need someone who is not in the adult choir to help the children with their robes on Sunday mornings; contact Theresa if you can help.

**Homecoming at TUCC ...** On Homecoming, September 26, one of our favorite accompanists will return to Trinity: Nancy (Lloyd) Brewer. The choir voted on the anthem for that day, and the winning selection will be sung with gusto. It's a surprise. See you there....

**Christmas Already ...** It seems the shops display holiday wares earlier and earlier each year!! And the Trinity choir begins working on Christmas music in August!! That's because it takes a long time to learn and perfect an anthem each week, PLUS a large program of music for the Christmas season. But aren't we lucky? Our choirs do this every year, with joy. We have begun, and (by the grace of God) by the time you bring out your mistletoe, we'll be ready.

# Trinity United Church of Christ

38 Church Street NE  
Concord, NC 28025-4756  
704.782-1024 & 704.782-0141  
Rev. J. Nathan King, pastor



September 2004

In an effort to reduce operating costs and in being good stewards with our finances and our environment, beginning in January, 2005, Trinity's monthly newsletter and calendar will be emailed instead of bulk mailed through the US Post Office. The newsletter and calendar are also available on Trinity's website at [www.trinityuccconcord.org](http://www.trinityuccconcord.org).

If you have not already done so, you will need to download and install Adobe Acrobat Reader. This is a FREE download and will assist you in viewing Trinity's monthly newsletters on the website and in the monthly mailings. You will find Acrobat Reader by clicking the following link:

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>.

Please remove this page from this newsletter, complete the following information, refold it for Trinity's address to show and return it to Trinity Church so our records may be organized for this up-coming change. You may also email your reply to [sstaley46@yahoo.com](mailto:sstaley46@yahoo.com).

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**REMEMBER TRINITY CHURCH IN YOUR WILL AND TRUST**



**September Birthdays and  
Anniversaries**

- 3 Andy Hoyle  
Dale Ray & Ellen Cathcart †  
Theresa Woody-Rhodes at Trinity 4 Years
- 5 George Smith  
Andrew Suther
- 6 Edna Howell  
Lori Kiser
- 8 Theresa Woody-Rhodes\*
- 11 Lee Deal
- 15 Lyndsey Griffin
- 17 Donald Goodman
- 18 Ashton Rhodes
- 22 Ray Monks, Ray & Kris Monks †
- 25 Travis Hoyle  
David Ray
- 29 David Morris  
Dan & Katherine Barrier †

! 80 (or 80+) !!! 90 (or 90+) † Anniversaries \* Non Member

**Shag Classes to Begin  
at Trinity Church**

Have you ever wanted to learn to dance? Shagging dance classes begin on Thursday, September 9 at Trinity Church. Our own Lori Jones will be the instructor for the basic steps and a lot of fun. The class is for six weeks. A nominal donation of \$5 per person per class is suggested. All donations are given to support Trinity's ministries. The classes will be held each Thursday evening, 7pm to 8:30pm, through October 14.



# September

2004

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 8am HHW Recycling 'til 4pm 7pm Choir	2	3	4
5 8am Men's B'fst 10:55 Worship 12:15 First Sun Fellowship  <b>Choir Dedication Sunday Communion</b>	6 <b>LABOR DAY Office Closed</b>  No Mildred Suther Circle in Sept	7	8 7pm Choir	9 7:00 Shag Class 'til 8:30pm	10	11 6am 2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday Pancake B'fast 'til 10:30am  <b>Cabarrus County Fair</b>
12 9:00 Worship & Arts Classes 10:55 Worship 6:30 Consistory  <b>Cabarrus County Fair</b>	13 10:00 Morning Circle/Parlor 6:30 Family Promise Mtg. 6:30 "God is Still Speaking" Bible Study <b>Cabarrus County Fair</b>	14 7:00 Sisters in Christ Circle at the home of Ann Rollins  <b>Cabarrus County Fair</b>	15 7pm Choir  <b>Cabarrus County Fair</b>	16 7:00 Shag Class 'til 8:30pm  <b>Cabarrus County Fair</b>	17  <b>Cabarrus County Fair</b>	18 8am HHW Recycling 'til 1pm  <b>Cabarrus County Fair</b>
19 9:00 Handbell Choir Begins 10:55 Worship	20 6:30 Family Promise Board Mtg. 6:30 "God is Still Speaking" Bible Study	21 <b>First Day of Autumn</b>	22 <b>Newsletter &amp; Calendar Information Due</b> 7pm Choir	23 7:00 Shag Class 'til 8:30pm	24	25
26 <b>Homecoming</b> 9:00 Worship & Arts Classes 10:55 Worship	27 6:30 "God is Still Speaking" Bible Study	28	29 7pm Choir	30 7:00 Shag Class 'til 8:30pm		